

# **Brexit Stakeholder Forum**

## **Iveagh House**

**13 September 2017**

### **Minute**

#### **Agenda Item No 1: Introduction**

- Minister Coveney welcomed all participants to the first meeting of the Brexit Stakeholder Forum. Please see Annex 1 for a full list of participants.

#### **Agenda Item No 2: Agreement of Terms of Reference**

- Participants agreed the Terms of Reference for the Forum. See Annex 2 for the final agreed version.

#### **Agenda Item No 3: State of Play in Article 50 Negotiations**

- Minister Coveney gave an overview of how the Article 50 negotiation process has unfolded to date.
- Former Secretary General of the European Commission, Catherine Day, set out the EU perspective on how negotiations are progressing.
- The State Agencies present at the meeting, Bord Bia, Enterprise Ireland and IDA Ireland gave short overviews of the challenges faced by their clients as a result of Brexit, and the actions that the agencies have undertaken or plan to undertake in order to mitigate the impact of Brexit on their clients.
- A group discussion on Ireland's concerns for the negotiations and the impact of Brexit on the different stakeholder groups present followed.

#### **Agenda Item No 4: Preparations for Phase Two of Negotiations**

- Interventions from participants were industry-specific and focused on areas of concern, as well as proposed actions/solutions that could form part of Ireland's negotiating strategy for phase 2 of negotiations.

#### **Agenda Item No 5: Future of Europe discussion: State of Play**

- Minister of State McEntee outlined the current state of play in the discussions on the Future of Europe after Brexit, and Ireland's objectives going forward. Minister McEntee also stated her intention to discuss the Future of Europe in the Forum and welcomed all input on the subject from participants.

#### **Agenda Item No: AOB**

- Minister Coveney advised participants that the Forum would meet every 4-6 weeks and that DFAT will propose a date for the next meeting in the near future.

### List of Participants

Name	Organisation
Andrews, Barry	Institute of International and European Affairs
Blake, Helen	Department of the Taoiseach
Costello, Ned	Irish Universities Association
Coveney, Simon, T.D.	Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade
Cullinane, David, T.D.	Sinn Féin
D'Arcy, Michael	Joint Business Council
Day, Catherine	Former Secretary General of the European Commission
Donnelly, Stephen, T.D.	Fianna Fáil
Donoghue, Kieran	IDA Ireland
Fitzpatrick, Caitriona	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Fox, Paul	Advisor to the Minister of State for European Affairs
Freeman, Ruth	Science Foundation Ireland
Gargan, Ronan	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Gleeson, Brendan	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Gleeson, Paul	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Hamill, Shane	Bord Bia
Healy, Joe	Irish Farmers Association
Howlin, Brendan, T.D.	Labour Party
King, Patricia	Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Lanigan, Anne	Enterprise Ireland
McCarthy, Tara	Bord Bia
McCullough, Elizabeth	Department of the Taoiseach
McDonagh, Bobby	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
McEntee, Helen, T.D.	Minister of State for European Affairs
McGrane, John	British-Irish Chamber of Commerce
Montgomery, Rory	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Mulligan, Pauline	Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation
Murphy, Brian	Irish Exporters Association
Mythen, Fergal	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Ní Choigligh, Alma	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
O'Brennan, John	NUI Maynooth
O'Brien, Fergal	IBEC
O'Donoghue, Aingeal	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
O'Connell, Noelle	European Movement Ireland
Pappin, Andrea	Department of the Taoiseach
Redmond, Luke	Department of the Taoiseach
Redmond, Trevor	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Rocke, Emer	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Ryan, Eamon, T.D.	Green Party
Shanahan, Martin	IDA Ireland
Sherry, Kevin	Enterprise Ireland
Talbot, Ian	Chambers Ireland

**Terms of Reference**  
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**Purpose of the Brexit Stakeholder Forum**

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney, T.D., has convened the Brexit Stakeholder Forum as a means to inform the Government's position during the Article 50 negotiations on the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. The Forum will be of particular value as the negotiations enter Phase Two, when parallel discussions are expected to begin on the framework of the future relationship between the EU and the UK.

The Forum will bring together key stakeholders with a view to:

- Regularly updating/informing members on the progress of the Brexit negotiations;
- Facilitating the sharing of different sectoral concerns, enabling a wider understanding within the Forum of Ireland's overall priorities for the negotiations; and
- Providing a platform for the interaction of sectoral and EU expertise so as to underpin the Government's comprehensive and cohesive response to Brexit.

The work of the Forum will include, but is not limited to:

- Consideration of ways in which the Forum can contribute to Ireland's approach to negotiations;
- Discussion of emerging policy options and approaches within the context of the negotiations on the UK exit from, and future relationship with, the EU; and
- Sharing of sectoral expertise required to help shape Ireland's priorities, as part of the EU27, for the Article 50 negotiations.
- From time to time, briefing on the Future of the EU debate and consideration of how Ireland should adjust to a post-Brexit EU.

**Modus Operandi**

The Forum will be chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade. In the event of the Minister's absence, the Forum will be chaired by a senior official from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. It will meet every 4-6 weeks.

The membership of the Forum may be augmented as required.

To facilitate open discussion within the Forum, members should treat confidential information on the progress of the EU-UK negotiations with the utmost discretion.