

Report on the Brussels Programme of engagement led
by Junior Ministers

27-29 March 2012

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Introduction

On 28 May Minister Bell made a statement to the Assembly following the Brussels engagement programme in March 2012. This report provides more detail of meetings and events which took place over the course of 3 days between 27-29 March and involving officials from all Government Departments as well as the European Commission's members of the Barroso Task Force.

The purpose of the programme, in general, was to maintain the momentum of the Barroso taskforce and to fully exploit the opportunities which this unique initiative offers the region. Specifically the programme aimed to take stock of progress made during 2011/2012 against the Executive's targets, pursue current issues and to share our future strategic priorities for 2012/2013 with the European Commission.

This programme gave unprecedented access to Commission officials over the course of 3 days, when 54 meetings took place involving 35 civil service officials from all Departments. Meetings were centred on the four thematic workstreams of the Taskforce.

- Innovation and Technology
- Social Cohesion
- Competitiveness and Employment
- Climate Change and Energy

In addition, the Executive Office in Brussels hosted a plenary session attended by representatives from 17 Directorates General of the Commission. This focused on the current World and European economic context and the strategic thrust that will be necessary in the coming 2012/2013 year to stimulate growth and help regions such as ours recover from recession.

In addition to the programme Junior Ministers held a further 6 meetings which explored the possibilities of a PEACE IV programme, the future role of the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre, and opportunities for cooperation when Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in January 2013.

This report provides a detailed breakdown of the meetings and events that took place as part of the engagement programme. For each meeting a list of the attendees and a brief overview of the discussions is included. The events are broken down into separate sections for each of the four thematic groups as well as a separate section for the plenary session and for meetings which departments undertook which fall outside of the current Barroso Task Force Working Group (BTWG) programme. An overview of the programme of meetings for Junior Ministers is also included.

The Next Steps

It is important that the significant momentum that has been built up as a result of the Brussels Engagement Programme is maintained. Follow-up actions are being pursued and bilateral contacts between departments and the Commission services have been strengthened. Early reciprocal programmes by Commission officials are expected and one, dealing with Health and the Digital Agenda has already taken place.

The Executive published its 2011-12 European Priorities Implementation Report and its 2012-13 European Priorities on the 28 May. Both of these documents are available on the OFMDFM Website and can also be found in the Assembly Library.

Their publication represents another tangible step forward and a re-statement of the Executive's commitment to this work.

As was the case last year, an implementation plan, setting targets for each of the objectives identified under each theme, is being developed. BTWG will monitor progress on a quarterly basis and will provide the Executive with a formal six-month progress report in the autumn.

Departments will only achieve their objectives by advancing their own learning and knowledge engaging positively, extending partnerships and collaboration across key policies and programmes. Through the Brussels Engagement Programme departments have strengthened significantly their engagement with the European Commission.

OFMDFM will continue to encourage and support departments in their European Engagement helping them to implement their individual priorities and deliver even greater collective success - strengthening our economy and building a shared and better future for all.

Plenary Event:

On the afternoon of Wednesday 28 March the Executive Office in Brussels hosted a plenary session attended by over 50 officials from the European Commission and our own departments. This focused on the current World and European economic context and the strategic thrust that will be necessary in the coming 2012/2013 year to stimulate growth and help regions such as ours recover from recession. The session was chaired jointly by the lead Commission Official on the Barroso Task Force, Ronnie Hall, and the Head of the Executive's Office in Brussels, Gerry Mulligan. The session was addressed by the Director General of DG Regio, Walter Deffaa, and the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Trade and Investment, David Sterling. Presentations from Commission officials focused on how to encourage economic growth, the Common Strategic Framework 2014-2020 and Horizon 2020. The contributions from the Northern Ireland theme leads focused on their European priorities for 2012-2013.

The event was followed by a networking reception.

A copy of the presentations, in addition to the report *Golden Growth: Restoring the lustre of the European economic model*, are included as annexes.

Programme for Plenary Session

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| 13.45 h | Meet and greet including with NI Ministers |
| 14.00 h | Welcome by Mr Ronnie Hall Chair of the Barroso NITF, European Commission, Director DG REGIO and by Mr Gerry Mulligan Head of the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in Brussels (ONIEB) |
| 14.15 h | Golden Growth: Restoring the lustre of the European economic model Presentation by Mr Daniel Mouqué, European Commission, DG REGIO |
| 14.30 h | Reaction by David Sterling, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Trade and Investment followed by Q & A (NI and Commission services) |
| 15.00 h | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 15.15 h | Core elements of the Common Strategic Framework (CSF) 2014-2020 Presentation by Ms Rachel Lancry Beaumont, European Commission, DG REGIO followed by Q&A |
| 15.45 h | HORIZON 2020 Presentation by Mr Neville Reeve, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation (RTD) |
| 16.00 h | Northern Ireland Theme Leads present the European Priorities 2012-2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitiveness and Employment - presentation & discussion; • Innovation and Technology - presentation & discussion; • Climate Change and Energy - presentation & discussion; • Social Cohesion - presentation & discussion. |
| 17.20 h | Keynote Speech by Mr Walter Deffaa Director-General for Regional Policy, European Commission |
| 17.30 h | Plenary conclusions |
| 17.45 h | Reception at the ONIEB |

Innovation and Technology Thematic Group Summary

Meeting with Stephen Langley, Carmen Gonzalez Hernandez, Tamara Pavlin – DG REGIO

Attendees: Paul Brush (DETI), Maeve Hamilton (DETI), Maura Young (DFP), Stephen Langley (DG REGIO), Carmen Gonzalez Hernandez (DG REGIO), Tamara Pavlin (DG REGIO), Lynsey Moore (UKRep)

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss current programme issues. Follow up work on 2011 Annual Control Report and the European Court of Auditors audits was discussed. There was an update on the mid-term programme evaluation and the progress of the major project application was considered. Progress and issues connected to the 2012 expenditure target was discussed as well as financial engineering instruments. Follow up from EC side is to consider some technical issues raised relating to expenditure. DETI will provide further information in support of the major project application. Follow up meeting to be arranged in Brussels before May.

Meeting with Sebastian Zaleski- DG ENTR

Attendees: Paul Brush (DETI), Maeve Hamilton (DETI), Sebastian Zaleski (DG ENTR)

Discussion was centred on the Business Competitiveness and SME Programme (COSME). This is the follow on to the elements of the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP) which will not be subsumed within Horizon 2020. The budget is not yet determined but is likely to be substantial. There will be a suite of financial instruments provided through participating financial intermediaries. Follow-up includes considering actions to encourage participation of NI Financial intermediaries, identifying an official in DETI/INI to track programme development and determine how to maximise value for NI. Government role should be in awareness raising.

Meeting with Stephen Langley, Tamara Pavlin and Rachel Lancry – DG REGIO

Attendees: Paul Brush (DETI), Paul Carr (DETI), Maeve Hamilton (DETI), Maura Young (DFP), Stephen Langley (DG REGIO), Tamara Pavlin (DG REGIO), Rachel Lancry (DG REGIO)

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the new programming period and draft regulations 2014-2020. The possible impact of NI dipping below 90% EU average

GDP per capita and becoming a transition status region was addressed. Likely impact would be increased quantum of funds and range of activities that could be undertaken. Would also lead to greater ERDF share of funds compared to ESF. Reminder that EU average GDP per capita is relative therefore NI status uncertain at the moment. Discussion on ex-ante conditionalities. In terms of follow up actions, it was highlighted that the development of Smart Specialisation Strategy should be a priority to underpin new programme content – this should be discussed with Economic Policy Division. In addition, draft programmes should be developed on both transition and non-transition basis.

Meeting with Luisa Sanches and Stephen Langley – DG REGIO

Attendees: *Paul Brush (DETI), Paul Carr (DETI), Maeve Hamilton (DETI), Úna Downey (Task Force Desk Officer), Luisa Sanches (DG REGIO), Stephen Langley (DG REGIO)*

Meeting focused on how a regional Smart Specialisation Strategy will be considered as an ex ante conditionality for the 2014-2020 Structural Fund period. NI has registered to be ‘peer reviewed’ at the upcoming event in Seville. The Commission will issue guidance for developing the strategy to member states in the coming weeks. NI may already have key components, but may need to assemble them in a different way. Conditionality only applies to ERDF and should connect with research and innovation strategies and show alignment for engaging with Horizon2020. Key contacts in UK identified and upcoming event in Cardiff highlighted. For follow up, the key contacts will be disseminated to lead officials in DETI and confirmation will be sought of their awareness or otherwise. The need for coordination with bodies responsible for implementing ERDF programmes will be discussed with DETI officials.

Meeting with Milosz Momot and Sylvia Beyer – DG ENER

Attendees: *Paul Carr (DETI), Úna Downey (Task Force Desk Officer), Milosz Momot (DG ENER), Sylvia Beyer (DG ENER)*

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the energy strand of the Connecting Europe Facility. The development of the initiative is in early stages and has a proposed budget of €9.1bn. It is intended that regional groups form alliances to propose, consider, develop and evaluate ideas. Member states should work now to develop ideas, secure planning and regulatory buy in. Support available only for preliminary work on activities which are **not** commercially viable. There is interest in developing corridors from Northern Africa to Norway on a trans-European basis. Likely that funding will be awarded on a two yearly cycle. DG keen to know of ideas which could be supported. For follow up, the Powerpoint presentation will be circulated, DETI energy officials will be briefed and follow up meetings will be brokered as necessary.

Meeting with ONIEB/Invest NI

Attendees: Mark Browne, Sinclair Mayne, Martin McKendry (DARD), Michael Welsh (AFBI), Emma Neill, Eileen Kelly (DARD/ONIEB), Gerry Mulligan (ONIEB), Farha Brahmi (Invest NI)

Farha Brahmi gave an overview of the European Innovation Partnerships including the EIP Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability. The group also discussed possibilities for DARD and AFBI involvement in an event during EU Green Week to showcase the work of AFBI. It was agreed that this would be a worthwhile event to raise the profile of AFBI work and DARD and AFBI will work with ONIEB and Invest NI to pursue further.

Meeting with Charlotte Andersdotter DG RTD

Attendees: Mark Browne, Sinclair Mayne, Martin McKendry (DARD), Michael Welsh (AFBI), Emma Neill, Eileen Kelly (DARD/ONIEB), Charlotte Andersdotter (DG RTD)

Charlotte Andersdotter provided information about innovation policy within the EU, explaining the role of Joint Programming Initiatives, Public to Public Partnerships, Public to Private Partnerships, the European Technology Platform and European Innovation Partnerships and the link to Horizon 2020.

This was very much an informative event. It was agreed that it would be useful to learn more details about the EIPs (the meeting the following morning with Martin Scheele offered the opportunity to do this).

Meeting with Nicholas Martyn and Carmen Gonzalez – DG REGIO

Attendees: David Sterling (DETI), Eileen Kelly (ONIEB), Paul Brush (DETI), Nicholas Martyn (DG REGIO), Carmen Gonzalez (DG REGIO)

This meeting focused on Financial Engineering Instrument issues. The case was made for discretion being applied to 4 GB JEREMIE funds needing to be extended to NI. The position regarding the latest legal advice was explained with a suggestion that Ministerial intervention may be required if NI is to gain any change in regulations. It was suggested not to take any further action, including Ministerial intervention, until the next steps on the Development Fund were decided. There will be follow up on case studies showing how other countries have developed equity and loan schemes. It was suggested to consider providing a mix of ERDF and mainstream PE as the public sector contribution to funds where mainstream PE, but not the ERDF, would be subordinated.

IQ-Net meeting – Sheraton Hotel

Attendees: *Paul Carr (DETI) + 30 participants from a number of MS*

The meeting focused on EU Cohesion Policy and Financial Instruments, with the afternoon session focusing on 2014-2020. Colleagues with State Aid and MA responsibilities may wish to consider the content of presentations and follow up as appropriate.

Meeting with Gert-Jan Koopman and Humbert Drabble – DG COMP

Attendees: *David Sterling (DETI), Eileen Kelly (ONIEB), Paul Brush (DETI), Gert-Jan Koopman (DG COMP), Humbert Drabble (DG COMP)*

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Commission proposals for Regional Aid post 2013. There was resistance to the notion that the Commission should increase UK's population allocation. It was argued that attempts should rather be made to influence Whitehall. Ronnie Hall later reinforced this. If Commission uses 2008-10 Eurostat data, it would increase the population coverage for the UK which helps NI position. Ministerial engagement directly with Mark Prist and/or Vince Cable should be considered. It was requested to provide some examples of how SFA was used to attract large companies, particularly within the legal services industry.

Meeting with Martin Scheele DG AGRI

Attendees: *Mark Browne, Sinclair Mayne, Martin McKendry (DARD), Michael Welsh (AFBI), Emma Neill (DARD/ONIEB), Martin Scheele (DG AGRI)*

This meeting focussed on the role of the European Innovation Partnership particularly the EIP Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability. Martin Scheele responded to queries from the group about how to bridge the gap between research policies and rural development. As a result of the meeting, it was decided that DARD officials particularly in Brussels would further explore how best to engage in the EIP process including within the EIP networks.

Meeting with Francois Constantin DG RTD

Attendees: *Mark Browne, Sinclair Mayne, Martin McKendry (DARD), Michael Welsh (AFBI), Emma Neill (DARD/ONIEB), Francois Constantin (DG RTD)*

Francois Constantin provided the group with information regarding the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) and how representatives from regions can participate. He explained that the collaborative working groups of SCAR play an important role in influencing priorities of future programmes such as Horizon 2020. It was agreed that DARD would explore opportunities for further involvement in SCAR.

Meeting with Guido Acchioni and Martin Ubelhor – DG INFSO

Attendees: *Paul Carr (DETI), Úna Downey (Task Force Desk Officer), Guido Acchioni (DG INFSO), Martin Ubelhor (DG INFSO)*

The meeting focused on the ICT/Telecoms strand of the Connecting Europe Facility. The design of the initiative is in the early stages and the proposed budget is €9.2bn. ICT is not an area of thematic concentration in proposed regulations and therefore funding will come from CEF or RD funding. The Commission was keen to hear about ideas for projects which could be supported by either regions or municipalities. DETI officials will consider outcomes and seek follow up meetings.

Meeting with Maria Pia Viaglierolo – DG ENTR

Attendees: *Paul Carr (DETI), Úna Downey (Task Force Desk Officer), Maria Pia Viaglierolo (DG ENTR)*

Purpose of the meeting was a review of the Small Business Act. The SBA has a focus on three areas – access to market, access to finance and simplification. A network was set up in Feb 2012 with one representative per MS. The UK Representative is Adam Jackson, Director of Enterprise, BIS. The network meets 3-4 times per year. 1 annual event for all stakeholders. The Desk Officer for Competitiveness & Employment will follow up. Officials in DETI/INI to be identified to track developments.

Meeting with Lisbeth Bahl Poulsen – DG ENTR

Attendees: *Paul Brush (DETI), Farha Brahmi (INI), Lisbeth Bahl Poulsen (DG ENTR)*

The meeting focused on Commission proposals for Service Innovation and Creative Industries. The issue of non-technological innovation – new businesses, new services and emerging industries – was addressed. There was also discussion on cross fertilisation between industries and integrating into global value chains. A forum for sharing experience and best practice, the European Creative Industries Alliance, had a call for partners which closed on 17 April. As a follow-up, we should consider exploring other initiatives, European Creative Districts and Regional demonstrators.

Meeting with Peter Droell – DG RTD

Attendees: *Andrew Hamilton (DEL), Paul Brush (DETI), Farha Brahmi (INI), Peter Droell (DG RTD)*

The discussion focused on Commission proposals for Horizon 2020 and wider Innovation Policy. It was highlighted that the emphasis will increasingly be on the entire innovation chain including application – addressing societal challenges. There is a desire to involve the whole economy including public sector and not for profit organisations. In H2020, more support will be available to show how new knowledge can be applied and scaled up – demonstration centres. There is a need to focus on both the supply and demand sides as well as innovative procurement. Follow-ups include considering what demonstrator activity we might undertake and how we can scale up innovative procurement, reviewing Innovation Union scoreboard and regional innovation observatory. We should also consider what we can learn from Barcelona University experience.

Social Cohesion Theme

Meeting with Kerstin Moll, DG Justice

Attended by: *Commission officials (DG JUST), Siobhan Broderick (DOJ), Noel Griffin (ONIEB)*

The Commission officials gave an overview of the EU's justice policies and also explained the main funding streams available in this area, their priority and their budgets. There was some discussion around how Northern Ireland could influence the justice agenda most effectively and it was agreed that closer links with the British Department of Justice and UK Rep would be a useful first step.

Meeting with Maria Podlasek-Ziegler, DG Education and Culture

Attended by: *Maria Podlasek-Ziegler (DG EAC, Deputy Head of Unit, Youth in Action) Cynthia Smith (DCAL), Joanna McConway (DCAL), Denis McMahon (OFMDFM), Frank Duffy (OFMDFM), Andrew Hamilton (DEL), Alastair Campbell (Social Cohesion Desk Officer)*

Maria described the evolution of EU youth policy since 1988 and outlined the main vehicles for funding, the budgets associated with them, when calls would be issued and what they were intended to achieve. She explained that the Youth in Action budget for the UK was managed by the British Council, meaning that projects are only competing against other projects in the UK. She also gave her assessment of how the Youth in Action theme would fit into the new Erasmus for all programme. The Northern Ireland officials outlined their priorities and explored how these could be made to fit in with the funding available for Youth in Action. DEL and DCAL discovered areas in which they could work together to access some of this funding and agreed to explore this together.

Meeting with Michal Krejza and Bart Ooijen, DG Education and Culture

Attended by: *Michael Krejza (DG EAC, Head of Unit, Sport) Bart Ooijen (DG EAC, Deputy Head of Unit, Sport) Cynthia Smith (DCAL), Joanna McConway (DCAL), Alastair Campbell (Social Cohesion Desk Officer)*

Michal and Bart introduced themselves and explained the background to sports policy in the EU, the funds available, the timescale for calls and the priorities they would be directed towards. They were also clear that there is only a small budget for sport, that it would be a very competitive process and that all projects would have to involve an EU dimension. DCAL officials explained that their focus was likely to be on the use of sport to achieve social inclusion and felt this might be more appropriately targeted towards other funding streams under Erasmus for all.

Meeting with Ralf Jacob, DG Employment

Attended by: *Denis McMahon (OFMDFM), Frank Duffy (OFMDFM), Catherine Daly (DHSS&PS), Una Downey (Innovation & Technology Desk Officer)*

Ralf gave an outline of the Policy including and confirmed that there was no project funding iro European Year theme. He confirmed that the Commission welcomed initiatives such as the Call Centre for volunteers to respond to calls from elderly in distress. He also suggested that NI should utilise the portal to advertise their initiatives, publicise developing policies or to seek information from other regions. Finally, he provided an overview of the Pensions White Paper and noted the synergy between the Connected Health EIP and the Active Ageing Policy. OFMDFM advised that they would consider opportunities for using the website more proactively and giving feedback to DG Employment on the usefulness of site.

Meeting with Rebecca Ellis, UK Rep

Attended by: *Rebecca Ellis (UK Rep), Siobhan Broderick (DOJ), Noel Griffin (ONIEB)*

Rebecca briefed Siobhan on developments in EU justice policy and the UK's position as a member state on these issues. She encouraged the Department of Justice in Northern Ireland to feed into EU policies through the GB Justice Department at an early stage.

Meeting with Stephen Duffy, DG Regio

Attended by: *Stephen Duffy (DG REGIO), Denis McMahon (OFMDFM), Frank Duffy (OFMDFM), Tony McKibben (DSD), Maura Young (DFP), Andrew Hamilton (DEL)*

Stephen gave the assembled officials a presentation on the urban dimension of the legislative proposals for social cohesion and explained how this would impact on Northern Ireland. There was a general discussion around how Northern Ireland could position itself most effectively to take advantage of the new legislation.

Meeting with Sam Scott, UK Rep

Attended by: *Sam Scott (UK Rep), Catherine Daly (DHSS&PS), Alastair Campbell (Social Cohesion Desk Officer)*

Catherine and Alastair explained the background to the Barroso taskforce for Northern Ireland and the outcomes it was intended to achieve. Catherine also explained Northern Ireland's involvement to date and the experience the region could bring in terms of dealing with the United States. Sam then briefed Catherine on

developments in Health policy at EU level and the UK's position on these. He also flagged up a number of areas in which it might be useful for Northern Ireland to make contacts within the Commission.

Meeting with Peter Wintlev-Jensen, DG INFSO

Attended by: *Peter Wintlev-Jensen (DG INFSO), Catherine Daly (DHSS&PS), Denis McMahon (OFMDFM), Frank Duffy (OFMDFM), Alastair Campbell (Social Cohesion Desk Officer)*

Peter explained the purpose, budget and timescales for the Ambient Assisted Living Programme and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme. He and Catherine also spent some time discussing the European Innovation Partnership and the key areas for innovation within this, making the point that innovation did not solely refer to new technologies, but also to new processes and systems. He described the processes by which organisations could combine to form action groups which would propagate best practice and share their knowledge. Ultimately, he stressed that the purpose of the EIP is to encourage smarter use of public funds to achieve results that will impact positively on people's lives. He encouraged Northern Ireland's ambitions to become a reference site for connected health innovation. Catherine agreed and made the point that Northern Ireland is a small region that nevertheless shares many of the characteristics of larger regions. This makes it ideal as a place to pilot innovative approaches.

Meeting with Eddie Arthurs, DFA

Attended by: *Eddie Arthurs (DFA), Cynthia Smith (DCAL) Joanna McConway (DCAL)*

Eddie Arthurs gave some background on the Irish experience of dealing with Culture policy and funding programmes in the EU. While discussing the possibilities for partnership working on a cross-border basis, Eddie also mentioned the potential for Northern Ireland to be involved in some of the cultural aspects of Ireland holding the EU presidency. In particular, he suggested that Northern Ireland might wish to be represented in some of the cultural exhibition spaces that states holding the presidency are expected to fill. Cynthia and Joanna thanked Eddie for the offer and made a commitment to considering how Northern Ireland could contribute to this.

Meeting with Nia Lewis, Welsh Office

Attended by: *Nia Lewis (Welsh Office), Cynthia Smith (DCAL), Joanna McConway (DCAL)*

Nia gave an overview of her experience representing Welsh culture in the EU and gave a perspective on the role of a region rather than a member state in accessing funding and influencing policy. She also made it clear to Cynthia and Joanna that she would be keen to work with Northern Ireland and other UK regions to hold events or put projects together. She agreed to provide more information of the Welsh office's plans for the future and their perspective on the new culture programmes.

Meeting with Loukianos Gatzoulis, DG INFSO

Attended by: *Loukianos Gatzoulis (DG INFSO), Catherine Daly (DHSS&PS), Alastair Campbell (Social Cohesion Desk Officer)*

A significant part of the meeting was spent making final arrangements for the Minister's appearance at a European Innovation Partnership conference the following week. Loukianos agreed to try to set up meetings for the Minister with members of Commissioners Kroes and Dalli's cabinets, as well as meeting with some of the senior Commission officials involved in connected health. He also encouraged Northern Ireland's intention to become a reference site for innovation in health and social care and explained how reference sites would be chosen. He also stressed the importance of Northern Ireland having a presence at European health week in Copenhagen and possibly putting forward a speaker for the event. Catherine agreed that this would be a good idea and that she had asked John Compton to do this.

Meeting with Alessandro Senesi, DG EAC

Attended by: *Alessandro Senesi (DG EAC), Cynthia Smith (DCAL), Joanna McConway (DCAL), Alastair Campbell (Social Cohesion desk Officer)*

Alessandro described the culture programme and explained that it is intended to focus on sharing culture and supporting cultural activities with economic benefits. He went through the various funding strands and indicated that there was approximately a 30% success rate for applications to the culture programme. Cynthia and Joanna explained their interest in projects that were geared towards social inclusion and hard-to-reach groups and Alessandro agreed that this was a key aim.

Meeting with Belen Bernaldo de Quiros, DG EAC

Attended by: *Belen Bernaldo de Quiros (DG EAC), Luca Tomasi (DG EAC) Cynthia Smith (DCAL), Joanna McConway (DCAL), Alastair Campbell (Social Cohesion Desk Officer)*

Belen and Luca explained the programmes and policies relating to language and indicated that they were now primarily geared towards encouraging young people to learn languages and pointing out the advantages of learning languages in the context of increased mobility and marketability of skills. Cynthia and Joanna pointed out the low levels of foreign language learning in Northern Ireland and also explained the different minority languages currently spoken there.

Meeting with Lidia Estevez-Picon, DG Home

Attended by: *Lidia Estevez-Picon (DG Home) Siobhan Broderick (DOJ), Una Downey (Innovation and Technology Desk Officer)*

Lidia gave an overview of the EU policy and programmes relating to human trafficking and explained the relevant legislation that governed their approach. She also touched on the various funding programmes through which member states and regions could work in partnership to tackle this growing problem. Siobhan agreed to feed this information back to the PSNI and other stakeholders who might be interested in pursuing projects on these issues.

Meeting with John McDonald, DG Communication

Attended by: *John McDonald (DG Comm), Denis McMahon (OFMDFM), Frank Duffy (OFMDFM)*

John gave Denis and Frank an overview of EU policy and funding programmes relating to volunteering and active citizenship. There was some discussion around Northern Ireland's experience of fostering citizenship among young people in moving beyond the legacy of the Troubles. Denis and Frank suggested that they would pursue the possibility of holding an international conference in Northern Ireland focusing on this area.

Competitiveness and Employment Thematic Group

Meeting with Dr Risto Raivio (DG EAC)

Attendees: Dr Risto Raivio (DG EAC), June Ingram (DEL), Gordon Browne (BTWG)

Dr Risto Raivio provided information on his draft report into Community colleges and local skills development in North Carolina, subsequent lessons learnt, and how due to similarities that exist there should be opportunities to connect up further in the future. Dr Raivio also provided information on the upcoming 'Rethinking skills', due in October 2012, which will include some findings from the North Carolina report. The group were also made aware of a staff working document on Vocational excellence looking at what aspect of competitiveness is needed in VET skills, also due in October 2012.

This was very much an informative event. It was agreed that both parties should stay in touch with a view to learning more about best practice. It was also agreed that both parties would investigate the possibility of Dr Raivio visiting Northern Ireland in the future to discuss his research.

Meeting with Marc Vermyle (DG EMPL) 27/3/2012

Attendees: Marc Vermyle (DG EMPL), June Ingram, Andre Hamilton (DEL), Tony McKibbin (DSD), Gordon Browne (BTWG)

Marc Vermyle provided information in relation to the European Social Fund (ESF) post 2013. The group were made aware of the importance for Northern Ireland to maximise its chances of influencing the next programming period, through influencing BIS in respect of the next Programme.

Marc Vermyle gave an overview of the current state of play in respect of the next programming period and some further early signs, such as an urban element, the poverty element, and the partnership approach that is proposed.

It was agreed that the Northern Ireland ESF Managing Authority would engage in the immediate future with stakeholders in respect of the next programme. The group also agreed that DG EMPL and DEL would continue to engage in respect of the ESF event in Belfast in May 2012 and the next programming period.

Meeting with Luca Dalpozzo (DG EAC) 28/3/2012

Attendees: Luca Dalpozzo, Sophie Bellieni (DG EAC), Boris Sloboda (DG EAC – UK Policy Officer), Krzysztof Kania (DG EAC – Ireland Policy Officer), June Ingram, Andre Hamilton (DEL), Gordon Browne (BTWG).

Luca Dalpozzo provided information in relation to ongoing training initiatives in the current funding period and future plans coming out of DG EAC in respect of 'Erasmus for all'. The group heard of the immediate tool open to member states and regions, namely the Youth Opportunity Initiative, which should provide scope to redirect unutilised ESF funds for training purposes. The group also heard of how

there could be scope for a cross border project / partnership between Northern Ireland and Ireland in utilising these uncommitted ESF funds.

Luca Dalpozzo gave an overview of the forthcoming Erasmus for all and key messages such as simplification, increased value added and integration. It was felt that Erasmus for all is the result of moving Education to the centre of Europe 2020 – youth employment and the investment in people are seen as key to its success.

It was agreed that Northern Ireland would further investigate the possibility of redirecting unutilised ESF funds in the current programming period, including the possibility of a cross border project. The group agreed to stay in touch in respect of future developments for the Erasmus for all programme.

Meeting with Brigitte Degan (DG EMPLOY)

Attendees: Brigitte Degan (DG EMPLOY), June Ingram, Andre Hamilton (DEL), Paul Carr (DETI), Gordon Browne (BTWG)

Brigitte Degan provided information in relation to the Youth Guarantee, which is aimed at groups severely impacted by the economic crisis such as unemployed youth and NEETS. The group heard how the Commission were to produce a staff document in mid April 2012 showing preparatory steps, which will be followed in June by more focussed recommendations for the coming months and years. Brigitte Degan informed the group that the Youth Guarantee preparatory action will have a call for proposals for Member States (and regions) before June 2012.

The group also discussed issues such as the need to identify best practice on tracking individuals; the problems faced by young graduates; the need to bring along and include employers in future processes; and micro credit and social entrepreneurship. It was agreed that Northern Ireland would liaise with DG EMPL to access the forthcoming staff document on the preparatory steps, the more focussed recommendations in June, and the subsequent call for proposals. DEL also agreed to share their experiences in respect of the areas discussed with DG EMPL.

Meeting with Ana Carla Pereira (DG EAC)

Attendees: Ana Carla Pereira (DG EAC), June Ingram (DEL)

Ana Carla Pereira provided information about a new policy that the Commission are planning to publish in early autumn. This information included how the new policy will have more of a focus on outputs and attainment levels – addressing key competencies and foundation skills. The new policy will also focus on more open and flexible learning in respect of methods and tools to be utilised, such as maximising the potential value of ICT and social networks. Ana Carla Pereira also stated that the policy will address funding and partnerships, however this aspect is at an early stage of development.

This was very much an informative event with both parties agreeing to stay in contact for future developments.

Climate Change and Energy

DRD Meeting with DG MOVE

Attended by: *Barney McGahan (DRD), Keith Brown (Climate Change & Energy Desk Officer); Herald Ruijters (DG MOVE, Head of Unit, TEN-T & Investment Strategy), Helmut Adelsberger (DG MOVE, Policy Officer, TEN-T & Investment Strategy).*

This meeting discussed transport policy with specific references to unique Northern Ireland issues. Derry's status as a transport node, the North coast railway situation, cross-border co-operation and the links to GB were all discussed in depth. Herald Ruijters indicated that he was keen to visit Northern Ireland in the near future and emphasised that DG MOVE had a commitment to working with DRD.

DRD Meeting with DG REGIO

Attended by: *Barney McGahan (DRD), Keith Brown (Climate Change & Energy Desk Officer); John Walsh (DG REGIO, Deputy Head of Unit, Thematic Development, Innovation).*

John Walsh outlined that the build up to 2014-2020 is vital – NI needs to focus on gearing up and being ready to take advantage of early calls. Cross-aligned projects will be key, e.g. Clean Urban Transport, increasing mobility and integrating transport to social development. Transnational links to Ireland will be an advantage that NI should build upon.

DRD Meeting with DG MOVE (eCars)

Attended by: *Barney McGahan (DRD), Noel Griffin (Policy Officer, ONIEB) Helmut Morsi (DG MOVE Deputy Head of Unit Trans-European Network & Head of Sector: TENtec & Innovation)*

Helmut gave outlined how the current TEN-T call for eCars fit in with the Commissions overall strategy preparation for a mass rolling out of systems under the 2014-2020 programmes. He stressed that the current focus was on testing market systems and not about developing new technology. Helmut also pointed out that it was important to ensure that any infrastructure developed in NI is compatible with neighbouring infrastructure and allows for eventual connection through to continental

Europe. There was also some discussion on the cooperation between DRD, DOE and the ESB in the south of Ireland on the role out of the eCars initiative on an all island basis.

DOE Meeting with DG CLIMA (Low Carbon Technology section)

Attended by: *John McMillen (DOE), Keith Brown (Climate Change & Energy Desk Officer); Torsten Wöllert (DG CLIMA, Deputy Head of Unit, Low Carbon Technologies), Anna Kwintkiewicz (DG CLIMA Co-ordinator for Inter-institutional Relations & Barroso TF Representative).*

Torsten Wollert highlighted concerns about how technology will be integrated with older systems but reaffirmed that innovative renewable projects would be more of a focus from 2014 and so should be embedded into any carbon policy. CCS will be a focus but even if NI cannot do commercial demo projects, there may be an opportunity for industrial showcases or even just provide the outline scoping work. Renewable methane work carried out by Germany may be of relevance to NI with large agricultural base. Marine technology may be another outlet with some experience of early work in NI bearing fruit.

DOE Meeting with DG CLIMA (Adaptation section)

Attended by: *John McMillen (DOE), Tim Irwin (DOE), Keith Brown (Climate Change & Energy Desk Officer); Joan Canton (DG CLIMA, Policy Officer, Adaptation), Anna Kwintkiewicz (DG CLIMA Co-ordinator for Inter-institutional Relations & Barroso TF Representative).*

Joan Canton explained CLIMA'S work on putting together an EU Adaptation Strategy. The aim is to create an Impact Assessment by late 2012 and then to inform the Strategy which will report by March 2013. A key milestone recently was the launch of ClimateADAPT, a new online web toolkit to share ideas and expertise. This is a good way to identify partners. It has three objectives – to create a knowledge base and identifying knowledge gaps in evidence; to facilitate and create co-operation (identifying similar regions); and to market shape, to integrate policies that are successful and to create market based instruments that deliver. One key of the latter is insurance and how this will need to change on transnational lines in future.

DOE Meeting with DG CLIMA (Transport and Ozone section)

Attended by: *John McMillen (DOE), Tim Irwin (DOE), Keith Brown (Climate Change & Energy Desk Officer); Philip Owen (DG CLIMA, Head of Unit, Transport and Ozone), Anna Kwintkiewicz (DG CLIMA Co-ordinator for Inter-institutional Relations & Barroso TF Representative).*

Emissions from vehicles and working with manufacturers (and parts manufacturers) were the focus at moment but biofuels that are sustainable will be of great importance. The work on electric vehicles was noted but also that the cost of EV technology is still too high – the move to plug-in hybrids for 2020/2025 seems to be the short term future but 2030 is when we may see radical change as technology catches up (NB this is very different to UK CCC view). The Green Car Initiative in Horizon2020 should also be considered by NI. DG RTD (Research & Innovation) and EIB (European Investment Bank) are going to lead with soft loans for collaborative research, especially in regards to technology (this is open access) – may be an opportunity to identify a niche and focus on that – possible links to manufacturers in UK, eg Nissan or creating more auto engineering training? Fluorinated gases are also a key consideration and legislation for review will arrive by the autumn.

DOE Meeting with DG CLIMA (Climate Finance and Deforestation section)

Attended by: *John McMillen (DOE), Tim Irwin (DOE), Keith Brown (Climate Change & Energy Desk Officer), Peter Wehrheim (DG CLIMA, Head of Unit, Climate Finance and Deforestation), Aulikki Kauppila (DG CLIMA, Policy Officer, Climate Finance and Deforestation), Simona Constantin (DG CLIMA, Legal Officer, Climate Finance and Deforestation), Anna Kwintkiewicz (DG CLIMA Co-ordinator for Inter-institutional Relations & Barroso TF Representative).*

The Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) proposal had only been recently published and was now beginning to get attention. DG AGRI doesn't include LULUCF in its package - it is also absent from EU GHG process at present. Legal proposal creates formal accounting rules but no defined target as yet. The hope is to provide better incentives for forestry. CAP2 and LIFE+ should create pilot schemes and processes. The 2014/2020 draft proposal should create funding on methods/research which need examined. Tillage and peatland will probably still fall under RDP/CAP. LULUCF rules would encourage a cascaded use of biomass. If wood is sustainable it is much better to use in furniture for example than for energy – the carbon is locked in longer. Peter Wehrheim suggested LIFE+ and OSCAR as best possible funding routes and recommended working with Ireland for trans-national funding.

DOE Meeting with DG CLIMA (Climate Finance and Deforestation section)

Attended by: *John McMillen (DOE), Tim Irwin (DOE), Keith Brown (Climate Change & Energy Desk Officer), Rafal Kabacinski (DG ENER, Legal Officer, Energy Policy & Monitoring of Electricity, Gas, Coal and Oil Markets).*

This was an introductory meeting to gain further contacts within DG ENER that would be more focused on specific issues. It was recommended that there was a collaborative approach to energy going forward – discussions should happen bilaterally with REGIO, ENER, RTD, CLIMA and COMP. It was noted that for the 2014-2020 period, greater emphasis of alternative fuels would play a role and that ENER is keen to expand the role of marine technology.

DOE Meeting with DG RTD (Climate Change and Natural Hazards section)

Attended by: *John McMillen (DOE), Tim Irwin (DOE), Keith Brown (Climate Change & Energy Desk Officer), Andrea Tilche (DG RTD, Head of Unit, Climate Change and Natural Hazards), Dr Wolfram Schrimpf (DG RTD, Deputy Head of Unit, Climate Change and Natural Hazards), Dr Anastasios Kentarchos (DG RTD, Research Programme Officer, Climate Change and Natural Hazards).*

It was emphasised that NI should build capacity over time and develop embedded knowledge that supports a strong research climate – focuses on crops, health, air traffic and transport all have crossover links with climate change. Regional projects would be important but there should also be a wider consideration – this allows collaborative work across the EU. For FP7 and Horizon 2020 calls, early interaction will be important - it is essential to come to info days and to talk to possible partners from the outset. Smart specialisation is key – for a small area, work with universities and agencies to pick special focus rather than try to cover wider issues that regions with far more resources are already leading on.

DOE Meeting with Irish Permanent Representation (Environment Section)

Attended by: *John McMillen (DOE), Keith Brown (Climate Change & Energy Desk Officer), Paul Lemass (Environment Counsellor).*

Paul outlined Ireland's environmental focus leading forward to their European Council Presidency in January 2013. Although it was unlikely any new environmental targets would be added, he hoped that Ireland could progress many issues currently underway. A neutral outlook would be adopted but a Blueprint on Water brought

forward by Cyprus in autumn 2012 and a new biodiversity dossier would be the key points of interest.

DOE Meeting with UK Permanent Representation (Environment Section)

Attended by: *John McMillen (DOE), Keith Brown (Climate Change & Energy Desk Officer), Peter Green (Environment Counsellor).*

Peter emphasised the need to explore LIFE+ programmes as there was still a large slice of funding available. The UK is having some concerns with DG ENV on the Air Quality Directive updates. In addition, a more proportional approach was needed for soils initiatives. As with Ireland, he noted work on biodiversity, especially in relation to invasive alien species. There was a concern that although climate change work was slowly going forward, the aim of moving to more ambition will be thwarted by Poland for the foreseeable future.

Additional Bi-lateral meetings

Meeting with Petr Jelinek DG AGRI

Attendees: Mark Browne, Sinclair Mayne, Martin McKendry (DARD), Michael Welsh (AFBI), Emma Neill, Eileen Kelly (DARD/ONIEB), Petr Jelinek (DG AGRI)

The group discussed the Rural Development Priorities under the current CAP reform. Petr Jelinek provided details about the scope of funding under Rural Development Programmes, explaining the distinction between research (which is not funded under Rural Development programmes) and Knowledge Transfer (which does receive funding under RD programmes). It was noted to explore prospects for useful and valuable knowledge transfer opportunities within future Northern Ireland RD programmes.

Meeting with John McClintock DG AGRI

Attendees: Mark Browne, Sinclair Mayne, Martin McKendry (DARD), Michael Welsh (AFBI), Emma Neill, Eileen Kelly (DARD/ONIEB), John McClintock (DG AGRI)

This meeting focussed on the CAP policy, its importance within the European Union and its implications in terms of regional funding. This was general meeting with no follow-up action.

Meetings with UK Permanent Representation to the EU

Attendees: Mark Browne, Sinclair Mayne, Martin McKendry (DARD), Michael Welsh (AFBI), Emma Neill, Eileen Kelly (DARD/ONIEB), Tim Render, Ciara Reynolds (UKREP)

Across a number of meetings the group discussed the CAP reform negotiations, EU funding opportunities and the role of EIP Agriculture, and received an update on the current negotiations on the Multi-Annual Financial Framework. DARD will continue to input to the UK position through DEFRA.

“The Future of the Common Agricultural Policy” Networking event

Attendees: Mark Browne, Sinclair Mayne, Martin McKendry (DARD), Michael Welsh (AFBI), Eileen Kelly (DARD/ONIEB) – hosted by the Irish Permanent Representation.

At this event the Irish Minister Simon Coveney presented an Irish view of CAP Reform and this was followed by a question and answer session. There were opportunities to speak to the Irish CAP reform officials, the Irish Minister, MEPs and other interested parties from across the EU institutions.

Meeting with Markus Holzer DG AGRI

Attendees: Mark Browne, Sinclair Mayne, Martin McKendry (DARD), Michael Welsh (AFBI), Emma Neill (DARD/ONIEB), Markus Holzer, Jean-Bernard Benhaiem, Petr Jelinek, Maria Tanaka (DG AGRI)

The group discussed the issue of Climate Change in terms of Rural Development Programmes and the need for innovation and awareness-raising, particularly in respect to carbon emissions in the agriculture sector. The representatives from DG AGRI spoke of the Commission's plans to prepare guidelines for including climate related measures in Rural Development programmes. DARD officials made reference to the Department's Greenhouse Gas Strategy and spoke of DARD ambitions to decrease carbon emissions per unit without jeopardising the NI Agri-food growth strategy. They also emphasised the significant research capacity of AFBI in this field, including success regarding research into the capacity of grassland to sequester carbon. It was agreed that DARD would share these research results with the Commission.

Programme of Meetings by Junior Ministers

Junior Ministers attended 6 meetings in addition to the Plenary Session:

Joelle Jenny, Head of Division Meeting with European External Action Service

Attendees: *Junior Minister Bell, Junior Minister Anderson, Joelle Jenny (EEAS), Johannes Schachinger (EEAS), Guy Banim (EEAS) Gerry Mulligan (ONIEB), Colette Fitzgerald (OFMDFM), Noel Lavery (OFMDFM), Paul Geddis (OFMDFM), Gavin Robinson (SPAD), Paul Kavanagh (SPAD)*

Meeting Edward Bannerman, a member of the Cabinet of Vice President Ashton.

Attendees: *Junior Minister Bell, Junior Minister Anderson, Edward Bannerman (CAB-Ashton), Johannes Schachinger (EEAS), Gerry Mulligan (ONIEB), Colette Fitzgerald (OFMDFM), Gavin Robinson (SPAD), Paul Kavanagh (SPAD)*

Discussion in both of these meetings explored what contribution the Executive could make to the efforts being made to increase the EU's role in peace building and conflict resolution throughout the world. The European Commission, through the report of the Barroso Task Force in 2008, committed to working with the Executive to examine how this might be done.

Ministers explained their determination that the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre will not be merely an important milestone in our successful peace process but a critical and central part of the EU's strategy for preventing conflict and promoting peace internationally.

Both Edward Bannerman and Joelle Jenny were very positive on the potential for the future role of the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre.

Meeting with NI MEPs

Attendees: *Diane Dodds MEP, Jim Nicholson MEP, Emma Calvert (Parliamentary Assistant to Bairbre de Brún MEP), Junior Minister Bell, Junior Minister Anderson, Gavin Robinson (SPAD), Paul Kavanagh (SPAD), Gerry Mulligan (ONIEB).*

Briefing on recent work of the task force and also on the Junior Ministers' programme of meetings in Brussels.

Meeting with Jane Morrice, NI member of the Economic and Social Committee.

Attendees: *Junior Minister Bell, Junior Minister Anderson, Gerry Mulligan (ONIEB), Colette Fitzgerald (OFMDFM), Paul Geddis (OFMDFM), Noel Lavery (OFMDFM) Gavin Robinson (SPAD), Paul Kavanagh (SPAD)*

Discussions centred about the possibilities of a PEACE IV programme as well as the future role of the Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Centre in light of Jane's role as rapporteur for an opinion on the role of the European Union in peace building in external relations. This highlighted how our experiences could

be a source of best practice and was adopted by the Committee on the 19 January this year.

Meeting with Walter Deffaa, the newly appointed Director-General of DG Regional Policy

Attendees: Junior Minister Bell, Junior Minister Anderson, Ronnie Hall, DG REGIO and the lead Commission Official on the Task Force, Tamara Pavlin (DG REGIO), Colette Fitzgerald, Paul Geddis (OFMDFM), Noel Lavery (OFMDFM), Gavin Robinson (SPAD), Paul Kavanagh (SPAD)

The discussions primarily related to the possibilities of the PEACE IV programme. Ministers stressed how there is still significant peace building work to be undertaken. It was also explained how important it was that the derogations in place to facilitate single jurisdiction actions in the current ERDF Regulation on European Territorial Co-operation actions, are maintained for the 2014-20 period in order that the needs of any future PEACE Programme are recognised.

There was also some discussion on the possible event in Brussels proposed by Commissioner Hahn to highlight the achievements of the PEACE programmes so far.

Meeting with Irish Permanent Representation to the EU:

Attendees: Junior Minister Bell, Junior Minister Anderson, Rory Montgomery, Irish Permanent Representative, Aingeal O'Donoghue, Counsellor, Gerry Mulligan (ONIEB), , Noel Lavery (OFMDFM)

The primary purpose of the meeting was to explore opportunities for cooperation when Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union in January 2013.

In response to an offer from the Irish Government the NICS has seconded an official to the Irish Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels to assist during their Presidency. Officials are currently exploring the potential of further related secondments. This has previously been raised through the North/South Ministerial Council.

The issue of a PEACE IV programme was also raised and Junior Ministers welcomed the continued support of the Irish Government in the negotiations.

ANNEX A -List of Participants

Ministers:

Junior Minister Bell, Junior Minister Anderson

Ministers Delegation

Gavin Robinson (SPAD JM Bell), Alma Manus (PS JM Bell), Paul Kavanagh (SPAD JM Anderson), Carol Morrow (PS JM Anderson)

NICS representatives present during the event:

Andrew Hamilton (DEL), June Ingram (DEL), Barney McGahan (DRD), Dennis McMahon (OFMDFM), Frank Duffy (OFMDFM), Paul Geddis (OFMDFM), Alan Boyd (OFMDFM), Sorcha Hassey (OFMDFM), Jenny Pyper (DSD), Siobhan Broderick (DOJ), Cynthia Smith (DCAL), Joanna McConway (DCAL), Tony McKibben (DSD), Catherine Daly (DHSSPS), Diarmuid McLean (DE), Paul Brush (DETI), Paul Carr (DETI), Maeve Hamilton (DETI), David Sterling (DETI), John McMillen (DOE), Tim Irwin (DOE), Mark Browne (DARD), Sinclair Mayne (DARD), Martin McKendry (DARD), Michael Welsh (AFBI), Richard Pengelly (DFP), Maura Young (DFP), (26)

Brussels Based Staff:

Gerry Mulligan (Head of Office), Eileen Kelly (Deputy Head of Office/Agriculture Policy Officer), Emma Neill (Agriculture Policy Officer), Noel Griffin (Policy Officer), Gordon Browne (Desk Officer – Competitiveness and Employment), Alastair Campbell (Desk Officer – Social Cohesion), Una Downey (Desk Officer – Innovation and Technology), Keith Brown (Desk Officer – Climate Change and Energy) (7)

Commission Representatives:

Walter Deffaa (Director General DG REGIO), Ronnie Hall (Director DG REGIO), Joelle Jenny (EEAS), Johannes Schachinger (EEAS), Guy Banim (EEAS) Milosz Momot (DG ENER), Sebastian Zaelski (DG ENTR), Charlotte Andersdotter (DG RTD), Luisa Sanches (DG REGIO), Stephen Langley (DG REGIO), Carmen Gonzalez Hernandez (DG REGIO), Tamara Pavlin (DG REGIO), Herald Ruijters (DG MOVE), Petr Jelinek (DG AGRI), Kerstin Moll (DG JUST), Maria Podlasek-Ziegler (DG EAC), John Walsh (DG REGIO), Risto Raivio (DG EAC), John McClintock (DG AGRI), Marc Vermyle (DG EMPL), Michal Krejza (DG EAC), Rachel Lancry (DG REGIO), Stephen Duffy (DG REGIO), Joan Canton (DG CLIMA), Nicholas Martyn (DG REGIO), Dominique Libouton (DG EAC), Martin Scheele (DG AGRI), Peter Wehrheim (DG CLIMA), Peter Wintlev-Jensen (DG INFOS), Markus Holzer (DG AGRI), Helmut Morsi (DG MOVE), Rafa Kabacinski (DG ENER), Gert Jan Koopman (DG COMP), Brigitte Degen (DG EMPL), Max Uebe (DG EMPL), Loukianos Gatzoulis (DG INFOS), Lidia Estevez-Picon (DG HOME), Francois Constantin (DG RTD), Andrea Tiche (DG ENER), Daniel Mouqué (DG REGIO), Brendan Hawdon (DG RTD), Peter Droell (DG RTD), Ana Carla Pereira (DG EAC), Guido Acchioni (DG INFOS), Alessandro Senesi (DG EAC), Jean-Eric Paquet (DG MOVE), John McDonald (DG COMM), H. Dage (DG ENTR), Edward Bannerman (CAB-ASHTON), Colette Fitzgerald (DG REGIO). (49)

Other Representatives and meetings:

Lynsey Moore (UKREP), Rebecca Ellis (UKREP), Simon Coveney (Irish Minister for Agriculture), Sam Scott (UKREP), Eddie Arthurs (Irish Perm Rep), Jim Nicholson (MEP), Diane Dodds (MEP), Nia Lewis (Welsh Government Office), Ambassador Rory Montgomery (Irish Permanent Representative to the EU), Aingeal O'Donoghue (Irish Perm Rep), Jane Morrice (EESC), Paul Lemasse (Irish Perm Rep), Peter Green (UKREP) Tim Render (UKREP), Ciara Reynolds (UKREP) (15)

Number of Meetings:

Civil Servants had over 54 meetings across all thematic groups. There were 6 Ministerial meetings.

Number of people involved in event:

Over 50 representatives attended the plenary session and over 100 representatives were involved in meetings during the event.

ANNEX A –Presentations from the Plenary Session

List of Presentations, (attached as separate documents)

1. Golden Growth: Restoring the lustre of the European economic model
Presentation by Mr Daniel Mouqué, European Commission, DG REGIO
2. Response by David Sterling, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Trade and Investment
3. Core elements of the Common Strategic Framework (CSF) 2014-2020
Presentation by Ms Rachel Lancry Beaumont, European Commission, DG REGIO
4. HORIZON 2020
Presentation by Mr Neville Reeve, European Commission, DG Research and Innovation (RTD)
5. Northern Ireland Theme Leads present the European Priorities 2012-2013
 - Competitiveness and Employment - presentation & discussion;
 - Innovation and Technology - presentation & discussion;
 - Climate Change and Energy - presentation & discussion;
 - Social Cohesion - presentation & discussion.