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PRESS RELEASE: NCPC Bulletin on IMD World Competitiveness Rankings 2025

Today (29th July), Dr. Frances Ruane, the Chair of the National Competitiveness and Productivity Council (NCPC), issued the Council's bulletin on the 2025 IMD World Competitiveness Rankings.

This year's IMD report ranks Ireland as the most competitive country in the euro area and the 7th most competitive economy in the world (out of 69 economies), a decline from last year's 4th position.

The IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook assesses and ranks 69 economies around the world based on their ability to create and maintain a competitive business environment. The rankings are based on more than 262 indicators grouped across four pillars: Economic Performance, Government Efficiency, Business Efficiency, and Infrastructure. Its competitive metrics are based on a mixture of quantitative and qualitative data.

Ireland has improved its ranking from 2024 in two out of the four core pillars of competitiveness assessed by the IMD – including Economic Performance, 9th (up from 10th), and Government Efficiency, 5th (up from 6th), while the Infrastructure pillar remained unchanged at 17th. Ireland's ranking in the Business Efficiency pillar deteriorated from 3rd in 2024 to 11th in 2025.

The competitive strengths which Ireland has developed – including its skilled workforce, business-friendly environment, and strong institutions offering stability – continue to serve us well. In the context of an exceptionally challenging global economic and political backdrop, Ireland will have to continue to harness these strengths to compete, while seeking to address identified areas of weakness. The forthcoming Action Plan for Competitiveness and Productivity should address these challenges.

Dr. Ruane said: *"Ireland continues to perform strongly, as reflected in our position as the most competitive economy in the euro area and 7th globally. However, we cannot be complacent – maintaining our competitiveness must remain a constant focus of Government".*

Dr. Ruane also said: *"In a challenging global trading environment, we must continue to leverage our strengths to compete effectively, while addressing areas where we are underperforming. I look forward to the upcoming Action Plan for Competitiveness and Productivity, which should tackle these weaknesses while building on our core competitive strengths".*