

## **Bad and good reasons to vote to leave**

BREXIT poses a major complication for UK-Irish relations and that fact was under appreciated during the referendum debate, Open Europe Director, Henry Newman told the Killarney Economic Conference.

He said it was inevitable that it was going to have very profound implications for the relationship but more specifically for Northern Ireland and he can understand the concerns that have been caused on both sides.

"We have to find a solution that is politically sustainable," said Mr Newman, a former special advisor to Michael Gove in the Ministry of Justice, adding that he is optimistic that some version of the deal could still be agreed in the House of Commons.

There were a lot of mistakes made in the talks and there were some examples of where the EU Commission went too far with the UK, Mr Newman maintained.

"There was a disappointing lack of an understanding by any significant figure on the European side as to why Britain made this decision. There were plenty of bad reasons for voting to leave but there were some good reasons and Britain's relationship with the EU has always been a limbo and it's always been half-in, half-out from the very start," he said.

"There was a lack of understanding of some of the reasons why people voted to leave and there was just a casual dismissal.