

O'Malley Euro move expected

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By **EUGENE
PHELAN**

THE Political landscape of Limerick East is set for a major transformation, if Des O'Malley bows to pressure and runs in Euro Elections next June..

"Des is out of the country at the moment, but obviously we are all waiting with bated breath as to his decision on whether or not he will run in Europe," confided a senior member of the Progressive Democrats in Limerick.

With Pat Cox pulling out of the Euro Elections following pressure from Party leader, Mary Harney, the path is now clear for the Limerick East politician to run for Europe.

If Des O'Malley, runs in the Euro election it will totally transform the political situation in the constituency.

What will happen to Peadar Clohessy ? Will he run again ?

Will one of Des O'Malley's sons run in the next General Election.



Pat Cox

a Fianna Fail spokesman in the constituency.]

Mr O'Malley has insisted that he will run in one more General Election before retiring.

However informed sources in the Progressive Democrats believe that Mary Harney will convince him to run in Europe.

It is unlikely that they would be able to get any other candidate as popular and well known as O'Malley to stand.

Pat Cox, who had announced his intention of contesting the Euro election, bowed to party pressure yesterday and announced that he would be withdrawing his name.

There had been acute embarrassment within the PDs over his dual mandate being continued.

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Des O'Malley Yes next week

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By **EUGENE
PHELAN**

DES O'Malley will next week "bow to party pressure" and finally confirm that he will run for the

Progressive Democrats in the Euro Elections.

The Limerick politician was in Budapest this Friday at a Liberal Party conference and will fly home on Sunday where he is expected to talk the matter over with his wife Pat before any official announcement is made.

"There is an enormous amount of pressure on him from all side of the party from the top to the bottom to run," confirmed PD press spokesman Stephen O'Byrnes.

"He has given no indications of his intentions and there is no doubt but that he is weighing it all up very carefully," he added.

A close aide of the former PD leader confided: "I will be very surprised now if he does not go. He will almost certainly announce his decision to go next week."

While the race for the four European seats in the Munster constituency is very open, it would come as a big surprise if Mr O'Malley was not elected.

If he does run, it would of course cause big problems for the PD's in the next General Election.

Asked if there was any chance that Pat Cox would change constituencies to Limerick East in such an eventuality, Mr Byrnes replied: "I don't see it arising at all."

There would of course be plenty of willing souls ready to answer the call from the party to run in the constituency.

However, Mr Cox would surely be the only person able to get a sufficient vote in Limerick for the PD's to hold their two seats.

The whole scenario has yet to unfold. One thing that has come out of it, however, is many members in Limerick East feel that Mary Harney has handled the whole affair—particularly in relation to Pat Cox—very badly.

The former University of Limerick lecturer was anxious to stay on in Europe, but Ms Harney insisted in public and before consulting him that she would prefer Des O'Malley to run for

Europe and for the younger Cox to stay with the party in the Dail.

Relations between the Cox and O'Malley camps have been strained ever since Mr O'Malley announced his resignation while Mr Cox was out of

the country and thus had comparatively little scope to prepare his challenge for the position.

Mr O'Malley had, however, reportedly given early notice to Ms Harney, whom he backed in the leadership stakes.



all St: John Heffernan

joy

There will be a 50 per cent tax on the cost of refurbishing for business use and landlords will benefit under 23 through tax free rent.

The idea behind it all," he said, "is to get activity back in buildings which have recently been in preference to new urban

There will be three designated in Limerick, it's up to the town to decide which ones, could be a great opportunity to O'Connell Street again.

of offices have moved from nearer the city centre, leaving buildings completely empty of upper floors vacant."

Financing the new measures, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Emmet Stagg, said: "Our buildings are our physical heritage of the past. While I believe it is important to conserve the character and historical character of our centres, it is also important to use such buildings and areas in a mainstream economic and social life of the towns if they are to survive intact."

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