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APPENDIX

As chapter two, section 2.1, notes there are figures available for total government expenditure as a percentage of national income for 2009 – more recent than the 2007 figures used in the comparisons on table 2.5. However, these figures are problematic given that they report a notable increase in spending as a proportion of national income for almost all EU countries as GDP declined while government spending was, in many cases, boosted to stimulate the economy and pay for increased unemployment related expenditure. This was particularly so in the countries worst hit by the recession and in the case of Ireland they also include one-off expenditure associated with capital injections into the banking sector. The abnormal nature of fiscal policies in 2009 (as was the case in 2008 and most likely 2010-11) across all EU countries suggests that it would be inappropriate to make structural comparisons using this data. For this reason the analysis presented in table 2.5 uses the 2007 data. However, for completeness, we present the data for 2009 and historic data from Ireland and the EU-27 in table A2.

| Table A1: Total Government Expenditure as a % of GDP, for the EU-27 in 2009 | | | |
|--|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Country | % of GDP | Country | % of GDP |
| IRELAND GNP | 59.5 | Portugal | 48.2 |
| Denmark | 58.2 | Germany | 47.5 |
| Finland | 56.2 | Czech Republic | 45.9 |
| France | 56.0 | Spain | 45.8 |
| Sweden | 54.9 | Cyprus | 45.8 |
| Belgium | 54.2 | Poland | 44.4 |
| Greece | 53.2 | Latvia | 44.2 |
| Austria | 52.3 | Malta | 43.9 |
| Italy | 51.9 | Lithuania | 43.6 |
| United Kingdom | 51.7 | Luxembourg | 42.2 |
| Netherlands | 51.4 | Slovakia | 41.5 |
| Hungary | 50.5 | Romania | 41.0 |
| Slovenia | 49.0 | Bulgaria | 40.6 |
| IRELAND GDP | 48.9 | Estonia* | 33.6 |

Source: Eurostat online database (2011) and CSO (2011:4)

Notes: EU-27 average of 50.8% of GDP.

* 2006 data

Table A2: Ireland and EU-27 Total Government Expenditure as a % of GDP, 1995-2008

| Year | Ireland | EU-27 | Year | Ireland | EU-27 |
|-------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1995 | 41.1 | n/a | 2002 | 33.4 | 46.6 |
| 1996 | 39.1 | n/a | 2003 | 33.2 | 47.2 |
| 1997 | 36.6 | n/a | 2004 | 33.6 | 46.7 |
| 1998 | 34.5 | 47.3 | 2005 | 34.0 | 46.8 |
| 1999 | 34.1 | 46.7 | 2006 | 34.4 | 46.2 |
| 2000 | 31.3 | 45.1 | 2007 | 36.8 | 45.6 |
| 2001 | 33.1 | 46.1 | 2008 | 42.7 | 46.9 |

Source: Eurostat online database (2011), CSO (2011:4) and CSO online database (2011)
