



**BRITISH-IRISH
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY**

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

TWENTY-NINETH PLENARY SESSION

18 and 19 October 2004

St Pierre Suite, St Pierre Hotel, Chepstow

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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

1. Monday 18 October 2004

The sitting was opened in public at 9.30 am in the St Pierre Suite, St Pierre Hotel, Chepstow, with Mr David Winnick, MP, in the Chair

The Chairman announced that, following a reshuffle of the Irish Government, his former Co-Chair, Mr Brendan Smith, TD, Mr Tony Killeen, TD, and Mr Conor Lenihan, TD, had been made ministers. As a consequence, Mr Seamus Kirk TD would act as his Co-Chair for the session. He read a letter from Mr Smith wishing the Body well in its deliberations.

The Body **agreed** to send its congratulations to the former Members concerned, and also to Mr Alex Salmond, MSP, who had once more become Leader of his party.

The Chairman announced that, pursuant to Rule 2(a), from Ireland Senator Paul Bradford, Senator Paul Coghlan, Senator Geraldine Feeney, Mr Ned O'Keeffe, TD, Senator Mary White and Senator Diarmuid Wilson, from the United Kingdom Mr Dominic Grieve, MP, Baroness Harris of Richmond, Andy King, MP, and Mr Gareth Thomas, MP, from Scotland Mr Bruce Crawford, MSP, Ms Helen Eadie, MSP and Mr Michael McMahon, MSP, from the States of Guernsey Senator Maurice Dubras, being Associate Members had accepted the invitation of the Steering Committee to assume the powers and responsibilities of Members for all of the session. Pursuant to the provisions of the same rule, Deputy Graham Guille, Associate Member from the States of Jersey, would attend in addition to the nominated Member.

1 ADOPTION OF PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS

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

2 RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

Motion made and Question proposed, That the Body notes the recent talks held at Leeds Castle between Prime Minister Tony Blair, Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and the parties; looks forward to the further discussions planned proving fruitful and to the restoration of the powers devolved under the Good Friday Agreement; notes the intensification of contacts by both governments with all parties, including the recent meeting between the Democratic Unionist Party leadership and the Irish Government in Dublin; believes that it is in the interests of all parties in Northern Ireland that the devolved institutions are revived as soon as possible; and urges all involved to work towards the furtherance of the peace process and the full implementation of the Agreement—**(Mr Michael Mates)**;

The sitting was suspended at 10.45 am.

The sitting was resumed at 11.15 am.

And the main Question being put;

Resolved, That the Body notes the recent talks held at Leeds Castle between Prime Minister Tony Blair, Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and the parties; looks forward to the further discussions planned proving fruitful and to the restoration of the powers devolved under the Good Friday Agreement; notes the intensification of contacts by both governments with all parties, including the recent meeting between the Democratic Unionist Party leadership and the Irish Government in Dublin; believes that it is in the interests of all parties in Northern Ireland that the devolved institutions are revived as soon as possible; and urges all involved to work towards the furtherance of the peace process and the full implementation of the Agreement.

The sitting was suspended at 12.45 pm.

The sitting was resumed at 2.30 pm with Mr Seamus Kirk in the Chair

3. RELATIONS WITH THE NORDIC COUNCIL

Resolved, That the Body Takes note of the response of the Steering Committee to the Report from Committee B (European Committee) on Relations with the Nordic Council [Doc No 101]--- **(Mr Murray Tosh.)**

Resolved, That the Body invites the Nordic Council formally to assume observer status at its deliberations--- **(Mr David Winnick.)**

4 AMENDMENT TO THE RULES

Resolved, That the Amendment to the Rules (Questions Allocation) [Doc No 100] , be made with immediate effect--- **(Mr Seamus Kirk.)**

The sitting was suspended at 3.25 pm.

The sitting was resumed at 4 pm with Mr David Winnick, MP, in the Chair.

5. STATEMENT BY THE RT HON PAUL MURPHY, MP, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

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

6. 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 5.30 pm until tomorrow.

2. Tuesday 19 October 2004

The sitting was opened in public at 10.05 am in the St Pierre Suite, St Pierre Hotel, Chepstow, with Mr David Winnick, MP, in the Chair

1 SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES

Motion made, and Question proposed, That the Body notes the introduction in Ireland and Norway of legislation to prohibit smoking in the workplace as examples for consideration by governments—(Dr Dai Lloyd);

Ms Jane Hutt, Minister for Health and Social Services, Welsh Assembly Government, addressed the Body.

Resolved, That the Body notes the introduction in Ireland and Norway of legislation to prohibit smoking in the workplace as examples for consideration by governments.

2. BUSINESS REPORTS FROM CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Mr Jim O'Keeffe, TD, Chairman of Committee A, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

Mr Seamus Pattison, Shadow Chairman of Committee B, made a statement about the work of the Committee.

Mr William O'Brien, MP, Shadow 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.

3. WASTE MANAGEMENT

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the Report from Committee D- Culture, Education and Environment- on Waste Management [Doc 99]---(Mr Kevin McNamara.)

4 ADJOURNMENT

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