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# O'Malley seeking European poll nomination

From Arthur Quinlan,  
in Limerick

MR Desmond O'Malley sprang a surprise in Limerick last night when he told party members that he had decided to be a candidate in the European elections if selected by the Munster constituency convention.

After the 2½-hour meeting at the PDs' Limerick headquarters in Cecil Street, Mr O'Malley emerged and told journalists: "All aspects of the European election have been looked into and in the present circumstances I have decided to allow my name to go forward for nomination. I may not be as successful a European politician as Pat Cox (the outgoing PD MEP in Munster) but nevertheless I will still do my best."

He said that four months ago, he announced that he would contest only one future election but now he would fight on this occasion if selected at convention and go forward to Europe.

He denied that he was introducing personality politics on this occasion and when asked if his decision might be creating difficulties for the party, he said: "I am sure people will have their own point of view and perhaps the situation might have been handled differently, but the party is not helped by speculation and I am confident that if selected I will do a good job in Europe."

Mr Michael Hillery, chairman of the Progressive Democrats' Limerick East constituency party, said that the meeting was a good and cordial one at which everybody spoke. There was no acrimony but a lot of clearing up of misunderstandings. He said that by going for Europe, Mr O'Malley would be a great loss to Limerick East. He refused to elaborate on this remark or speculate on it further.

Mr O'Malley said he had considered all aspects of the matter and he felt that he was making the right decision.

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