



“Learn from our mistakes” - Allister

Speaking during a debate in Strasbourg on the "Peace Process" in Spain, DUP MEP Jim Allister drew on experience in Northern Ireland to urge caution and real testing in respect of ETA's protestations of an interest in peace. Spanish Conservative MEPs applauded his contribution.

In the course of his remarks Jim Allister said:-

"Coming from Northern Ireland which has experienced what is at times euphemistically called a "Peace Process" I see uncanny parallels and lessons to be learned.

ETA/Batasuna and IRA/Sinn Fein are both revolutionary Marxist-based organisations intent on foisting their will and ideology on a civilian population, through viscous violence, as and when required. Not surprisingly deep terrorist links exist between them. Both are expert at hijacking the language of peace, while glorying in past and even continuing exploits of terror, as they adeptly dodge from one phase of struggle to another.

Learn from our mistakes. In 1994 the IRA announced a ceasefire, which proved merely tactical as 18 months later they launched the infamous Canary Wharf bombing attack and dipped in and out of terror as it suited. In 1998 they promised to decommission within 2 years, yet it was not till 2005 that they made any notable delivery. They were foolishly and prematurely admitted to Government in Northern Ireland, only to launch their "Stormontgate Spy-ring". In late 2004 they purported to engage in genuine political negotiations, while all the time they were planning the biggest heist in UK history, the "Northern Bank Robbery" and weeks later IRA men murdered Robert McCartney. Now they want back into government, but think they should keep their "Army Council"!



Sinn Fein leader with his counterpart, Arnaldo Otegi, the leader of ETA's Batasuna Party

So do not be taken in by mere proclamations of commitments to peace by those whose stock and trade is duplicity and mayhem. Test them long and test them hard, or you too will have your goodwill exploited."

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Voluntary modulation and Rural Development

Jim Allister MEP believes that very few other countries, apart from the UK, will choose to apply additional voluntary modulation to Single Farm Payments in order to fund their rural development programmes. This will result in no delays for the majority of other Member States in commencing their 2007-2013 Rural Development programme.

Speaking from the European Parliament on the issue Jim Allister commented, "I am opposed to the current concept of voluntary modulation as it will create disparities between different regions in Europe. I fear that countries like the UK, who are proposing to use voluntary modulation, will place their farmers at greater disadvantage to other countries who are not removing additional voluntary modulation from single farm payments. Not only will UK farmers have a greater percentage of funding removed from their Single Farm Payments via voluntary modulation, in 2007 there is likely to be a delay in getting rural development funds paid to the rural community."

Jim Allister has continued to press for each of the different regions within the UK to choose whether they wish to use additional voluntary modulation or not. "I believe that it is best for Northern Ireland not to use additional voluntary modulation to fund rural development. I believe that the Government should be providing additional Government funding to cater for the needs of the wider rural community. If Northern Ireland chooses not to use additional voluntary modulation, the rural development plan could be approved more quickly in Brussels and payments made in early 2007."

Allister raises paedophile case in Europe

During Question Time in the European Parliament MEP Jim Allister drew attention to case of Paul Hunter Redpath, the convicted paedophile, who served the custodial part of his sentence in NI and then recently took refuge in the Republic of Ireland, in breach of the Probation part of his sentence, and can now freely live there, unable to be arrested, whereas the penalty for breach of probation in NI is automatic return to prison.

"This case sharply exposes the need for full extradition arrangements, else justice is evaded and full protection is not afforded to the vulnerable", declared Mr Allister. "Thus proper extradition is the optimum requirement", he told the Council of Ministers representative.

Allister helps launch 'Fair Chair' campaign

Jim Allister, with cross-party colleagues, in Strasbourg at the launch of the "Fair Chair" campaign for reform of how the European Parliament is run.



Timed to coincide with the upcoming election of a new President by the Parliament, the campaign is seeking to galvanise support for policies including:

- An end to the 'travelling circus' of sitting in both Brussels and Strasbourg;
- The requirement for the President to act as an independent Speaker, rather than a party hack;
- Reform of the voting system;
- Permitting real debate rather than managed set piece presentations

Allister disappointed with UK's share-out of EU funds

Responding to the Government's announcement of the share-out of EU Structural Funds within the UK for the period 2007-2013, DUP MEP Jim Allister has expressed disappointment that Northern Ireland is only to get 419 million Euro, of the 6.2 Billion available, in Competitiveness funding over the 7 year period.

Speaking from Strasbourg Mr Allister said:-

" Since the focus of structural funding is to help meet the Lisbon agenda objectives of a more competitive and innovative economy, Northern Ireland deserved a greater share of the €6.2B, because within the 12 regions of the UK we come almost at the bottom on every empirical standard. For example, on long-term unemployment we rank 12th, on business formation rate 11th, on GVA per head 11th, on share of private sector employment 12th, and on average earnings 12th.

In the UK's National Reform Programme HMG set forth its objective for the UK as ensuring "every nation and region fulfils its economic potential, that all parts of the country share in rising prosperity, and that economic disparities between nations and regions are identified and addressed". In consequence this distribution of EU aid should have more fully reflected this strategy and in consequence Northern Ireland, as the region suffering the greatest economic disparity, should have had a greater share of assistance.

The lack of notable generosity does not auger well for the scale of any UK contribution to an Infrastructure Fund, if such is attained in circumstances of devolution.

I can, though, welcome the commitment that these EU funds will be additional to national funding and broadly I endorse an even split between the ERDF and ESF."

Concern for safety of isolated farm families!

Jim Allister MEP has attacked the announcement of the publication of individual agricultural subsidy information by DARD. Mr Allister has been in correspondence with DARD on the issue and has expressed disappointment that DARD has published this information prior to answering detailed queries which he raised with the Minister. The MEP is also concerned that the publication of the information, under every individual farmer's name, could place isolated farm families in danger of unwanted attention from criminal gangs.

Jim Allister commented, "I am very disappointed that DARD has decided to release this information into the public domain prior to answering my concerns on the matter. I wrote to DARD on this issue on the 8 September and I still am waiting a satisfactory response from the Department on the concerns raised, including why they did not take legal advice on an issue beset with human rights, breach of confidence and data protection implications.

"Whilst I accept that there is some need for transparency on the issue of public monies I do not believe that there was a need to publish this information in a manner identifying every farmer by name. Individuals can be clearly identified from this list and thus the Department may have increased the risk of isolated farm families being attacked by criminal gangs. There are many other instances within Northern Ireland where businesses receive public money; can we expect this information to be made public? Why is the Minister singling out farmers for scrutiny?

"I am also disappointed that the Minister has failed to point out that many farm families are not meeting the National Minimum wage within Northern Ireland. I see very little action of DARD trying to address the problems in rural areas. Instead of the Minister putting out confidential information I would have preferred to see him work to get an extension of the Farm Nutrient Management Scheme or cutting out some of the red tape which is facing the industry.

Allister responds to Sinn Fein's Irish Unity event in Brussels

Speaking at a press conference in Brussels on 19 October to counter a Sinn Fein propaganda event, Jim Allister said: "Recently Sinn Fein ran an event in Brussels under the title "*THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE END OF PARTITION*", seeking to engage the EU in promotion of its goal of Irish unity.

Northern Ireland is part of the UK not because of forceful compulsion, oppression or military might, but because that is the settled choice of the greater number of its people. Thus what is referred to as "Partition" is not some arbitrary imposition but a reflection of democratic choice.

In 1998 Sinn Fein supposedly endorsed the Belfast Agreement.

It is claimed that the Belfast Agreement settled the constitutional issue pertaining to Northern Ireland by accepting that its position as a part of the UK could only be changed with the consent of its people. This is generally referred to as "the principle of consent".

Last week Sinn Fein engaged in negotiations at St Andrews in a process designed to re-establish a devolved government for Northern Ireland at Stormont. Sinn Fein aspires to a place in that government, indeed demands such a place, and indignantly proclaims itself fit for government.



Yet, here today in Brussels, totally in conflict with any genuine commitment to the principle of consent, it is agitating for the EU to promote and facilitate Irish unification. This is part of their totalitarian attempt to thwart, disrespect and circumvent the settled will of the people of Northern Ireland to continue to be a constituent part of the UK.

How can Sinn Fein at one and the same time credibly claim to accept the principle of consent while urging

an international body like the EU to assist it to bypass and subvert the necessary consent of the people of Northern Ireland? In so doing it not only shows its own duplicity but seeks to have the EU breach of its own Treaty obligations of acceptance of the national integrity of each Member State.

As the elected representatives in Europe of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland, we reject and repudiate Sinn Fein's clumsy stunt here in Brussels today, which, of course, is primarily related to upmanship for the forthcoming election in the Republic of Ireland.

Its time Sinn Fein started living up to what it means to respect the principle of consent in Northern Ireland. Irish unity is not on the agenda and they will not force it onto the agenda by seeking to strongarm the people of Northern Ireland through the EU or any other international body.

I welcome the fact that apart from the usual cronies of its hard left GUE Group, its event today was largely ignored by serious opinion formers in the EU.

Finally, I note that in the document launched today:

- there is not a single mention of the need for consent at any stage by the people of Northern Ireland.
- while lamenting economic difficulties in Northern Ireland there is not a single mention or hint of regret for the concerted campaign of bombing against economic targets in Northern Ireland, which Sinn Fein supported in the 70s, 80s and 90s. Pretending an interest now in economic betterment is just so much cant and hypocrisy from those who supported the bombing of countless businesses into



oblivion.

- It is interesting to note that Sinn Fein openly acknowledges in their document that they see the Good Friday Agreement as providing a transition to Irish unification and, for the first time, I believe, they postulate a timescale of "twenty years or so".

Let me make it clear economic co-operation between two neighbouring states is natural and right, but where, as here, it is subverted to drive an agenda for political unification, then it is being abused. The EU is being invited by Sinn Fein to lend itself to such a stratagem. This it cannot and must not do. Much of this document is the republican pipedream dressed up in euro-speak, to make it all seem disarmingly reasonable, but at its heart is the intent to subvert the settled will of the greater number of people to remain within the nation where they were born."

EU immigration procedures shambolic - MEP

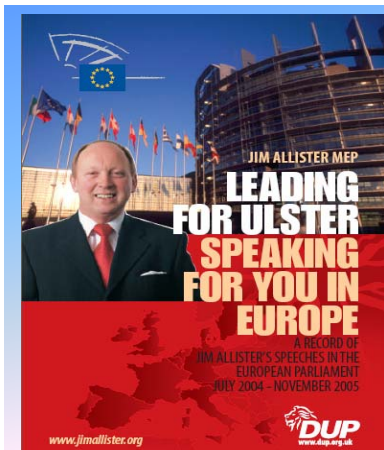
Invited to speak to a Residents Group in the Dungannon Area on issues pertaining to immigration, MEP Jim Allister described EU immigration procedures as "shambolic".

In the course of his remarks on the evening of Thursday 19 October 2006, Mr Allister said:-
"Not only is the "open house" policy, precipitately adopted by the UK on the back of the 2004 Enlargement, showing signs of backfiring, but the combination of the EU principle of freedom of movement and the unilateral amnesties of some Member States for illegal immigrants, is leaving us all at risk of immigration over which we have no effective control.

The inflow of illegal immigrants, particularly from West Africa, into southern Europe has been huge. This year alone there have been 24,000 illegal entrants to the Canary Islands. Malta and other Mediterranean states are finding the same. They cannot cope, leading to the worst possible outcome of these Member States affording amnesty and citizenship to the illegals, which then opens up the rest of Europe to them, courtesy of the guarantee of freedom of movement for EU citizens.

Last year Spain alone granted amnesty to 500,000 illegal immigrants, which, as a short-term expedient, alleviated its difficulties by encouraging and permitting them to move on into other countries in Europe. Thus every Member State falls victim to the "generosity" of states with the weakest resolve and policies to curb immigration. This "short-termism" on the part of Spain adds immensely to the pressures already created by the largescale westward movements from the new Member States in the east.

Moreover, the weak border and immigration policies of some of those countries on the eastern flank of the EU also permits illegal immigration from, for example, Belarus through Lithuania. So, a veritable pincher movement of illegal immigration is assailing Europe from the south and east. I fear this will yet instil instability and social friction across Europe, made even worse if Turkey is admitted."



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



All editions of my monthly newsletter 'Brussels Briefing' are available to download at my website, www.jimallister.org

There, you can also sign up to receive each new edition, either by post or by e-mail.

Allister speaks in North Korea debate

Speaking in the European Parliament in an emergency debate on North Korea's nuclear test, DUP MEP Jim Allister expressed concern that the rogue Stalinist regime might now make available to "crazed terrorist groups" nuclear devices and technology.

North Korea is notorious for its involvement in trading in and exporting illegal materials, including weaponry. Now, if it enters the terrorist market place, offering nuclear technology, the threat could be colossal.

In the course of his remarks, Mr Allister said:-

"It is chilling to think of the possible consequences of the totalitarian Stalinist regime in North Korea now having nuclear capacity.

Quite apart from the opportunity for direct aggressive use, an aspect which alarms me is that North Korea may now be in the market place with crazed terrorist groups for the export of nuclear devices and technology. North Korea is already heavily reliant on and involved in multiple illegal export businesses, including drugs and especially counterfeit currency on a massive scale. If it were now to be in the market place for selling nuclear technology then we all have reason to fear, for those in the terrorist world, who seek such, know no constraint in their lust for killing.

So, it behoves the EU, but particularly the more relevant UN, to be most robust and resolute in handling this crisis. Condemnation and hoping for the best is unlikely to be enough."



MEP opposes mercury barometer ban

Today, in a debate in the European Parliament in Strasbourg on the banning of products containing mercury, DUP MEP Jim Allister spoke out against the utter folly of the usual "one-size-fits-all" approach of Brussels towards this Directive.

In spite of the acknowledged environmental benefits of replacing toxic substances with safer alternatives, this piece of legislation takes a step too far in placing a ban on the manufacturing of barometers, a relatively safe product whose craftsmanship dates back to the 15th Century. In order to save the traditional industry of the manufacture of mercury barometers, an amendment was tabled asking for their exemption from the Directive.

In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said:-

"Across Europe barometer manufacturing has been part of our heritage for centuries. It often involves recycling mercury from old instruments. The environmental threat posed is so minuscule as to be out of all proportion to the devastating ban which this Directive would impose on future production of barometers. It will kill off an historic skill in return for no meaningful gain. Thus, I strongly support amendment 19 to exempt barometer manufacture from the ambit of this Directive.

Seeking to include barometers epitomises the fanatical and irrational dogma that drives and brings ridicule to so many Commission proposals. I trust, in the name of common sense, we will say no."



Allister debates Services Directive

During the 2nd reading debate in Strasbourg on the Services Directive, designed to bring the provision of services into the single market (like already exists re: persons, goods and capital), MEP Jim Allister welcomed concessions made since the first reading, but outlined continuing concerns about cheap labour resulting from foreign service providers with temporary status in host nations.

In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said:-

"The abandonment of the country of origin principle and the reduction in services covered, particularly the omission of social services and non-economic services, makes this Directive a more palatable proposition than when it was last debated.

However, I retain some concerns, not least the rush to timetable harmonisation of national legislation on the provision of services, with its inevitable avalanche of regulation, and the fear that insecure jobs will result from foreign service providers paying low minimum wages, thus, creating unfair competition for native workers, made worse if they can maintain temporary status in the host state, for, then, they escape national host controls.

On one specific, I welcome the fact gambling activities will be outside the ambit of the Directive. The inclusion of such would have fed the growth of this destructive industry and added to the misery and social instability which it so often spawns."

New Lottery Funding for Community Buildings launched

The Big Lottery Fund has launched its new "Improving Community Buildings programme. As the name suggests the programme has a highly capital works slant and is designed to make grants of up to £50,000 to "voluntary or community organisations, charitable not-for-profit companies and social enterprises wishing to refurbish or modernise their community venue in order to increase the level of community use and enhance the quality of the services provided". There is £5million available in the programme which is open for applications until the 24 May 2007. Groups should note that planning permission and building control (if required) should be in place prior to applying for the grant.

For further information contact the Bog Lottery Fund Information Team: Telephone (028) 9055 1455.



DUP delegation recently visiting the European Parliament in Brussels. On an annual basis a group of DUP members visits the European institutions, usually alternating between Brussels and Strasbourg. This year the group was 34 strong and on their way out to Brussels also enjoyed a tour of the House of Commons with DUP MPs.

Keep up-to-date with the latest news from Europe at www.jimallister.org

Allister lobbies Commissioner over fisheries quotas

In the run up to the annual quota setting session in Brussels in December, MEP Jim Allister has laid out Northern Ireland's case to Fisheries Commission Dr Borg, demanding a significant increase in the prawn and plaice quotas. Set out below is Mr Allister's letter to the Commissioner.

Dear Commissioner,

As we again approach the critical time of the year when the fishing quotas are set, I write to you concerning the urgency of the situation facing the Northern Ireland industry. Again, we face another supposedly temporary closure under the Cod Recovery Scheme - for the 8th successive year, and no doubt proposals to cut both quota and Days at Sea. The Cod Recovery Scheme continues to fail yet it is persisted with, with no regard to the devastating social and economic consequences within the fishing communities. Again, the scientists are blindly demanding more savage cuts and I fear your proposals will show little independent thinking.

With nephrops having become the mainstay of the local Northern Ireland industry, the outcome in respect of this quota is of paramount concern. The scientific advice describes the current level of fishing effort as sustainable. It follows that there should be no cut in the quota and indeed a worthwhile increase of 25% could and should be considered. I shall also be looking for a significant increase in the plaice quota as there too the scientific news is good. With plentiful stocks of juvenile whiting I see no justification for reduction there, nor am I persuaded that Irish Sea cod, haddock and sole can bear any further reduction while at the same time maintaining a viable industry.

If, as seems the case, strong justification exists for an increase in the prawn quota, then there can be no sense or logic in reducing the Days at Sea which prawn boats are allowed to fish. Indeed, allowing recoupment of some of the Days at Sea provision would be likely to have a positive impact of enhancing cooperation with the fisheries scientists, giving rise to a benefit on all sides.

It would be nice to think that this year you might deliver a bearable package for the fishing industry, in keeping with your commitments of wanting to encourage and maintain a viable industry.

I trust you will consider these matters.

Fischer-Boel assures Allister FNMS Extension 'will be sorted'

Jim Allister MEP has again discussed the necessity for a 2 year extension to the Farm Nutrient Management Scheme in Northern Ireland with Commissioner Fischer-Boel in Strasbourg. This scheme, which makes available assistance to farmers to increase slurry storage capacity, is vital to making the industry compliant with the Nitrates Directive. Mr Allister stressed to the Commissioner that if the scheme, due to expire this month, is not extended, then there is no prospect of NI agriculture becoming Nitrates Directive compliant and, thus, Europe's expectations will be frustrated.

At present the proposed extension is bogged down in controversy with DG Competition in Brussels, who, most unreasonably, are suggesting the state aid involved could be anti-competitive, "even though the same Directorate did not blink an eyelid" said the Ulster MEP, "when the Republic of Ireland recently got a scheme through permitting aid till the end of 2008, the same end date as we require."

Following his discussions Mr Allister said, "I am confident that Fischer-Boel is on board on this issue and, moreover, she expressed considerable confidence that the matter will be resolved. Her assurance was "this matter will be sorted". I've no doubt she understands the urgency of this matter."

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