



**BRITISH-IRISH
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**TIONÓL PARLAIMINTEACH
NA BREATAINE AGUS NA hÉIREANN**

THIRTY-EIGHTH PLENARY CONFERENCE

30 and 31 March 2009

Solís Lough Eske Castle, Donegal, Ireland

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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

1. Monday 30 March 2009

The sitting was opened in public at 9.15 am in the Solis Lough Eske Castle, Donegal, with Mr Niall Blaney in the Chair

The Chairman welcomed Lord Bew, United Kingdom, as an Associate Member for the present session in place of Mr Henry Bellingham MP.

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:** Senator Terry Leyden from Ireland; Mr Jim Devine MP, Mr Mark Durkan MP and Baroness Harris of Richmond from the UK; and Mr Alex Attwood MLA and Mr Willie Clarke MLA from Northern Ireland.

1. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS

Ordered, That the proposed Programme of Business for the current Session, as amended, be approved.—(Mr Niall Blaney.)

2. RECENT MURDERS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Resolved, That the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly, appalled by the deaths of Sapper Patrick Azimkar, Sapper Mark Quinsey and Constable Stephen Carroll, unreservedly condemns the recent murderous attacks in Antrim and Craigavon, intended to undermine the peace settlement endorsed in referenda by the people of the island, north and south; expresses its condolences to the families, friends and colleagues of those killed in the attacks; and reiterates its full support for the democratic institutions and all those who work to build a better society in Northern Ireland—(Mr Peter Hain.).

The sitting was suspended at 9.24 am.

The sitting was resumed at 9.32 am.

2. THE BRITISH-IRISH COUNCIL

Rt Hon Paul Murphy, M.P., Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, addressed the Assembly.

Ms Mary Coughlan T.D. Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, addressed the Assembly.

Mr Murphy and Ms Coughlan answered questions from the floor.

The sitting was suspended at 11.45 am.

The sitting was resumed at 11.56 am.

3. THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

Resolved, That the Assembly takes note of the Thirteenth Annual Report [Document No 142]—(Mr Peter Hain.).

The sitting was suspended at 12.02 pm.

The sitting was resumed at 2.30 pm, with Mr Peter Hain in the Chair.

4. THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON THE PAST

Lord Eames, Co-Chair of the Consultative Group on the Past, addressed the Assembly.

Mr Denis Bradley, Co-Chair of the Consultative Group on the Past, addressed the Assembly.

Lord Eames and Mr Bradley answered questions from the floor.

Resolved, That the Assembly set up a working group on the work of the Consultative Group on the past.—(Mr Niall Blaney.)

The sitting was suspended at 3.26 pm.

The sitting was resumed at 4.08 pm with Mr Niall Blaney in the Chair

5. BUSINESS REPORTS FROM CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES

Mr Jim O’Keeffe, T.D., made a statement about the work of Committee A.

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

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

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

Mr Peter Hain, M.P., Co-Chair of the Body, took the Chair

6. EVOLVING ROLE OF THE ASSEMBLY

Resolved, That Document 137 as amended, on the future role of the Assembly, be approved.

The sitting was suspended at 5.07 pm, until tomorrow.

2. Tuesday 31 March 2009

The sitting was opened in public at 9.15 am in the Solis Lough Eske Castle, Donegal with Mr Niall Blaney, T.D, in the Chair

1. CROSS-BORDER POLICING

Resolved, That the Assembly takes note of the Report from Committee A on Cross-Border Policing (Document No 149) and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, which should be forwarded to both governments and the devolved administrations for their observations.—(Mr Jim O’Keeffe.)

.2. COMMON DEFENCE AND FOREIGN POLICY INTERIM REPORT

Resolved, That the Assembly takes note of the Interim Report from Committee B on Common Defence and Foreign Policy (Document No 153) and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, which should be forwarded to both governments and the devolved administrations for their observations.—(Mr Robert Walter.)

3. RESPONSES TO THE RESOLUTION ON INTELLIGENCE RELATING TO THE OMAGH BOMBING

Resolved, -That the Assembly takes note of the responses of the Irish Government and the United Kingdom Government to the resolution adopted at the Thirty-Seventh Plenary Conference on Intelligence *Relating to the Omagh Bombing* (Document No 143)—(Mr Andrew Mackinlay.)

4. GOVERNMENT REPLIES TO REPORTS

Resolved, That the Body takes note of the response of the Irish government to the Report of Committee A (Document No 119) entitled “ID Cards and the Common Travel Area” (Document 135)—(Mr Michael Mates.)

Resolved, That the Assembly takes note of the responses of the Irish Government, the United Kingdom Government, the Northern Ireland Executive and the Isle of Man Government to the Report by Committee D on the Integration of Recently Arrived Migrants into Northern Ireland, Ireland and Wales [Doc Nos 145, 146, 147, 150 & 152].—(Lord Dubs)

Resolved, That the Assembly takes note of the responses of the United Kingdom Government, Northern Ireland Executive and the Isle of Man Government to the Report by Committee C on Renewable Energy except Nuclear [Doc Nos 148, 151 & 154]-- **(Ms Margaret Conlon.)**

Resolved, That Committee A pursue the matter of the mutual recognition of penalty points with the jurisdictions and the British-Irish .—**(Lord Dubs.)**

5. ADDRESSES BY LORD BROWNE OF BELMONT AND MR DANNY KENNEDY

Lord Browne of Belmont MLA for the Democratic Unionist Party and Mr Danny Kennedy, MLA, for the United Unionist Party, addressed the Assembly and answered questions from the floor.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, That the Body do now adjourn.—**(Mr Alasdair Morgan.)**

The session concluded at 11.11 am

**ALDA BARRY
EOIN FAHERTY**

Clerks to the Body

7 September 2009