



**BRITISH-IRISH
INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY**

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

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

No. 89 — March 2003

THE WORK OF THE BRITISH-IRISH INTER-PARLIAMENTARY BODY

Introduction

1 This is the seventh Annual Report of the Body since it was decided at the 11th Plenary Session in May 1996 that such a Report should be made. The current Report summarises the work of the Body in 2002.

Political developments

2 The year was overshadowed by the suspension of the devolved Northern Ireland institutions on 23rd October, and by the events leading up to it; this obviously had a serious impact on the Body; some specific implications are discussed in paragraphs 28 to 33 below.

3 Another event which had a major impact on the work of the Body during the year was the Irish General Election, held on 17th May 2002. A number of long-standing Members of the Body ceased to be Members of the Dail, including the Co-Chairman Mr Michael O'Kennedy, Mr Andrew Boylan, Mr Austin Currie, Mr Séan Doherty, Ms. Helen Keogh, Mr Brendan McGahon, Ms. Marian McGennis, Mr Matt Brennan, Mr Proinsias de Rossa MEP, Ms. Ann Leonard and Mr Maurice Manning.

4 The timing of the Irish General Election made it impossible for the new Irish Members to be nominated to the Body before November, which meant that the Committees, through which the Body carries out much of its work, were unable to operate from April onwards.

5. The new Dáil saw a significant swing to the Government parties since the 1997 election, with the Fianna Fáil party picking up 4 seats and the Progressive Democrat party also gaining 4 seats. The principal opposition party, Fine Gael, saw its vote drop from 54 seats to 31. The Labour Party saw its vote remain static. Major gains were made by the Green Party and Sinn Féin, who picked up 5 and 4 seats respectively. 13 independent Members were also elected, which was an increase of 6 since 1997.

6. The new Oireachtas configuration necessitated a change in representation on the Body as follows. Government nominated 14 Full Members and 11 Associate Members; Fine Gael nominated 5 Full Members and 4 Associate Members; Labour nominated 3 Full Members and 2 Associate Members; Technical Group (independents) nominated 2 Full Members and 2 Associate Members; Non aligned Independents nominated 1 Full Member and 1 Associate Member.

7 The only changes to British membership during the year were the replacement of Ms. Gillian Merron as an Associate Member by Mr Gareth Thomas (Clwyd West) and the resignation in December of Ms. Jean Corston as a full Member. Ms Corston, who had not been replaced by the end of the year, resigned due to her other heavy responsibilities as Chair of the Parliamentary Labour Party and of the House of Commons Human Rights Committee. Despite this heavy work-load she had been an assiduous attender at committee meetings.

8 A reshuffle of the UK cabinet on 22nd October 2002 resulted in the replacement of Dr John Reid by Mr Paul Murphy as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Mr Murphy, who was from 1997 to 1999 Minister of State in the Northern Ireland Office, is no stranger to the affairs of the Body, and he kindly agreed to replace Dr Reid as guest speaker at the Body's plenary meeting in Manchester on 25th November, and to take questions.

The work of the Body

9 In accordance with the Rules of the Body, two Plenary Sessions were held in 2002: on 24th and 26th March in Dublin and on 25th and 26th November in Manchester.

Twenty-Fourth Plenary

10 The twenty-fourth plenary took place in Dublin on 25th and 26th March.

11 Several responses had been received to the debate on Sellafield held in November 2001 in Bournemouth, but in order to give Members time to study these they were held over for debate until the next plenary session, meanwhile being referred to Committee D.

12 The main debate of the Monday morning session took place on the motion:

'That the Body reaffirms its support for the Good Friday Agreement and for its implementation in full; welcomes the progress that has been made in recent months in respect of the core issues of the stability of the institutions, policing, security normalisation and decommissioning; urges all parties to redouble their efforts to secure further progress; recognises the importance of the legislation currently before Westminster arising from the Criminal Justice Review; looks forward to a sustained period of political stability in which the institutions of the Agreement can operate fully to the benefit of all the people of these islands; and urges all the parties to continue their efforts, in partnership, to implement all aspects of the Agreement'. After a lively debate the motion was carried.

13 On the Monday afternoon there was a debate on a motion, proposed by Ms. Shona Robison MSP, welcoming the joint Scottish-Irish bid to hold the European football championships 2008 and, after a well-informed debate the Body resolved

'That the Body welcomes the joint Scottish-Irish bid for the European Championships, 2008; recognises that Euro 2008 provides a great opportunity for both Scottish and Irish tourism; and, looks forward to Euro 2008 further enhancing relations between both nations'.

14 During the afternoon sitting, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Brian Cowen TD, made a statement to the Body and answered Oral Questions.

15 The following day began with business reports from the Committees.

16 The second debate of the day, on the Annual Report of the Body for 2001, elicited a number of interesting comments about the way the Body conducts its work, ranging from a demand for more women on the Steering Committee through ways and means of encouraging Unionist participation to the proper balance between ministerial speech and question time.

17 A wide-ranging debate on the future of Europe was held on a substantive motion for the adjournment

Twenty-fifth Plenary

18 The Twenty-fifth Plenary took place in Manchester on 25th and 26th November.

19 The Plenary began with the customary debate on recent political developments, which took place in the context of the suspension of the Northern Ireland Executive and Assembly.

20 The text of the Body's Resolution is as follows:

'That the Body reaffirms its support for the Good Friday Agreement; is saddened at the suspension of the devolved institutions in Northern Ireland; welcomes the determination of the two governments to press ahead with all aspects of the Agreement; calls on all political parties to redouble their efforts towards the restoration of the institutions which have benefited all the people of these islands; and urges all involved parties to continue their efforts to secure an early resumption of the Northern institutions'.

21 The Body then took note of the responses of governments and executives to the resolution agreed in Dublin on the joint bid to host the European Football Championships.

22 A debate on a Scottish motion congratulating the Nordic Council on its 50th anniversary was initiated by Mr Murray Tosh MSP (the Scottish Parliament having recently hosted a seminar of the Council). A delegate from the Council, Mr Asmund Kristofferson of Norway, Chairman of its Environment and Natural Resources Committee was invited to take part in the debate, and the Body resolved

'That the Body congratulates the Nordic Council on its 50th anniversary; notes the benefits that the Council has brought to the peoples, regions and nations of the Nordic areas in terms of social, political and economic co-operation; and believes that links between the Body and the Nordic Council should be encouraged'.

23 The Assembly was then addressed by the new Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Paul Murphy. In the subsequent question session, an unprecedented 13 questions were reached, Mr Murphy at one point causing amusement by reading out that part of his brief that stated 'This question will not be reached'. Members having

previously expressed interest in having more questions answered, this was a cause for satisfaction.

24 On Tuesday 5 December, after brief business reports from Committee Chairmen, the Body again turned its attention to a debate on Sellafield, on the motion '*That the Body takes note of the Report of Committee D: Culture, Education and Environment on Sellafield: an update [Doc No 85], and agrees with the conclusions and recommendations of the Report which should be forwarded to both Governments and devolved administrations for their observations*'. The debate showed that the strength of opposing views had not subsided since the debate in Bournemouth and the motion was amended to read '*That the Body takes note of the Report of Committee D entitled 'Sellafield: an update' which should be forwarded to both governments and the devolved institutions and the British-Irish Council for their observations*'.

25 In the course of the debate on the adjournment of the Body, Mr Mackinlay circulated a paper containing various ideas for improving the status of the Body; these included formally monitoring the work of the British-Irish Council, inviting Ministers from both the Dail and Westminster to attend each plenary and answer questions (without prejudice to the address by the guest speaker), making further efforts to secure the presence of Prime Minister Blair, holding a plenary session in Northern Ireland and holding part of the session in 'select committee mode'. Other suggestions were made, including setting the dates of the plenary sessions further in advance, and the importance of getting Unionist participation was raised again.

26 Both at the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth plenaries, attendance at the Tuesday session was sparse. Members may care to consider whether there is any way in which the pattern of sittings can be altered to make it easier for them to attend for the whole of a plenary session.

Steering Committee

27 The Members of the Steering Committee from the Oireachtas and the UK Parliament before the Irish General Election were Mr Michael O'Kennedy SC TD and Mr David Winnick MP, Co-Chairmen, and Mr Jimmy Deenihan TD, Mr Brian Hayes TD, Mr Michael Mates MP, Mr Kevin McNamara MP, and Dr Rory O'Hanlon TD, Vice-Chairmen. After the election the Irish Members were replaced by Mr Brendan Smith, TD (Co-Chairman), Mr Seamus Kirk, TD, and Mr Jim O'Keeffe (Vice-Chairmen). Ms Patricia Ferguson MSP (succeeded by Mr Murray Tosh MSP), Mr Séan Neeson MLA and Mr Murray Tosh MSP represented the devolved institutions once they had become full members of the Body. The Crown Dependencies were represented at meetings by Mr Donald Gelling MHK, Senator Pierre Horsfall and Deputy Roger C Berry. The Committee met on four occasions.

28 Following suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly, it fell to the Steering Committee to consider the position of the Members from the Assembly.

29 According to Rule 1 of the Body, the BIIPB is composed of 'representatives of the participating institutions'.

30 The rules are silent on the position of the representatives of institutions which have been suspended, Rule 2d referring only to the term of office of a Member or Associate Member expiring 'on the certification of his discharge by his nominating institution or when he ceases to be a Member of that institution, whether by dissolution or for any other reason'.

31 The MLAs have not ceased to be members of the Assembly; they continue to draw a proportion of their salary and to carry out their constituency functions. The Assembly does not, however, function at any collective level; no meetings of either Assembly or its Committees are held.

32 Under Rule 8e, however, the Steering Committee has a duty to act 'as appropriate to the best interests of the Body'.

33 At its meeting in Dublin on 4th November, the Steering Committee decided that it would not be appropriate for members of an organisation that was not operating at an institutional level to participate in the Body's activities, and Lord Alderdice, Speaker of the Assembly, was informed accordingly.

Committees

34 The work of the Committees during the year is outlined in Appendix 3. Overall, the Irish general election caused an inevitable break in their work-programmes.

Other developments

35 The incorporation of the devolved parliamentary assemblies and the islands continues in general satisfactorily (though as mentioned above, Northern Ireland is not at the moment playing an active role). In particular the representatives of these institutions have played a major role in another new development of 2002, the developing of relations with the Nordic Council.

36 Following an invitation from the Nordic Council, Mr Michael O'Kennedy TD, Mr Kevin McNamara MP, Mr Sean Neeson MLA, Deputy Roger Berry and the Joint Clerks attended a seminar on 'Nordic Democracy' in Reykjavik in April. A number of useful contacts were established; in particular an exchange of views on the question of Sellafield was held with the Committee on the Environment and Natural Resources. The Members attending agreed that relations should be maintained, and the Council was invited to send a delegation to the Manchester plenary; this invitation was accepted by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr Asmund Kristofferssen, and the Clerk of the Committee, and they combined their attendance at the plenary with a visit to the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant.

37 A further invitation from the Council, to send members to its jubilee conference in Helsinki, was accepted by Mr Neeson and Mr Brian Gibbons AM but the

suspension of the Northern Ireland Assembly resulted in Mr Gibbons attending alone, accompanied by the British Joint Clerk; he found the experience interesting and also profited by it by making useful contacts in the health field to forward his study of healthcare delivery systems.

38 The Scottish Parliament hosted a seminar of the Council on 19th November; the Steering Committee was invited to send representatives but the date was too close to the Manchester plenary. The British Joint Clerk went as an observer.

39 While at the Manchester session, Mr Kristofferssen met members of Committee D to discuss topics of mutual interest. Committee B agreed to carry out an inquiry into relations with the Nordic Council. It looks likely therefore that the year's work will be taken further.

40 In another, more domestic development, the newly-formed British-Irish Parliamentary Reporting Association has taken on, without charging a fee and on an experimental basis for the time being, the responsibility of producing the transcript of the Body's plenaries. The Body is grateful to the Association and its members.

Prospects for 2002

41 The work of the Body during 2003 is certain to be interrupted to some extent by the forthcoming elections in Scotland, Wales and, it is to be hoped, Northern Ireland. More generally, however, much hangs on the possibilities of the reinstatement of the devolved institutions in Northern Ireland.

APPENDIX 1

Members of the British-Irish Inter-Parliamentary Body The Oireachtas - January 2002

FULL MEMBERS

Mr Michael O'Kennedy TD (*Co- Chairman*)
Mr Jimmy Deenihan TD (*Vice-Chairman*)
Dr Rory O'Hanlon TD (*Vice-Chairman*)
Mr Andrew Boylan TD
Senator Joe Costello TD
Mr Seymour Crawford TD
Mr Austin Currie TD
Mr Seán Doherty TD
Mr John Ellis TD
Senator Edward Haughey
Mr Brian Hayes TD
Senator Mary Henry
Ms Cecilia Keaveney TD

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mr Bernard Allen TD
Mr Liam Aylward TD
Senator Enda Bonner
Mr Paul Bradford TD
Mr John Brady TD
Mr Matt Brennan TD
Mr John Browne TD
Senator Frank Chambers
Mr Proinsias De Rossa TD
Senator Tony Kett
Senator Ann Leonard
Senator Maurice Manning
Mr Michael Moynihan TD

Senator Helen Keogh
Mr Tony Killeen TD
Mr Séamus Kirk TD
Mr Conor Lenihan TD
Mr Brendan McGahon TD
Ms Marian McGennis TD
Mr Dinny McGinley TD
Senator Paschal Mooney
Mr Caoimhghín O Caoláin TD
Mr Brian O'Shea TD
Mr Michael Ring TD
Mr Brendan Smith TD

Ms Breeda Moynihan-Cronin TD
Senator Francis O'Brien
Senator Ann Ormonde
Mr John Perry TD
Mr Gerry Reynolds TD
Senator Shane Ross

Members of the Oireachtas - December 2002

FULL MEMBERS

Mr Brendan Smith TD (Co-Chairman)
Mr Seamus Kirk TD (Vice-Chairman)
Mr Jim O'Keefe TD (Vice-Chairman)
Mr Johnny Brady TD
Dr Jerry Cowley TD
Mr Seymour Crawford TD
Dr Jimmy Devins TD
Mr John Ellis TD
Mr Damien English TD
Mr Jim Glennon TD
Senator Brian Hayes
Ms Cecilia Keaveney TD
Mr Tony Killeen TD
Mr Conor Lenihan TD
Senator Joe McHugh
Senator Martin Mansergh
Senator Paschal Mooney
Mr Arthur Morgan TD
Senator Francie O'Brien
Ms Liz O'Donnell TD
Senator Mary O'Rourke
Mr Seamus Pattison TD, *Leas-Cheann Comhairle*
Senator Shane Ross
Senator Brendan Ryan

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mr Barry Andrews TD
Mr Niall Blaney TD
Senator Paul Bradford
Ms Joan Burton TD
Senator Paul Coghlan
Mr Paudge Connolly TD
Mr John Curran TD
Senator John Dardis
Senator Geraldine Feeney
Senator Terry Leyden
Senator Michael McCarthy
Mr Paddy McHugh TD
Mr Michael Mulcahy TD
Mr Seán Ó Feargháil TD
Mr Ned O'Keefe TD
Senator Ann Ormonde
Senator John Paul Phelan
Senator Sheila Terry
Senator Diarmuid Wilson
Senator Mary White

Mr Joe Sherlock TD

Westminster - January 2002

FULL MEMBERS

Mr David Winnick MP (*Co-Chairman*)
Mr Michael Mates MP (*Vice-Chairman*)
Mr Kevin McNamara MP (*Vice-Chairman*)
Mr Harry Barnes MP
Mr John Battle MP
Mr Joe Benton MP
Rt Hon Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville CH
Mrs Jean Corston MP
Lord Dubs
Lord Glentoran CBE DL
Mr John Hume MP MLA
Ms Helen Jackson MP
Mr Elfyn Llwyd MP
Mr John McFall MP
Mrs Rosemary McKenna CBE MP
Rt hon Andrew Mackay MP
Mr Andrew Mackinlay MP
Rt hon Sir Brian Mawhinney PC MP
Mr William O'Brien MP
Mr Lembit Öpik MP
Lord Smith of Clifton
Mr Peter Temple-Morris MP
Mr Robert Walter MP

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Lord Alderdice
Mr Henry Bellingham MP
Mr Kevin Brennan MP
Mr Tony Colman MP
Mr Jeff Ennis MP
Mr Paul Flynn MP
Mr Dominic Grieve MP
Mr John Grogan MP
Mr Steve McCabe MP
Mr Eddie McGrady MP
Mr John McWilliam MP
Ms Gillian Merron MP
Mr Stephen O'Brien MP
Mr John Robertson MP
Mr Chris Ruane MP
Mr David Ruffley MP
Mr Alex Salmond MP

Westminster - December 2002

FULL MEMBERS

Mr David Winnick MP (*Co-Chairman*)
Mr Michael Mates MP (*Vice-Chairman*)
Mr Kevin McNamara MP (*Vice-Chairman*)
Mr Harry Barnes MP
Mr John Battle MP
Mr Joe Benton MP
Rt Hon Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville CH
Vacancy [Mrs Jean Corston MP]
Lord Dubs
Lord Glentoran CBE DL

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Lord Alderdice
Mr Henry Bellingham MP
Mr Kevin Brennan MP
Mr Tony Colman MP
Mr Jeff Ennis MP
Mr Paul Flynn MP
Mr Dominic Grieve MP
Mr John Grogan MP
Mr Steve McCabe MP
Mr Eddie McGrady MP

Mr John Hume MP MLA
Ms Helen Jackson MP
Mr Elfyn Llwyd MP
Mr John McFall MP
Mrs Rosemary McKenna CBE MP
Rt hon Andrew Mackay MP
Mr Andrew Mackinlay MP
Rt hon Sir Brian Mawhinney PC MP
Mr William O'Brien MP
Mr Lembit Öpik MP
Lord Smith of Clifton
Mr Peter Temple-Morris MP
Mr Robert Walter MP

Mr John McWilliam MP
Mr Stephen O'Brien MP
Mr John Robertson MP
Mr Chris Ruane MP
Mr David Ruffley MP
Mr Alex Salmond MP
Mr Gareth Thomas MP

The Scottish Parliament - January 2002

FULL MEMBERS

Mr Murray Tosh MSP
Mrs Margaret Ewing MSP
Mr David McLetchie MSP
Mr Iain Smith MSP
Ms Cathie Craigie MSP

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Ms Annabel Goldie MSP
Mr Jamie Stone MSP
Mr Michael McMahon MSP
Ms Shona Robison MSP

The Scottish Parliament - December 2002

FULL MEMBERS

Mr Murray Tosh MSP
Mrs Margaret Ewing MSP
Mr David McLetchie MSP
Mr Iain Smith MSP
Ms Cathie Craigie MSP

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Ms Annabel Goldie MSP
Mr Jamie Stone MSP
Mr Michael McMahon MSP
Ms Shona Robison MSP

Welsh Assembly - January 2002

FULL MEMBERS

Dr Dai Lloyd AM
Mr Glyn Davies AM
Mr John Griffiths AM
Dr John Marek AM

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Mr Mike German OBE AM
Dr Brian Gibbons FRCGP AM

Welsh Assembly - December 2002

FULL MEMBERS

Dr Dai Lloyd AM
Mrs Eleanor Burnham AM

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Dr Brian Gibbons FRCGP AM
Mr Glyn Davis AM

Mr John Griffiths AM
Dr John Marek AM
Mr David Melding AM

Northern Ireland Assembly - January 2002

FULL MEMBERS

Mr Sean Neeson MLA
Dr Joe Hendron MLA
Mr Barry McElduff MLA

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Ms Francie Molloy MLA
Mr Danny O'Connor MLA
Mr David Ervine MLA

Northern Ireland Assembly membership - suspended October 2002

States of Jersey - January 2002

FULL MEMBER

Senator Pierre Francois Horsfall OBE

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Senator Terence Le Sueur

States of Jersey - December 2002

FULL MEMBER

Senator Pierre Francois Horsfall OBE

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Senator Terence Le Sueur

States of Guernsey - January 2002

FULL MEMBER

Deputy Roger Berry OBE

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Deputy Michael W Torode

States of Guernsey - December 2002

FULL MEMBER

Deputy Roger Berry OBE

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Deputy Michael W Torode

Tynwald - January 2002

FULL MEMBER

Donald J Gelling MHK

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Edgar Quine MHK

Tynwald - December 2002

FULL MEMBER

Donald J Gelling MLC

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Edgar Quine MHK

APPENDIX 2

**Reports and other documents approved by the Body
Twenty-Fourth Plenary, Dublin, 25th and 26th March**

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

The Body agreed to the following Resolution:

That the Body takes note of the Sixth Annual Report of the Body [Doc. No. 83].

RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Body agreed to the following Resolution:

That the Body reaffirms its support for the Good Friday Agreement and for its implementation in full; welcomes the progress that has been made in recent months in respect of the core issues of the stability of the institutions, policing, security normalisation and decommissioning; urges all parties to redouble their efforts to secure further progress; recognises the importance of the legislation currently before Westminster arising from the Criminal Justice Review; looks forward to a sustained period of political stability in which the institutions of the Agreement can operate fully to the benefit of all the people of these islands; and urges all the parties to continue their efforts, in partnership, to implement all aspects of the Agreement.

JOINT BID TO HOST THE EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS, 2008

That the Body welcomes the joint Scottish-Irish bid to host the European Football Championships 2008; recognises that Euro 2008 provides a great opportunity for both Scottish and Irish tourism; and looks forward to Euro 2008 further enhancing relations between both nations

Twenty-Fifth Plenary, Manchester, November 25th and 26th

RECENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Body agreed to the following Resolution

That the Body reaffirms its support for the Good Friday Agreement and for its implementation in full; welcomes the progress that has been made in recent months in respect of the core issues of the stability of the institutions, policing, security normalisation and decommissioning; urges all parties to redouble their efforts to secure further progress; recognises the importance of the legislation currently before Westminster arising from the Criminal Justice Review; looks forward to a sustained period of political stability in which the institutions of the Agreement can operate fully to the benefit of all the people of these islands; and urges all the parties to continue their efforts, in partnership, to implement all aspects of the Agreement.

JOINT BID TO HOST THE EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS, 2008

The Body agreed to the following Resolution:

That the Body takes note of the responses of governments and executives to the debate on the motion on the joint Scottish-Irish bid for the European Championships 2008.

THE NORDIC COUNCIL

The Body agreed to the following Resolution

That the Body congratulates the Nordic Council on its 50th anniversary; notes the benefit that the Council has brought to the peoples, regions and nations of the Nordic area in terms of social, political and economic co-operation and believes that links between the Body and the Nordic Council should be developed.

2. SELLAFIELD: REPORT FROM COMMITTEE D

That the Body takes note of the Report of Committee D: Culture, Education and the Environment [Doc 85], which should be forwarded to both Governments and devolved administrations for their observations.

APPENDIX 3

Work of Committees Committee A Committee on Sovereign Matters.

1. Once again, Committee A found its work necessarily disrupted by a general election, this time in the Irish Republic, and the consequent need to re-establish the Committee in the second part of the year. Nevertheless it met formally on three occasions during the year, twice during plenary sessions and once on a working visit.
2. In February, the Committee undertook a visit to Belfast to examine progress in the establishment of a new police service for Northern Ireland. The Committee met the Police Ombudsman, Nuala O'Loan, the Deputy Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, Colin Cramphorn, and representatives from the Policing Board. The Committee also visited the Police Training College. During the course of the latter visit the Committee had the opportunity to meet and talk to recruits to the new police service.
3. The Committee met at the Dublin Plenary in March. No further meetings were possible until the Manchester Plenary in November, at which the Committee decided to examine the possibility of a visit to Belfast early next year to examine progress on negotiations to reestablish the suspended institutions.

Attendance at Meetings of Committee A in 2002

Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th February 2002, Belfast: Mr Jimmy Deenihan TD (Chairman), Mr Michael Mates MP (Shadow Chairman), Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville, Senator Joe Costello, Lord Dubs, Ms Helen Jackson MP, Mr Tony Killeen TD, Mr Andrew Mackinlay MP.

Tuesday 26 March 2002, Dublin: Mr Jimmy Deenihan TD (Chairman), Mr Michael Mates (Shadow Chair), Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville, Lord Dubs, Mr Tony Killeen TD, Mr Andrew Mackinlay, Lord Smith of Clifton.

Tuesday 26th November Manchester: Mr Jim O'Keeffe TD (Chair), Mr Michael Mates MP (Shadow Chair), Lord Brooke of Sutton Mandeville, Senator Brian Hayes, Mr Tony

Killeen TD, Mr Andrew Mackinlay MP, Senator Martin Mansergh.

**Committee B: European Affairs
Work of the Committee in 2002**

1. The Committee met twice in 2002, during the Plenary Sessions, and completed one Report.
2. At the Dublin Plenary in March, the Chairman reported that, in connection with the completion of the inquiry into transport links between Northern Ireland and Britain, he had tried to set up a meeting with the Regional Development Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly (NIA), but without success. Nevertheless, the Committee agreed a short Report summarising the Committee's activities associated with the inquiry. It was agreed that the Chairman draw the Committee's work to the attention of the relevant Westminster select committee, in case that committee wished to pursue any of the issues raised.
3. At the Manchester Plenary in November, the Chairman reported that, following the meeting in Dublin, he had again tried to obtain evidence from the NIA's Regional Development Committee. The chairman of the NIA committee had been open to the suggestion, but the Unionist members of the committee were not, and in the circumstances the chairman was not inclined to pursue the matter. As the Committee had now been considering the matter for three years, it was agreed that a line should now be drawn under the inquiry. The Committee's report had been raised already with the chairman of the Transport Committee at Westminster, and it was agreed to submit it also to the Transport Committees of the Seanad and of the Dáil, for their information and reference.
4. The Committee agreed to undertake an inquiry into possible links between the Body and the Nordic Council. Such an inquiry could investigate the links and overlap between the Body and the Council, explore the existing relationship and suggest areas where it could be built on in order to maximise those areas of mutual interest. It was agreed to consider further, at a future date, investigative inquiries into matters which affected UK and Irish interests in Europe, for example, the Convention on the Future of Europe - especially the role of national Parliaments.

Attendance at meetings of Committee B in 2002

Tuesday 26 March 2002, Berkeley Court Hotel, Dublin: Rt Hon Sir Brian Mawhinney MP (in the Chair); Mr Austin Currie TD (Shadow Chair); Mr Seymour Crawford TD; Mr Seán Doherty TD; Mr John Ellis TD; Mr John Griffiths AM; Mr Elfyn Llwyd MP; Mrs Rosemary McKenna CBE MP; Senator Paschal Mooney; Lord Temple-Morris.

Tuesday 26 November 2002, Worsley Park Hotel, Manchester: Rt Hon Sir Brian Mawhinney MP (in the Chair); Mr Seamus Pattison TD (Shadow Chair); Mr Damien

English TD; Mr John Griffiths AM; Mr Conor Lenihan TD; Senator Paschal Mooney; Senator Francie O'Brien; Mr John Robertson MP (for Mrs Rosemary McKenna MP).

**Committee C: Economic Committee
Work of the Committee in 2002**

1. In 2002 the Committee met on two occasions. Progress on the tourism inquiry was interrupted by the General Election in the Republic of Ireland in May. Subsequently, Irish members were appointed to the Body and its committees in November 2002.
2. During the Plenary session in Dublin on 26 March the Committee agreed to focus its attention on the ports and airports infrastructure on the island of Ireland. Memoranda was sought from relevant bodies.
3. At the Plenary session in Manchester on 26 November the Committee decided to bring the tourism inquiry to a conclusion with a meeting with Bord Failte and Tourism Ireland in Dublin during January 2003. It was expected that a report would be presented via the Steering Committee to the next Plenary session in Kilkenny in March 2003.

Attendance at meetings of Committee C in 2002

Meeting in Dublin, 26 March 2002: Mr William O'Brien MP (Shadow Chair), Mr Harry Barnes MP, Mr Henry Bellingham MP, Mr Andrew Mackay MP, Mr David McLetchie MSP, Dr John Marek AM, Mr David Melding AM, Mr Brian O'Shea TD, Mr Robert Walter MP.

Meeting in Manchester, 26 November 2002: Mr Seamus Kirk TD (Chairman), Mr William O'Brien MP (Shadow Chair), Mr Harry Barnes MP, Mr Jimmy Devins TD, Mr John Ellis TD, Ms Cecilia Keaveney TD, Mr Andrew Mackay MP, Mr Robert Walter MP.

**Committee D: Environmental and Social
Work of the Committee in 2002**

In December 2001, during the Plenary Session of the Body in Bournemouth, Committee D decided to conduct a short enquiry into recent developments regarding Sellafield nuclear power station. Accordingly in January the Committee visited Sellafield, and held discussions with the Chief Executive of British Nuclear Fuels, Mr Norman Askew, and with representatives of management and the Trade Unions at the plant. The Committee was shown around the Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant (THORP) and the newly-commissioned Sellafield Mixed Oxide (MOX) Plant. In early March the Committee met again, in London, to discuss the issues with officials from British

Government departments and agencies. After a short meeting in the course of the Dublin Plenary, later the same month, the Committee met again in April to agree a short Report.

The Irish General Election then intervened, and the Committee did not meet again until November, during the Manchester Plenary. The Committee now had new Irish members, including Senator Mary O'Rourke, who replaced Ms Marian McGennis, TD, as Shadow Chair. The Committee discussed future plans, and agreed to undertake an enquiry into waste management. However, in acknowledgement of the on-going and profound concern of Irish members over the Sellafield plant, and in the light of the concerns expressed during the plenary debate on the Committee's Report, it was agreed that a small group, led by Senator O'Rourke, should maintain a watching brief over the issue.

Attendance at meetings of Committee D in 2002

Sellafield, 28 January 2002: Ms Jean Corston MP, Ms Cathie Craigie MSP, Mr Jeff Ennis MP, Mr Brian Hayes TD, Mr Conor Lenihan TD, Mr Barry McElduff MLA, Ms Marian McGennis TD (Shadow Chair), Mr Kevin McNamara MP (Chairman), Mr Iain Smith MSP.

House of Commons, London, 11 March 2002: Mr Jeff Ennis MP, Mr Conor Lenihan TD, Ms Marian McGennis TD (Shadow Chair), Mr Kevin McNamara MP (Chairman), Mr Iain Smith MSP.

Berkeley Court Hotel, Dublin, 26 March 2002: Mr John Battle MP, Ms Eleanor Burnham AM, Ms Jean Corston MP, Ms Cathie Craigie MSP, Mr Jeff Ennis MP, Mr Donald Gelling MHK, Dr Dai Lloyd AM, Mr Kevin McNamara MP (Chairman), Mr Chris Ruane MP, Mr Iain Smith MSP.

Dublin, 10 April 2002: Ms Eleanor Burnham AM, Mr Jeff Ennis MP, Mr Brian Hayes TD, Mr Brendan McGahon TD, Ms Marian McGennis TD (Shadow Chair), Mr Kevin McNamara MP (Chairman), Mr Iain Smith MSP

Worsley Park Hotel, Manchester, 26 November 2002: Mr Johnny Brady TD, Ms Eleanor Burnham AM, Mr Jeff Ennis MP, Mr Donald Gelling MHK, Mr Jim Glennon TD, The Lord Glentoran, Senator Joe McHugh, Mr Kevin McNamara MP (Chairman), Mr Arthur Morgan TD, Senator Mary O'Rourke (Shadow Chair), Mr Joe Sherlock TD, Mr Iain Smith MSP

APPENDIX 4

Staff of the Body in 2002

Ireland:

United Kingdom:

Clerk: Mr Jim Mulkerrins

Clerk: Ms Alda Barry

*Counsellors/Advisers:
Mr Conor Long & Mr Colm McGrady*

Consultant: Brigadier John Osborne

*Clerks, Committee A:
Mr Conor Long & Mr Colm McGrady*

*Shadow Clerk, Committee A:
Mr Huw Yardley*

*Shadow Clerks, Committee B:
Mr Patrick Duffy &
Ms Marianne Bolger*

*Clerk, Committee B:
Dr Robin James (until April 2002); Mr
Mike Clark*

*Clerks, Committee C:
Mr Conor Long & Mr Colm McGrady*

*Shadow Clerks, Committee C:
Mr John Whatley*

*Shadow Clerks, Committee D:
Mr Patrick Duffy &
Ms Marianne Bolger*

*Clerk, Committee D:
Dr Christopher Johnson*

*Administrators: Mrs Veronica Carr
& Ms Rosanna Losty*

Administrator: Miss Amanda Hay

Media Consultant: Mr Mike Burns