

North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

PAPER NSMC SEU 1 (11) JC

NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES SECTORAL FORMAT

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, STORMONT

13 JANUARY 2011

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The eleventh North South Ministerial Council meeting in Special EU Programmes sectoral format was held in Parliament Buildings, Stormont on 13 January 2011.
2. The meeting was attended by Sammy Wilson MP, MLA, Minister for Finance and Personnel, Alex Attwood MLA, Minister for Social Development and Brian Lenihan TD, Minister for Finance. Minister Wilson chaired the meeting.

SEUPB PROGRESS REPORT

3. The Council received a detailed progress report from the Chief Executive of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), Mr Pat Colgan, who reported on the various activities within the Body.
4. The closure of the PEACE II and INTERREG IIIA Programmes is now in the final stages. Over 7,000 projects were funded in PEACE II. The programme was fully committed with a total expenditure of €912 million. The total expenditure on the INTERREG IIIA Programme was €180.3 million.

5. Ministers noted that implementation of the PEACE III and INTERREG IVA Programmes is generally progressing well in terms of the assessment of applications and approval of projects. The PEACE III Programme has approved 126 projects worth €207 million while the INTERREG IVA Programme has approved 49 projects worth €153million. Total expenditure on both programmes to date is €95.15million significantly above the cumulative targets to end 2010
6. Ministers noted that local authority-based groups have had 18 projects approved worth €19.1m. The SEUPB will continue to work with the Groups to develop further Projects.
7. Ministers also noted that the SEUPB continues to facilitate North South participation in the INTERREG IV transnational and interregional programmes, and that to date 44 project partners have been secured across the relevant programmes.
8. The SEUPB continues to communicate the positive impacts of the EU programmes with high profile events, many with Ministerial involvement including a major PEACE III Conference in Belfast and supporting the East Border Region hosting the Association of European Border Regions annual conference in Dundalk and Newry in October 2010.

NEXT MEETING

9. The Council agreed to meet again in the Special EU Programmes sectoral format in June/July 2011.

**Joint Secretariat
13 January 2011**