



Northern Ireland DUP MEP Jim Allister responds to Sinn Féin's demand for EU action to bring about an 'All-Ireland'

Murderers' former mouthpieces 'musn't chase moonbeams'

The majority of the people of Northern Ireland, in election after election, have voted for parties that are committed to maintaining the Province's place within the United Kingdom.

That reality must be the starting point for any discussion regarding the constitutional status of Northern Ireland. In the pages of this publication, Mary Lou McDonald urged the European Union to act as a force to cajole British Ulster into a Unified Irish state.

It was most interesting to note that in McDonald's treatise, there was not one mention of the rights or aspirations of the majority community in Northern Ireland – the pro-British Unionists.

The Sinn Féin member couldn't even find it in herself to acknowledge the existence of the majority community that I represent, in her entreaty for assistance from the EU. This cuts to the heart of the undemocratic nature of Sinn Féin as an organisation.

The IRA, which is Sinn Féin's military wing, tried for 40 years to bomb the Unionist community into a United Ireland. Many lives were lost as a result of their insatiable appetite for murder and mayhem.

We can say from bitter experience that Irish Republicanism has at its core a murderous and undemocratic ethos. Its adherents believe they have the right to ignore democratic election results and to violate the human rights of those who stand in opposition to their agenda or who happen to fall out of favour with their 16 terrorist godfathers. The fate of Belfast man

Robert McCartney, who was knifed to death for falling out of favour with a prominent IRA man, bears testament to that reality.

This arrogant attitude was displayed throughout McDonald's article. She loftily asserts that the EU should act as a force for a United Ireland, whilst conveniently ignoring the fact that the majority of the people of Northern Ireland have stated loud and clear that they want nothing to do with such a concept.

"The EU foolishly engaging in Constitutional games at the behest of a party which for years has acted as the mouthpiece for murderers will achieve nothing other than to further alienate the community I represent from the structures of the European Union."

It is high time that she and her colleagues realised that the Unionist community remain resolute in our determination to remain within the United Kingdom – if the bombs of the IRA couldn't break us, the European Union most certainly will not.

Northern Ireland has, of course, benefited from EU Programmes such as Interreg and PEACE, but McDonald needs to face reality. Had it not been for the Provisional IRA's campaign of bombings and violence would we have needed a PEACE Programme?

Had the terrorists whom McDonald defends not engaged in the targeting of economic targets in

Northern Ireland, what position would we be in today in terms of inward investment and business start-up?

What's the point of beginning a business if you fear it will be destroyed or extorted from by paramilitary thugs? That was the quandary facing the business community in Northern Ireland for 30 years as a result of the campaign of aggression waged by the Republican movement.

Northern Ireland is starting to recover from the campaign of violence waged against us by terrorists – our economy is growing, we now have the lowest rate of unemployment in the United Kingdom. Such EU resources as we are entitled to should be channelled to help us complete the transition to normality and real economic stability.

The EU foolishly engaging in Constitutional games at the behest of a party which for years has acted as the mouthpiece for murderers will achieve nothing other than to further alienate the community I represent from the structures of the European Union.

Moreover, since it is a tenet of membership of the EU that member states respect the borders of each other, it is constitutionally and legally impossible for the EU to orchestrate the change of internal boundary changes, as McDonald demands.

Perhaps she should read up on the EU Treaties before chasing this particular moonbeam.

The views expressed are those of the writer.