

# Chamber of Commerce Holds 35th Government Forum

SAN JUAN – A broad discussion on the economic development of Puerto Rico and the areas of opportunity to increase or create new businesses was being held Wednesday at the Condado Plaza Hotel as part of the “Private Enterprise and Government” forum hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

“This is an event we do every year and we are going on No. 35. What we are going to do is sit legislators and officials of the executive [branch] who are secretaries or heads of agencies at each of the eight dialogue tables with the private sector and hand them a white paper with our recommendations,” CofC President David Rodríguez explained.

Secretary of State Luis G. Rivera Marín; the interim executive director of the fiscal oversight board, Ramón Ruiz Comas; and the government representative to the oversight board, Elías Sánchez Sifonte, were opening the event by discussing current efforts to promote economic development on the island. Resident Commissioner Jenniffer González Colón will send a video message.

The first four concurrent sessions will follow in several rooms with discussions on the private sector’s role with the new Enterprise Puerto Rico law, as well as what opportunities exist to carry out public-private partnerships and how small- and midsize businesses can begin to export products and services. The local healthcare industry’s challenges will also be discussed in another room.

Gov. Ricardo Rosselló will deliver the keynote speech during a luncheon at noon, and is expected to break down his achievements during the first 50 days of his administration, and the next economic development steps to be taken before his first 100 days.

“We all know how critical it is to push Puerto Rico’s economic-development wheel forward, which is why both the private sector and the executive and legislative [branches] must align to achieve it—outside partisan lines. This phenomenon is taking place and it is proof of what we will see in this Forum: Private Enterprise and Government,” said engineer Carlos J. Vivoni, third vice president of the CofC and coordinator of the event.

During the afternoon, there will be four additional roundtables taking place simultaneously to discuss labor reform; the tax system, debt and budget; reduction of energy costs and environmental protection; and permitting reform.