

**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ
NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

INAUGURAL PLENARY MEETING

ARMAGH, 13 DECEMBER 1999

1. The inaugural plenary meeting of the North/South Ministerial Council was held in Armagh on 13 December 1999.
2. The Northern Ireland Executive Committee delegation was led by the Rt Hon David Trimble MP MLA, First Minister and Mr Seamus Mallon MP, MLA, Deputy First Minister, who acted as Joint Chairmen for the meeting. The Irish Government delegation was led by the Taoiseach Mr Bertie Ahern TD. A full list of the members of both delegations is set out below.
3. Both sides in the Council acknowledged the importance of the occasion as a significant further step in the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement. They looked forward to the role that the Council could play in developing consultation, co-operation and action within the island of Ireland - including through implementation on an all-island and cross-border basis - on matters of mutual interest within the competence of the Administrations, North and South. They agreed that there was very real potential for mutual benefit in many sectors and they looked forward to realising that potential in the Council in the period ahead.
4. Both sides also agreed, recalling the commitment in the Good Friday Agreement to the principles of partnership, equality and mutual respect as the basis of relationships between North and South, that the Council should play a central role in promoting reconciliation within, and in ensuring a better future for all the people on, the Island. They noted that the meeting was taking place at the start of a week which would see further significant developments, with inaugural summit meetings of the British Irish Council and the British Irish Intergovernmental Conference scheduled to take place in London on 17 December.

Memorandum of Procedure

5. The Council agreed a Memorandum of Procedure, which sets out procedural arrangements relating to the proceedings and operation of the Council.

North/South Implementation Bodies

6. The Council agreed on the locations of the headquarters and other offices of the six Implementation Bodies and of the Tourism company, when established. These are set out in the attached Annex A.
7. The Council also made appointments of members of the Management Boards of the Trade and Business Development Body, the North/South Language Body, the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission and the Advisory Board to the Food Safety Body. The names of the members are set out in Annex B.

Areas for Co-operation

8. The Council agreed an outline programme of work in regard to the areas for co-operation identified in the 18 December 1998 statement, as a basis for follow-up in the appropriate sectoral formats.
9. The Council also agreed that the relevant proposals in the outline programme of work should be tabled at the first meetings of the Council in each appropriate sectoral format.

Future Work Arrangements, Programme and Meetings of the Council

10. The Council considered its approach to future work arrangements, programme and meetings. It agreed that the Council would meet in sectoral format to consider issues relating to:

Implementation Bodies

- Waterways Ireland
- Food Safety Promotion Board
- Special EU Programmes
- North/South Language Body
- Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission
- Trade and Business Development Body

Matters for Co-operation

- Transport
- Agriculture
- Education
- Health
- Environment
- Tourism

11. In view of the need urgently to take forward certain matters in relation to the Implementation Bodies, and Areas for Co-operation, the Council agreed that particular priority be given to meetings of the Council relevant to those issues and that these would take place at the earliest possible date. It agreed also that the question of additional sectoral formats will be agreed by the Council meeting in Institutional format.
12. The Council recorded its gratitude to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Armagh and to Armagh District Council for the excellent arrangements which had been made for the holding of the meeting. It agreed that its next meeting in plenary form will take place in Dublin during June 2000.

MINISTERS ATTENDING MEETING OF NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

ARMAGH: 13 DECEMBER 1999

Northern Ireland Executive Committee

Rt Hon David Trimble MP MLA
(First Minister)

Seamus Mallon MP MLA
(Deputy First Minister)

Bairbre de Brun MLA
(Minister of Health, Social
Services & Public Safety)

Mark Durkan MLA
(Minister of Finance &
Personnel)

Sir Reg Empey MLA
(Minister of Enterprise, Trade
and Investment)

Sean Farren MLA
(Minister of Higher and Further
Education, Training &
Employment)

Sam Foster MLA
(Minister of the Environment)

Michael McGimpsey MLA
(Minister of Culture, Arts &
Leisure)

Martin McGuinness MP MLA
(Minister of Education)

Brid Rodgers MLA
(Minister of Agriculture & Rural
Development)

Irish Government

Bertie Ahern TD
(Taoiseach)

Mary Harney TD
(Tánaiste and Minister for
Enterprise, Trade and
Employment)

Mary O'Rourke TD
(Minister for Public Enterprise)

Michael Woods TD
(Minister for the Marine and
Natural Resources)

David Andrews TD
(Minister for Foreign Affairs)

Joe Walsh TD
(Minister for Agriculture and
Food)

Brian Cowen TD
(Minister for Health and Children)

Charlie McCreevy TD
(Minister for Finance)

Noel Dempsey TD
(Minister for the Environment and
Local Government)

John O'Donoghue TD
(Minister for Justice, Equality and
Law Reform)

Michael Smith TD
(Minister for Defence)

Dermot Ahern TD
(Minister for Social, Community and
Family Affairs)

Jim McDaid TD
(Minister for Tourism, Sport and
Recreation)

Síle De Valera TD
(Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht
and the Islands)

Mícheál Martin TD
(Minister for Education and Science)

Locations	
Waterways Ireland	Headquarters in Enniskillen; 3 regional offices in the South
The Food Safety Promotion Board	Headquarters in Cork
The Trade & Business Development Body	Headquarters in Newry
The Special EU Programmes	Headquarters in Belfast; regional offices in Omagh and Monaghan
The North/South Language Body <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish Language Agency • Ullans Agency 	Headquarters in Dublin; regional office in Belfast Headquarters in Belfast; regional office in County Donegal
The Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loughs Agency • Lights Agency 	Headquarters in Derry; regional office near Carlingford Lough Headquarters in Dublin / Dun Laoghaire
Tourism Company (when established)	Headquarters in Dublin; regional office in Coleraine

THE FOOD SAFETY PROMOTION BOARD

Dr Vincent Cavanagh

Mr Leslie Craig

Ms Carmel Foley

Mr Ronan Garvey

Professor Mike Gibney

Professor Cecily Kelleher

Mr Bertie Kerr

Mr Damien O'Dwyer

Dr Danny O'Hare

Ms Ann Speed

Professor Sean Strain

Note: One further member to be appointed.

TRADE AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT BODY

The Duke of Abercorn

Ms Mary Ainscough

Ms Mary Breslin

Mr Harold Ennis

Mr Barry Fitsimons

Ms Jackie Harrison

Mr Carl McCann

Mr Feargal McCormack

Ms Inez McCormack

Mr Kieran McGowan

Mr Martin Naughton

Mr Robbie Smith

THE NORTH/SOUTH LANGUAGE BODY

Members with responsibility for exercise of functions of the Body through the Irish language agency.

Liam Corey

Anne Craig

Gordon McCoy

Patrick McGlone

Aodan MacPoilin

Gearoid MacSiacais

Treasa Ni Ailpin

Jacqueline Nic Fheargasa

Brid Ni Neill

Maelsheachlainn O Caollai

Lochlann O Caothain

Liam O Cuinneagain

Padraig O Duibhir

Cionnaith O Suilleabhain

Seamus O Tonnaigh

Maignread Ui Mhairtin

Members with responsibility for exercise of functions of the Body through the Ulster-Scots agency

Dr Padraig de Bhal

James Devenney

John Erskine

Lyn Franks

Lord Laird of Artigarvan

Dr Linda Lunney

John McIntyre

Dr Philip Robinson

THE FOYLE, CARLINGFORD AND IRISH LIGHTS COMMISSION

Mr Jack Allen

Mr Keith Anderson

Mr Dick Blackiston-Houston

Lord Cooke of Islandreagh

Mr Francis Feely

Dr Patrick J Griffin

Ms Siobhan Logue

Mr Joseph Martin

Mr Arthur Morgan

Mr Peter Savage

Ms Sheila Tyrrell

Mr Andrew Ward