



Communiqué

Summit Meeting – Derry~Londonderry – 21st June 2013

The British-Irish Council established under the 1998 Multi-Party Agreement held its twentieth Summit meeting today, hosted by the Northern Ireland Executive, in the Magee Campus of the University of Ulster, Derry~Londonderry.

The heads of delegations were welcomed by the Northern Ireland Executive First Minister, the Rt Hon Peter Robinson MLA, and the deputy First Minister, Mr Martin McGuinness MLA. The Irish Government delegation was led by An Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny TD. The UK Government delegation was led by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP. The Welsh Government delegation was led by the First Minister, the Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM. The Scottish Government delegation was led by the First Minister the Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP. The Government of Jersey delegation was led by the Chief Minister, Senator Ian Gorst. The Government of Guernsey delegation was led by Chief Minister, Deputy Peter Harwood, and the Isle of Man Government delegation was led by Chief Minister, Hon Allan Bell MHK. A full list of delegation members is attached.

The British-Irish Council continues to play a unique and important role in furthering, promoting and developing links between its Member Administrations through positive, practical relationships and in providing a forum for consultation and exchange of information on matters of mutual interest within the competence of the relevant Member Administrations.

The Council welcomed the hosting of the Summit in Derry~Londonderry, during the city's tenure as UK City of Culture 2013.

Derry~Londonderry UK City of Culture

The Council received a presentation from Shona McCarthy, Chief Executive of the Derry~Londonderry Culture Company. The Council heard how the Culture Company was established in 2011 to deliver the city's Cultural Programme for 2013, comprising a complete year-long programme of cultural activities with a series of key events as the centrepiece.

The presentation highlighted the benefits to the North West arising from Derry~Londonderry's selection as the first UK City of Culture, as it aims to act

as a catalyst for building the economy of the region and delivering a lasting legacy for the people of the city and surrounding area.

Recognising the significant social, economic and other benefits arising from the creative industries and, in line with a previous proposal from the Government of Jersey, the Council agreed to establish a new BIC Creative Industries work sector to further share best practice and consider areas for collaboration. The new work sector will be led by the Government of Jersey. The Council requested that the new work sector and the Secretariat should prepare a work programme for approval at the next Summit to be held in Jersey in November 2013.

The Economy

The Council discussed the current economic situation in the Member Administrations with a particular focus on energy costs. The Council recognised the common challenges of moving to low carbon energy sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, whilst ensuring security of supply. This should be at a pace which minimises the impact on low income families and does not hamper business competitiveness, thus promoting true sustainable development from the perspective of each BIC Member Administration.

The Council considered the policies being implemented in the energy sector to enhance investment in energy generation diversity at large-central and small-local scales; encourage profitable investment in energy efficiency and in the process stimulate more energy security, job creation and supply chain development. These policies should be pursued in ways which lead to the maximum benefits and minimum costs to Member Administrations' consumers and taxpayers in the short, medium and long term. Policies include, but are not limited to, encouraging fair competition in electricity markets; supporting and working with our energy intensive businesses facing strong international competition where costs represent a significant proportion of their total costs; facilitating greater consumer mobility between suppliers; developing regulatory regimes which support necessary energy infrastructure investments and creating greater opportunities for energy trading. To help achieve this, the Council referenced the continuing importance of the All Islands Approach agreed by the Council in 2011 to enable opportunities for commercial generation and transmission, facilitate the cost-effective exploitation of renewable energy resources, and increase integration of BIC partner markets.

The Council reviewed the latest figures on youth unemployment across the Member Administrations. In line with commitments at previous Summits, the Council recognised the need to consider the full range of instruments available at national, British-Irish Council and European levels to generate employment opportunities for young people and to intervene at the earliest opportunity to ensure that young people do not become long-term unemployed.

Update on Work Sectors

The Council received an update of the work that had taken place across each of the eleven work sectors since the last Summit in November 2012.

BIC Secretariat

The Council noted the Secretariat's progress against its business plan and, recognising the economic constraints affecting all Member Administrations and the efficiencies made in the previous financial year, approved a 20% reduction in the budget of the Secretariat for 2013-14.

The Council endorsed the publication of the first BIC Annual Report covering the calendar year 2012.

Date and Location of the Next Summit Meeting

The Council noted that the next BIC Summit would be hosted by the Government of Jersey in November 2013 and agreed it would focus on Youth Employment and the new Creative Industries work sector.

BIC Secretariat
21 June 2013

List of Delegates

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| <u>Northern Ireland Executive</u> | |
| First Minister | Rt Hon Peter D Robinson MLA |
| deputy First Minister | Mr Martin McGuinness MLA |
| Minister of Enterprise, Trade and Investment | Ms Arlene Foster MLA |
| Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure | Ms Carál Ní Chuilín MLA |
| Minister for Regional Development | Mr Danny Kennedy MLA |
| Minister of the Environment | Mr Alex Attwood MLA |
| Minister of Justice | Mr David Ford MLA |
| <u>Irish Government</u> | |
| An Taoiseach | Mr Enda Kenny TD |
| <u>UK Government</u> | |
| Deputy Prime Minister | Rt Hon Nick Clegg MP |
| Secretary of State for Northern Ireland | Rt Hon Theresa Villiers MP |
| Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change | Baroness Sandip Verma |
| <u>Scottish Government</u> | |
| First Minister | Rt Hon Alex Salmond MSP |
| Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs | Ms Fiona Hyslop MSP |
| <u>Welsh Government</u> | |
| First Minister | Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM |
| Minister for Economy, Science and Transport | Ms Edwina Hart MBE CStJ AM |
| <u>Government of Jersey</u> | |
| Chief Minister | Senator Ian Gorst |
| Assistant Minister for Education, Sport and Culture | Deputy Rod Bryans |
| <u>Government of Guernsey</u> | |
| Chief Minister | Deputy Peter Harwood |
| Minister of Commerce and Employment | Deputy Kevin Stewart |
| <u>Isle of Man Government</u> | |
| Chief Minister | Hon Allan Bell MHK |