



NEWS RELEASE

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Ó Cuív welcomes publication of the Commission for Energy Regulation's "Roadmap for Deregulation"

The Minister for Social and Family Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuív T.D., today (*Friday 23rd April 2010*) welcomed the publication of the "Roadmap for Deregulation" by the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER).

The plan will enable the ESB to set its own prices and compete directly with independent suppliers in all retail markets.

Speaking today, Minister Ó Cuív said **"the price of electricity is an important issue for social welfare recipients. Similarly, the Government is keen to ensure that we also receive the best value possible for the significant expenditure we make in this area. Real and effective competition will provide opportunities to achieve greater efficiencies and to bring genuine benefits to all customers."**

The Household Benefits Package, which includes the Free Electricity Allowance of 2,400 units per annum, is paid to 376,000 households at a cost of some €400 million.

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