



IFA



Brexit: The Imperatives for Irish Farmers & the Agri-Food Sector

10am, Monday, 24th April 2017
Goffs, Kill, Co. Kildare. Exit 8 off the M7.

In association with



Brexit: The Imperatives for Irish Farmers & the Agri-Food Sector

Time	Programme
10.00 am	Registration & Tea / Coffee
10.45 am	Welcome & Introduction Damian McDonald, IFA Director General Session 1: Setting the Scene Keynote Address - The EU's Negotiating Position Phil Hogan, EU Commissioner for Agriculture & Rural Development The Imperatives for Irish Farmers in the Negotiations Joe Healy, IFA President
12.15 pm	Session 2: What now for the EU 27 & the UK? Panel Gavin Barrett, Jean Monnet Professor of European Constitutional and Economic Law, UCD Barclay Bell, President, Ulster Farmers' Union Rowena Dwyer, IFA Chief Economist Mairead McGuinness, First Vice-President of the European Parliament Martin Merrild, President, COPA Facilitator Sessions 1 & 2 Damien O'Reilly, RTE
1.15 pm	Lunch
2.30 pm	Message from FBD Fiona Muldoon, FBD Chief Executive
2.45 pm	Session 3: Securing the Interests of the Irish Farmer Address by Michael Creed TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine
3.30 pm	Session 4: What now for Irish Farmers & the Agri-Food Sector? Panel Niall Browne, CEO Dawn Meats Kevin Lane, CEO Ornua Tara McCarthy, CEO Bord Bia Sean O'Leary, IFA Dairy Chairman Angus Woods, IFA Livestock Chairman Facilitator Sessions 3 & 4 Justin McCarthy, Editor <i>Irish Farmers' Journal</i>
4.30 pm	Key Messages Joe Healy, IFA President
4.45 pm	Close



Joe Healy, President

Message from the President

Brexit presents the most serious threat to Irish farming and our agri-food sector in the history of the State. With 40% of our food exports going to the UK, no other Member State and no other sector is as exposed in these negotiations. The short-term uncertainty has led to the depreciation of sterling, putting serious pressure on Irish farmgate prices and exports.

The UK is a high value market, sharing similar consumer preferences to Irish consumers. Irish farmers and processors have developed systems of production and specifications to match market requirements in the UK. Both producers and processors have invested significant resources in meeting the EU's world-leading standards of production.

Ireland is the only Member State to share a land border with the UK, and every year thousands of animals and huge volumes of agricultural produce cross the border with Northern Ireland for further finishing or for processing, as part of a complex supply chain. These trading links have built up over many years and are critically important for farmers and processors on both sides of the border.

IFA is clear that farming and food must be at the top of the Brexit agenda, not only in Ireland but at EU level. The key priorities for the agriculture sector in these negotiations are the maintenance of the closest possible trading relationship between the UK and EU, while preserving the value of the UK market, and the provision of a strong CAP budget following the UK's departure.

This IFA event, *Brexit – The Imperatives for Irish Farmers & the Agri-Food Sector*, brings together political leaders at Irish and EU level and key stakeholders in the Irish farming and food sector, who will set out the critical areas for Ireland in the negotiations and what must be delivered to secure the interests of the Irish farming and food sector in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Healy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Joe Healy

Speaker profiles



Joe Healy is a dairy, sheep and livestock farmer from Athenry, Co. Galway and was elected President of IFA in April 2016. He is a director of Bord Bia, the Irish food marketing board and Chairman of the COPA Working Party on the Food Chain. He was President of Macra na Feirme from 1995–1997 and Vice-Chairman of

CEJA (European Young Farmers' Association) from 1997 to 1999.



Phil Hogan was appointed European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development in 2014. He served as Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government from 2011 – 14. He was Chairman of the European People's Party of Environment Ministers 2012 - 14 and national director of elections for the

Fine Gael party 2010 – 11. He was first elected to Dáil Éireann in 1989, having previously been a member of Seanad Éireann 1987-89. From a farming background in Co. Kilkenny, he holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Geography from UCC.



Gavin Barrett is a professor of law and Jean Monnet Professor of European Constitutional and Economic Law at University College Dublin where he lectures in various subjects relating to EU law. He obtained his PhD from Trinity College Dublin in 1995, and worked for the

Institute of International and European Affairs, Dublin and the Academy of European Law in Trier in Germany before joining UCD.



Barclay Bell has a cereal, sheep and willows farm enterprise in County Down. He is President of the Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU) and was a former member of the UFU Beef and Lamb Committee and Seeds and Cereal Committee. He also held the posts of County Down Chairman and was a member of the UFU Board. He

is a National Farmers' Union (NFU) Mutual Regional Board Member and also an Associate of the Royal Agricultural Societies and Chairman of the Open Farm Weekend steering group.



Rowena Dwyer is the Chief Economist of the Irish Farmers' Association, the main representative farming organisation in Ireland. Rowena provides analysis for the organisation on national, economic and budgetary issues, as well as developments in international agriculture and trade issues. She represents the IFA in

negotiations with Government on the Budget and CAP Reform, and with banks and regulators on farm business and credit issues. She is a graduate in Economics from Trinity College Dublin, with an MSc in Public Economics from the University of York.



Mairead McGuinness is the First Vice-President of the European Parliament and represents the Midlands-North-West constituency in Ireland. Mairead is a member of the EPP UK Advisory Group on the impact of the UK exit from the EU. She is a member of the Parliament's

Agriculture and Rural Development Committee and the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee. Prior to becoming an MEP she was a well-known journalist, broadcaster and commentator.



Martin Merrild is President of COPA (European Farmers' Organisation) and has been President of the Danish Agriculture & Food Council since 2012. He farms in Western Jutland. He has held several positions in agricultural organisations - Chairman of Struer Farmers' Association in 1987, Chairman of the Farmers'

Association in Ringkjøbing County and Chairman of the Danish Association of Poultry Producers. Martin holds a Diploma in Agricultural Economics and in Specialised Business Studies, Agricultural Management.

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Michael Creed was appointed Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine on 6 May 2016. He is a TD for the Cork North-West constituency. He was a member of Cork County Council from 1987 until 2007 and was elected chairman from 2005 to 2006. He was first elected to Dáil Éireann at the 1989 general election and retained his seat

until 2002. After regaining his Dáil seat at the 2007 general election, he was party spokesperson on Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (2007–10). Born in Macroom, Co Cork Minister Creed was educated at St. Colman's College, Fermoy, De La Salle College, Macroom, at University College Cork and the College of Commerce, Rathmines.



Niall Browne is Chief Executive of Dawn Meats. Niall graduated from University of Limerick with a Business Studies Degree in Marketing and Agribusiness. He then joined the Dawn Meats Graduate Management Programme. He was appointed by the Board to the position of Chief Executive in 2007.



Kevin Lane was appointed Chief Executive of Ornua in January 2010. Before joining Ornua, Kevin was Global President and Chief Executive of the Kerry Group's Flavours Division. He held a number of senior executive positions during his 22-year career within the Kerry Group. For 18 of those years he worked overseas, in markets including the UK, USA, Mexico and Canada. Kevin is an honours graduate (Sales and Marketing) from the University of Limerick.



Tara McCarthy is the Chief Executive of Bord Bia. She was previously Chief Executive for Bord Iascaigh Mhara (BIM), Ireland's seafood development agency. Tara has over 20 years' experience in the wider food industry having operated in overseas markets for 10 years in Germany, France and Belgium. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree with an MBS in Marketing from Smurfit Business School.



Sean O'Leary is Chairman of the IFA National Dairy Committee. He is also a Director on the Bord of Ornua. Sean has held a number of senior positions within IFA prior to this. He represents dairy farmers on the COPA-COGECA Dairy Working Group in Brussels. Sean farms near Mourneabbey, outside Mallow in North Cork and supplies his milk to Dairygold Co-op.



Angus Woods is a Cattle, Sheep and Tillage farmer from County Wicklow. He was elected Chairman of the IFA National Livestock Committee in April 2016, representing Ireland's 100,000 beef and livestock producers. He represents Irish livestock farmers on the Meat and Livestock Board of Bord Bia. Angus is the Vice-Chairman of the Commission Civil Dialogue Group on Animal Products and represents Irish livestock farmers' interests as a member of the COPA/COGECA Beef Working Party.

Facilitator profiles



Damien O'Reilly presents *Countrywide* on RTE Radio 1 each Saturday morning. The magazine programme, which covers farming, food and rural affairs, has one of the highest audiences on RTE. He is also a regular presenter of *Liveline* and contributes to sports programming in RTE. He was part of the Olympics coverage in 2008 and 2016. Damien writes a weekly column for *Country Living* in the *Irish Farmers' Journal* and is Secretary of the European Network of Agricultural Journalists.



Justin McCarthy was appointed CEO of the *Irish Farmers' Journal* in January 2014, having taken up the role of Editor in March 2013. He graduated with a Hons Degree in Agricultural Science in 2000, after which he worked with Anglo Beef Processors (ABP). In 2004, he took up the role as Beef Specialist with Teagasc and co-ordinated the Teagasc/Dawn Meats Partnership in the West of Ireland.

Booking Form

Reserve your place by Tuesday, 18th April

Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Name:	
Company: (if applicable)	
Address:	
Email:	
Tel:	
Mobile:	
IFA Membership No:	

IFA Members are FREE, Non-IFA Members €50

To reserve your place, please return with payment if applicable, to: Ciara Nagle, Irish Farmers' Association, Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12.

Alternatively, email your details to Brexit@ifa.ie or Tel: **01 4260336**. You can also book online at www.ifa.ie



IFA - The voice of Irish farmers in Europe

IFA's Brussels office plays a crucial role in promoting and defending Irish farmers' interests in Europe.

Liam MacHale, Director of European Affairs, assisted by Anne McGrath, keep Irish farming issues high on the Brussels agenda and ensure all IFA representatives and staff are fully informed on EU policy and markets.

The Brussels office provides an effective communications link with EU decision-makers and deals directly with key Commission officials responsible for formulating policy in agriculture, environment, trade and other areas.

Supported by the Brussels office, IFA Officers, Committee Chairmen and staff engage at all levels in Europe, including in collaboration with other farming bodies through COPA, and with the EU Commission, Parliament and Council.

Get in touch with the IFA Brussels office at mail@ifabrussels.be