

THE GLOSS MAGAZINE

Inside today



Restaurant defenders say that food is 'not a frivolous, bourgeois pastime'. This is wrong. Food is a frivolous, bourgeois pastime and that is precisely why it matters so much

Finn McRedmond
Opinion & Analysis



TAKING THE INSIDE OUT CREATING A GARDEN ROOM OF YOUR OWN

Residential Property

Jet fuel disruption could hit summer travel plans

International Energy Agency head and Ryanair chief warn of threat to aviation

Trump says US will be 'out of Iran pretty quickly' but could return for 'spot hits'

CORMAC McQUINN
and **MARK WEISS**
in Jerusalem

There are growing fears that jet fuel supplies could be disrupted during the summer months if the war in Iran continues throughout April and beyond.

The concerns were raised by Ryanair chief executive Michael O'Leary, senior Government figures and the head of the International Energy Agency (IEA).
It came as US president Donald Trump said the United States would be "out of Iran pretty quickly" but could return for "spot hits" if needed, in comments made to Reuters news agency.

In a separate social media post, he said Iran's "new regime president" had asked for a ceasefire, a claim denied by Tehran.
Earlier, he suggested that securing the key Strait of Hormuz transit route for oil was "not for us" and estimated the US would be done attacking Iran in two to three weeks.
Speaking to reporters in advance of yesterday's Cabinet meeting, Taoiseach Micheál Martin said "we want the war to stop" and Trump's timeline was "two or three weeks too long".

Tánaiste Simon Harris said it "might sound like a relatively short period of time", but the economic and humanitarian impact would be "extraordinarily concerning".

A Government spokesman said there was discussion of the energy crisis on the margins of the Cabinet meeting as well as at the meeting of Coalition leaders earlier in the morning.

There are said to be no plans for the Taoiseach to address the nation on the issue as other world leaders have done. The spokesman said it was a "volatile situation" that the Government was continuing to monitor.

Airline boss O'Leary suggested that disruption to jet fuel supply could begin from early May if the war continued beyond the end of April.
He told Sky News: "The fuel

companies are happy there won't be any disruption until early May. But if the war continues, we do run the risk of supply disruptions in Europe in May and June.

"Obviously, we hope the war will finish sooner than that and that the risk to supply will be eliminated."

'Supply shock'

Asked by reporters about these remarks, Martin said: "If the war continues and if the Hormuz Strait remains closed, then you have a supply shock hitting the economy, and one of the earlier areas it will hit will be aviation."

"We will press for as early an end to this [war] as possible because the sooner this ends and the sooner we see de-escalation across the region, then the greater the prospect of restoring some degree of normality, although it will take a considerable degree of time."

Amid the ongoing closure of the Strait of Hormuz, IEA executive director Fatih Birol said: "The loss of oil in April will be twice the oil loss in March."

"The biggest problem today is the lack of jet fuel and diesel. We are seeing that in Asia, but soon, I think, in April or May, it would come to Europe," Birol told a podcast with Nicolai Tangen, the head of Norway's sovereign wealth fund.

Minister for Transport and Energy Darragh O'Brien said the aviation fuel issue was discussed at a meeting of EU energy ministers. "If this doesn't cease soon, there will be impacts on aviation," he said.

He said European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen was to unveil a package of energy measures next Wednesday, which would include aviation.

Asked if the Government would be issuing advice to citizens to work from home, Harris said "the level of Government advice" would depend on how long the war went on.

Additional reporting: Reuters/PA

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Limiting US citizenship Trump goes to supreme court

US president Donald Trump departing the supreme court in Washington yesterday after his visit to attend arguments over the legality of a policy he considers crucial to his hardline approach towards immigration – a directive he signed on his first day back in office that would limit birthright citizenship.

He is the first sitting president to attend an oral argument at the court, according to Clare Cushman, resident historian at the Supreme Court Historical Society.

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Photograph: Andrew Harnik/Getty Images

Blackouts fear prompts new code for data centres

CAROLINE O'DOHERTY
Science and Climate Correspondent

Fear of electricity blackouts has prompted Irish authorities to set down new protocols for data centre operators.

Eirgrid, the national grid operator, has identified a "risk to grid stability" from data centre behaviour and is asking the sector to comply with new practices to safeguard power supply.

Under a new code, data centres would be required to remain connected to the grid dur-

ing the millisecond-long faults that sometimes arise on the electricity system.

Ordinarily, they disconnect instantly and run on their own backup power supply.

But Eirgrid says the sudden simultaneous disconnection of a sector that accounts for 22 per cent of all electricity used in the State risks destabilising the entire grid.

"Worst case scenario, it could be a blackout on the system," said Liam Ryan, Eirgrid's chief transformation, technology and offshore officer. "We are

not going to let that happen."

Eirgrid has been managing the risk to date. But with data centre expansion forecast to increase the sector's electricity demand to 30 per cent in the next five years, the risk could increase without the code.

The same issue has been flagged in countries worldwide where data centres are expanding and increasing their demand for power.

Eirgrid advised Ministers of the issue in an information note brought to Cabinet yesterday. It told the Cabinet that it "has

implemented and will continue to implement a range of operational protective measures to manage this issue."

But it added: "We forecast that these measures may soon become exhausted unless further action is taken."

It indicated an intention to send the proposed code to the energy regulator, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities, which needs to issue it as a formal direction for it to become mandatory.

"It is critical that this modification and associated compli-

ance and derogation framework are put in place in a timely manner," said Eirgrid.

The derogation would run for two years, after which all data centres – and other large energy users such as big manufacturing plants – would have to comply.

Remaining connected to the grid during glitches and incidents that can cause fleeting interruptions in supply is called fault ride through (FRT).

"Based on industry feedback, there will initially be an inability from most LEUs [large ener-

gy users] to comply with the proposed FRT requirements," said Eirgrid. Ryan said Eirgrid had been working with the sector for several years on the problem and would continue to help them comply with the code.

"They'd prefer if we weren't doing this because they now have to make changes to their systems," he said. "But they understand the importance of a secure, reliable system."

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Air Corps calls in civilians to give pilots 'dogfight' training

CONOR GALLAGHER
Crime and Security Correspondent

The Irish Air Corps is hiring civilian contractors to teach its pilots to "dogfight", after losing the ability to conduct in-house combat training.

The Air Corps operates eight Pilatus PC-9M turboprop aircraft. They are chiefly used for pilot training but have the ability to engage in limited combat against air and ground targets.

However, due to the number of trained pilots leaving the organisation in recent years, the Air Corps has now lost its combat training capabilities due to a lack of knowledge, military sources said.

The Defence Forces is now attempting to rectify this by hiring civilians, likely former military pilots, to train its instructors in basic air combat techniques.

This is a "train the trainer" arrangement, meaning the instructors will then pass the training on to new pilots after they complete their introductory flight courses.

'Top Gun'

The arrangement will see four Air Corps instructors trained in "basic fighter manoeuvring and air intercept training" over the course of six weeks starting this month. The contract is worth an estimated €100,000 plus VAT.

It will involve up to 70 flights and include training in "gun-sight tracking, battle formation [and] radar intercepts", a request for tender states.

"This is basic enough training. It could be called basic dog-fighting," said a source.

"It's not Top Gun."
"They will learn aggressive manoeuvring and how to put

themselves in a position to take down targets. They will be trained to deal with targets such as drones or unresponsive aircraft."

The PC-9M aircraft are armed with .50 calibre machine guns and ground-attack rockets.

The training will be completed in time for Ireland's EU presidency which begins on July 1st. However, it is not known if the aircraft will play any role in providing security during the six-month presidency.

The aircraft were used to provide some air defence capability during Ireland's previous term in the presidency and during the visit of British queen Elizabeth in 2011.

Due to their relatively slow speed and flight ceiling, the aircraft are not capable of intercepting fast-moving aircraft, including civilian airliners.

Weather

Rain and drizzle will move across the country. A cooler day with highs of 7-10 degrees.

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Healthcare: Beaumont Hospital paid €1.5 million to a company in which 20 of its staff were directors. Page 3

World News



Prague Letter: The Czechoslovak Group is among a handful of big European companies in the defence industry that have done very well from the war in Ukraine. Page 7

Business + Technology

Car sales: Sales of new petrol and diesel cars slumped in March compared with the same month last year, amid soaring pump prices. Page 12

Manna: Drone delivery company Manna is set to create 400 jobs after raising a further \$50m to drive growth. Page 13

Sports Thursday

Swimming: If Daniel Wiffen does not meet the targets he has set for next week's Irish Open Championships, he says he is moving back to Dublin from US. Page 16

Boxing: Kellie Harrington has signalled her intention to represent Ireland again. Page 18

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