



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Meeting of Corporate Social Responsibility Stakeholder Forum
5th March 2019
House of Lords, Bank of Ireland, College Green, Dublin 2
08.30am -10.30am

Minutes

Chair: Catherine Heaney, DHR Communications
Attendance and Apologies at Appendix A

1. Welcome and Opening Comments

Ms Audrey Nolan, Head of CSR, Bank of Ireland welcomed Forum members to the House of Lords. Audrey spoke briefly about Bank of Ireland and Environmental, Social and Governance Factors (ESG) and the importance of it to investors.

The Chairperson, Ms Catherine Heaney thanked Bank of Ireland for hosting the meeting at the House of Lords.

The Chairperson also congratulated Dawn Meats and Hotel Doolin on their recent success at the Green awards.

The Great Place to Work results were announced during the week and the Chairperson was encouraged to note that CSR was the strongest category rise.

2. Minutes of the Meeting 27 November 2018

The Minutes were agreed.

Actions:

The Minutes will be uploaded to CSRhub.ie [**Minutes uploaded**]

3. Chairperson's Update

The Chairperson asked each Project Team lead to update the Forum on the work of its Project Team

- **Diversity and Inclusion** (*Team lead – Gerry Fitzpatrick, Deloitte Ireland*)
A key output of their Team's work for 2018/2019 was a dedicated session on Diversity and Inclusion at the CSR Stakeholder Forum meeting in November 2018. Three presenters were invited to speak on the topic. The session provided an opportunity for attendees to learn more about Diversity and Inclusion and how they can drive it in their own organisations. The Team are working to develop new case studies under this Theme.
- **Circular Economy** (*Team Lead – Mary MacSweeney, LEO Dublin City*)
Mary updated the Forum on the MODOS programme. Modos is a new programme for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises focused on providing companies with the entrepreneurial skills, knowledge and toolkits on the circular economy, sustainability and resource efficiency, so that they can apply and replicate it in their own business. The Forum is supporting the programme through this Project Team. Other key

highlights for the Team during the year was the CSR Networking Event, Cootehill, Co Cavan with Circular Economy as a theme for the event. The Team are working to source case studies on the Circular Economy.

- **CSR in the Public Sector** (*Team Lead – Alexa Toomey, Enterprise Ireland*)
Alexa highlighted progress on the two actions identified for the Project Team for 2018/2019 (1) establishment of a Public-Sector Network (PSN) and (2) preparations for a Workshop on CSR in the Public Sector. She said that the PSN have met on a number of occasions and she is hoping that the group can expand its membership to include other Government Departments and Public-Sector bodies. The PSN have identified a number of case studies and the Team is hoping to include these in the Check. Alexa has consulted with BITCI and DBEI about running a CSR workshop for leaders in the Public Sector. The intention is that this event will take place in September 2019 (date and venue to be confirmed). A potential Public-Sector CSR Conference will be scoped for 2020.

Comments Arising

- The Chairperson proposed that the team might consider sourcing a case study on the effect of the Government's decision to ban the purchase of single-use plastic cups, cutlery and straws in Government departments, public bodies, and schools.
 - The lack of awareness about the new waste stream was raised (how to recycle compostable packaging). The EPA advised that they are reviewing this and will be taking steps to raise awareness.
- **SMEs** (*Team Lead – Lorraine Corcoran, Afanite*)
One of the main aims for the CSR Stakeholder Forum is to increase the level of awareness amongst SMEs and micro enterprises of existing supports and resources on CSR practices. The SME Project Team supported this by
 - increasing the number of SME case studies on csrhub.ie with an additional link to SME case studies from BITCI. The team will continue to source new case studies and
 - Increasing SME membership to the Forum.

The Forum continued its outreach activities by hosting an SME outreach and networking event in Cavan in 2019. At this event SMEs and local businesses heard from a panel of expert speakers on circular economy, energy efficiency and sustainability.

- **Environment, Social and Governance Factors** (*Team Lead – Bernadette Phelan, BITCI*)
The ESG Project Team programmed speakers for this meeting. The following three presenters were programmed by the team.
 - Bernadette Phelan, Business in the Community Ireland – Overview of ESG
 - Laura Heuston, Sustainabilityworks – Why do Investors care about ESG?
 - Andrew Colgan, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation presented on Ireland NCP and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

The ESG Team will continue to explore different ways of raising awareness of ESG.

- **Environment** (*Team Lead – Neil Menzies, Transdev*)
Neil gave an overview of the three actions that the team has completed under this theme for 2018/2019

(1) Presentation from Green Business on energy efficiency for SMEs at the September 2018 meeting [James Hogan, Green Business was a panellist at the SME Networking event on the 17th September 2018].

(2) Presentation on sustainability at CSR networking event, Cavan, September 2019 [Presentations from Abbott, Aine Handmade Chocolate, LacPatrick and Discovery Centre at SME networking event on 17th September] and

(3) Engagement with EPA/ISME/Green Business on SME toolkit.

In addition to the above Neil highlighted some additional activities, including new ideas;

- Project Team members to include links to their sustainability reports
 - Project Team members seeking case studies from their own organisation
 - A number of ambassadorial events identified included Transdev Sponsorship of the Dublin Chambers Sustainable Dublin 2019 Series, Technological University Dublin in conjunction with BAM seminar on Challenges and Opportunities at seminar on CSR, Dublin Chambers proposing to commence a sustainability committee during 2019
 - Mentorship programme for SMEs on sustainability/Environmental issues
 - Chambers Ireland CSR Awards post award workshop for SMEs
 - Simple brief for SMEs to help companies transform to a sustainable company
 - Possibility of establishing a new scheme for SMEs similar to the Green Flag for schools to recognise their environmental management processes/green credentials
- **SDGs** (*Team Lead – Fergal Fitzgerald, ESB*)
Over the past year the SDG Project Team has been raising awareness of SDGs through their participation at the SDG Stakeholder Forum meeting.
 - The SDGs will continue to be on the Forum's agendas with members of the SDG team giving updates on the SDG Stakeholder Forum meetings.
 - Members of the Team have also presented at an SDG Stakeholder Forum meeting.
 - The SDG Project Team will continue to identify case studies of good practice in relation to the SDGs and encourage businesses to consider aligning their CSR agenda with the Goals.

2. **Case Studies**

The Chairperson asked members to submit a refreshed case study.

3. **Resources Media Group**

The Chairperson said that a 'media resource group' will be established to assist with the promotion of the CEO/Leaders' Breakfast. She asked members to advise the secretariat if they have capacity to assist with this.

Actions:

Project Teams to submit article for CSR Check 2019 [**articles submitted**]

Members asked to submit a case study;

Members interested in Media Resource Group asked to revert to the secretariat;

4. **Business and Human Rights**

Action 2 of the National Plan on CSR states '*Collaborate with DFAT through the CSR Stakeholder Forum to communicate the National Plan on Business and Human Rights*'. Rory Geraghty and Markos Volikas, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) spoke about the National Plan on Business and Human Rights and the implementation Group.

Some of the initial priorities of the Implementation Group are to:

- Develop a toolkit to assist business to complete their declaration
- Review the legal and regulatory framework in Ireland
- Encourage and support awareness of effective human rights due diligence by State owned or controlled companies
- Increase the focus on mediation instead of judicial proceedings and
- Identify and promote International best standards of practice.

Actions:

Secretariat to upload presentation on csrhub.ie [*presentation uploaded*]
DFAT to submit the draft toolkit to the CSR Stakeholder Forum Members for review.

5. Environmental, Social and Governance Factors

Environmental, Social and Governance Factors is one of the Forum's seven Project themes for 2018/2019. The Chairperson called on Ms Bernadette Phelan, BITCI to introduce the topic and the two presenters.

Bernadette gave an overview of ESG and highlighted:

- 'The Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosure'
- The European Union's 'Sustainable Finance Action Plan'.
- Initiatives such as 'Corporate Reporting Dialogue' and the Reporting Exchange that are working to support companies, investors and financiers to bring to market consistent and comparable reporting standards

Bernadette proposed that reporting on sustainability is a technical and challenging discipline, and it is at an early stage of development. She added that Irish companies need to consider how they report on CSR and sustainability for all stakeholders and that investors bring specific requirements.

The two presenters were

- Laura Heuston, Sustainability Works – Why do Investors care about ESG?
- Andrew Colgan, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation presented on Ireland NCP and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

The Chairperson thanked the presenters and asked members to revert to Bernadette with feedback on areas of interest.

Actions:

Secretariat to upload presentations on csrhub.ie [*presentations uploaded*]

6. AOB & Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the CSR Stakeholder Forum is the CEO/Leaders' breakfast on 13 June. [*subsequently changed to 27 June 2019*].

APPENDIX A

Attendance:

Chairperson: Catherine Heaney, DHR Communications

Members

Organisation	Attendee
Abbott	Sinead Hickey
Afanite	Lorraine Corcoran
Bank of Ireland	Audrey Nolan
BITCI	Bernadette Phelan
Bord Bia	Martin Hofler
Chambers Ireland	James Kiernan
Dawn Meats	David O'Flynn
Deloitte Ireland	Gerry Fitzpatrick
Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation	Céline McHugh
Department of Communications, Climate Action, the Environment	Joe Gallagher
Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection	Kathryn McGinn
Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection	Jacinta Gray
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Rory Geraghty
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Markos Volikas
Enterprise Ireland	Alexa Toomey
EPA	Shane Colgan
Ernst & Young	Lorraine McCann
ESB	Fergal Fitzgerald
IBM	Deirdre Kennedy
ICTU	David Joyce
IDA	Tim Costello (on behalf of Breda O'Sullivan)
KPMG	Karina Howley
LEO – Head of Enterprise Network	Mary MacSweeney
LIDL	Deirdre Ryan
Pramerica	Matthew Conway (on behalf of David Roche)
Science Foundation Ireland	Cathy Foley
Transdev	Neil Menzies
Ulster Bank	Suzanne Johnston
Vodafone	Natalie Hodgess

Members Apologies:

Business to Arts	Andrew Hetherington
Clean Technology Centre	James Hogan
Continuum	Colin Meagle
Danone	Claire Mac Avilly
Department of Health	Biddy O'Neill
Hotel Doolin	Aine Martin
Kemmy Business School, UL	Briga Hynes
Northside Partnership	Paul Rogers/Niamh McTiernan
NSAI	Maria McKeown
Volunteer Ireland	Terri O'Brien

Presenters (excl Members):

Laura Heuston	Sustainability Works
Andrew Colgan	Department of Business Enterprise and Innovation

Guests

DHR Communications	Louise Archbold
NTMA	Martin Byrne

Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation

Deborah Dignam	Helen K MacDonough
Kieren Mee	Sandra Mullen