



# The Ireland-U.S. Council

— A Business Organization —

## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

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### **The Ireland-U.S. Council Supports appointment of a U.S. Special Envoy to Northern Ireland**

**New York, February 17, 2021:** *The Ireland-U.S. Council* today added its voice to the calls for the swift appointment of a U.S. Special Envoy to Northern Ireland by President Biden which were first suggested by the *Irish Echo Newspaper* and endorsed by the influential *Ancient Order of Hibernians* organization.

In remarks amplifying its support for the appointment, the President of the Ireland-U.S. Council, Tom Higgins, Executive Vice President of *Fiserv* noted "We believe this would be welcomed by all people of goodwill who are working to ensure that in these post-Brexit days, no institutional or other changes will be allowed to occur that might compromise economic growth prospects and the harmonious peace that has been such a blessing to the Island of Ireland since the last decade of the 20 th Century."

Continuing Mr. Higgins added "We sincerely believe that the Irish Protocol to deal with issues in Ireland arising after Brexit present the best opportunity to safely and prosperously navigate the potentially choppy waters that these times present. It is vital that there be a smooth implementation of the outstanding commitments in the Good Friday Agreement."

In concluding remarks, Mr. Higgins noted "We strongly believe there are magnificent opportunities for economic renewal and fresh economic growth arising from the unique new dispensation where Northern Ireland enjoys all the advantages of remaining within the European Union's *Single Market* and its Customs Union, while at the same time enjoying unfettered access to all British mainland markets. Truly, it is the best of both worlds for all the people on the island of Ireland. We believe the appointment of a Special Envoy by the United States at this time would make a major contribution to this process."

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**NEW YORK**



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*The Ireland-U.S. Council* was founded in 1962 by business leaders in the United States and in Ireland. It is the premier transatlantic business organization that encourages and promotes business between Ireland and the United States. Its founding was in preparation for the visit of President John F. Kennedy to Ireland in the Spring of 1963, as a measure to build institutional form around a structure to improve business, economic and commercial relations between the two countries. The Council operates a variety of scholarship programs, stages seminars and hosts frequent events in Ireland and in America aimed at developing communications and dialogue between leaders in business, government and politics on both sides of the Atlantic.

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**NEW YORK**

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