



Vital to sell Ireland as prime location to invest in and do business with - Hanafin

Hanafin to engage in intensive round of discussions with Irish-American business interests over St Patrick's weekend visit to Philadelphia and Atlanta

"Never has it been more important to spread the message to our friends in the USA, that Ireland is open for business and has a flexible, well educated and highly skilled workforce ready to exploit opportunities for business" said Mary Hanafin T.D., Minister for Social and Family Affairs today (13th March 2009).

The Minister is due to travel to the USA on Friday for the start of a five day visit to Philadelphia and Atlanta to engage in an intensive round of engagements and discussions with major multinational companies and Irish American business interests.

"Ireland has the distinct opportunity on the global world stage to promote our economic and tourism interests as well as foster links with political leaders. It is also a time to acknowledge the remarkable historical links that Irish people have made with major cities across the USA for generations. These are ties that have served us well and are an invaluable link during difficult economic times worldwide.



Department of Social and Family Affairs

There are well established strong Irish communities in both Philadelphia and Atlanta, and I look forward to meeting them and letting them know that Ireland has a clear strategy to tackle the economic crisis and that we are well placed to take advantage of the international recovery when it comes.”

Over the five day visit to Philadelphia and Atlanta, Minister Hanafin will attend approximately 20 meetings, receptions and events all organised to coincide with the St. Patrick’s Day celebrations in the USA. The Minister will also use her meetings with political representatives to draw attention to the plight of undocumented Irish in America.

ENDS