



“No thanks” to Euro Flag and Anthem—Allister

In a debate in the European Parliament on a recommendation that it formally recognise the EU flag and emblem, even though these symbols were excluded from the Lisbon Treaty, Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister described these as “the tawdry baubles of Euro-federalism”.

In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said:-

“This Parliament wants these symbols for one reason only, to inflate its ego and attach the trappings of statehood to the EU. I have a much better anthem and flag, thank you very much, and I'm not about to trade them for these tawdry baubles of Euro-federalism.

“Ode to Joy” - which we've purloined - may be a very nice tune, but then so is “Jingle Bells”. And like “Jingle Bells” it heralds a fantasy, the fantasy that the EU is good for you, but unlike “Jingle Bells” it will



damage your national sovereignty and right to control your own destiny! More “Code to Destroy” than “Ode to Joy”.

As for the flag, which we've stolen from the Council of Europe, even its proponents don't know what it means. We had as many differing explanations in the AFCO Committee as to what the stars signify as there are stars on the flag.

This proposal exposes the insatiable fanaticism of Europhiles. The ink wasn't dry on the Lisbon Treaty, which deliberately excluded these symbols, before we had the insistence that the Parliament give them official status nonetheless.

My constituents don't want an EU anthem and flag, they want the right to say “yes” or “no” to a Lisbon Treaty which robs their nation of further powers.”

IRA/Sinn Fein used same strategy to break into Government as they used to break out of the Maze

Minister Gerry Kelly's smug gloating on TV, over his point blank shooting of a prison officer in the head, was a timely reminder of the wickedness of IRA/Sinn Fein and of how they still glory in their murderous exploits.

But, perhaps the more pertinent message from the programme was just how calculating and devious Sinn Fein can be in the single-minded pursuit of their goals. To prepare for and facilitate the escape they had a deliberate policy of ingratiating with the prison staff, to win



confidence and perpetuate the myth that they were reformed characters. Is that not precisely what they have been doing again in the political process?

After St Andrews, Gerry Adams declared devolution as “the latest phase” in their age old struggle. Sinn Fein's “charm offensive” even fooled the DUP Leader, Ian Paisley, when he grandly decreed that republicans “had bought into the British state”.

Having seen Kelly revelling in his vile exploits, only a fool would believe he and his Party have changed at all. The still existing inner councils of the IRA must laugh at how they conned their way into government, courtesy of the gullible DUP.

In truth, IRA/Sinn Fein used the same strategy to break into government as they used to break out of the Maze.



Executive neglect spreads to Brussels

Statement by TUV MEP Jim Allister:

“The neglect and paralysis of the Executive has spread to Brussels. Every year in the second week in October Northern Ireland participates in “Open Days” organised by the regions of Europe. This is an opportunity to showcase projects and issues. Habitually a Minister from each region attends. This year both Welsh and Scottish

Environment Ministers were there to promote their regions and speak on selected topics, but not a single Northern Ireland Executive Minister attended. Instead we were represented by civil servants. Why?

Both the DOE Minister, Sammy Wilson, and the DETI Minister, Arlene Foster, were invited to attend, but both declined.

Allister accuses Dublin of seeking to damage Warrenpoint port

Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister has complained in the European Parliament that the Irish Republic is deliberately targeting and seeking to damage Warrenpoint port by promoting a new alternative port just 6 miles away at Greenore.

infrastructural project. It is feared that if approved it will steal much of Warrenpoint's trade.

Using a debate in the European Parliament on EU Port's Policy, Jim Allister highlighted the concerns and bereted the Dublin authorities for promoting a project so prejudicial to Northern Ireland's economic interests. He has also written directly to the relevant Commissioner to raise his concerns.



In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said:- "Paragraph 44 of this report calls on Member States to employ a trans-border approach to the use of existing capacities when co-financing port infrastructure. In simple terms that means one state should not duplicate and prejudice existing neighbouring facilities. Yet, that is precisely what is happening to my constituency.

Warrenpoint is a public trust port, where a recent 20m investment has made it a major economic driver for the south-west of the Province and provided state of the art roll-on roll-off facilities. Now its future is challenged by a proposal to develop a similar facility at the mouth of Carlingford Lough, at Greenore in the Republic.

Warrenpoint has been built up, with significant investment, into a thriving roll-on roll-off ferry port. Now just 6 miles away at Greenore in the Republic of Ireland it is proposed to duplicate these facilities and to do it with public money through a company which is part owned by the Dublin Government.

There the facility is substantially publicly owned, with the government's Dublin Port Authority as a major shareholder. The Greenore proposal has benefited from a special derogation from the normal planning process to treat it as a strategic

I hear much from Ireland's politicians about wanting to help and co-operate with Northern Ireland. Well, then, I have to ask why are they trying to supplant and destroy our port at Warrenpoint? I call on the Commission to take action on what I believe would be an abuse of state aid rules and any sensible ports policy."



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

MEP in call for signage to mark Northern Ireland's boundary

Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK with a land frontier, yet on no major road into Northern Ireland is there anything to delineate when the visitor has entered Northern Ireland, nor a sign to welcome them. When you travel from England to Wales, or to Scotland, or vice versa, the border is marked and visitors welcomed.

Even within Northern Ireland we can have signage delineating one district council area from another, but nothing delineating us from the Republic. When visitors arrive at our airports or ports there are “Welcome to Northern Ireland” signs, but nothing on any road from the Republic. Why? Clearly, politics is at play.

I have been pursuing this matter for some time both with the DETI Minister and latterly with the First Minister, but with no satisfaction. The DETI Minister reveals that in October 2007 NITB wrote

to each of the border councils asking them to erect “Welcome to Northern Ireland” signage but they have failed to do so. Since then, DETI has done nothing to insist on this basic provision.

This is a fundamental issue of defining and preserving the boundaries of Northern Ireland in which I had hoped the First Minister might have been interested, but sadly not. I have now written to the UK Government demanding that it acts to define and preserve the boundaries of the UK by signage denoting the UK frontier.

“With IRA/SF in charge of the Roads Ministry and McGuinness having a veto on action by OFMDFM, it is clear to me that deference to the Republican agenda is causing lack of action to adequately or at all mark the boundaries of this part of the UK or to even offer a welcome to our visitors.”

MEP attacks “climate change mania”

Speaking at a Christian Aid Conference on Climate Change on the 13th of September in Belfast, Jim Allister, Traditional Unionist MEP, defended the Environment Minister’s stance on climate change, after the Minister was attacked by several speakers.

Mr Allister told the conference no one disputed climate change was occurring - it always had and always would - the issue was how far man-made CO2 emissions were contributing. The MEP took issue with the green lobby’s hysterical analysis and reminded the audience that the world’s climate had always passed through distinct cycles, like the Medieval Warm Period, when temperatures were higher than now, but no one could blame factory emissions or agriculture or any man-related activity for that fact of history. Even in the 20th century we saw varying trends and despite all the clamour annual temperatures had fallen since 1998.

Attacking the EU for its unthinking endorsement of every tax-raising device generated by climate change mania, Mr Allister exposed its glaring hypocrisy in producing one of the biggest carbon footprints of any organisation by persisting in the folly of transporting MEPs, staff and documents needlessly a week a month from Brussels to Strasbourg. “Further”, said Mr Allister, “we have

so over-regulated our manufacturing industry by unreasonable demands on emissions that we are driving this sector to China and India where the same goods are produced with no regard to CO2 emissions or anything else, and then we transport the goods back to Europe, with no regard to the extra carbon footprint created thereby. This whole climate change mania has got out of hand and is costing consumers dearly. Yes, we want to be as efficient in energy consumption as possible, yes it makes sense to use resources wisely, but the veritable industry of taxation which has been spuriously built on much of the nonsense that is talked about climate change is something which consumers should not have to bear.”

Mr Allister went on to criticise the promotion of biofuels by the unthinking green lobby, so that cereals were being used to produce biodeisel, rather than food, and in consequence world food stocks were at an all-time low and poverty in the third world was growing. “This is what comes from following the latest craze of eco-fanatics. The EU rushed headlong into promoting biofuels and only now is slowly coming to realise the full consequences as food prices rocket and food stocks dwindle. So, too, in time will the hysteria over climate change be seen to have produced wrongheaded and expensive policies for which we are all paying the price.”

MEP's Lisburn visit

I was pleased to accept a recent invitation from the Mayor of Lisburn, Councillor Ronnie Crawford, to meet with him to be briefed on strategic issues of a commercial and infrastructural nature as they affect his city.

I commend the Mayor on his initiative since being kept fully informed of the needs and priorities of individual parts of Northern Ireland is indispensable to successfully representing the Province in Europe.



We had a wide-ranging discussion which covered such diverse matters as securing the John Lewis development, the need for a rail link to the International Airport, the opportunities to secure transfer of more public service jobs to the city, the Maze site, further development of the Lagan and helping the commercial heart of Lisburn. It was clear to me that the Mayor is passionate about securing continuing prosperity for Lisburn City and in that he has my full support.

I will continue to liaise with him about Lisburn's interests as and when relevant EU considerations arise.

Allister challenges ICES scientists

In a top level meeting between the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament and ICES (International Council of Exploration of the Sea), which delivers scientific advice to the EU upon which it bases its fish quota decisions, Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister challenged the top scientists, Dr Sinnenwine and Mr John Casey, as to why they still support proceeding with TACS and Quotas when in evidence Mr Casey admitted TACS were not working.

Mr Allister pursued the matter robustly with Mr Casey, drawing on the local experience in the Irish Sea, where for 10 years we have had inflicted upon us a Spring Closure under the Cod Recovery Scheme, which patently had not improved cod stocks. "Why", asked Mr Allister, "do

you persist with a failed policy when you know that first and foremost it is higher sea temperatures which have reduced cod stocks?"

"Such folly lies at the heart of why fishermen often distrust ICES scientists and their objectivity", warned Mr Allister. "Work with, not against the fishermen, urged the Ulster Euro MP.

Mr Allister also queried why ICES hadn't been more bold in opposing the EU's policy on discards, which was producing the environmental and health scandal of thousands of tons of perfectly good fish being needlessly thrown back into the sea every year. "Help end this", said the MEP "and the stature of ICES would grow."

Jeffrey caught out in New York

Commenting on Jeffrey Donaldson's decision to pull out of a ceremony in New York to receive the Peace Dove Award alongside Gerry Kelly Jim Allister said:

“On Monday the Office of the Joint First Ministers announced that Mr Donaldson and Kelly were going on a two-day visit to the United States “with the highlight being the receipt of the Peace Dove Award on Wednesday evening” and yesterday at 3:45pm OFMDFM issued another press release saying they had addressed the Co-operation Ireland dinner and jointly received this award. It contained an abridged version of Donaldson's speech. The statement was also mounted on the OFMDFM website. In response to this, I issued a statement expressing my disgust.

“I'm glad that having flushed out Mr Donaldson he



then belatedly withdrew from the ceremony. The question is, though, why did he ever agree to participate in the first place? Didn't Jeffrey know about Kelly's pedigree before Monday? Surely he knew about his partner's potentially murderous role in the Maze escape before some DUP party hack gave him a call on his mobile to tell him about what had been broadcast back home - Gerry Kelly laughing as he recalled how he had shot a prison officer in the head - and that TUV was onto him.

“The truth is - as the DUP are very well aware - that Donaldson was quite prepared to receive the Peace Dove Award alongside Kelly but for the fact that it would look bad in Ulster, not because of some point of principle, something which the DUP abandoned a long time ago”.

When “Getting it right” all went wrong

The time has come for the DUP to face realities. They got it wrong.

They told us Sinn Fein was so transformed as to be committed to the good government of Northern Ireland and was fit to be part of that government. How wrong they were!

They told us they had the whip hand, they had vetoes on everything and they'd be “putting manners” on republicans. How wrong they were!

Now, we find the same recalcitrant IRA/Sinn Fein has itself such a veto that it can paralyse government and re-run its familiar trick of demanding ever more concessions for staying within the political process.

If any rational person ever thought mandatory coalition could ever work with unrepentant terrorists, then the last three months of paralysis should have been an eye-opener.



Its time to face the facts. Mandatory coalition has failed and will always fail, because it defies both democracy and the agreed platform necessary for any government to work. Sinn Fein by their every action has demonstrated themselves utterly unfit for government and should be shown the door.

It's all very well for Peter Robinson to threaten and bluster, but with Sinn Fein arrogantly calling his bluff, will he deliver? He has enthusiastically tried mandatory coalition, it failed. He foolishly gave Sinn Fein the benefit of a very big doubt, they let him down. Now, is the time to boldly end this Belfast Agreement devolution sham and with other Unionists resolve that never again will IRA/Sinn Fein abuse government office and that only through voluntary coalition will any party ever enter government again. That would indeed be “getting it right”.

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The jokes on the hill

Extract from a speech by Traditional Unionist Voice Leader, Jim Allister MEP, to Ballymena TUV Branch:

“Recent weeks have been a salutary lesson in the ignominy which Belfast Agreement devolution brings to democrats and Unionists.

Sinn Fein, true to form, is belligerently demanding new concessions to stay within the political process. Peter Robinson threatened “serious consequences” if the Executive didn’t meet last week. Sinn Fein defiantly laughed at him and the First Minister stands foolishly exposed as an Emperor with no clothes. Why, because he surrendered self respect the moment he took joint, equal and indivisible office with McGuinness. He can do nothing without Marty the terrorist, because he has equal power and equal veto.

If he was a real First Minister, not a bit player in a dysfunctional and unworkable joint office, he could crack the whip and others would jump. But Peter cracks the whip and Sinn Fein laugh at him, like Murphy’s defiance over his republicanisation of the Regional Strategy planning document. What has Peter done about that? Nothing.

One of Peter’s ministerial colleagues in OFMDFM, Bomber Kelly, on Monday boasts of shooting a prison officer in the head and on Tuesday flies off at taxpayers’ expense, with Junior Jeff, to collect a “Dove Peace Award” in the USA. My, the DUP really have put manners on republicans!



Surely at some point, even those besotted by the titles of their office, will realise this farce can’t go on. Sinn Fein has had their chance - a chance they never deserved. They have demonstrated beyond doubt their unfitness for government and their continuing affinity to terrorism, as now they shelter a wanted ETA murderer.

These are the people the gullible told us had changed, were fit for government, had even, in Ian Paisley’s foolish boast, “bought into the British state”. Could the DUP have been any more wrong?

How much more indignity will Peter Robinson endure before he breaks free from the shackles of failed Belfast Agreement devolution and tell the Prime Minister mandatory coalition is over, failed, finished and if Westminster wants devolution it can only be through voluntary coalition. In that he would have the support of all Unionists. “Peter, you’ve nothing to lose but your chains, so do it while you still retain some dignity!”

Instead, I fear, the titles of office will hold sway and Unionism will be led further down the concession road to keep the jobs of the Jokes on the Hill. Already, the First Minister is wooing Sinn Fein with pledges of fidelity to policing and justice. Soon, he will move further and make no mistake, but for TUV and the European Election he’d have done the deal already! But do it he will, its only a matter of when, and then on to the next demand from insatiable Sinn Fein, for such is how Belfast Agreement devolution works.”

Sinn Fein exposed again as ally of international terrorists

“The revelation that Interpol has been asked to track ETA terrorist José Ignacio De Juana Chaos, who was imprisoned for 25 killings, and that he is believed to be hiding out with IRA/Sinn Fein activists in Belfast or Dublin, further shatters the carefully crafted illusion that Sinn Fein has put its terrorist links behind it.

Here we have the Party demanding the devolution of policing and justice, up to its neck in international terrorist collaboration.

Sinn Fein has long been a blood brother of the vicious killers of ETA and Adams himself was

heavily featured on Sinn Fein websites campaigning for the release of Chaos when he was on hunger strike. Now that he has been released it seems he has run to the bosom of his international terrorist friends.

If Sinn Fein has any semblance of support for the rule of law then let them hand over this international terrorist. No partner of ETA should be the partner of any Unionist party, so if the DUP has any semblance of adherence to what is right, then let them get out of government with this internationally-linked terrorist partner.”

MEP raises concerns about future of Stranmillis

Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister has raised concerns about the proposed merger of Stranmillis College into Queen's University. In April 2008 the governing body at Stranmillis agreed in principle to the merger and since then a Project Steering Group and the Project Implementation Group has been at work.

In a statement Jim Allister said:-

"I have been in correspondence with Sir Reg Empey as DEL Minister on the future of Stranmillis College because I am not convinced this proposed merger is in the best interests of Stranmillis and because though it is supposed to only be a proposal in principle to merge, the College authorities are pushing ahead as if it is a done deal.

While both St Mary's College and Stranmillis have suffered falling enrolment, the fact that only Stranmillis has been targeted for merger with Queen's University causes me to wonder why? If it is possible to contemplate alternative plans to secure the independent future of St Mary's, why is Stranmillis being treated differently?

In looking at the future of Stranmillis, was linkage with Ulster University considered? Moreover, surely greater collaboration, short of merger, with either university would have been options.

One of my major concerns is that the valued and distinctive ethos of Stranmillis will be lost, though the Minister has said he has recently stressed the importance of this aspect to the senior management at both Stranmillis and QUB.

There has been a move afoot to change the ethos of Stranmillis for some time, with the removal of the 3 transferor representatives from the Board in 2005. Now, it seems to me the process is to be completed by merger into Queen's.

Even though legislation through the Assembly, if it survives, will be required to perfect the merger, the aggressive actions of the Project Steering Group and the Project Implementation Group show matters are proceeding presumptively. Why is this? Having raised this with the Minister he has advised me he has told these groups that they proceed at the risk that the merger may not proceed. It is clear to me they are in the business of presenting a fait accompli.

Then, there is the important matter of the costs of merger and whether such has been fully and accurately costed. The Minister confirms a fully costed business case and economic appraisal will be required, but there presently is no indication of such costs. Yet, the College and University authorities are behaving as if everything was a done deal. I think they'd be better employed in delivering fully and accurate costings before getting ahead of themselves."



Allister questions EU spend

Whereas only the heartless would want to do nothing to help poverty and hunger in Africa, the decision of the EU Commission to urge use of €1B underspend from the agriculture budget in extra development aid, is questionable.

Under EU budgetary rules underspend should return to the contributing member states, of which the UK is the second largest. The Commission wants leave to allow it to distribute it in Africa. Herein is a large part of the problem. The Commission's record on foreign aid is poor, both in terms of wastage on bureaucracy and misapplication of funds through lack of control. It's not hard to imagine how Mugabe will

abuse any money earmarked for Zimbabwe and how Brussels' auditing arrangements will be powerless to stop him. Better if the money went back to the member states and was channelled through the development programme of each. Certainly, the UK has a development aid programme far superior to anything the EU has ever produced.

Last year the underspend was wasted on the EU's pretentious Galileo space programme. This year, looking for a better headline, it's Africa, but, I fear, much of the spend will be wasted and ineffective.

DUP controlled DCAL lobbied for Irish language radio station

Jim Allister has written to DCAL Minister Gregory Campbell after he obtained documentation through an FOI request which revealed that DCAL had sent a paper to the UK Department of Culture, Media and Sport which stated:

“Given the provision of indigenous language radio services in Wales and Scotland, there may be an opportunity to argue for BBC provision of a dedicated Irish language radio station broadcasting in Northern Ireland. Presumably pressure for this would be through DCMS. Such a move could provide some comfort for the Irish language community given their recent disappointment on the language bill and ILBF”.

“Unlike Scotland and Wales, where there is no overlap language community, the establishment of a [Irish language] television station for Northern Ireland could potentially be either on a regional or all island basis.”

Commenting the MEP said:

“I am appalled that a Department with a Unionist Minister should see fit to send a paper

off to the UK government saying that there is a case for an Irish language radio station to be funded out of the licence fee and that an Irish language television station should be considered.



“I have written to Mr Campbell asking if he supports the case made in the paper submitted by DCAL during Mr Poots’ time as Minister and inquiring as to why a Department headed by a Unionist Minister would ever articulate such a position.

“One of the DUP’s great arguments against those who oppose terrorist inclusive government used to be that direct rule would mean the imposition of an Irish language Act. In more recent times, Jeffery Donaldson has admitted that ““Even if devolution collapsed in the morning and we were back living under direct rule from London, the DUP is convinced there would be no Irish Language Act through Westminster.” Now we discover that a Department headed by a DUP Minister was lobbying for funding for Irish language radio and television!”

EU budget rejected again—how long will this continue?

The response seems clear. Indefinitely. The EU budget has now been rejected by the European Court of Auditors for the fourteenth consecutive year. However, the different Member States still refuse to stand up and fight against a level of fraud, which would be unacceptable for any national administration. Thus, the corruption continues whilst ironically the EU heralds itself as a great bastion of transparency and instead points the finger of condemnation in the face of poorer overseas governments.

This year the EU budget represents a staggering €129.1 billion and continues to rise at a rate faster than inflation. The budget for next year could reach as much as €145 billion. Under normal circumstances, if an administration is mismanaging money, it should be given no more until it puts its house in order. Yet the opinion of the European Court of Auditors, which refuses to sign off the budget has been rendered

worthless. It is rather a bureaucratic box ticking exercise with no follow-up.

As if adding insult to injury, not only is there massive waste and corruption, but the EU spends huge sums of money to fund agencies promoting Europhile agendas and plans to spend another €7.8 billion on furthering the goals of the rejected Lisbon Treaty.

The rejection of the budget hasn’t made the front pages of the press at home, as the story loses its sensationalism as the years go by. Yet, whilst the average UK tax payer struggles to pay for rising fuel prices, the EU continues to mismanage money.

“This is a disgrace. The British public need schools and hospitals and their money is being put into the bottomless pit of EU incompetence.”

Allister warns against DUP climbdown

Statement by Traditional Unionist Leader Jim Allister MEP:

With either Sinn Fein or the DUP required to blink to end the present impasse at Stormont, is the DUP preparing to climb down? I hope not, but the fact that at a recent Assembly Group meeting, for the first time, voices, albeit a minority, were raised urging that they get on with devolving policing and justice, is a worrying sign. Just as in the UUP, when it was in control, there were those willing to put retention of position above deeper interests, so, within the DUP, I fear, there are those willing to pay the Sinn Fein price.

There can and should be no compromise on policing and justice. As the law stands the moment these powers are devolved, Martin McGuinness instantly gets his hands on the levers of power over the Judiciary. McGuinness having a say in recommending who our Lord Chief Justice should be, who our Lord Justices of Appeal would be, who should be Attorney General, who should sit on the Judicial Appointments Commission, what judges should be removed and who should sit on the Policing Board, would be an obscenity, which no Unionist should ever countenance. Thus the line must be held to remove every last one of those powers out of OFMDFM and away from any malevolent IRA/Sinn Fein influence.

Rather than contemplate feeding the insatiable demands of Sinn Fein, Unionists, of all shades, should unite to face the reality that mandatory

coalition has failed again and can never succeed. As I said last week:-

"It should be no surprise to any thinking person that mandatory coalition has failed again. It is an unworkable system of government because it is based not, as coalition anywhere else, on an agreed platform but on mutually exclusive agendas and mutual vetoes. Thus deadlock is inevitable, particularly where one party has a vested interest in ensuring Northern Ireland as a British entity is ungovernable.

Mandatory coalition has been tried for 10 years and has spectacularly failed every time. We can't afford to go on headbanging against this wall upon which Sinn Fein has plainly written "IRA Rule OK".

It is time for the DUP to face reality. They've tried what the government wanted, it doesn't work. Now is the time to unitedly go to government and tell them straight "mandatory coalition is over, finished, failed. If devolution is to return it can only be on the basis of voluntary coalition and then those genuinely interested in good government for Northern Ireland can move ahead, leaving the Sinn Fein wreckers behind."

Now, is the time for Peter Robinson to act. It's either that or bend over so far backwards to appease the unappeaseable as to be walked all over by a Sinn Fein that never had any intention of bringing stability and good government to this province of the UK"

Let's hear the truth, as conspiracy of silence shrouds court appearances

Following the recent appearance of the three men in court, charged with kidnapping, Jim Allister has called on the Chief Constable to clarify if they have links to the Provisional IRA and to confirm whether one of them led the Sinn Fein Easter Sunday parade this year from North Belfast.

For what it is worth, given its enthusiasm for thinking well of the Provos, the MEP has written to the IMC requesting it to investigate and report on these matters of public interest, about which there seems to be a conspiracy of silence.

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Farming News

Agriculture & Fisheries set for more Sinn Fein neglect

Commenting on the arrangements put in place while Minister Gildernew is off on maternity leave, Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister said farming and fishing was set to endure fresh neglect.

In a statement he said:-

"Minister Gildernew says she will look after the vital agriculture and fisheries portfolio by receiving a briefing half a day a week and by farming out her departmental responsibilities to the motley crew of Sinn Fein Ministers. This is not acceptable.

In fishing we are approaching the vital weeks in the lead up to the crucial quota-setting

negotiations in Brussels in December. In agriculture we are still waiting, weeks later, for a package for flooding losses and CAP reform proceeds. Now we face months of stagnation with no Minister at the helm. The thought, for example, of Gerry Kelly or Catrina Ruane providing good government for the agricultural community is a joke.

An absentee Minister is not what the promise of devolution assured the community. Poor as Gildernew has been for agriculture, there needs to be someone in charge, not months of drift and neglect. Sadly, this is what Sinn Fein misrule looks like."

"Hands off our soil"—Allister tells EU

In a debate in the European Parliament on the prospect of an EU Soil Directive, Jim Allister MEP robustly reiterated his outright opposition to such a move.

The Commission has been pressing for a Regulation on soil management for some time. Happily, the proposal has been stalled by a blocking minority in the Council of Ministers, but the Commission and some from the Environmental Committee in the Parliament are persisting with the fight.

Speaking in the debate the Euro MP said:-

"Of course soil protection is necessary, but what is not necessary is another EU Directive. We

already have a plethora of Directives touching on this subject, as well as a legion of rules in cross-compliance. We don't need any more.

Moreover, this is a member state issue - what nation is going to let its soil erode and degrade, indeed what farmer, unless Brussels tells them what to do? The thing is ludicrous!

More Brussels nannying will only add to the already intolerable administrative burden on farmers, whose time to look after their land is increasingly diminished by the time taken to fill in foolish and needless forms.

So, I say to the Commission, break the habit of a lifetime and forget it!"

Allister meets UFU on pesticides

As discussions gather pace in Europe on imposing wide ranging restrictions on the marketing of pesticide products, Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister has met with representatives of the Ulster Farmers' Union on the issue.

The MEP said,

"I welcomed the opportunity to hear the concerns of the farming lobby in relation to the Thematic Strategy on sustainable use of plant protection products. I am deeply concerned that revised Pesticides rules would unnecessarily constrain UK agricultural production, displacing locally produced food for lesser imports."

"These legislative proposals could result in the removal of approximately 85% of plant protection

products from the market. The UK Pesticides Safety Directorate has also predicted 20-30% reductions in arable yields and the failure to grow certain fruit and vegetables, if these proposals go through. Quite clearly, this particular Regulation is unworkable, and is potentially disastrous for local food production."

"Even the UK Government recognises the importance of a thorough study being carried out on the likely impact these proposals are likely to have, in terms of the quality and supply of food, before they should be introduced by the European authorities. I will certainly be voting for common sense to prevail when the matter comes before Parliament later in the year."

Is this man serious?



A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. A little knowledge in the hands of Simon Hamilton MLA produces ludicrous utterances. How else could you describe this declaration on a basic agricultural issue from the urban Strangford MLA:-

"What is also being ignored is the fact that whilst cattle do emit large quantities of methane, there are ongoing attempts to reduce these levels through changing diets or techniques like anaerobic digestion."

If Simon has serious aspirations about being the DUP vote-splitting candidate in the European election, then he'd be advised to learn some basic facts about cattle. **Cows can't be fitted with anaerobic digesters!** Nor can anaerobic digestion reduce natural methane production.

Anaerobic digestion is a series of processes in which microorganisms break down biodegradable material in the absence of oxygen. In fact the process produces a methane and carbon dioxide rich biogas suitable for energy production.

So, anaerobic digestion is a scientific process for dealing with animal waste, but it cannot influence the amount of methane produced by a cow. Basic, but not basic enough for Mr Hamilton!"



Above: An Anaerobic Digester plant!

Time running out for poultry litter solution

Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister has said nothing less than urgent action to establish a way forward on poultry litter is required to safeguard the Northern Ireland poultry industry.

The MEP said, "While expressions of support for the Rose Energy project have come from UFU and NIGTA in recent weeks, there has been a lack of leadership on the part of the Executive in ensuring our poultry industry is protected from the very real threat of non-compliance penalties."

"We are approaching the final 2 months of the Nitrates Directive derogation, and still nothing concrete is in place to demonstrate to Europe that the poultry industry will be able to comply

with the Directive's provisions. The Rose Energy proposal is Northern Ireland's best opportunity to do just that, which is why I am concerned at attempts to delay or even scupper this project altogether".

"I understand an interdepartmental working group has been set up to explore what options are available to the poultry sector to comply with the Nitrates Directive's obligations beyond 31st December 2008. The Poultry Working Group was to have delivered its report by the end of September, while DARD is apparently drawing up an options paper. Time is of the essence, which is why I have requested an urgent meeting with Environment Minister Sammy Wilson to discuss these important matters."

Allister presses DARD on flooding compensation

It has been revealed that 11% of potatoes and 14% of the total cereal crop have been identified by DARD as being damaged by flooding during mid-August. Figures were secured by MEP Jim Allister in recent correspondence with DARD on the issue. The MEP commented:

"In all, 500 hectares of potatoes, vegetables and cereals have been badly affected by the flash floods of August. While the Executive managed to

make swift payouts to householders whose homes were affected by flooding, many farmers will be wondering why they have not received a penny of compensation to date."

"I understand that DARD is currently considering funding options to provide some relief to affected farmers. Clearly, now is the time for action to alleviate some of the impact of the poor weather on farmers. I say, DARD get a move on!"

TUV group visit European Parliament



Allister blasts Sinn Fein hypocrisy and Obama folly

Statement by TUV Leader Jim Allister MEP

"Considering Sinn Fein's continuing pursuit of the denial of justice in the Robert McCartney case, the welcome by Gerry Adams for the foolish endorsement by Democratic Presidential candidate Senator Barak Obama of an Independent Inquiry into the murder of Pat Finucane, reeks of base hypocrisy.

Given the judicial findings in the McCartney trial, particularly the likely contamination of Crown witnesses by the IRA and the role, according to the evidence of Government Minister, Gerry Kelly, there is a powerful case for a full inquiry into Sinn Fein's perversion of the course of justice. In his judgement Judge Gillen spoke of the witness Gowdy having had "lengthy meetings with the IRA before gaining their "approval" to speak to the police. Having referred to Gowdy meeting the IRA between 4 and 6 times, Gillen J felt compelled to conclude "there exists the

possibility that his evidence, including identification of the people he has named, may have been influenced or indeed even directed by the IRA. At the very least there must be a real possibility that his evidence has been through a sieve orchestrated by this unlawful organisation." He also expressed concerns about the effect of meetings between the IRA and the witness Devine.

It is clear, therefore, that the IRA's malevolent meddling in this case polluted and perverted justice. In evidence it emerged that one of the Ministers in OFMDFM, Kelly, played a role, at least in securing, these meetings between the unlawful IRA and these Crown witnesses. So, to then have the Sinn Fein President strut the stage again demanding another inquiry into the Finucane case, while presiding over an organisation steeped in perverting justice, is typical of their duplicity. As ever, IRA/Sinn Fein want the spotlight shone everywhere but on their own murderous past.



As for Obama, he should have had more sense than to pander to the whims of insatiable and blinkered Irish American interest groups, in this case the so called Irish American Unity conference and the Ancient Order of Hibernians. If this is the partisan way he would behave as President, then, if he is elected, we're headed back to the unhelpful meddling of the Clinton era."