

Minister Flanagan launched National Export Hub

11 March 2015

- Driving on Export-led growth crucial to sustaining the recovery.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charlie Flanagan, TD, has today (Wednesday) launched a new National Export Hub in collaboration with the Irish Exporters Association (IEA).

Speaking at the event Minister Flanagan stated:

"The new National Export Hub will assist Irish businesses to export for the first time, to enter new export markets and to grow their exports. The Hub will see the IEA and Hub partners represented here today make their expertise available to existing and future exporters around the country.

"Increasing exports is a key driver of growth for the Irish economy and is crucial to sustaining the Irish recovery. 2014 saw an increase in the value of goods exports of €2.1 billion (+2.4%), in 2013, total Irish exports were €181bn, 104% of GDP. The Central Bank is projecting trade volume growth in excess of 5% in both 2015 and 2016.

"The new campaign and hub will run breakfast seminars around Ireland to provide practical export advice to Irish companies who are interested in driving on export-led opportunities. A dedicated Hub manager will then work with companies to identify export opportunities."

Speaking of the potential of the Government's Saint Patrick's Day 'Promote Ireland' programme to enhance export opportunities, create jobs and support new commercial links the Minister stated:

"One of the key messages Ministers will take abroad with them on trade and investment visits this year is that "Ireland is open for business". If I can paraphrase that today, as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, I would say that our Embassy network is open for business.

"During the St. Patrick's Day period last year, Ministers participated in over 100 specific business events overseas, attended by over 13,600 Irish and international company representatives. They also participated in 115 focussed company engagements with potential to support new commercial links, export opportunities or win new investments.

"Exporters who have taken part in a trade or investment-focussed St. Patrick's Day events overseas, will be able to attest to the value of these programmes. St. Patrick's Day provides a golden opportunity to deepen business networks and to reinforce other ongoing sales and investment activities, as well as creating new business opportunities."

The National Export Hub initiative is a partnership between the IEA, ABP, AIB, DHL, Euler Hermes, PWC in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Enterprise Ireland and Bord Bia.



An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

National Export Campaign

Helping Irish businesses to export

