



**BRITISH-IRISH
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY**

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

TWENTY-EIGHTH PLENARY SESSION

19 and 20 April 2004

Inchydoney Suite, Inchydoney Lodge and Spa, Clonakilty

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(Produced by ALDA BARRY & JOHN HAMILTON, Clerks to the Body)

1. Monday 19 April 2004

The sitting was opened in public at 9.30 am in the Inchydoney Suite, Inchydoney Lodge and Spa, Clonakilty, with Mr Brendan Smith, TD, in the Chair

The Chairman announced A new Member of the Body:

UK Parliament: as a full Member, Mr Chris Ruane, MP, formerly an Associate Member, replacing Mr John Battle, MP, who reverts to Associate status.

The Chairman announced that, pursuant to Rule 2(a), from the UK **Mr Tony Cunningham,**

MP, Mr Paul Flynn, MP, Mr Dominic Grieve, MP, Mr Andy King, PM, Mr John

McWilliam, MP, Mr Alex Salmond, MP, Mr Gareth Thomas, MP, from Ireland **Mr Barry Andrews, TD, Senator Michael McCarthy, Senator Paul Coghlan, Mr Ned O'Keeffe, TD,** and from Scotland **Ms Helen Eadie** 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.

1. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS

Ordered, That the proposed Programme of Business for the current Session, as amended, be approved. (**Mr Brendan Smith.**)

2. RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Body reaffirms its support for the Good Friday Agreement, the workings of which are now being reviewed; welcomes the continued commitment of both Governments, and the considerable progress made to date in its implementation; notes that elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly were held in November 2003; regrets that the devolved institutions have been suspended since October 2002 and urges all parties to work together to secure their early restoration; and looks forward to a sustained period of political stability in which the devolved institutions can operate effectively for the benefit of all the people of Northern Ireland and of these islands. - (**Mr Jim O'Keeffe**);

The sitting was suspended at 11.05 am.

The sitting was resumed at 11.40 am.

And the main Question being put;

Resolved, That the Body reaffirms its support for the Good Friday Agreement, the workings of which are now being reviewed; welcomes the continued commitment of

both Governments, and the considerable progress made to date in its implementation; notes that elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly were held in November 2003; regrets that the devolved institutions have been suspended since October 2002 and urges all parties to work together to secure their early restoration; and looks forward to a sustained period of political stability in which the devolved institutions can operate effectively for the benefit of all the people of Northern Ireland and of these islands.

The sitting was suspended at 1 pm.

The sitting was resumed at 2.30 pm with Mr Brendan Smith, TD, in the Chair

3. EU ENLARGEMENT

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the enlargement of the European Union on 1st May 2004. - (Mr Barry Andrews.)

The sitting was suspended at 3.40 pm.

The sitting was resumed at 4.40 pm with Mr Brendan Smith, TD, in the Chair.

4. STATEMENT BY MR JOE WALSH, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

A statement was made by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Joe Walsh, TD.

Mr David Winnick took the Chair as Chairman

5. QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Joe Walsh, TD, replied to Questions for oral answer put by Members of the Body.

The sitting was adjourned at 5.50 pm until tomorrow.

2. Tuesday 20 April 2004

The sitting was opened in public at 10.05 am in the Inchydoney Suite, Inchydoney Lodge and Spa, with Mr David Winnick, MP, in the Chair.

1. DEATH OF LORD WALKER

The Chairman drew the attention of the Body to the recent death of Lord Walker, a former Member of the Body.

2. BUSINESS REPORTS FROM CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

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

Mr Michael Mates, MP, Shadow Chairman of Committee A, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

Mr Andrew Mackay, MP, Shadow Chairman of Committee B, 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.

The sitting was suspended at 10.40 am.

The sitting was resumed at 11.05 pm.

3. LINKS BETWEEN THE BRITISH-IRISH INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY AND THE NORDIC COUNCIL

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the report of Committee B on Links between the British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body and the Nordic Council [Doc No 95].

(Mr Andrew Mackay.)

The sitting was suspended at 11.15 am.

The sitting was resumed at 11.45 pm with Mr David Winnick, MP, in the Chair.

4. EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BODY

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the Eighth Annual Report of the Body

[Doc No 98]. - **(Mr Brendan Smith.)**

5. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES

Resolved, That Rule 31 be repealed and proposed new Rule 31 [Doc No 96] be adopted with immediate effect. - **(Mr Brendan Smith, from the Chair.)**

6. DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES TO RURAL AREAS

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the Report of Committee C on Delivery of Health Services to Rural Areas [Doc No 97] and the conclusions and recommendations of the report, which should be forwarded to both governments and the devolved institutions for their comments. - *(Mr Seymour Crawford.)*

7. ADJOURNMENT

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

The session concluded at 1 pm.