



## DAIRY DEBATE BEGINS

**TALKS** aimed at streamlining Ireland's €2.5 billion dairy industry got under way in Dublin yesterday, when heads of the sector met Agriculture Minister Joe Walsh (pictured).

The occasion marked the first

round-table discussions by dairy heads since the publication of the Prospectus Strategic Development Plan for the industry, which has a total workforce of 9,000.

The session, in Portlaoise, was convened to discuss a range of issues, including world trade, but the most urgent topic was the Prospectus report – and its warning that Irish dairy processing companies will have to amalgamate or be forced out of business by international competition.

