

Port of Cork CEO: Ireland ‘Must Be Prepared’ To Boost Logistics Infrastructure Or Trade Opportunities Will Be Lost

Brendan Keating Announced as Chairman of Irish Chapter of Global Institute of Logistics

Dublin, August 23rd 2012: The chief executive of Port of Cork, Brendan Keating, has said that Ireland “must be prepared” to make significant improvements to its supply chain infrastructure, or the opportunities presented by increased domestic production “will be lost”.

His comments follow the announcement by the Irish Maritime Development Office last week (Aug 23) that containerised Irish exports fell 5% in the second quarter of the year.

Keating was speaking following his appointment as the chairman of the Irish Chapter of the Global Institute of Logistics (www.globeinst.org).

Through discussion with industry stakeholders, trade development organisations and government agencies, the Chapter will seek to establish guidelines on the role of logistics and maritime transport in economic development, the expansion of international trade opportunities and current infrastructure challenges.

“I am convinced that by encouraging debate, a healthy exchange of views and ideas between all stakeholders, the Irish Chapter can take on the challenges presented by the rapidly changing global logistics industry,” said Keating.

Following its formation, the Irish Chapter is scheduled to commence discussions with GIL’s China Chapter on the founding elements of a China-Ireland supply chain platform and liaise with the China Center for International Economic Exchanges (CCIEE) on increasing awareness of Ireland as an international trading partner.

It is also in the process of developing a white paper on the logistics challenges arising from the reforming of the EU Common Agricultural Policy in 2014, and the subsequent trade opportunities that will arise.

Keating continued: “Remember, increased trade leads to increased levels of economic activity, which in turn leads to higher levels of employment and consequently more trade and freight volumes for Irish ports.”

The Irish Chapter will be formally launched at an event taking place on November 7th, at UCD Michael Smurfit Business School.

The formation of the Irish Chapter coincides with the inauguration of Port of Cork as a member of the Global Institute of Logistics.

For further information, visit www.globeinst.org

ABOUT PORT OF CORK

Port of Cork is Ireland's premier deepwater port and a key strategic gateway on the south coast of Ireland. It is one of only two Irish ports which service the requirements of all six shipping modes, including lift on lift off (load on load Off), roll on roll off, liquid bulk, dry bulk, break bulk and cruise liner traffic. In 2011, Port of Cork's total traffic amounted to 8.8 million tonnes, and its turnover was €21.4 million (operating profit: €2 million).

ABOUT THE GLOBAL INSTITUTE OF LOGISTICS

The Global Institute of Logistics (GIL) was founded in 2003 by the members of the Global Logistics Forum. As a Membership Organization for international port communities, the Institute is focused on identifying best practice and building international standards of excellence through engagement with Port Authorities, logistics providers, shipping companies and other maritime supply chain organizations. This, in turn, creates a platform through which knowledge is shared, best practice is adopted and trade developed. The Institute's mission is to 'Improve Global Logistics One Port at a Time'.