

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Minister Paschal Donohoe embraces French Connections, as France Ireland Chamber of Commerce Discusses Future of EU**

**Dublin, 10 June 2019** – Minister for Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe was this afternoon joined by a number of senior French Senators led by Monsieur Gerard Larcher for the Annual Business Lunch of the France Ireland Chamber of Commerce.

Entitled ‘The Future of the European Union’, the lunch featured a keynote speech from Minister Donohoe in which he celebrated the ties between Ireland and France:

*“I am delighted to be speaking at the France Ireland Chamber of Commerce business lunch, and I am particularly pleased to be able to welcome a high level delegation from the French Senate.*

*“France is one of our nearest neighbours, an important EU partner, and our fourth largest economic partner. We enjoy a dynamic two-way trading relationship, that is supporting jobs in Ireland and France. There are real opportunities to further deepen our already close connections in the coming years.”*

Joining Minister Donohoe was Monsieur Gerard Larcher, President of the French Senate and second only in Protocol to the French President himself, Emmanuel Macron.

The more than 200 business lunch guests and diplomatic and political personalities were also addressed by France Ireland Ambassador, Monsieur Stephane Crouzat, Chamber and President Mr Mathieu Gorge. Mr Derek Kehoe, CEO of event sponsor, BNP Paribas was also present.

All said and done this high-powered event delivered a detailed insight as to where and how Europe needs to deliver and crucially how Ireland and France can collaborate to maximise, exploit and benefit from the ever-increasing opportunities presented by Brexit.

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#### **About FICC**

Established in 1978, The France Ireland Chamber of Commerce is a private, non-profit membership organisation without political or religious nature, which gathers French companies, non-French companies wishing to develop their relations with France, and business people representative of French economic interests in Ireland.

FICC Objectives are:

- To contribute to the development of economic, industrial and trade relations between France and Ireland, including bringing together business communities
- To promote the development of French companies' activities in Ireland and Irish business to France by all means and in all areas
- To encourage the exchange of information and ideas among FICC members by organising events and disseminating any relevant publications
- To promote the image of France in Ireland and Ireland in France
- To spread the views of FICC on relevant economic issues, representing the general interests of member businesses and professionals to public authorities, government and other organisations in Ireland and in France.

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