



*Association of Electrical Contractors (Ireland); Woodview Centre, Main Street, Celbridge, Co. Kildare
Phone: 01 610 2715; Fax: 01 610 2692; Website: www.aeci.ie; Email: aeci@indigo.ie*

28th October 2010

Ref: Press Release from AECI (Association of Electrical Contractors of Ireland) regarding REA (Registered Employment Agreement)

Acting on the Results of a recent Ballot of our Members in which almost 90% voted for our Association to withdraw from the REA (Registered Employment Agreement) governing the Electrical Industry, the Executive Council of the AECI has on Tuesday the 26th October 2010 informed the Chairman of the Labour Court Mr. Kevin Duffy of its decision to withdraw from the REA, and has requested that the REA be now cancelled under the Industrial Relations Act 1946 Section 29-2 as follows: *"The Court may cancel the registration of an employment agreement if satisfied that there has been such substantial change in the circumstances of the trade or business to which it relates since the registration of the agreement that it is undesirable to maintain registration."*

The Executive Council of the AECI now feel that the Labour Court has no alternative but to cancel the agreement, given that the AECI was the largest party to the REA, and the remaining parties to the REA are now not wholly representative of the Electrical Industry it applies to.

It is with regret that the AECI as an Association, has come to this decision, as the REA has served the Electrical Industry well, for the past 20 years, however, further to recommendations from the Flood/Cassells inquiry/report i.e. *"that the REA for the Electrical Contracting Industry be re-negotiated to take into account changes that have taken place in the Electrical Industry"*, the AECI have tried in vain to get the TEEU to engage in meaningful talks on this matter, the AECI will be available at all time to discuss any proposals that would give stability to the Electrical Industry, while at the same time taking into account the economic climate that pertains at this time.

Unfortunately the REA has now become a burden on our Members, and it has propagated the rise of "Out of State" & "Non Compliant Contractors" now operating with impunity in this State, thus putting our Members at a severe disadvantage and in danger of going out of business.

The AECI can no longer have their Members criminalised, and look forward to a time when a level playing pitch for all Contractors is once again the norm.

Yours Sincerely,

Brian Flanagan
AECI President