Minutes of the IFS2020 High Level Implementation Committee Meeting

09.00am, 18th December 2017
Room 301, Dept. of the Taoiseach

Attendance

Public Sector High Level Implementation Committee (HLIC): Minister of State Michael D’Arcy (Chair); Paul Ryan (D/Fin); Mary Clare O’Sullivan (D/Taoiseach for Martin Fraser); Orlaigh Quinn (D/BEI); Kathleen Gavin (D/ES for Seán Ó Foghlú); Sarah Mangan (D/FAT for Niall Burgess); Martin Shanahan (IDA Ireland); Niall O’Donnellan (Enterprise Ireland for Julie Sinnamon).

HLIC Secretariat: Karen Cullen(D/FIN)

In attendance: Gerry Cross, James O’Sullivan (Central Bank); Graham Swarbrigg, Ruth Parkin, Patrick Rooney, Padraig Kelly (D/Fin); Joanne Tobin (D/ES); Felix O’Kane (D/BEI); Aoife Mullen (D/Taoiseach) Kieran Donoghue, Denis Curran, Justin Sullivan (IDA); Giles O’Neill, Brendan McCormack (Enterprise Ireland); Denise Tully (Private Secretary to Minister D’Arcy).

Apologies: Martin Fraser (D/Taoiseach); Niall Burgess (D/FAT); Seán Ó Foghlú (D/ES); Julie Sinnamon (Enterprise Ireland).

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Item 1: Opening remarks

Minister D’Arcy convened the 12th HLIC and thanked everyone for their attendance. Apologies were noted.

Item 2: Update on employment outlook, incl. provisional 2017 jobs figures

Minister D’Arcy invited the enterprise agencies to update the Committee on the level of job creation during 2017. Provisional figures from both enterprise agencies indicate that the job target remains firmly on track and that there was a good regional spread. Final jobs figures will be available for publication in Q1 2018 once they have been verified. N. O’Donnellan noted that start-ups had been very active in the Enterprise Ireland portfolio in 2017 and M. Shanahan noted that IDA Ireland had a strong pipeline for continued growth in 2018.

Item 3: Consideration of draft Q4 2017 Progress Report

Minister D’Arcy noted that the draft Q4 Progress Report had been circulated to all members in advance of the HLIC and that the deadline for receipt of observations was COB on 18th December 2017 ahead of the report being brought to Government for approval to publish. Minister D’Arcy noted that all measures in the Q4 Progress Report were either on track or complete.
Item 4: Draft Review and Action Plan 2018

Minister D’Arcy thanked all those who contributed or submitted proposals to the 2018 Action Plan and encouraged any observations from members. He pointed out that the 2018 Action Plan was divided into two sections with one of the sections focussed on a review of progress thus far.

O. Quinn noted that the priority areas of the draft Action Plan 2018 aligned with those of D/BEI and the Regional Action Plan for Jobs.

Minister D’Arcy requested feedback by COB on 18th December, in advance of bringing to Government for approval and subsequent publication.

Item 5: Communications, promotion and marketing

S. Mangan provided an update on recent Ministerial visits across Europe, Asia and the USA which included the promotion of the IFS sector. She noted that Ireland’s bid for the relocation of the European Banking Authority, although ultimately unsuccessful, had raised Ireland’s profile as an IFS location. She noted that the Communications sub-group had met with industry to discuss updates to the shared calendar for IFS events and the IFS communications deck.

M. Shanahan noted that the IFS Ireland website would be updated in the new year. N. O’Donnellan said that Enterprise Ireland had a full programme of upcoming events for 2018.

Item 6: European Financial Forum 2018 planning

M. Shanahan said that the agenda for the 2018 European Financial Forum was currently being finalised and that speakers were in place. He noted that there had been a very positive response to the event so far and that significant progress had been made.

Item 7: UK exit from the European Union

S. Mangan updated on the conclusion of phase 1 of negotiations on the UK’s exit from the European Union. She noted that Ireland’s contingency planning was ongoing and that Irish-specific issues would be in a distinct strand of negotiations in phase 2.

Item 8: AOB

No items were raised under AOB and Minister D’Arcy brought the meeting to a close.

The meeting concluded and the group joined the IAC for the Joint Committee in Room 308