



**BRITISH-IRISH  
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY**

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

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**TWENTY-FIRST PLENARY SESSION**

**9 and 10 October 2000**

**Lettermore Suite, Galway Bay Hotel, Galway**

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**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

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

## **1. Monday 9 October 2000**

**The sitting was opened in public at 9.35 am in the Lettermore Suite, Galway Bay Hotel, Galway, with Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair.**

**The Co-Chairman paid tribute to the late Michael Colvin MP, a Member of the Body, and his wife Nichola, and the Plenary stood in silence for one minute in their memory.**

**The Chairman announced that, pursuant to Rule 2(a), Mr Paul Bradford TD, Mr Seán Docherty TD, Ms Helen Jackson MP and Mr Andrew Mackinlay 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.**

**The Chairman announced that the following Parliamentary Observers were attending the Plenary and that, at the invitation of the Steering Committee, they would be invited to address the Plenary pursuant to Rule 2(c): *Guernsey: Deputy Roger C Berry; Isle of Man: Mr Speaker Cannan; Northern Ireland: Mr Barry McElduff, Ms Carmel Hanna and Mr Seán Neeson; Scotland: Ms Patricia Ferguson, Ms Cathy Craigie, Ms Margaret Ewing, Mr David McLetchie and Mr Iain Smith; Wales: Mr John Griffiths, Dr Dai Lloyd and Ms Jenny Randerson.***

**The Chairman noted that apologies for absence had been received from the States of Deliberation of Jersey, which had been unable to send an observer on this occasion.**

### **1. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS**

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

### **2. RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS**

Motion made, and Question proposed, That the Body, conscious of the difficulties being faced by the two Governments and the parties in their efforts to achieve the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, welcomes the progress made so far, and urges both Governments and all parties to redouble their efforts to overcome the present problems-(*Mr Brian Hayes*);

**The sitting was suspended at 11 am.**

**The sitting was resumed at 11.25 am with Mr David Winnick in the Chair.**

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

And the Question being put;

*Resolved*, That the Body, conscious of the difficulties being faced by the two Governments and the parties in their efforts to achieve the full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, welcomes the progress made so far, and urges both Governments and all parties to redouble their efforts to overcome the present problems.

**The sitting was suspended at 12.45 pm.**

**The sitting was resumed at 2.30 pm, with Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair**

### **3. STATEMENT BY AN TAOISEACH, MR BERTIE AHERN TD**

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

### **4. QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER**

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

**The sitting was suspended at 4 pm.**

**The sitting was resumed at 4.15 pm.**

### **5. SABHAL MÒR OSTAIG AND THE COLUMBA INITIATIVE, AND THE WARRINGTON PROJECT**

*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. 74] on Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and the Columba Initiative, and the Warrington Project.-(**Mr Kevin McNamara.**)

### **6. THE RURAL ECONOMY**

*Resolved*, That the Body takes note of the responses of both Governments to the Report of the Committee on Economic and Social Affairs [Doc. No. 75] on the Future for Small Farms in the Rural Economy.-(**Mr. William O'Brien.**)

### **7. CAP REFORM**

*Resolved*, That the Body takes note of the further Observations of the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture to the Report of the Committee on European and International Affairs on matters relating to Common Agricultural Policy Reform [Doc. No. 76].-(**Mr. Robert Jackson.**)

**The sitting was adjourned at 4.40 pm till tomorrow.**

## **2. Tuesday 10 October 2000**

**The sitting was opened in public at 10.10 am in the Lettermore Suite, Galway Bay Hotel, Galway, with Mr David Winnick 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 William O'Brien**, Vice-Chairman of Committee C, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

**Mr Kevin McNamara**, Chairman of Committee D, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

**Mr Robert Jackson**, Chairman of Committee B, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

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

## **2. FUTURE OF THE BODY**

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Body takes note of the Discussion Paper on the Future of the Body [Doc. No. 77] entitled 'The Future of the Body - A Further Consideration'.-(**The Chairman**);

**The sitting was suspended at 11.10 am.**

**The sitting was resumed at 11.25 am.**

And the Question being put;

*Resolved*, That the Body takes note of the Discussion Paper on the Future of the Body [Doc. No. 77] entitled 'The Future of the Body - A Further Consideration'.

### **1. AMENDMENT TO THE RULES**

Rule 1 was amended (with one Member abstaining) by inserting new paragraphs (e) and (f), as follows:

"(e) In pursuit of the objectives of paragraph 11 of Strand Three of the Good Friday Agreement, the Steering Committee may:

(i) co-opt to the Body so many Members from the High Court of Tynwald, the National Assembly for Wales, the Scottish Parliament, the Northern Ireland Assembly, the States of Deliberation of Jersey, and the States of Guernsey as it considers appropriate; and

(ii) promulgate such consequential amendments to the Rules of the Body as it considers necessary in pursuit of those objectives.

(f) Any amendment to the Rules of the Body made under paragraph (e) above shall be subject to ratification or amendment by the Body at the next Plenary session following its promulgation."-**(Mr Gerry Bermingham.)**

**1. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**The Session concluded at 12.35 pm.**