

## Irish Exporters Association elects entrepreneur Nicola Byrne as its first female president



Nicola Byrne

Louise Kelly

July 3 2017

The Irish Exporters Association (IEA) has elected the founder of 11890 as its first female president since the organisation's establishment in 1951.

Nicola Byrne - who is also CEO of Cloud90 - will take over the role from Paschal McCarthy who has served as IEA President since January 2016

Ms Byrne said that being President during this year of Brexit is challenging.

"The Association will need to offer our members and the Government our fullest support and best advice - as well as opening doors and minds among our clients and colleagues across Europe." she said.

"This year, of all years, the Association must defend our country's economic life's blood."

IEA chief Simon McKeever said Nicola's experience in founding and developing her own businesses puts her at the forefront of exporting and entrepreneurship.

"An insights Guru, Nicola has a wealth of international experience seizing business opportunities, overcoming barriers and developing contacts. Nicola's dedication and support on the Council to date has been considerable and we look forward to working with her as she goes from strength to strength, shaping the organisation's future in her Presidency."

Nicola Byrne, President of the Irish Exporters Association commented: "Being President during this year of Brexit is challenging. The Association will need to offer our members and the Government our fullest support and best advice - as well as opening doors and minds among our clients and colleagues across Europe. This year, of all years, the Association must defend our country's economic life's blood."

Mr McKeever also thanked Paschal McCarthy for his work over the last 18 months in driving the IEA's Regional Member Development Strategy.

"[Paschal] was fundamental to the establishment of the Cork and West Regional Council's respectively. The IEA will continue to benefit from Paschal's experience and contribution to the organisation as he remains on the IEA's Executive Council," he said.