



**BRITISH-IRISH
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY**

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

TWENTY-FIFTH PLENARY SESSION

25 and 26 November 2002

Worsley Suite, Worsley Park Hotel and Country Club

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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

1. Monday 25 November 2002

The sitting was opened in public at 9.30 am in the Worsley Suite, Worsley Park Hotel and Country Club, Manchester, with Mr David Winnick MP in the Chair.

The Chairman announced that, pursuant to Rule 2(a), **Mr Kevin Brennan MP, Mr Jeff Ennis MP, Mr Dominic Grieve MP, Mr John Robertson MP, Gareth Thomas MP, Ms Shona Robison MSP and Mr Jamie Stone MSP**, 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 Brendan Smith.*)

RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Body reaffirms its support for the Good Friday Agreement; is saddened at the suspension of the devolved institutions in Northern Ireland; welcomes the determination of the two Governments to press ahead with all aspects of the Agreement, calls on all political parties to redouble their efforts towards the restoration of the institutions which have benefited all the people of these islands; and urges all involved parties to continue their efforts to secure an early resumption of the Northern Ireland institutions — (**Mr Jim O'Keefe**);

The sitting was suspended at 11.10 am.

The sitting was resumed at 11.30 am with Mr David Winnick MP in the Chair.

And the Question being put;

Resolved, That the Body reaffirms its support for the Good Friday Agreement; is saddened at the suspension of the devolved institutions in Northern Ireland; welcomes the determination of the two Governments to press ahead with all aspects of the Agreement, calls on all political parties to redouble their efforts towards the restoration of the institutions which have benefited all the people of these islands; and urges all involved parties to continue their efforts to secure an early resumption of the Northern Ireland institutions.

The sitting was suspended at 12.55 pm.

The sitting was resumed at 2.35 pm with Mr David Winnick in the Chair.

JOINT BID TO HOST THE EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS, 2008

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the responses of governments and executives to the debate on the motion on the joint Scottish-Irish bid for the European Championships 2008.— (*Mr Brendan Smith.*)

THE NORDIC COUNCIL

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Body congratulates the Nordic Council on its 50th anniversary; notes the benefit that the Council has brought to the peoples, regions and nations of the Nordic area in terms of social, political and economic co-operation and believes that links between the Body and the Nordic Council should be developed— (*Mr Murray Tosh*);

At the invitation of the Steering Committee pursuant to Rule 2(c), Mr Asmund Kristoffersen, Chairman of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the Nordic Council, addressed the Plenary.

And the Question being put;

Resolved, That the Body congratulates the Nordic Council on its 50th anniversary; notes the benefit that the Council has brought to the peoples, regions and nations of the Nordic area in terms of social, political and economic co-operation and believes that links between the Body and the Nordic Council should be developed.

The sitting was suspended at 3.40 pm.

The sitting was resumed at 4.10 pm with Mr David Winnick in the Chair.

STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

A statement was made by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Rt Hon Paul Murphy MP.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Rt Hon Paul Murphy MP, replied to Questions for oral answer put by Members of the Body.

The sitting was adjourned at 5.35 pm until tomorrow.

Tuesday 26 November 2002

The sitting was opened in public at 10.05 am Worsley Suite, Worsley Park Hotel and Country Club, with Mr David Winnick in the Chair

1. BUSINESS REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Mr Jim O'Keefe 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 Seamus Kirk TD, Chairman of Committee C, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

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

2. SELLAFIELD: REPORT FROM COMMITTEE D

A Motion was made, and the Question being proposed, That the Body takes note of the Report of Committee D: Culture, Education and the Environment [Doc 85] and the conclusions and recommendations of the Report, which should be forwarded to both Governments and devolved administrations for their observations— (Mr Kevin McNamara);

The Question was amended, by leaving out the words "and the conclusions and recommendations of the Report" in lines 2 and 3.

And the Question, as amended, being put;

***Resolved*, That the Body takes note of the Report of Committee D: Culture, Education and the Environment [Doc 85], which should be forwarded to both Governments and devolved administrations for their observations.**

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE BODY

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

The session concluded at 11.45 am.