



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS
WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2013
ROOM 30, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

Present: Mr Mike Nesbitt (Chairperson)
Mr Chris Lyttle (Deputy Chairperson)
Mr Alex Attwood
Mr Leslie Cree
Miss Megan Fearon
Mrs Brenda Hale
Mr Alex Maskey
Ms Bronwyn McGahan
Mr Stephen Moutray
Mt George Robinson
Mr Jimmy Spratt

Apologies: None

In Attendance: Mrs Shauna Mageean (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Keith McBride (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Stephen Magee (Clerical Supervisor)
Mrs Marion Johnson (Clerical Officer)

The meeting began at 2.04 pm in public session

1. Apologies

As detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

Europe Day

The Committee noted an invitation for the Chairperson from the Assembly and Business Trust to participate in an event to mark Europe Day on 13 May 2014.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the Chairperson would participate in the event.

Informal Meeting – Outstanding Issues

The Chairperson advised Members that, as agreed on 2 October, he met with Special Advisors in the Department to discuss outstanding issues.

Ms McGahan joined the meeting at 2.08 p.m.

International Relations Strategy

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek further information in relation to the announcement of an office in Beijing and to request site of the department's International Relations Strategy.

Current Invitations

The Committee noted the list of current invitations.

3. Draft Minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2013

Agreed: The draft minutes of the proceedings of the 9 October 2013 were agreed by the Committee.

4. Rescinding of Committee Decision

Agreed: The Committee agreed to rescind its decision of 2 October 2013, to hold part of a briefing from the Victims and Survivors Service in closed session.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from the Victims and Survivors Service in public session.

5. Matters Arising

Barroso Task Force Desk Officers

The Committee considered a response from the Department providing clarification of the mechanisms for communication of information from the Desk Officers to committees.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the response to the Committee for Employment and Learning for information.

Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

The Committee considered a copy of a response from the Department to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment providing further information on EU communication and engagement.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward a copy of the response to the Committee for Employment and Learning for information.

EU/ECJ Driven Regulations

The Committee considered a response from the Department to the Committee's request for details of EU legislation or ECJ decisions requiring that the Department bring forward regulations.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to seek further clarification on the timelines for responses and decisions.

Mr Lyttle joined the meeting at 2.18 p.m.

House of Lords European Sub-Committee

The Committee noted correspondence from the Chairperson of the House of Lords EU Sub-Committee providing an update in relation to the EU proposal to establish a framework for maritime spatial planning and integrated coastal management.

List of Outstanding Issues

The Committee noted the list of outstanding issues.

Victims and Survivors Service

The Committee considered correspondence from the Victims and Survivors Service providing further information following the briefing on 9 October 2013.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department to request that when the Department is briefing the Committee, at next week's meeting, that they advise the Committee of the actions that it has taken to resolve issues.

Mr Moutray left the meeting at 2.39 p.m.

6. Irish Minister of State for European Affairs

The Irish Minister of State for European Affairs joined the meeting at 2.39 p.m.

Miss Fearon left the meeting at 3.18 p.m.

The Irish Minister of State for European Affairs, Mr Paschal Donohoe TD and Mr Brian Cahalane, Department of Foreign Affairs, briefed the Committee on EU issues, including the Irish Presidency of the European Union, the role of Parliaments in Europe and membership of the European Union. Questions and discussion followed.

The Minister and official left the meeting at 3.30 p.m.

Mr Attwood left the meeting at 3.31 p.m.

Mr Robinson left the meeting at 3.31 p.m.

7. Correspondence

Committee for Employment and Learning

The Committee considered a copy of a research paper from the Committee for Employment and Learning on Good Practice Gender Equality Practice in the EU27 Nations.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the research paper to the Department and to seek further information on a number of points raised in the research paper.

Mrs Hale left the meeting at 3.32 p.m.

Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment

The Committee noted copies of correspondence from the Department to the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment in relation to Cross-Border Co-operation and the Third Sector Mapping Exercise.

8. Legislative Consent Motion: Intellectual Property Bill – Freedom of Information Provisions

The Committee considered responses from the Department in relation to queries Members had raised at last week's briefing on the Legislative Consent Motion: Intellectual Property Bill – Freedom of Information Provisions.

Mr Attwood re-joined the meeting at 3.34 p.m.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that it was content to support the Legislative Consent Motion: Intellectual Property Bill – Freedom of Information Provisions. The Committee agreed it would consider its draft report on the motion at next week's meeting.

9. Forward Work Programme

Mrs Hale re-joined the meeting at 3.41 p.m.

Miss Fearon re-joined the meeting at 3.46 p.m.

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme.

10. Any Other Business

None

11. Date, Time and Location of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in on Wednesday 23 October 2013 2.00 p.m. in Room 30, Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 3.47 p.m.

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA

Chairperson,

Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister