



## COMMUNIST PARTY OF IRELAND | PÁIRTÍ CUMANNACH NA hÉIREANN

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### **Apple tax ruling shows need for an economy in the interest of the people of Ireland**

The gombeen nature of Ireland's ruling class has been exposed in the recent European Commission decision that Apple owes the Irish state €13 billion, plus €1 billion in interest. This is not an exception; in reality, the state has long followed a strategy of operating as a de facto tax haven for primarily US-based transnational corporations.

The ruling also exposes the weakness in Ireland's economic model, which is in competition with other EU states. An already low corporation tax rate of 12.5% has been criticised by the European Union, with a former EU Tax Commissioner saying in 2018 that Ireland was a "tax blackhole."

The gombeen Irish ruling class and its flunkies have long sacrificed the economic and political sovereignty of this state to satisfy their own narrow material interests at the expense of the majority of our people.

They imposed the diktat from the EU when it demanded that the working people of Ireland take responsibility for paying 42% of EU banking debt. The consequence for workers was the privatisation of state companies and critical public services. The state debt now stands at over €200 billion.

While MNCs, property developers, landlords, and big business are the beneficiaries of Irish capitalism, Ireland's working class is the victim. We have the second highest prices in the EU along with one of the highest levels of low wages - 21.6% of workers in Ireland are earning low wages.

The dependence on US multinationals is often used as an excuse for the political dependency on US foreign policy, with further attacks on our neutrality and a deepening relationship with NATO being linked with the current economic strategy of Ireland's ruling class.

The Apple tax ruling highlights the need for an alternative economic model in the interests of the people of Ireland, asserting our sovereignty, where public funds are used to subsidise public services, not private profits.

The Communist Party of Ireland calls for:

1. A state-owned construction company to remove housing provision from a profit-seeking market and to transform our housing model into one based on universal public housing.
2. A state-owned banking system, instead of private finance.
3. A universal public health system to cut hospital waiting lists and improve wages for healthcare workers.
4. State-led development of infrastructure, including public transport, schools, healthcare facilities, and community recreation facilities.
5. A shift away from relying on foreign multinationals, fostering domestic publicly owned enterprises and harnessing the skills of workers in strategic areas, eg. finance, communications, transport, energy, science & technology, sustainable agriculture, etc.