



English version below

## **Comhairliúchán DRD ar Chomharthaí Dátheangacha fógartha**

Fáiltíonn POBAL roimh fhoilsiú na cáipéise seo de chuid an Roinn Forbartha Réigiúnaí maidir le comharthaí dá theangacha. Is céim chun tosaigh í, polasaí maidir le comharthaíocht a bheith curtha chun cinn ag ranna rialtais.

Creideann muid, áfach, gur chóir don doiciméad a bheith níos láidre agus níos cuimsithigh. Sa lá atá inniu ann, tá comharthaí Gaeilge in airde cheana féin ag cuid do na comhairlí áitiúla, comharthaí atá curtha in airde mar gheall ar iarratais ó phobal na Gaeilge sna ceantracha sin. Go fóill, áfach, tá deacrachtaí in áiteanna eile, mar go bhfuil an reachtaíocht a bhaineann le comharthaí ró-lag agus ró-dhoiléir. Mar sin, bíonn pobal na Gaeilge ag brath go pointe ar dhea-thoil go fóill, agus faraor, ní athróidh moltaí na cáipéise seo an cás ar bhealach ar bith.

Maidir leis an cáineadh géar atá déanta ag roinnt polaiteoirí, nuair a ionsaítear gach iarracht, is cuma chomh beag agus atá sé, le spás a chruthú don Ghaeilge sa sochaí seo, caitheann sé amhras ar éifeacht an chur chuige bunaithe ar chéimeanna beaga bídeacha. Is mithid anois a admháil go bhfuil gá leis an bhac atá ar Acht na Gaeilge a bhriseadh.

## **DRD Announce Consultation on Bilingual Signage**

POBAL welcomes the publication of the DRD consultation document on bilingual signage. We view the proposal from a government department for a policy on signage as a small step forward.

We believe, however, that the consultation proposals themselves should be stronger and more comprehensive. In this day and age, there are already bilingual signs displayed in a number of local council areas because of requests from the Irish speaking community in these areas. However, in other places, there are still a number of difficulties in getting Irish language signs, since the legislation regulating such signage is too weak and rather unclear. Because of this, the Irish speaking community is still forced to depend to an extent on good will. Unfortunately, the proposals in the consultation document will do nothing to change this situation.

As to the harsh criticism that has been levelled at the proposals by some politicians, when every single attempt to find space for the Irish language in this society, however small it may be, is attacked it casts doubt on the effectiveness of the 'softly, softly' approach. It is time to acknowledge that the impasse on the Irish Language Act must be resolved.

More info: 028 90 438132, or 077 13 630325