

CSR Stakeholder Forum
6th Meeting, Tuesday 29th September 2015, (9.00am – 11.30am)
Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government,
Custom House, Dublin 1

Participants: See Appendix I

Item 1: Opening Comments and Address by Minister Ged Nash, Minister for Business and Employment

Ms Eadaoin Collins, Chair welcomed and introduced Minister Ged Nash to address the Forum regarding the possibility of introducing a Living Wage Campaign to Ireland.

Minster Nash thanked the Forum for receiving him and acknowledged the members' commitment to the CSR Forum. Minister Nash went on to speak briefly on the concept of the living wage and invited members to register their interest in attending a Forum on the Living Wage the following day, 30 September 2015. The purpose of the Forum is to bring together interested parties with a view to exploring the potential positive impacts for employers, employees and society from the introduction of a Living Wage Campaign here in Ireland.

While a number of members welcomed the concept of the Forum, IBEC noted that there are cost issues such as childcare and housing that need to be addressed by Government.

Item 2: Minutes of the Meeting of 29 September 2015

Ms Eadaoin Collins, Chair took a moment to introduce both herself and Ms Tracey Murphy, the new Secretary to the Forum, to the members.

The Chair thanked the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government for hosting the meeting.

The Chair congratulated the recent Chambers Award winners, Ulster Bank, Abbot, and DHR Communications, and also KPMG on their award in the Allianz Business to Arts Awards ceremony.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Item 3: Standing Agenda Item: *"Sharing the CSR Experience"*

Dr Sheila Killian, Kemmy Business School, UL made a presentation sharing her insights from the joint meeting in New York of the UN Global Compact Companies, Business for Peace, and Principles for Responsible Management Education. Dr Killian announced that Kemmy Business School is the first Irish school and one of 30 Champion Schools across the world integrating responsible education into business schools worldwide.

Dr Killian gave an overview of the recently adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and discussed how organisations can aim to integrate SDGs into their core business operations and also work in partnership with others, e.g. Government and NGOs, for aggregate impact.

Key points arising during the discussion that followed included the challenge presented by the detail of the proposals, with 17 SDGs and 169 targets and the need to include the SDGs in the updated CSR national plan, due in 2016.

Action:

Publish Dr Killian's presentation on the CSRHub and include links to the SDG Compass.

Item 4: Presentation on Social Clauses in Public Procurement

This agenda item will be presented at the meeting of 24 November 2015.

Action:

Reschedule this presentation for the meeting of 24 November 2015.

Item 5: Updates / Progress Reports

SME Tool: Ms Catherine Heaney briefly updated the members on the progress being made with the interactive SME Tool. Ms Heaney stated that Deloitte are working on the design and development stages of the tool while the Department, in conjunction with Deloitte and subgroup C, are exploring ways to host the tool and link it to the CSRHub.

Communications Strategy: Mr Mark O'Mahony updated the members on the advancement of the strategy to date, specifically the successful launch of the CSRHub on 31 August 2015. Mr O' Mahony encouraged members to submit case studies and events to the Secretariat for publishing on the website to keep the website fresh and informative.

In looking at ways forward, Mr O'Mahony believes that the next phase of the strategy could be to promote awareness through social media, and suggested that the CSR Stakeholder Forum create its own Twitter account. A discussion ensued with a majority agreement that members would moderate social media on a rotation basis.

Healthy Workplace Initiatives: In the absence of Ms Kate O'Flaherty, the Chair Ms Collins briefly updated the members on this initiative, noting that a subgroup had been established to progress this initiative.

Action:

DJEI to liaise with their IT Unit to investigate ways to facilitate the SME Tool.

Subgroup A to explore how social media will enhance and partner the CSRHub website, and develop a Twitter account.

DJEI to liaise with their Press Office to encourage them to tweet/retweet CSRHub comments and tweets.

Agreement was reached that a prompt or gentle reminder should be provided as a standard piece at the bottom of all minutes arising from CSR Stakeholder Forum and Subgroup meetings, to encourage all members to promote awareness through social media and other accessible formats, e.g. their own website.

Item 6: AOB

Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015

Ms Catherine Curran updated the members on the recent announcements on foot of the Lobbying Act. Ms Curran provided an overview of the Act and what it means for members, with a focus on the impact this piece of legislation would have for the Forum itself.

In terms of compliance, the Forum would be deemed 'exempt' from having to register its activities on the Lobbying Register. However, the Forum must meet the requirement of the Transparency Code which includes publication of the minutes of the meetings, including minutes from meetings of the sub-groups, on the Department's website. In addition membership will also have to be published on the website, to comply with the Code.

Action:

Minutes of the CSR Stakeholder Forum meetings and sub-group meetings as from 1 September 2015 will be made available on the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation's website in addition to the CSRHub website.

The Chair invited members who may be available to host the meeting of the 24 November to contact the Secretary.

The Members recognised the hard work of both Ms Jennifer Billings and Mr William Parnell and wished this acknowledged in the minutes.

Tracey Murphy
Secretary to the Forum
22 October 2015

Good for Business, Good for All

Members don't forget, in order for CSR to survive and thrive!

Tweet, retweet and then tweet again!

Promotion is the key to success!