



An initiative of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment

5th Meeting DETE Responsible Business Forum

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, 23 Kildare Street, Room LG13A

18th September 2024 @ 11.00am

Attendees

Forum Members:

American Chamber of Commerce	Ellen McGrath
British Irish Chamber of Commerce	Aidan Finnegan
British Irish Chamber of Commerce	Paul Lynam
Business in the Community Ireland	Bernadette Phelan
Chambers Ireland	James Kiernan
Construction Industry Federation	PJ Ryan
Enterprise Ireland	Joanne Sheehan
Enterprise Ireland	Katie Kent
The Family Business Network Ireland	John McGrane
Ibec	Niamh O'Keefe
IDA Ireland	Cillian Harford
Irish Exporters Association	Simon McKeever
Irish Exporters Association	Karl Picard

Presenters:

Environmental Protection Agency	John McEntegart
Environmental Protection Agency	Maria Martin
UN Global Compact Network	Nessa Whelan
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	Orla O'Brien

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment:

Ronnie Downes (Assistant Secretary, Trade Division - Chair), Eoghan Richardson (Trade Compliance and Responsible Business Unit), Declan Moran (Responsible Business Coordination Unit), Helen Pyke (Responsible Business Coordination Unit), Jessica Flynn (Responsible Business Coordination Unit), Stephen Walsh (Climate Action and Energy Policy Unit), and Federica De Blasio (Data and Evaluation Unit).

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications:

Barry Mulligan (Land Use, Marine and Sectoral Policy Division)

Items

1. Members were welcomed to the fifth meeting of the Forum. The Chair introduced the agenda items and passed on the apologies of the Minister, who was unable to attend.
2. The agenda and the minutes of the previous meeting of the Forum were agreed.
3. The Chair provided a brief outline of progress on the Responsible Business agenda, referring to the publication of the Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence, the entering into force of the Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation and progress on the proposed regulation prohibiting products made with forced labour on the Union market.
4. The Chair introduced a presentation on the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive, providing an overview of the Department's work on implementation, the development of standards by the European Financial Reporting Advisory Group (EFRAG) and the European Commission and ongoing stakeholder outreach efforts. Forum members raised questions about enforcement and discussed the availability of supports.
5. The Chair introduced a presentation on the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. The presentation outlined the policy's place within the European Green Deal and the requirements for businesses, and addressed Forum members' questions.
6. The Chair introduced a presentation by Ms Nessa Whelan of the UN Global Compact Network on the establishment of a Country Network for Ireland. Ms Whelan outlined the background of the Sustainable Development Goals and the opportunity for businesses to participate in the Global Compact, as well as plans for the launch of the Country Network for Ireland, to be held on 28th November 2024 at the An Post HQ in the Exo Building in Dublin.
7. In response to queries from Forum members the Chair committed to provide copies of the presentations delivered, the voluntary reporting standard for SMEs under development by EFRAG and a paper prepared by the Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service on the cumulative impact of measures to improve working conditions in Ireland.
8. The Chair thanked attendees and concluded the Forum.