

North South Ministerial Council  
Joint Secretariat



An Chomhairle Aireachta  
Thuaidh Theas  
An Chomhrúnaíocht

## **PAPER NSMC TB 1 (10) JC**

### **NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

#### **TRADE & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

#### **SECTORAL FORMAT**

#### **NSMC JOINT SECRETARIAT OFFICES, ARMAGH**

**30 JUNE 2010**

### **JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ**

1. The eleventh North South Ministerial Council meeting in Trade and Business Development sectoral format was held in the NSMC Joint Secretariat Offices, Armagh on Wednesday 30 June 2010. The meeting was attended by Batt O’Keeffe, TD, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Innovation, Arlene Foster, MLA, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Investment and Conor Murphy, MP, MLA, Minister for Regional Development. Minister O’Keeffe chaired the meeting.

#### **PROGRESS REPORT**

2. The Chairperson of InterTradelreland, Dr David Dobbin, provided an update on InterTradelreland’s strategic priorities for the Body’s next Corporate Plan for the period 2011-2013.

3. The Chief Executive of InterTradelreland, Liam Nellis, presented a progress report on InterTradelreland's performance and business activities including:
  - the generation of £83.5m/€92.7m business development value;
  - a total of 3329 firms accessing InterTradelreland's Information and Business Advice services; and
  - 461 firms participating on InterTradelreland's programmes.
  - ongoing discussions in relation to country of origin food labelling and the actions taken by InterTradelreland to date.
  
4. The Council approved InterTradelreland's 2010 Business Plan and noted its plans to identify and help realise opportunities to improve competitiveness, generate economic growth and create sustainable quality jobs through increased levels of trade and co-operation on innovation and business development opportunities.

#### **INTERTRADE IRELAND QUARTERLY BUSINESS MONITOR**

5. Ministers received a presentation on the InterTradelreland Quarterly Business Monitor and noted the useful information it provided on the impact of recent economic developments on the private sector, the shape of the recovery and competitiveness issues.

#### **CO-OPERATION ON INNOVATION**

6. Ministers discussed a presentation on Co-operation on Innovation. They noted the collaborative work by Enterprise Ireland, Invest NI and InterTradelreland to identify possible sources of additional funding for innovation programmes and to gain access to research institute resources. They noted the approval of five proposals with a total value of €12m/£10.7m under the US Ireland R&D Partnership and plans to allow an expansion of the Partnership topics to include telecommunications and energy research. They also noted that InterTradelreland will carry out an analysis of the innovation ecosystem.

## **ANNUAL REPORT AND DRAFT ACCOUNTS 2009**

7. Ministers noted that InterTradeIreland's draft accounts for 2009 have been submitted to the Comptrollers and Auditors General in both jurisdictions.

**Joint Secretariat  
30 June 2010**