

# Northern Ireland Local Authorities Driving Economic Growth & Jobs

**BRUSSELS OPEN DAYS**  
**TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2015**

**FREE to attend, half-day seminar for elected members and officials will be held at the Northern Ireland Executive Offices, Brussels, on Tuesday 13th October from 10.00am.**

## Context

The context of the event is to create an Northern Ireland EER Award legacy - showcasing Northern Ireland local authorities as drivers for local growth, job creation and to promote our regional SME buzz across Europe. NILGA have put together the event on the 13th October as part of the wider EU Open Days. Key speakers confirmed include Dr Joanna Drake, Director DG Growth and Mr Thomas Wobben, Director, Committee of the Regions (CoR). Commissioner Cretu has also been invited to speak on the future economic partnership between the Commission and Northern Ireland local authorities and region.

The audience being senior Northern Ireland local authority representatives, Northern Ireland regional SME growth agencies (Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI) / INVEST NI), previous EER Award winners, senior Commission and Committee of the Regions (CoR) representatives, MEPs and other regional national representatives.

## Purpose

NILGA with participants are looking to strengthen NI local government (and partners) post EER Award role as local level growth drivers. In particular, on the day:

- Acknowledging – through practical council illustrations - the important role played by NI local authorities in growing local economies & jobs.
- The economic benefits from focusing on growing local SMEs and skills.
- Showcasing some of the regional successful businesses and the support given by NI councils.
- Establishing a European regional platform mechanism to open local level led export and cluster opportunity.
- Strengthening a closer practical economic relationship with the Commissions and NILGA membership.
- Set up the business case for NI councils' involvement in the structural planning and local level delivery of any new Commission NI Task Force.
- The creation of regional entrepreneurial champions.



**Northern Ireland Local Government  
Association**

**tel: 028 9079 8972**

**web: [www.nilga.org](http://www.nilga.org)**

**twitter: @NILGA\_EER2015**



# Northern Ireland Local Authorities Driving Economic Growth & Jobs

## **BRUSSELS OPEN DAYS** **TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2015**

**FREE** to attend, half-day seminar for elected members and officials will be held at the Northern Ireland Executive Offices, Brussels, on Tuesday 13th October from 10.00am.

### Opportunity

NILGA is offering an open invitation to all Northern Ireland councils, cross-border groups, partners, elected members and officers to attend the free morning event. Participants gain will be from the ability to evidence council led SME successes to senior Commission investment markers and by creating the opportunity to benefit from targeted local European support and resources.

### DRAFT AGENDA

10:00am	<b>Welcome and opening address -</b> <i>Alderman Carla Lockhart, NILGA President</i>
10.20am	<b>The Prize for our SMEs</b> <i>Dr. Joanna Drake, Director, DG Growth</i>
10.40am	<b>DETI and Invest NI - European and Local Enterprise Partners</b>
	<b>DETI and Invest NI</b> New Economic Strategy for Northern Ireland - Local Economies Playing Their Part
11.00am	<b>NI Council Presentations</b> Local government as an efficient & innovative growth driver / European Entrepreneurial Region / skills development
11.30am	<b>Interactive Panel debate - EER Winners and Policy Makers with NI Councils</b> <i>Thomas Wobben, Director, Committee of the Regions (CoR)</i>
12.05pm	<b>What's to Come?</b> <i>Commissioner Cretu / DG Region – TBC</i>
12.25pm	<b>Close</b> <i>Alderman Carla Lockhart, NILGA President</i>
12.30pm	<b>Lunch &amp; networking (courtesy of OFMDFM Brussels Office)</b>

**Places at this seminar are limited so please register your interest now, please email your name, contact details and any dietary requirement to -**  
**[k.bishop@nilga.org](mailto:k.bishop@nilga.org)**



**Northern Ireland Local Government Association**

**tel: 028 9079 8972**

**web: [www.nilga.org](http://www.nilga.org)**

**twitter: [@NILGA\\_EER2015](https://twitter.com/NILGA_EER2015)**

