

North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

ARMAGH

18 NOVEMBER 2011

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The thirteenth Plenary meeting of the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) was held at the NSMC offices, Armagh on 18 November 2011.
2. The Northern Ireland Executive delegation was led by the First Minister, the Rt Hon Peter Robinson MLA and the deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness MP MLA. The Irish Government delegation was led by the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD. A full list of the members of both delegations is attached as an Annex.
3. The Council exchanged views on shared economic challenges and the factors contributing to low economic growth, particularly the instability and fiscal contraction in other EU and global economies. Ministers discussed cooperation on NAMA and the banks and opportunities to make savings through mutually beneficial cooperation. The Council also explored collaboration to meet emerging challenges in third level education and reviewed the significant contribution of the agri-food sector to the economy.

JOINT SECRETARIES' PROGRESS REPORT

4. The Council discussed a progress report prepared by the NSMC Joint Secretaries on the work of the North South Bodies and in the other NSMC areas for cooperation and welcomed the mutually beneficial cooperation taken forward at NSMC meetings.
5. Ministers noted progress on EU related matters raised at NSMC meetings including collaboration to maximise drawdown of EU Funds from the FP7 Research and Development Programme, progress on current EU programmes and potential for cooperation on future EU programmes.
6. Other key developments included the official opening of the Peace Bridge over the River Foyle, cooperation on CAP reform and on the all island Animal Health and Welfare strategy and the agreement by the two Ambulance Services of a Memorandum of Understanding to provide for cross border assistance in the event of major incidents.
7. It was noted that the two Education Ministers are undertaking a survey to review the sustainability of rural primary schools in the border region. Proposals concerning relocation of Foras na Gaeilge posts to Gweedore were discussed and it was noted that there would be a discussion on this at the next NSMC Language meeting. Progress on the Ulster Canal is progressing incrementally with the planning process ongoing.

BOARDS OF NORTH SOUTH BODIES AND TOURISM IRELAND

8. The Council approved the appointment of Chairpersons, Vice Chairpersons and members to the Boards of the North South Implementation Bodies and Directors of Tourism Ireland Limited. Ministers noted that the nominations that had been brought forward would provide both continuity and fresh perspectives to the work of the Bodies. Details of the members are attached.
9. Ministers expressed their appreciation for the work of the outgoing Chairpersons, Vice Chairpersons, Board members and Directors and commended the significant contribution they had made to the work of the Bodies. It was agreed that the Joint Secretariat will write to them conveying thanks on behalf of the Council.

TOURISM

10. The Council discussed the significant contribution that tourism can make to the economy and opportunities to work together. Ministers highlighted the success of the MTV EMA awards and the associated tourism benefits for Belfast. The Council explored opportunities to work together to boost the Tourism Industry and maximise the benefit of forthcoming initiatives in

both jurisdictions such as NI 2012, which includes the Titanic Centenary, the Derry-Londonderry City of Culture in 2013 and 'The Gathering', a year long programme of events in 2013 driven by arts, sports, business and community groups.

NORTH WEST GATEWAY INITIATIVE

11. The Council discussed progress on the North West Gateway Initiative and agreed that the NSMC Joint Secretariat will convene a meeting of officials from relevant Departments in both jurisdictions, who in turn will consult their Ministers, with a view to a further progress report being presented to the NSMC Institutional meeting in Spring 2012.

PROGRESS ON A5 and A8 PROJECTS

12. The Council noted progress on the A5 (North West Gateway to Aughnacloy) and A8 (Belfast to Larne) projects and agreed that payment of £3m will be made by the Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport to the NI Consolidated Fund, in accordance with the agreed procedure.
13. Ministers noted that the provision of further funding by the Irish Government is being deferred and that in this regard the Irish Government will provide £25m per annum in 2015 and 2016 towards the project. It was also noted that the relevant departments will now prepare a new funding and implementation plan for the projects for agreement at the next NSMC Transport meeting with endorsement at the next NSMC Plenary meeting.

ST ANDREWS AGREEMENT REVIEW

14. The Council agreed that a number of proposals to advance the first element of the St Andrews Agreement Review would be discussed at the next round of NSMC meetings in sectoral format with a view to decisions being taken at the NSMC Plenary meeting in June 2012.
15. A way forward on the other elements of the Review was also agreed. This will include consultation within the Executive and within the Irish Government, discussion at the NSMC Institutional meeting in Spring 2012 and final proposals agreed at the NSMC Plenary meeting in June 2012.

NORTH SOUTH CONSULTATIVE FORUM

16. The Council noted the background and recent developments on a North South Consultative Forum and agreed to finalise deliberations on this issue at its next Plenary meeting.

NORTH SOUTH PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

17. The Council welcomed work taken forward by working groups of the Oireachtas and the Northern Ireland Assembly including joint meetings in

September in Parliament Buildings and in November in the Houses of the Oireachtas, Dublin. A further joint meeting is planned for 15 December 2011.

FUTURE NSMC MEETINGS

18. Ministers approved a schedule of NSMC meetings proposed by the Joint Secretariat, including a NSMC Institutional meeting in Spring 2012 and the next NSMC Plenary meeting on 15 June 2012.

**Joint Secretariat
18 November 2011**

ANNEX A**MEETING OF THE NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL
ARMAGH
FRIDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 2011**

Northern Ireland Executive	Irish Government
The Rt Hon Peter Robinson MLA First Minister	Enda Kenny TD Taoiseach
Martin McGuinness MP MLA deputy First Minister	Eamon Gilmore TD Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade
Stephen Farry MLA Minister for Employment and Learning	Michael Noonan TD Minister for Finance
Arlene Foster MLA Minister of Enterprise Trade and Investment	Ruairí Quinn TD Minister for Education and Skills
Danny Kennedy MLA Minister for Regional Development	Brendan Howlin TD Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform
Nelson McCausland MLA Minister for Social Development	Richard Bruton TD Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
Carál Ní Chuilín MLA Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure	Joan Burton TD Minister for Social Protection
John O'Dowd MLA Minister for Education	Jimmy Deenihan TD Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Edwin Poots MLA Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety	Pat Rabbitte TD Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
Michelle O'Neill MLA Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development	Simon Coveney TD Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Sammy Wilson MP MLA Minister for Finance and Personnel	James Reilly TD Minister for Health
Martina Anderson MLA Junior Minister OFMDFM	Leo Varadkar Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport
Jonathan Bell MLA Junior Minister OFMDFM	

ANNEX B

Trade and Business and Development Body (Inter *Tradel*reland, ITI)

	NAME
Chairperson	Martin Cronin
Vice Chairperson	Joanne Spain
Member	Brendan Butler
Member	Philip Doherty
Member	Jake Gallagher
Member	Ray Hayden
Member	Hubert Brown Kerr
Member	Timothy Mayes
Member	Bridget Meehan
Member	Patricia McKeown
Member	Kevin Norton
Member	Mairead Sorenson

ANNEX B**Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC)**

	NAME
Chairperson	Winston Patterson
Vice Chairperson	Alan McCulla
Member	Andrew Duncan
Member	Phil Mahon
Member	Joe Millar
Member	Michael J McCormick
Member	Theresa McLaverty
Member	Tarlach O’Crosain
Member	Seamus Rogers
Member	Thomas Sloan
Member	Donal Tipping
Member	Jim Wilson

ANNEX B**The North South Language Body****Foras na Gaeilge**

	NAME
Chairperson	Liam Ó Maolmhichíl
Vice Chairperson	Eoghain MacCormaic
Member	Pól Callaghan
Member	Colm Cavanagh
Member	Áine Ní Chiaráin
Member	Bríd Ní Chonghoile
Member	Liam Kennedy
Member	Seosamh Mac Donnchadha
Member	Tomás Mac Eochagáin
Member	Marcus MacRuairi
Member	Seán Mícheal Ó Dómhnaill
Member	Dónal Ó hAiniféin
Member	Therese Ruane
Member	Tomás Sharkey
Member	Cáitríona Ní Shúilleabháin

Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch

	NAME
Chairperson	Tom Scott
Vice Chairperson	Tony Crooks
Member	Ida Fisher
Member	William Leathem
Member	Val O'Kelly
Member	Hilary Singleton
Member	Sharon Treacy-Dunne
Member	Trevor Wilson

The Food Safety Promotion Board (FSPB)

	NAME
Chairperson	Lynn Ní Bhaogheallain
Vice Chairperson	Darina Allen
Member	Julie Andrews
Member	Thomas Burns
Member	Brendan Kehoe
Member	Alan McGrath
Member	Helen O'Donnell
Member	Edward Spellman
Member	Hannah Su
Member	Campbell Tweedie
Member	Mary Upton
Member	Jane Wells

Tourism Ireland Limited

	NAME
Chairperson	Brian Ambrose
Vice Chairperson	Jim Flannery
Member	Ciara Boyle
Member	Denis Cregan
Member	Shaun Quinn
Member	Howard Hastings
Member	John Healy
Member	David Lyle
Member	Christoph Mueller
Member	Elaine Murphy
Member	Derek Rainey
Member	David Rodway

North South Ministerial Council
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An Chomhairle Aireachta
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AN CHOMHAIRLE AIREACHTA THUaidh THEAS

AN TRÍÚ CRUINIÚ IOMLÁNACH DÉAG

ARD MHACHA

18 SAMHAIN 2011

COMHRÁITEAS

1. Tionóladh an tríú cruinniú iomlánach déag den Chomhairle Aireachta Thuaidh Theas (CATT) in oifigí CATT, Ard Mhacha ar 21 Eanáir 2011.
2. Bhí toscaireacht Fheidhmeannas Thuaisceart Éireann faoi cheannasaíocht an Chéad-Aire, an Ró-Onórach Peter Robinson CTR agus an LeasChéad-Aire, Martin McGuinness MP CTR. Bhí toscaireacht Rialtas na hÉireann faoi cheannasaíocht an Taoisigh, Enda Kenny TD. Tá liosta iomlán de bhaill an dá thoscaireacht faoi iamh mar larscríbhinn.
3. Roinn an Chomhairle tuairimí ar chomhdhúshlán eacnamaíochta agus ar na tosca a bhaineann le fás íseal geilleagrach, go háirithe an éagobhsaíocht agus an crapadh fioscach i gcórais geilleagair eile de chuid an AE agus an domhain. Phléigh Airí comhoibriú ar NAMA agus ar na bainc agus ar dheiseanna le coigiltí a dhéanamh trí chomhoibriú atá lenár gcomhleas. D'fhiosraigh an Chomhairle fosta comhoibriú le dul i ngleic le dúshlán atá ag teacht chun cinn san oideachas tríú leibhéal agus d'athbhreithnigh an méid suntasach a chuireann an earnáil agrairbhia leis an chóras geilleagair.

TUARASCÁIL NA gCOMHRÚNAITHE AR DHUL CHUN CINN

4. Phléigh an Chomhairle tuarascáil ar dhul chun cinn a d'ullmhaigh Comhrúnaíocht CATT ar obair na bhForas Thuaidh Theas agus sna réimsí comhoibrithe eile de chuid CATT agus d'fháiltigh roimh an chomhoibriú atá lenár gcomhleas a tugadh chun cinn ar chruinnithe de chuid CATT.
5. Nótáil Airí dul chun cinn ar cheisteanna a bhaineann leis an AE a ardaíodh ar chruinnithe de chuid CATT ar a n-áirítear comhoibriú ar tharraingt anuas Chistí an AE ó Chlár Taighde agus Forbartha FP7 a úasmhéadú, dul chun cinn ar chláir reatha an AE agus comhoibriú féideartha ar chláir de chuid an AE amach anseo.
6. Áiríodh ar chroífhorbairtí eile oscailt oifigiúil Dhroichead na Síochána thar an Fheabhal, comhoibriú ar athleasú CAP agus ar an straitéis uile-oileánda Sláinte agus Leas Ainmhithe agus comhaontú an dá Sheirbhís Otharcharranna ar Mheabhrán Tuisceana le cúnamh trasteorann a chur ar fáil i gcás mórtheagmhais.
7. Nótáladh go bhfuil an bheirt Airí Oideachais ag déanamh suirbhé le hinbhuanaitheacht bunscoileanna tuaithe i réigiún na teorann a athbhreithniú. Pléadh moltaí a bhaineann le athlonnú phoist Fhoras na Gaeilge go Gaoth Dobhair agus nótáladh go mbeadh plé air seo ar an chéad chruinniú Teanga eile de chuid CATT. Tá dul chun cinn forásach déanta ar Chanáil Uladh agus an próiseas pleanála ag leanúint ar aghaidh.

BOIRD NA bhFORAS THUAIDH THEAS AGUS THURASÓIREACHT ÉIREANN

8. D'fhaomh an Chomhairle ceapacháin Cathaoirleach, Leas-Chathaoirleach agus comhaltaí ar Bhoird na bhForas Forfheidhmiúcháin Thuaidh Theas agus Stiúrthóirí Thurasóireacht Éireann Teo. Nótáil Airí go dtabharfadh na hainmniúcháin a cuireadh chun cinn idir leanúnachas agus pheirspictíochtaí úra d'obair na bhForas. Tá mionsonraí na gcomhaltaí faoi iamh.
9. Chuir Airí a mbuíochas in iúl as obair na gCathaoirleach, na Leas-Chathaoirleach, na gComhaltaí Boird agus na Stiúrthóirí atá ag dul as oifig agus thug ardmholadh maidir leis an ionchur suntasach atá tugtha acu d'obair na bhForas. Aontaíodh go scríobhfadh an Chomhrúnaíocht chucu a ghabháil buíochais leo thar ceann na Comhairle.

TURASÓIREACHT

10. Phléigh an Chomhairle an t-ionchur suntasach a thig leis an turasóireacht a thabhairt don chóras geilleagair agus na deiseanna comhoibrithe. Dhírigh Airí aird ar a fheabhas a déirigh le gradaim MTV EMA agus an leas bainteach turasóireachta do Bhéal Feirste. D'fhiosraigh an Chomhairle deiseanna comhoibrithe le borradh a chur faoi thionscal na turasóireachta agus lena oiread leasa agus is féidir a bhaint as tionscnaimh atá chugainn sa dá dhlínse

ar nós *NI 2012* lena n-áirítear Comóradh Céad Bliain an Titanic, Cathair Chultúir Dhoire in 2013 agus *The Gathering*, clár bliana d'imeachtaí in 2013 a bhfuil na healaíona, spóirt, grúpaí pobail agus gnó mar bhonn agus taca aige.

TIONSCNAMH NA TAIRÍS THIAR THUaidh

11. Phléigh an Chomhairle dul chun cinn ar Thionscnamh na Tairsí Thiar Thuaidh agus d'aontaigh go dtionólfadh Comhrúnaíocht CATT cruinniú d'oifigigh as Ranna ábhartha sa dá dhlínse agus go rachaidh na hoifigigh i gcomhairle lena n-Airí, i ndúil go gcuirfear tuarascáil eile ar dhul chun cinn i láthair chruinniú institiúideach CATT in Earrach 2012.

DUL CHUN CINN AR THIONSCADAIL A5 agus A8

12. Nótáil an Chomhairle dul chun cinn ar thionscadail an A5 (An Tairseach Thiar Thuaidh go hAchadh na Cloiche) agus an A8 (Béal Feirste go Latharna) agus d'aontaigh go ndéanfadh an tAire Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt íocaíocht £3m le Ciste Comhdhlúite TÉ, faoi réir an ghnáthaimh chomhaontaithe.

13. Nótáil Airí go bhfuil soláthar cistiú breise de chuid Rialtas na hÉireann á chur siar agus maidir leis seo, cuirfidh Rialtas na hÉireann £25m sa bhliain in 2015 agus 2016 ar fáil don tionscadal. Nótáladh fosta go n-ullmhóidh na Ranna bainteacha anois plean nua cistithe agus forfheidhmithe i leith na dtionscadal a chomhaontófar ar an chéad chruinniú eile Iompair de chuid CATT a fhaomfar ag an chéad chruinniú eile Iomlánach de chuid CATT.

ATHBHREITHNIÚ AR CHOMHAONTÚ CHILL RÍMHINN

14. D'aontaigh an Chomhairle go bpléifí roinnt moltaí leis an chéad ghné d'Athbhreithniú Chill Rímhinn a thabhairt chun cinn ar an chéad sraith eile de chruinnithe CATT i bhformáid earnála, i ndúil go ndéanfar cinntí ar Chruinniú Iomlánach CATT i Meitheamh 2012.

15. Aontaíodh bealach chun cinn fosta ar ghnéithe eile an Athbhreithnithe. Áireofar air seo comhairliúchán taobh istigh den Fheidhmeannas agus de Rialtas na hÉireann, plé ar chruinniú institiúideach CATT in Earrach 2012 agus moltaí deiridh le bheith aontaithe ar chruinniú Iomlánach CATT i Meitheamh 2012.

FÓRAM COMHAIRLIÚCHÁIN THUaidh THEAS

16. Nótáil an Chomhairle an cúlra agus forbairtí le déanaí ar Fhóram Comhairliúcháin Thuaidh Theas agus d'aontaigh breithniúcháin a chur i gcrích ar an cheist seo ar an chéad chruinniú Iomlánach eile.

FÓRAM PARLAIMINTEACH THUAIHDH THEAS

17. D'fháiltigh an Chomhairle roimh obair a thug meithleacha an Oireachtais agus Thionól Thuaisceart Éireann chun cinn ar a n-áirítear comhchruinnithe i Meán Fómhair i dTithe na Parlaiminte agus i mí na Samhna i dTithe an Oireachtais. Tá comhchruinniú eile beartaithe ar 15 Nollaig 2011.

CRUINNITHE CATT AMACH ANSEO

18. D'fhaomh airí sceideal chruinnithe CATT a mhol an Chomhrúnaíocht, ar a n-áirítear cruinniú Institiúideach CATT in Earrach 2012 agus an chéad chruinniú lomlánach CATT eile ar 15 Meitheamh 2012.

Comhrúnaíocht
18 Samhain 2011

IARSCRÍBHINN A

CRUNNIÚ DEN CHOMHAIRLE AIREACHTA THUaidH THEAS ARD MHACHA AOINE, 18 SAMHAIN 2011

Feidhmeannas Thuaisceart Éireann	Rialtas na hÉireann
An Ró-Onórach Peter Robinson CTR Céad-Aire	Enda Kenny TD Taoiseach
Martin McGuinness MP CTR LeasChéad-Aire	Eamon Gilmore TD Tánaiste agus Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Stephen Farry CTR Aire Fostaíochta agus Foghlama	Michael Noonan TD Aire Airgeadais
Arlene Foster CTR Aire Fiontar, Trádála agus infheistíochta	Ruairí Quinn TD Aire Oideachais agus Scileanna
Danny Kennedy CTR Aire Forbartha Réigiúnaí	Brendan Howlin TD Aire Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe
Nelson McCausland CTR Aire Forbartha Sóisialta	Richard Bruton TD Aire Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta
Carál Ní Chuilín CTR Aire Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta	Joan Burton TD Aire Coimirce Sóisialaí
John O'Dowd CTR Aire Oideachais	Jimmy Deenihan TD Aire Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta
Edwin Poots CTR Aire Sláinte, Seirbhísí Sóisialta agus Sábháilteachta Poiblí	Pat Rabbitte TD Aire Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádurtha
Michelle O'Neill CTR Aire Talmhaíochta agus Forbartha Tuaithe	Simon Coveney TD Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara
Sammy Wilson MP CTR Aire Airgeadais agus Pearsanra	James Reilly TD Aire Sláinte
Martina Anderson CTR Aire Sóisearach OFMDFM	Leo Varadkar Aire Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt
Jonathan Bell CTR Aire Sóisearach OFMDFM	

**IARSCRÍB
HINN B**

An Foras Forbartha Trádála agus Gnó (Inter *Tradel*reland, ITI)

	AINM
Cathaoirleach	Martin Cronin
Leas-Chathaoirleach	Joanne Spain
Comhalta	Brendan Butler
Comhalta	Philip Doherty
Comhalta	Jake Gallagher
Comhalta	Ray Hayden
Comhalta	Hubert Brown Kerr
Comhalta	Timothy Mayes
Comhalta	Bridget Meehan
Comhalta	Patricia McKeown
Comhalta	Kevin Norton
Comhalta	Mairead Sorenson

IARSCRÍBHINN B

Coimisiún an Fheabhail, Chairlinn agus Shoilse na hÉireann (FCILC)

	AINM
Cathaoirleach	Winston Patterson
Leas-Chathaoirleach	Alan McCulla
Comhalta	Andrew Duncan
Comhalta	Phil Mahon
Comhalta	Joe Millar
Comhalta	Michael J McCormick
Comhalta	Theresa McLaverty
Comhalta	Tarlach O’Crosain
Comhalta	Seamus Rogers
Comhalta	Thomas Sloan
Comhalta	Donal Tipping
Comhalta	Jim Wilson

IARSCRÍBHINN B

An Foras Teanga Thuaidh Theas

Foras na Gaeilge

	AINM
Cathaoirleach	Liam Ó Maolmhichíl
Leas-Chathaoirelach	Eoghain MacCormaic
Comhalta	Pól Callaghan
Comhalta	Colm Cavanagh
Comhalta	Áine Ní Chiaráin
Comhalta	Bríd Ní Chonghoile
Comhalta	Liam Kennedy
Comhalta	Seosamh Mac Donnchadha
Comhalta	Tomás Mac Eochagáin
Comhalta	Marcus MacRuairi
Comhalta	Seán Mícheal Ó Dómhnaill
Comhalta	Dónal Ó hAiniféin
Comhalta	Therese Ruane
Comhalta	Tomás Sharkey
Comhalta	Cáitríona Ní Shúilleabháin

IARSCRÍBHINN B**Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch**

	AINM
Cathairleach	Tom Scott
Leas-Chathaoireach	Tony Crooks
Comhalta	Ida Fisher
Comhalta	William Leathem
Comhalta	Val O'Kelly
Comhalta	Hilary Singleton
Comhalta	Sharon Treacy-Dunne
Comhalta	Trevor Wilson

IARSCRÍBHINN B**An Bord Cur Chun Cinn Sábhailteacht Bhia (FSPB)**

	AINM
Cathaoirleach	Lynn Ní Bhaogheallain
Leas-Chatthoirleach	Darina Allen
Comhalta	Julie Andrews
Comhalta	Thomas Burns
Comhalta	Brendan Kehoe
Comhalta	Alan McGrath
Comhalta	Helen O'Donnell
Comhalta	Edward Spellman
Comhalta	Hannah Su
Comhalta	Campbell Tweedie
Comhalta	Mary Upton
Comhalta	Jane Wells

Turasóireacht Éireann Teo

	AINM
Cathaoirleach	Brian Ambrose
Leas-Chathaoirleach	Jim Flannery
Comhalta	Ciara Boyle
Comhalta	Denis Cregan
Comhalta	Shaun Quinn
Comhalta	Howard Hastings
Comhalta	John Healy
Comhalta	David Lyle
Comhalta	Christoph Mueller
Comhalta	Elaine Murphy
Comhalta	Derek Rainey
Comhalta	David Rodway