

Re-conceptualising Ireland's Competitiveness

A conversation between business,
policy-makers and academia

Farmleigh House
9 January 2008



About this Event

Ireland and the world are changing.

The factors that will underpin enterprise, investment, innovation and future prosperity in Ireland are likely to be different from those that underpinned our success in the past.

This conference will provide participants with the opportunity to consider the changing nature of the Irish economy, the key external political and economic influences and uncertainties and the changing dynamics of the enterprise sector in Ireland. It will also look at emerging opportunities and challenges and help identify the key success factors for sustaining Ireland's competitiveness and for achieving future growth.

This high level forum will host contributions from a range of senior national and international business leaders, policy-makers and advisors to stimulate debate with the conference participants.

Invited participants include senior leaders from Government Departments, business and representative organisations, trade unions and academia.

The Speakers



Minister Micháel Martin

Mr Micheál Martin, T.D., was appointed Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment in September 2004. Minister Martin served as Minister for Health from January 2000 to September 2004 and prior to that was Minister for Education and Science from June 1997 to January 2000.



Dr Don Thornhill

Dr Don Thornhill is a consultant and adviser on strategy and policy and a board member of organisations in the public and private sectors. He was appointed Chairman of the National Competitiveness Council (NCC) in February 2005 by the Irish Government.



Mr Martin Cronin

Martin Cronin is Chief Executive of Forfás. Mr Cronin is a member of the National Competitiveness Council, the Advisory Council for Science, Technology and Innovation, the Higher Education Authority, the Management Board of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and the Board of the Tyndall National Institute.

Re-conceptualising Ireland's Competitiveness



Dr Alan Ahearne

Dr Alan Ahearne lectures in economics and is Vice Dean for Research at the JE Cairnes Graduate School of Business and Public Policy at NUI Galway. He has published widely on issues in macroeconomics and international finance.



Mr Andreas Biermann

Andreas is a Desk Officer in the Country Studies Division at the International Energy Agency (IEA). He is currently responsible for the preparation of the first IEA review of the European Union's Energy Policies and has worked on the Irish IEA report which was published in June 2007.



Mr Niall Carroll

Niall Carroll has been the Managing Partner of ACT Venture Capital since its formation in 1994 and has played a major role in the development of ACT as a leading Irish and European venture capital firm. He was a founder and director of the European Venture Capital Association (EVCA) and has been Chairman of the Irish Venture Capital Association.



Mr Shay Cody

Shay Cody is the Deputy General Secretary of IMPACT and a member of the Executive Council of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU). Shay has been involved in the Public Service Modernisation Process as well as representing staff interests in the privatisation of Eircom and Aer Lingus. Shay is also a member of the National Competitiveness Council.



Dr James Coleman

Dr Coleman is a specialist in the medical devices sector. He is Chairman and Chief Executive of Trinitas Ventures Limited, a medical device research and development incubator which he co-founded in 2005. He also founded Vasorum Limited, Nova Science Limited and Chiroxia Limited following his career as a surgeon.



Mr Patrick Cooney

Patrick Cooney is the owner and Managing Director of the Gleeson Group which employs 720 people in Ireland with a turnover in excess of €300 million. The company is a wholly Irish owned family company and is engaged in the manufacture, sales and marketing of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages including brands such as Tipperary Natural Mineral Water and Finches. Patrick was the first Chairman of Coillte from 1989-1999.



Mr Alan Crosbie

Alan Crosbie is the Chairman of Thomas Crosbie Holdings Ltd and Examiner Publications (Cork) Ltd and Vice-President of the European Newspaper Publishers association. He is also an adjunct Professor of Family Business at UCC, Chairman of Family Business Network Ireland and has also published a book on family business.



Prof. Stéphane Garelli

Stéphane Garelli is a world authority on competitiveness. He is a professor at the Institute of Management Development (IMD) in Lausanne, Switzerland, where he heads the World Competitiveness Centre. He is also an associate professor at the University of Lausanne.



Mr Alan Gray

Alan Gray is Managing Partner of Indecon Ireland and Indecon International Economic Consulting Group. Alan is a former member of the National Competitiveness Council and has published extensively on economic policy. Alan was appointed by the Irish Government as a non-executive director of the board of the Central Bank of Ireland. He is a director of the Irish Financial Services Regulatory Authority and is Chairman of the Board of Directors of London Economics.

Re-conceptualising Ireland's Competitiveness



Ms Anne Heraty

Anne Heraty is Chief Executive of CPL Resources PLC, which she founded in 1989. CPL provides recruitment and outsourcing services in both the public and private sectors and has circa 3,000 temporary employees and 500 contractors working on client sites. Anne was Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year in 2006 and is also a member of the Forfás board, among others.



Dr Christopher Horn

Dr Christopher J. Horn is Vice Chairman of the board and co-founder of IONA Technologies. Dr Horn has been a non-executive director of a number of privately held software companies and business associations. He is also a member of the Information & Communications Technology (ICT) working group at IBEC.



Mr Dermot McCarthy

Dermot McCarthy is Secretary General of the Department of the Taoiseach and Secretary General to the Government. He previously served as Assistant Secretary in the Department of the Taoiseach following service in the Department of Industry and Commerce and the Department of Health. He is Chairperson of the National Economic and Social Council.



Mr Martin Murphy

Martin Murphy is Managing Director of Hewlett-Packard Ireland. Martin serves on the board of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce and is Chairperson of the Knowledge Economy Committee. He also serves on the board of the Irish Management Institute and is a member of the Institute of Directors.



Mr David O'Sullivan

David O'Sullivan is the Director General for Trade in the European Commission, helping to negotiate bilateral and multilateral trade agreements and ensuring that foreign markets are open for EU businesses. He is also a member of the Consultative Board of the Institute for International Integration Studies at TCD.



Sir George Quigley

Sir George is currently Chairman of Bombardier Aerospace. Following a career in the Northern Ireland Civil Service, Sir George Quigley became Chairman of Ulster Bank, and a non-executive director on the Main Board of Nat West. His roles in public life in Northern Ireland have included Chairmanship of the NI Economic Council and in the Republic he was President of the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI).



Mr Mark Redmond

Mark Redmond is Chief Executive of the Irish Taxation Institute. Mark is a member of a number of boards including the Governing Authority of UCD. Mark is the Irish representative on the Council of the Confederation Fiscale Europeene and is also a member of the ESRI forum.



Prof. Ferdinand von Prondzynski

Professor von Prondzynski is President of Dublin City University since 2000 and has achieved international status as an authority on employment and commercial law; he is also an expert on EU matters and on competition (antitrust) policy. He is a member of the National Competitiveness Council and a Director of Skillsoft Plc.

Agenda

8.00-9.00	Registration and refreshments
9.00-9.10	Welcome and Introduction Dr Don Thornhill, Chairman, National Competitiveness Council
Session 1:	Dimensions of Competitiveness in the 21st Century
9.10-10.15	Professor Stéphane Garelli – Global Competitiveness Developments Director IMD World Competitiveness Centre, University of Lausanne Mr Alan Gray – Developments in Irish Competitiveness Managing Director, Indecon International Economic Consultants
10.15-10.30	Break
Session 2:	The Changing Competitive Dynamics for Enterprise in Ireland
10.30-11.30	Business Roundtable I Ms Anne Heraty, Chief Executive, CPL Resources Mr Alan Crosbie, Chairman, Thomas Crosbie Holdings Dr James Coleman, Chairman, Trinitas Ventures Dr Chris Horn, Vice Chairman, Iona Technologies Open discussion between speakers and conference participants
11.30-12.45	Business Roundtable II Mr Pat Cooney, Managing Director, Gleeson Group Mr Martin Murphy, Managing Director, Hewlett Packard Ireland Sir George Quigley, Chairman of Bombardier Aerospace Mr Martin Cronin, Chief Executive, Forfás Open discussion between speakers and conference participants
12.45-14.00	Lunch
Session 3:	Global Drivers of Competitiveness
14.00-15.20	Mr David O'Sullivan, Director General for Trade, European Commission Mr Andreas Biermann, Desk Officer, International Energy Agency Dr Alan Ahearne, Economist and Vice Dean for Research, NUIG Open discussion between speakers and conference participants
15.20-15.40	Break
Session 4:	National Drivers of Competitiveness
15.40-17.00	Mr Niall Carroll, Managing Partner, ACT Venture Capital Mr Shay Cody, Deputy Secretary General, IMPACT Mr Mark Redmond, Chief Executive, Irish Taxation Institute Prof. Ferdinand von Prondzynski, President, DCU Open discussion between speakers and conference participants
Session 5:	Competitiveness and Growth Strategies
17.00-17.30	Mr Micheál Martin, T.D. Minister for Enterprise, Trade & Employment
Session 6:	Concluding Remarks
17.30-18.00	Mr Dermot McCarthy, Secretary General, Department of the Taoiseach End Notes - Dr Don Thornhill, Chairman, National Competitiveness Council
18.00	Closing Reception

NCC Secretariat

Forfás

Wilton Park House

Wilton Place

Dublin 2

Tel: 01 607 3000

Fax 01 607 3030

Email: ncc@forfas.ie

Web: www.competitiveness.ie