

Note on 9th ENTERPRISE FORUM ON BREXIT AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Thursday 13th December 2018

Attendees:

Minister Heather Humphreys TD	Minister for Business, Enterprise & Innovation
Jonathan Mc Millan	Enterprise Ireland
Kieran Donoghue	IDA Ireland
Aisling Mc Niffe	Financial Services Ireland
Paul Kelly	Food & Drink Industry Ireland
Mark Redmond	American Chamber of Commerce
Aisling Carney	American Chamber of Commerce
Ian Talbot	Chambers Ireland
Tara Buckley	RGDATA
Simon McKeever	Irish Exporters Association
Neil Mc Donnell	ISME
Arnold Dillon	Ibec
Danny Mc Coy	Ibec
Thomas Burke	Ibec
Philip Kelly	DBEI
Anne Coleman Dunne	DBEI
Sandra O'Reilly	DBEI
Conor Hand	DBEI
Caoimhe Gavin	DBEI
Helen Pyke	DBEI
Scott Foley	DBEI

Item 1: Minutes from 8th meeting

- The Minister welcomed all attendees & the minutes from meeting 8 were agreed.

Item 2: Update on Brexit from DBEI:

- The Minister remarked that the decision by PM May to delay the “Meaningful Vote” on Brexit in the UK Parliament will add to timing challenges ahead of the 29 March deadline and that it will be for PM May to communicate how her Government will proceed in order to ensure timely agreement and ratification of the Withdrawal Agreement.

- The Withdrawal Agreement remains the best possible deal and no part of the agreement can be re-negotiated, including the backstop
- Ireland will further ramp up the extensive contingency planning which has been under way for some time already.
- DBEI referred to speculation on a no deal scenario and recalled the parameters and potential implications, including recourse to WTO tariffs and quotas.
- The Government remains clear there will be no physical border infrastructure.

Tour de table

- The Minister invited the membership to inform the group on their preparedness efforts and key challenges.
- Principal challenges include customs procedures, supply chains, regulation, standards and labelling, and mobility as well as tariff and non-tariff barriers. In addition, members noted potential issues around the landbridge, logistics, documentation, data flow and currency management.
- Reference was made to the need to control business costs in order not to erode the capacity of smaller businesses to address Brexit. Reference was made to the importance of town centre renewal and the Enterprising Town Awards to smaller businesses.
- It was suggested that clearer public facing communications may be required generally on Brexit. Companies are looking to their exposure to any downturn in the UK economy and a number of members reported positively on levels of preparedness among their client base.
- A number of members have launched new client focused training such as EI's online customs training and the IEA certificate in international trade, to be launched in 2019. The membership continues to reach out to clients.

Item 3: Presentation of Copenhagen Economics study "Making EU trade in services work for all".

- This point was taken off the agenda in order to allow time for a detailed discussion on Brexit.

Item 4: AOB

- No items were raised under Any Other Business