



**BRITISH-IRISH
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY**

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

TWENTY-SIXTH PLENARY SESSION

24 and 25 March 2003

Kilbride Suite, Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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

1. Monday 24 March 2003

The sitting was opened in public at 9.30 am in the Kilbride Suite, Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny, with Mr Brendan Smith TD in the Chair.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Alistair Carmichael, MP, to the Body, as a replacement for Mr Lembit Opik, MP.

The Chairman announced that, pursuant to Rule 2(a), **Mr Henry Bellingham, MP, Mr Dominic Grieve, MP, Mr Steve McCabe, MP, Mr Chris Ruane, MP, Mr David Ruffley, MO Mr Alex Salmond, MP, Mr Gareth Thomas, MP, Mr Brian Gibbons, AM, Mr Michael McMahon, MSP, Mr Jamie Stone, MSP, Deputy Michael W Torode (States of Guernsey) and Senator Paul Coghlan**, 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, which was democratically endorsed by the people of Ireland, both North and South; believes that the full implementation of the Agreement is necessary to ensure peace, stability and sustainable political institutions in Northern Ireland; welcomes the intensive efforts of the two Governments, in consultation with political parties in Northern Ireland, to secure rapid and full implementation of the Agreement, including the restoration of devolved government in Northern Ireland; calls upon all parties involved to redouble their efforts to achieve a successful outcome to this process; and looks forward to the prospect of the Agreement being fully operational and in place before the Assembly elections on 29 May— (**Mr Jim O'Keefe**);

The sitting was suspended at 11.10 am.

The sitting was resumed at 11.30 am with Mr Brendan Smith, TD, in the Chair.

And the Question being put;

Resolved, That the Body reaffirms its support for the Good Friday Agreement, which was democratically endorsed by the people of Ireland, both North and South; believes that the full implementation of the Agreement is necessary to ensure peace, stability and sustainable political institutions in Northern Ireland; welcomes the intensive efforts of the two Governments, in consultation with political parties in Northern Ireland, to secure rapid and full implementation of the Agreement, including the restoration of devolved government in Northern Ireland; calls upon all parties

involved to redouble their efforts to achieve a successful outcome to this process; and looks forward to the prospect of the Agreement being fully operational and in place before the Assembly elections on 29 May.

The sitting was suspended at 12.55 pm.

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

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF THE BODY

Resolved, That the Amendment to Rules (Questions deadlines [Doc No 91]) be made with immediate effect.— **(Mr Kevin McNamara.)**

Resolved, That the Amendment to Rules (New Rule: Powers to appoint sub-committees and rapporteurs [Doc No 91]) be made with immediate effect.— **(Mr Kevin McNamara.)**

Resolved, That the Amendment to Rules (Shadow Chairmen [Doc No 93]) be made with immediate effect.— **(Mr Kevin McNamara.)**

TOURISM: REPORT FROM COMMITTEE C

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the Report of Committee C on Tourism [Doc No 87] and the conclusions and recommendations of the Report, which should be forwarded to both Governments and the devolved administrations for their observations— **(Mr Seamus Kirk.)**

The sitting was suspended at 3.50 pm.

The sitting was resumed at 4.15 pm with Mr David Winnick in the Chair.

PENALTY POINTS: INTERIM REPORT FROM COMMITTEE A

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the interim Report from Committee A on Penalty Points [Doc No 90].— **(Senator Brian Hayes.)**

STATEMENT BY THE 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 6 pm until tomorrow.

2. Tuesday 25 March 2003

The sitting was opened in public at 10.05 am in the Kilbride Suite, Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny and Country Club, with Mr Brendan Smith, TD, 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.

Mr Seamus Pattison, TD, Shadow 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.

4. SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the Seventh Annual Report of the Body.[Doc. No. 89].-(**Mr David Winnick.**)

SUBSTANTIVE MOTION FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE BODY

Resolved, That the Body do now adjourn.— (**Mrs Margaret Ewing.**)

The session concluded at 12.30 pm.