



**BRITISH-IRISH
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY**

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

TWENTY-FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

25 and 26 March 2002

Conference Suite, Berkeley Court Hotel, Dublin

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(Produced by ALDA BARRY & JIM MULKERRINS, Clerks to the Body)

1. Monday 25 March 2002

The sitting was opened in public at 9.30 am in the Conference Suite, Berkeley Court Hotel, Dublin, with Mr Michael O'Kennedy TD in the Chair.

The Chairman announced that, pursuant to Rule 2(a), **Senator Enda Bonner, Senator Francis O'Brien, Senator Shane Ross, Ms Gillian Merron MP and Mr Chris Ruane 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.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS

Ordered, That the proposed Programme of Business for the current Session, as amended, be approved.—(Mr David Winnick.)

RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Body reaffirms its support for the Good Friday Agreement and for its implementation in full; welcomes the progress that has been made in recent months in respect of the core issues of the stability of the institutions, policing, security normalisation and decommissioning; urges all parties to redouble their efforts to secure further progress; recognises the importance of the legislation currently before Westminster arising from the Criminal Justice Review; looks forward to a sustained period of political stability in which the institutions of the Agreement can operate fully to the benefit of all the people of these islands; and urges all the parties to continue their efforts, in partnership, to implement all aspects of the Agreement— **(Mr Seymour Crawford)**;

The sitting was suspended at 11.10 am.

The sitting was resumed at 11.35 am with Mr David Winnick MP in the Chair.

Mr Michael O'Kennedy took the Chair as Chairman.

And the Question being put.

Resolved, That the Body reaffirms its support for the Good Friday Agreement and for its implementation in full; welcomes the progress that has been made in recent months in respect of the core issues of the stability of the institutions, policing, security normalisation and decommissioning; urges all parties to redouble their efforts to secure further progress; recognises the importance of the legislation currently before Westminster arising from the Criminal Justice Review; looks forward to a sustained period of political stability in which the institutions of the Agreement can operate fully to the benefit of all the people of these islands; and urges all the parties to continue their efforts, in partnership, to implement all aspects of the Agreement.

The sitting was suspended at 12.50 pm.

The sitting was resumed at 2.35 pm with Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair.

JOINT BID TO HOST THE EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS, 2008

Resolved, That the Body welcomes the joint Scottish-Irish bid to host the European Football Championships 2008; recognises that Euro 2008 provides a great opportunity for both Scottish and Irish tourism; and looks forward to Euro 2008 further enhancing relations between both nations.— (*Ms Shona Robison.*)

The sitting was suspended at 3.35 pm.

The sitting was resumed at 4.10 pm with Mr Michael O'Kennedy in the Chair.

STATEMENT BY MR BRIAN COWEN TD, MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

A statement was made by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Brian Cowen, TD.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Brian Cowen, TD, replied to Questions for oral answer put by Members of the Body.

The sitting was adjourned at 5.30 pm until tomorrow.

2. Tuesday 26 March 2002

The sitting was opened in public at 10 am in the Conference Suite, Berkeley Court Hotel, Dublin, with Mr Michael O'Kennedy TD in the Chair

1. BUSINESS REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Mr Jimmy Deenihan TD, Chairman of Committee A, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

Sir Brian Mawhinney MP, Chairman of Committee B, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

Mr William O'Brien MP, Chairman of Committee C, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

Mr Kevin McNamara, MP, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BODY

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the Sixth Annual Report of the Body.— (*Mr David Winnick.*)

Mr David Winnick MP took the Chair as Chairman.

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE BODY

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Body do now adjourn—(*Mr Michael O'Kennedy*);

Mr John Bruton TD addressed the Body.

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

And the Question being put.

Resolved, That the Body do now adjourn.

The session concluded at 12.30 pm.