

Consulate General of Ireland, Atlanta

July 2016 Newsletter

Irish News

In a [Statement](#) on the UK referendum result on June 24th, the Taoiseach confirmed that while Ireland's future lies within the European Union, our strong and close relationship with the UK will remain. On the same day, the Government published details of its [Contingency Framework](#) for policy issues arising from the result.

Minister Flanagan reflected on the referendum outcome in a public statement on June 24th and addressed its Northern Ireland dimension in [remarks to the Dail](#) on June 27th. Acknowledging a [spike in interest in Irish passports](#) by UK passport holders, Minister Flanagan emphasized that there is no change to Irish passport entitlements. He visited Belfast on June 29th for high level [political discussions](#) on the outcome of the referendum.

IDA Chief Executive, Martin Shanahan, pointed out "While not what we had hoped for – the situation may present an [opportunity for Ireland](#) in attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Ireland will remain a member of the European Union with full market access and that will be attractive to investors." Earlier in June, the IDA announced a new €150 million [Google data centre](#) in Dublin and new investments in Galway by ZELTIQ® Aesthetics and Surmodics.

[Vice President Joe Biden](#) received a tremendous welcome during his six-day visit to Ireland June 21-26. His Programme included meetings with President Higgins and the Taoiseach, with whom he also played golf. The Vice President tweeted "I don't want to go home" just before his departure. The Taoiseach and Vice President Biden both attended a celebration of the 40th year of the [Ireland Funds](#). The funds have raised 500 million dollars for Ireland, 85% of it from the U.S.

Tennessee Governor Bill Haslam, accompanied by his Commissioner for Economic and Community Development, Randy Boyd, undertook a full day of meetings in Dublin on June 21st to support [Tennessee's growing relationship with Ireland](#) in tourism, healthcare, education and music.

[Exports by Enterprise Ireland companies](#) passed the €20 billion mark for the first time last year. Following the Brexit vote, EI announced [plans for added support](#) to Irish companies exporting to the UK, including market diversification assistance.

On June 21st, Ministers Noonan and Donohoe published the [Summer Economic Statement](#) for 2016 which sets out the Government's economic and fiscal priorities for Budget 2017 and increases transparency on planning for the provision of key public services.

Flags were flown at half mast in Ireland on June 14th in memory of the victims of the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando. The Taoiseach sent a letter of condolence to President Obama.

[Tech/Life Ireland](#), a new national initiative to brand Ireland as a top technology destination, was launched by the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mary Mitchell O'Connor, T.D.

[TravelWise](#), the new free smartphone app launched by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, includes travel advice and consular information on 200 countries encompassing security, local laws, entry requirements, health and emergency contacts.

The successes of the Irish soccer team in the Euro 2016 tournament, and the exceptional conduct of our fans, were a great source of pride in Ireland, as [Minister Flanagan](#) underlined.

Minister Flanagan also voiced his disappointment at the [U.S. Supreme Court split decision on immigration](#) measures.

Children & Youth Affairs Minister Katherine Zappone announced plans for Ireland's first national Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender [\(LGBT\) Strategy for young people](#).

In early June, the Savannah Children's Choir toured Ireland. They performed in Waterford Cathedral and the Dunbrody Emigration Center, New Ross, and participated in a master class on the stage of Ireland's National Opera House in Wexford town. A research group from Georgia Southern University's Center for Irish Research and Teaching helped facilitate the tour on a break from its primary-source research into nineteenth-century migration from Wexford to Savannah.

On June 1st the Consul General of Ireland in Atlanta, Shane Stephens, visited Orlando, where he and Ireland's Honorary Consul in Orlando, Terry Delahunty, briefed the Mayor of Orange County, Teresa Jacobs, the Mayor of Orlando, Buddy Dyer, and Enterprise Florida on economic developments in Ireland.

The Consul General visited Tampa, Florida, on May 31st to support a [trade mission](#) by South Dublin Chamber and South Dublin County Council. He met with Mayor Bob Buckhorn and spoke to local business leaders. In remarks to [the media](#), alongside Mayor Buckhorn and Dublin South Mayor Sarah Holland, he outlined Ireland's strengths as a European base for U.S. firms, the potential of the Dublin South-Tampa relationship and Ireland's position on BEXIT.

Consul General Stephens also spoke on Ireland's position on the BREXIT referendum during a panel discussion at the end of May hosted by the Atlanta Council on International Relations. The British and German Consuls General also delivered remarks.

The Atlanta-based [Drake School of Irish Dance](#) opened its newest location in Houston, TX as of May 1st.

Upcoming Events in the Southeast

Irish filmmaker Keith Farrell of Dublin-based Tile Media has had his movie *Jubilee Nurse* chosen as an Official Selection for the [Big River Film Festival](#) in Savannah, which runs July 7-10th, 2016. Based on actual events, the short movie tells the story of the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic through the eyes of Kitty Malone, a nurse in rural Ireland.

The Burke Connolly Academy of Irish Dance announced its Summer Workshop 2016 to be held on July 15th and 16th, with session descriptions and [registration available online](#).

Registration is now open for the October 10th [Shamrock Open Golf Tournament](#) at the prestigious Peachtree Golf Club. Proceeds will support the Atlanta St. Patrick's Day Parade.

If there are Irish events you would like us to highlight in future newsletters or if you know others who would like to receive these newsletters [please let us know](#).

<https://www.dfa.ie/atlanta>

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