

IRELAND FOR LAW

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

THURSDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 4.00PM VIA MS TEAMS

ATTENDANCE:

John Bruton, Chairman
The Hon Mr Justice David Barniville, Court of Appeal
John Shaw, Department of An Taoiseach
Oonagh Buckley, Department of Justice & Equality
Christopher Quattrociochi, Department of Justice & Equality
Liam O'Daly, Office of the Attorney General
Patrick Rooney, Office of the Attorney General
Patrick Leonard SC, The Bar of Ireland
Paul McGarry SC, The Bar of Ireland
Michelle Ní Longáin, President, The Law Society of Ireland
Mark Garrett, Director General, The Law Society of Ireland
Liam Kennedy, The Law Society of Ireland
Conor Finn, Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade
Jean O'Neill, DETE
Karen Cullen, Department of Finance
Justin Sullivan, Department of Finance
Aidan McCauley, IDA Ireland
Christine Comiskey, CSSO
Rose Fisher, Arbitration Ireland (Secretary)

GUEST ATTENDEES FOR PRESENTATION PURPOSES

Jonathan Newman SC – The Bar of Ireland (Presentation on UPC)

APOLOGIES:

The Chairman, John Bruton, called the meeting to order, thanked those in attendance and listed the apologies.

Paul Gallagher SC, Attorney General
James Farrell, IDA Ireland
John Laffan, Department of Justice & Equality
Niamh Guihen, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation
Ciara Murphy, The Bar of Ireland
Sarah Callanan, Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade
Darina Flynn, Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade

APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (4 November 2021):

The draft minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES WEEK:

An overview of the Dublin international disputes week was provided, and the Chairman thanked all of those involved with the preparations and sponsorship to date.

UPDATE ON PROPOSAL FOR UPC REFERENDUM/PROPOSAL TO SEEK LIFE SCIENCES CENTRAL DIVISION & IP TECHNOLOGY COURT:

The Government were positively disposed to the proposal, and the timing of a referendum was a matter for them. It was noted that there would be enormous benefits for SME's located here making it simpler, cheaper, and more efficient to enforce European patents across Europe. Other benefits included significant jobs arising from developing Ireland's status as a Centre for Research & Development, and of course the enhancement of Ireland's reputation. It was acknowledged that public speaking opportunities should be taken in order to create awareness. Enterprise Ireland should also be involved in these efforts. It was agreed to keep this topic on the Agenda as a rolling item to keep the Committee informed of developments.

IFL STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND COST PLAN:

The draft strategic priorities and cost plan was included in the papers for noting and would be discussed in greater detail at the next meeting. The Committee were invited to review and provide feedback prior to the next meeting.

PROPOSED EVENTS TO PROMOTE THE IRELAND FOR LAW INITIATIVE:

EU Bar Association Event would take place 3rd March 2022 at the Irish Embassy London. Preparations were underway.

A Paris event in the Irish Embassy was being organised in collaboration with Arbitration Ireland during Paris Arbitration Week and was scheduled to take place Tuesday, 29th March 2022. Preparations were underway.

Two events would take place in NY the week of the 12 September 2022, the focus in NY will be financial services and insolvency and restructuring. Collaborating Firms would organise key target invitees. It was advised by the Consulate to host morning events to attract senior attendees.

Promotion of the ISDA Irish law Master Agreement in the European markets was intended to commence in 2022 with two Capitals identified Spain/Netherlands. The DFA were assisting with arrangements regarding venues in various capitals & DFIN/BPFI were assisting in relation to key contacts to invite.

In relation to the proposed General Counsel event at the Law Society, consultation had taken place with the Law Society's In House Counsel committee and there had been an IFL presentation at their recent annual conference. It was envisaged that further engagement would take place domestically in the first instance and Minister McEntee would be contacted regarding her availability to participate in such an event. The IDA offered their support once the approach for international contacts was required.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORT OF THE CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM GROUP, PROPOSALS ON JUDICIAL NUMBERS, AND ROLL OUT OF IT IMPROVEMENTS TO THE COURTS SERVICE AND OTHER MATTERS:

There were various amendments required which would then be resubmitted for approval. The Report would be delivered in line with approximate timeframes within which the actions are to be achieved.

It was noted that the new rules were in effect for the specialist IP & Technology sub division of the commercial court and this item would now be removed from the Agenda.

UPDATE ON PROPOSALS CREDIT REPORTING ACT – STRUCTURED FINANCE:

The relevant personnel are now in place within the Banking division of the Department of Finance. A meeting is being organised between the relevant individuals to discuss the matter.

SOCIAL MEDIA STATS/PROMOTION OF INITIATIVE -SBP ARTICLE 16TH JANUARY 2022:

The Committee noted the statistics and SBP article. It was intended to seek further opportunities to create awareness surrounding the broader scope which the IFL initiative encompassed.

AOB

The Law Society proposed adding a further representative to the Implementation Group, namely Tara Doyle, Partner Matheson. The Meeting agreed with this request.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

DATE: Thursday, 31st March 2022

VENUE: DOJ will host physical meeting and will confirm availability of the Atrium shortly

TIME: 14.00