

## Business in the Community Ireland

### COP21 Commitment and call for action from Irish Business Leaders

As leading businesses in Ireland we realise that dangerous climate change poses unacceptable social, environmental and economic risks – the science on this is clear. This demands a transformational change in how we manage our economy. This transformation to a low-carbon, climate resilient economy also presents us with enormous opportunities including but not limited to the creation of new jobs, increased competitiveness and exports, efficiency and productivity gains, innovation, energy security, fuel poverty alleviation and regional development.

To take advantage of these opportunities we need strong policy and regulatory certainty. A sound global agreement in Paris is essential to provide this certainty including:

- A commitment to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions and a timeline for achievement of this.
- Support for robust global carbon pricing
- An agreement to mobilise climate finance and a supportive policy framework to stimulate private sector investment in the low carbon economy and climate resilience.

In Ireland, we welcome the progression of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill 2015 underpinning as it does a policy objective of 80% reduction in emissions and an approach to carbon neutrality in the agriculture and land-use sector. We also welcome the creation of Climate Change Advisory Council and look forward to the publication of its advice to Government and the adoption of the first National Mitigation Plan.

However, even with a strong global agreement and national legislation in place we need strong leadership to genuinely transition to a low-carbon, climate resilient society. As members of the Business in the Community Ireland network we are committed to the principles and practice of Corporate Responsibility. Action on climate change is a key component of this responsibility and we are already demonstrating leadership through the commitments we have made to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. We will continue to show leadership through actions such as:

- Setting ambitious science-based emissions reductions targets
- Adopting energy efficient technology and processes and procurement of renewable energy sources
- Collaboration with each other and our supply-chains to drive innovation
- Transparently report climate change information

We as businesses are ready to lead and we urge our politicians and global leaders to join us by embracing the opportunity provided at COP 21 in Paris to secure a global agreement on climate action.



**Eoghan Lynch**  
MD, Arup



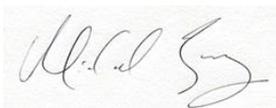
**Theo Cullinane**  
CEO, BAM Ireland



**Tina Roche**  
CEO, Business in the  
Community Ireland



**Brendan Jennings**  
Managing Partner,  
Deloitte Ireland



**Mike Barry**  
Director Plan A,  
Marks & Spencer



**Chris Martin**  
CEO, Musgrave  
Group



**David Murphy**  
CEO, PM Group



**Gary Hopwood**  
General Manager,  
Ricoh Ireland Ltd.



**Conor Gilligan**  
MD, Roadbridge



**Margot Slattery**  
Country President,  
Sodexo Ireland



**Stephen Wheeler**  
MD, SSE Airtricity



**Gerald Madden**  
MD, Transdev Ireland



**Estelle Brachlianoff**  
Senior Executive VP  
UK & Ireland, Veolia