



**BRITISH-IRISH  
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY**

**COMHLACHT IDIR-PHARLAIMINTEACH  
NA BREATAINE AGUS NA hÉIREANN**

---

**FIFTEENTH PLENARY SESSION**

**30 and 31 March 1998**

**Sllieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan**

---

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

(Produced by JOHN ROYCROFT & FRANK CRANMER, Clerks to the Body)

## **1. Monday 30 March 1998**

**The sitting was opened in public at 9.40 am in the Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co.Cavan, with Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair.**

**The Chairman** announced that Mr Peter Temple-Morris had become an Associate Member of the Body.

**The Chairman** announced that, pursuant to Rule 2(a), **Helen Jackson, Mr Peter Temple-Morris, Mr David Tredinnick and Mr Gerry Reynolds**, being Associate Members, had accepted the invitation of the Steering Committee to assume the powers and responsibilities of Members for all of the Session.

### **1. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS, AS AMENDED**

*Ordered*, That the proposed Programme of Business for the current Session, as amended, be approved.-(**Mr Kevin McNamara**).

**The sitting was suspended at 9.45 am.**

**The sitting was resumed at 10.00 am with Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair.**

### **1. STATEMENT BY THE TAOISEACH**

A Statement was made by the Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern TD.

### **1. QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER**

The Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern TD, replied to Questions for oral answer put by Members of the Body.

**Mr Michael O'Kennedy took the Chair as Chairman.**

**The sitting was suspended at 11.10 am**

**The sitting was resumed at 11.45 am in private, with Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair.**

### **1. BUSINESS REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN**

Mr Charles Flanagan, Chairman of Committee A, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

Mr Michael Colvin, Chairman of Committee B, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

Mr Séamus Kirk, Chairman of Committee C, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

Mr Roger Stott, Chairman of Committee D, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

**The sitting was resumed in public at 12.20 pm.**

#### **1. RULES**

*Ordered*, That the Amendments to Rules 29 and 30 proposed by the Steering Committee in Document No. 57 be made with immediate effect.-**(Mr Kevin McNamara)**.

#### **1. SECOND ANNUAL REPORT**

*Resolved*, That the Body takes note of the Second Annual Report of the Body (Doc. No. 56).- **(Mr Michael Mates)**.

**The sitting was suspended at 1.40 pm.**

**The sitting was resumed in public at 2.40 pm with Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair.**

#### **1. THE FUTURE OF THE BODY**

The Body proceeded to an informal discussion of the future role of the Body having regard to the possibility of new elected institutions in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

**Mr David Winnick took the Chair as Chairman.**

**Mr Michael O'Kennedy resumed the Chair.**

**Mr David Winnick took the Chair as Chairman.**

**The sitting was adjourned at 4.15 pm till tomorrow.**

## **2. Tuesday 31 March 1998**

The sitting was opened in public at 10.40 am in the Slieve Russell Hotel, Ballyconnell, Co.Cavan, with **Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair.**

#### **1. RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS**

Motion made, and Question proposed, That the Body records its deepest appreciation of the commitment and hard work of all those involved, including the independent Chairmen, in the multi-party talks which are now in their concluding and most critical stage; urges the participants to take, in a spirit of reconciliation and generosity, the final steps to a just, comprehensive and balanced settlement within the three strands of the present talks; expresses its appreciation for the continuing

goodwill and support internationally for such a settlement; recognises the need for all parties to continue to adhere to the principles of democracy and non-violence which have underlain the talks; and looks forward to a successful outcome to the talks and the support of the people in the referenda, North and South.-(**Mr Charles Flanagan**).

**Mr David Winnick took the Chair as Chairman.**

**Mr Michael O'Kennedy resumed the Chair.**

And the Main Question being put:- It was agreed to unanimously.

*Resolved*, That the Body records its deepest appreciation of the commitment and hard work of all those involved, including the independent Chairmen, in the multi-party talks which are now in their concluding and most critical stage; urges the participants to take, in a spirit of reconciliation and generosity, the final steps to a just, comprehensive and balanced settlement within the three strands of the present talks; expresses its appreciation for the continuing goodwill and support internationally for such a settlement; recognises the need for all parties to continue to adhere to the principles of democracy and non-violence which have underlain the talks; and looks forward to a successful outcome to the talks and the support of the people in the referenda, North and South.

#### **1. ADJOURNMENT**

*Resolved*, That the Body do now adjourn.-(**Mr David Winnick**).

**The Session concluded at 12.50 pm.**