



An Roinn Fiontar,
Trádála agus Fostaíochta
Department of Enterprise,
Trade and Employment



3rd Meeting DE TE Responsible Business Forum

Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, 23 Kildare Street, Room 110
21st February 2024 @11:30am

Attendees

Chaired by Minister of State for Trade Promotion, Digital and Company Regulation, Dara Calleary, TD

American Chamber of Commerce	Ellen McGrath
British Irish Chamber of Commerce	Cillian Molloy
Business in the Community Ireland	Bernadette Phelan
Chambers Ireland	James Kiernan
Construction Industry Federation	PJ Ryan
Fáilte Ireland	Caeman Wall
Ibec	Niamh O'Keeffe
IDA Ireland	Cillian Harford
Irish Exporters Association	Karl Picard
Irish Tourism Industry Confederation	Eoghan O'Meara Walsh
Primark	Emma Ormond
Small Firms Association	Jonathan McDade

DE TE Officials:

Ronnie Downes (Assistant Secretary, Trade Division), Eoghan Richardson (Trade Compliance and Responsible Business Unit), Claire O'Brien (Competition & Consumer Policy Unit), Aisling McCarthy (Climate Programmes Unit), John Lee (Inward Investment Unit), Marian Cassidy (Retail Section), Sandra Mullen (Retail Section), Osama Noujoum (Data and Evaluation Unit), Paul Mc Mahon (Responsible Business Coordination Unit), Helen Pyke (Responsible Business Coordination Unit), John Morris (Responsible Business Coordination Unit), and Abigail Martin (Responsible Business Coordination Unit)

Items

1. Members were welcomed to the third meeting of the Forum. The Chair introduced the agenda items for the meeting and thanked members for their attendance at and promotion of the Responsible Business webinar hosted by the Department on the 14th February. More webinars are planned this year.

2. Members were encouraged to prioritise the responsible business agenda when finalising their business plans for 2024 and beyond. The Department will endeavour to attend and speak at members' events and meetings to assist in raising awareness of responsible business initiatives through members' networks.
3. The minutes, which had been circulated to members previously, were agreed.
4. The Chair introduced a presentation on the EU proposal for a Directive on common rules promoting the repair of goods. The presentation provided an overview of the aims of the proposed Directive and highlighted the main articles, the timelines and state of play.
5. The Chair introduced the second presentation of the day; EU Ecodesign for Sustainable Product Regulation (ESPR). This presentation included the main features of the ESPR, the scope, and timelines.
6. An update was provided to attendees on the development of a Responsible Business Compass which will be hosted on the new National Enterprise Hub. The Department successfully applied for EU funding for the development of the Compass which aims to help guide companies to the relevant information on Responsible Business initiatives and supports available. The project will span 14-18 months and will provide readily available and accessible information for policymakers in early 2025 and businesses by the end of 2025. This timing will be opportune as some of the relevant initiatives, such as the CSRD, will already be active by that time with others coming online.
7. Two items were raised under A.O.B.
 - a. Copies of the recently launched Chambers Ireland [Manifesto for Europe](#) were provided to attendees.
 - b. The need for clarity around the requirements of small businesses regarding the CSRD, and the onus being put on small businesses by larger companies to be up to speed with the directive despite having different timelines and deadlines for adherence. The Chair asked that these concerns are submitted to the Department in writing so they can feed back to relevant officials.