

Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission

Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2025

10:00 a.m. in Room 1D of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday August 12th, by Emmett Riley and Loretto Leary.

The following committee members were present: Emmett Riley, Alex Dahlem, Edmond Cullinan, Colin O'Neill, Alex Peterson, Loretto Leary, John Frey, Tom O'Dea, Sen. Martin, Rep. Aniskovich, Kevin Ryan, Marty Dunleavy, Christine Kinealy, Paddi LeShane

The following committee members were absent: Moriah Moriarity, Sen. Kelly, Kevin Kelleher, Sen. Hartley, Rep. Meskers, Chris Dodd, Gregory Butler

- I. CONVENE MEETING**
- II. REMARKS BY CHAIRS**

No remarks were made by the chairs.

- III. SPEAKER – GARETH HARGADON, DEPUTY CONSUL GENERAL**

Co-Chairs Loretto Leary and Emmett Riley introduced Gareth Hargadon, Deputy Consul General.

Gareth Hargadon deems education and connections between university, and the country of Ireland is essential in the knowledge of Ireland. The links between trade between countries create prosperity and job opportunities for both countries. Also discusses links between exports and foreign investments that will remain crucial for the success of the committee.

- Alex asks if there are recommendations for education between the countries.
- Christine Kinealy notes that study abroad programs and internships to expand growth and form relationships between universities.
- Deputy Consul General notes that there are entities that have bolstered imports and exports between the country, which Emmett Riley asks for contact information of each entity.

- IV. SPEAKER – MARCHINO MUILLEOIR AND COLIN WALSH, CEO OF CRESENT CAPITAL**

Emmett Riley Introduces Marchino Muilleoir from the Northern Ireland Growth fund and Colin Walsh, CEO of Crescent Capital.

Máirtín Ó Muilleoir emphasizes that the sustained peace between Ireland and the United States have been sustained through investments to increase jobs. Discusses setting aside pension funds for early stage Irish companies, from the United States.

Colin Walsh and Crescent Capital have invested in 38 businesses in Northern Island to increase jobs as well.

- Marty Dunleavy asks for guidelines on the type of business that they are invested in.

- Colin Walsh discusses that they invest in types in businesses where there is open and equal opportunity. Look for businesses that are open to the trade union. The Crescent capital fund has expanded employment in leisure and hospitality, not only manufacturing.
- Colin O'Neill asks about the economic environment and the prosperity of prior investments.
- Marchino Muilleoir and Colin Walsh discuss that there has been a major shift in education, indigenous groups, and governmental transportation services especially ferries.
- Marty Dunleavy asks if this fund seeks to go beyond Belfast, and if there is an emphasis in agri-businesses.
- Colin Walsh states that the fund is also expanding to help other cities that are struggling, as well as in Agri-technology businesses that have helped Crescent Capital expand the spectrum.
- Loretto Leary ask about tariffs for Irish bars and restaurant, and clarification on percentages from different parts of the island.
- Paddi LeShane asks for a slide deck and information on how Crescent Capital has begun, and all investments.

V. DISCUSSION.

Marty Dunleavy suggests a subcommittee on investments.

Loretto Leary gives an update from Boston. Ireland is now the 5th largest trader with the United States, and there are online events every month. There is a 2026 Summit in Dublin in August of 2026, with valuable guest speakers.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Emmett Riley announces the next meeting to be Tuesday, September 9th, 2025.

VII. AJOURN MEETING

Emmett Riley adjourned the meeting.

Ava Del Vescovo

Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission Intern