North South Ministerial Council
Joint Secretariat

An Chomhairle Aireachta
Thuaidh Theas
An Chomhrúnaíocht

# PAPER NSMC P1 (16) JC

# NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

# TWENTY-SECOND PLENARY MEETING

# DUBLIN CASTLE

# 4 JULY 2016

# JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The twenty-second Plenary meeting of the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) was held in Dublin Castle on 4 July 2016.

2. The Irish Government was led by the Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, who chaired the meeting. The Northern Ireland Executive was led by the First Minister Arlene Foster MLA and the deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness MLA. A full list of the members of both delegations is attached as an Annex.

3. The meeting provided the new Irish Government and the new Northern Ireland Executive with the opportunity to meet formally for the first time and exchange views on a wide range of issues of mutual interest and concern, especially in light of the recent UK referendum decision to leave the EU.

## OPENING REMARKS

4. In their opening discussion, Ministers welcomed this early opportunity for the new Irish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive to discuss the implications of the recent referendum decision for Northern Ireland and for relations between both jurisdictions.

5. The Council agreed that as the mechanism of a UK exit from the EU becomes clearer, the implications of the referendum decision on North South cooperation should be explored in detail under all sectors.

6. Ministers welcomed the development of the Irish Government's new Programme for a Partnership Government and the Northern Ireland Executive's new Draft Programme for Government Framework and noted that building and maintaining relationships between each jurisdiction features in both of these documents.

7. Ministers of Health announced that they were jointly opening the cardiac catheterisation lab in Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin and announced the way forward for the all island Congenital Heart Disease Network. The Ministers look forward to working together to build on the good progress made by their Departments and committed to further scope opportunities for all Island co-operation in health and social care.

**FINANCIAL AND EU MATTERS**
**[Implications of UK Referendum]**

8. The Council had a detailed discussion on the potential impact of the UK referendum result to leave the EU. In order to optimise joint planning and engagement on key issues arising following the UK referendum result, the NSMC:

- Agreed to work together to ensure that Northern Ireland's interests are protected and advanced and the benefits of North/South co-operation are fully recognised in any new arrangements which emerge as regards the United Kingdom's future relationship with the European Union;

- Noted that there are a number of priority areas where implications arise, but particularly including:

  - The Economy and trade
  - Northern Ireland and British Irish Relations
  - The Common Travel Area
  - The EU.

- Agreed that a full audit will be undertaken in all sectors to identify the possible impacts, risks, opportunities and contingencies arising in the phases preceding and following the UK's withdrawal from the EU;

- Agreed that this work will in turn be submitted to ministerial sectoral meetings for consideration as to the strategic and cross-cutting issues arising and that final priorities will be agreed by the next NSMC Plenary for both pre-negotiation and negotiation phases;

- Agreed that a further discussion on the implications of the referendum result will take place at the next NSMC Plenary;

- Agreed that the NSMC can provide a useful forum for ongoing discussion on relevant matters;

- Re-iterated the joint commitment of the Irish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive to the successful implementation of the PEACE and INTERREG programmes, and agreed that the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and the Northern Ireland Finance Minister will consider the issue of securing the ERDF funding for PEACE and INTERREG, including through engagement with the European Commission;

- Agreed that the frequency of the briefings on relevant EU matters provided by the Irish Government for senior Northern Ireland officials should increase and include consideration of issues arising from the referendum decision;

- Agreed that the Irish Permanent Representation in Brussels and the Northern Ireland Executive Office in Brussels will continue and intensify their close working relationship; and

- Noted and welcomed Prime Minister Cameron's clear commitment to engagement of the Northern Ireland Executive in the United Kingdom’s negotiating process with the European Union.

9. Ministers also provided updates on economic conditions North and South.

**FRESH START SECTION E COMMITMENTS**

10. The Council noted the continued commitment of the Irish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive in the Fresh Start Agreement to investing in infrastructure which will support cooperation and unlock the full potential of the economies of both jurisdictions.

11. Ministers noted the progress report by Senior Officials from relevant Departments in both jurisdictions addressing the Fresh Start commitments, including work on the A5 Western Transport Corridor- noting that the A5 is on schedule to start in late 2017 - and the review of options for the Ulster Canal and the Narrow Water Bridge.

12. Ministers noted that the group of Senior Officials will continue to meet regularly to maintain a strategic overview of the projects and commitments set out in Fresh Start and to explore funding opportunities for economic and infrastructural investment.

13. The Council agreed that a further update on the Fresh Start Section E Commitments will be brought to the next NSMC Plenary meeting.

**NORTH WEST GATEWAY INITIATIVE**

14. Ministers noted the continued engagement between officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Executive Office (TEO) with regional stakeholders regarding the direction and priorities for the North West region.

15. Ministers agreed that senior officials from relevant departments in both jurisdictions should meet with the two Councils as part of the Framework and noted the continuing commitment to a meeting of Ministers from both jurisdictions to take place in the North West.

16. Ministers noted the additional Fresh Start commitment to support the North West Gateway Initiative through the establishment of a North West Development Fund and welcomed the contribution by the Irish Government of €2.5 million and the commitment of match funding from the Northern Ireland Executive.

**DATE OF NEXT PLENARY MEETING**

17. Ministers agreed that the next Plenary meeting would be held in Armagh in November.

**Joint Secretariat**
**4 July 2016**

**ANNEX A**

## MEETING OF THE NORTH SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DUBLIN CASTLE – 4 JULY 2016

| Northern Ireland Executive | Irish Government |
|---|---|
| Arlene Foster MLA<br>First Minister | Enda Kenny TD<br>Taoiseach and Minister of Defence |
| Martin McGuinness MLA<br>deputy First Minister | Frances Fitzgerald TD<br>Tánaiste & Minister for Justice & Equality |
| Paul Givan MLA<br>Minister for Communities | Michael Noonan TD<br>Minister for Finance |
| Simon Hamilton MLA<br>Minister for the Economy | Richard Bruton TD<br>Minister for Education |
| Chris Hazzard MLA<br>Minister for Infrastructure | Leo Varadkar TD<br>Minister for Social Protection |
| Michelle McIlveen MLA<br>Minister for Agriculture, the Environment and Rural Affairs | Charles Flanagan TD<br>Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade |
| Mairtín Ó Muilleoir MLA<br>Minister for Finance | Paschal Donohoe TD<br>Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform |
| Michelle O'Neill MLA<br>Minister for Health | Heather Humphreys TD<br>Minister for Regional Development, Rural Affairs, Arts & the Gaeltacht |
| Claire Sugden MLA<br>Minister for Justice | Simon Harris TD<br>Minister for Health |
| Peter Weir MLA<br>Minister for Education | Michael Creed TD<br>Minister for Agriculture, Food & Marine and Defence |
| Megan Fearon MLA<br>Junior Minister, The Executive Office | Denis Naughten TD<br>Minister for Communications, Climate Change & Natural Resources |
| Alastair Ross MLA<br>Junior Minister, The Executive Office | Shane Ross TD<br>Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport |
| | Mary Mitchell O'Connor TD<br>Minister for Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation |
| | Katherine Zappone TD<br>Minister for Children & Youth Affairs |
| | Damien English TD<br>Minister of State for Housing & Urban Renewal |

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# CATT – PÁIPÉAR (16) – CR

# AN CHOMHAIRLE AIREACHTA THUAIDH THEAS

# AN DARA CRUINNIÚ IOMLÁNACH IS FICHE

# CAISLEÁN BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

# 4 IÚIL 2016

# COMHRÁITEAS

1. Tionóladh an dara Cruinniú Iomlánach is fiche den Chomhairle Aireachta Thuaidh Theas (CATT) i gCaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath an 4 Iúil 2016.

2. Ba é an Taoiseach, Éanna Ó Coinnigh TD a bhí i gceannas ar Rialtas na hÉireann agus a bhí ina chathaoirleach ar an gcruinniú. Ba iad an Chéad Aire, Arlene Foster MLA agus an Leas-Chéad-Aire, Martin McGuinness MLA a bhí i gceannas ar Fheidhmeannacht Thuaisceart Éireann. Tá liosta iomlán de chomhaltaí an dá thoscaireacht i gceangal leis seo mar Iarscríbhinn.

3. Ba é an cruinniú seo an chéad deis a bhí ag Rialtas nua na hÉireann agus Feidhmeannacht nua Thuaisceart Éireann teacht le chéile go foirmiúil agus tuairimí a roinnt maidir le raon leathan ceisteanna a bhaineann don dá thaobh, go háirithe i gcomhthéacs chinneadh thoghlacht RA sa reifreann le déanaí AE a fhágáil.

**FOCAL TOSAIGH**

4. Ag tús an chruinnithe, d’fháiltigh na hAirí ó Rialtas na hÉireann agus ó Fheidhmeannacht Thuaisceart Éireann roimh an deis plé straitéiseach a dhéanamh ar na himpleachtaí a bheidh ag toradh an reifrinn a tógadh le déanaí do Thuaisceart Éireann agus don chaidreamh idir an dá dhlínse.

5. Chomhaontaigh an Chomhairle gur chóir mionscrúdú a dhéanamh ar na himpleachtaí a bheidh ag toradh an reifrinn do chomhoibriú Thuaidh Theas i dtaca le gach earnáil.

6. D'fháiltigh na hAirí roimh an gClár do Rialtas Comhpháirtíochta atá eisithe ag Rialtas na hÉireann agus roimh an Dréacht-Chreat don Chlár Rialtais a d'eisigh Feidhmeannacht Thuaisceart Éireann le déanaí, agus thug siad dá n-aire go bhfuil trácht sa dá dhoiciméad sin ar chaidreamh idir an dá dhlínse a fhorbairt agus a chothabháil.

7. D'fhógair na hAirí Sláinte go n-osclóidh siad beirt an tsaotharlann cataitéaraithe chairdiach in Ospidéal Mhuire na Leanaí, Cromghlinn, agus d'fhógair siad na bearta a dhéanfar maidir leis an Líonra uile-oileáin um Ghalar Croí ó Bhroinn. Tá na hAirí ag tnúth le comhoibriú chun forbairt a dhéanamh ar an dul chun cinn atá déanta ag an dá Roinn Sláinte agus tá siad tiomanta do theacht ar níos mó deiseanna le haghaidh comhoibriú i gcúram sláinte agus sóisialach.

**CÚRSAÍ AIRGEADAIS AGUS AE**
**[Impleachtaí an Reifrinn in RA]**

8. Rinne an Chomhairle mionphlé ar an tionchar a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ag cinneadh thoghlacht RA an tAontas Eorpach a fhágáil. D'fhonn rannpháirteachas agus pleanáil chomhpháirteach a uasmhéadú i dtaca le ceisteanna ríthábhachtacha i ndiaidh thoradh an reifrinn in RA, rinne na hAirí:

- A chomhaontú go n-oibreoidh siad le chéile chun a chinntiú go ndéanfar leasanna Thuaisceart Éireann a chosaint agus a chur chun cinn agus go ndéanfar na buntáistí a bhaineann le comhoibriú Thuaidh Theas a aithint ina n-iomláine in aon socruithe nua a dhéanfar maidir leis an gcaidreamh a bheidh ag an Ríocht Aontaithe amach anseo leis an Aontas Eorpach

- A thabhairt dá n-aire go bhfuil roinnt réimsí tosaíochta ann a mbeidh impleachtaí ag an toradh dóibh, lena n-áirítear, go háirithe:

  - An geilleagar agus trádáil
  - Caidreamh idir Tuaisceart Éireann agus an Bhreatain agus Éire
  - An Comhlimistéar Taistil
  - AE

- A chomhaontú go ndéanfar iniúchadh iomlán i ngach earnáil ar na héifeachtaí, na priacail, na deiseanna agus na teagmhais a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ann sna céimeanna roimh do RA an tAontas Eorpach a fhágáil agus ina dhiaidh

- A chomhaontú go ndéanfar an obair seo a chur faoi bhráid cruinnithe earnála aireachta lena breithniú ó thaobh na saincheisteanna straitéiseacha agus trasnaí a thiocfaidh aníos agus go gcomhaontófar na tosaíochtaí deiridh faoin tráth a thionólfar an chéad chruinniú iomlánach

eile de chuid CATT le haghaidh chéimeanna na réamhchaibidlíochta agus na caibidlíochta

- A chomhaontú go ndéanfar tuilleadh plé ag an gcéad chruinniú iomlánach eile de chuid CATT ar na himpleachtaí a bheidh ag toradh an reifrinn

- A chomhaontú gurb úsáideach an fóram é CATT le haghaidh plé leanúnach ar nithe ábhartha

- Athdhearbhú a thabhairt maidir le tiomantas comhpháirteach Rialtas na hÉireann agus Fheidhmeannacht Thuaisceart Éireann do chláir PEACE agus INTERREG a chur i ngníomh, agus a chomhaontú go ndéanfaidh an tAire Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe agus Aire Airgeadais Thuaisceart Éireann breithniú ar mhaoiniú CFRE a fháil, lena n-áirítear trí phlé leis an gCoimisiún Eorpach

- A chomhaontú gur chóir do Rialtas na hÉireann cruinnithe eolais maidir le nithe ábhartha AE a chur ar fáil níos minice d'oifigigh shinsearacha de chuid Thuaisceart Éireann agus breithniú a dhéanamh ag na cruinnithe sin ar cheisteanna a eascraíonn as toradh an reifrinn

- A chomhaontú go leanfaidh Buan-Ionadaíocht na hÉireann sa Bhruiséil agus Oifig Fheidhmeannacht Thuaisceart Éireann sa Bhruiséil lena ndlúthchaidreamh oibre agus go neartóidh siad an caidreamh sin, agus

- Tiomantas an Phríomh-Aire Cameron do rannpháirteachas Fheidhmeannacht Thuaisceart Éireann i bpróiseas idirbheartaíochta na Ríochta Aontaithe leis an Aontas Eorpach a thabhairt dá n-aire agus fáilte a chur roimhe.

9. Thug na hAirí an t-eolas is déanaí maidir le cúinsí geilleagracha ó thuaidh agus ó dheas.

**GEALLTANAIS FAOI ALT E DE *TÚS NUA***

10. Thug an Chomhairle dá haire gealltanas leanúnach Rialtas na hÉireann agus Fheidhmeannacht Thuaisceart Éireann i gComhaontú *Tús Nua* d'infheistiú a dhéanamh i mbonneagar a thacóidh le comhoibriú agus a chabhróidh le lán-acmhainneacht a bhaint amach i ngeilleagar an dá dhlínse.

11. Thug na hAirí dá n-aire an tuarascáil ar dhul chun cinn ó Oifigigh Shinsearacha i ranna ábhartha sa dá dhlínse ina bpléitear na gealltanais faoi *Tús Nua*, lena n-áirítear obair ar Chonair Iompair an Iarthair (A5) (thug siad dá n-aire freisin go bhfuiltear ag súil go gcuirfear tús leis an obair ar an A5 ag deireadh na bliana 2017) agus an t-athbhreithniú ar roghanna le haghaidh Chanáil Uladh agus Dhroichead Chaol Uisce.

12. Thug na hAirí dá n-aire go leanfaidh an grúpa Oifigeach Sinsearach de theacht le chéile go rialta chun forbhreathnú straitéiseach a chothabháil ar na tionscadail agus na gealltanais atá leagtha amach in *Tús Nua* agus chun

scrúdú a dhéanamh ar na deiseanna maoinithe atá ann le haghaidh infheistíocht gheilleagrach agus bhonneagair.

13. Chomhaontaigh an Chomhairle go dtabharfar an t-eolas is déanaí arís ar na gealltanais faoi Alt E de *Tús Nua* ag an gcéad chruinniú iomlánach eile de chuid CATT.

**TIONSCNAMH NA TAIRSÍ THIAR THUAIDH**

14. Thug na hAirí dá n-aire an comhoibriú leanúnach idir oifigigh ón Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála agus ó Oifig na Feidhmeannachta le geallsealbhóirí réigiúnacha maidir le treo agus tosaíochtaí réigiún an Iarthuaiscirt.

15. Chomhaontaigh na hAirí gur chóir d’oifigigh shinsearacha ó ranna ábhartha sa dá dhlínse teacht le chéile in éineacht leis an dá Chomhairle mar chuid den Chreat agus thug siad dá n-aire an tiomantas leanúnach do chruinniú d’Airí ón dá dhlínse a thionól san Iarthuaisceart.

16. Thug na hAirí dá n-aire an gealltanas breise faoi *Tús Nua* chun tacú le Tionscnamh na Tairsí Thiar Thuaidh trí Chiste Forbartha an Iarthuaiscirt a bhunú agus d’fháiltigh siad roimh an €2.5 milliún atá tugtha ag Rialtas na hÉireann agus roimh ghealltanas Fheidhmeannacht Thuaisceart Éireann an tsuim chéanna a thabhairt.

**DÁTA AN CHÉAD CHRUINNITHE IOMLÁNAIGH EILE**

17. Chomhaontaigh na hAirí go dtionólfar an chéad Chruinniú Iomlánach eile in Ard Mhacha i mí na Samhna.

**An Chomhrúnaíocht**
**4 Iúil 2016**

## IARSCRÍBHINN A

### CRUINNIÚ DE CHUID NA COMHAIRLE AIREACHTA THUAIDH THEAS
### CAISLEÁN BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH – 4 IÚIL 2016

| **Feidhmeannacht Thuaisceart Éireann** | **Rialtas na hÉireann** |
|---|---|
| Arlene Foster MLA<br>An Chéad-Aire | Éanna Ó Coinnigh TD<br>Taoiseach agus Aire Cosanta |
| Martin McGuinness MLA<br>An Leas-Chéad-Aire | Proinséas Mhic Gearailt TD<br>Tánaiste agus Aire Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais |
| Paul Givan MLA<br>Aire Pobal | Micheál Ó Nuanáin TD<br>Aire Airgeadais |
| Simon Hamilton MLA<br>Aire Geilleagair | Risteárd de Briotún TD<br>Aire Oideachais |
| Chris Hazzard MLA<br>Aire Bonneagair | Leo Varadkar TD<br>Aire Coimirce Sóisialaí |
| Michelle McIlveen MLA<br>Aire Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe | Cathal Ó Flannagáin TD<br>Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála |
| Máirtín Ó Muilleoir MLA<br>Aire Airgeadais | Pascal Ó Donnchú TD<br>Aire Caiteachais Phoiblí agus Athchóirithe |
| Michelle O'Neill MLA<br>Aire Sláinte | Heather Mhic Unfraidh TD<br>Aire Forbartha Réigiúnaí, Gnóthaí Tuaithe, Ealaíon agus Gaeltachta |
| Claire Sugden MLA<br>Aire Dlí agus Cirt | Síomón Ó hEarchaí TD<br>Aire Sláinte |
| Peter Weir MLA<br>Aire Oideachais | Micheál Ó Críod TD<br>Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara agus Cosanta |
| Megan Fearon MLA<br>Aire Sóisearach, Oifig na Feidhmeannachta | Donnacha Ó Neachtain TD<br>Aire Cumarsáide, Athraithe Aeráide agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha |
| Alastair Ross MLA<br>Aire Sóisearach, Oifig na Feidhmeannachta | Seán de Rossa TD<br>Aire Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt |
| | Máire Mistéil Ní Chonchubhair TD<br>Aire Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta |
| | Katherine Zappone TD<br>Aire Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige |
| | Damien Inglis TD<br>Aire Stáit um Thithíocht agus Athnuachan Uirbeach |