

## This week's ICMSA AGM - Comer, Coveney & Hogan to speak - Special focus on likely outcome of Paris Climate Change Conference

The ICMSA Annual General will take place on Friday at Limerick's South Court Hotel. 'Housekeeping' in the morning and speeches and Q & As from the President John Comer, Minister Coveney and Commissioner Hogan beginning at 1.30 and finishing with dinner at 4.30. Besides the disappointment that has been the milk price paid to farmers in the first year of the post-quota period much discussion is sure to centre on the likely outcome of the Paris Climate Change conference that begins just three days later on Nov30. In light of Minister Coveney's reported comments that Irish farming will not be given a 'free pass' in relation to making reductions in carbon emissions, there will certainly be robust exchanges of this issue and the seeming incompatibility of the Minister's comments with the stated aims of both 'Food Harvest' and 'Food Wise' - the two official reports setting out the growth plan and targets for Irish food production over the next decades. ICMSA delegates will also expect to hear Commissioner Hogan elaborate and 'put some meat on the bone' regarding the Commission's tentative plans to reform the EU's supply-chain from its current state of non-regulation of corporate retailers and tolerated abuse of the welfare and margins of primary food producers. There has to be change of this lop-sided and wholly destructive system and more fairness for the farmer-producers. ICMSA meetings are absolutely open, transparent and robust questioning is not only tolerated but actively welcomed. This week's AGM, we trust, will be in that tradition. All members are eligible to attend but they must confirm their intention to attend by contacting Head Office at 061-314677 or [info@icmsa.ie](mailto:info@icmsa.ie)

Ends 23 November 2015.

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