



Gabriel Makhoul

Governor of the Central Bank of Ireland

Civil Society Roundtable

Monday, 26 April 2021

Good morning everyone,

I am delighted to welcome you all to the Central Bank's Civil Society Roundtable. This is our second Roundtable delivered under COVID-19 restrictions but I'd say we are all much more used to this way of working than we were in June 2020 when we last met.

Since then, the Central Bank has worked hard to ensure that we continue to build connections with our communities as we work for the welfare of the people as a whole. We have undertaken many stakeholder events with civil society organisations, chambers of commerce, academic institutions and others. Many of you attended our ECB Strategy Review listening events in February – we would like to thank you for your contribution.

I'm joined by my colleagues on the Executive Leadership Committee – Sharon Donnery, Deputy Governor – Central Banking, Ed Sibley, Deputy Governor - Deputy Governor, Prudential Regulation, Derville Rowland, Director General, Financial Conduct and Gerry Quinn Chief Operations. Colleagues from across the Bank will also join us to make presentations throughout the meeting.

A key priority for us here in the Central Bank is to engage with the public and with our stakeholders across the whole economy, in particular to listen and to learn. To do that well we need to ensure that we learn from others, from their experiences and from their knowledge.

The exchange of information and ideas, gaining knowledge and insight helps us to do our jobs as effectively as possible. We greatly appreciate your ongoing participation in this Roundtable and we are considering plans to further enhance the role of this group to ensure it can continue to effectively contribute to our work. More details about that will be provided later.

As always, today's event is run on the basis of Chatham House Rules - We will publish a report about our discussions but we won't identify speakers or organisations. We will also circulate a copy of this report to you.

To kick off today's events, Mark Cassidy, our Director of Economics and Statistics will make a presentation looking at The Diverse Effects of COVID-19 on Employment, Income & Savings. The Central Bank has undertaken wide ranging research to look at the impact of COVID-19 on our economy and our financial system over the course of the last 14 months. Mark's presentation will bring together some of our findings to provide a picture of the impact of COVID-19 across our society and our economy.

We will then have an opportunity for discussion with you and as always today we would like to hear from you. We would like to hear about issues that are arising in your work which relate to the mandate of the Central Bank.

After that discussion, we would like to take some time to ask you about our plans for the future. We are currently developing our new Strategic Plan. This plan will shape our strategic direction over the long term and guide our work for the next three to five years.

We are currently seeking your views and the views of the public so we would like to hear from you today but would also be very happy to hear from people that you support in writing after the event.

Glenn Calverley, Head of Strategy & Foresight will give you further details about our plans and we will put a number of questions to you in relation to our future planning.

Sonya Felton, from our Communications Division will also introduce some details from our current Consultation Paper, Enhancing Stakeholder Engagement which includes some specific points in relation to the Civil Society Roundtable.