



**BRITISH-IRISH
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**TIONÓL PARLAIMINTEACH
NA BREATAINE AGUS NA HÉIREANN**

THIRTY-SEVENTH PLENARY SESSION

20 and 21 October 2008

Newcastle Marriott Hotel, Newcastle-upon Tyne

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

1. Monday 20 October 2008

**The sitting was opened in public at 10 am in the Newcastle Marriott Hotel,
with the Rt Hon Peter Hain, MP, in the Chair**

The Chairman welcomed the new Irish Vice-Chair Ms Margaret Conlon, TD, and the new full Members Lord Maginnis, Lord Cope of Berkeley, Mr David McClarty MLA and Mr Jim Wells MLA. He noted that it was particularly pleasing to be able to welcome delegates from the Democratic Unionist Party and the Ulster Unionist Party.

The Co-Chair Mr Niall Blaney also welcomed the new delegates.

The Chairman announced that, pursuant to Rule 2(a) the following Associate Members had accepted the invitation of the Steering Committee to assume the powers and responsibilities of Members for all of the Session: from Ireland, Senators Martin Brady, Geraldine Feeney and John Hanafin; from the UK, Mr Dave Anderson, MP; from Northern Ireland Mr Alex Atwood MLA; and Mr Willie Clarke MLA.

1. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS

Ordered, That the proposed Programme of Business for the current Session, as amended, be adopted.—(Mr Peter Hain.)

2. RULES AND FUTURE OF THE BODY

Resolved, That the Body shall henceforth be entitled the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly and be governed by the rules contained in Document 136—(Mr Alasdair Morgan.)

3. INTELLIGENCE RELATED TO THE OMAGH BOMB

Resolved, That the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly calls on the UK Government to disclose immediately to the legal counsel of the families of the Omagh bombing details of, and all information relating to or arising from, the request made by the RUC to GCHQ, for surveillance of those subsequently suspected of preparing and carrying out the atrocity in Armagh a decade ago; including transcripts and timelines -- (Mr Andrew Mackinlay.)

The sitting was suspended at 12.41 pm

The sitting was resumed at 2.30 pm

Mr Niall Blaney, TD, took the Chair

4. ENERGY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND

Statement by Mr Eamon Ryan, TD, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources

Mr Eamon Ryan, TD, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, addressed the Assembly and answered questions from the floor.

5. BUSINESS REPORT FROM COMMITTEE A

Mr Jim O’Keeffe, made a statement about the work of Committee A.

6. ID CARDS AND THE COMMON TRAVEL AREA: GOVERNMENT REPLY TO REPORT

Resolved, That the Assembly takes note of the response from the UK government to the Report from Committee A (Doc. No 119) entitled ‘ID Cards and the Common Travel area’ (Doc. No 138).—(**Mr Jim O’Keeffe.**)

7. CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN POLICE FORCES

Resolved, That the Assembly takes note of the Interim Report of Committee A on Cross-Border Co-operation between Police Forces.—(**Mr Jim O’Keeffe.**)

8. BUSINESS REPORT FROM COMMITTEE C

Ms Margaret Conlon made a statement about the work of Committee C.

9. RENEWABLE ENERGY EXCEPT NUCLEAR

Resolved, That the Body take note of the report of Committee C on Renewable Energy except Nuclear (Doc No. 139), and of the conclusions and recommendations of the Report, which should be forwarded to both Governments and the devolved administrations for their comments.—(**Ms Margaret Conlon.**)

10. BUSINESS REPORT FROM COMMITTEE D

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

11. THE INTEGRATION OF NEWLY-ARRIVED MIGRANTS

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the report of Committee D on ‘The Integration of Newly-Arrived Migrants’ (Doc. No. 141) and of the conclusions and recommendations of the Report, which should be forwarded to both Governments and the devolved administrations for their comments.—(**Lord Dubs.**)

12. BUSINESS REPORT FROM COMMITTEE B

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

The sitting was suspended at 5.12 pm, until to-morrow.

2. Tuesday 21 October 2008

**The sitting was opened in public at 9.30 am in the Newcastle Marriott Hotel,
with the Rt Hon Peter Hain, MP, in the Chair**

1. SECURITY SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Mr Paul Goggins, Minister of State Northern Ireland Office, addressed the Assembly and answered questions from the delegates.

Mr Seymour Crawford, Vice-Chair of the Assembly, took the Chair

Mr Peter Hain, Co-Chair of the Assembly, resumed the Chair

2. THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON THE PAST

The Co-Chair announced that the Steering Committee had directed that the presentation from Lord Eames and Mr Bradley would take place in private session under Rules 9© and 30.

The Assembly sat in private.

Lord Eames and Mr Denis Bradley, Co-Chairs of the Consultative Group on the Past, addressed the Assembly and answered questions from delegates.

The Assembly sat in public.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, That the Body do now adjourn.—(**Mrs Rosemary Butler.**)

The session concluded at 12.05 pm