

GOVERNMENT BREXIT UPDATE



Riailtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

8 March 2019

In this update:

- Omnibus legislation passes the Dáil & secondary legislation list published
- Latest Brexit business supports, including new Brexit call centre for agriculture
- Information updates on professional qualifications, Common Travel Area & broadcasting
- Upcoming Government Brexit events around the country - 11 next week



Tánaiste Simon Coveney and Minister Regina Doherty delivering a Post-Cabinet Brexit Update, Tuesday

Government Update

While ratification of the Withdrawal Agreement is still the Government's preferred outcome, this update is the next step in a series of measures that the Government is taking, both nationally and in conjunction with the EU, in preparation for the possibility that the UK fails to agree a deal for their departure from the EU on 29 March.

Cabinet

Cabinet held its [weekly discussion](#) on Government preparedness on Brexit. This included:

- The Government **Brexit Omnibus Bill** which [completed its passage](#) through the Dáil this week. Next week it will go to the Seanad for discussion.
- The list of **21 pieces of secondary legislation** was also published this week covering issues such as health, social protection and VAT.
- Final domestic decisions regarding **Common Travel Area** arrangements. This paves the way for final agreement between the Irish and British Governments on this priority issue. [Read more about the Common Travel Area here.](#)
- Further updates on the **economic impact of Brexit** by the Department of Finance with the ESRI.
- Update on **ports and airports preparations** including the well-advanced work on temporary infrastructure at Dublin and Rosslare ports, and additional staff to be in place by the end of March.
- Ministers updated cabinet on their **recent stakeholder engagement**.

Business supports & engagement

- Following government consultation with the EU, the budget for **Rescuing and Restructuring scheme was increased tenfold** [from €20 million to €200 million](#). This scheme helps safeguard the future of Irish SMEs most exposed to Brexit.
- Cross border business agency **InterTradeIreland** have expanded their **Brexit supports**, which [includes new funding and online learning for businesses](#).
- [Businesses are urged](#) to put the right processes in place for **moving goods through the UK after Brexit**.
- Tánaiste Simon Coveney **updated IBEC on Brexit contingency planning** at their Dublin headquarters.

Agriculture

- A **Brexit Call Centre for Agriculture** has been announced, with a [dedicated phone number and email address](#) to answer queries.
- Agriculture Minister Michael Creed [published his Department's report on increasing Market Access](#), which highlights successes over the past year and a half, including beef access to China.
- [Also announced](#) is that **agricultural attachés are to be increased by 50%** from 8 to 12, with new positions created in Berlin, Tokyo, Seoul and Mexico as well as the agri-food trade missions this year to Turkey, China, Japan, South Korea, Algeria and Egypt.

Driving & Freight Transport

- The Department of Transport [issued its latest advice](#) on **Green Cards for drivers** concerned about proof of insurance post-Brexit.
 - European Affairs [Minister Helen McEntee](#) spoke on Brexit preparedness to the **Freight Transport Association**, noting the importance of transport and transit issues in planning for Brexit.
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Also this week

- [Taoiseach Leo Varadkar](#) met with **Lithuanian Prime Minister** Saulius Skvernelis in Dublin where they discussed Brexit, bilateral relations, and EU issues.
 - [The Taoiseach spoke](#) at the **American Chamber of Commerce's** US-Ireland Business conference.
 - The Tánaiste addressed the **Reconciliation Networking Forum** in Dublin. [The Forum](#) organised by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, is for representatives of groups working on peacebuilding in Northern Ireland and throughout the island of Ireland supported by the Department's Reconciliation Fund. [Read his full speech here](#)
 - Minister Helen McEntee [spoke to the Seanad](#) on the **future of Europe and EU membership**.
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Latest updates on gov.ie/brexit

New or updated information published this week on:

[Broadcasting](#)

[Marriage recognition](#)

[Professional Qualifications](#)

[Common Travel Area](#)

Government Brexit Events

This week Government Brexit events took place in:

[Monaghan](#), [Donegal](#), [Offaly](#), [Tipperary](#), [Limerick](#), [Dublin](#), and [Cork](#).

Enterprise Ireland also organised [Brexit Webinar](#) this week.

Upcoming events next week include:

11 March: Bord Bia, Regional Customs Training, [Westmeath](#)

11 March: Revenue, Brexit Trader Engagement Seminar, [Dublin](#)

12 March: NSAI, Brexit Information Seminar for Construction Sector, [Dublin](#)

13 March: LEO, Brexit Risk Analysis and Risk Management, [Cork](#)

13 March: Enterprise Ireland, [Brexit Webinar](#)

13 March: LEO, Prepare Your Business for Customs, [Dublin](#)

13 March: InterTradeIreland, Brexit: The Future for Border Businesses, [Louth](#)

13 March: FSAI, Seminar on Brexit and Food Safety Compliance, [Dublin](#)

13 March: NSAI, Brexit Information Seminar for Construction Sector, [Cork](#)

14 March, Enterprise Ireland, Brexit Advisory Clinic, [Dublin](#)

14 March, Enterprise Ireland, Essentials of Exporting, [Monaghan](#)

Check out the Irish Government's dedicated website for all Brexit information:

www.gov.ie/brexit
