



**BRITISH-IRISH  
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY**

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

---

**THIRTY-FOURTH PLENARY SESSION**

**5 and 6 March 2007**

**Castleknock Hotel, Dublin**

---

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

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

(11 July 2007)

# BRITISH-IRISH INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

### SESSION XXX111

#### 1. Monday 5 March 2007

**The sitting was opened in public at 9.30 in the Castleknock Hotel, Dublin, with Mr Pat Carey, T.D., in the Chair**

**The Chairman** announced changes in membership since the last plenary session. Mr Steve Rodan, SHK, had replaced the Hon Tony Brown from the Isle of Man.

**The Chairman** announced that, pursuant to Rule 2(a): from the UK Mr Quentin Davies, M.P., Mr Jim Dobbin, M.P., Baroness Harris of Richmond, Mr John Austin, M.P., and Lord Gordon of Strathblane; from Ireland Ms Joan Burton, T.D., and Mr Paudge Connolly, T.D; from Scotland Mr Michel McMahon, M.S.P., from Wales Mr Alun Cairns, A.M., Ms Helen Eadie, A.M, and Ms Jenny Randerson; and from Jersey Connetable Daniel Murphy, 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 be approved. —(**Mr Pat Carey**.)

#### 2. RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

*Resolved*, That the Body reiterates its welcome for the St Andrews Agreement of 13 October last and commends the two Governments and the political parties for their efforts to restore the political institutions and restore devolution for the people of Northern Ireland; welcomes the decision by Sinn Féin to join with the other political parties in supporting policing and the rule of law in Northern Ireland; notes that elections in Northern Ireland are to be held on Wednesday 7 March, and 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 after the election period towards the establishment of devolved government by 26 March 2007 in accordance it will initiate consultations with the newly elected Northern Ireland Assembly to agree an inclusive East-West inter-parliamentary framework which will embrace all interests, as envisaged in that agreement—(**Mr Seymour Crawford**).

**The sitting was suspended at 11.13 am**

The sitting was resumed at 11.42 am with Mr Paul Murphy, M.P., in the Chair

### **3. RACISM AND SECTARIANISM: EQUALITY IN A DIVERSE SOCIETY**

Mr Denis Bradley, former Vice-Chairman of the Northern Ireland Policing Board, Mr Gerry Carson, Vice-Chairman of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland, and Mr Nick Harkness, Director of the Participation Unit of the Sports Council for Northern Ireland, addressed the Body and answered questions from the floor.

**The sitting was suspended at 1.17 pm and resumed at 2.36 pm.**

### **3. RACISM AND SECTARIANISM: THE SCOTTISH EXPERIENCE**

Ms Lesley Irving, Race, Religion and Refugee Integration Team, Scottish Executive, addressed the Body and answered questions from the floor.

**The sitting was suspended at 3.35 pm**

**The sitting was resumed at 4.08 pm, with Mr Pat Carey, T.D., in the Chair.**

### **4. STATEMENT BY AN TAOISEACH, MR BERTIE AHERN, T.D.**

The Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern, T.D., addressed the Body.

### **5. QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER**

The Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern, T.D, replied to Questions for oral answer put by Members of the Body.

The Minister of State with special responsibility for Children's Matters, Mr Brian Lenihan, T.D, replied to Questions for oral answer put by Members of the Body.

**The sitting was suspended at 5.20 pm, until tomorrow.**

## **2. Tuesday 6 March 2007**

**The sitting was opened in public at 10.05 am in the Castleknock Hotel, Dublin, with Mr Paul Murphy, M.P., in the Chair**

### **1. BUSINESS REPORTS FROM CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES**

**Mr Michael Mates, M.P.,** made a statement about the work of Committee A.

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

**Mr Paul Flynn, M.P.,** made a statement about the work of Committee C.

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

## **2. BARRIERS TO TRADE**

*Resolved*, That the Body takes note of the Report from Committee A on Barriers to Trade [Doc 124] and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, which should be forwarded to both governments and the devolved administrations for their observations.— **(Mr Michael Mates.)**

## **3. GOVERNMENT REPLIES TO REPORTS**

*Resolved*, That the Body take note of the responses to the Report of Committee A entitled 'The Implication of the Introduction of British ID Cards for the CommonTravel Area' (document No. 122), the Report of Committee C entitled 'Challenges and Opportunities facing the Small Farm Sector' (document No.125), and the Report of Committee D entitled 'Life Chances for Young People from the economically deprived areas of Belfast' (document No.126).---**(Lord Dubs.)**

## **4. ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT**

*Resolved*, That the Body takes note of the Eleventh Annual Report of the Body (document No 123)---**(Mr Pat Carey.)**

## **5. RULE 8 (STEERING COMMITTEE)**

*Resolved*, That Rule 8 (Steering Committee: constitution, quorum and duties) be amended as set out in document No 127.

## **6. ADJOURNMENT**

*Resolved*, That the Body do now adjourn.—**(Lord Dubs.)**

**The session concluded at 11.08 am**