North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat

An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

# PAPER NSMC TB 1 (11) JC

# NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

# TRADE & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SECTORAL FORMAT

# NSMC JOINT SECRETARIAT OFFICES, ARMAGH

# 25 JULY 2011

# JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The thirteenth North South Ministerial Council Trade and Business Development meeting was held in the NSMC Joint Secretariat Offices, Armagh on Monday 25 July 2011. The meeting was attended by Richard Bruton, TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Arlene Foster, MLA, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, and John O'Dowd, MLA, Minister for Education. Minister Bruton chaired the meeting.

**PROGRESS REPORT**

2. The Council received a presentation from David Dobbin, Chairperson and Liam Nellis, CEO, on InterTradeIreland's performance and business activities.

## CORPORATE PLAN 2011-2013 AND BUSINESS PLAN 2011

3. Ministers discussed progress on the development of InterTradeIreland's Corporate Plan 2011-2013 and Business Plan 2011.

## DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2010

4. InterTradeIreland's draft Annual Report and Accounts for 2010 were noted.

## CO-OPERATION ON INNOVATION

5. The main focus of the meeting was a discussion on Co-operation on Innovation. InterTradeIreland has dedicated resources specifically to increase collaborative participation on the EU Research, Technological Development and Innovation Framework Programme and has established a steering group to increase such collaboration.

6. The Council noted the success of the 'Collaborate to Innovate' conference held in Belfast on 30 June, which aimed to increase co-operative participation in current and forthcoming EU Framework programmes.

7. Ministers also welcomed the continuing success and development of the US-Ireland Research and Development Partnership and the initiation of a study to determine the characteristics of an Innovation Ecosystem across Northern Ireland and Ireland.

## ADDITIONAL MATTERS

8. The Council noted a number of additional matters including Tourism Ireland's Annual Report and Accounts for 2010 and a determination made by the Board of Tourism Ireland on the remuneration of the Chief Executive.

9. The resignation of Mr. Hugh Friel from the Board of Tourism Ireland Limited was noted and Ministers thanked him for his contribution as Chairperson. They also approved the appointment of Ms. Ann Riordan as Chairperson and Mr. Jim Flannery as a Director of Tourism Ireland Limited.

**NEXT MEETING**

10. The Council agreed to meet again in Trade and Business Development sectoral format on a date to be confirmed.

**Joint Secretariat**
**25 July 2011**