

## Export Leadership Forum focuses on Growth & Circular Economy Opportunities for Irish business

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Speaking at the opening of the Irish Exporters Association’s Export Leadership Forum held this week at the Croke Park Conference Centre, Association President and Managing Director of GE Healthcare Ireland, Paschal McCarthy urged the participants to address Ireland’s over-reliance on exports to three core markets – Continental Europe, the UK and the US. He went on to say: “We need to grow our exports to more diverse markets, in tandem with ensuring that our competitiveness is not compromised by pressures on wages and other inputs in what remains a crucial, yet fragile, stage in Ireland’s economic recovery.”

Kestutis Sadauskas, Director – Green Economy at the European Commission spoke of how the new circular economy would provide a competitive substitute for imported raw materials and enable the creation of up to two million new jobs in the EU. Also speaking on this theme and the Future Business Opportunities arising out of the circular economy in which redundant products and materials are re-used rather than dumped or incinerated, Hildagarde McCarville , CEO of Veolia Netherlands observed that, within the EU, there is an annual consumption of about 26 million tonnes of plastic products, most of which could be turned into new products, but all but 3.5 million tonnes are actually recycled.

The two-day Conference also had inputs from exporting companies in the pharma and food and drink sectors as well as service providers. Bryan Angvall of the Boeing Company gave a US perspective on Future Innovations in World Trade.

***(The March issue of 'Fleet Transport' will carry a full report on this event)***

***Howard Knott.***