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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Rural broadband

STATE aid may be needed to provide effective Broadband service in underpopulated rural areas, especially where market forces fail to deliver the service.

This according to Independent MEP Marian Harkin who was speaking in the European Parliament on Broadband availability in the EU.

Harkin said, "I agree that the union's task is not to finance the deployment of broadband. That is indeed the task of the market. However, I also agree with Commissioner Kroes's statement that the Commission can, in certain circumstances, allow state aid if it is clear that market forces will not or cannot fill the high-speed communications gap.

"Rural areas throughout the EU must be part of the broadband revolution, otherwise areas already lagging behind will fall further behind and we will be unable to achieve a balance of development between the regions."

### Combat aegism

SENATOR Mary White is visiting Clare tomorrow to meet with members of the Seanad electorate.

She has been very active during her time in the Seanad, particularly on matters of ageism and childcare. Perhaps best known for her calls for an end to mandatory retirement, Senator White was delighted with the inclusion of a provision to introduce phased retirement options

in the Fianna Fáil and Green Party Programme for Government.

Speaking on a regional radio station on Tuesday morning about 'Say No to Ageism Week' the Senator was adamant that changes in policy concerning the elderly take place. "The creation of a Minister for Older People is of the utmost importance" she said.

### Organic roots

**ROSSINVER-Grass** Root Organics is a brand new range of Irish organic speciality food that is hitting retail shelves across the country. Initially test-marketed at local Farmers' Markets the first two products, Organic Oats and Organic Tomato Relish, are now available in speciality stores nationwide. Both are produced using local artisan expertise and organic ingredients.

These products are available in Clare in The Health Connection, Ennis. You can find out more at [www.rossinverorganics.com](http://www.rossinverorganics.com).

### Michael Cusacks

MICHAEL Cusacks GAA club are teaming up with Croí for an 8K sponsored walk. The walk takes place Sunday June 24, commencing from New Quay National School at 12pm. This sponsored run/walk is open to the general public. All support and assistance is greatly appreciated. Croí is a charity dedicated to pursuing and attaining the highest level of Cardiovascular Health Care for the people of the West of Ireland.