

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**

<b>Northern Ireland Executive</b>	<b>Irish Government</b>
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)**

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

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

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



## Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch

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

**ANNEX B****The Food Safety Promotion Board (FSPB)**

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

## Tourism Ireland Limited

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