

**NSMC INAUGURAL MEETING: JOINT REPORT TO ASSEMBLY
BY FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER**

1. With permission, Mr Speaker, I will make a statement to report to the Assembly on the inaugural plenary meeting of the North-South Ministerial Council yesterday 13 December.

2. The following Ministers participated in the meeting

Mr David Trimble
Mr Séamus Mallon
Ms Bairbre de Brun
Mr Mark Durkan
Sir Reg Empey
Mr Sean Farren
Mr Sam Foster
Mr Michael McGimpsey
Mr Martin McGuinness
Mrs Brid Rodgers

3. This report has been approved by all Ministers who attended that meeting and is made on behalf of all by the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister.

4. The Council agreed a Memorandum of Understanding on Procedure, which sets out procedural arrangements relating to the proceedings and operation of the Council. A copy of the Memorandum has been placed in the Assembly Library.

5. The locations of the headquarters and other offices of the six North/South Implementation Bodies were agreed. Waterways Ireland will have its headquarters in Enniskillen and three regional offices in the south. The Food Safety Promotion Board will be based in Cork and The Trade and Business Development Body in Newry. The Special EU Programmes Body will have its headquarters in Belfast and regional offices in Omagh and Monaghan. The Irish language agency of the North/South Language Body will have headquarters in Dublin with a regional office in Belfast, while the headquarters of the Ullans agency will be in Belfast, with a regional office in County Donegal. The Loughs Agency of the Foyle, Carlingford and

Irish Lights Commission will be based in Derry, with a regional office near Carlingford Lough. The Lights Agency will be based in the Dublin/Dun Laoghaire area. The new Tourism Company, when it is established, will have its headquarters in Dublin and a regional office in Coleraine.

6. The Council appointed members to the Boards of the Food Safety Board, the Trade and Business Development Body, the North/South Language Body and the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission.
7. The Council agreed an outline programme of work in regard to the 6 areas for co-operation identified in the 15 February 1999 Report to the Assembly by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister as a basis for follow up in the appropriate sectoral formats, and agreed that the relevant proposals in the outline programme of work should be tabled at the first meetings of the Council in each appropriate sectoral format.
8. The Council agreed that it would meet in sectoral format to consider issues relating to the 6 implementation bodies and the 6 areas of co-operation at the earliest possible date and that the question of additional sectoral formats would be agreed by the Council meeting in institutional format. It agreed that the next meeting in plenary form would take place in Dublin in June next year.
9. A copy of the communique issued following the meeting, which gives details of the locations of the Bodies and the Tourism Company and of the Board Members, has been placed in the Assembly Library.
11. Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this statement be noted.

RT HON DAVID TRIMBLE FIRST MINISTER

SÉAMUS MALLON

DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER

MR. PAISLEY'S PARTY - REFUSED TO ATTEND !!!
Situation Debated Lee this year - Procedures followed.
PRINCIPAL - PROCEDURES - ELECTIVE ACCOUNTABLE TO ASSEMBLY.

DRAFT PRESS RELEASE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 14 DECEMBER 1999

The Executive Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly met today at 11am in Parliament Buildings, Belfast, under the joint chairmanship of First Minister David Trimble and Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon.

The agenda for the meeting included the recommendations to be laid before the Assembly for the budgetary allocations for public services for the financial year 2000/01; the detailed arrangements for the inaugural meetings of the British-Irish Council and British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference on 17 December; the aims and focus of the new Structural Funds Plan and Peace Programme; the work undertaken in the public sector and by the major utilities to combat the Millennium Bug; and the establishment of an appropriate form of Food Standards Agency to meet local needs.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will take place on [].