

**Fifteenth Meeting of the Export Trade Council
27 June 2018, Iveagh House**

Opening remarks and adoption of agenda

The Tánaiste welcomed members to the meeting and introduced the agenda, which was adopted by the Council.

Item 1: Update on Americas and Asia Pacific Strategies

The Tánaiste placed the development of the Asia Pacific and Americas' regional strategies in the wider context of the Global Ireland strategy, Programme for Government commitments and the Government's ambition to double the impact of our global footprint in the coming years. It is hoped that the Asia-Pacific and Americas Strategies will be approved by Government and published later in 2018.

DFAT's Asia Pacific and Americas Directors presented an overview of the draft strategies to the Council, emphasising the shared objective to deepen and widen our influence in regions where Ireland has a diverse range of interests and relationships.

Members welcomed the development of the strategies as particularly timely, in the context of the Government's focus on market diversification and enhanced efforts to assist Irish companies to access new trade opportunities post-Brexit.

Minister of State Breen noted the importance of building new markets for our indigenous companies and commended the work of Team Ireland in supporting market diversification.

Item 2: Update on Local Market Team Activities

The Council noted the positive work undertaken by Local Market Teams in priority markets, with a range of successful events and initiatives delivered during the first half of the year.

Item 3: Update on Implementation of Ireland Connected Trade Strategy

The Council noted the progress in implementing actions under the strategy on the basis of updates from Government Departments and Agencies.

**Trade Division, DFAT
28 June 2018**

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In attendance:

Government Departments

Simon Coveney T.D., Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (Chair)
Pat Breen TD, Minister of State at the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation
Helen Blake, Department of An Taoiseach
Brendan Gleeson, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Ken Spratt, Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
Alan O'Callaghan, Department of Education and Skills
Anne Margaret Gormley, Revenue
Paul Gleeson, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Alma Ní Choigligh, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Secretary)
Tim Mawe, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Aidan Cronin, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

State Agencies

Tara McCarthy, Bord Bia
Niall Gibbons, Tourism Ireland
Kevin Sherry, Enterprise Ireland
Mary Buckley, IDA Ireland
Dr. Ciarán Seoighe, Science Foundation Ireland

Private Sector Members

Simon McKeever, Irish Exporters' Association
Siobhán Masterson, IBEC
Caroline Keeling, Keelings
Pól Ó Móráin, EnterpriseLab
Ruth Andrews, Incoming Tour Operators' Association
Joe Redmond, FEXCO
Liam Ryan, SAP Ireland

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Agenda

1: Americas and Asia Pacific Strategies

2: Update on Local Market Team Activities

3: Update on Implementation of Ireland Connected Trade Strategy

END