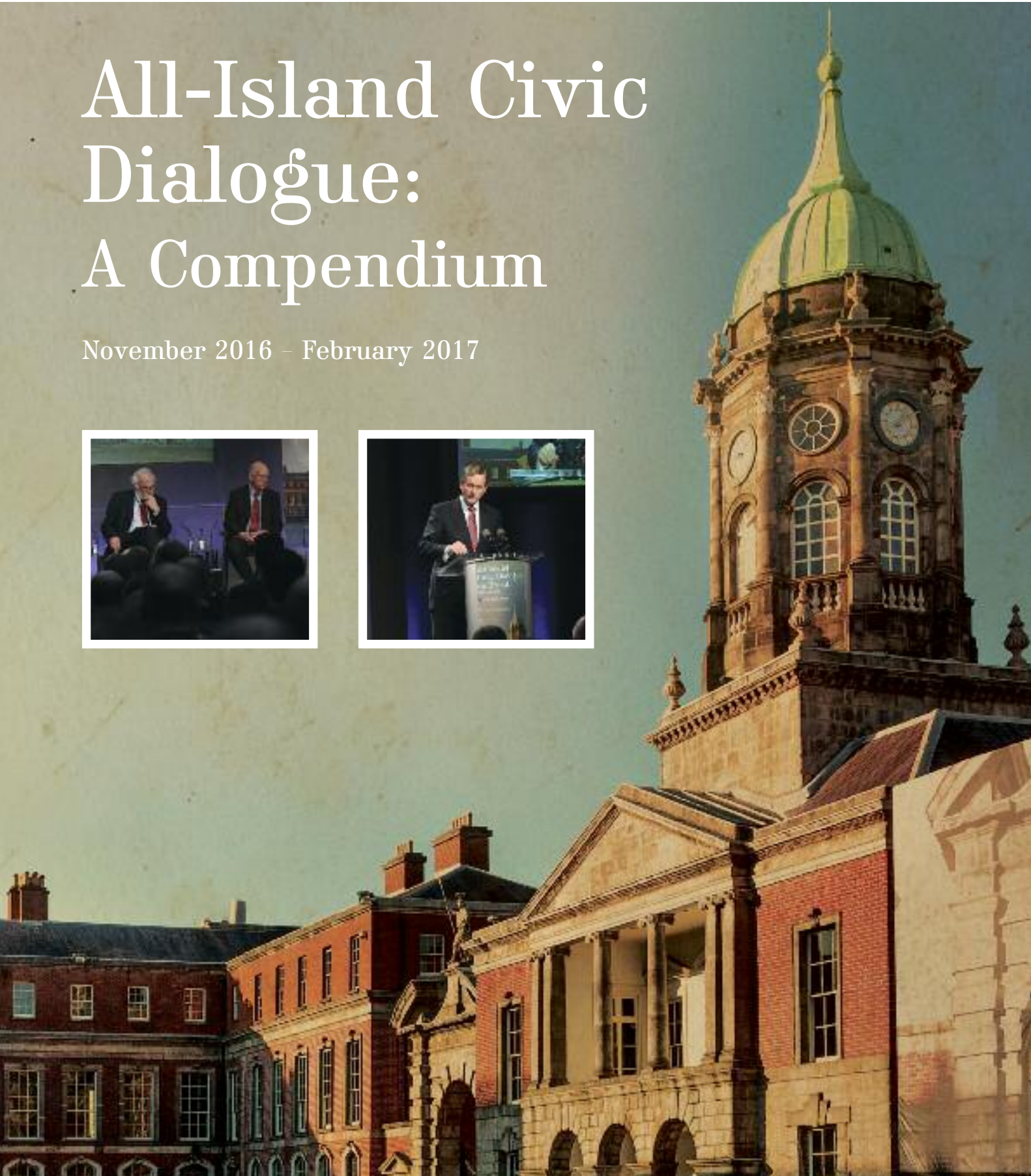


All-Island Civic Dialogue: A Compendium

November 2016 – February 2017



Foian ar Bólaigh
Department of the Taoiseach



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

FOREWORD

We launched the All-Island Civic Dialogue on Brexit in November last year with the desire to have the widest possible conversation on the most significant economic and social challenge facing this island in the past 50 years. This consultation process is an essential component of the Government's preparations for the Article 50 negotiations and in informing our domestic response to Brexit.

We wish to sincerely thank all those who have participated for their contributions to this Civic Dialogue process so far. Up to 500 representatives of civil society groups, trade unions, business groups, non-governmental organisations and political parties from across the island of Ireland have attended the two plenary sessions and over 1200 civic society and industry representatives have participated in the fourteen All-Island sectoral dialogues held to date. We have been struck by the genuine desire amongst participants to engage in a constructive way with the challenges which face every sector of our economy.

During the two plenary sessions of the All-Island Civic Dialogue and the fourteen All-Island sectoral dialogues, participants stressed the importance of working together to protect the interests of all the people on this island. We have heard how the Peace Process and the all-island economy are inextricably linked and that the hard-won gains must be protected. There were calls for full respect of the Good Friday Agreement, maintenance of an open border, the preservation of the Common Travel Area and for as close a relationship as possible between the EU and UK. We have heard about the negative impacts of Brexit across many sectors of the economy and have listened to your request for tailored responses in mitigating these impacts. The Irish Government fully shares these concerns and priorities.

Once Article 50 has been triggered, Brexit will move into a different phase. The Government has already clearly set out our priority objectives and we will further develop our overall national responses and negotiating stances. These will, in large part, be informed by the process and outcomes of the Civic Dialogue and by those who have participated so wholeheartedly from across the island alongside the Government's own detailed analyses. As we move into the negotiations, it is incumbent on us to continue to work together, North and South, to achieve the best possible outcome for all on this island.

This publication draws together the reports from the two plenary sessions and the outcomes from the sectoral dialogues. We remain committed to keeping you updated on developments and to continuing to listen to your views through the All-Island Civic Dialogue process, as we strive to achieve our objectives in the course of the negotiations in the best interests of the people of this island.



Enda Kenny

Enda Kenny, T.D.
Taoiseach



Charlie Flanagan

Charlie Flanagan, T.D.
Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade

CONTENTS

	Page
01 Report of the first plenary meeting	6
02 Summary report of the sectoral meetings	14
03 List of submissions received by organisation	22
04 Report of the second plenary meeting	23

01 Report from the first plenary meeting - Royal Hospital Kilmainham, 2 November 2016





The inaugural plenary meeting of the All-Island Civic Dialogue on Brexit took place at the Royal Hospital Kilmainham, Dublin, on 2 November 2016. This all-day event was the opening dialogue for a series of public consultations on Brexit and was hosted by the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charlie Flanagan TD.

Participants heard contributions from all parts of the island, representing a broad range of over 180 civil society groups, trade unions, business groups, non-governmental organisations and representatives from political parties. (See list below)

The Royal Hospital was full to capacity, with over 250 participants in attendance from all across the island of Ireland (including 75 participants from Northern Ireland and the border area), the conference was live-streamed and can be viewed in full on the government's website www.merrionstreet.ie. The event was covered by journalists from over 35 media organisations at home and abroad.

Discussions were positive and solution-focussed, with all interventions carefully recorded to inform the Government's approach. A record of some of the key points made at the dialogue forms the core of this summary report.

Plenary programme

The programme for the day was as follows:

Opening address by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny T.D.	
Plenary Session 1 – Representatives of political parties across the island	
Plenary Session 2 - Representatives from business, trade union and civil society groups	
Panel Discussion 1: North-South issues	Panel Discussion 2: East-West issues (Ireland and Great Britain)
Final Plenary – Feedback from panel discussions , including final contributions from the floor	
Concluding remarks by Tom Arnold, Chair of the Civic Dialogue	
Closing Address by Charlie Flanagan T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade	

Morning and afternoon plenary sessions: Key messages

Three full plenary sessions took place during the morning and afternoon, during which all 250 participants were present and all who wished to speak were heard. Participants heard at the outset from the Taoiseach and from leading representatives of all political parties and groupings present from across the island, as well as short remarks from representative bodies north and south. Among the key issues raised in these plenary sessions were:

Challenges and Opportunities

- Importance of consultation and dialogue on Brexit
- Continued uncertainties ahead of formal UK notification and the EU negotiations
- Urgency of action to mitigate against Brexit implications, including on an all-island basis
- A need for a long-term vision for Ireland's future after Brexit
- Opportunities for Ireland in a changing landscape, e.g. in terms of new foreign direct investment, more diversification of trade, further deepening of relationships with other EU partners
- Key all-island policy areas such as healthcare, tourism and environmental protection

Economy and Trade

- Challenges to the agriculture and fisheries sectors, as well as SMEs
- The fluctuating euro-sterling exchange rate
- The transport sector, road haulage and goods transiting through the UK
- Impacts on trade and employment and the need for competitiveness and innovation

Northern Ireland

- Protecting the Good Friday Agreement
- The value of citizenship rights under the Good Friday Agreement
- Recognition of the majority vote in Northern Ireland to remain in the EU
- Uniqueness of the Northern Ireland dimension
- The position of border communities

Common Travel Area

- Importance of the Common Travel Area and continued free movement within this island and between Ireland and Britain
- Maintaining the open border

The future of the European Union

- Ireland's firm commitment to its EU membership
- Ireland's position on the EU27 side of the negotiating table for the UK exit process
- The challenges facing the EU itself
- Value of EU funding programmes on the island: agriculture, infrastructure, education and research

Citizens

- Economic issues highly important, but social issues must be highlighted in parallel
- Protection of rights and related EU legislation: employment, human rights, children's rights
- Importance of arts, culture and heritage
- Importance of a multiplicity of voices in this debate, including children, ethnic minorities, the socially excluded, rural communities
- The impact on and role of the Irish community in Britain

In the early afternoon, participants chose between two panel discussions, summary reports of which follow.

Panel Discussion 1

North-South issues: Key messages

This panel was moderated by Sinéad McLaughlin (Chief Executive, Londonderry Chamber of Commerce) and had the following speakers:

- Micheál Briody, CEO, Silver Hill Farms
- Deirdre Heenan, Professor of Social Policy, Ulster University
- Andy Pollak, Journalist and Co-founder of the Centre for Cross Border Studies
- David Phinnemore, Professor of European Politics, Queen's University Belfast

The Northern Ireland deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness delivered concluding remarks.

Key themes emerging from the discussion:

North-south relations, including people-to-people links, are vitally important. Some form of arrangement regarding Northern Ireland and north-south links will be essential to safeguard prosperity on this island

Protection of the Good Friday Agreement remains paramount

All-island connectivity (e.g. energy) and collaboration must continue to be promoted

EU funding is very significant for Northern Ireland, in particular the CAP but also important support for research and development (Horizon 2020). There should be a concerted effort to find flexibilities in EU programmes and to make the case for favourable arrangements in recognition of Northern Ireland's unique circumstances

Brexit is not only a political and economic issue – it includes social issues and human rights

There was a clear need to build on the day's dialogue by leveraging the expertise in the room to provide costed business cases for solutions

Border businesses and local authorities are particularly vulnerable to uncertainties, but there may be some scope for them to benefit from innovative solutions

The need to bear in mind the perspective of the 44% in Northern Ireland who voted to leave the EU

The risk that Brexit could be exploited by violent elements who remain opposed to the Good Friday Agreement



Panel discussion 2

East-West (i.e. Ireland and Great Britain) issues: some key messages

This panel was moderated by Susan Hayes Culleton (Managing Director, Hayes Culleton and author of the "Positive Economist" blog) and had the following speakers:

- Professor Alan Barrett, Director, Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)
- Sally Mulready, member of the Council of State and leading member of the Irish community in Britain
- Cathy McGennis, Chief Financial Officer, Presidion
- David McWilliams, economist, author, journalist and broadcaster

Key themes emerging from the discussion:

The continued importance of the UK economy

The need to protect the achievements of recent decades in terms of British-Irish relations - political, economic and trade, cultural, and people-to-people

Studies by the ESRI and others showing the challenges arising from Brexit in terms of not just trade but also access to work experience and education for Irish people

Potential for the UK's debate on the EU to influence the Irish debate on its own place in the EU

The Irish community in Britain – now a diverse group in themselves with differing views (including on the EU), with evidence that some people are considering moving back to Ireland

A hope that the Irish community can organise and mobilise itself to influence the Brexit debate.

A belief that by its nature, business will respond to changes in market conditions – part of that response will be to diversify to other markets including within the EU

Possible opportunities in terms of trade and investment – for Irish companies to supply key services within the EU in replacement for (or on behalf of) UK-based companies

Some concerns the UK would reduce protections in terms of employment and social rights in an attempt to offset losses of competitiveness and attractiveness to Foreign Direct Investment

Recommendations for increased investment in education and innovation, including in the most affected sectors (e.g. food and drink)



The conference was live-streamed and can be viewed in full on the government's website www.merrionstreet.ie, while the text of many of the speeches and statements delivered can be found on the relevant organisations' websites.



Outcomes and follow-up actions

As a direct follow-up to this first plenary meeting and reflecting the main issues raised at it, a series of sector-specific events got underway in December 2016 with Civic Dialogue meetings held on the themes of agriculture, education and research. More are to follow in early 2017, with already-confirmed areas for discussion as follows:

- Transport and Logistics
- Tourism and Hospitality
- Schools
- Children and Young People
- Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
- Energy
- Heritage, Culture and Rural Ireland
- Pensions, Social Welfare Rights and Social Insurance
- Human Rights and the Good Friday Agreement

These events are being led by Ministers and are taking place in a variety of locations across the country. The sectoral dialogues will feed into a second plenary Civic Dialogue in mid-February. Further dialogues - sectoral and plenary - will take place as appropriate.

Overall the Civic Dialogue process is both an opportunity for valuable discussions between Government and civil society and a key resource for the Government in terms of its approach to issues in the negotiations ahead. These consultations complement the various detailed studies and analyses commissioned by the Government on the implications of Brexit as well as the work taking place across Government under the direction of the Taoiseach and the Cabinet Committee on Brexit.

Ireland's objectives in these forthcoming negotiations are to **ensure that the best possible outcomes will be achieved for our citizens, for the economy and for continued peace and prosperity across the island.**

The Government continues to outline these priority issues at all of our meetings with EU counterparts and with the UK government. The Taoiseach, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Minister for European Affairs remain actively engaged with their European counterparts, as do other Ministers and senior officials.

Annex

Participants at the inaugural All-Island Civic Dialogue

To ensure the widest representation possible, attendance at the Dialogue was at the invitation of the Taoiseach and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade. These included:

- Business, employer and trade union organisations, farming organisations, community and voluntary NGOs
- Local Authorities in border regions
- Key Government agencies, particularly those with a north-south dimension
- Academic institutions such as Centre for Cross Border Studies and the Royal Irish Academy as well as universities and higher education institutions.

Representatives of the main political parties across the island were also invited. The full list of organisations represented at the event is as follows:

1. Alliance Party
2. American Chamber of Commerce Ireland
3. AquaChem LTD
4. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council
5. Arts Council
6. Atheist Ireland
7. Bar Council NI
8. Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 9. Belfast City Council | 59. Federation of Small Business (NI) | 105. Irish Road Haulage Association | 148. Northern Ireland Water |
| 10. Belong To | 60. Fermanagh and Omagh District Council | 106. Irish Senior Citizens Parliament | 149. NUI Galway |
| 11. Bord Bia | 61. FEXCO | 107. Irish Sports Council | 150. NUI Maynooth |
| 12. Bord Iascaigh Mhara | 62. Fianna Fáil | 108. Irish Taxation Institute | 151. Open University |
| 13. Border Communities Against Brexit | 63. Financial Services Ireland/Chief Executive of Irish Funds | 109. Irish Tourist Industry Confederation | 152. Public Relations Institute of Ireland (PRII) |
| 14. BPF | 64. Fine Gael | 110. Irish Universities Association | 153. Queens University Belfast |
| 15. British and Irish Trading Alliance | 65. Food and Drink Industry Ireland | 111. Islamic Community | 154. Roman Catholic Church |
| 16. British Irish Association | 66. Foras na Gaelige | 112. Islamic Community in Northern Ireland | 155. Royal Irish Academy |
| 17. British-Irish Chamber of Commerce | 67. GAA | 113. ISME | 156. Rural Independent Group |
| 18. Catalyst Inc | 68. Glenree Centre for Peace & Reconciliation | 114. ISPC | 157. Safefood |
| 19. Cavan County Council | 69. Green Party | 115. Jewish Representative Council of Ireland | 158. SAP Ireland |
| 20. CBI Northern Ireland | 70. Green Party NI | 116. Joint Business Council | 159. Science Foundation Ireland |
| 21. Central Bank of Ireland | 71. Griffith College | 117. Keelings | 160. Scouting Ireland |
| 22. Centre for Cross Border Studies | 72. Healing Through Remembering | 118. Labour Party | 161. SDLP |
| 23. Centre for Democracy and Peace Building | 73. Heritage Council | 119. Law Society of Ireland | 162. SEUPB |
| 24. Chairperson of the Oireachtas Good Friday Agreement Committee | 74. Higher Education Authority | 120. Letterkenny Chamber of Commerce | 163. Sinn Féin |
| 25. Chambers Ireland | 75. Housing Agency | 121. Letterkenny Institute of Technology | 164. Sligo Chamber of Commerce |
| 26. Children's Ombudsman | 76. Human Rights Consortium | 122. Limerick Chamber of Commerce | 165. Sligo County Council |
| 27. Children's Rights Alliance | 77. Humanist Association of Northern Ireland (Humani) | 123. Loughs Agency | 166. Small Firms Association |
| 28. Citizens Advice NI | 78. Ibec | 124. Louth County Council | 167. Social Democrats |
| 29. Citizens Information Board | 79. ICMSA | 125. Macra na Feirme | 168. Social Justice Ireland |
| 30. Civil Society Network | 80. ICTU | 126. Manufacturing NI | 169. SOLAS |
| 31. Commission for Aviation Regulation | 81. IDA Ireland | 127. Meat Industry Ireland | 170. South Dublin Chamber |
| 32. Commissioner for Victims and Survivors | 82. IFA | 128. Methodist Church | 171. Stronger In NI |
| 33. Committee on the Administration of Justice | 83. IIEA | 129. Mid Ulster District Council | 172. Teagasc |
| 34. Community Relations Council | 84. Independent Alliance | 130. Monaghan County Council | 173. The Bar of Ireland |
| 35. Community Relations in Schools | 85. Immigrant Council of Ireland | 131. National Competitiveness Council | 174. The Wheel |
| 36. Construction Industry Federation | 86. Independents for Change | 132. National Youth Council | 175. Tourism Ireland |
| 37. Cooperation and Working Together (CAWT) | 87. Institute of Chartered Accountants Ireland | 133. Nevin Economic Research Institute | 176. Translink |
| 38. Cooperation Ireland | 88. Institute of Directors | 134. Newry Chamber of Commerce | 177. Transport Infrastructure Ireland |
| 39. Cork Chamber of Commerce | 89. International Centre for Local and Regional Development | 135. Newry City, Mourne and Down District Council | 178. Trinity College Dublin |
| 40. Corrymeela | 90. International Fund for Ireland | 136. NI Centre for Economic Policy | 179. Ulster Farmers Union |
| 41. County and City Management Association | 91. InterTradeIreland | 137. NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry | 180. University College Cork |
| 42. Derry City & Strabane District Council | 92. Irish 4 Europe | 138. NI Environment Link | 181. University of Ulster |
| 43. Derry/London-Derry Chamber of Commerce | 93. Irish Aviation Authority | 139. NI Human Rights Commission | 182. Warrenpoint Port |
| 44. Disability Action | 94. Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers' Association | 140. NI Meat Exporters Association | 183. Women in Business NI |
| 45. Donegal County Council | 95. Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) Ltd | 141. NI Women's European Platform | 184. YMCA |
| 46. Dublin Airport Authority | 96. Irish Co-operative Organisation Society | 142. NIIRTA | 185. Youth Action |
| 47. Dublin Chamber of Commerce | 97. Irish Council of Churches | 143. Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People | 186. YouthWork Ireland |
| 48. Dublin Institute of Technology | 98. Irish Countrywomen's Association | 144. Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities | |
| 49. Dundalk Chamber of Commerce | 99. Irish Exporters Association | 145. Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action | |
| 50. Dundalk Institute of Technology | 100. Irish Fish Producers Organisation | 146. Northern Ireland Executive, Deputy First Minister | |
| 51. East Border Region | 101. Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission | 147. Northern Ireland Local Government Association | |
| 52. Eirgrid | 102. Irish in Britain | | |
| 53. Enterprise Ireland | 103. Irish Manufacturers Association | | |
| 54. Enterprise Lab | 104. Irish Research Council | | |



02 Report of Sectoral Meetings

Building on the inaugural plenary meeting of the All-Island Civic Dialogue on Brexit hosted by the Taoiseach on 2 November, the Government launched a series of Brexit sectoral consultation events. These all-island events are an important opportunity for Ministers to engage directly with stakeholders on the implications of the Brexit process for their sector.

Fourteen sectoral dialogues have been hosted by Ministers, in a range of locations across the country. Over 1100 industry and civic society representative groups from across the island participated in this consultation process.

This report outlines the key themes from each consultation.

Summary of Sectoral Dialogues

Agri-Food

Minister Michael Creed T.D. hosted over 60 representatives from the cattle, sheep, dairy, pigs and poultry sectors in Meath on 15 December.

Key Themes

- Concerns include: the particular exposure of the sector to **customs checks, tariffs and currency volatility**; risk that UK might support a cheap food policy; the negative impact of any change to rules on country of origin; labour-supply uncertainties.
- Uncertainty about the future **EU-UK trading relationship** is negatively affecting business confidence.
- Need to maintain an **all-island approach** to animal health/disease issues.
- Need to address the broader question of **national competitiveness**.
- Irish Government should press for a commitment/clarity on transitional arrangements.
- Need to ensure Government Departments are adequately resourced for the task of negotiation.

Seafood

Minister Michael Creed, T.D. hosted over 100 representatives of the Seafood sector in Dublin on 1 February.

Key Themes

- The seafood and fishing industries are uniquely exposed, given the **sharing of fishing grounds with the UK**. Key concerns include the potential loss of access to fishing grounds in the UK zone and possible attempts by the UK to increase its current quota share.
- Links between **access, quotas and the broad trade agenda** were emphasised and maintaining those linkages in negotiations with the UK will be essential.
- Irish businesses need to consider **market diversification** to reach ambitious targets set under Foodwise 2025.
- The industry needs to be united, both nationally and across the EU, to **ensure fishing is a visible priority** going into negotiations.

Prepared Consumer Foods, Horticulture, Cereals, Tillage, Animal Feed, Forestry

Minister Michael Creed T.D. and Minister of State Andrew Doyle T.D. hosted 80 delegates in Meath on 8 February, to discuss the implications of Brexit on forestry, prepared consumer foods, horticulture and animal feeds/cereals.

Key Themes

- Particular **exposure of the agri-food sector** to Brexit.
- **Currency devaluation** and heightened **volatility** creates challenges for exporters.
- Significant concern over Brexit's "**cost of doing business**": potential tariffs for agri-food exports, increased transport costs & time delays, border & customs processing costs, regulatory, labelling, packaging, and standards divergence.
- **Market diversification** will be challenging, as the UK is the sole or major market for many in the agri-food sector. Shortage of **language and innovation skills** could hinder market diversification.
- Uncertainty leading to the **postponement of investment** decisions.
- Reliance on **migrant labour** in UK food industry - their future status needs to be clarified.
- Sector should focus on a campaign in the UK to highlight the qualities of reliable, safe food in order to maintain their market share.

Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor T.D. and Minister of State, John Halligan T.D., hosted over two hundred stakeholders in Carrick-on-Shannon on 30 January, to discuss the impact on jobs, enterprise and innovation.

Key Themes

- Challenge is to **grow our economy** while simultaneously continuing to **diversify markets**.
- The importance of **competitiveness and market reach** for companies and potential administrative burdens arising from Brexit.
- Significant concern over the imposition of a hard border, including impact of possible **tariffs**, restrictions on the **transit of goods** and the protection of **workers' rights**.
- Opportunities for Ireland in **financial services, pharma and technology**.
- Opportunities for **attracting researchers**.
- **Innovation** key to addressing challenges posed by Brexit; there are opportunities to build and deepen relationships both with the UK, and outside the UK.
- Need to focus attention on the impact of **Brexit on the Regions**.

Energy

Minister Denis Naughten T.D. met with over 65 representatives drawn from industry, community and academia in Roscommon on 6 February, to discuss the potential impact of Brexit on the energy sector.

Key Themes

- Risk to the **security of energy supply**; the negative impact of **uncertainty on energy investment decisions**; fear of **tariffs**; and concern over potential divergence of energy and climate policy between the UK and Ireland.
- Importance of **investment to reduce reliance on gas and oil** and the need to keep energy high on the agenda in the negotiations.
- **De-carbonisation** and a drive towards energy independence were suggested as potential mitigation strategies.
- Significant concern on the risks to the **All-Island Single Electricity Market** and there is a need to better communicate its importance to consumers. **Horizon 2020 funding** important for North/South cooperation on research into renewable energy.
- A number of **potential opportunities** for Ireland were considered including; exporting clean energy to the UK, becoming more self-sufficient in energy, and as a leader in innovation and research.

Transport

Minister Shane Ross T.D. hosted an All-Island Dialogue on the impact of Brexit on the transport sector in Dundalk on 23 January, attended by over one hundred industry representatives.

Key Themes

- Immediate **vulnerability of the sector** in terms of: currency exposure; the impact of uncertainty on business and investment decisions; access to labour; and the impact on regional development.
- Concerns about the **land bridge** with the UK and the status of **goods in transit**; the impact of customs checks on the cross-border transit of goods; and infrastructure challenges for ports.
- Concerns about future **air connectivity** with the UK, including the loss of aviation traffic rights and the right of certain major Irish airlines with majority shareholding in the UK or outside the EU to continue to operate in the EU.
- Need **acceleration of investment in infrastructure** and to communicate that Ireland is open for business.
- The need for **increased lobbying by industry** with their EU counterparts.
- Called on Government to be **proactive in building alliances** with other EU Member States to ensure that Ireland's unique concerns are understood.

Tourism and Hospitality

Minister Shane Ross, T.D. and Minister of State Patrick O'Donovan hosted over 100 participants to consider the implications of Brexit for the tourism and hospitality sector in Dundalk on 23 January.

Key Themes

- The preservation of the **Common Travel Area** should be the primary objective and the Government should campaign hard to ensure that there is no border on the island.
- To maintain **competitiveness and value for money**, there should be no additional tax or regulatory burdens on industry and there should be a reduction in key operating costs such as insurance and utilities.
- Importance of **all-island promotion of the tourism industry** and concerns that a potential loss of EU funding would undermine product development, particularly in the border areas. There was a call for **greater investment** in the tourism sector, including an increased marketing budget for tourism bodies.
- The need for **market diversification**, including an enhanced focus on European markets.
- Sustaining access, in particular as regards future **air connectivity** with the UK, is crucial.

Further Education & Training

Minister of State John Halligan T.D. met with representatives of the Further Education and Training Sector in Dublin on 14 December.

Key Themes

- Importance of the **Common Travel Area** for both students and staff.
- Potential impact on recognition of professional qualifications, **student flows** in both directions (linked to EU funding), uncertainty for cross-border apprenticeships.
- Importance of **EU funding** for cross-border education services, student exchange programmes, joint programmes and Erasmus engagement.
- Need to **identify and deliver skills** required in a ‘post Brexit’ context, including languages, finance, legal, contract negotiation, to mitigate the potential impact on employment.
- A long transition period is required, with the identification of both regions as a **single education sector** to facilitate continued mobility and co-operation.

Higher Education & Research

Minister Richard Bruton T.D. met with representatives from the Higher Education and Research sector in Dundalk Institute of Technology on 19 December.

Key Themes

- Implications of Brexit for students and staff across the island, including **choice of institution and mobility**.
- Need clarification on: **entitlement to education in the UK**, recognition of professional qualifications, fees and access to financial supports.
- **Contribution of research to the economy and jobs** and the risks and opportunities for research funding, public and private, including EU funding.
- Ireland should be promoted, within the EU and internationally, as a welcoming destination for researchers and students.
- Opportunity to **promote the island as a Centre of Excellence** for research, project management and world-wide collaboration. Linked to this is the need to address key infrastructural needs, such as housing, childcare and other social factors.

Primary and Secondary Education

Minister Richard Bruton T.D. hosted a dialogue for the primary and secondary education sector in Dublin on 23 January.

Key Themes

- Concerns included mutual recognition of teaching qualifications; capacity of schools to cater for minorities; **pensions and employment rights** for staff living and working in different jurisdictions.
- Need curriculum amendments to meet **demands for modern languages** and better knowledge of citizenship and politics in school leavers.
- Access to UK 3rd level training is important to ensure a sufficient supply of teachers.
- Importance of **EU funding** (particularly InterReg and Peace Funding) in sustaining cross-border co-operation beyond the immediate term. EU funding plays a vital role in widening horizons, building stability and for Irish language programmes in Northern Ireland.

Human Rights under the Good Friday Agreement

Minister Charlie Flanagan, T.D. hosted over 90 delegates in Maynooth University on 13 February, to discuss the implications of Brexit for Human Rights under the Good Friday Agreement.

Key Themes

- The **importance of upholding the Good Friday Agreement chapter on rights**, safeguards and equality of opportunity, as an integral part of the Agreement as a whole.
- A **potential role for the Joint Committee of Human Rights Commissions** in examining/auditing the potential impact of Brexit on human rights under the Good Friday Agreement.
- An **important role for civil society and academia in contributing to audit and advocacy** on the rights implications of a UK withdrawal from the European Union. The value of seeking to maintain access for civil society groups to EU human rights NGO networks.
- The **value of a Bill of Rights for Northern Ireland** as referred to in the Good Friday Agreement, in mitigating some of the potential rights impacts of Brexit for Northern Ireland.
- The **value of a Charter of Rights** for the island of Ireland as referred to in the Good Friday Agreement. This would also support the provision in the Agreement on equivalence of rights on the island.
- The possibility that EU law (Articles 2, 6, 21 TEU) would support / require **the inclusion of provisions on human rights and equality in the European Council guidelines** for the EU-UK Article 50 negotiations and the future EU relationship with the UK as a third country. This may also be relevant for areas such as the UK’s participation in EU police and justice co-operation measures and EU-UK cooperation on UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Heritage, Culture & Rural Ireland

Minister Heather Humphreys hosted an all-island dialogue for over 100 stakeholders on the implications of Brexit on ‘Culture, Heritage, Regional SMEs & the Impact on Border & other Rural Communities’ in Cavan on 6 February.

Key Themes

- Reduced investment related to uncertainty in the markets; challenges for the agri- food and tourism industries; data protection issues; the importance of the €1.4bn Creative Europe Programme to the Arts Community, North and South; loss of other **EU funding**.
- Implications for **cross-border health** and education sector agreements and possible disruption to the work of **North-South Implementation Bodies** established under the Good Friday Agreement.
- Other issues relating to the border included: the transit of goods; increased complexity regarding VAT and other taxation; difference in labour market costs North & South; risk of rural de-population if any Brexit-related opportunities are confined to the Dublin area.
- Desirability of maximising engagement by the NI Executive & need for all-island solutions.

Children and Young People

Minister Katherine Zappone T.D. hosted an All-Island Dialogue on Children and Young People in Dublin on 30 January, attended by some 60 children and young people and representative bodies from across the island.

Key Themes

- Young people expressed concern about the potential **day-to-day impact of Brexit** and emphasised the importance of the **Common Travel Area** in maintaining family ties and educational and employment opportunities.
- Young people noted the importance of communicating our **commitment to the European Union** and the benefits of the Erasmus programme.
- Participants expressed concern over the **protection of the Good Friday Agreement** and its human rights provisions. The importance of **EU Funding** for all-island bodies was stressed.
- There was a call to guarantee the protection of **children’s rights**, including through continued cooperation with the UK in the criminal justice sphere.

Social Insurance, Social Welfare Rights and Entitlements and Social Welfare Pensions

Minister Varadkar hosted a sectoral dialogue on Social Insurance, Social Welfare Rights and Entitlements and Social Welfare Pensions in Dublin on 16 February, attended by over 40 representatives from all parts of society: civil society and representative groups, business, trade unions and academia.

Key Themes

- The key area of concern was the impact of Brexit on the **current reciprocal arrangements for social insurance (which includes pensions) and social assistance (means tested schemes linked to residency rights) and child benefit between Ireland and the UK, including Northern Ireland**; this included impacts on current rights and entitlements and concerns as to the possible erosion of rights accrued into the future.
- Concerns were also raised also with regard to the **future direction of social welfare policy and the potential for dissonance** with, on the one hand, Ireland moving forward as part of the EU27 and, on the other, having to negotiate and manage a relationship with the UK and Northern Ireland.
- Possibility of a **hard border** presents real and present hazards for people, impacting on the fabric and reality of daily life for cross-border and frontier workers, students, commuters and for families. Contributors evidenced current impacts with regard to, for example, living standards and the impact that currency fluctuations has had on British Retirement Pension recipients.
- Government focus must be on **ensuring that these social welfare rights and entitlements, which currently exist for Irish and UK citizens moving within the Common Travel Area on the island of Ireland and between Ireland and Britain, can be safe-guarded**.
- The ‘interconnectedness of everything’ also presented opportunities across all of the different sectors but this will need strong Government-led communications, with clear and factual information provision the key. Opportunities exist to deepen existing alliances and build new ones given Ireland’s very good track record at EU level in the area of social policy and social security while preserving and developing our strong attachments to the UK; in addition, there is potential to attract more talent acknowledging the pressures that this could mean for social services generally.
- Calls for Government to be joined-up in its thinking and approach and to be very clear that the social dimension remains to the fore during the negotiations: Ireland should be advocating that there is explicit articulation of social rights, entitlements and responsibilities in any agreement with the UK.

03

List of submissions received by organisation

Rural Community Network

Youth Action Northern Ireland

Dóchas

Northern Ireland Environment Link

European Movement Ireland

South West College – Omagh Campus

Private Citizen

Northern Ireland Retail Consortium

Irish Tourist Industry Confederation

Belfast International Airport

European Movement NI

04

Report from the Second Plenary – Dublin Castle Friday 17 February 2017





The second plenary meeting of the All-Island Civic Dialogue, hosted by An Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny T.D., and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Charlie Flanagan T.D., took place in Dublin Castle on Friday 17 February. Attended by up to 500 representatives of civil society groups, trade unions, business groups, non-governmental organisations and political parties from across the island of Ireland, it provided a valuable opportunity to engage directly on the implications of Brexit for the people of the island.

Overall, discussions at the civic dialogue underscored the Government's clear view that we all must work together to protect the interests of all the people on this island. The peace process and the all-island economy are inextricably linked and the hard-won gains must be protected. Central to this is full respect of the Good Friday Agreement, maintenance of an open border, preserving the Common Travel Area and ensuring as close a relationship as possible between the EU and UK. Tailored responses to support different sectors of the economy in mitigating the negative impacts of Brexit will be essential.

Discussions on the day reflected developments since the first plenary event in November 2016, including a major policy speech by the Taoiseach on 15 February, the publication of the UK government's White Paper some weeks earlier and the calling of elections for the Northern Ireland Assembly. Participants heard about the Government's preparations for the negotiations, as the date of the UK's expected formal notification to the EU of its intention to leave approaches.

The plenary brought together the outcomes of the fourteen All-Island sectoral dialogues, hosted by Ministers in a range of locations across the country since the inaugural plenary meeting. Over 1200 industry and civic society representatives participated in these events.

The second plenary meeting was live-streamed and can be viewed in full on the government's website: www.merrionstreet.ie. Irish and international media and representatives from EU Embassies in Dublin observed the proceedings.

The discussions on the day were carefully noted and will inform the Government's approach to the forthcoming negotiations. This document represents a summary of the main proceedings for reference purposes.

Programme

08.30	Registration - Printworks	
09.30	Welcome by the Chair, Tom Arnold	
	Video of First Plenary	
09.35	Opening Address by Taoiseach	
09.50	Plenary Session 1 – Contributions from Political Parties	
10.50	Break	
11.20	Plenary Session 2 - Printworks	
	Overview of Government work on Brexit – John Callinan, Second Secretary General, Department of the Taoiseach	
11.40	Panel discussion: “Unique Circumstances of NI” moderated by Ryan Feeney, Queen's University Belfast	
	Opening Remarks: Charlie Flanagan T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade Panellists: Angela McGowan, Director CBI (NI) Peter Osborne, Chair, Community Relations Council Cathy Gormley-Heenan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Ulster	
12.20	Panel discussion: “EU Negotiation Process” moderated by Áine Lawlor, RTE	
	Opening Remarks: Dara Murphy T.D., Minister of State for European Affairs and Data Protection Panellists: Catherine Day, former Secretary General of the European Commission Jan Strupczewski, Deputy Bureau Chief of Reuters in Brussels, Gavin Barrett, Jean Monnet Professor of European Constitutional and Economic Law and Associate Professor in UCD Sutherland School of Law, University College Dublin	
13.00	Lunch – Bedford Hall	
14.15 – 15.30	Breakout Sessions – These sessions will be facilitated discussions building on the work of the sectoral meetings held since 2 November 2016. The themes have been grouped around two cross-cutting headings: Economic/Business focused and Citizen/People focused.	
	Economic – Printworks	Citizens – Conference Centre
	Moderator: Áine Lawlor Opening Remarks on behalf of the Government: Michael Creed T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Moderator: Ryan Feeney Opening Remarks on behalf of the Government: Richard Bruton T.D., Minister for Education and Skills
	The work from the following Sectoral Meetings will be discussed in this session:	
	Agri-food	Further Education & Training
	Transport & Logistics	Higher Education & Research
	Tourism & Hospitality	Schools
	Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation	Children & Young People
	Seafood	Heritage & Culture
	Energy	Human Rights under the Good Friday Agreement
	Prepared Consumer Foods, Horticulture, Cereals, Tillage, Animal Feed, Forestry	Pensions, Social Welfare Rights and Social Insurance
	Education - Further Education & Training, Higher Education & Research	
	Rural Ireland	
16.00	“Mitigating challenges, maximising opportunities” - Printworks	
	Moderated By: Áine Lawlor	
	Opening Remarks: Mary Mitchell O'Connor T.D., Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation	
	Panellists: Julie Sinnamon, CEO, Enterprise Ireland Martin Shanahan, CEO, IDA Ireland Tara McCarthy, CEO, Bord Bia, Darrin Morrissey, Director of Programmes, SFI Thomas Hunter McGowan, CEO, InterTrade Ireland Niall Gibbons, CEO, Tourism Ireland	
16.45	Review - Tom Arnold	
17.00	Closing Address – Charlie Flanagan T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade	
17.15	Networking opportunity	

Opening Address by the Taoiseach

In his opening address the Taoiseach made the following key points:

- Ireland will remain **firmly at the heart of the European Union** and open to the world. Our interests are best served from within the Union and we will negotiate as one of the EU27 when the negotiations begin.
- Protecting the **peace process** and our **Common Travel Area** are priority objectives for the Government. The North South Ministerial Council agreed a set of joint principles for moving forward and the Government will keep to these principles.
- The Government will **oppose a hard border**, argue for free movement on this island, seek **EU funding** for cross-border projects and **protect the rights of EU citizens**, whether from North or South. This will require working together and will need creative, imaginative and innovative political leadership.
- We must **protect and grow our economy**, seeking the closest possible economic and trading relationship between the EU and the UK, in the interests of Ireland and of our EU partners.
- Our negotiations with the UK must recognise the wider, long-term interests of Europe and all her people.

The Taoiseach stressed the need for the widest possible conversation on the implications of Brexit for the island and meeting the challenges of Brexit will require the greatest collective effort. The Taoiseach stressed the importance of the All-Island Dialogue process, both in terms of the Government's preparations for the Article 50 negotiations and in navigating the domestic response to Brexit. The Taoiseach thanked all who participated in the plenary and sectoral meetings for their contributions to this national response.

Plenary 1: Contributions from political parties and groupings from across the island

Representatives of the main political parties and groupings addressed the plenary on the challenges and opportunities presented by Brexit. A number of central themes emerged from the presentations.

The unique circumstances of Northern Ireland need to be recognised in the negotiations, with the Good Friday Agreement and its provisions, including on human rights, protected and assured. "Access" was a constant theme throughout: physical access for people, goods and services; access to EU funding; North-South links; East-West links; key infrastructure such as energy interconnectors; and access to support structures to manage the consequences for different sectors. The importance of regular dialogue and working together in the best interests of all of the people of the island to face the challenges ahead was clear.



Overview of Government work on Brexit

Mr John Callinan, Second Secretary General at the Department of An Taoiseach, presented an overview of the Government's work in preparation for Brexit. The video and text of the presentation are available on www.merrionstreet.ie/brexit.

Mr Callinan outlined the time frame and structure of the Article 50 process and explained the role of the various EU institutions and Ireland's place at the negotiating table. He described the structures that have been put in place across Government to manage our response to Brexit: from the Taoiseach and Cabinet, through the Cabinet Committee on Brexit, Interdepartmental Group of Senior Officials, Departmental Brexit units, thematic working groups, State Agencies and the Embassy network.

Mr Callinan explained how the Government's extensive programme of analysis, consultation and engagement is informing our priorities, objectives and approach to the negotiations.

Panel Discussion 1: Unique circumstances of Northern Ireland

This panel was moderated by Ryan Feeney of Queen's University Belfast and had the following panellists:

- Angela McGowan, Director CBI (NI)
- Peter Osborne, Chair, Community Relations Council
- Cathy Gormley-Heenan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Ulster

Charlie Flanagan T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, delivered opening remarks. The Minister highlighted the headline elements of Government policy on Northern Ireland, recalling the Government's resolve that the unique circumstances of Northern Ireland and the gains of the peace process must be respected and protected. He recalled the objectives to uphold the Good Friday Agreement, the Common Travel Area and the open border on the island. He encouraged the resumption of the North-South Ministerial Council at the earliest opportunity and the re-establishment of the devolved Assembly and Executive to allow these institutions to play their role in addressing the implications of Brexit.



Key themes emerging from the discussion with the panel and the audience included:

Protecting and Promoting the Peace Process:

The importance of the peace process for economic growth, not just in Northern Ireland but across the island was an underlying theme. Peace cannot be taken for granted and there was concern that there is limited understanding of how hard won peace in Northern Ireland really is. There was a call for attention to how Brexit is affecting relationships; economic and social impacts of Brexit cannot be separated from one another. Peace brought opportunities for people from Northern Ireland to travel and it opened up what was an insular society. It is important that we do not let Brexit threaten this progress.

Border on the island:

Concerns regarding the border on the island were clear. It was noted that physical hardware at the border would represent a retrograde step politically and would also present a very real security threat. Hardening of the border will come at a cost to businesses and therefore to the livelihoods of the people. Participants were reminded that the border is not just its physical manifestation but would also have a psychological impact, including for service provision. The EU took the border out of Irish politics and now it risks being returned.

Cross-border cooperation:

The benefits of cross-border cooperation, in particular on health, employment, education and tourism, was a dominant theme. Panellists called for the all-island approach to the economy be protected, not least because of the very practical implications such as economies of scale and access.

Political activity:

Views were expressed on the effectiveness of political engagement across the island in response to Brexit. The Irish Government was called on to help ensure that the voice of Northern Ireland is heard. The view as expressed that UK Government was giving mixed messages around its respect for devolution, with little evidence that it is doing more than just listening to concerns. Participants felt that the voices of business and civic society in Northern Ireland needed to translate into a coherent message.

Key conclusions:

- Dialogue between Dublin and London is important;
- Existing mechanisms for intergovernmental relations between the islands should be used to greater effect;
- Priority should be placed on protecting public services and living standards;
- Regular engagement and dialogue in Northern Ireland and on the island is needed;
- People in Northern Ireland should communicate their concerns to MEPs.

Panel Discussion 2: EU negotiation Process

The panel was moderated by Áine Lawlor of RTÉ and had the following panellists:

- Catherine Day, Former Secretary General of the European Commission
- Jan Strupczewski, Deputy Bureau Chief, Reuters, Brussels
- Gavin Barrett, Jean Monnet Professor of European Constitutional and Economic Law and Associate Professor in UCD Sutherland School of Law

Dara Murphy T.D., Minister of State for European Affairs, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection, delivered opening remarks. Minister Murphy reflected on his own engagement with EU counterparts and noted the striking degree of similarity in the concerns of Ireland and other EU Member States. He reminded that Ireland is part of a collective where consensus is important. He recalled how the negotiations will be taking place in many different formations and at different levels and Ireland will be involved throughout.

Key themes emerging from the discussion with the panel included:

Negotiating process:

The panel discussion provided an opportunity to examine some of the aspects of the EU negotiating process, in particular how Ireland has been engaging in advance of these negotiations and issues to consider as the negotiations get underway. While it will be important that Ireland is self-reliant and assertive, we are part of a collective and there are other EU Member States who have similar approaches to the negotiations. Ireland has unique concerns and shared concerns. We have like-minded partners on different dossiers and sectors and this will be useful for us as the negotiations progress.

Rights of Citizens:

The importance of clarity on citizens' rights arose. The rights of Irish and EU citizens living in the UK and UK citizens living in the EU should be addressed before discussion on the future relationship can progress. While the technical challenges ahead are significant, the EU is capable of being very creative in finding eventual solutions. Some issues may take some time, however, before a solution emerges.

Managing the transition:

Discussions looked towards the management of the exit and the need for transitional arrangements. Issues relating to aspects of the UK's future relationship with the EU arose, including concerns about the prospect of diverging standards in areas such as the environment and food safety which may affect competitiveness. There was a general view that transitional arrangements of some description will be necessary, although requiring compromises on both sides. An orderly exit is in everyone's interests.

Protecting Ireland's interests:

An underlying theme in the discussion was the need to protect Ireland and its interests throughout the negotiations and thereafter. With Ireland as an EU Member State that is very exposed to the consequences of Brexit, it will be necessary to find ways to ensure our competitiveness is maintained. There was a strong sense from panellists and speakers that the Government's intensive programme of engagement since the referendum has been very effective in raising awareness with its EU partners and with the EU institutions of the unique challenges that Brexit poses for Ireland

Breakout Session: Economic

The breakout session was moderated by Áine Lawlor of RTÉ with opening remarks delivered by Michael Creed T.D., Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

During the session, feedback was presented from the All-Island sectoral dialogues on the following topics:

- Agri-food
- Transport and logistics
- Tourism and hospitality
- Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
- Seafood
- Energy
- Prepared consumer foods, horticulture, cereals, tillage, animal feed and forestry
- Education - further education & training, higher education and research
- Rural Ireland

Key themes emerging from the discussion with the panel included:

Access:

Access was an underlying theme of discussions. Various aspects of the Common Travel Area were discussed and its preservation was a priority for all sectors. Discussion ranged from access to education, including mutual recognition of qualifications; access to markets; to capital and investment; to shared fish stocks and UK waters; and to transport channels.

Border:

The impact of the border, in whatever manifestation might arise, was a significant concern. Particular concerns included the potential impact of a border on trade and the cost of trading, as well as the impact on access to labour, markets and for sensitive areas such as animal welfare.

Support:

Feedback from the sectoral dialogues highlighted the need for support in managing the consequences of Brexit. This ranged from investment in infrastructure; meeting the challenges of diversification; ensuring the security of the energy supply; and securing common rules on data protection.

Risks:

A commonality of risks emerged from the sectoral dialogues. These risks will affect different sectors and different sized businesses to varying degrees. They include extra costs brought about by additional administration; volatility, including on tariffs and currency; and differences in standards and regulations that could emerge after Brexit and impact on competitiveness.

Opportunity:

Participants pointed to a number of opportunities for Ireland. The potential for increased attention to regional development, particularly by directing new investment opportunities towards the regions was mentioned. Ireland has an opportunity to use Brexit related developments for effective market positioning into the future. The possibilities for research and innovations, including developing research centres, were also discussed.

Key conclusions:

- Possibilities for pushing boundaries on state aid rules could be explored to support the transition;
- Support funds, diversification grants and rates remissions could be considered to assist enterprises;
- Risk assessment template for businesses should be developed, particularly to help those with more limited resources for such tools;
- Investment in innovation and talent will be important;

- An all-island coordinated approach to negotiations where possible would help protect the all-island economy;
- Negotiators were urged to avoid any silo approach, given the interconnectedness of the economy and society;
- Continued dialogue will be an important measure in ensuring that everyone is well-prepared.

Breakout Session: Citizens

The breakout session was moderated by Ryan Feeney and opening remarks were delivered by Richard Bruton T.D. Minister for Education and Skills.

During the session, feedback was presented from the sectoral dialogue meetings on the following themes:

- Further Education and Training
- Higher Education and Research
- Schools
- Children and Young People
- Heritage and Culture
- Human Rights under the Good Friday Agreement
- Pensions, Social Welfare Rights and Social Insurance

Access:

Mirroring discussion at other panels, the question of continuing access was a key priority for participants. The impact on the Common Travel Area was central to this, in particular as it relates to access to education, access to welfare supports and collaboration on research and training. How Brexit will affect access to funding to support young people and the more vulnerable in society was a key concern.

Border:

The social and economic effects of Brexit on rural border regions were discussed. The impact on cross-border services, on all-island projects and on areas of cooperation, such as environment, wildlife protection and mutual recognition of qualifications, was raised.

Rights:

Feedback from the sectoral meetings highlighted the concern with protecting the rights of citizens. Human rights protections and consequences for provisions of the Good Friday Agreement underpinned the discussion, with particular mention of children's rights and the potential impact on the vulnerable. The impact of Brexit on the rights of Irish people in the UK and UK nationals living in Ireland was also raised. Linked to the concerns about social welfare rights in particular, the integrity of data protection systems arises as the potential for divergence between the UK and the EU emerges.

Future development:

Participants remarked on the importance of securing the gains of the peace process for the future development of the island. Fragile communities need partnership and inclusivity to build a future for young people. The continuation of all-island activities and managing the challenges for the social welfare systems will be major determinants in the ability of communities to cope with the impact of Brexit.

Key conclusions:

- The sharing of information between Citizens Information Services on the islands would help them be equipped to provide reassurance and advice;
- Developing cross-border cooperation between local authorities, and support for this, could provide a way to engage on and address emerging challenges;
- There should be clarity of messages to citizens to allay concerns. While the layers of negotiations are complex, there are certain key issues on which citizens need guidance in a clear manner.



“Mitigating challenges, maximising opportunities”

Áine Lawlor moderated this plenary session during which representatives of Enterprise Ireland, IDA Ireland, Bord Bia, SFI, InterTrade Ireland and Tourism Ireland discussed challenges and opportunities from Brexit, while presenting the steps that the agencies are taking to respond to Brexit. Minister Mitchell O'Connor gave opening remarks, stressing the joined-up nature of the work being carried out by government, state agencies and other partners.

Presentations from the agency representatives, while speaking specifically to their individual remits, demonstrated a commonality of approach and the acceleration of work now required by the prospect of Brexit.

Internationally:

- Working with foreign companies to ensure that they understand the context in Ireland and our firm commitment to EU membership;
- Ensuring that current market positions for Irish companies are defended;
- Finding ways to highlight Ireland's differentiating factors to increase attractiveness;
- Communicating what Ireland is doing and its continuing value proposition.

Domestically:

- Looking at creative ways to support businesses to diversify and minimise their exposure to risk;
- Developing ways to assist businesses to prepare for Brexit, internally and in their relationships with other businesses, and helping them navigate the changes.

Planning ahead:

- Ensuring that we have the right talent;
- Looking at our own potential, for example in research and innovation;
- Looking at our strategies, for example by considering value rather than volume in certain sectors.

Conclusion

Mr Tom Arnold, Chair of the Plenary, presented a number of concluding points to bring together the discussions of the day. He highlighted how the time between the referendum and the triggering of Article 50 is being used to good effect. He noted the scale of the challenge for Northern Ireland. The high level aspirations are understood but the challenge is dealing with the practicalities. He recalled that the EU has a track record of finding solutions to major challenges and that Irish needs are being heard. Finally, he reminded participants that Brexit is one part of a deeply challenging international landscape.

Next steps/Outcomes

Minister Flanagan spoke of the wider European and global context in which the UK exit is taking place. He stressed the importance of working together North and South to achieve the best possible outcome in the negotiations for all on the island. He reiterated the Irish Government's objectives for:

- The closest possible economic and trading relationship between the EU and the UK;
- No hard border, ensuring free movement on the island and the continuation of the Common Travel Area;
- Continuing EU funding for cross-border projects;
- Protecting the rights of EU citizens from both parts of the island;
- A strong EU with Ireland at its heart.

He confirmed the Government's commitment to keeping people informed on developments and actively listening as the negotiations progress.

The All-Island Civic Dialogue is an ongoing process, the outcomes of which will form an important part of our collective response to Brexit.



Participating Organisations, 17 February 2017

Representatives of the main political parties across the island were also invited. The full list of organisations represented at the event is as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Age Action Ireland | 27. Agreement |
| 2. Airbnb Ireland | 28. Chambers Ireland |
| 3. Alliance Party | 29. Chartered Institute of Taxation Northern Ireland |
| 4. Alone | 30. Chief Whip |
| 5. American Chamber of Commerce Ireland | 31. Children's Law Centre NI |
| 6. An Foras Pátrúnachta | 32. Children's Ombudsman |
| 7. Austrian Embassy (observer) | 33. Children's Rights Alliance |
| 8. Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce | 34. Church of Ireland |
| 9. Belfast City Council | 35. Citizens Advice NI |
| 10. BIPA | 36. Citizens Information Board |
| 11. Bord Bia | 37. Coca-Cola HBC Ireland and Northern Ireland |
| 12. Border Communities Against Brexit | 38. Commercial Mushroom Producers |
| 13. Boyne Valley Tourism | 39. Commission for Aviation Regulation |
| 14. BPIFI | 40. Commission for Energy Regulation |
| 15. British and Irish Trading Alliance | 41. Committee on the Administration of Justice |
| 16. British Irish Association | 42. Community Relations Council |
| 17. British-Irish Chamber of Commerce | 43. Community Relations in Schools |
| 18. BT Ireland & Northern Ireland | 44. Competition and Consumer Protection Authority |
| 19. Bulgarian Embassy (observer) | 45. Conradh na Gaeilge |
| 20. Catholic Primary School Management Association | 46. Construction Industry Federation |
| 21. Causeway Chamber of Commerce | 47. Cooperation and Working Together (CAWT) |
| 22. CBI Northern Ireland | 48. Cooperation Ireland |
| 23. Central Bank | 49. Corrymeela |
| 24. Centre for Cross Border Studies | 50. Council of State |
| 25. Centre for Democracy and Peace Building | |
| 26. Chairperson of the Oireachtas Good Friday | |



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|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 50. County and City Management Association | 84. European Commission Representation in Ireland |
| 51. County Sligo LEADER Partnership Company Ltd. | 85. European Movement Ireland |
| 52. Croatian Embassy (observer) | 86. European Movement Northern Ireland |
| 53. Crosscare Migrant Project | 87. European Parliament Information Office in Ireland |
| 54. Cypriot Embassy (observer) | 88. Failte Ireland |
| 55. Czech Republic Embassy (observer) | 89. Federation of Small Business (NI) |
| 56. Dairy UK | 90. FEDEX |
| 57. Dalata Hotel Group | 91. Fermanagh and Omagh District Council |
| 58. Danish Embassy (observer) | 92. Fianna Fáil |
| 59. Derry City & Strabane District Council | 93. Financial Services Ireland / Chief Executive of Irish Funds |
| 60. Derry/London-Derry Chamber of Commerce | 94. Fine Gael |
| 61. Design and Crafts Council of Ireland | 95. Finnish Embassy (observer) |
| 62. Devenish Nutrition | 96. French Embassy (observer) |
| 63. Disability Action | 97. Free Legal Advice Centres |
| 64. Donegal County Council | 98. GAA |
| 65. Donegal Local Development Co. Ltd. | 99. German Embassy (observer) |
| 66. Drogheda Port Company | 100. Glennon Brothers |
| 67. Dublin Airport Authority | 101. Greek Embassy (observer) |
| 68. Dublin Institute of Technology | 102. Griffith College |
| 69. Dublin Port Company | 103. Hayes Culleton |
| 70. Dundalk Chamber of Commerce | 104. Heritage Council |
| 71. East Border Region | 105. Higher Education Authority |
| 72. Educate Together | 106. Horse Racing Ireland |
| 73. Education and Training Boards Ireland | 107. Housing Agency |
| 74. Eirgrid | 108. Human Rights Consortium |
| 75. Electricity Association of Ireland | 109. Humanist Association of Northern Ireland (Humani) |
| 76. Enterprise Ireland | 110. Hungarian Embassy (observer) |
| 77. Enterprise Lab | 111. Ibec |
| 78. Environmental Pillar | 112. ICLRD |
| 79. Equality Coalition NI | 113. ICTU |
| 80. Ervia | 114. IDA Ireland |
| 81. ESB | |
| 82. ESRI | |
| 83. Estonian Embassy (observer) | |

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115. IFA
 116. IIEA
 117. Immigrant Council of Ireland
 118. Inishowen Development Partnership
 119. Institute of Certified Public Accountants Ireland
 120. Institute of Chartered Accountants Ireland
 121. Institute of Directors
 122. Institute of Technologies Ireland (IOTI)
 123. International Centre for Local and Regional Development
 124. International Fund for Ireland
 125. InterTradelreland
 126. Invest NI
 127. Irish 4 Europe
 128. Irish Association for Cultural, Economic & Social Relations
 129. Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers' Association
 130. Irish Central Border Area Network (ICBAN) Ltd
 131. Irish Chamber of Shipping
 132. Irish Co-operative Organisation Society
 133. Irish Council for Civil Liberties
 134. Irish Council for Social Housing
 135. Irish Council of Churches
 136. Irish Countrywomen's Association
 137. Irish Exporters Association
 138. Irish Film Board
 139. Irish Fish Processors and Exporters Association
 140. Irish Grain & Feed Association (IGFA)
 141. Irish Hotels Federation
 142. Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission
 143. Irish International Freight Association
 144. Irish Manufacturers Association
 145. Irish Maritime Development Office
 146. Irish National Organisation for the Unemployed (INOUE)
 147. Irish Planning Institute
 148. Irish Research Council
 149. Irish Road Haulage Association
 150. Irish Rural Link
 151. Irish Senior Citizens Parliament
 152. Irish South & West Fish Producers' Organisation
 153. Irish South/East Fish Producers Organisation
 154. Irish Sports Council
 155. Irish Tax Institute
 156. Irish Tourist Industry Confederation
 157. Irish Universities Association
 158. IRU
 159. Islamic Community
 160. ISME
 161. ISPCC
 162. Italy
 163. Jewish Representative Council of Ireland
 164. Joint Business Council
 165. Killybegs Fishermen's Organisation
 166. Labour
 167. Lacpatrick
 168. Largo Foods
 169. Latvian Embassy (Observer)
 170. Law Society of Ireland
 171. Letterkenny Institute of Technology
 172. Lisburn City and Castlereagh District Council
 173. Londonderry Bands Forum
 174. Londonderry Port & Harbour Commissioners
 175. Louth Comhairle na nÓg
 176. Louth County Council
 177. Louth Leader Partnership
 178. Macra na Feirme
 179. Maltese Embassy
 180. Manufacturing NI
 181. Marine Institute
 182. MCA Consulting
 183. McGinley Travel Group
 184. Meat Industry Ireland
 185. Microfinance Ireland
 186. Mid East Regional APJ
 187. Mid Ulster District Council
 188. Migrant Centre NI
 189. Migrant Rights Centre Ireland
 190. Musgrave Group
 191. Narrow Water Bridge Community Network
 192. National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
 193. National Recruitment Federation
 194. National Youth Council
 195. Netherlands Embassy (Observer)
 196. Nevin Economic Research Institute
 197. Newry Chamber of Commerce
 198. Newry City, Mourne and Down District Council
 199. NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 200. NI Conservatives & Unionist Party
 201. NI Environment Link
 202. NI Human Rights Commission
 203. NI Meat Exporters Association
 204. NIIRTA
 205. Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People
 206. Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action
 207. Northern Ireland Local Government Association
 208. NUI Galway
 209. Office of Public Works
 210. Open University
 211. Pat Finucane Centre/Justice for the Forgotten
 212. Pavee Point
 213. PBP-AAA
 214. Poland
 215. Presidion
 216. Public Relations Institute of Ireland (PRII)
 217. Queens University Belfast
 218. RCSI
 219. Restaurants Association of Ireland
 220. Retail Excellence Ireland
 221. Retail Ireland
 222. Reuters
 223. Revenue Commissioners
 224. Road Haulage Association Northern Ireland
 225. Roman Catholic Church
 226. Romanian Embassy (observer)
 227. Royal Irish Academy
 228. RTE
 229. Safe Home Ireland
 230. Safefood
 231. Science Foundation Ireland
 232. Scouting Ireland
 233. SDLP
 234. Seatruck Ferries
 235. SEUPB
 236. Shannon Group
 237. Silver Hill Farms
 238. Simon Community
 239. Sinn Féin
 240. SIPTU
 241. SIPTU Retired Members
 242. Sligo County Council
 243. Slovakian Embassy (observer)
 244. Small Firms Association
 245. Social Justice Ireland
 246. South Dublin Chamber
 247. South East Regional APJ
 248. South West Regional APJ
 249. Spanish Embassy (observer)
 250. State Street International (Ireland)
 251. Stronger In NI
 252. Summer at UCD
 253. Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
 254. Teaching Council
 255. Tech/Life Ireland
 256. Technological Higher Education Association
 257. The Pensions Council
 258. The Society of the Irish Motor Industry
 259. The Wheel
 260. Tourism Ireland
 261. Translink
 262. Transport Infrastructure Ireland
 263. Trinity College Dublin
 264. UCD College of Business
 265. UK Embassy (observer)
 266. Ulster Farmers Union
 267. Ulster University
 268. University College Cork
 269. University College Dublin
 270. University of Limerick
 271. Youth Action
 272. YouthWork Ireland



Fóirn an Taoisigh
Department of the Taoiseach



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade