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## **REVISED EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER**

Response from the Government  
to the NGO comments on the  
8th National Report on the implementation of  
the Revised European Social Charter

submitted by

**THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND**

(Article 17  
for the period 01/01/2003 – 31/12/2009)

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Report registered by the Secretariat on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011

**CYCLE 2011**

Ireland's observations on the comments of the National Secular Society in briefing provided to the ECSR are as follows:

"The briefing from the UK National Secular Society refers to many historical or legacy issues in relation to child sexual abuse. The document however does not properly acknowledge the pro-active role of the modern Irish State where successive Governments have addressed and prioritised these issues over a long period. The key reports referred to in the document i.e. Ryan and Cloyne reports were commissioned either by or on behalf of the State and their findings published in full. The recommendations of these reports (for example the Ryan report) are being implemented and the wider policy area of child protection and the prevention of child sexual abuse are priority issues for the Irish Government. The establishment of a dedicated full Government Department of Children and Youth Affairs in 2011 by the most recently elected Irish Government is further evidence of the State's continuing commitment to the prioritisation of the child protection agenda. The widely publicised recent statement by the Irish Prime Minister, Enda Kenny in the Irish Parliament (Dáil) makes it explicitly clear that the Irish state at the highest level considers these issues to be of vital importance."