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Chomhairle an Aontais Eorpaigh  
Irish Presidency of the Council  
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May 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>  
**2013**

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# European Corporate Governance & Company Law Conference

*Actions for Better Business*



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# Introduction



## Other Supporters





The conference is held as part of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union which runs for the first half of 2013. The European Corporate Governance and Company Law Conference is an event which was first held in 2004 as part of the Dutch Presidency and eleven such conferences have since taken place in various EU member states during their respective Presidencies.

The publication of the Commission's Action Plan on Company Law and Corporate Governance (The Action Plan) on 12 December 2012 has provided the background and focus of this event. The Action Plan - a modern legal framework for more engaged shareholders and sustainable companies - outlines the initiatives which the Commission intends to modernise and enhance. The initiatives, which will be both legislative and non-legislative, follow three main lines: (1) enhancing transparency (2) encouraging long-term shareholder engagement and (3) improving the framework for cross-border operation of companies.

The Action Plan is expected to lead the progress which will be made in the Corporate Governance and Company Law area, during the second half of Commissioner Barnier's mandate. The Action Plan will provide the principal focus and discussion topics for this event on Thursday, 16 and Friday, 17 May 2013.

The key objectives of the event are to discuss and debate the Action Plan, how companies can be more competitive and sustainable, as

well as highlighting corporate governance best practices for a 'new normal'. The conference will also highlight the key role corporate governance plays for sustainable business and future economic stability and investment. It will conclude on the ensuing actions for business.

The conference will also feature key sessions on other major topical corporate governance issues - these include short-termism, board diversity, and an EU/Global perspective on corporate governance.

# Day one

12.30- 1.30pm	<b>Arrival, registration and buffet lunch</b>
1.30 - 1.40pm	<b>Conference Chair: Pat Cox</b> , Former President of the European Parliament  Mr. Cox welcomes delegates and sets the agenda for the afternoon detailing the objectives of the first day of the conference.
1.40 - 2.00pm	<b>Speaker: Richard Bruton, T.D.</b> , Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
2.05 - 2.20pm	<b>Video message: Michel Barnier</b> , European Commissioner for Internal Market and Services
2.20 - 2.50pm	<b>Speaker: Ugo Bassi</b> , Director for Capital and Companies, DG Internal Market and Services, European Commission  Mr. Bassi will highlight the main points from the Commission's Action Plan on Company Law and Corporate Governance.
2.50 - 3.40pm	<b>Panel discussion: European Commission's Action Plan on Company Law and Corporate Governance</b>  The discussion will focus on important elements within the Action Plan including, for example, risk management in large corporations, executive pay and stakeholder engagement. This panel of leading commentators provide business, academic and regulatory perspectives on impacts and outcomes arising from the new corporate governance landscape.  <b>Chaired by: Pat Cox</b> , Former President of the European Parliament  <b>Panel:</b> <i>Ugo Bassi</i> , Director for Capital and Companies, DG Internal Market and Services; <i>Chris Hodge</i> , Director, Corporate Governance, UK Financial Reporting Council; <i>Paul Haran</i> , Chairman, UCD, Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business and Director of Glanbia plc; <i>Niamh Brennan</i> , Professor of Management, UCD; <i>Dr Thomas B. Courtney</i> , Arthur Cox, Dublin
3.40 - 4.00pm	<b>Coffee Break</b>
4.00 - 5.00pm	<b>ECGI Session: Short-termism, the impact of financial markets and the UK Kay Review</b> Conference Chair introduces the European Corporate Governance Institute (ECGI) Session. Speakers will focus on short termism, including sustainable business models and risk management in large corporations.  <b>Chaired by: Jörgen Holmquist</b> , Chairman of the ECGI, former Director General, DG Internal Market and Services at the European Commission  <b>Speakers: Professor Patrick Bolton</b> , Professor of Business, Columbia Business School and <b>Professor Alex Edmans</b> , Assistant Professor of Finance, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
5.00 - 6.00pm	<b>Panel discussion: Reaction to ECGI Session</b> The panel will discuss and debate key areas highlighted at the ECGI session.  <b>Panel:</b> <i>Professor Colin Mayer</i> , Peter Moores Professor of Management Studies, Saïd Business School, University of Oxford; <i>Myles Lee</i> , Chief Executive, CRH plc; <i>Chris Hitchen</i> , Chief Executive of the Railways Pension Trustee Company, Chairman of the Pensions Quality Mark and Member of the Advisory Board for the Kay Review
6.00 - 6.15pm	Jörgen Holmquist summarises the day and brings day 1 to a close.
6.15pm	<b>Drinks Reception</b> Networking drinks.

Conference subject to change, please visit [www.corpgov2013.com](http://www.corpgov2013.com) for updates

# Day two

8.00 - 8.45am	<b>Continental breakfast and registration</b>
8.45 - 9.00am	<b>Conference Chair: Danny McCoy</b> , Chief Executive Officer, Irish Business and Employers Confederation, welcomes delegates, recaps on day 1 and sets the agenda for day 2.
9.00 - 9.30am	<b>Keynote speaker: Commissioner Daniel M. Gallagher</b> , Commissioner of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
9.30 - 10.00am	<b>A Global Investor perspective on recent developments in EU Corporate Governance</b> <b>Speaker: Amra Balic</b> , Head of Corporate Governance and Responsible Investment, BlackRock EMEA, outlines the key considerations for the European and Global investment community operating within the EU in light of the Action Plan.
10.00 - 10.50am	<b>Panel discussion: EU v The Rest of the World - An EU/Global perspective on Corporate Governance</b> In the context of doing business in the EU versus the rest of the world, this panel will consider the wider practical implications with particular emphasis on trading with the US and Asia. <b>Chaired by: Danny McCoy</b> , Chief Executive Officer, Irish Business and Employers Confederation <b>Panel:</b> <i>Amra Balic</i> , BlackRock; <i>Patrick Zurstrassen</i> , Chairman of ecoDa; <i>Ian Dilks</i> , PwC Global Leader, Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs; <i>Joëlle Simon</i> , Chairman, BusinessEurope Legal Affairs Committee and Director, Legal Affairs, MEDEF (Movement of Enterprises of France).
10.50 - 11.10am	<b>Coffee Break</b>
11.10 - 11.40am	<b>Corporate Social Responsibility: a corporate perspective</b> <b>Speaker: Siobhán Moriarty</b> , General Counsel Designate, Diageo plc
11.40 - 11.55am	<b>Irish Stock Exchange initiative to improve Corporate Governance Reporting</b> <b>Speaker: Daryl Byrne</b> , Head of Regulation, Irish Stock Exchange
11.55 - 12.25pm	<b>Boardroom Diversity: Research Paper</b> This session will formally launch a specially commissioned research paper for the conference on boardroom diversity. Professors Ahern and Clarke will present the key findings of their comparative study of self-reported diversity practices in listed companies in the UK, Australia, Norway, Belgium and Spain. The study examines board composition data, definitions of diversity, benefits of diversity and diversity policies within the differing regulatory regimes. It also reviews the manner in which pro-diversity measures were embedded within companies to support the sourcing and growing of talent. <b>Speakers: Professor Blanaid Clarke</b> , M <sup>c</sup> Cann FitzGerald Chair of Corporate Law, Trinity College Dublin and <b>Professor Deirdre Ahern</b> , Assistant Professor and Fellow of Trinity College Dublin specialising in Company Law, Corporate Governance and Commercial Law
12.25 - 1.15pm	<b>Panel discussion: Boardroom Diversity</b> The panel will discuss and debate the key areas highlighted in the paper just delivered on boardroom diversity. <b>Panel:</b> <i>Danuta Gray</i> , Non-Executive Director; <i>Peter Cassells</i> , NUI Maynooth and former General Secretary, Irish Congress of Trade Unions; <i>Chris Hodge</i> , Director, Corporate Governance, UK Financial Reporting Council; <i>Louise Phelan</i> , Vice President, Global Operations, PayPal EMEA; <i>Professors Blanaid Clarke and Deirdre Ahern</i>
1.15 - 1.30pm	Conference Chair summarises and brings conference to a close.
1.30pm	<b>Conference closes:</b> Light networking lunch.

Conference subject to change, please visit [www.corpgov2013.com](http://www.corpgov2013.com) for updates

# Speaker Details



**Michel Barnier**  
(By Video message)  
European Commissioner  
for Internal Market and  
Services



**Richard Bruton, T.D.**  
Minister for Jobs,  
Enterprise and Innovation



**Ugo Bassi**  
Director for Capital and  
Companies, DG Internal  
Market and Services,  
European Commission



**Commissioner  
Daniel M. Gallagher**  
Commissioner of the U.S.  
Securities and Exchange  
Commission

## Day one, Conference Chair

## Day two, Conference Chair



**Pat Cox**  
Former President  
of the European  
Parliament



**Danny McCoy**  
Chief Executive  
Officer, Irish Business  
and Employers  
Confederation



**Jörgen Holmquist**  
Chairman of the European  
Corporate Governance  
Institute, former Director  
General, DG Internal Market  
and Services, European  
Commission



**Siobhán Moriarty**  
General Counsel Designate,  
Diageo plc



**Professor Blanaid Clarke**  
McCann FitzGerald Chair  
of Corporate Law,  
Trinity College Dublin



**Professor Deirdre Ahern**  
Company Law, Corporate  
Governance and  
Commercial Law,  
Trinity College Dublin



**Professor Patrick Bolton**  
Professor of Business,  
Columbia Business School



**Professor Alex Edmans**  
Professor of Finance, The  
Wharton School, University  
of Pennsylvania



**Amra Balic**  
Head of Corporate  
Governance and  
Responsible Investment,  
BlackRock EMEA



**Daryl Byrne**  
Head of Regulation,  
Irish Stock Exchange



## Panelists include:

### Day one



**Professor Niamh Brennan**  
Professor of Management,  
University College Dublin



**Dr Thomas B. Courtney**  
Partner, Head of  
Company Compliance &  
Governance  
Arthur Cox, Dublin



**Paul Haran**  
Chairman, UCD, Michael  
Smurfit Graduate School of  
Business and  
Director of Glanbia plc



**Chris Hitchen**  
Chief Executive of the Railways  
Pension Trustee Company,  
Chairman of the Pensions  
Quality Mark and Member of  
the Advisory Board for the Kay  
Review



**Chris Hodge**  
Director, Corporate  
Governance, UK Financial  
Reporting Council



**Myles Lee**  
Chief Executive, CRH plc



**Professor Colin Mayer**  
Peter Moores Professor  
of Management Studies,  
Saïd Business School and  
University of Oxford

### Day two



**Peter Cassells**  
Executive Director, Edward M  
Kennedy Institute for Conflict  
Intervention at NUI Maynooth  
and former General Secretary,  
Irish Congress of Trade Unions



**Ian Dilks**  
PwC Global Leader, Public  
Policy and Regulatory Affairs



**Danuta Gray**  
Non-Executive Director



**Louise Phelan**  
Vice President, Global  
Operations, PayPal EMEA



**Joëlle Simon**  
Chairman, BusinessEurope  
Legal Affairs Committee  
and Director, Legal Affairs,  
Movement of Enterprise of  
France



**Patrick Zurstrassen**  
Chairman, ecoDa

For more information  
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