



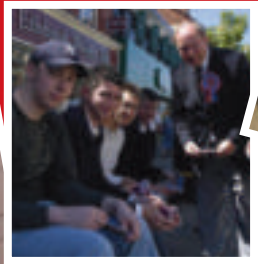
JIM ALLISTER MEP

LEADING FOR ULSTER SPEAKING FOR YOU IN EUROPE

A RECORD OF
JIM ALLISTER'S SPEECHES IN THE
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
JULY 2004 - NOVEMBER 2005

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Dedication

"To all those who worked so hard to secure my election to Europe"



PREFACE

Since taking office as a Member of the European Parliament for Northern Ireland on 20th July 2004, Jim Allister has become one of the most prolific contributors to debates in the Strasbourg Parliament.

As this record confirms, the range of his contributions is very considerable, with contributions on both local and global issues. His contributions far outstrip those of the other representatives from Northern Ireland; the statistics (as at 30/11/05) speak for themselves.

	ALLISTER	NICHOLSON	DE BRUN
Speeches	46	14	19
Question time interventions	10	1	0
Total	56	15	19

While this booklet deals only with contributions made within the plenary sessions of the Parliament, Jim Allister also plays a very active role in the Fisheries Committee and the Constitutional Affairs Committee, where he is a key opponent of the proposed Constitution for Europe.

INTRODUCTION

On 10th June 2004 Jim Allister was elected to the European Parliament in succession to Rt Hon Dr Ian R K Paisley MP, who had completed a mammoth twenty-five year stint. His first preference vote tally of 32% carried on the DUP's poll-topping tradition in European contests.

The election result was as follows:

NAME	PARTY	VOTES	PERCENTAGE
James H Allister	Democratic Unionist Party	175,761	32%
Bairbre De Brun	Sinn Fein/IRA	144,541	26.3%
Jim Nicholson	Ulster Unionist Party	91,164	16.6%
Martin Morgan	SDLP	87,559	15.9%
John Gilliland	Independent	36,270	6.6%
Eamonn McCann	Socialist Environmentalist	9,172	1.6%
Lindsay Whitcroft	Green	4,810	0.9%



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MAIDEN SPEECH



1:MAIDEN SPEECH

Making his maiden speech, within two days of taking his place as MEP for Northern Ireland, Jim Allister chose a debate at which Bertie Ahern was present, as outgoing President of the European Council. He used the occasion to set out very clearly that his loyalty lay not to the EU or its institutions, but to his constituents who had sent him there to represent them. The new DUP MEP focused straightaway on the looming battle over the proposed Constitution for Europe. He referred to his predecessor, Dr. Paisley and chided the Irish Prime Minister over his support for the proposal to make Irish an official language of the European Union.

In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said:

“Mr. President, in my first remarks in the House I wish to state the great sense of honour that I feel derives, not from membership of this institution, but from the confidence in me manifested by the people of Northern Ireland in making me their first choice in terms of representation in this Parliament.

It is to them, not the institutions of Europe, that I owe my allegiance. My purpose in being here is to defend and promote the interests and good name of Northern Ireland and to secure for its people their fair share of European funding.

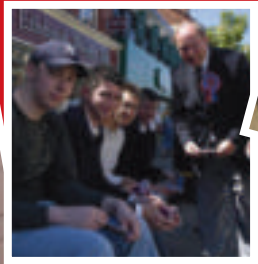
Turning to the Irish Presidency, I am sure that Mr. Ahern will remember my illustrious predecessor telling him six months ago in this House, with characteristic humour, that the most beneficial thing likely to emerge from the Irish Presidency would be that Mr. Ahern would have

MAIDEN SPEECH:1

less time to meddle in the affairs of British Northern Ireland. And so it proved to be that meddle time – happily – was at a premium. That apart, the legacy on the constitutional front which this presidency bequeaths to us is not, in my opinion, welcome or happy. The new constitution is nothing to be proud of for anyone who believes in democratic control and its essential companion, national sovereignty. It is an affront to, and an assault upon, both.

I appeal for honesty in the presentation of this constitution, for recognition that it is a charter designed to facilitate and build a European super state with ever-diminishing national powers and ever-increasing centralised powers and all the apparatus of statehood. Statehood properly lies in nation-states and that is where it should remain.

Finally, I compliment and reassure Mr. Ahern on his continuing mastery of the English language so that he might have the confidence to abandon the foolish notion of wasting millions of euros of taxpayers’ money on making Irish an official language of these institutions. I say to him leave such archaic nonsense to Sinn Fein from whom one expects no better.” (21 July 2004)



JIM ALLISTER MEP
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2

RESISTING SINN FEIN / IRA

- 1.1 THE COLUMBIA THREE
- 1.2 ORGANISED CRIME
- 1.3 TERRORISM
- 1.4 ON THE RUN TERRORISTS



2: RESISTING SINN FEIN / IRA

As he promised at the time of his election, Jim Allister has taken a robust and vigorous stand against Sinn Fein/IRA within the Parliament and at every opportunity turns the spotlight on the fraudulent nature of their supposedly democratic credentials. Here is a sample of Jim Allister's speeches addressing the Sinn Fein/IRA issue. After Sinn Féin ran away from the political talks in December 2004, Jim Allister did not mince his words in exposing their unwillingness to move ahead politically:

"Mr President, I had hoped in this speech to welcome a political breakthrough in Northern Ireland and to hail an irreversible abandonment by the IRA of its dirty war and its means of war. Sadly, however, as so often in the past, while Sinn Fein IRA has talked the talk, it has failed to walk the walk. Today, although mouthing commitment to democracy, it clings to the weapons of terror. Thus it continues to exclude itself from democratic government in Northern Ireland.

It prefers the click of the rifle to the click of the camera. Camera shy, but terror proud! Make no mistake, it is Sinn Fein IRA alone that has once again let the people of Northern Ireland down. Democrats choose the camera shot, Sinn Fein chooses the rifle shot. The challenge now is to let democrats move on without them." (13 December 2004)

RESISTING SINN FEIN / IRA:2

2.1 THE COLUMBIA THREE

On three occasions the DUP MEP has raised, on the floor of the House, the issue of the "Columbia Three" and their links to Sinn Fein. In addition, he tabled a motion calling for their extradition from the Republic of Ireland back to Colombia to face justice for their crimes. Below are extracts from those speeches.

In a debate on Columbia on 2nd December 2004, Jim Allister had this to say:

"Mr President, regrettably terrorists from Northern Ireland have helped destabilise Colombia. In 2001 a top IRA bomb-maker called Monaghan and two others were captured in Colombia while imparting terrorist expertise to the drug-funded Marxist guerrillas of FARC. Their mission on that occasion was to perfect a fuel air bomb with specialist equipment provided by the IRA. In two earlier visits organized by Sinn Féin's representative in Cuba, the IRA had already passed on to FARC its skill in making car bombs and mortars. Car bombs and mortars identical to those used by the IRA have since been used regularly by FARC. In return for its deadly expertise, Sinn Féin-IRA received six million dollars and the people of Colombia received mass murder and destruction.

Finally, for me the Colombia adventure illustrates just how far Sinn Féin has to travel before it could be considered fit for government in any part of Ireland."

2: RESISTING SINN FEIN / IRA

Then, after the Columbia Three fled to Dublin, he raised the issue in the Parliament on Monday 5th September 2005:

“Mr. President, since we last met, a Member State of this Union, the Republic of Ireland, has been shamefully harbouring three convicted international terrorists. IRA terrorists Monaghan, Connolly and McCauley were duly convicted of training FARC guerrillas in Colombia. They skipped bail – partly put up, it is said, by the Dublin Government – and now, on the back of a sordid deal with the IRA, and despite Interpol warrants for the three men, they are brazenly flaunting themselves in Dublin.

To date, Ireland has done nothing to meet its international obligations, but continues to provide complicit sanctuary for these international terrorists, making a mockery of their affirmations in this House, when President of the Council, that they were committed to the fight against international terrorism. I condemn that duplicity; I condemn that hypocrisy, but most of all I call on the Dublin Government to end the shame and to return these fugitives forthwith.”

RESISTING SINN FEIN / IRA:2

As a consequence of the arrival of the three fugitives in Dublin, Jim Allister tabled an Oral Question to the Council of Ministers urging maximum pressure on Dublin to act. The answer avoided the issue, causing the DUP MEP to round on the Minister with this comment:

“Minister, is that answer not a pitiful and cowardly cop-out? The Council, with collegiate emphasis, has repeatedly stressed its commitment to fight against international terrorism and yet, when faced with a flagrant contradiction of that commitment through a Member State harbouring notorious international terrorists, all it can do is shrug its shoulders in lamentable indifference.

This is a challenge to the Council. Is it in a position to prove its credentials in fighting international terrorism or is it only interested in ducking its responsibility? You can do better. The question is: have you the will to do better, or is all the talk mere platitudes and empty words?” (28 September 2005)

2: RESISTING SINN FEIN / IRA

2.2 ORGANISED CRIME

Jim Allister has frequently highlighted the links between Sinn Féin/IRA and organised crime. Immediately following the Northern Bank robbery, he used an intervention after a speech by de Brun to turn his fire on Sinn Féin.

"Mr President, the House will have noticed that when the IRA's representative in this House, Ms de Brún, spoke, she had no condemnation to offer in respect of her associates' robbery of 26 million pounds in Belfast. In the light of her party's association with that robbery, she indulged in the utmost hypocrisy by appealing to the European Union for funding. If Ms de Brún wants to talk about funding, then let her start with her party's ill-gotten gains from the Northern Bank." (10th January 2005)

RESISTING SINN FEIN / IRA:2

Earlier, on 13th October 2004 the DUP MEP had attacked organised crime and its links to paramilitarism, both Republican and Loyalist:

"Mr President, I wish to turn the focus of this debate on organised crime and to draw some lessons from our experience in Northern Ireland. Following the ceasefires in Northern Ireland, we have seen a marked diversion of terrorist muscle and effort, both Loyalist and Republican, to organised crime. The Provisional IRA is now a key player in this field.

Organised crime has become the main source of income and wealth for Sinn Féin/IRA. IRA Army Council member 'Slab' Murphy is a leading crime boss in Ireland presiding over a border empire built on fuel smuggling. The IRA stands exposed by the Dublin Justice Minister as deeply implicated in organised crime centered on Dublin port. Serial hijacking of huge consignments of cigarettes is acknowledged to be the work of the IRA.

The inescapable truth is that Sinn Féin, which masquerades as a democratic party and has two shameless Members in this House, is largely funded by organised criminal activity. Little wonder it is the richest party in Ireland. Loyalist terrorists have also made organised crime their forte, particularly in the despicable drugs trade. They too stand exposed as the grubby gangsters that they are.

My call in this House is that across Europe, under the aegis of each nation, organised crime should be relentlessly pursued."

2: RESISTING SINN FEIN / IRA

Then, on 25th October 2005, he launched a powerful attack on Sinn Fein/IRA's duplicity and continued links to crime by highlighting the funnelling of resources from the IRA into the coffers of Sinn Fein. As ever he did not spare the blushes of the two Sinn Féin MEPs.

"Mr. President, international organised crime is at its most dangerous and its most pernicious when it is linked to terrorist groups.

In Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, we have had at work for many years one of the most sophisticated terrorist and criminal organisations of modern times, the IRA. For decades it funded its vicious terror campaign out of the proceeds of its vast array of criminal activities. Now that – at least for the present – the gun has served its purpose, the product of its criminal empire is being used to fund its pseudo-political party, Sinn Féin. It is one of the richest political parties in Europe, because it lives off the proceeds of crime. Most notorious of late was the robbery of EUR 40 million from the Northern Bank in Belfast. That is only part of the IRA's programme of criminality, which ranges through fuel smuggling, drug dealing, money laundering and all things illegal.

Happily, the Assets Recovery Agency has recently struck a powerful blow against the IRA's international criminal network by smashing a money-laundering operation in Manchester, through which its chief of staff, Thomas Murphy, was laundering millions of pounds via property deals.

RESISTING SINN FEIN / IRA:2

If they were the true democrats that they claim to be, there are two Members of this House who could shed much more light on these matters, because their party is inextricably linked with this large-scale criminality. I refer to Sinn Féin Members Bairbre de Brún and Mary Lou McDonald who, as ever when we discuss these matters, are absent and notable for their complicit silence."

2: RESISTING SINN FEIN / IRA

2.3 TERRORISM

Drawing upon Northern Ireland's experience of terrorism, Jim Allister has often dealt with such issues on the floor of the Strasbourg Parliament. On the day of the Islamic fundamentalist suicide bombings of London on July 7th 2005, he was the first member of the Parliament to speak after news came through of the bombs on the London Underground. He said:

"Mr. President, important as this debate is, it pales into insignificance when compared with the atrocious terrorist attacks in my capital city today. I would like to join, I am sure in the name of all this House, in utterly condemning that terrorism and in expressing condolence and sympathy to those who have been injured and killed.

We live in an age where terror seems to know no bounds. Coming from Northern Ireland, where we alas have known much of that in our history, one's heart goes out to the people affected by this morning's terrible events."

Just a month earlier he had told the Parliament in a debate on terrorism,

"The mission of democracies must be to defeat terrorism: not merely to contain or to tame it. 'Softly, softly' conciliation is merely banked by the terrorists, who then demand more and more. We have lived through that in Northern Ireland: our government foolishly tolerated 'no go' areas for their own security forces, an acceptable level of violence, political status for prisoners, secret talks, side deals, the restructuring

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and renaming of the police, the soft-pedaling on paramilitary organised crime, and the ultimate ignominy of the early release of terrorists under the ill-conceived Belfast Agreement.

None of it worked, because the latest International Monitoring Committee report shows that we still have a functioning, recruiting, training, threatening and active IRA that works hand-in-glove with its junior partner, Sinn Féin, whose members, as ever, are notably absent when we debate terrorism in this House.

I implore the rest of Europe to learn the lessons. Be quicker in learning than the British Government was, and learn the lesson that terrorism cannot be tamed or sanitised but must be resolutely defeated and driven out of business, including all its sidelines of criminality" (7th June 2005)

Ever ready to focus attention on the IRA's activities and expose Sinn Féin internationally, Jim Allister played a leading role in bringing the murder of Robert McCartney to the Parliament's attention. On 9th May 2005 he spoke as follows:

"Mr. President, right at the outset, I salute the superb courage of the McCartney family. Intimidation and the capacity to impose its will through fear has always been as vital a weapon to the IRA as its guns and its bombs. In exposing and standing up to the thuggery of Sinn Féin/IRA, the McCartney sisters have shown remarkable bravery.

2: RESISTING SINN FEIN / IRA

This was a foul murder. By a hand signal indicating a knife should be used, a member of the IRA's Northern Command gave the order to kill, and a key Sinn Féin member savagely wielded the knife and butchered this innocent man before multiple witnesses. An IRA unit, led by the volunteer who had fetched and then disposed of the knife, then coordinated a clean-up operation to destroy forensic and real evidence, including the CCTV footage. Then, in classic IRA style, the intimidation brigade swung into action to silence the witnesses. Though the IRA and Sinn Féin claim to have expelled or suspended up to ten members linked to this murder, their duplicity and double-dealing is amply illustrated by the fact that, three months after this murder, this cut-throat psychopath remained publicly proclaimed as one of Sinn Féin's official treasurers. And the man who ordered the killing still struts the streets of Belfast in the company of the IRA's chief of intelligence, Bobby Storey, and leading provisional IRA man, Eddy Copeland. So much for the IRA's supposed disciplinary action: it is a farce.

We are due to hear in this debate from one of Sinn Féin/IRA's representatives in this House. She and her partners are in a position to help this family by influencing Sinn Féin members, like Bob Fitzsimmons and Joe Fitzpatrick, and other people like Terry Davison, truthfully to tell the lawful authorities what they know of the horrific events in the alleyway. I challenge her to do so, but instead I fear we will hear the usual Sinn Féin empty, pious, weasel words that reek of insincerity, with hypocrisy dripping from every syllable. Sinn Féin/IRA

RESISTING SINN FEIN / IRA:2

could secure justice for the McCartney family but their priority is to protect their own. Hence the IRA-enforced wall of silence. Punitive and deterrent justice through the criminal courts is much the best option. If Sinn Féin/IRA succeed in denying criminal justice to this family, then I endorse the call that the EU should help fund an action so that the killers and conspirators can be pursued at least through the civil courts. But, given that the IRA has benefited to the tune of EUR 40 million from its Northern Bank robbery, it would be an odious scandal if state legal aid were available to anyone to defend such proceedings. Finally, I would add that the EU fund should also be available to the many other victims of the IRA, who for years have been denied justice because of this same intimidation."

Following the charging of two men arising from the McCartney murder, the DUP MEP on 7th June 2005 kept the Parliament's focus on the killing by saying during a debate on terrorism:

"I welcome the fact that last Saturday morning, in Belfast, an IRA member, Terry Davison, was charged in court with the murder of Robert McCartney and that a second IRA person, Jim McCormick, was charged with the attempted murder of Mr. McCartney's friend, Brendan Devine.

I should like to congratulate the Police Service of Northern Ireland on overcoming an IRA-orchestrated and ongoing campaign of intimidation to begin the process of securing justice in this notorious case. I trust that many more charges will follow, for that is the only way to deal with the processes of terrorism."

2: RESISTING SINN FEIN / IRA

2.4 ON THE RUN TERRORISTS

As and when appropriate, Jim Allister has used the European Parliament to focus international attention on issues arising from within Northern Ireland. One such example is the scandal of the British Government's proposed legislation to provide an amnesty to IRA terrorists who had fled the jurisdiction.

On 14th November 2005, the DUP MEP made this intervention:

"Mr. President, this House frequently and properly raises its voice to support the victims of terrorism. I invite it to do so again.

After decades of IRA and other terrorism in Northern Ireland, we have hundreds of unsolved murders, many of whose perpetrators have fled the jurisdiction. Now in a quite appalling legislative move, the British Government, in delivery of a sordid deal with the IRA, is proposing to afford amnesty and sanctuary to those on-the-run terrorists.

The rights of their victims to have justice is to be shamelessly denied, while a farcical process is put in place whereby the terrorists need not even attend court, will not be required to serve a single day in jail and will never be permitted to be questioned again about their abominable crimes.

This legislation is a gross affront to justice and the human rights of victims; it is a stomach-churning illustration of how low governments can stoop when they set about appeasing terrorism. I call on this House and the Justice Commissioner to speak out against this wretched legislation."

JIM ALLISTER MEP
LEADING FOR ULSTER - SPEAKING FOR YOU IN EUROPE

3 OPPOSING THE EU CONSTITUTION



3: OPPOSING THE EU CONSTITUTION

As foreshadowed in his Maiden Speech, Jim Allister has played an active part in opposing the proposed EU Constitution, both within the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and on the floor of the House.

With referendums looming, Jim Allister was keen that they should be fair and free from unbalanced funding. He raised the issue with both the Council of Ministers and the Commission in a debate on 15 September 2004:

“I oppose the Constitution because I dare still to cling to a belief in maximising meaningful national sovereignty.

Could I, in that context, ask the Council and the Commission to agree that the first priority in any referendum should be that it should be seen to be both free and fair? In this regard, is it not imperative to guarantee two things: first, to guarantee that the case against the Constitution is not suppressed in a welter of one-sided propaganda emanating from the European institutions and, secondly, that the democratic referendum process is not distorted by unbalanced funding from external sources?

Therefore, could the Council and the Commission agree that they would resolutely resist the temptation of bankrolling a pro-Constitution propaganda offensive across Europe? These are national referendums and they should be allowed to be so.”

OPPOSING THE EU CONSTITUTION:3

On the 11th January 2005, Jim Allister, in the Parliament's keynote debate on the Constitution, delivered a speech which was greeted with applause from fellow Euro-sceptic Parliamentarians:

“Mr. President, though this House, in self-congratulatory euphoria, will embrace this Constitution, thankfully the ultimate decision rests with the Member States. It is their votes that really matter.

What I despise most is the false pretence, particularly prevalent in the United Kingdom, that this Constitution is merely a tidying-up exercise made necessary by enlargement and that it will settle the constitutional shape of Europe for generations. That is demonstrably false. Those who peddle that deception are best exposed by the Constitution's own most ardent and more honest proponents.

In the Constitutional Affairs Committee, I have observed at first hand the strategy and scheming of arch Europhiles. They make no secret of the fact that this Constitution is not an end in itself, but a work in progress and they do nothing to conceal their ambition to have it, in their terms, strengthened at the first opportunity – without, of course, the troublesome obstacle of further national consultation. Their undisguised candour gives the lie to those who would deceive voters into thinking that this is a mere tidying-up exercise: it is not.

The choice for the nation-states is this: a choice between a Europe of cooperating sovereign nation-states, or a Europe that is itself a

3: OPPOSING THE EU CONSTITUTION

superstate. Despite all the denials, this Constitution is a framework for super statehood. It declares its supremacy over national constitutions; it proclaims the subservience of national law; it appoints its own president and foreign minister. It relegates national parliaments to mere consultative sounding boards; it trades meaningful democracy for the pseudo-democracy of this House; it neuters the last defence of the nation-state by increasingly supplanting the national veto with radically increased qualified majority voting; and it provides an unbridled path to further integration by permitting amendment by heads of government rather than by the people. Anyone with pride in his or her own nation, who does not want to see it subsumed into a hideous conglomerate, will reject this tawdry Constitution."

Following the welcome rejection of the Constitution by the voters of France and Holland, Jim Allister was quick to rejoice in their verdicts. He even managed to make a link to William of Orange! On 8th June 2005, he told the House:

"Mr President, I congratulate the people of France and Holland on bringing deliverance to all those in Europe who value democracy and national liberty. The situation that now exists challenges the democratic credentials of EU leaders. You set the test for the survival of the Constitution: ratification by all 25 Member States. You lost. It is time to face up to it and bury the corpse that is the EU Constitution. Your attempts to resuscitate it are as distasteful as they are ill-fated.

Mr Watson's reference back to 1787 tempts me to go back a little further. It is not the first time that Holland has saved Europe from

OPPOSING THE EU CONSTITUTION:3

political tyranny. This very week in that most notable of years, 1690, William, Prince of Orange, landed at Carrickfergus in my constituency and brought us in the United Kingdom the Glorious Revolution and the Williamite settlement, which to this day is the basis of freedoms which the British nation jealously guards against destruction, whether at the hands of an EU Constitution or otherwise."

He followed this up on 22nd June 2005, in a debate at the end of the Luxembourg Presidency of the European Council with this pointed intervention:

"Mr President, for those who still cling to the European dream, Mr Juncker's presidency has been a stunning failure. Under it the precious Constitution has been shipwrecked on the rocks of rejection and the budget is an unmitigated shambles, with rancour, as in Mr Juncker's speech today, being its currency.

From this, however, some good could come. If the effect was to jolt European leaders into the same reality stream that many of their people already occupy, then a workable Europe could emerge. Root and branch changes are essential, in which the primacy of the nation state should be reestablished and Brussels centralisation reversed, with wide-ranging powers repatriated to national governments and parliaments. A Europe built on sovereign states trading and cooperating for mutual benefit, and not for the unworkable, unwanted ever-closer union, has some hope of success.

3: OPPOSING THE EU CONSTITUTION

This present Europe, as your presidency demonstrates, Mr Juncker, cannot work."

Having challenged the Luxembourg Prime Minister on his failings, the next day the DUP MEP turned his attention to the British Prime Minister when he spoke to the Parliament. Mr Allister said:

"Mr. President, after the rejections of the Constitution, the Prime Minister rightly said that profound questions now arose about the future of Europe. From the example of last weekend, it is clear that the over-centralised EU is presently not working. Although Mr. Juncker, yesterday, sought to make the United Kingdom a scapegoat, the reality is that it is the structures and policies of Europe which are fatally flawed.

I suspect from your speech, Mr. Blair that you are not prepared to face the real questions that arise from that. Sticking-plaster politics do not work. You should know that from Northern Ireland. Ever-closer union has failed. It is time to embrace the primacy of the nation states over the stifling control of Brussels. It is time to repatriate key powers. It is time to return to making free trade, not political union, the cornerstone of Europe." (23 June 2005)

Despite the fact that the proposed Constitution was rejected by the electors of France and The Netherlands, it has not prevented the Euro-federalists from attempting to push through much of their agenda without any democratic consent at all. The DUP MEP has been ever alert to the attempts to bring in such matters by the back door. On the 9th June 2005, when a proposal that

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the EU should have a separate seat on the United Nations, Jim Allister caused the following entry to be made in the official record of the Parliament:

"Being utterly opposed to the acquisition of statehood by the EU and the compulsion of a single foreign policy for Europe, I voted against the Resolution urging that reform of the UN should embrace a seat for the EU. This is a resolution driven by those consumed by a fanatical desire to usurp national authority and status.

In my view only nation states can and should represent their citizens in the United Nations, with each free to determine their own foreign policy. With the defeated EU Constitution there is now even less justification than ever for this foolish proposal."

The lack of democratic consent for centralising actions has been raised many times by the Ulster MEP in the Parliament. On 11th June 2005 in a debate on the proposed establishment of an External Action Service, a blatant step towards the creation of a single European Foreign Ministry, Jim Allister said:

"Mr. President, in answering this debate, I should like to invite the Commissioner to focus on two points. One follows on from what the last speaker said. Since the External Action Service can only have legal status and legitimacy if the Constitution is approved, the Commission and the Council, by working to put the structure, staff and framework of the EAS in place, are surely engaged in blatantly presuming the outcome of the ratification process. In this regard, can the Commission tell us how much it is budgeting to spend on these presumptive and

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pre-emptive moves that it is taking? How much has this speculative venture cost us to date and how much is it likely to cost us in the next 18 months?

Secondly, could the Commission spell out for the wider public its vision of how the foreign affairs of Member States will be conducted once the EAS is in place? Specifically, is it correct to conclude that national foreign affairs will then only be able to be conducted in a manner consistent with the common foreign policy and will only be able to operate in a manner that is subservient to the EAS?"

Even before the rejection of the Constitution, Jim Allister had been protesting that the Commission was acting on the assumption that it would be approved, causing him to make this intervention on 17th December 2004:

"Mr. President, I wish to focus this debate on the ongoing work of the Council to prepare and initiate the external relations service in advance of ratification and adoption of the Constitution, for it is the Constitution which validates that service. I have in my possession a letter from Mrs. Wallström – the Vice-President of the Commission, who is present this morning – confirming that the outcome of the debate on the Constitution should neither be presumed nor pre-empted in any fashion. Yet that is precisely what is being done in this ongoing work on the new external relations service.

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That is wrong. As an individual Member of this House I protest against it. Either we acknowledge and accept the right of the nation-states to determine the fate of the Constitution, its new institutions and its working apparatuses such as the foreign service, or we do not.

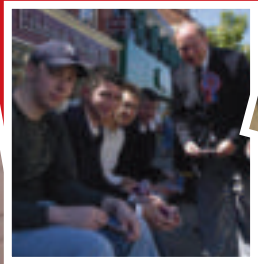
Both the Council and the Commission arrogantly continue to work as if the Constitution was already approved. It is a grave insult to and assault on the rights of nations and indeed the rights of people."



JIM ALLISTER MEP
LEADING FOR ULSTER - SPEAKING FOR YOU IN EUROPE

4

DEFENDING BRITISH JUSTICE



4: DEFENDING BRITISH JUSTICE

With his legal background, Mr. Allister has a particular appreciation of the values and ethos of our own British judicial system. He has opposed all attempts to move towards a single Pan-European legal system: in so doing he has highlighted the fundamental differences that exist between the British system and that in operation in other EU member-states. Speaking on the floor of the Parliament on 11th April 2005, the DUP Member had this to say:

“Mr. President, like many EU harmonising proposals, this report has, at first glance, a certain plausible appeal. However, only the naive would fail to recognise it as part of a jigsaw for an integrated European criminal justice system, leading ultimately to the subservience of our national systems, not least in the vital area of how we should be free to tackle terrorism. As the Committee on Legal Affairs has commented, the proposal should be considered as a point of departure rather than of arrival.

If the concern is to guarantee minimum human rights, then the apparatus already exists under the European Convention on Human Rights at its Court in this city. It is clear, however, that the EU's ambition is to garner that role to itself.

I must say, as a British citizen and, indeed, as a lawyer, that the savage experience of several British citizens abroad buttresses my view that we have little to gain but much to lose from extensive criminal justice integration. The scandalous treatment of Dinesh Sakaria in Sweden, the spectacle made of the British plane-spotters in Greece, and the

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appalling conviction of Kevin Sweeney in the Netherlands convinces UK citizens that they are best served by maintaining the procedures and bulwarks of their common law-based system rather than ever being tempted to trade it in for the flawed continental model.

If these things can happen – and they have happened – with these countries supposedly adhering to the European Convention on Human Rights, then moving the coordination from the Council of Europe to the European Commission will contribute nothing to the effective guarantee of individual rights in real terms.”

Earlier on 21st February 2005, he had again dealt with the dangers inherent in EU harmonisation of criminal procedures when he said:

“Mr. President, I have no difficulty with the sensible exchange of information about criminal convictions between Member States, but only the politically blind could fail to recognise the proposals in the Costa report as part of the harmonisation process that is under way in the criminal justice system across Europe. That, of course, is in anticipation of the EU Constitution, within which that harmonisation has a key role to play.

I, for one, am opposed to a criminal justice system established on the continental model, with its inherent assault upon the essential building

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blocks of our distinctive and historic British common law system, which include not least trial by jury, habeas corpus, and the separation of the judiciary from the investigative process.

This Costa report, despite its plausible verbiage, is part of that process of harmonisation aimed at creating a single criminal justice system. That is not serving the interests of the British nation in my view and, therefore, I will oppose that report."

Jim Allister has consistently opposed any attempts to enforce a European Social Model, with high-levels of state interference in the economy and higher levels of red-tape than that which already exist in the UK. His approach on most issues in the Parliament has been characterised by a defence of our own unique Anglo-Saxon legal system, constitutional arrangements and economy. On 25th October 2005, Jim Allister combined his opposition to a uniform constitutional arrangement and a one-size-fits-all social model:

"Mr. President, I rarely see it as a function of mine to defend the Commission, but Commissioners have the right to freedom of expression and, just occasionally, they may even say eminently sensible things, like President Barroso when he accepted that the Constitution is unenforceable and that we need to move on. So, Commissioner McCreevy had the right to express his opinion. If that opinion was that, in some way, a 'one size fits all' approach to the social model is required, then that opinion is wrong.

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The European social model cannot be defined with singularity; it must take account of diversity and respect the various traditions across Europe. What is right for Sweden is not the choice of others. Social policy must be tailored to the needs of the individual countries. Subjecting social policy to the same regulation as business will not work. Save us from the oppressive uniformity that some would impose upon us and let the needs of each rule the day."

JIM ALLISTER MEP
LEADING FOR ULSTER - SPEAKING FOR YOU IN EUROPE

5

PROMOTING AGRICULTURE, SUPPORTING FISHERIES



5: PROMOTING AGRICULTURE, SUPPORTING FISHERIES

Agriculture and Fisheries have both been hit very severely by excessive regulation from Brussels and the threat of cheap competition from further afield. Jim Allister has used the institutions of Europe to defend Ulster's farmers and fight for a fair deal for our agricultural community.

Mr. Allister has consistently called for Ulster's farmers to get a fair and reasonable portion of financial aid available in a very difficult environment, at a time when much of the resources at the EU's disposal are moving eastwards with the accession of ten new member-states.

On this theme he addressed the Parliament on rural funding on 6th June 2005 in the following terms:

"Mr. President, it is a time of unprecedented change in agriculture. Agriculture in my constituency of Northern Ireland still remains our most significant industry. Therefore it is vital that the rural development regulation aids, rather than aggravates, our situation. This funding must not be prioritised unfairly to the new Member States, with gross disadvantage to the EU-15. 'We pay, they spend' simply will not do.

Indeed, I believe the allocation of rural funding should bear some proportionality to the budgetary contributions of Member States. I want to see Axis I, in particular, accentuated, not diminished, with money actually getting to farmers, not being hijacked into government departments. Rather, money from Axis I should be ring-fenced and targeted to the agricultural community, which is directly involved in farming. Remember that it is the farmers who, through a whopping 9.5% modulation from the single farm payment in 2006, are going to be key funders.

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I also want to see maximum regional flexibility permitted within the regulation. Flexibility, minimum regulation and a belief that farming and rural development are allies, not alternatives are, in my opinion, the way to proceed."

One of the biggest challenges for agriculture has been the introduction of the Nitrates Directive which is having an adverse impact upon Ulster's farmers, with many struggling to meet the conditions laid down in this restrictive piece of legislation. Both inside and outside Parliament, Jim Allister has been very active in campaigning on these issues and in seeking to diminish the scope and burden of Brussels' regulation. On 28th April 2005, he told the Parliament:

"Mr. President, the Nitrates Directive deals expressly with nitrates in groundwater. Why, therefore, is it necessary for this Groundwater Directive also to deal with nitrates? It is wholly unsatisfactory to have two directives addressing the same issue with different approaches and mechanisms and, for the hapless farming community, dual enforcement. Either the Nitrates Directive should be repealed or compliance with one should remove the other from the equation.

The combined effects of this directive and the Water Framework Directive will make the Nitrates Directive wholly superfluous. Under this Directive there is a requirement to put in place trend reversal measures once pollution levels reach 75 per cent of the decreed quality standard. This is more demanding than the standards required under the Nitrates Directive in the nitrate vulnerable zones. Again, we have conflict, contradiction and dual standards. We need cogent, slimmed-down regulation, not costly duplication."

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Jim Allister has supported increased levels of diversification within the agricultural sector in order to make it more competitive. To this end, he addressed the Parliament in Strasbourg on the issue of organic farming on March 10th 2005, saying the following:

“Mr. President, I welcome this debate because, following the reform of the CAP, farmers need to look at alternative methods of increasing farm incomes. For some farmers this could be organic farming.

In Northern Ireland we have a small but determined organic sector. Local supply and local branding are keys to success. There is little point in the farmers in the United Kingdom diversifying into organic production only to be undermined by products from South America coming in at a lower cost. Products from outside the United Kingdom may be organically produced, though in truth little is known as to whether environmental damage is done in producing some of those goods.

The number of air miles involved in transporting the products is also a consumer concern. Those issues need to be factored into the WTO negotiations. I am also concerned about United Kingdom organic farmers being undermined by products from Eastern European countries. Again, short food miles and local branding are essential.”

The WTO negotiations and the foolish concessions being made by the Commission in respect of agricultural tariffs is greatly adding to the pressure on the agricultural sector, causing Jim Allister to address Commissioner Mandelson in the Parliament on 15th November 2005 in the following terms:

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“Commissioner, could I ask you to focus your attention for a moment on an aspect of substance in the WTO talks, namely the perception by many that agriculture is being made the whipping boy and the sacrifice in those talks.

CAP reform was undoubtedly sold as a means to protect agricultural tariffs from future attack. We were then told agriculture would be safe in the WTO. Now we find that you have, maybe somewhat precipitately, made a unilateral offer to slash those tariffs by a further massive percentage. One really does wonder whether there is an appreciation of the dire jeopardy in which agriculture in many regions like mine, with which you are familiar, is now being placed if that is the process that is to be followed.”

Mr Allister returned to the theme on 30th November 2005 when he spoke in the following terms, again in the presence of Commissioner Mandelson:

“One of the primary duties of the EU has to be to provide a secure source of food for its people. In the rush to secure a WTO deal, I trust that this basic obligation is not being either jeopardised or compromised. Last summer, in the United Kingdom at least, we saw the corrosive effect of cheap South American beef imports on our indigenous beef industry with plummeting prices threatening the survival of many producers. That was with the tariffs as they are at present. If tariffs are further slashed, as has been proposed, then local production will fall, national herds will disappear, and we will become

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predominantly dependent on South America for our supply of red meat.

What then if pandemic disease outbreaks, already ravishing Brazil in terms of foot-and-mouth, spread throughout that continent? How then will we feed the people of Europe? They will not thank us then for a headline-grabbing, ego-satisfying deal at the WTO if we have cut off from ourselves a secure supply of reliable food that is home-produced."

SUPPORTING FISHERIES

As a member of the Fisheries Committee, Jim Allister actively pursues the interests of the Northern Ireland fishing industry in that forum but also uses the Parliament to argue his case.

In the debate on 22nd February 2005 on a proposed European Fisheries Control Agency, the DUP MEP made his view of the Common Fisheries Policy very clear:

"Mr President, to believe in a Community fisheries control agency, one has to believe in the Common Fisheries Policy. Northern Ireland's experiences of it have been dire. Courtesy of the CFP, we have seen our fishing fleet drastically reduced by over-regulation and punitive closures. I cannot support the common fisheries policy, and therefore I will not support a Community control agency. In my view, fishing is properly a matter for national control, not EU control. Therefore all inspection mechanisms should be initiated and operated nationally.

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This agency, alas, is but another part of the empire-building that Brussels so readily takes upon itself.

Faced with the probable reality of the Community fisheries control agency, I will use my vote in this House, as I did in committee, to seek to restrict its ambit and enhance national input."

In a debate on Structural Funding on 5th July 2005 Jim Allister said of the new European Fisheries Fund:

"It seems to me to be designed largely with a view to managing further decline. Its prohibition on funding new vessels will do nothing to tackle the dangers and the problems of an ageing fleet. The fund rather should provide for the specific needs of the fisheries sector in each Member State and, if it did, the modernisation and funding of new vessels would be top of the agenda in many areas."

JIM ALLISTER MEP
LEADING FOR ULSTER - SPEAKING FOR YOU IN EUROPE

6

PROTECTING BUSINESS



6: PROTECTING BUSINESS

The constant flow of cumbersome Directives from Brussels has had an adverse impact upon business in Northern Ireland. Jim Allister has spoken against moves which would inhibit the competitiveness of Northern Ireland business by imposing excessive red-tape and regulation.

Recently, the DUP MEP voted against the REACH directive which related to the chemical industry on the basis that it was anti-competitive and would serve to drive small and medium sized chemical firms out of the market. On 17th November 2005, the DUP member explained:

“Today I voted against the amended proposal and legislative resolution on REACH because, as the votes progressed, amendments to ease the burden on SMEs were generally lost. Thus, the balance shifted in favour of restrictions which are so burdensome that they have the potential to drive parts of our chemical industry out of the EU.”

Surely one of the most ludicrous proposals to emanate from Brussels in recent years was for a Directive attempting to govern the amount of hours employees are allowed to remain in sunlight. Jim Allister voted against the proposal stating:

“Though very supportive of relevant and appropriate health and safety provisions pertaining to employees, I cannot endorse the inclusion of natural sources of optical radiation within this Directive. Employers already have a duty to assess the risk to health and safety and to introduce appropriate control measures as specified in the Framework Directive (89/391/EEC).

Thus exposure to the sun is a known risk, for example to the agriculture and building industries, and is already sufficiently catered for. The

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inclusion of natural sun radiation in the new Directive will disproportionately affect small agricultural and construction businesses and add unnecessary administrative costs, particularly in the Northern regions of Europe.

The wildly varying climates in the various EU Member States are enough to make it clear that European legislation on natural optical radiation is not appropriate. Whilst provisions specific to exposure to artificial radiation are appropriate, the inclusion of natural sunlight radiation caused me to vote against this Directive as excessive and burdensome in its ambit and impact.

The foolishness of this proposal suggests that the people of Europe are more in need of protection from Brussels than from the sun!” (7th September 2005)

On yet another attempt by Brussels to impose a classic "one-size-fits-all" Directive, Jim Allister voted against proposals to restrict the quarrying industry. In his remarks he said:

“Mr. President, ‘one size fits all’ is one of the curses of EU legislation and, if the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety gets its way, we will have under this Directive another classic illustration of it in action.

Although not all extractive industries have the same environmental and safety impact, if the Committee on the Environment succeeds, then this legislation will make them all needlessly subject to the same

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restraint. Legislation to fit the need is one thing, legislation not tailored to need is invariably oppressive and destructive of competitiveness. So it is here, with the rapporteur trying to require all sites – regardless of size, product and complexity – to comply with all articles.

There is no sound reason why the shallow sand quarry should be subjected to the same legislative demands as the large, deep mine producing hazardous waste. The requirements for non-hazardous or inert waste should remain proportional and not, as proposed by the committee, be largely subjected to the same stringency as Category A hazardous-waste sites. The framework directive on waste and the landfill directive make adequate provision for non-hazardous waste quarries. There is no convincing or compelling reason for these further burdens to be placed on this important sector of our economic production.”

Northern Ireland's textile industry has been in a state of severe decline over recent years. Faced with cheap imports from the Far East, Ulster companies are finding it increasingly difficult to compete. This situation was addressed by Mr. Allister on the floor of the European Parliament on July 7th 2005. He highlighted the role that the European Union had played in the decline of textiles in Northern Ireland and beyond.

“...Northern Ireland, like many parts of Europe, once boasted a vibrant and large textile industry. Today it is reduced to all but nothing, with thousands upon thousands of job losses. Since trade policy was foolishly handed over to the exclusive competence of the EU, the plain

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truth is that Member States are powerless to act in the face of cheap imports ravaging their textile industry.

The plain truth is also that the EU has failed the textile industry. The abolition of import quotas on 1 January 2005 has, in the UK and elsewhere, caused soaring imports, especially from China. Whereas we are denied import quotas, China's state owned factories benefit from export subsidies, state aid and even free electricity, as well as the benefits of its artificially undervalued currency. Little wonder that we cannot compete.

Commissioner Mandelson's decision to impose anti-dumping duties on certain synthetic fabrics is welcome so far as it goes, but often such fabrics are then further processed in China to give them added value, thereby avoiding the anti-dumping duties. For example, a synthetic fibre that might be subject to that duty is given added value by making it into a roller blind, whereby it escapes the anti-dumping duty and is dumped in the EU at ridiculous prices. That loophole must be closed.

Generally, the Commission needs to be much more robust with China than it has been hitherto.”

During his time as an MEP, Jim Allister has consistently supported small business and has encouraged the promotion of small and medium sized enterprises across all sectors of the economy. On July 6th 2005, in the vote on software patents, he voted against legislation that favoured larger businesses at the expense of smaller companies. He said:

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“Today I voted against the Common Position on the Directive on Computer Implemented Inventions (CI) in view of the increased control and over-powering dominance it would give to large software companies and the consequential harmful effects that it would impose on small and medium sized enterprises.

I see the proposed legislation of making software patentable as a threat to an industry which requires creativity and innovation in order to thrive. This directive would simply reduce competition hence leading to higher prices and lower quality for software consumers and non-technology businesses. In my opinion, the anti-innovative behaviour that this directive would undoubtedly create would result in nothing but ruinous consequences to democracy, competition and employment.”

One of the most controversial pieces of legislation to come from Brussels in recent years is the Working Time Directive, which seeks to limit the working week to 48 hours for all workers. This legislation has obvious implications for all who need or want the freedom to work longer hours, such as healthcare professionals. Explaining why he voted against the report on the Directive on the 11th May 2005, Jim Allister stated:

“I voted against the report on the Working Time Directive because individual workers should lose their right to opt out of the maximum 48 hour working week. This proposal is an intolerable interference with personal freedom of choice and liberty and typifies Brussels' mindset of wishing to dictate every facet of our socio-economic life.

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Unfortunately, the amendment to preserve the opt-out clause was defeated and thus the rest of Europe is lining up to foist upon us a Working Time Directive which is largely unsupported within the United Kingdom. This is one of the insufferable burdens of EU membership and a salutary warning against the increasing Brussels' control which the new Constitution would bring upon us, given the socio-economic dogma which it contains in Part III.”

Another piece of controversial legislation which placed added burdens upon business in Northern Ireland was the Packaging Waste Directive. This Directive has had severe financial implications for business in Northern Ireland. Jim Allister highlighted the fact that the Irish Republic had been given special dispensation to opt out of the legislation. The DUP MEP stated, with a swipe at an ill-informed contribution from de Brun:

“Mr. President, in noting the delay in the implementation of the packaging waste directive that the accession states are to be allowed, I wish to say that, from our experience in Northern Ireland, they are fortunate to escape its requirements for several years. Under this directive, draconian regulations have been imposed on Northern Ireland. We now have the ludicrous requirement that a DIY retailer, for example, who buys in packaged goods and sells them on, is required to make returns detailing the net weight of the packaging of all such goods passing through his business, even though he never opens or discards any of the packaging. He is then liable to what amounts to a

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waste tax for merely handling the goods and, in addition, has to waste time and effort on trying to assess the weight of the packaging. I am, therefore, glad that the accession states are being spared this lunacy.

I note with some surprise that the Republic of Ireland, although a long-established EU Member State, has also been permitted to defer full compliance until the beginning of 2012. Sadly, the United Kingdom did not seek equal derogation, so we are beset with the foolish regulations I have described.

I am also somewhat surprised that the last speaker (de Brun) seems ignorant of the fact that there are different provisions in the Republic of Ireland and that it has been granted an extension and deferment until the end of 2011. Perhaps if she concentrated more on the documents, rather than speaking in a language (Irish) that no one cares to understand, she might not have made such a fundamental mistake."

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HOLDING THE LINE ON THE BRITISH REBATE

On a number of occasions, Jim Allister has defended the British rebate and urged the British Government to stand firm. On the 23rd June 2005, speaking in a debate initiated by Tony Blair, Jim Allister concluded his speech by saying:

"I urge you, as Prime Minister, to stand up unashamedly for the rightful interests of the UK, not least the wholly justified rebate, which you can properly defend on its own merits without cloaking that defence in agricultural issues."

As it became clear that the Prime Minister was weakening in his defence of the rebate, Jim Allister used the occasion of a debate arising from the Hampton Court Summit to warn against undue concessions on the rebate. Mr Allister said:

"Mr. President, from the spin of today one would think that much had been achieved at Hampton Court, but as we have already heard, the verdict of the informed EU press was almost universally negative. One press agency reported that many papers could not recall a more useless and shallow example of posturing with no outcome. One paper talked of a bizarre show of relaxed leaders who dodged the most crucial issues facing Europe.

Another called it a summit of impasse with a facade of forced smiles. The Financial Times said in an article that the leaders attempted to answer the question of what impact globalisation would have on the European economy and concluded that we needed more research and

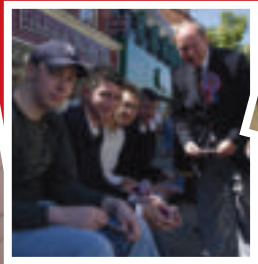
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development and, of course, more money. In other words, they failed to answer the question. The EU, the Financial Times said, is the wrong institutional platform from which to deal with globalisation. It has become too large and divided. The appropriate political levels are national governments and the euro zone. I suggest that the article in the Financial Times comes close to the truth. If individual Member States were to expend the same effort and energy addressing the issue of how, as nations, to compete in a global market as they did in preparing showcase summits, then I suspect we might all see much more product.

My biggest fear arising from the failure of the Hampton Court summit and a lacklustre British Presidency is that it will make my government over-eager to secure a face-saving deal on the budget in December and that, as a result, Mr. Blair will concede far too much on the British rebate, just so it can be said that something was achieved by the British Presidency – that is to say something other than ensuring EU bankruptcy by opening the door to Turkish accession.”
(16th November 2005)



JIM ALLISTER MEP
LEADING FOR ULSTER - SPEAKING FOR YOU IN EUROPE



7 EUROPEAN FUNDING AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT



7: EUROPEAN FUNDING AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Jim Allister has been active on all issues of EU funding as they affect Northern Ireland. The European Programme for Peace and Reconciliation has been a major issue for the DUP MEP since his election. Both within and outside the Parliament, he has made righting the wrong of imbalance towards the majority community, under PEACE Funding, a key issue. When the Programme came up for extension in the Parliament, he went on record to say:

“Today I voted in favour of the extension of PEACE Funding but I did so with considerable reservation. That reservation arises from the fact that, to date, PEACE Funding in Northern Ireland has been allocated in a most imbalanced way, to the gross disadvantage to the Protestant/Unionist Community.

It has also favoured terrorist prisoner groups over victim groups, who exist as victims because of the horror visited upon them by those terrorists. During this extension of PEACE Funding I am looking for an overt righting of these wrongs. This funding must be allocated in an even-handed manner.” (11th January 2005)

He has called for more openness and accountability on the part of major European Funding bodies, and has raised his concerns about the culture of secrecy which exists within some quarters of the social funding programmes.

Speaking in Parliament on the 9th March 2005, Jim Allister asked the following probing question:

“Surely it is a matter of concern to the Council when two Member States combine to exclude an EU monitoring body from their indigenous freedom of information legislation and so exempt it from provisions on

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providing the public with information that is available from all internal governmental bodies in those states. In particular, should it not be a matter of concern for the Council that those two states have indulged in five years of default in terms of producing a voluntary code of practice for those implementation bodies under the SEUPB?”

A theme which Jim Allister has persistently raised is the lack of EU Funding for Northern Ireland in recent years for real infrastructural projects. This is the result of the Province's exclusion from the Cohesion Fund which benefited the Republic of Ireland so handsomely during the last decade. The DUP MEP addressed the issue in his speech on Structural Funds on 5th July 2005:

“Mr President, my primary observation has to be that the proposed structural and cohesion funding package for 2007-2013 fails to provide adequately for those regions within the EU-15 which, though themselves deficient in infrastructure investment, failed because of the national criteria to qualify for cohesion funds. Northern Ireland, which I represent, is such a region. Our water and sewage and roads infrastructure need huge investment. We have not seen a mile of motorway built for maybe 30 years. Our water system requires expenditure to the tune of hundreds of millions. Yet we did not qualify for environment and road infrastructure assistance under the Cohesion Fund because of the national criteria.

Our nearest neighbour, the Republic of Ireland, did so qualify and in the 10 years from 1993 benefited from over EUR 2 billion of expenditure on such projects. These proposals with their almost total focus on the new

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Member States do not recognise the glaring needs of regions such as mine. I therefore call for a reconsideration of the real needs of regions that still exist within the EU-15 that are now in danger of being totally bypassed."

Mr Allister returned to the theme on the 27th September 2005 in a speech dealing with the future of regional development. He also, on that occasion, made his view on cross-border schemes very clear.

"Mr President, the Guellec report does not impress me, for three reasons.

First of all, the EU has no power in the field of spatial planning, yet it presumes to chart a course for this on the back of the dead Constitution. That is wrong and it shows utter contempt for the electors of Europe, not least the electors of Mr Guellec's own country, who handsomely rejected the Constitution.

Secondly, territorial cohesion is clearly being advanced for the political objective of bypassing and downgrading the entity of the nation state. It aims for territorial integration. There are obvious political and constitutional issues here, which are perhaps more obvious to me, given where I come from, than to some others. I do not want my part of the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland, treated instead as part of the territorial whole of the island of Ireland. That would offend and it would defy the settled political will of Northern Ireland's people. The EU must act within the constraints and parameters of that reality.

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Thirdly, within the context of cohesion funding, talk of territorial cohesion in my region is somewhat ironic, since we were excluded from cohesion funding from its inception, while our neighbour in the Irish Republic was included. The real route to cohesion was equality of access to funding, but that was denied to Northern Ireland, while the south of Ireland benefited to the tune of over EUR 2 billion for its infrastructure.

Thus, it is so much nonsense to now talk grandly about securing equality of treatment between territories. The EU had its chance to give such equality of funding to Northern Ireland for necessary infrastructure but it failed, by making national statistics instead of regional need the threshold for access."

On 13th October 2005, the MEP dealt specifically with the needs of Belfast under future regional policy, calling in particular for a focus on highly deprived areas:

"Mr. President, urban development quite properly does not fall within the direct remit of the European Union, though in nation states it is substantially influenced by regional and other policies from Europe. Under Urban II in my constituency in Northern Ireland, we benefited from a very worthwhile programme in North Belfast. However, with Urban II coming to an end, a similar need in highly deprived areas in East and South Belfast remains unmet. These are some of the areas which featured most prominently in recent street disturbances and which show high levels of deprivation and neglect. They need far-reaching and tangible help.

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I note in terms of the future that the legislative proposal for regional policy from 2007 explicitly embraces an urban dimension and, within the competitiveness and employment objective for which my region will qualify, there is a commitment to concentrate on areas which have the most serious problems. Thus, in terms of those deprived areas of Belfast that I have mentioned, I certainly will be looking for a meaningful programme of assistance."

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JIM ALLISTER MEP
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8 WORLD AFFAIRS

- 8.1 MORAL ISSUES
- 8.2 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS
- 8.3 TURKISH MEMBERSHIP
- 8.4 ADDRESSING TOPICAL ISSUES



8: WORLD AFFAIRS

As one would expect in an international parliament, issues of relevance and concern from all across the globe are raised and debated. Jim Allister has participated in many of these debates ranging through Iran, Iraq, Beslan, Israel and China, showing that his interests are far from parochial.

In a debate about the horrific murders carried out by Chechen rebels in Beslan, the DUP MEP drew comparisons with the suffering faced by the people of Northern Ireland at the hands of evil terrorists down through the years.

“Mr. President, on behalf of the people of Northern Ireland, who have known the cruelties of terrorism for more than a generation, I wish to convey my heartfelt sympathy to the parents and people of Beslan. The horrendous terror to which they have been subjected is unspeakable.

Terrorism is wrong wherever it occurs. There is no justification or room for equivocation. Be it the IRA fire-bombing a packed hotel outside Belfast and incinerating a dozen innocent people, Al Quaida attacking the Twin Towers, or Chechen extremists in Beslan butchering innocent children, the strategy is the same – maximum impact through maximum carnage in the hope of extracting maximum political concession.

Our experience in Northern Ireland should demonstrate that there is nothing honourable, enlightened or desirable about pandering to terrorism or finding excuses for it – it is evil in all its forms. Across Europe and the world, it behoves us all to stand resolutely against it and its despicable apologists.”(15 September 2004)

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In a debate on the situation in the Middle East held on the 26th January 2005, Jim Allister highlighted the on-going relationship between the PLO and the Provisional IRA. He also nailed his colours to the mast as a firm supporter of Israel.

“Mr. President, I make no secret of the fact that in the Middle East conflict my sympathies lie with Israel. I represent Northern Ireland, a state which itself knows all about terrorism, and I can readily empathise with a small country that, since its inception, has found itself subjected to sustained and vicious terrorist attack. That empathy is increased by the fraternal links, over many years, between the IRA and the PLO. The historical record shows that active cooperation between the PLO and the IRA resulted in funding and training being arranged for the IRA in Middle Eastern countries, and for years we had the spectacle of official PLO delegates attending Sinn Féin conferences. As purveyors of death and destruction, they had much in common.

Just as there must be no room for terrorism in Europe, so a prerequisite for political progress in the Middle East is an end to all terrorism. I therefore encourage Mr. Sharon to be resolute in refusing to deal with active terrorist organisations. Drawing on Northern Ireland’s experience, I can tell him that pandering to terrorism never works: it only encourages its insatiable demands and breeds a political representation that is wedded to the muscle of terrorism.”

8: WORLD AFFAIRS

On the issue of Iraq, after the referendum in that country, Jim Allister highlighted the pervading anti-America stance of many of the members in the chamber. The DUP MEP said on November 16th 2005:

“Mr. President, sadly the anti-Americanism of some in Europe is so great that I sense that some even take a perverse satisfaction from the turmoil prevailing in Iraq. These same people, of course, are those who would have been quite content to allow Saddam’s tyranny to continue undisturbed.

Of course it was wrong of Blair and Bush to rely on and peddle false information to justify the invasion of Iraq, but the removal of Saddam was right and necessary. The situation as it is must now be faced. The core issue is to ensure the triumph of order over terror so that democratic stability may indeed be established.

A heavy price is being paid and I would wish to acknowledge the sacrifice of the American, British and other troops seeking to bring order to this strife-torn land. I regret that in their contributions neither the Council nor the Commission saw fit to make an acknowledgement of that sacrifice.

It must be said that it is typical of its grandstanding that the EU now wants to pontificate on the future of Iraq. It has little that is credible to contribute, for, when it mattered, the EU as an organisation and most EU Member States left the heavy lifting to others.”

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In a further debate on international affairs, Jim Allister expressed concern about the soft approach adopted by the European Union in dealing with Iran – a country which has acted as a sponsor of terrorism in Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Iraq.

“Given the financial connections between Iran and Hezbollah, is the Council’s ‘softly softly’ approach to Iran, as illustrated by its weak attitude to Iran’s pursuit of its nuclear ambitions, also at work on this subject? Are we seeing that same ‘softly softly’ approach to Hezbollah because of the Iranian connection?”

I believe Hezbollah to be one of the most pernicious and vicious terrorist organisations at work in our dangerous world today and it should be treated accordingly. If the experience of my part of the world teaches us anything, it is that cosyng up to terrorism does not work. What has happened with the IRA since demonstrates that beyond all doubt.”

On the theme of the Middle East, the death of Yasser Arafat provoked an outpouring of unrestrained glorification of him. This prompted Jim Allister to make the following intervention:

*“I want to dissociate myself from any eulogy to so-called President Arafat. He was an unrepentant terrorist who introduced to the world the horror of the human suicide bomber. He found common cause with other terrorist organisations throughout the world, including, in my country, the Provisional IRA, which has for years maintained fraternal relationships with its fellow murderers in the PLO. I therefore dissociate myself, on behalf of the victims in my country, from the eulogy to a confederate of world terrorism.”
(15th November 2004)*

8: WORLD AFFAIRS

8.1 MORAL ISSUES

Jim Allister, during his time in the Strasbourg Parliament, has also taken a strong line on many moral issues. His approach to these issues is one that is rooted in a firm Christian outlook.

The DUP MEP has taken a stand in defence of the institution of marriage within the European Parliament. He is opposed to the concept of same-sex marriage or so-called civil partnerships. On the 8th July 2005 he voted against the Moraes report stating:

“I voted against the Moraes report because of the unacceptability to me of Paragraphs 22 and 24. I cannot accept the promotion of equal matrimonial and other rights for same sex couples. I believe a Member State has the right to reject such partnerships as not equal to heterosexual relationships. I strongly support the family unit being based on the natural order of complementary sex couples and I value the benefit to children which results.”

On the issue of the planned egg cell trade, Mr. Allister, on 8th March 2005, outlined his position very clearly:

“Mr. President, there is something highly obnoxious about any trade in human body parts or tissue. Therefore, any trade in human egg cells that may be going on from Romania to the United Kingdom is utterly reprehensible and must be condemned. I trust the Commission will be more forthcoming as to whether or not it believes such a trade is actually going on.”

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The harvesting of egg cells poses serious risks to the health of the women involved, owing to hyper-stimulation of the ovaries. It is therefore offensive and utterly wrong that women in economic need in poor countries are being offered financial incentives to become paid donors. I would support any moves to stamp out this disgraceful trade.

The understandable desire of childless couples to have children must not override the human dignity and health of the donors being exploited. As the UN General Assembly said today when adopting its declaration against the cloning of human beings, measures need to be taken to prevent the exploitation of women in the application of life sciences. This is just such a case.”

Then on 26th October 2005, he voted in favour of the prohibition of the sale of all body parts within the European Union, stating:

“In the vote today on the Joint Resolutions on patents for biotechnological inventions, I voted for those amendments making clear the need for a prohibition on the patenting of all human body parts, tissues and cells in their natural life state and their DNA sequences. There are no circumstances in which the human body and parts thereof should become a commercial commodity. Moreover, believing strongly in the protection of human life, including at its earliest stages, I am opposed to both destructive processes and scientific engineering which tinkers with the marvelous creation which is the human body.”

8.2 RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Jim Allister has regularly used the Parliament, both through Parliamentary Questions and debates, to raise issues pertaining to persecution of Christians throughout the world. On 25th September 2005, he used a debate on EU-China trade relations to highlight persecution of Christians in Communist China.

"Mr. President, let me begin by endorsing much of what Mr. Farage had to say in his pertinent observations about the state of trade policy.

However, I want to deal with another issue. Trade cannot be viewed in isolation. It is not immune from ethical and moral considerations. China needs our trade. The price attached can properly be more than financial. We cannot ignore the widespread abuse of human rights in China, particularly with regard to a harmless but tiny minority – namely practicing Christians. It is wholly unacceptable to have Chinese Christians in prison for merely expressing their Christian beliefs or distributing copies of the Bible.

Freedom of worship is a fundamental right recognised by most of us in Europe. Its denial in China is not something we can ignore to facilitate trade with a state that persecutes Christian people, whatever the mutual economic benefits might be.

I therefore call for a linkage between ongoing EU-China bilateral dialogue on human rights and the negotiations on trade. We should make progress on trade conditional on progress in securing and improving human rights. Liberalisation of trade requires liberalisation of human rights in China."

Then, on 30th November 2005, he dealt with persecution in Vietnam, challenging the Commission to enforce stipulations in agreements with that country that aid was conditional upon respect for human rights. Jim Allister said:

"Madam President, is there really much point in our debating human rights in these countries unless the EU is prepared to act on the stipulation in its bilateral agreements with Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam that respect for human rights is a condition for the continuance of EU aid? That stipulation continues to be breached on a daily basis, but we still pump in aid as if all was well. All is very far from well. I have time only to refer to abuses of religious freedom. In Vietnam, persecution of Christians is rampant, being particularly dire in respect of minority Protestant Christian churches in Vietnam's central highlands and the north. The Reverend Quang and his associates have been relentlessly hounded by the Communist authorities. When the President of the Vietnamese Committee on Human Rights addressed Parliament in December, he described Vietnam as a prison for its people, governed by a red mafia financed by the European taxpayer. He may have overstated our generosity, but that was a stinging indictment of the EU's attitude to countries such as this."

8.3 TURKISH MEMBERSHIP

Jim Allister has taken a robust view on Turkey's application to join the EU. In a speech on 13th December 2004, he came out strongly against Turkish membership:

"Mr President, is this the European Union or do some have expansionist ambitions beyond the boundaries of Europe? That is a key and defining question which arises from Turkey's application for EU membership.

Turkey is not part of Europe, it is part of Asia: only a finger of land flanking Istanbul lies in Europe. That does not make it a European nation. You might as well say that Spain is African because it has some outposts on the North African coast. It is a shameless agenda of expansionism which drives the EU in wanting to encompass Turkey.

Turkey itself has a shameful history of expansionism. Witness its brutal invasion and occupation of Northern Cyprus. Witness its genocide of the Armenian people. Witness also, despite the massive inducements of pre-accession aid from Brussels, its intolerant suppression of religious freedom, in particular with regard to Christians.

No – Turkey is one country and culture that we can well do without."

When the Parliament voted on 28 September 2005 to endorse the opening of negotiations with Turkey, the DUP MEP made this declaration:

"As an opponent of non-European Turkey joining the EU, I have today voted against the resolution endorsing the opening of negotiations with this Asian state. I believe it is a shameless agenda of expansionism which drives the EU in wanting to encompass Turkey. Moreover, Turkey's duplicity over Cyprus makes it unworthy of membership.

On one hand it disingenuously accepts a Protocol apparently accepting Cyprus, but at the same time issues a declaration disavowing any such recognition. When added to its cruel history and continuing persecution of Christians, it is clear that Turkey is one country and culture that we can well do without."

8.4 ADDRESSING TOPICAL ISSUES

Jim Allister has proved adept at using the European Parliament and its procedures to address topical issues as they arise, particularly when there is a relevance to Northern Ireland.

When the President of the Republic of Ireland likened the Unionist Community to Nazis, Jim Allister was on hand to deliver a stinging rebuke from the floor of the Strasbourg Parliament:

"Mr. President, when this Parliament last met it quite properly condemned the Nazi atrocities epitomised by Auschwitz. Sadly and shamefully, the head of state of an EU member country – President McAleese of the Republic of Ireland – chose that 60th anniversary to launch a vicious and vindictive attack on the majority community in Northern Ireland when she shamefully equated Nazi hatred of Jews to the attitude of Protestants towards Roman Catholics.

Nothing equates to the Nazi holocaust. In the name of the peace-loving majority in Northern Ireland, I take this opportunity in this international forum to refute and reject that vile attack upon those I represent. References to the struggle against fascism fall particularly ill from the lips of a President, one of whose predecessors expressed condolences upon the death of Hitler." (21st February 2005)

When George Best died, it was Jim Allister who saw to it that tribute was paid to him in the European Parliament. On 30th November 2005, he said:

"Mr President, in recent days my small country of Northern Ireland has lost its most prodigious sporting talent ever. I refer, of course, to the death of George Best. Regardless of his much-documented lifestyle off the field, on the soccer field he had a world stature. His dazzling and electrifying skills put him in a league of his own. In consequence, he was much loved and admired across the world. Accordingly, it is fitting that the passing of such a sporting colossus should be noted in this international parliament. I would therefore like to take this opportunity, I am sure on behalf of us all, to salute his sporting memory and to express condolences to his son, his aged father, his brother and his sisters."

With the news that London was to be the venue for the 2012 Olympic games, the DUP MEP made a call for the benefits of the Olympics to be spread around every region of the UK. In that speech, he even managed to mention Northern Ireland's superb victory over England at Windsor Park on 7th September 2005!

"Mr. President, tourism in any region should be a positive contributor to economic growth and stability. Obviously, tourism and terrorism do not mix and as an area meant to be emerging for good from the dark shadow of terrorism, we in Northern Ireland are beginning, I am glad to say, to see a steady gain from increased tourism.

I greatly welcome that, but one has to recognise that, without real governmental commitment, the full potential can never be achieved. Tourism must plan well. It must build on opportunities. The Olympic Games coming to London in 2012 is such an opportunity for my region. I call not just for the Games but for the tourism spin-off to be managed and organised in such a way that every region of the UK will benefit.

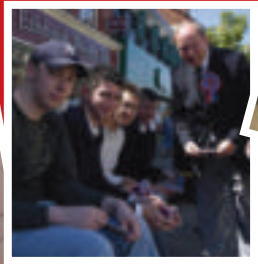
2012 also presents particular opportunities for Belfast as it is the centenary of the Titanic – I might add that we had a 'titanic' victory last night on the football field over England! A world-class Titanic exhibition centre is planned for the very site where that famous ship was built. I trust neither national government nor Commission will be found wanting in financially contributing to the great success that venture can be." (8th September 2005)

Earlier in the Parliament, he had lambasted the suggestion that the EU flag should be flown at awards ceremonies and future Olympic Games. Jim Allister said:

"I want to congratulate the Greek authorities on the excellent Olympic Games and to express my disgust at the suggestion of the outgoing President of the Commission that in future games the European Union flag should be flown alongside the national flag. I do not think it is at all anti-European to make the point that the Olympic Games give great national pride to the nation states that participate in them. This suggestion is an indication of the obsession of the Europhile leaders of Europe, an obsession that knows no bounds.

Even now they want to garner for themselves the glory that flows to each nation state from the medals won there. I suggest it is a step too far and one that nation states should rightly resist."
(13th September 2004)

His comments were greeted with applause in the chamber.



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