English version follows

Straitéis don Ghaeilge i dTÉ

Tá tuairisc anois ar fáil ar ócáid a reáchtáil POBAL agus an Grúpa Oibre ar Fhorbairt Beartais Cuimsithigh agus Creat Straitéiseach don Ghaeilge i dTÉ in Óstán Stormont i 2010. Tá POBAL ag obair le Grúpa Oibre le hionadaithe ó Ollscoil na Ríona (An t-Ollamh Dónall Ó Baoill), ó Ollscoil Uladh (An Dr. Fionntán De Brún), ó Choláiste na hollscoile Naomh Muire (an Dr. Gabrielle Nig Uidhir) agus le hionchur ó Ghaeilgeoirí le saineolas ar leith, Póilín Ní Chiaráin, tuairisceoir gradamach neamhspleách; Áine Walsh, Craoltóir; Eoghan Mac Éinrí, Oideachasóir, agus daoine eile nach iad.

Aithníonn POBAL agus an Grúpa Oibre go bhfuil obair mhaith déanta le tamall anuas leis an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn. Léiríonn foilsiú Phlean 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge ag rialtas an deiscirt, áfach, go bhfuil folúntas straitéiseach ó thuaidh. Mar is eol duit, d'fhoilsigh Coiste na Saineolaithe ar Chairt na hEorpa do Theangacha Réigiúnacha nó Mionlaigh a 3ú Tuairisc ar chur i gcrích na Cairte i mí Aibreáin 2010. Cuimsíonn an thuairisc torthaí na Saineolaithe, ar a bhfuil an ráiteas seo,

> Leagann Acht Chomhaontú Chill Rìmhinn 2006 dualgas reachtach ar Fheidhmeannas TÉ straitéis a ghabháil leis an teanga Ghaeilge a mhéadú agus a chosaint. Níor gabhadh aon straitéis go sea. Ach, tá rún ag an Aire Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta (RCEF) straitéis amháin dár teideal "Straitéis do Theangacha Réigiúnacha Dúchais nó Mionlaigh", a thabhairt chun tosaigh atá beartaithe a bheith ina haon straitéis don Ghaeilge agus d'Albainis Uladh. Tá imní ar Choiste na Saineolaithe go bhféachfaidh an straitéis i dtreo chothrom idir an dá theanga a bhaint amach agus mar sin, nach ndéanfaidh sí freastal ar riachtanais chainteoirí Gaeilge ná Albainis Uladh agus go gcuirfidh sí cúl ar fhorbairt an dá theanga. (COMEX, l. 7, parag 20)

Sa tuairisc, déantar Coiste Aireachta na hEorpa moladh maidir le 'beartais cuimsitheach, reachtaíocht-bunaithe' don Ghaeilge i dTÉ. Creideann muid go bhfuil obair s'againne maidir le Creat Straitéiseach riachtanach leis an mholadh seo a fhorbairt agus a chur i gcrích i gcomhthéacs chur chun cinn na Gaeilge ar an oileán ar fad.

Beidh an Grúpa Oibre ag fréamhú roinnt téamaí ginearálta sa Chreat Straitéiseach – reachtaíocht agus bonneagar (stát agus earnáil dheonach) san áireamh. Tá muid ag bunú foghrúpaí ar na Meáin agus ar Oideachas le tosaíochtaí forbartha a aimsiú sna réimsí seo. Beidh na fo-ghrúpaí ag bailiú eolais agus fíricí ar cad é atá ar fáil faoi láthair, ag aimsiú na mbearnaí; agus ag moladh líon teoranta do ghníomhartha don tréimhse atá le teacht, go 2030.

Strategy for the Irish language in NI

The report is now available of the 2010 event organised in the Stormont Hotel by POBAL and the Working Group on Developing a Comprehensive Policy and Strategic Framework for the Irish Language in the North of Ireland NI. As you know, in order to undertake this work, POBAL is working with a Working Group including representatives of Queen's University Belfast (Prof. Dónall Ó Baoill), of the University of Ulster (Dr. Fionntan de Brún), from St Mary's University College (Dr Gabrielle Nig Uidhir) and with input from Irish speakers with specific areas of expertise, including Póilín Ní Chiaráin, award-winning independent journalist; Áine Walsh, Broadcaster; Eoghan Mac Éinrí, Educationalist, and others.

POBAL and the Working Group recognise that good work has been done in recent times to promote the Irish language. However, the publication by the South's government of its 20 Year Plan for the Irish language highlights the strategic vacuum in the North. As you know, the Committee of Experts on the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages published its 3rd report on the application of the Charter in April 2010. The report includes the findings of the Experts, including the following statement,

> The St Andrews Agreement Act 2006 places a statutory duty on the NI Executive to adopt a strategy to enhance and protect the Irish language. So far no strategy has been adopted. However, the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) intends to bring forward one strategy entitled "A Strategy for Indigenous or Regional Languages Minority Languages", which is intended to be a single strategy for Irish and Ulster Scots. The Committee of Experts is concerned that the strategy will strive towards parity between the two languages and therefore not serve the needs of either the Irish-speakers or the Ulster-Scots speakers and will hold back the development of both languages. (COMEX, p. 7, parag 20)

In the report, the Committee of Ministers at the Council of Europe recommends that a comprehensive policy, preferably based in legislation' should be adopted for the Irish language in the North. We believe that our work in relation to the Strategic Framework is essential to develop and implement this recommendation in the context of the promotion of the Irish language on the island of Ireland.

The Working Group will ground certain general themes within the Strategic Framework – including legislation and infrastructure (state and voluntary sector). At present, we have establishing sub-groups on the Media and Education to identify developmental priorities in these sectors. The sub groups will gather information and facts on current provision, identify gaps, and put forward a limited number of actions for the coming period, up to 2030.