



**BRITISH-IRISH
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY**

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

NINETEENTH PLENARY SESSION

14 and 15 September 1999

Garden House Hotel, Cambridge

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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

1. TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 1999

The sitting was opened in public at 9.05 am in the Garden House Hotel, Cambridge, with Mr David Winnick in the Chair.

The Co-Chairmen paid tribute to the late Roger Stott CBE MP, a Member of the Body, and the Plenary stood in silence for one minute in his memory.

The Chairman announced that, pursuant to Rule 2(a), **Senator Enda Bonner, Mr Mattie Brennan TD, Mr Paul Bradford TD, Lord Glentoran, Mr Andrew Mackinlay MP, Ms Helen Jackson MP, Senator Ann Leonard and Senator Francis O'Brien**, 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.-**(The Chairman.)**

2. COMMITTEE A - ORAL REPORT BY CHAIRMAN ON ACTIVITIES

Mr Charles Flanagan, Chairman of Committee A, made an oral report on the work of the Committee during the past six months.

3. RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Motion made, and Question proposed, That the Body, while welcoming the progress that has been made so far in implementing aspects of the Belfast Agreement, nevertheless notes with regret that it has not so far proved possible to form an Executive under the terms of the Agreement; continues to believe that the Agreement still represents the best way forward for the peace process; and calls on all parties to the Agreement and both Governments to redouble their efforts towards reaching a lasting settlement-**(Mr Charles Flanagan);**

The sitting was suspended at 12.50 pm.

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

4. BIIPB WEBSITE

At the invitation of the Steering Committee pursuant to Rule 2(c), the British Joint Clerk to the Body addressed the Plenary.

5. RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Question again proposed, That the Body, while welcoming the progress that has been made so far in implementing aspects of the Belfast Agreement, nevertheless notes with regret that it has not so far proved possible to form an Executive under

the terms of the Agreement; continues to believe that the Agreement still represents the best way forward for the peace process; and calls on all parties to the Agreement and both Governments to redouble their efforts towards reaching a lasting settlement.

And the Question being put;

The Body divided: Ayes, 35, Noes 1 (*Mr David Wilshire dissenting*).

So the Question was agreed to.

Resolved, That the Body, while welcoming the progress that has been made so far in implementing aspects of the Belfast Agreement, nevertheless notes with regret that it has not so far proved possible to form an Executive under the terms of the Agreement; continues to believe that the Agreement still represents the best way forward for the peace process; and calls on all parties to the Agreement and both Governments to redouble their efforts towards reaching a lasting settlement.

6. STATEMENT BY THE RT HON DR MO MOWLAM PC MP, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

A Statement was made by the Rt Hon Dr Mo Mowlam PC MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

7. QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

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

The sitting was adjourned at 5.25 pm till tomorrow.

2. WEDNESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 1999

The sitting was opened in public at 9.10 am in the Garden House Hotel, Cambridge, with Mr David Winnick in the Chair.

1. FUTURE OF THE BODY

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the Discussion Paper by the Working Group on the Future of the Body [Doc. No. 66] entitled 'The Future of the Body: Options for Development'.-(**The Co-Chairman.**)

At the invitation of the Steering Committee pursuant to Rule 2(c), Lord Alderdice, Initial Presiding Officer of the Northern Ireland Assembly, and an Associate Member of the Body, and Mr George Reid, Deputy Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, addressed the Body.

2. CAP REFORM

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the Report of the Committee on European and International Affairs [Doc. No. 67] on matters relating to Common Agricultural Policy Reform, and agrees with the conclusions and recommendations of the Report, which should be forwarded to both Governments for their observations.-**(Mr Michael Colvin.)**

3. EDUCATION AND INTER-COMMUNITY RELATIONS - A STUDY OF DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 1995

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the Responses of both Governments to the Report of the Committee on Culture, Education and the Environment [Doc. No. 68] on matters relating to Education and Inter-Community relations within Northern Ireland.-**(Ms Marian McGennis.)**

4. BUSINESS REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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

Mr Kevin McNamara, Chairman of Committee C, 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.

Ms Marian McGennis, Acting Chairman of Committee D, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

The sitting continued in public.

5. ADJOURNMENT

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

The Session concluded at 12.30 pm.