



**BRITISH-IRISH
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**TIONÓL PARLAIMINTEACH
NA BREATAINE AGUS NA hÉIREANN**

THIRTY-NINETH PLENARY CONFERENCE

19 and 20 October 2009

Swansea Marriott Hotel, Swansea

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

(Produced by ALDA BARRY & PAUL KELLY, Clerks to the Body)

1. Monday 19 October 2009

The sitting was opened in public at 9.30 am in the Swansea Marriott Hotel, Swansea, with the Rt Hon Paul Murphy in the Chair

The Chairman announced that for Ireland, Senator Diarmuid Wilson had replaced Mr Pat Gallagher, TD as a full Member of the Assembly, and Senator Brendan Ryan had replaced Senator Alan Kennedy, while for the United Kingdom Lord Bew had been appointed an Associate Member for the present session only.

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, Senator Terry Leyden, Senator Cecilia Keaveney, Senator Geraldine Feeney and Frank Feighan TD; from the United Kingdom, Lord Bew, Mr Jim Dobbin MP, Mr Mark Durkan MP and the Baroness Harris of Richmond; from Northern Ireland, Mr Alex Atwood MLA; and from the National Assembly for Wales, Ms Bethan Jenkins AM.

The Chairman noted that Seamus Kirk, TD, former Member of the Assembly, had been appointed Speaker of Dáil Éireann and deserved the Assembly's congratulations.

1. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS

Ordered, That the proposed Programme of Business for the current Session, as amended, be approved.—**(The Chairman.)**

2. BRITISH-IRISH COUNCIL

Rt Hon Peter Hain, M.P., Secretary of State for Wales, addressed the Assembly, and answered questions from the floor.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr Niall Blaney, TD, Co-Chair of the Assembly, took the Chair

Professor Monica McWilliams, Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, addressed the Assembly.

Dr Maurice Manning, President of the Irish Human Rights Commission, addressed the Assembly..

Professor McWilliams and Dr Manning answered questions from the floor.

Resolved, That the Co-Chairs write to the British and Irish Governments and the Northern Ireland Executive to raise the concerns expressed by the speakers--- **(Mr Niall Blaney.)**

Rt Hon Paul Murphy, MP, Co-Chair of the Assembly, took the Chair

4. ADDRESS BY MR MARK DURKAN MP, MLA

Mr Mark, Durkan, MP, MLA, retiring leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, addressed the Assembly and answered questions from the floor.

The sitting was suspended at 1.20 pm.

The sitting was resumed at 2.35 pm, with Rt Hon Paul Murphy, MP, in the Chair.

5. THE RECESSION

Mr John Griffiths, AM, Deputy Minister for Skills in the Welsh Assembly Government,, addressed the Assembly.

Mr Griffiths answered questions from the floor.

Resolved, That the Assembly notes that the current recession affects all its member jurisdictions; and urges them to learn from one another and to work together identify its causes, to mitigate its effects, and to minimise the risk of a recurrence.—**(Ms Margaret Conlon.**

Mr Niall Blaney, Co-Chair of the Assembly, took the Chair.

6. E-BORDERS

Resolved, That the Body notes the British Government's policy on e-borders, further notes the commercial and cultural advantages of the common travel area to the different jurisdictions within it, is of the opinion that no legislative changes to the current arrangements should be made without a full consultation by the UK Government of all jurisdictions within the common travel area and refers the matter of e-borders policy of the UK and its impact on the common travel area to Committee A for it to inquire into this matter and to report to the Assembly.—**(Mr Steve Rodan.)**

The sitting was suspended at 5.30 pm, until tomorrow.

2. Tuesday 20 October 2009

The sitting was opened in public at 9.00 am in the Swansea Marriott Hotel, Swansea. with Rt Hon Paul Murphy, MP, in the Chair.

1. 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.

2. APPRENTICESHIPS

Resolved, That the Assembly takes note of the report of Committee C on Apprenticeships, and the conclusions and recommendations, which should be forwarded to both Governments and devolved Administrations for their observations [Doc No 154]—(Ms Margaret Conlon.)

Mr Niall Blaney, Co-Chair of the Assembly, took the Chair.

3. CLIMATE CHANGE AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Resolved, That the Assembly takes note of the report of Committee D on Climate Change and Renewable Energy, and the conclusions and recommendations, which should be forwarded to both Governments and devolved Administrations for their observations [Doc No 162]—(Lord Dubs.)

4. GOVERNMENT REPLIES TO REPORTS

Mr Paul Murphy, Co-Chair of the Assembly, took the Chair

BARRIERS TO TRADE

Resolved, That the Assembly takes note of the response of the Northern Ireland Executive to the Report of Committee A on Barriers to Trade [Doc No 155]—(The Co-Chair.)

CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION BETWEEN POLICE FORCES

Resolved, That the Assembly takes note of the response of the Northern Ireland Executive to the Report of Committee A on Cross-Border Co-Operation between Police Forces [Doc No 156]—(The Co-Chair.)

Resolved, That the Assembly takes note of the response of the UK Government to the Report of Committee A on Cross-Border Co-Operation between Police Forces [Doc No 157]—(**The Co-Chair.**).

Resolved, That the Assembly takes note of the response of the Welsh Assembly Government to the Report of Committee A on Cross-Border Co-operation between Police Forces [Doc No 158]—(**The Co-Chair.**)

Resolved, That the Assembly takes note of the response of the Isle of Man Government to the Report of Committee A on Cross-Border Co-Operation between Police Forces [Doc No 159]—(**The Co-Chair.**)

Mr Niall Blaney, Co-Chair of the Assembly, took the Chair

5. THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON THE PAST

Resolved, That the Assembly takes note of the Report of the Steering Committee on the Report of the Consultative Group on the Past [Doc No 160]—(**The Co-Chair.**)

The sitting was suspended at 10.05 am

The sitting was resumed at 11.30 am

6. ADDRESS BY MR GERRY ADAMS, MP, MLA

Mr Gerry Adams, MP, MLA, addressed the Assembly and answered questions from the floor.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, That the Body do now adjourn.—(**Ms Joyce Watson.**)

The session concluded at 12.30 pm.

**ALDA BARRY
PAUL KELLY**

Clerks to the Body

7 September 2009