

North South Ministerial Council  
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta  
Thuaidh Theas  
An Chomhrúnaíocht

## NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

### SIXTH INSTITUTIONAL MEETING

### STORMONT CASTLE

**3 OCTOBER 2011**

### RECORD OF DECISIONS

1. The sixth meeting of the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) in institutional format was held in Stormont Castle, Belfast on 3 October 2011.
2. The Northern Ireland Executive was represented by the First Minister, the Rt Hon Peter Robinson MLA, the deputy First Minister, John O'Dowd MLA and Danny Kennedy MLA, Minister for Regional Development. The Irish Government was represented by the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Eamon Gilmore TD. The First Minister and deputy First Minister chaired the meeting. A list of those who attended the meeting is attached.
3. Ministers had a broad discussion on practical mutually beneficial co-operation in the context of the current economic and budgetary challenges facing each jurisdiction. Among the areas discussed were shared economic challenges, the context of North South co-operation and co-operation to save money in service delivery.
4. The Council considered **Paper NSMC IF 1 (11) 1 North South Implementation Bodies and Tourism Ireland Ltd Issues** and:
  - (i) noted the position in respect of the North South Bodies' Corporate and Business Plans;

- (ii) noted that the two Finance Departments have commenced a review of Financial Memoranda of the North South Bodies in consultation with the Bodies and Sponsor Departments and that a report on progress will be provided to the next NSMC Institutional meeting;
- (iii) noted that the Boards of the North South Implementation Bodies and Tourism Ireland are due for renewal in December 2011 and that nominations for appointment will be brought forward for approval at the NSMC Plenary in November 2011; and
- (iv) approved revised remuneration for Board members appointed from December 2011 to the North South Implementation Bodies and Tourism Ireland Limited, as follows:-

Chairperson	€11,970/Stg£8,140 per annum
Vice-chairperson	€9,830/Stg£6,690 per annum
Member	€7,695/Stg£5,235 per annum

5. The Council considered **Paper NSMC IF 1 (11) 2 EU Matters raised within NSMC** and noted EU related matters raised at NSMC meetings including discussions on collaboration to maximise drawdown of EU funds from the FP7 research and development programme.
6. The Council considered **Paper NSMC IF 1 (11) 3 Cross-Border Mobility Issues** and noted:
  - (i) that systems have been put in place to resolve delays in the processing of certain Department of Social Protection welfare benefit claims with a cross-border element;
  - (ii) that the Centre for Cross Border Studies, in partnership with other organisations will apply for INTERREG IVA funding for the cross-border mobility website which will incorporate specialist training for the provision of advice on cross-border matters; and
  - (iii) the work that has been done to facilitate the comparison of vocational qualifications obtained in other jurisdictions, including the publication of a leaflet “Qualifications can cross boundaries: a rough guide to comparing qualifications in the UK and Ireland.”

7. The Council considered **Paper NSMC IF 1 (11) 4 North West Gateway Initiative** and noted the progress made under the North West Gateway Initiative.
8. The Council considered **Paper NSMC IF 1 (11) 5 Date of Next Meeting** and agreed that the NSMC will meet again in Institutional format in Spring 2012.

**Joint Secretariat**  
**3 October 2011**

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## **DELEGATION LIST**

### **NORTHERN IRELAND EXECUTIVE**

The Rt Hon Peter Robinson MLA  
John O'Dowd MLA  
Danny Kennedy MLA

First Minister  
deputy First Minister  
Minister for Regional Development

### **IRISH GOVERNMENT**

Eamon Gilmore TD

Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade