

BRITISH-IRISH PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
Tionól Parlaiminteachna Breataine agus na hÉireann

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

SESSION LI

Monday 16 November 2015

The sitting was opened in public at 10.27 am at Cheltenham Racecourse, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, with Laurence Robertson MP in the Chair.

Mr Frank Feighan TD took the Chair. He announced that the following Members had sent their apologies for the plenary session: from the UK, Rosie Cooper MP, Baroness Corston, Jeffrey Donaldson MP, Nigel Evans MP, Baroness Harris of Richmond, and Jack Lopresti MP; from Ireland, Seán Conlon TD, Seán Crowe TD, Martin Heydon TD, Seamus Kirk TD, Mattie McGrath TD, Patrick O'Donovan TD and Aengus Ó'Snodaigh TD; from the Scottish Parliament, Alison McInnes MSP; from the National Assembly for Wales, Darren Millar AM; and from the Northern Ireland Assembly, Judith Cochrane MLA and Brenda Hale MLA.

The Chair further informed the Assembly that, in accordance with Rule 2A, the following Associate Members had accepted the invitation of the Steering Committee to assume the powers and responsibilities of Members for the whole of the session: Senator Terry Brennan, replacing Mattie McGrath TD, Gordon MacDonald MSP, replacing Alison McInnes MSP, and John Griffiths AM, replacing Darren Millar AM.

1. ADOPTION OF PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS

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

2. ADDRESS BY MINISTER OF STATE, FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Rt Hon David Lidington MP, addressed the Assembly and answered questions from the floor.

3. REPORT OF COMMITTEE A ON CROSS-BORDER POLICE CO-OPERATION AND ILLICIT TRADE

Resolved, That the Assembly takes note of the Report from Committee A (Sovereign Matters) on cross-border police co-operation and illicit trade (Document No. 222) and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, which should be forwarded to both governments and the devolved administrations for their observations. – *(Senator Paul Coughlan.)*

4. REPORT OF COMMITTEE B ON THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

Motion made, and Question proposed, that the Assembly takes note of the Report from Committee B (European Affairs) on the European Investment Bank (Document No. 235) and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, which should be forwarded to both governments and the devolved administrations for their observations. – *(Robert Walter MP.)*



Debate adjourned.

5. ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND SPORT

The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Mr Paschal Donohoe TD, addressed the Assembly and answered questions from the floor.

The sitting was suspended at 12.12 pm.

[During the lunch interval members of the Assembly visited the Garden of Remembrance, Parnell Square, where the two Co-Chairs laid wreaths.]

The sitting resumed at 2.23 pm, at Croke Park Stadium.

6. ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

The President of the Gaelic Athletic Association, Mr. Liam O'Neill, addressed the Assembly and answered questions from the floor.

7. PANEL DISCUSSION – SPORT AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr Ryan Feeney (Ulster Gaelic Athletic Association), Ms Claire Adams (Irish Football Association), Ms Miriam Malone (Football Association of Ireland), Mr Hugo MacNeill (British-Irish Association) and Mr Trevor Ringland (Chairman, PeacePlayers International) took part in a panel discussion on sport and its contribution to community and cultural development and answered questions from the floor.

The sitting was suspended at 5.25 pm.

Tuesday 24 February 2015

The sitting was opened in public at 9.30 am in the Seanad Chamber, Leinster House, Dublin, with Frank Feighan TD in the Chair.

8. REPORT OF COMMITTEE B ON THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK (CONTINUATION OF DEBATE)

Question again proposed, that the Assembly takes note of the Report from Committee B (European Affairs) on the European Investment Bank (Document No. 236) and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, which should be forwarded to both governments, the devolved administrations, **The European Investment Bank and the European Commission** for their observations.



Question put and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Assembly takes note of the Report from Committee B (European Affairs) on the European Investment Bank (Document No. 223) and the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee, which should be forwarded to both governments, the devolved administrations, **The European Investment Bank and the European Commission** for their observations.

9. REPORT OF COMMITTEE D ON IRISH COMMUNITIES IN SCOTLAND

Ordered, That the Report from Committee D (Environmental and Social) on Irish communities in Scotland (Document No. 224) be referred back to Committee D for further consideration.—(*Lord Dubs.*)

10. NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Resolved, that the Assembly takes note of the Nineteenth Annual Report (Document No. 227). – (*Mr Laurence Robertson MP.*)

11. GOVERNMENT REPLIES TO REPORTS.

Resolved, that the Assembly take note of the following government responses to reports and resolutions received since the previous plenary session: (1) response from the Government of Ireland's Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport and from the Scottish Government to Committee B's report on the impact of the HGV Road User Levy Act 2013 on the free movement of goods on the island of Ireland (Document Nos. 224 and); (2) responses to Committee D's report on Travellers, Gypsies and Roma: access to public services and community relations" from the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, the Minister for Education and Skills, the Minister for Health and the Minister for Justice and Equality (Documents Nos. to XXXXX). – (*The Chair.*)

12. ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR JOHN COAKLEY

Professor John Coakley, Institute of British-Irish Studies, University College Dublin, addressed the Assembly on the occasion of the Assembly's 25th anniversary, and answered questions from the floor.

13. PROGRESS REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

Senator Paul Coghlan, Chair of Committee A (Sovereign Matters), gave a progress report on the work of Committee A.

Mr Robert Walter MP, Chair of Committee B (European Affairs), gave a progress report on the work of Committee B.

Lord Dubs, Chair of Committee D (Environmental and Social), gave a progress report on the work of Committee D.



14. ADDRESS BY MINISTER OF STATE WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR NORTH-SOUTH CO-OPERATION

The Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with Responsibility for North-South Co-operation, Mr Sean Sherlock TD, addressed the Assembly and answered questions from the floor.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Resolved, that the Assembly do now adjourn. – (*Mr Robert Walter MP.*)

The session concluded at 12.34 pm.

***TARA KELLY
ROBIN JAMES***

CLERKS TO THE ASSEMBLY