



**PRESS BRIEFING NOTE
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IRISH PARTNERS GET BEHIND GREEN EVENT

A number of partners have been involved in the efforts to address environmental issues at this year's Ryder Cup. Organisations such as Failte Ireland, Race Against Waste, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Golf Course Superintendent's Association and the Golfing Union of Ireland, all have a strong interest in the interaction between golf and the environment.

They have recognised that with the Ryder Cup coming to Ireland, there arises an opportunity to promote environmental stewardship across Ireland's golf sector.

Referring to the involvement of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Mr Dick Roche, TD, Minister for Environment, Heritage and Local Government added:

I welcome the environmental awareness programme being promoted by the organisers of this year's Ryder Cup. Hopefully those attending, as well as the wider global audience, will take home this important message, together with some great golfing moments!

I also welcome the on-going efforts made by the golf sector in Ireland to embrace their role as environmental stewards. I am particularly encouraged by the pro-active approach to environmental issues being taken by key bodies in the golf sector including the Golfing Union of Ireland and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of Ireland who are working closely with the National Parks and Wildlife Service of my Department.

Elizabeth Arnett, Director of the Race Against Waste programme said:

"There will be extensive recycling facilities in The Ryder Cup tented village and out on the course so people can separate plastic, aluminium and paper waste and there will be plenty of signage, on and off the course, so everyone knows what to do. A poster campaign on buses bringing people to The K Club will remind people to manage their waste properly when at The Ryder Cup. Food waste from hospitality units and caterers will also be separated out from other waste".

Paddy Mathews, Manager of Failte Ireland's Sustainable Tourism Unit added:

Golfing in Ireland is a great way to experience the dramatic landscapes, unspoilt environment and rich cultural heritage that this country has to offer. Ireland's precious environment provides the dramatic backdrop to each of its many courses, whether links or parkland. As part of its involvement with Golf Environment Europe, Fáilte Ireland, the National Tourism Development Authority, is working to ensure that golf plays its part in conserving our environment and heritage for generations to come.



Paddy Holohan, President of the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of Ireland said:

The Members of the G.C.S.A.I, who manage and maintain Golf Courses of Ireland, are delighted to be associated with our partners through this initiative to assist in the greening of The Ryder Cup. Golf Courses play a valuable role in maintaining and enhancing Ireland's landscape and protecting its wildlife.

We work hard to keep our professionally trained Superintendents and Greenkeepers updated with the latest environmental information, to ensure our golf courses are managed as sympathetically as possible. We think it is a wonderful idea to raise awareness of golf's relationship with the environment through The Ryder Cup, and in particular to get golfers to consider the wide range of issues that the modern greenkeeper has to address.

For more information on the greening of golf events, contact Jonathan Smith at Golf Environment Europe at jonathan@golfenvironmenteurope.org, or on 0044 07917 453147.

