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ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL  
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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT  
ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Initial reports submitted by States parties  
under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant

Addendum  
IRELAND\*

[31 October 1996]

\* The information submitted by Ireland in accordance with the guidelines concerning the initial part of reports of States parties is contained in the core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.15).

The appendices, figures and tables referred to in the text may be consulted at the Centre for Human Rights.

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Right of everyone to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress

999. Science policy is primarily a function of the Department of Industry and Commerce. Assisting it in its task is an independent State-sponsored agency, Eolas (the Irish Science and Technology Agency). Eolas is responsible for the development, application, coordination and promotion of science and technology in Irish industry. The Department of Education, in cooperation with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), introduced a new syllabus in Science in secondlevel schools in 1981. This curriculum is continually reviewed and updated by the NCCA to ensure that it provides an appropriate foundation programme in science at different levels suitable for the needs of all students. The NCCA also provides guidelines for primary schools to assist them in their curriculum planning for basic science. Colleges of Education are involved in the initial training of teachers in the sciences.

1000. A recently published Government Green Paper (Discussion Document) emphasizes the importance of teaching science at all levels of education. Since 1969, with the advent of Regional Colleges, the applied sciences have received considerable resources in both human and financial terms. These resources are additional to those already deployed by the State to the teaching of pure science at the various universities.

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Conservation, development and diffusion of science and culture

1007. As regards the communications media, the State radio and television system and the private business sector spend significant amounts of money in promoting cultural activity and the popularization of science. Aer Lingus, the Irish National Airline, sponsors an annual Young Scientists Exhibition which is open to secondlevel students. Cothú - The Business Council for the Arts - promotes sponsorship of the arts and acts as the representative voice of commercial sponsors. Cothú (which is the Irish for support) is a relatively new departure aiming to

promote an organized approach by business towards the arts in association with ongoing private sponsorship.

1008. There are also numerous learned bodies that are in receipt of funds from the State. The Royal Irish Academy, set up in 1785 to promote "the study of science, polite literature and antiquities", receives its primary source of income from the Higher Education Authority which is a body established in 1971 to look after the funding of higher education (the HEA funding in turn is the responsibility of the Minister of Education). The RIA supports research in the humanities and the natural sciences as well as developing academic exchange programmes. It also advises the Office of Public Works on the allocation of funds for research and archaeological excavation.