



**BRITISH-IRISH
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY**

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

THIRTY-THIRD PLENARY SESSION

23 and 24 October 2006

Studio, Waterfront Hall, Belfast

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(Produced by ALDA BARRY & EOIN FAHERTY, Clerks to the Body)

(27 November 2006)

1. Monday 23 October 2006

The sitting was opened in public at 9.30 in the Studio, Waterfront Hall, Belfast, with the Rt Hon Mr Paul Murphy, M.P., in the Chair

The Chairman announced changes in membership since the last plenary session. From Ireland Senator Paul Bradford had replaced Senator Joe McHugh as a Member, from the UK Mr Joe Benton, MP, had replaced Mr Steve McCabe as a full Member and Mr John McFall, MP, had become an associate Member, from Scotland Mr Bruce Crawford, M.S.P, had replaced the late Mrs Margaret Ewing as a Member and Mr Alasdair Morgan M.S.P had become an associate Member.

The Chairman announced that, pursuant to Rule 2(a), from Ireland Mr Paudge Connolly, T.D. and Senator Terry Leyden, for the United Kingdom Mr John Austin, M.P., Mr Jim Dobbin, M.P., Lord Gordon of Strathblane, Baroness Harris and Mr John McFall, M.P., from Scotland Ms Helen Eadie, M.S.P., and Mr Robin Harper, M.S.P., had accepted the invitation of the Steering Committee to assume the powers and responsibilities of Members for all of the session.

2. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS

Ordered, That the proposed Programme of Business for the current Session be approved. —(Mr Paul Murphy.)

Mr Pat Carey took the Chair as Chairman.

3. THE ECONOMIC SITUATION

Sir Paul Quigley, Chairman of Bombardier Aerospace and a director of Independent News and Media UK, Mr Peter Bunting, General Secretary, Irish Congress of Trades Unions, addressed the Body on the subject of the economy of Northern Ireland, following which they and Mr Adam Ewart of Karacha, on-line music shop, answered questions from the floor.

Mr Paul Murphy resumed the Chair.

3. ECONOMIC REGENERATION AND POLITICAL PROGRESS

Resolved, That the Body welcomes the St. Andrews Agreement of 13 October last and commends the two Governments and the political parties on their efforts to restore the political institutions and restore devolution for the people of Northern Ireland; that support for policing and the rule of law should be extended to every part of the community; and that such support includes endorsing the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the criminal justice system, encouraging the community to cooperate with the police in tackling crime; and actively supporting all the policing and criminal justice institutions, including the Policing Board; notes that the political parties have been asked to consider the Agreement carefully before 10 November; reiterates the importance of this opportunity to establish a devolved power-sharing Government for the benefit of the whole community; encourages the parties to work towards accepting the

Governments' proposals by the proposed date to allow the Assembly to nominate the First and Deputy First Minister on 24 November to allow for restoration of the institutions on 26 March 2007; welcomes the commitment by the Governments in the Agreement to work with the parties to establish a favourable economic climate for Northern Ireland which is essential for long-term economic stability; welcomes the inclusion in the Agreement of support for a future East-West inter-parliamentary framework as well as provision for a North-South parliamentary forum and looks forward to welcoming Members of the devolved Assembly to its deliberations at a forthcoming plenary session.—(Mr Michael Mates.)

The sitting was suspended at 1.23 pm.

The sitting was resumed at 2.33 pm with Mr Paul Murphy in the Chair.

Mr Pat Carey took the Chair as Chairman.

4. THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Ms Patricia McKeown, All-Ireland Vice-President of Irish Congress of Trades Unions, Mr Duncan Morrow, Chief Executive, Community Relations Council and Mr Michael Wardlow, Chief Executive Officer of the Northern Ireland Campaign for Integrated Education, addressed the Body and answered questions from the floor.

The sitting was suspended at 3.46 pm, with Mr Paul Murphy in the Chair.

The sitting was resumed at 4.07 pm.

5. STATEMENT BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Rt Hon Peter Hain, M.P., addressed the Body.

6. QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

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

The sitting was adjourned at 5.32 pm, until tomorrow.

2. Tuesday 24 October 2006

The sitting was opened in public at 10.05 am in the Studio, Waterfront Hall, Belfast, with Mr Pat Carey, T.D., in the Chair

1. BUSINESS REPORTS FROM CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Senator Brendan Ryan made a statement about the work of Committee A.

Mr Robert Walter, M.P., made a statement about the work of Committee B.

Mr Seamus Kirk, T.D., made a statement about the work of Committee D.

Lord Dubs made a statement about the work of Committee D.

2. LIFE CHANCES

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the Report from Committee D on Life Chances for Young People from the Economically Deprived Areas of Belfast [Doc 121] and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, which should be forwarded to both governments and the devolved administrations for their comments.—(**Lord Dubs.**)

3. SUBMISSION OF MOTIONS

Resolved, That Rule 16 (Inclusion of Motions in the Programme of Business) be amended to reduce the notice period for motions submitted by Members from four weeks to two and to the number of signatories required from thirty to fifteen, to include signatories from three participating institutions, as set out in Document 120 as amended.—(**The Co-Chairman.**)

4. ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, That the Body do now adjourn.—(**Deputy Mike Torode.**)

The session concluded at 11.38 am