



## Recast constitution still requires referendum

What has been agreed at the Brussels Summit is in substance the same as the rejected Constitution. **The apparatus of statehood for the EU all remains:** an EU President, Foreign Minister, supremacy of EU law and, very importantly, a vast tranche of further subjects move from control by national veto to qualified majority voting. This majority voting increase haemorrhages more national control from Westminster to Brussels.

This so-called Reform Treaty is but the Constitution by another name. The name is changed to create the illusion that it is something different; **in essence it is the same.**

Set the Brussels agreement side by side with the Constitution and the differences are merely marginal. **Thus the promise of a referendum still requires to be honoured.** This now must become a cross-party demand on behalf of all the British people. Blair wants to deny the people their say because he fears their verdict on what is a bad deal for the UK.

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## What a travesty!

FIRST MINISTER CAN'T EVEN SIGN A LETTER ON HIS OWN

Statement by Jim Allister MEP:

"I am appalled by confirmation in a letter from the Head of the Civil Service, Nigel Hamilton, that if I, or anyone else, writes to the First Minister on a topic for which OFMDFM has responsibility, for example "victims", then Martin McGuinness must not only see my correspondence, but must agree the response and jointly sign the reply.

It is scandalous to think that if a victim or victim's group writes to the First Minister about an IRA incident of which the Deputy First Minister, in his confessed role as an IRA leader, approved or might have knowledge through his organisation, that he will be privy to what they write and the response thereto. What an insult! But then, this is an office built upon such travesty, where the First Minister is joined at the hip with McGuinness and can do nothing without him and his consent.

This arrangement will I know, from my work with victim's groups, greatly restrain their freedom of communication with the First Minister, because what you tell him you tell McGuinness. Victims rightly resent and despise those who made them victims, yet now in Northern Ireland a victim can't write to the First Minister without McGuinness poring over their correspondence and then adding insult to injury by signing the reply! "

This is one of the replies which Mr Allister had been waiting several weeks to receive. The reply was suddenly dispatched on the day (15 June) Mr Allister complained about the lack of response. The full correspondence can be viewed at: <http://www.jimallister.org/default.asp?blogID=674>

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## Birds of a feather

In one of his many Freedom of Information Act applications directed at the New Executive, Jim Allister has obtained copies of all the letters of congratulations written to the First and Deputy First Minister. They make interesting reading.

Included is one to Martin McGuinness from the Embassy of the Islamic Republican of Iran. Considering the anti-western and terrorist-friendly nature of the extremist Iranian regime, it is therefore no surprise that they take pleasure in the exaltation of Sinn Fein to high office.

Among others to congratulate were the President of the Basque Country and various Irish officials, including the Ambassador to Switzerland who intriguingly wrote to McGuinness about never forgetting, *'that drive from Davros to Klosters!'*

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## MEP speaks up for Glens and Antrim coast

Speaking in Cushendall on 13 June 2007 at the launch of the Programme Report on the Natural Resource Rural Tourism Initiative, at an event hosted by the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust, Jim Allister MEP questioned if the funding for the management of AONBs in Northern Ireland was adequate and suggested County Antrim was not getting its fair share of direct grants from EHS.

In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said:-

**"I strongly commend the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust for its work on behalf of this most spectacular part of Northern Ireland. I must, however, draw attention to and question why the Glens and Antrim Coast area has, over the past 5 years, been a poor relation in terms of EHS expenditure within Northern Ireland's 9 AONBs.**

Figures recently supplied to me by the Environment Minister suggest an imbalance in funding for this area. Beautiful as Strangford Lough is and superb as the Mourne are, I find it difficult to comprehend why these AONBs had £375,000 and £648,000 respectively in direct grants from EHS, over the last 5 years, for projects and sites in their AONBs, while the Causeway and Antrim Coast AONBs had a meagre £10,000! Why? County Antrim is every bit as deserving of EHS expenditure as County Down.



Moreover, for all the AONBs we need to get onto a more durable and equitable funding basis as far as their management is concerned. It seems to me that an approach which operates in England and Wales, through a Sustainable Development Fund, has much to recommend it. AONBs can't flourish on their integral beauty alone. They need efficient, though not suffocating, management and such can't be provided on a shoestring. It needs an adequacy and certainty of funding, leading to sensitive management; sensitive both to the needs of the landscape and the reality that for locals this is where they live and must be permitted to earn their living.

Getting that balance right lies at the heart of successful management of this marvellous resource, that is the natural beauty of so much of Northern Ireland."

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## Bands should avail of Arts Council funding

The Arts Council has launched a new fund designed to provide bands and musical groups with instruments. The Musical Instruments for Bands Scheme will open on August 1st 2007, and close on August 30th 2007 at 4:30pm. Grants of up to £5000 are available.



## MEP spends day in Kilkeel



Statement by Jim Allister MEP:

"I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Kilkeel businesses on Friday 18th May, along with local MLA, Jim Wells. I was much impressed by the innovative spirit in evidence and delighted to see that industry is thriving in Kilkeel. The Aerospace Factory has put Kilkeel at the forefront of the aircraft furnishing industry. Its growth and market share is a great tribute to both the drive and initiative of the local management and the dedication of its expanding workforce. All can rightly take pride in what has been achieved.

Thompson Solutions is a marvellous example of forward-looking initiative and business development. Developing new product and securing the associated intellectual property rights puts the company at the cutting edge of progress and, again, promotes Kilkeel as a location of excellence.

To see the huge operation that Toughglass has developed into is a fantastic example of what a local company can achieve. In an age when manufacturing faces massive challenges from the developing economies of China and India, Toughglass is proof that a quality product can still win through.

I was delighted to see the first phase of the Binnian Business Park already full and to hear the Kilkeel Development Association's plans for expansion. This is particularly encouraging and along with the planned improvements at the harbour will provide further opportunity for Kilkeel. However, such expansion underscores the need for early action on providing the essential link road between Moor Road and Rooney Road. Accordingly, I will be taking up with Roads Service the need to expedite this scheme, so that the present congestion, which results from all heavy harbour traffic having to be funnelled down one road, can be resolved. This road, it seems to me, is vital to the opening up of the further industrially zoned land at the harbour.

I thank Jim Wells MLA for organising this visit and commend him for ever pushing Kilkeel's needs to the forefront."



Visiting the Toughglass factory



Inside BE Aerospace

## Two speed Europe? "So be it", says Allister

Speaking in a debate in the European Parliament in advance of the June Heads of Government Summit, Ulster Eurosceptic MEP, Jim Allister, warned that it was those insisting on a Constitution who were pushing the EU towards a two-speed Europe.

Commenting in Brussels Mr Allister said, "It is imperative that in his last Summit our lame duck Prime Minister does not saddle the UK with a new Treaty, for which he does not have a mandate and which, if permitted, the UK electorate would reject. No European President, no common Foreign and Security policy, with an EU Foreign Minister, and no further surrender of national vetoes by embracing more Qualified Majority Voting, are red line issues which must be preserved."

In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said:-

" No, is really not a difficult word to understand.

The continuing failure to accept the political reality of rejection is epitomised by para 3 of this report. There it notes the "concerns" expressed by the French and Dutch people. France and Holland didn't express concern, they expressed rejection. It is the refusal to face that reality which has embedded the EU in the rut of the past two years. This report will do nothing to move us on, because it still insists on everything which has been rejected, namely the apparatus of statehood for the EU and further diminution of national powers and vetoes.

It is those who can't accept that the Constitution has floundered who are pushing towards a two speed Europe. If that is what you must have, then, go for it; just leave those states which still want real national control and power out of it and, even, as a quid pro quo, let us repatriate real powers back from Brussels. Then those who want more Europe can have it and those who want less can have that. But, you can't foist on us all a Constitution, already rejected, however you might disguise and repackage it."

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## Allister speaks in Europe on crisis in Palestine

During a debate in the European Parliament in Strasbourg on the worsening situation in Gaza, Jim Allister MEP described Hamas' "undiluted attachment to terror" as making them unfit to govern.

In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said:-

"The misery and suffering in Palestine is truly awful. While the fact that it is largely self-inflicted does not lessen its impact, it does knock those, who always want to blame Israel for every tragedy in the region, off their usual hobby horse. This civil war between Fatah and Hamas, particularly the aggressive actions of Hamas, show us that pursuit of democracy and democratic mandate has done nothing to tame or temper their adherence to terror. It is this undiluted attachment to terror which makes Hamas unfit to govern.

Likewise their continuing aggression towards Israel, with a sustained rocket campaign, wholly justifies the defensive response of Tel Aviv.

I fear so long as Hamas can tout both gun and ballot, then democracy, and the peace which it can bring, will not prevail in this troubled and failed entity that is Gaza. Any international initiative which fails to address the removal of the gun from both sides will flounder and fail."

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## Demand your referendum!

A new website offers voters the opportunity in their country to demand a referendum on the new Treaty which is a Constitution in all but name.

You can sign by going to: <http://x09.eu/en/?c=gb>



## MEP joins Maze controversy

### Allister calls on DOE Minister to de-list 'Shrine buildings'

MEP Jim Allister has entered the Maze controversy by calling on Environment Minister, Arlene Foster, to de-list the buildings which, if retained, will be the focus of the intended IRA shrine.

The hospital and other buildings were listed in early 2005, as the Maze project was unfolding. Thereafter, they have become a central part of the controversial scheme. De-listing would permit them to be demolished and thereby much of the political sting could be taken out of the Maze project.

In his letter to Arlene Foster, Jim Allister says:-

*"I write to urge you to initiate steps to de-list the various buildings on the Maze Prison site which were listed in 2004/5.*

*I believe the decision taken to list these structures was overtly political and unwarranted in terms of the architectural and other criteria relevant to such a designation. Moreover, the decision, being politically divisive, was not in the interests of the community as a whole. In this latter regard please advise if the decision was equality proofed, pursuant to Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.*

*To many it is incongruous, wrong and simply preposterous that B1 or any status should apply to these ugly buildings. Considering that buildings like Campbell College and the Linenhall Library epitomise such status, there patently is no architectural justification for these listings. Nor, I suggest, is there a sustainable basis in historic interest to warrant this status. The fact that the hospital wing was the location for serial suicides is of insufficient historic moment.*

*If, as I suspect, the primary motivation in listing these buildings was political - motivated, I suspect, to placate demands from Sinn Fein - then, by failing to de-list you become complicit in this unseemly episode. I trust, therefore, you will move to de-listing."*

Commenting further on the Maze controversy, Jim Allister said:-

**"It is clear that this politically-driven scheme is fundamentally flawed. The continuing absence of a business case suggests the DCAL Minister's attachment to the Maze scheme comes not from full and objective evaluation of all the options but from a pre-conceived preference. When some of his gauche comments are factored in, there would seem to be rich pickings for a judicial review challenge to any ultimate decision to rubber stamp the Maze."**



## DCAL Minister does not even know what Irish Language legislation would cost

Last month Jim Allister wrote to Minister Poots asking what costings had been done in respect of implementing the legislative options contained in the consultation proposals on the Irish Language Act over which he now presides. In a written reply the Minister has effectively conceded that no such costings have been conducted. In his letter all he can refer to is a section in the original December 2006 consultation document which gave some figures of what a dual language policy costs in Wales and the Republic of Ireland, but that document concedes that DCAL doesn't know what legislation in NI would cost.

Yet in March 2007 DCAL issued a further consultation on defined models of legislation, but now it emerges they still don't know what it would cost to implement any such model. Such costings ought to have been central to the consultation over which Minister Poots now presides. The fact that the department rushed to a further consultation without addressing this issue illustrates in itself just how flawed this whole process has become.

Jim Allister said, "Is it not both reasonable and essential in evaluating options to know what each would cost? How can a balanced and fully informed decision otherwise be made? Yet, this is the careless and wasteful course upon which DCAL is set. As Minister, I suggest, it is Edwin Poots' obligation to take steps to rectify this untenable position. In my view that should be done by publicly accepting the consultation process was flawed and disavowing the consultation farce and legislative proposals which he inherited.

Sadly, to date, he shows no sign of doing so."

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## Sinn Fein/IRA still shielding McCartney murderers

Statement by Jim Allister MEP:

"After attending the Policing Board on 6th June Catherine McCartney rightly expressed disappointment that the Chief Constable was unwilling to say publicly if recent political developments had produced tangible cooperation from Sinn Fein.

The answer alas is "No".

On 4 April 2007 I wrote to the Chief Constable with a series of specific questions. One of those questions was:-

*"Since the recent political developments has there been any noticeable change in public cooperation towards the solving of this crime?"*

The answer received in a letter from Deputy Chief Constable Leighton on 30 April 2007 was in the following terms:-

*"There has been no noticeable change in the case in recent times nor has any new information come to police that has advanced the investigation in any way."*

It is abundantly clear that Sinn Fein/IRA continues to protect their own and that their supposed support for policing in this litmus test case is meaningless. Sadly, those unionist politicians so willingly conned by Sinn Fein have nothing to show for the much trumpeted pledge of Sinn Fein to support the police and the rule of law. It has turned out to be typical republican double-speak.

The McCartney family have been let down not just by Sinn Fein but by Unionist politicians who accepted Sinn Fein's meaningless pledges."

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## Allister attacks Deputy First Minister

MEP Jim Allister used a debate in the European Parliament to attack anti- rule of law moves by Sinn Fein since they came into government in Northern Ireland. Picking up on a call in the Parliament's report for the Council of Ministers to monitor the governmental activities of regional governments whose members include political figures with links to criminal organisations, Mr Allister rounded on Martin McGuinness for his opposition to the use of a European Arrest Warrant to extradite an alleged IRA bomber.

In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said:-

**"Members of this House might assume that anyone sitting in government anywhere in the EU would be unreservedly committed to the Europe-wide fight against organised crime and terrorism. I wish it were so.**

Considering the antecedents of some of those recently admitted into the new government of Northern Ireland, the irony of the welcome call in this report for the Council of Ministers to monitor the governmental activities of institutions at regional level whose members include political figures with links to criminal organisations, is not lost upon me. Especially, in a week when the Deputy First Minister in my country, Martin McGuinness, protested the use of the European Arrest Warrant to seek the extradition to Germany of a person wanted for an IRA bombing and his policing spokesman condemned arrests in an organised crime investigation, in which a leading Irish Republican figure has been charged.



If you genuinely support the rule of law then you do not attack and protest against the means of securing international justice.

Nor, do you oppose police operations targeting organised crime. But, shamefully in Northern Ireland, if you are a Sinn Fein Minister, then your first loyalty is still not to the rule of law but to protecting the interests of the republican movement. Little wonder some of us still regard Sinn Fein as unfit for government."

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## MEP speaks in Equitable Life debate

Following huge losses by investors in Equitable Life, the European Parliament has been conducting an investigation into the scandal. With its Special Committee having now finished its work, the Parliament today debated its report. Participating in the debate, Jim Allister MEP referred to the many Northern Ireland investors who had lost money.

In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said:-

**"For many individuals the losses they suffered with Equitable Life were devastating. Promised returns and anticipated comfortable retirements evaporated overnight. To this day they remain the losers.**

This Report, though it makes some pertinent points, will effectively do nothing to ease their plight. Perhaps in that there is no surprise, because as a committee of enquiry unable to compel witnesses, it was never going to do more than highlight issues. At best we might help others in the future.

Only the UK Government, by a scheme of compensation can bring meaningful relief to the policyholders. I for one do not believe that more EU control over financial services or meddling in domestic legislation, is the answer. Robust controls and supervision of the sector, with paramount protection for investors, are required, but that must come through national legislation.

Finally, I trust the upcoming Parliamentary Ombudsman's report in the UK will grasp the issues and resist the pressures to whitewash the Equitable Life scandal."

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## Allister responds to latest Irish Language consultation

Jim Allister, Member of the European Parliament for Northern Ireland has responded to the latest consultation exercise on the proposed Irish Language Act. The MEP described the proposal as likely to have a damaging effect on community relations and an “*insidious sop to republicans*”. Mr. Allister had earlier called for the consultation to be withdrawn because of what he described as “*serious irregularities*” in the consultation process.

Jim Allister said: “This consultation process is working towards a fixed agenda, namely the creation of a robust and obtrusive Irish Language Act. Nowhere in the various consultation documents that have been published are we asked the most basic question: does Northern Ireland actually need an Irish Language Act? Instead we have outlined to us in this latest document four different options for enactment in legislation - each one a lighter or darker shade of green. This is characteristic of the approach adopted by the direct rule Minister on this issue and confirms that the creation of such legislation was nothing more than an insidious sop to Sinn Fein.

In the context of devolution it is now up to the local Minister to take the decisions on the issue. He cannot take refuge in that which he inherited. He is now in charge. Hence on the first day Minister Poots took office I wrote to him urging that he should withdraw this present consultation document, because of both its irredeemably flawed history and the fact that to allow it to continue could entrap him into some form of legislation. I very much regret that he has not withdrawn this document and, indeed, after 4 weeks has failed to even respond to my letter.

The Minister having failed to withdraw the document I now respond to it in the attached detailed submission.”

To read Jim Allister’s consultation in full, see: [http://www.jimallister.org/uploads/\\_239.pdf](http://www.jimallister.org/uploads/_239.pdf)

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### Whatever happened to the “Battle a day”?

Statement by Jim Allister MEP:

“The sights and sounds of DUP/Sinn Fein government show no sign of the promised “battle a day”. More like “chuckle a day”. Nor is the glee, which hallmarks every Paisley/McGuinness photograph, easily reconciled with the contention that the First Minister was forced by a wicked British Government to do that which he did not wish to do.

Much has changed for the DUP but sadly nothing changes with Sinn Fein. They can “pledge” support for the rule of law and the Deputy First Minister can still lambast the lawful application to extradite someone wanted on terrorist charges. They can supposedly sign up to policing and still spew out vitriol against a police operation against organised crime. What a con! And all this with barely a squeak from the DUP, trapped as it is in an unworkable marriage.”

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### Arthurs arrest a test for both Sinn Fein and DUP

“The response of Sinn Fein to the lawful arrest of top republican, Arthurs, not just, again, demonstrates that nothing has really changed in the anti-police mindset of Sinn Fein, but it raises a fundamental issue for the DUP.

Ian Paisley told us Sinn Fein now fully supported the police, indeed had pledged to do so, or as he lavishly put it “sworn allegiance” to the police. How wrong he was! So, what does he intend to do about it. Merely, ignore it, I suspect, and give his partner in government a by-ball, because he knows in his heart that he has taken into government a Party unfit for office.

It is clear Sinn Fein does not fully support the police, but insists on cherry-picking between what it misnames “civic policing” and anti-organised crime policing such as we’ve seen with this arrest.”

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## MEP responds to Commissioner Hubner visit

Statement by Jim Allister MEP:

"I welcomed the opportunity to discuss a broad range of issues with the Regional Commissioner. Having had her detail the terms of reference of the Task Force, I expressed disappointment that it was confined to providing more efficient access and effect out of funds and policies for which Northern Ireland is already eligible, and did not extend to seeking new sources of funding. In this regard I stressed that the real need was funding for strategic infrastructural projects in roads, rail and water & sewage. I reminded her that the PEACE Programme was the product of a specific initiative by Brussels and that a specific infrastructure fund for Northern Ireland could equally be established, if the political will existed.

I discussed with her a range of practical steps which the Commission could take to help Northern Ireland, including fast-tracking the pending applications for special geographical status for "Northern Ireland Beef" and "Northern Ireland Lamb", and swift approval of the submitted Rural Development Programme."

On the eve of Commissioner Hubner's visit, Unionist MEPs Jim Allister and Jim Nicholson expressed amazement that neither OFMDFM or DFP had bothered to brief local MEPs as to their view of the issues or take the opinion of those working for NI in Brussels on the opportunities which exist.

In a joint statement Jim Allister and Jim Nicholson said:-

"Under Direct Rule, for all its many faults, the local Departments were careful to brief and appraise the MEPs on the key issues concerning Northern Ireland in Europe and before any significant EU Commission visit. The obvious benefit was that a unified case could be presented on behalf of Northern Ireland.



It is a matter of disappointment to us, but, more importantly, prejudicial to the best interests of Northern Ireland, that on the occasion of this important visit of Commissioner Hubner, designed to carry forward the work of an EU Task Force on Northern Ireland, the new administration has failed to communicate with and brief the MEPs.

Jim Allister suspects that his opposition to the new regime and its resulting antipathy to him is more important to them than making sure Northern Ireland puts its best foot forward in articulating its case to Europe. Jim Nicholson wrote to the First Minister weeks ago, after Barroso's visit, asking for a meeting and briefing on the administration's approach in Europe. He still awaits even an acknowledgement.

Whether motivated by arrogance, petulance or spite, Stormont's failure to engage with the MEPs is a sad reflection on the new government and its mode of operation."

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# Farming News

## Allister condemns DARD decision to "Flog Family Silver"

Jim Allister MEP has condemned DARD's decision to dispose of AFBI's Crossnacreevy site, to fund the Farm Nutrient Management Scheme.

Mr Allister said,

'Farmers have been dealt a harsh blow by the new Minister, first in her decision to maintain Voluntary Modulation at an unacceptably high rate of up to 9% in 2012. The announcement that DARD is to sell the AFBI site at Crossnacreevy is a further blow to the industry.'

'This announcement by DARD to sell off assets to fund its own incompetence smacks of short-termism, and does not take into account the consequences this decision will bring. Indeed, it would appear this decision has been taken without adequate consultation, and in disregard of the signal such a closure sends out to the agricultural industry.'

Mr Allister continued,

'It is my understanding that while DARD has secured Department of Finance and Personnel consent to use funds realised from the disposal of Crossnacreevy to fund FNMS applications, any additional funds over and above the £79 million needed will be lost from agriculture, and will go into the Central pot. This is surely a costly way to raise necessary funds, and a seriously flawed saga in transposing an EC Directive'.

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## Ban Brazilian beef now

Jim Allister MEP has called for a ban on imports of Brazilian beef after investigators found the use of illegal growth hormones and the illegal removal of traceability tags.

An investigation in Brazil by the Irish Farmers Association found that beef could have been imported from restricted areas with foot and mouth disease.

Mr Allister said:-

"It is intolerable that while EU beef is subject to the most stringent of tests, we can have floods of imports from Brazil where traceability is largely non-existent, tagging can be delayed to weeks before slaughter, illegal growth hormones are in widespread use and generally controls are alarmingly weak. Even within those states where foot and mouth is endemic, it seems cattle are sold freely across state borders and then sold to the EU as "clean beef".



If even a fraction of what was found in the IFA visit were true it would warrant an immediate ban. To date the EU response has been pitifully weak. The USA, on the other hand, has been to totally ban on all fresh beef imports from Brazil.

In light of the IFA report I have drawn its findings to the Commission's attention and demanded to know what action they intend to take."

## Allister questions rationale of environmental report

Jim Allister MEP has questioned many of the conclusions and recommendations in the report published this week entitled, *“Review of Environmental Governance in Northern Ireland”*. Mr Allister believes that if this report was implemented it would cost millions more for environmental governance in Northern Ireland without any safeguards that the environment would be better managed.

Jim Allister commented, “This report was commissioned by a previous DOE Minister following an intensive lobby by the environmental NGO sector. I believe the report was biased towards an independent Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from the time the report was commissioned. The report is supporting for the need of an EPA without making clear what the problems are with the current system or outlining the problems with other EPA’s in the UK.

“This report recommends that the new organisation covers a wide range of issues from environmental health to planning enforcement and control of the rivers agency. The report even recommends that the functions of one of the North South bodies becomes under the control of the EPA.

“The one issue that the report fails to deal with, even though it was clearly in the terms of reference, is the funding of environmental organisation. The new organisation proposed by the report would cost tens of millions to set up. In the report the review team states, ‘Although the review was tasked by its terms of reference with developing a business case for any proposed changes it has not proved possible in the time available to do so.’ It is vital that a business case is carried out for the various proposals before they are debated further.”

“I believe that the new DOE Minister should not waste time in implementing this report. I believe that changes can be made to the current system that ensures that we protect the environment with little additional cost to the tax payer.”



MEP welcomes a group from Portstewart to Strasbourg

## Allister speaks out on new Executive

Extract from a speech by Jim Allister MEP on the occasion of the unfurling a new Orange banner at Gransha, near Dromara, County Down:-

“When this banner is unfurled it pictorially reveals the steady, reliable truths upon which our Protestant culture is based. What a contrast with how the last few weeks have unfurled in our beloved Province.

Instead of government as the preserve of democrats, we get convicted terrorists and those still owing allegiance to an illegal Army Council to rule over us; instead of probity in high places, we get an unapologetic bomber on the Policing Board; instead of promised support for the rule of law, we get Ministers who condemn lawful arrests and refuse to urge reporting of illegal weapons; instead a handover of ill-gotten gains, we get the insult of forgotten gains; and instead of the promised “battle a day”, we get a “chuckle a day”. Photographs do indeed speak more than a thousand words, certainly more than the legions of words of broken promises that litter the road to 8th May.

Sadly, there is yet much more to come. We have yet to see the north/southerly swing into action, because it must await a new government in the Republic. But once that is in place, stand by for more abandonment of principle and sycophantic photographs.

The only encouragement is that the more we see of DUP/Sinn Fein government in action, the more I find ordinary unionists are aghast and resolving to never again support those who betrayed their trust and gave us Sinn Fein in government without full delivery, tested and proved over a credible period.”



Log onto [www.jimallister.org](http://www.jimallister.org) to read Jim’s latest press releases and statements.

Learn more about the workings of Europe, listen to Jim’s speeches in Parliament and much more online.



If you would like a free copy of Jim’s book, ‘Leading for Ulster: Speaking for you in Europe’, then please phone (028) 90 655 011



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