



## Note on the Enterprise Forum of Monday, 5 December 2022

### Attendees

Secretary General, Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment	Dr Orlaigh Quinn (Chair)
Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail	Damien English
Minister of State for Trade Promotion, Digital and Company Regulation	Dara Calleary
American Chamber of Commerce	Mark Redmond & Colm O'Callaghan
Business in the Community Ireland	Tomas Sercovich
Chambers Ireland	Ian Talbot
Construction Industry Federation	Sean Downey
Enterprise Ireland	Leo Clancy
Ibec	Danny McCoy, Aisling McNiffe & Elizabeth Bowen
IDA	Mary Buckley
Irish Exporters Association	Simon McKeever & Karl Picard
InterTradelreland	AnnMarie O'Brien & Martin Robinson
ISME	Neil McDonnell & Finbarr Filan
Local Enterprise Office Network	Padraic McElwee
Retail Excellence Ireland	Duncan Graham
RGDATA	Tara Buckley
Men's Development Network	Sean Cooke
D/Finance - Revenue	Sinéad Ryan, Maresa Hempenstall
DETE officials	Ronnie Downes, Jean Carberry, Pauline Mulligan, John Newham, Declan Hughes, Cathy Madden, Maedhbh Cronin, Orla O'Brien, Aine Maher, Mark Doheny, Tara Keane, Joe Cummins, Brendan Kelly, Deborah Dignam, Stephen Foley, Special Adviser to Minister English, Matthew Lynch, Special Adviser to the Tanaiste  Forum Secretariat: Mary Cullen, Susan McNamee, Sinéad O'Brien, Alessandro Medeiros E Silva

- The Secretary General welcomed all in person and virtual attendees to the final meeting of the Enterprise Forum for 2022.
- Minutes from the meeting of 29 June 2022 were approved.

## Item 1: Energy security of supply and costs

- An update was given by the Department's Climate Action and Energy Policy Unit on energy security of supply and recent market price dynamics.
- It was noted that European storage of gas is at unprecedented high-levels and the security of gas supply risk is greatly diminished for winter 2022/2023. The electricity and gas wholesale markets, while under stress, are functioning and while consumer prices remain high, they are stabilising.
- DECC and DETE, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), EirGrid and ESB Networks are actively engaged in seeking short, medium and long-term solutions to energy security and cost concerns.
- The CRU list of electricity security of supply actions includes demand management, Reduce your Use and emergency generation procurement.
- The energy sector is transforming rapidly, Ireland's industry has opportunities to exploit and serve this global megatrend in the delivery of smart grid management systems, offshore wind energy and hydrogen for national industrial development and international markets.
- An update was given by D/finance and Revenue on the Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme (TBESS). The TBESS has been open for registration since last week and is now open for claims. It is expected to run until the end of February 2023. Further details can be found here: [Temporary Business Energy Support Scheme \(TBESS\) \(revenue.ie\)](#)
- Legislation to facilitate the Ukraine Credit Guarantee Scheme and to empower the Growth and Sustainability Loan Scheme (GSLs) was signed into law last Friday. Further details on both schemes can be found here: [Energy supports: Budget 2023 - DETE \(enterprise.gov.ie\)](#)
- The €200 million Ukraine Enterprise Crisis Scheme, launched in October 2022, has two measures and assists viable but vulnerable companies in the manufacturing and internationally traded services suffering liquidity problems and those impacted by severe rises in energy costs. DETE is currently considering amendments to the Scheme on foot of changes to the EU State Aid Temporary Crisis Framework.
- Members of the Forum updated on the impacts on their sectors.

## Item 2: Responsible Business

- **Overview of Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive**
- A presentation was given by the Department's Audit and Accounting, Policy and Legislation Unit on the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). The Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive will significantly update the existing rules for non-financial reporting by companies operating in the EU.

- Companies in scope, will be required to report annually in their management/directors' report on environmental, social and governance and human rights matters.
- The Audit and Accounting Policy Unit has commenced work on the transposition of the Directive and intends to hold a stakeholder forum in early 2023. The Unit plan to launch a public consultation which will provide a medium for stakeholder input.
- Members welcomed the update on the CSRD and are keen to engage with the stakeholder forum.

➤ **Implementation of the Third National Strategy Domestic, Sexual and Gender based Violence and accreditation under the White Ribbon Program**

- In June, the Government launched Zero Tolerance, the third national strategy on domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV).
- The strategy is built on four pillars – Protection, Prevention, Prosecution and Policy Co-ordination and contains 144 actions to be implemented this year and next.
- DETE has two goals under Pillar 1.
  - assist employers and trade unions to create and develop work environments that are free from sexual harassment in all its forms and work to eliminate male violence against women by supporting the creation of White Ribbon organisations.
  - Ratification of the International Labour Organisation No 190 Violence and Harassment in the World of Work Convention (2019).
- Employment Rights Policy Unit (ERPU) are responsible for coordinating DETE inputs on the Strategy, including to the High-Level Oversight Board and represent the Department on the Senior Officials Group set up for its implementation.
- On 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022, the Tanaiste announced Cabinet approval on a decision to ratify the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention on Violence and Harassment, 2019, (No.190). Link to the [Third National Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Strategy here.](#)
- ERPU are working with colleagues in the Department of Justice to engage with employers and trade unions to support the creation of White Ribbon Workplaces and arranged for a presentation from the CEO of the Men's Development Network on accreditation under the White Ribbon Program.
- The White Ribbon campaign seeks to engage with men and boys on ending Violence against Women and Gender-Based Violence through developing policy, raising awareness and taking action. The White Ribbon Campaign in Ireland is led by Men's Development Network. [White Ribbon Ireland - Men's Development Network \(mensnetwork.ie\)](#)
- Members welcomed the presentation by the Men's Development Network.

### **Item 3: AOB**

- The final draft of the Enterprise Policy White Paper is hoped to go to Cabinet this week, it has been an evolution of Enterprise policy with a big focus on the Green and Digital challenges facing enterprises.
- Enhancements continue to be made to workers rights, including the Payment of Wages (Amendment) (Tips and Gratuities) Act 2022 which commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> December and the Sick Leave 2022 Act which will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023.
- The WRC published awareness booklets with sample templates for the Pay Payment of Wages (Amendment) (Tips and Gratuities) Act 2022.
- It was noted that recently there has been a considerable volume of legislation which is having an impact on business and the cumulative effect needs to be considered.

### **Item 4: Date of next meeting of Enterprise Forum**

- The next meeting of the Enterprise Forum is expected to take place in quarter 1 of 2023.