

30th Summit, Guernsey
22 June 2018

Communiqué

The British-Irish Council held its 30th Summit meeting today hosted by the Government of Guernsey. The heads of delegation were welcomed to the St Pierre Park Hotel by the Chief Minister of Guernsey, Deputy Gavin St Pier, on behalf of the Government of Guernsey. On behalf of the Council the Chief Minister also welcomed Senator John Le Fondré, Chief Minister of Jersey, who was attending his first British-Irish Council Summit. A full list of Ministerial participants is attached.

Latest political developments

Six months on from the Council's last meeting in November 2017, Ministers took the opportunity to consider key political developments across their jurisdictions.

The Council received an update on engagements between the two governments and the parties in Northern Ireland. The Council looked forward to the restoration of the devolved institutions in Northern Ireland as soon as possible.

Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the Council and its role in promoting harmonious and mutually beneficial relationships across these islands as set out in the 1998 Agreement. Ministers recognised the importance of respecting these complex, long-established and formal relationships, which are of increasing importance at this time of significant change. The Council agreed

that political developments across Member Administrations underlined the importance of this unique forum to share views and strengthen relationships.

Ministers also updated the Council on their activity in relation to the UK's exit from the European Union (EU), particularly with reference to relations and engagement between Member Administrations. The Council reviewed themes identified in previous discussions, including in relation to specific topics such as: agriculture, agri-food and fisheries industries, economy and trade, free movement of goods and people, the Common Travel Area, relations with the EU and transition/implementation.

Marine Environment

Ministers with particular responsibility for the marine environment policy met in advance of the Summit meeting to consider a paper prepared by the Council's Environment work sector. Ministers discussed a series of issues linked to the marine environment such as tackling marine litter, marine biodiversity and Marine Protected Areas and how to address ocean acidification. This discussion was taken forward by Heads of Administration in the Summit who reflected on how these issues collectively impact the marine environment of our islands. They directed the BIC environment work sector and any other relevant officials working on the Council to prioritise areas for collaboration over the coming months. In addition, Ministers agreed to hold an event in early 2019 to ensure meaningful and swift action is taken to tackle marine litter in the water around these islands and signal the utmost importance of this issue. The impact of this event and the collaboration associated with it will be reported back to the Heads of Administration at a Summit in the near future.

Review of Council activity

Ministers and officials across the Council's Member Administrations have been engaged in a review of the Council, including its work sectors, following a mandate from the Council at the Dublin Summit in June 2015. They agreed that the measures adopted as part of this review have brought practical and

positive change to the work sectors as evidenced in an increase in outputs and the strengthened ability of the Council to shape its activity to respond to shifting priorities.

The Council asked that official Coordinators and the Secretariat continue to consolidate feedback from the review and identify opportunities for developing the Council's work and processes further, reporting to Ministers as appropriate. It was agreed that a number of new working methods would be formally incorporated into the Secretariat's draft of a new multi-year Business Plan which is to be presented to the Council at the next Summit for review and approval.

BIC Secretariat

The Council noted the Secretariat's year-end report and welcomed the publication of the Council's Annual Report for 2017.

Next Summit Meeting

The Council noted that the next BIC Summit would be hosted by the Government of the Isle of Man.

BIC Secretariat

22 June 2018

List of Ministerial Delegates

Government of Guernsey	
Chief Minister	Deputy Gavin St Pier
Environment Minister	Deputy Barry Brehaut
Irish Government	
An Taoiseach	Leo Varadkar TD
Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government	Eoghan Murphy TD
UK Government	
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office	Rt Hon David Lidington MP
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Exiting the EU	Robin Walker MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity	Lord Gardiner of Kimble
Scottish Government	
First Minister	Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe	Michael Russell MSP
Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform	Roseanna Cunningham MSP
Isle of Man Government	
Chief Minister	Hon Howard Quayle MHK
Minister of Environment, Food & Agriculture	Hon Geoffrey Boot MHK
Welsh Government	
First Minister	Rt Hon Carwyn Jones AM
Minister for Environment	Hannah Blythyn AM
Government of Jersey	
Chief Minister	Senator John Le Fondre
Minister for External Relations	Senator Ian Gorst
Minister for Environment	Deputy John Young