

Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the Central Statistics Office and on behalf of the Irish Government as current President of the European Council, to welcome everyone to this very special Eurostat seminar. Today, Eurostat publishes a special report signalling issues that must be addressed in order to improve the measurement of globalisation and global value chains.

I would like to begin by thanking Trinity College Dublin, and in particular Prof. Philip Lane, Whately Professor of Political Economy and a member of our National Statistics Board and Prof. Louis Brennan, Director of the Institute for International Integration Studies for hosting this event. Unfortunately, Prof. Lane cannot be here today, so I would also like to thank Prof. Frank Barry, Professor of International Business at Trinity College for stepping in at the last minute.

I would also like to welcome Walter Radermacher, Chief Statistician of the European Statistical System and his colleagues from Eurostat to Dublin. And of course I would also like to welcome Dr. Tim Sturgeon from MIT, whose position paper we will be discussing this today.

It is fitting that Dr. Sturgeon's report on globalisation and global value chains is being launched in Ireland at the institute of International

Integration Studies. As a small, open economy with a high concentration of Foreign Direct Investment, the Central Statistics Office and Irish researchers and academics have long been at the coal face of globalisation. In fact, only yesterday, CSO published new statistics on International Sourcing which are available on our website [www.cso.ie](http://www.cso.ie).

I would like to congratulate Eurostat on taking the initiative in undertaking this important conceptual review. For as the Sturgeon paper makes clear, by ignoring the complexities highlighted, official statistics around the world may be incorrectly attributing GVA to countries or regions, with implications for National Accounts and, in a European context, the distribution of structural and cohesion funds. Furthermore, our understanding of how and where labour inputs interact within the production function may no longer be realistic or accurate with consequent implications for calculating labour and multi-factor productivity.

I am delighted to welcome the representatives from UNSD, OECD and the WTO. While Eurostat and the European Statistical System have commissioned this report to facilitate the development of a statistical manual, the report makes clear that a coordinated approach between Europe and the rest of world is essential. India, China, Indonesia, the US,

Japan, and Korea (to name a few) must develop a consistent approach to measurement. Eurostat and the European Statistical System cannot solve the problem of how to measure globalisation unilaterally and the collaboration of global institutes like UNSD, OECD and WTO is essential. Truly, the measurement of globalisation requires a global solution!

To conclude, I would again like to welcome everyone to this special event. Behind every event, there are hidden heroes – while I cannot acknowledge everyone, I would like to particularly thank Barra Casey from CSO and Manfred Schmeimann and Pekka Alajaasko from Eurostat who have worked tirelessly on making sure this event runs smoothly.

Dr. Sturgeon and Eurostat have presented us with a thought provoking report. The report has identified clearly the questions and data gaps that need to be addressed by official statistics, so that we can move from measuring internationalisation to the more complex phenomena of globalisation. I am certain that anyone who reads the report will be clear on the challenges that economic globalisation present for official statistics. I think this is the beginning of a very important journey for global business statistics.