



STATEMENT

ERT gathers in Dublin, meets Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Paschal Donohoe, President of the Eurogroup

DUBLIN, 22 May 2023: The European Round Table for Industry (ERT) met in Dublin yesterday and day, as part of its semi-annual meetings. This year's spring meeting, hosted by Tony Smurfit, CEO of Smurfit Kappa Group, brought together leaders from around 50 of Europe's most significant industrial and technology companies with operations worldwide.

The meeting was honoured by the company of the Taoiseach Leo Varadkar and Paschal Donohoe, President of the Eurogroup and Minister for Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform.

As significant employers, innovators and investors in European regions, the meeting was an opportunity for ERT Members* to discuss some of the key themes of the moment and put their questions to the Taoiseach and the President of the Eurogroup.

As a cross-sectoral high level forum, ERT's focus is on the long-term industrial outlook for Europe, against the backdrop of a shifting global landscape. This includes the following priority areas:

1. **Europe's competitiveness in a changing global order:** Europe is a longstanding defender of the multilateral rules-based system and open trade. While European industrial companies continue to invest heavily to deliver the green transition, their operations have been severely hampered by unpredictable geopolitics of the war in Ukraine and the volatile energy costs in the EU in the past year.

With its Inflation Reduction Act, the US is attracting the latest waves of major investments in new operations and R&D. Europe must find its own way to secure the next generation of industrial development in Europe, including SME-dominated industrial ecosystems across the EU-27.

2. **EU Single Market:** This year marks the 30th anniversary of the dawn of the Single Market. As a foundation of EU unity and prosperity, it needs renewed political attention to ensure that remaining barriers can be addressed, spurring a renewed wave of prosperity. At the moment, a true European Energy Union looks increasingly urgent and key to achieving EU decarbonisation targets. Furthermore, the European Capital Markets Union would deliver much-needed new avenues of funding for European innovation, in particular for tech start-ups & scale-ups.

3. **Innovation:** With innovation now a key determinant of competitiveness, a rethink is needed of the regulation and funding of this sector – refocusing on robust IP rights and standardisation and realising scale-up of investment-intensive innovation.
4. **Addressing the Skills gap:** ERT is vocal supporter of the effort to build a culture of lifelong learning and reskilling in Europe – as evidenced by its reskilling programme, R4E^o. With the twin transitions driving an urgent need for new skillsets, EU support for reskilling needs more volume and more resources. More investment is needed in education, training, and reskilling along with better co-operation between the public and private sector.

In addition, the results of The Conference Board's independent semi-annual economic confidence survey of the CEOs & Chairs in ERT will also be released tomorrow.

Note to Editors:

* The names of the ERT Members in attendance at the meeting in Dublin are on **the pages that follow**. A full list of the membership of ERT is accessible <https://ert.eu/members/>

** More information on ERT's position on the Single Market is available in the publication *Renewing the dynamic of European integration: Single Market Stories by Business Leaders* is available here: <https://ert.eu/single-market>

^o ERT's Reskilling initiative, R4E, is already being championed by 7 companies led by Members of ERT and is active in 3 EU countries (Portugal, Spain & Sweden) with more expected soon. For more information, visit <https://r4e.eu>

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About the European Round Table for Industry (ERT)

The European Round Table for Industry (ERT) is a forum that brings together around 60 Chief Executives and Chairs of leading multinational companies of European parentage, covering a wide range of industrial and technological sectors. ERT strives for a strong, open and competitive Europe, with the EU and its Single Market as a driver for inclusive growth and sustainable prosperity. Companies of ERT Members have combined revenues exceeding €2 trillion, providing direct jobs to around 5 million people worldwide – of which half are in Europe – and sustaining millions of indirect jobs. They invest more than €60 billion annually in R&D, largely in Europe. www.ert.eu

ERT Delegation, Dublin, 21/22 May 2023

Jean-François van Boxmeer	Chair, ERT Chairman, Vodafone Group
Nancy McKinstry	Vice-Chair, ERT CEO and Chairman of the Executive Board, Wolters Kluwer
Dimitri Papalexopoulos	Vice-Chair, ERT Chairman of the Executive Committee, TITAN Cement
José María Álvarez-Pallete	Chair, ERT Committee on Jobs, Skills & Impact Chairman and CEO, Telefónica
Nils Andersen	Chairman, Unilever Chair, ERT Committee on Competition Policy
Jacob Wallenberg	Chair, ERT Committee on Trade & Market Access Chair, Investor AB
Oliver Zipse	Chair, Finance & Tax Committee Chairman of the Board of Management, BMW Group
Hilde Merete Aasheim	President and CEO, Norsk Hydro
Jean-Paul Agon	Chairman, L'Oréal
Zoltán Áldott	Chairman of the Supervisory Board, MOL
Nils Andersen	Chairman, AkzoNobel / Unilever
Cláudia Azevedo	Chief Executive Officer, Sonae
Leonhard Birnbaum	Chief Executive Officer, E.ON
Martin Brudermüller	Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors, BASF SE
Jean-Pierre Clamadiou	Chairman, ENGIE SA
Rodolfo De Benedetti	Chairman, CIR
Pierre-Andre de Chalendar	Chairman of the Board of Directors, Saint-Gobain
Rafael del Pino	Chairman, Ferrovial
Michel Demaré	Chairman, AstraZeneca
Stefan Doboczky	Chief Executive Officer, Heubach Group
Henrik Ehrnrooth	President and CEO, KONE
Börje Ekholm	President and CEO, Ericsson
Guillaume Faury	Chief Executive Officer, Airbus
Christoph Franz	former Chairman of the Board, Roche
Ignacio Galán	Executive Chairman, Iberdrola
Oscar García Maceiras	Chief Executive Officer, Inditex
Paul Hermelin	Chairman of the Board, Capgemini
Timotheus Höttges	Chief Executive Officer, Deutsche Telekom
Roy Jakobs	Chief Executive Officer, Royal Philips
Jan Jenisch	Chief Executive Officer, Holcim
Ilham Kadri	CEO & President of the Executive Committee, Solvay
Ola Källenius	Chairmen of the Board of Management, Mercedes-Benz Group AG
Thomas Leysen	Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Umicore
Helge Lund	Chairman, bp

Martin Lundstedt	President and CEO, AB Volvo
Benoît Potier	Chairman, Air Liquide
Patrick Pouyanné	Chairman of the Board and CEO, TotalEnergies
Alessandro Profumo	Chief Executive Officer, Leonardo
Gianfelice Rocca	Chairman, Techint Group of Companies
Björn Rosengren	Chief Executive Officer, ABB
Tony Smurfit	Group Chief Executive Officer, Smurfit Kappa Group
Jim Hagemann Snabe	Chairman, Siemens
Jakob Stausholm	Chief Executive Officer, Rio Tinto
Carl-Henric Svanberg	Chairman, AB Volvo
Jonathan Symonds	Chairman, GSK
Dolf van den Brink	Chairman of the Executive Board and CEO, HEINEKEN
Peter Wennink	President & CEO, ASML
Frank Heemskerck	Secretary General, ERT