



GROUP OF UNIONS
41 MERRION SQUARE, DUBLIN 2.
TEL: 01-702 7168/702 7120 FAX: 01-638 4606
E-Mail: groupofunions@esb.ie



NEWS RELEASE

UNIONS WILL OPPOSE SALE OF ESB ASSETS

ESB have announced that the Government are seeking that they dispose of €400m worth of 'non-strategic generating assets' and present this to the Government in the form of a special dividend. The position of the ESB Group of Unions on this issue is as set out in the motion below which was passed at the Biennial Conference of the Group in 2011:

'That Conference supports the maintenance of ESB as a publicly owned VIU. In noting the recent motion passed at the biennial ICTU Conference relating to sale of state assets, this Conference directs the Group and affiliate unions to ballot all Union members in ESB for industrial action - up to and including strike action (full withdrawal of labour) in the event of steps being taken to implement any further asset sale, disposal, transfer or divestment, as proposed in the Programme for Government (Pg. 15) or the McCarthy Report.'

Since this Conference, ESB workers have voted for, accepted and implemented, by agreement, 20% cuts to the Company payroll. Despite this, the Company is struggling to raise funds to carry out essential works due to borrowing problems brought about by the Sovereign downgrade. Never has the need for ESB to retain its income in the national interest been greater and never has the handing over of State Assets and income to the black hole that is the 'demands of the so-called Troika' been more nonsensical.

The Group of Unions will be seeking a meeting with the Minister responsible to discuss this matter.

BRENDAN OGLE
GROUP SECRETARY

24 October 2012