



**BRITISH-IRISH
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY**

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

SEVENTEENTH PLENARY SESSION

22 and 23 September 1998

Royal York Hotel, York

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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

1. TUESDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 1998

The sitting was opened in public at 10.10 am in the Royal York Hotel, York, with Mr David Winnick in the Chair.

The Chairman announced that, pursuant to Rule 2(a), **Mr John Austin MP, Mr Matt Brennan TD, Jean Corston MP, Mr Séan Doherty TD, Lord Glentoran, Mr John Grogan MP, Helen Jackson MP, Mr David Tredinnick MP and Mr Robert Walter MP**, 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

Ordered, That the proposed Programme of Business for the current Session be approved.-(**Mr Michael Mates.**)

2. TIME LIMIT ON SPEECHES

Ordered, That in respect of the debate on Recent Political Developments, members opening and closing the debate shall speak for not more than ten minutes each and other members shall speak for not more than four minutes each.-(**The Chairman.**)

The sitting was suspended at 10.15 am.

The sitting was resumed at 10.35 am with Mr David Winnick in the Chair.

16474. STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

A Statement was made by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Right honourable Dr Mo Mowlam MP.

16475. QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Right honourable Dr Mo Mowlam MP, replied to Questions for oral answer put by Members of the Body.

The sitting was suspended at 12.10 pm.

The sitting was resumed at 12.30 pm with Mr David Winnick in the Chair.

5. RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Plenary stood in silence for one minute in memory of the victims of the Omagh bombing and of all victims of violence.

Motion made, and Question proposed, That the Body welcomes the approval of the Belfast Agreement by majorities of 71 per cent in Northern Ireland and 94 per cent in the Republic in the two referendums, which thereby mandated the two

Governments fully to implement the Agreement; is pleased that parties supporting the Agreement gained a majority of seats in the elections for the Northern Ireland Assembly and strongly believes that the implementation of the Agreement will help to bring about a new era of peace, stability and cooperation; expresses its revulsion at the atrocity committed in Omagh; commends the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach on their positive response in the immediate aftermath of the Omagh atrocity and notes the initiative, taken by both Governments, which was endorsed by large majorities in both Parliaments; and utterly repudiates and condemns any continuation of acts of violence from whatever source.-(**Mr Charles Flanagan.**)

The sitting was suspended at 1.05 pm.

The sitting was resumed in public at 2.45 pm with Mr David Winnick in the Chair.

And the Question being put-It was agreed to.

Resolved, That the Body welcomes the approval of the Belfast Agreement by majorities of 71 per cent in Northern Ireland and 94 per cent in the Republic in the two referendums, which thereby mandated the two Governments fully to implement the Agreement; is pleased that parties supporting the Agreement gained a majority of seats in the elections for the Northern Ireland Assembly and strongly believes that the implementation of the Agreement will help to bring about a new era of peace, stability and cooperation; expresses its revulsion at the atrocity committed in Omagh; commends the Prime Minister and the Taoiseach on their positive response in the immediate aftermath of the Omagh atrocity and notes the initiative, taken by both Governments, which was endorsed by large majorities in both Parliaments; and utterly repudiates and condemns any continuation of acts of violence from whatever source.

6. ROAD AND RAIL LINKS ON THE ISLAND OF IRELAND

Resolved, That the Body notes the report of the Committee on Economic and Social Affairs [Doc. 58] on matters relating to the Road and Rail Links on the Island of Ireland, and agrees with the conclusions and recommendations of the report, which should be forwarded to both Governments for their observations.-(**Mr Séamus Kirk.**)

7. INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN UNION INVOLVEMENT WITH THE PEACE PROCESS

Resolved, That the Body notes the report of the Committee on International and European Affairs [Doc. 59] on matters relating to International and European Union Involvement with the Peace Process, and agrees with the conclusions and recommendations of the report, which should be forwarded to both Governments for their observations.-(**Mr Michael Colvin.**)

The sitting was adjourned at 5.20 pm till tomorrow.

2. WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER 1998

The sitting was opened in public at 9.10 am in the Royal York Hotel, York, with Mr David Winnick in the Chair.

8. THE FUTURE OF THE BODY

Motion made, and Question proposed, That the Body takes note of the paper entitled *The Future of the Body* [Doc. 60].-(Mr Michael O'Kennedy.)

Mr Michael O'Kennedy took the Chair as Chairman.

Mr David Winnick resumed the Chair.

And the Question being put-It was agreed to.

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the paper entitled *The Future of the Body* [Doc. 60].

At the invitation of the Steering Committee pursuant to Rule 2(c), Conseiller Laurie Morgan, of Guernsey, Mr Speaker Noel Cringle of Tynwald, Isle of Man and Senator Pierre Horsfall, of Jersey, addressed the Plenary.

The sitting continued in private.

9. 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 continued in public.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, That the Body do now adjourn.-(Mr Kevin McNamara.)

The Session concluded at 11.45 am.