

Transition Programme

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To: Mike Maxwell
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From: William Stuart
Date: 1 September 1998
Re: EU Seminar 7 Sept
Pages: 2, including this

Please find attached

Programme for Seminar on Monday 7 September in the Europa Hotel..



William Stuart

THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

TRANSITION



THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY
AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

There are a range of significant issues on the European Union (EU) agenda which pose major challenges to Northern Ireland.

This seminar aims to

- give an overview of key EU issues
- outline how the processes work
- identify the opportunities to put in place appropriate approaches to EU issues.

The European Commission invites Assembly Members to Brussels from 3-6 November 1998 to build on this seminar and provide a more detailed insight into EU policy processes and Northern Ireland's evolving relationship with the EU.

9.15am Welcome & Overview

Jim Dougal, Head of Representation,
European Commission, Northern Ireland

9.30am Session 1

Regional Development

Regional support from the EU is within well-defined frameworks. This session aims to give an overview of the financial perspectives of the EU and the relationship with Northern Ireland. It will outline the current Agenda 2000 process, identify roles and responsibilities and give an indication of timescales in the next programming cycle.

Ronnie Hall,
DGXVI, Regional Policies and Cohesion

Esben Poulsen,
Head of Northern Ireland/Ireland Unit,
DGXVI, Regional Policies & Cohesion

Stephen Quinn,
Department of Finance & Personnel

Feedback and Discussion

11.15am Session 2

Core Issues

This session will give a brief summary of some of the main EU policies and their impact on Northern Ireland including Agricultural & Rural Development, European Investment Bank, the Euro, Industrial & Competition Policy, Employment, Education & Training. Further aspects will be addressed in the briefing material and during the Brussels conference.

Danny McNeill, Department of Agriculture

Tom Barrett, European Investment Bank

John Simpson, Economic and Social Committee

Hywel Ceri Jones, Deputy Director General,
DGV, Employment and Social Affairs

Feedback and Discussion

1.00pm Lunch

Lines of Communication

Geoffrey Martin, Head of the European
Commission Representations in the
United Kingdom

2.30pm Session 3

Effective Working Relationships

A hallmark of success for any region is the development of effective working relationships between all sectors and the European Union. The Assembly will have a central role to play as Northern Ireland defines and structures its relationship with the European Union. This session aims to set out some of the main issues in ensuring Northern Ireland has the most appropriate mechanisms to address issues arising from membership of the European Union.

Martin Donnelly, European Secretariat, the
Cabinet Office

Colm Larkin, Director, European Commission
Representation in Ireland

Professor Alice Brown, Department of Politics,
University of Edinburgh

John Kennedy, Chief Executive, Northern
Ireland Centre in Europe

Feedback and Discussion