

PAPER NSMC (99)5

DRAFT JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

INAUGURAL PLENARY MEETING

ARMAGH, 13 DECEMBER 1999

The inaugural plenary meeting of the North/South Ministerial Council was held in Armagh on 13 December 1999.

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 in the attached Annex A.

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.

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. These are set out in the attached Annex B.
7. The Council also made appointments of members of the Management Boards of the Trade and Business Development Body, the North/South Language Body and 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 the attached 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.

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.
2. 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 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)



## Irish Government (cont'd)

Michael Smith TD  
(Minister for Defence)

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)

Liz O'Donnell TD  
(Minister of State at the Department of  
Foreign Affairs: with special responsibility  
for Overseas Development Assistance  
and Human Rights)

Headquarters in Belfast; regional office in  
County Donegal

Headquarters in Derry; regional office  
near Carrigford Lough

Headquarters in Dublin/Dún Laoghaire

## NORTH SOUTH IMPLEMENTATION BODIES

### FOOD SAFETY

#### Food Safety Promotion Board

The Food Safety Promotion Board

The Trade & Business Development Body

The Special EU Programmes

The North-South Language Body

• Irish language agency

• Ulster Agency

The Foyle, Carrigford and Irish Lights  
Commission

• Loughs Agency

• Lights Agency

### BOARD MEMBERS

The names of the members, including Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons, of the Boards of  
the Food Safety Promotion Board, the Trade and Business Development Body, the North-South  
Language Body and the Foyle, Carrigford and Irish Lights Commission are listed in the  
attached Appendices. (To follow)



## ANNEX B

### NORTH SOUTH IMPLEMENTATION BODIES

#### 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

- ♦ Irish Language agency

Headquarters in Dublin; regional office in Belfast

- ♦ Ullans agency

Headquarters in Belfast; regional office in County Donegal

The Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission

- ♦ Loughs Agency

Headquarters in Derry; regional office near Carlingford Lough

- ♦ Lights Agency

Headquarters in Dublin/Dun Laoghaire

#### BOARD MEMBERS

The names of the members, including Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons, of the Boards of the Food Safety Promotion Board, the Trade and Business Development Body, the North/South Language Body and the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission are listed in the attached Appendices. (To follow)