



## £43 billion of European spending open to fraud

The EU's accountants have refused to sign off the EU's accounts for the 13th year in a row. The European Court of Auditors' (ECA) report for 2006 issued a "qualified" opinion on EU expenditure, saying that "errors of legality and regularity still persist in the majority of EU expenditure due to weaknesses in internal control systems both at the Commission and in Member States."

It has been calculated that the areas of expenditure on which the Court has given an adverse opinion account for 57% of the overall budget - or £43.4 billion. As "Open Europe" has said, "This means that of the £10.5 billion given by UK taxpayers to the EU each year, nearly £6 billion is open to fraud."

In its report the European Court of Auditors dismissed the European Commission's attempt to blame national governments for the majority of EU fraud saying, "Regardless of the method of implementation applied, the Commission bears

the ultimate responsibility for the legality and regularity of the transactions underlying the accounts of the European Communities (Article 274 of the Treaty)"

Amazingly, after 13 years of negative audits the EU still hasn't got its house in order when it comes to sound bookkeeping. The Commission constantly promises budgetary reform, but nothing seems to happen. The new version of the EU Constitution, like the original, will not solve these problems.

Commenting Jim Allister said, "It is truly shocking that year on year the hard-earned cash of taxpayers is wasted on scams and swindles under the aegis of EU expenditure. This may be a matter of indifference for net beneficiary member states but for net contributors like the UK it is a huge and needless drain on our resources."

## Allister responds to Simpson's exposé

Statement by Jim Allister MEP:

"In welcoming David Simpson's recent exposé in the Commons, I draw attention to the fact that the man named is the one whom the DUP has agreed, in a deal with Sinn Fein, to support as Speaker in the next Assembly. This is the basis on which William Hay was agreed as Speaker for this Assembly, with Molloy as his deputy.

So one of the key questions and challenges is what will the DUP do now on foot of the Upper Bann MP's move. I expect the DUP will continue as if David Simpson had not lifted this embarrassing lid. After all, if cozying up to IRA Commander, McGuinness, doesn't even cause a blush, inconvenient focus on yet another terrorist pedigree will hardly bother a party head over heels in power with IRA/Sinn Fein."



## Convicted terrorist announces 'troubles tax'

### Statement by Jim Allister MEP:

The statement by convicted terrorist and Minister for Regional Development that the "*The Executive have recognised that and agreed that, from 2009-10, there will need to be additional contributions from householders*" in relation to water charges exposes the lie propagated by many that the restoration of devolution would prevent the introduction of water charges.

Of course, the Executive has only managed to delay the introduction of the charges by taking resources from other departments - a cynical face saving exercise which will fool no one.

I invite readers to visit Peter Robinson's website to see why this additional financial burden is being placed upon Ulster's taxpayers. On 7th October 2003 he issued a press release headed "IRA to thank for water charges". He stated:

"The IRA's war on Northern Ireland is directly responsible for the introduction of Water Charges here. For thirty years the Province was starved of much needed infrastructure to

help fund the battle against terrorism. Northern Ireland householders are now being asked to pay out of their own pockets for this under funding. Sinn Fein's opposition to Water Charging ring hollow when viewed in the light of the causes of the funding difficulties. The Water Charge in Northern Ireland can be seen to be as much a 'troubles tax' as a 'tap tax'.

Who would have thought that four years later Mr Robinson would be Finance Minister in a terrorist inclusive executive which announced the introduction of this "troubles tax"!

Mr Robinson's statement in full can be viewed at [http://peterrobinson.org/PressArticles.asp?Article\\_ID=120](http://peterrobinson.org/PressArticles.asp?Article_ID=120)



## Where are the Ministers hiding?

### Statement by Jim Allister MEP:

"I don't know if my experience is unique, or arises from political animus towards me, but certainly I am finding Executive Ministers notably more inaccessible than their Direct Rule predecessors.

On 6th August I asked for a meeting with the First Minister to discuss EU issues. Despite a reminder, some 3 months later I am still awaiting even an acknowledgement! On 24th August I asked for a meeting with DETI Minister, Nigel Dodds, to discuss a constituency issue.

With more than twice as many Ministers looking after the same number of departments, why is it

taking at least twice as long to get a meeting with supposedly accessible, accountable local ministers?

I can see an EU Commissioner, who looks after 450 million citizens, within a couple of weeks of asking, but I can't get meetings with local ministers who boasted of bringing government closer to the people. If my political opposition to the present regime is playing any part in these delays, then it suggests petulance as well as inefficiency."

Within two days of this statement, Nigel Dodds' Office set up the meeting with him, but the First Minister is still in hiding.

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## “FIFA risks institutionalising sectarianism” – Allister

“Following a meeting with the IFA’s Howard Wells I have written to FIFA President Joseph Blatter outlining my strong opposition to moves allowing players from Northern Ireland to play for the Republic.

This ruling flies in the face of Circular 901 which made it clear that a player cannot represent a national team unless:

- (a) the player was born on the territory of the relevant Association;
- (b) his biological mother or biological father was born on the territory of the relevant Association;
- (c) his grandmother or grandfather was born on



the territory of the relevant Association; (d) he has lived continuously for at least two years on the territory of the relevant Association.

Why should Northern Ireland be treated any differently from the rest of the world? I have made it clear to Mr Blatter that this ruling will result in unsavoury sporting apartheid with an orange (Protestant) team north of the border and a green (Roman Catholic) team to the south.

This could undo much of the good work of the IFA over the years in relation to Northern Ireland matches and fan behaviour. The success of these efforts is seen in that Northern Ireland fans were officially crowned the best football supporters in Europe after winning the prestigious UEFA endorsed Brussels International Supporters Award 2006.

I’m not sure if FIFA fully realises the road which it is forcing Irish football down. The prospect is quite appalling and thus I urged FIFA to pull back and not be responsible for taking a grossly backward step of institutionalizing sectarianism in football.”

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### Just what are the DUP waiting for?

**Statement by Jim Allister MEP:**

“Unpalatable as it may be for some and even an inconvenient truth for the political process, but we cannot carry on as if the IRA murder of Paul Quinn had not happened. It’s not just a blot on the political landscape; it’s a cancer which goes right to the heart of government.

If the IRA murder of Paul Quinn had taken place during David Trimble’s stint as First Minister, the DUP would have been demanding decisive action. Now that it is they who sustain IRA/Sinn Fein in government we get dither and delay, even disagreement. Peter Robinson and Jeffrey Donaldson have spoken of the cop-out notion of a “corporate” decision (as if the IRA ever operated like a Board of Directors), but Lord Morrow, the Party Chairman, has gone on record to make it clear he has no doubt IRA gangsters were responsible and that Sinn Fein will block co-operation with the police (News Letter 30/10/07).

Sinn Fein, of course, as ever, would have us

believe black is white, just like their continuing denials over the Northern Bank. It has always been a classic Provo tactic to perpetuate the big lie. Even their lack of honesty demonstrates their unfitness for government, but their inextricable link to this murder puts it beyond doubt. Quinn was murdered by the military wing of Sinn Fein. Just what are the DUP waiting for?

Of course, the DUP’s embarrassment is twofold. Not only is the folly of their trust in Sinn Fein’s weasel words on the rule of law irrecoverably exposed, but so too is their breach of promise that they would have in legislation an effective default mechanism to cover such an eventuality and exclude Sinn Fein.

Running to the Prime Minister to buy time and create the pretence of action will fool no one.”





## Article on EU Reform Treaty by Jim Allister MEP as published in the Orange Standard

Now that Gordon Brown has foolishly signed up, without a whimper, to the recycled EU Constitution, he must deliver on the Labour Manifesto pledge of a referendum. Make no mistake this “Reform Treaty” is the old Constitution merely by another name. It contains the same legal obligations as the rejected constitution. It involves further massive haemorrhaging of sovereignty to Brussels. Quite apart from establishing the apparatus of statehood for the EU, with a President, Foreign Policy Supremo and legal personality enabling the EU to make international Treaties, it, very significantly, gives up the national veto on dozens of more policy areas.

This is the most far reaching treaty ever. It will transfer 105 new competences from member states to the EU and establish 68 new areas for majority voting where member states vetoes will be abolished. For comparison the Treaty of Rome contained 38 areas for qualified majority vote, the Single European Act on the Internal Market from 1987 contained 12, the Maastricht Treaty 30, the Amsterdam Treaty 24 and the Nice Treaty 46. In addition the new treaty contains a mechanism - Art 33 TEU - for moving further decisions to qualified majority voting, without asking the peoples of Europe. It, therefore, is a charter for rolling centralisation.

As for the UK’s supposed “red lines”, these will degrade to mere pink smudges, soon to be rubbed out by a federalizing European Court of Justice. As a law-making Court the ECJ at every turn strengthens Brussels’ control. Blair had opt outs on the last Constitution, they were no more

durable or meaningful than what Brown has this time. Opt in, opt out, shake it all about, its still the same old game of building the European Superstate. Just as Brown ran scared from an election, so he is now running scared from letting the British people have their say on this latest ruse to further deplete member states of sovereign power. No election means Labour’s 2005 manifesto promise of a referendum must stand. No referendum means no mandate for Brown to proceed to ratification. That is the bottom line upon which all democrats should unite.

The opposing views on this de facto Constitution are rooted in fundamentally divergent views on how we see Europe. If, like me, the Europe in which you believe is one which offers free trade and economic advantage through the cooperation for mutual benefit of sovereign nation states, then you will oppose these changes. If, on the other hand, your vision for Europe is for total political and economic integration, where the nation state is an irritant and obstacle, then you will embrace this Constitution, for it is undoubtedly a vehicle headed in the direction you wish to go, which will steamroller out of existence all vestiges of national sovereignty and statehood.

I unapologetically believe in the sovereignty and supremacy of the nation state, because I believe in national electors being able to control the actions and policies of those who govern them - something which is rooted in the gains of the Glorious Revolution. You can either be governed nationally or internationally through an unaccountable edifice like the European Union.

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### It’s still IRA/Sinn Fein – MEP

#### Statement by Jim Allister MEP:

“Paramilitary trappings of beret, gloves and uniformed escort at Martin Meehan’s funeral, shows that it is still IRA/Sinn Fein. They are still steeped in and inextricably linked to the culture and symbols that glorify terrorism.

When you watch Gerry Adams along with the Shankill bomber carry a paramilitary bedecked coffin, little wonder so many ordinary unionists still take the view that Sinn Fein is unfit for government.

I challenge Ian Paisley to explain how this paramilitary funeral and attachment to IRA militarism, is compatible with his empty boast that his partner in government had changed and sworn allegiance to the rule of law.”



## EU could fund 75% of Public Facility at Causeway

Statement by Jim Allister MEP:

"One of the aspects of the Causeway controversy which I have been investigating is the extent of EU funding which might be available for a visitors' centre. As I expected, it turns out that twice as much EU funding could be available to a public project as would be possible with a private project. A public project could attract EU support of up to 75% of total project costs, but the best a private project could attract would be 37.5%.

To confirm the position I wrote to DETI Minister, Nigel Dodds, asking him to set out the levels of funding available. His reply contains the following:-

*"If a public sector project were to proceed under the Territorial Co-operation Programme, it might be eligible for EU support of up to 75% of total project costs. A private sector project could apply to the NITB for up to 50% of total project costs, which might be eligible for 75% EU support under the Territorial Co-operation Programme (in effect, 37% of total project costs).*

*A project could also qualify for EU support under the Competitiveness Programme which attracts a maximum of 50% EU funding. A public sector project progressed under this route might therefore be eligible for EU grant of up to 50% of project costs. A private sector project application to NITB for up to 50% of project costs might be eligible for 50% EU support under the*



*Competitiveness Programme (in effect 25% of total project costs).*

*Any EU funding, whether for a public or private project, would need to be found from within the total EU funding allocated to NI...."*

While there is no certainty that EU funding would be guaranteed, the possibility of attaining 75% support from Brussels seems to me a proper consideration in the public interest, which makes DETI's willingness to abandon the public project all the more puzzling. There might also be the prospect of Lottery funding. These facts also give a more balanced context for judging what would be a value for money investment by DETI.

Given that the Causeway is our greatest national asset, fundamentally, I disagree with its exploitation becoming a matter for private profit, when a public project is viable. The prospect of substantial EU aid gives an added dimension of advantage to a public project."



Jim Allister en route to Rathlin Island with SEUPB Chief Executive, Pat Colgan, to discuss funding issues

# Farming News

## Red meat sector losing out

Ulster MEP Jim Allister has said the Assembly could do much more to promote Northern Ireland food, while still remaining within the confines of EU legislation.

Mr Allister said,

“Country of origin labelling of beef served in catering establishments is one initiative that has yet to be introduced in Northern Ireland.

We have an Agricultural Minister who is fanatical about aligning Northern Ireland’s agricultural industry with the Republic of

Ireland in so many ways. Yet, the Irish Government has already availed of a European provision to require caterers to provide country of origin labelling on beef, while DARD has failed to ensure a similar requirement is put in place in Northern Ireland.”

“Food experts are saying that food provenance is increasingly important to Northern Ireland’s consumers. How is it, then, that DARD and the Food Standards Agency have failed to ensure consumers can avail of country of origin information of the food they eat in restaurants, canteens and other catering establishments?”

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## Allister rejects Soil Directive proposals

Jim Allister QC MEP has spoken against proposals for the introduction of a Soil Framework Directive, during a European Parliament debate. Speaking in Strasbourg, the Ulster MEP said,

“Land grab is the unwarranted appropriation of property belonging to another. This Soil Directive amounts to unwarranted power grab by Brussels and, of course, the inevitable fresh layer of bureaucracy.”

“Soil, unlike air or water, does not flow from state to state; it has no cross-border dimension. Thus, policy on soil is and must remain a

member state issue. The IPPC, cross compliance obligations, Nitrates Directive, the Landfill Directive etc give us more than enough EU involvement. Hence I favour total rejection of this power-hungry proposal.”

“If, true to form, the EU nonetheless decides to meddle in this national issue, then, one initiative it should consider is to introduce a payment to farmers in return for providing carbon sequestration in soil management and farming practices. Carbon sequestration counters climate change, so why shouldn’t good husbandry be rewarded?”

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## DARD dithering on Single Farm Payment appeals

Jim Allister QC MEP has condemned DARD for the time being taken to process Single Farm Payment appeals.

The MEP said,

“I have written to the Permanent Secretary, wanting to know when the current backlog in Appeals will be cleared.

I know of cases where appellants are still seeking redress for a matter pertaining to their 2005 Single Farm Payment claims. There are others who still haven’t received so much as a date for an Independent Panel hearing, despite lodging a second stage appeal almost a year ago. This is totally unacceptable.”

In response to a letter sent by Jim Allister MEP, DARD has revealed that as of 5th November, 380 Stage 2 review requests had been received. 260 cases have been reviewed, and of these the Panels recommended that the Minister upholds 62 cases in full, upholds in part 12 cases, rejects 182 cases and in 4 cases did not agree a recommendation.

Mr Allister continued,

“I am particularly concerned at the handling of those appeals which have been recommended by Panel for approval, yet appellants are being forced to wait indefinitely for the Department to make a final decision. DARD’s dithering must stop.”

## Commission stance untenable

Independent MEP Jim Allister has said the recently reported findings of an FVO inspection mission to Brazil makes the Commission stance on failing to ban Brazilian Beef imports untenable.

The MEP said,

"I believe the delay in the Commission publishing the findings of the FVO's March inspection trip, until now, speaks volumes. The Commission ought to be concerned at the findings of this report, as persistent inadequacies point to very serious questions of food safety."

"Many of the FVO recommendations from an earlier inspection visit in 2006 have yet to be fully implemented by the Brazilian authorities. I am alarmed, for example that a complete chain of traceability can not be verified from establishment of export back to the holding of origin. The Report also confirms inadequate

border controls between States, which is something that was highlighted by the recent IFA Report on Brazil."

"Failings in the efficacy of Brazil's Food and Mouth vaccination programme continue. Furthermore, the Report finds evidence of non-compliance with pre-movement testing in animals moving from F&M restricted areas to EU-approved States within Brazil."

"I believe the evidence before us confirms that question marks remaining over the production standards of Brazilian Beef are indeed well founded. Commissioner Kyprianou has been disingenuous in that regard."

In his reply to my letter, Kyprianou has stated that the Commission is ready to take further action as appropriate in the light of the outcome of the next FVO mission going out before the end of the year. I say, Mr Kyprianou - why wait?

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## Allister puts it to Fischer-Boel

During a debate in Strasbourg on feedstuff prices Jim Allister MEP majored on the impact on the intensive sector. He told Commissioner Fischer-Boel ,

"I need not take time to remind you of the dire straits in which the intensive sector finds itself. I will focus instead on what, I believe, you, the Commissioner, should be doing."

He then put 5 specific points to her:

"1. Recognise that soft measures like market promotion are not enough.

2. Face up, more than has happened to date, to the long-term impact on grain availability and prices of the rampant switch in the US to biofuel production. Their targets are drying up our supply.

3. With intervention grain stocks at an alarming low and the ratio with usage out of kilter, urgently redress the balance.

4. Be more proactive in fighting for speedier approval of GM substitutes. You need, on behalf of agriculture, to match the vigour of Kyprianou and Dimas as they resist GM approvals.

5. Put a floor in the market for our intensive sector, with export refunds extended immediately to meat and hams. I'm not sure private storage will solve much."

In her reply the Commissioner announced cereal import duties were to be suspended, but rejected calls for export refunds, saying it would *"send out the wrong signal by prolonging over-production."*

Responding Mr Allister said, "I am disappointed that the Commissioner is clinging relentlessly to market dogma. Yes, the market has a key role to play, but when a sector is battered like our intensive sector has been battered, then, without help it will perish.

Sadly, the EU seems content for this to happen, believing that if the market squeezes out a sector, then so be it. I disagree. The net result will be reliance on dubious imports, whereas we should be helping our sector to export. Hence, the need for export refunds."

Happily, since this speech the Commissioner has done a u-turn and agreed export refunds on pig meat.

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## Possibility of EU aid for Seagate workers

Jim Allister MEP has identified a possible source of EU funding to assist workers facing redundancy at Seagate Technologies and is urging the local Departments to investigate and avail of it.

In a statement Mr Allister explains:-

“In January 2007 the EU set up the **European Globalisation adjustment Fund (EGF)**. This new fund was introduced to cope with situations arising from large-scale redundancies resulting from structural changes in world trade patterns, but **inclusive of economic relocation to third countries**, where the impact on a region is significant. I believe the situation prevailing in Limavady could qualify and thereby open the door to personalized support to the affected workers.

The Fund is foreseen to offer: job search and mobility allowances; counselling; new ICT skills and other forms of training, entrepreneurial support to workers who have been made redundant. It will help individual workers but not, of course, companies. Whereas the European Social Fund is also relevant, it consists of multi-annual programmes in support of strategic, long-term anticipation and management of change and restructuring in the 2007-2013 period, with activities such as life-long-learning, the EGF is a response to a specific crisis; it will provide one-off, time limited individual support geared directly to helping

workers who have suffered trade-related redundancies.

It seems to me, therefore, that an application might be warranted. It would require matched 50% national funding, but the opportunity to draw down significant EU aid should not be ignored.

With the fund only entering into force this year, so far there has been no pay outs, but 4 projects have been recommended by the Commission to the Budgetary Authority. These include two from France in support of workers made redundant in the automobile industry and one from Germany and another from Finland, both arising from redundancies in the mobile phone sector.

Following the devastating blow for Limavady and district of the loss of Seagate Technologies, I trust both DEL and DETI will carefully examine the possibilities which arise under the EGF. I have written accordingly to Sir Reg Empey and Mr Nigel Dodds.”



## Allister speaks in Pesticide Debate

Speaking in the debate in the European Parliament on the future control of pesticides within the EU, Jim Allister MEP quipped that a political pesticide to deal with the rampant weed that is EU regulation would do us all a favour. His point being that this revision seeks to impose further needless restraints, particularly in the UK where we already have a practicable and successful code of practice which ensures there is no excessive use of pesticides.

The proposal would, said Mr Allister, unnecessarily restrain agriculture, for example, by curbing the spraying of potato crops to control blight. The fruit and vegetable industry would be particularly hit, but also cereal growers.

In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said:-

"Here we go again in the EU with overkill, as some try to eliminate rather than reduce the use of pesticides. Without controlled use of pesticides in agriculture we will drive more food production to less regulated regions of the world, jeopardising quality and food safety. Perhaps of more interest to some, without fungicides and herbicides to protect and cure disease in fine turf, many golf and bowling surfaces would become weed infested and unplayable.

Yes, pesticides must be controlled, but our measures must be based on sound science and practical at farm and street level. The stringent codes of practice governing their use in my country are, I believe, adequate and therefore I will oppose dogma driven changes."



## Statement by Jim Allister MEP on 6 months of devolution

The first 6 months of devolution has singularly failed to bring us good government. Already, the absence of any facility for an Opposition and the self-serving impact of all parties in government are producing a sloppy arrogance which does no one any credit. Perhaps, "Causewaygate" is the most obvious example. In a real democracy, with a vibrant Opposition, Ministers would not be getting away with such behaviour.



But the deeper problem is that at the heart of this government there is the cancer of unrepentant terrorists, acceptance by the DUP that Sinn Fein can still cling to the illegal Army Council of the illegal IRA, and an acquiescence in Sinn Fein cherry-picking over policing, with Ministers condemning terrorist arrests, the IRA threatening crown witnesses and an IRA gang murdering Paul Quinn.

At the head of government is a dysfunctional OFMDFM, incapable of making decisions - witness the debacle over the Victims' Commissioner and witness the embarrassing farce of question time responses in the Assembly.

After 6 months not only the false promises on securing further delivery from Sinn Fein stand exposed, but the con that we wouldn't pay for our water is uncovered for all to see. Ian Paisley published a 4 page glossy brochure during the election promising he'd secure a sufficient financial package, as a pre-condition for devolution, to prevent water charges. Now, we find we are all to pay after all. All the hype about extra billions from the Treasury soon faded into a pitiful pittance which suggests an executive out of its depth in negotiating with the Treasury. Of course, the Treasury had the measure of our local politicians; they knew they were bursting for office and, therefore, felt no compulsion to be generous.

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### MEP on IMC report

**Commenting on the latest IMC report MEP, Jim Allister, said:-**

"The fact that the IMC doesn't trouble, again:

- to even mention the continuing existence of the apex of the IRA's military structures, the Army Council;
- the murder of Dennis Donaldson;
- the threatening by the IRA of Crown witnesses in the Zaitschek and Canning cases is indicative of its politically-compliant mindset.

Even when it comes to dealing with the blatantly continuing violence of the UDA it seeks to sanitise the leadership as best it can and create this phoney distinction between what paramilitaries actually do and the weasel words which their leaders deploy. Why? Because, just as with Sinn Fein, it is in the business of spinning matters as positively as possible.

The admission that IRA members continue to engage in crime is important and not something

to be swept under the carpet, particularly in the context of the IRA murder of Paul Quinn. The Quinn issue, no matter how inconvenient to the political elite, requires a focus not just on the fact that IRA members killed him but on why, namely, their continuing involvement in fuel smuggling and other cross-border crime.

On the basis of issue avoidance, which has come to hallmark recent IMC reports, I remain to be convinced that they will dig too deep lest they find uncomfortable truths. I've no doubt there is a mutual vested interest from both Sinn Fein and the DUP in the IMC and the police whitewashing the Quinn murder."

Notably, once again the IMC says that they "were unable to determine" how the IRA is dealing with the proceeds of crime. This, surely, raises an issue as to the reliability and worth of the IMC's sources. If the IRA has succeeded in concealing that from them, then, what else have they hidden from them?"

## Republican cultural fascism continues – Allister

### Statement by Jim Allister MEP:

“While some would have us believe that life in Northern Ireland has changed fundamentally for the better, the continuing attacks on Orange Halls tell a different story.

Far from declining in number there has actually been an increase in attacks on Orange Halls during the last twelve months. Not only that, but concern has been expressed by some that the police are not treating this campaign with the seriousness which it deserves and now we have the revelation that a threat hangs over the lives of hall caretakers in Antrim.

As to the precise source of these attacks we do, of course, have the still unexplained

circumstantial evidence of a Sinn Fein youth falling from the roof of Newcastle Orange Hall!

I note that the Orange Order feel that the PSNI could be doing more to combat the threats against their property and members. This is imperative. I would urge the security forces to do all they can to combat the continuing threat from republican cultural fascism.”



## MEP puts spotlight on religious persecution in Turkey

During a debate in the European Parliament on EU-Turkey relations Jim Allister MEP, who takes a close interest in persecution of Christians, took the opportunity to raise impediments to religious freedom in the region. Citing incidents of attack on Christians, he called for a more proactive promotion of religious freedom, including the right to convert from the Muslim faith, in Turkey.

In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said:-

“It is clear the Council and the Commission are wishing to present non-European Turkey in the best possible light. Maybe not surprising, considering the millions of pre-accession aid we are pouring in.

But there are uncomfortable realities to be faced; Honour crimes, human rights abuses and lack of protection for non-Muslim minorities. Absence of religious freedom and anti-Christian attacks and propaganda are my biggest concern. This year fatal attacks on Christians have continued, such as the slaying of 3 men in Malatya in April.

Freedom of religion is often the touchstone of a country's commitment to human rights. In Turkey's case it has much to do, including on the legal status of religious groups and property rights, but most fundamentally the right to worship freely and to convert must be respected”

## Moves could help eel industry

### Statement by Jim Allister MEP:

“Having long campaigned for further EU measures to restrict the export trade in glass eels (i.e. young eels), I am pleased to have been informed by Commissioner Borg that the Commission is currently examining the feasibility of introducing additional trade measures.

The importance of restricting glass eel exports is that the scale and vast extent of exports to the Far East has been such that it has seriously damaged the natural cycle of replenishment of

our wild eel stocks. Our industry in Lough Neagh has seen a substantial downturn in eel stocks because the glass eels, which ultimately would have returned to the Lough and matured there, have been hived off for export, mainly off the French coast as they return, having been spawned in the Sargasso Sea.

Thus further measures to restrict this damaging trade in glass eels are welcome and something I have long been calling for.”

## EU must change to fight job losses

Jim Allister MEP used a debate in the European Parliament on globalisation to raise the Seagate redundancies in Limavady. Picking up on a speech by French President, Sarkozy, to the Parliament the day before, in which he endorsed the need for the EU to counter manufacturing losses, the MEP made two practical suggestions as to how Brussels could help.

First, it should reduce the threshold for

assistance from its Globalisation Adjustment Fund to a lesser number of job losses so as to more often help smaller economies. (At present the threshold is 1000 job losses, though Limavady should qualify because knock-on redundancies also count.) Second, state aid rules should be relaxed to facilitate secondary assistance such as industrial de-rating. Such has a definite role to play in holding employment, but the problem posed by EU rules is a barrier.

## Allister challenges McGuinness

"The recent attempted murders of police officers are utterly appalling and wrong, just as every terrorist shooting over the last 40 years was wrong and unjustified. I look forward to the perpetrators being brought to justice.



I note McGuinness' comments, but the real test of his sincerity is will he urge the same co-operation with the police to solve the hundreds of unsolved attacks on the police in Londonderry and elsewhere which happened over the years, including himself telling all he knows, given his leadership role in the terrorist organisation which perpetrated most of them.

If he wants to be taken as genuine in calling, as deputy first Minister, for the bringing of terrorist criminals to justice, then let him make the same call in respect of the terrorist crimes committed when he was First Minister of terror! Weasel words come easy to Sinn Fein, let their actions, in clearing up past crimes, do the talking."

## Allister questions 'Common Travel Area' moves

**Statement by Jim Allister MEP:**

"The suggestion that, under a review of the Common Travel Area, UK citizens from Northern Ireland should have to produce their passports when travelling from NI to other parts of the UK is preposterous and unacceptable. If the UK needs more effective border controls, then they must be at the border, not located so as to de

facto treat Northern Ireland as if it were part of an all-Ireland state.

UK citizens from Northern Ireland being denied free movement within their United Kingdom is utterly incompatible with and prejudicial to our British citizenship. I have therefore taken the matter up with the Home Secretary."



All editions of the monthly newsletter 'Brussels Briefing' are available to download at my website, [www.jimallister.org](http://www.jimallister.org)

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

Watch out for important upcoming political developments by getting a pamphlet which will be included with the Belfast Telegraph on 7th December and the News Letter on 8th December.

Further copies will then be available from Jim Allister's office.



## UK facing defeat on Temporary Workers Directive?

A directive, which would force British employers to give temporary and agency workers full employment rights after only six weeks, is currently being tabled by Portugal, which holds the EU's rotating presidency. The proposal has previously been blocked by the UK and a few other member states. But Poland, which has been part of the blocking minority, is now considering changing its position.

This means that the UK would have to find new partners or accept the proposal. Employers have warned that the directive would seriously upset the UK's flexible labour market, saying that 6 months to a year is a more appropriate qualifying period for employees to get full rights. The CBI estimated in September that the directive would cost the UK 250,000 temporary jobs.

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## Allister presses for Haddock Quota increase

Last December, Irish Sea Haddock quota was cut by 8%, despite the insistence by fishermen that, far from declining, haddock stocks were increasing. It would seem haddock stocks are in abundant supply, and that is why I have asked the Commission to reflect reality as new quotas are set in December.

I am fearful the Commission intends to approach this issue with its infamous attitude of intransigence, regardless of the impact this might have on the Northern Ireland fishing industry. It will be a test of the local Executive to see if this year our fishermen get a fair deal.

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## Campaign against terrorism goes to Brussels

Following a meeting in Brussels between Jim Allister MEP, and William Frazer and William Wilkinson of Fair, with EU Justice & Human Rights Commissioner, Frattini, the delegation expressed satisfaction about a very positive meeting in which Commissioner Frattini demonstrated considerable understanding of the needs of victims.

The primary focus of the meeting was to discuss a project run by FAIR and being funded by the EU, called "Project Monnet", which aims to promote the interests of innocent victims through an EU network. The project will run for 2 years and at its conclusion it is hoped that an efficient network of similar groups will be drawn from across Europe and a strong anti-terrorism platform will be established.

William Frazer said, *"The Commissioner was clearly interested in hearing from victims first hand and saw value in the contribution which innocent victims can make in winning the propaganda war against terrorism. We already have contacts with groups in Spain, France, Germany and Italy. We believe these can be built upon to provide a vibrant counter balance to the evil influence of terrorism."*

William Wilkinson explained that the delegation took the opportunity to appraise the Commissioner of FAIR's litigation against Libya as an example of how victims can unite to oppose



terrorism, particularly its state sponsorship. It was most opportune at a time when the EU is moving towards closer relations with Libya. The Commissioner was pressed hard to ensure that this matter is made a priority in negotiations with Libya.

Commenting Jim Allister MEP said,

**"For years, to the cost of us all, we have seen terrorist groups co-operate across the world for their own wicked purposes. Now, in a worthwhile fightback a vision exists to create a viable network of victims across Europe and further afield. Who better to articulate the case against terrorism than those who have suffered from it at first hand."**