

Jim Allister MEP - *Leading for Ulster*

BRUSSELS BRIEFING

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Allister outraged over DUP approval of Provo funding

The office of the First Minister has approved millions of Peace III funding to ex-prisoner groups, most of it for groups representing IRA terrorists.

Approval for this funding had been log-jammed since August following objections from Jim Allister and others, especially innocent victim's groups who have not yet been given one penny of Peace III funds. Now the First Minister's office has authorised the pay-out.

Commenting Jim Allister said, "This is a monstrous decision. What is the point of the DUP being in government if it is not even prepared to exercise a veto over Provo funding? I suspect the go-ahead for this package was another part of the secret deal with Sinn Fein to end their Executive boycott, but it was held back to try and sneak it out under the media radar at the mouth of Christmas.

With everyday that passes DUP/SF government covers itself in deeper infamy as far as ordinary Unionists and innocent victims are concerned."

Supporting Israel

Throughout the Gaza crisis Jim Allister has taken a staunch stance in support of Israel, defending its position in the media and debates in the European Parliament. He declared his great admiration for *'the tenacity and courage of Israel in defending its people from relentless rocket attacks and in hunting down the Hamas terrorists who have been inflicting their murderous mayhem on ordinary citizens in southern Israel for years.'*

And speaking in the Strasbourg debate on the issue he rounded strongly on Hamas:

"Terrorism, I abhor. The propaganda of terrorism I repudiate. Maybe coming from Northern Ireland

heightens my awareness. So, when I hear Hamas bleat about necessary retaliatory action against its years of indiscriminate raining of rockets upon the innocent citizens of Israel, then, I'm unimpressed, because I know that Hamas, like the IRA in my country, are masters of the twin arts of terrorism and propaganda.

The situation is demonstrably clear. Israel accepts a two state solution, Hamas can't even abide its right to exist and thus unleashes relentless terrorist attacks upon its territory. And, when, after much forbearance, Israel hits back, they cry "victim". Sorry, they are the perpetrators and if they want peace the answer lies in their own hand - stop shelling Israel."

Allister welcomes export refund victory

Following months of campaigning in Brussels on behalf of the dairy industry, Jim Allister welcomed the Commission's decision to re-introduce export refunds as a support mechanism in the market.

With Northern Ireland consuming only 15% of the milk it produces, we are heavily dependent on exports, most of which goes in the form of milk powder. With falling powder prices on the world market, farmgate milk prices had fallen well below production costs. Export refunds should buoy up the market and thus help prices. Commenting Jim Allister said, "This was a long and tough battle but I'm glad our persistence

paid off. Now, I trust we might see some stability back in the market.

Jim Allister meeting Commissioner Fischer Boel



Allister condemns EP vote on British opt-out

"I utterly condemn the decision of the European Parliament to reject the British opt-out on the Working Time Directive as unwarranted interference in the internal affairs of the UK.

The Council of Ministers had agreed a common position which preserved the UK's right to decide for itself how many hours its workers might work each week. This common position was defeated in the Parliament, forcing a showdown with the Council. It is imperative that the UK stands its ground.

It is intolerable that by Brussels diktat British workers should be denied the right to work over 48 hours per week. At a stroke this would rob many workers of the right to work overtime and

puts sectors such as transport and agriculture in an intolerable position.

But it is a vital matter for British business, especially at this time of immense economic downturn, when maximum flexibility and less regulation, not more, is key to economic recovery. Maximising European production, getting our goods sold at home and abroad, and making it easier for business to grow, should be the concern of us all. Yet, here we have ideologues intent on foisting their precious social agenda on everyone, even where it is unwanted."

I will continue to lobby strongly in support of retention of our opt-out."

Allister speaks out in "gay rights" debate

During a debate in Strasbourg on 'gay rights', Traditional Unionist MEP spoke out about the lack of parity of esteem for those who in conscience held a conviction-led view on homosexuality. Referring to incidents in Sweden and in Belfast, he deplored the infringement of freedom of expression to which peaceful protestors were subjected.

In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said:-

"In the debate on gay rights there is total neglect of the infringement of freedom of expression of many, and in particular freedom to express religious opinion, on the subject. People of faith, accepting of teaching in the Bible on the subject of homosexuality, are vilified, nay persecuted, for daring to express their opinions of conscience and conviction.

In Sweden we have seen a Pastor prosecuted for quoting the Bible. In my country a church advert, again reciting scripture, has been banned, yet at the Gay Pride march in Belfast in 2007 a placard can be carried declaring "Jesus is a fag" and no action is taken to deal with this inflammatory hate crime. Why? Because, it seems to me the rights of this cosseted group are elevated above those of all others. And that is wrong."

In a further debate MEP Jim Allister spoke out against equality of recognition for heterosexual and homosexual relationships. In a report pressuring Europe-wide recognition of "civil partnerships" the Ulster MEP strongly dissented.

In the course of his remarks he said:-



"A society consumed by "rights" is a "give me, give me" society which has lost its balance.

It is this which drives the report's demand for equality between regularly married couples and homosexual relationships. The natural order is man and woman. We pervert it when we demand equality for its very antithesis.

Unfashionable as it may be, I unashamedly declare that the unnatural partnership between same sex couples is not something to which I as a legislator consent.

Are my rights to espouse that position any less than those who demand the opposite - in the intolerant climate of this debate it seems so. I disagree with this aspect of the report. If that subjects me to ridicule, then, so be it. I'd rather stand for what is right than applaud that which is wrong."

Allister warns of new threat to grammar school education

“It seems to me that the full import of acceptance of the Education and Skills Authority (ESA) as the control mechanism in education, has not dawned on many people, maybe not even on some politicians in which parents have placed their trust.

The key knock-on effect of the DUP accepting the ESA, which Sinn Fein has long supported, is that the “Revised Curriculum” has also been accepted. ESA will control the curriculum and it in turn is controlled by the authors of the fatally flawed revised curriculum.

Parents who wish their children to attend grammar schools should be particularly alarmed, because under the revised curriculum primary schools will refuse to prepare pupils for grammar school. It is clear that the Revised Curriculum and the type of instruction required for success in grammar school tests are incompatible. For example, the Revised Curriculum focuses on cross-curricular skills while traditional teaching focuses on knowledge in individual disciplines.

The Revised Curriculum is pupil-centred, a fundamental departure from the teacher-centred approach of the recent past, which made Northern Ireland outcomes in education the envy of the rest of the UK. The Revised Curriculum disapproves of marks and grades (because competition damages the child’s concept of self) and favours “comment-only marking.” In traditional teaching the teacher has responsibility for assessing the child and offering feedback; in the Revised Curriculum responsibility for assessment moves away from the teacher to the pupil.



To support ESA is to support the Revised Curriculum. The DUP’s stance on grammar schools and selection is contradicted entirely by their support for ESA. The DUP’s support for ESA will ensure that children will be denied the right to be prepared for a place at grammar school. Such will not be permitted by ESA. Thanks to the DUP if any child wants a grammar school place, the parents will have to employ a private tutor, but what of those who haven’t the financial means to do so? Underprivileged children will be the big losers.

The DUP dangled the prospect of a grammar school education before Northern Ireland parents only to negotiate it away through their support for ESA. By joining Sinn Fein in creating ESA they have, in effect, placed insurmountable obstacles in the way of primary six children, particularly from poorer backgrounds gaining grammar school places.

Moreover, support for ESA could potentially invalidate the “unregulated” entrance test. I am therefore calling on the DUP to perform a rapid volte-face in respect of its support for ESA. Otherwise all of the work done by the “nonconformist” grammar schools could be lost

MEP responds to fishing quota outcome

Responding from Brussels to the outcome of the Fish Quota negotiations just before Christmas, Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister said:-

“Though there are substantial quota cuts in cod and plaice, away beyond what the science justified, I welcome the fact the Commission did not get its way on extensive herring and prawn quota cuts. There will be no reduction in the herring quota and the prawns are needlessly cut by 2%, but such is much better than the 15% cut demanded by the Commission. By all accounts the UK Fisheries Minister negotiated hard on Northern Ireland’s behalf. The extensive lobbying to which he and his officials were subjected by me and

others has shown some return.

The big hit, however, for the local industry is the savage 25% cut in days at sea, which was conceded in the negotiations in November when Conor Murphy was supposed to be representing Northern Ireland’s interests. The scale of this reduction is such that the negative impact on our fishing fleet will be much greater than we can bear. Thus, attention must now turn to securing a compensatory package for the local industry. This matter must be progressed both through the EFF (European Fisheries Fund) and the resources of the local department.”

"Decommissioned" semtex back on active service!

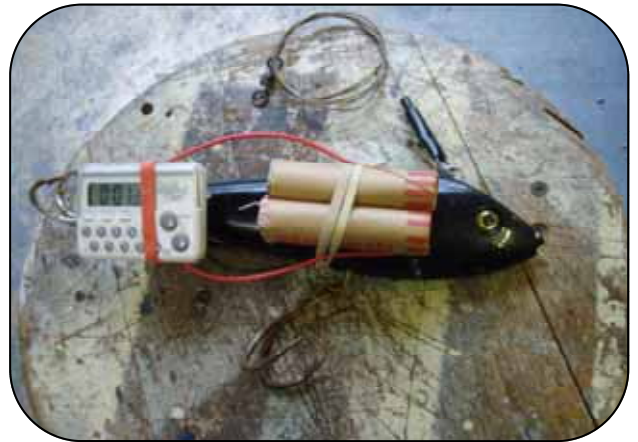
Statement by Traditional Unionist Leader Jim Allister MEP:

"After the IRA's supposed final act of "decommissioning" the IMC decreed that it comprised "the totality of the IRA's arsenal", of which semtex was a key component. Then in August 2008 we had such semtex used in Lisnaskea and now (17 December 2008) 2.5 kilos of semtex and detonators were seized in a car search in Co. Meath, with an 18 year old Cavan man charged on Saturday (20 December) with its possession. Another man is charged with possession of high velocity ammunition.

If decommissioning was total and complete, how could this be? Was this material being transported from an undisclosed arms dump in County Cavan? There appears no suggestion those charged are "dissident republicans". Cavan is noted for its strong Sinn Fein allegiance. How could this material have been out there? If, as I suspect, those found with it are allied to "mainstream republicanism", then it raises fundamental issues again about the bona fides of Sinn Fein, who continue to sit at the heart of government. There was a time when those who foolishly let them in there would have been jumping up and down

about these issues, but sadly they are now in the mode of complicit silence. Just as they continue to be over the Paul Quinn murder, despite the recent charging of Conor Murphy's driver from that time with possession of an AK 47 rifle.

I greatly regret that too often, following the example of the IMC, these matters are swept under the carpet. In any other democracy they would be the object of saturation investigation and exposure, given the position of the semtex party in government, but alas, most politicians, and even journalists, just look the other way. That is what happens when you pervert democracy and erect a structure dependent on placating wrongdoers."



Allister slams DCAL over failure to consult on Eels ban

Jim Allister has hit out at DCAL for failing to hold a formal consultation process in respect of legislation to ban eel fishing in Lough Erne.

The MEP said,

"An Eel Management Plan has been produced for Lough Erne on a cross-border basis, as a requirement under a recent EU Regulation - while a consultation exercise was carried out by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources in the Republic of Ireland, no equivalent formal consultation to ascertain the views of Northern Ireland stakeholders was undertaken by DCAL in Northern Ireland."

"I am frankly amazed at the response of DUP Minister Gregory Campbell to my letter, in which I asked why no formal consultation had been carried out in Northern Ireland - Mr Campbell replied, "while a public consultation was led by



the Irish Department, replies were considered by both Departments" - since when did Dublin assume responsibility for Northern Ireland's internal affairs, and under a DUP Minister?"

"20 to 30 eel fishermen from Northern Ireland are to lose full-time and part-time jobs under what appears to be a fait accompli. This is another manifestation of the democratic deficit we are witnessing under the DUP/Sinn Fein administration.

The Eel Management plan forms DCAL's strategy to adhering with the European Eel Regulation of 2007. On the basis that the Regulation in question links consultation with successful outworking, I have written to the European Fisheries Commissioner, alerting him to the absence of a formal consultation process in Northern Ireland vis-à-vis these proposals."

New Year Message from the Leader of Traditional Unionist Voice Jim Allister MEP

It is a natural time to look back at the year that is gone and forward to the year that is dawning.

2008 was TUV's first full year of existence. We certainly made our mark, punching well above our weight and inflicting discomfort and damage on the DUP/Sinn Fein regime at Stormont. The Dromore by-election sent shockwaves through the political establishment and gave hope to tens of thousands of democrats who reject terrorists at the heart of government. Within days, because of our 800 votes in Dromore, one Junior Minister was gone, to be followed shortly thereafter by the first part of the Chuckle Coalition. Think what tens of thousands of such votes in 2009 could do!

But 2008 was also an object lesson in the instability of mandatory coalition and the unworkability of the dysfunctional office of the Joint First Ministers. For almost half the year we had a "won't meet, can't meet" Executive, as Sinn Fein brought to the door of government the same bully boy tactics their IRA had previously deployed on the streets. To solve the crisis, for now, the DUP blinked, conceding republicans' demands for policing and justice in 2009, an Irish Language Strategy, the Maze Shrine and the ESA, the control mechanism demanded by Ruane in education. It was a humiliating climbdown, which took us back to the concession a day politics for which Trimble was so despised.

Though democracy has been subverted, through the machinations of now fully operational Belfast Agreement devolution, built on the iniquitous premise that you can never vote a party out of government, at least in 2009 the electorate will have their say. On 4th June in the European Election I look forward, if spared, to offering every democrat the opportunity not just to continue strong representation in Brussels, but to pass their verdict on IRA/Sinn Fein in government and those who let them in. I believe traditional and democratic unionists across the Province will rally to say "Not in My Name", in respect of what is going on at Stormont.

I expect an avalanche of disingenuous propaganda, none greater than the audacious claim that only the DUP can keep Sinn Fein from topping the poll - not that they really care, because if they truly cared about thwarting the advance of Sinn Fein they would not have hoisted them to the top of the government pole. You can't prop up Sinn Fein in government 9 to 5 and then go out, with credibility, at night to tell voters you are the ones to fight the Shinners. Voters will see right through such hypocrisy and know if they want 24/7 opposition to



Sinn Fein and a principled stand both at home and abroad, then it is offered by TUV.

With a strong result in June we can unpick the evil spectacle of terrorist-dependent government and set about the process of bringing democratic and durable devolution to Northern Ireland, if that is the preferred option of its people. How is such attained? Exactly as anywhere else, through parties who can agree negotiating a coalition, after an election, and those that can command the requisite majority in the Assembly - which could even be a weighted majority of 60% to guarantee cross-community composition - form the government and the rest become a vibrant Opposition, offering an alternative government at the next election.

This is how standard democracy works. If others want to partner IRA/Sinn Fein in government, then let them do it openly and honestly, instead of hiding behind mandatory coalition, and we who do not will provide opposition, if they command the majority. No party can be allowed a veto on government. If Sinn Fein is only operating the system so long as they are guaranteed a place in government, then we are being blackmailed as well as conned.

So my vision for the future is a positive one, based on core, but undiluted, democratic principles, where all get a fair deal, but none a favoured deal, particularly because of the threat and muscle they bring to the table.

2009 looks certain to herald more tough economic times. The volatility of the global crisis will affect us all. We need caring but firm government, where business, the life blood of our economy, is helped to prosper. The heavy hand of EU regulation must be lifted. Hard working families, not the work shy, must be our top priority. I will continue in Brussels to fight for our key economic sectors and rightful entitlements.

I wish you all a peaceful and prosperous 2009.

Allister answers Robinson

Statement by TUV MEP Jim Alister:

“In my New Year Message, with reference to the upcoming European election, I had included:

“I expect an avalanche of disingenuous propaganda, none greater than the audacious claim that only the DUP can keep Sinn Fein from topping the poll - not that they really care, because if they truly cared about thwarting the advance of Sinn Fein they would not have hoisted them to the top of the government pole. You can't prop up Sinn Fein in government 9 to 5 and then go out, with credibility, at night to tell voters you are the ones to fight the

Shinners. Voters will see right through such hypocrisy and know if they want 24/7 opposition to Sinn Fein and a principled stand both at home and abroad, then it is offered by TUV.”

Now, I see right on cue, Peter Robinson has started just such disingenuous propaganda in preparation for the DUP coming in to split the vote in Europe. I repeat, it is rank hypocrisy for the DUP to pretend concern about Sinn Fein advancing to the top of the poll when it was they who advanced them to the heart and very top of government. Hypocrisy which is compounded by their determination to split the vote against two sitting Unionist MEPs.”

MEP firmly rejects joining the Euro

Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister has spoken out strongly against any suggestion of the UK joining the Euro, warning that such would result in irreversible loss of key economic control at a time when the economy needed good and responsive management.



Jim Allister said:-

“The UK's relative prosperity over the years, with higher growth and lower unemployment than in the Eurozone, has been the result of national government policies, including interest rates and taxation regimes, and not just an accident of the economic cycle. Such national control and direction would be surrendered on joining the Euro. Instantly, we would lose the right to set our own interest rates, with that passing to the ECB.

Often, particularly at a time of threatened inflation, interest rates are the prime corrective tool. National, rather than EU bank control is essential.

Moreover, good economic management requires coordination between monetary and fiscal

management. There is currently little common fiscal management across the euro countries. It seems very likely, if not inevitable, therefore that pressure will arise for a common tax system within the Eurozone, and some European politicians and bankers have already called for this.

Thus, the ultimate logic and outcome of joining the Euro is to lose control over your own interest rate and taxation regimes. Such is very definitely not in the UK's interests.

I, therefore, stand very firmly in support of retaining the British pound and the national economic control which it guarantees. Whatever, the present currency fluctuations, there are no tenable and durable reasons to join the Euro. An inevitable consequence, as happened elsewhere, would be higher prices and rekindled inflation, but then without control over the corrective mechanism of interest rates.

Thus, I will continue to resist the folly of joining the Euro.”



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

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

MEP questions interest rate strategy

Statement by TUV MEP Jim Allister:-

“Whereas interest rate cuts, which are actually passed on to customers, both business and private, are appropriate, cuts which are not, nor which induce inter-bank lending, are very questionable.

Moreover, we have now reached the point where the adverse impact on savers, particularly those relying on income from savings, is such as to have, in my opinion, distorted the balance which should exist. A policy which rewards profligacy and punishes prudent savers is wrong. Yet, it is

precisely the recklessness of the banks which has induced the present credit crisis. Feeding their greed to the point of punishing the cautious saver and mortgaging all our futures, is not the way to go.

It is now incumbent on government to bring relief to those dependent on savings, both through tax breaks and even guaranteed minimum rates of return. Why should we pour billions into propping up banks, but expect hard-working citizens to pay for it all, both through increased national debt and reduced income on savings?”

System of government an embarrassment, says Allister

Speaking to the Politics Society at Sullivan Upper School, Holywood, TUV MEP Jim Allister said on occasions he was embarrassed in the European Parliament, when undemocratic practices were being discussed from elsewhere in the world, to have to admit that he represented the only region in the EU where, by law, the citizen was prohibited from voting a party out of government. This, he explained, was the product and effect of “mandatory coalition”.

Mr Allister said:-

“Colleagues in Europe are astounded that within a region of the EU there is a territory where the law provides that every Party, of any significant size, must be in government, if there is to be a government. Such is the preposterous and undemocratic import of mandatory coalition, compounded by its denial of any role for an Opposition.

The only argument in support of mandatory coalition is the contemptible assertion “oh, but you must have a system which guarantees inclusion of Sinn Fein, because if you don't we'll go back to the bad old days”.

Who would take us there? Surely not those we are constantly told have given up violence for good, have decommissioned, are wholly committed to the democratic process? If that is wrong, then we are being blackmailed, as well as conned. If Sinn Fein are only democrats so long as they have power, then they are not democrats at all and the sooner we face up to that uncomfortable fact the better.

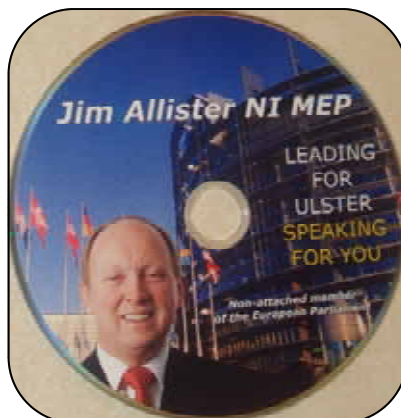
If Northern Ireland can't have devolution without Sinn Fein, which I do not accept, then why should Unionists want such rigged devolution, which puts at the heart of government those dedicated to Ulster's destruction?”

MEP Launches Europe DVD

Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister has launched a DVD dealing with his work in Europe.

As the MEP from Northern Ireland who has spoken most frequently in the Parliament, the DVD draws on extracts from a selection of his speeches. It ranges from the intense constitutional debate about an EU Constitution, through agricultural, fishing and consumer issues to sharp rebukes of Sinn Fein, including its stance on the Robert McCartney murder. As the MEP says at one

point, “As you'd expect, when I come to Brussels I don't leave my Unionism behind.”



Copies of the DVD are available free from Jim Allister's office at 139 Holywood Road, Belfast (Tel: 028 90 655011) or can be ordered by email on info@jimallister.org

The DVD can also be viewed at www.jimallister.org/links.asp

Allister lifts the lid on latest policing and justice report

On the day the NI Assembly's Executive Review Committee passed, in private, the final version of its latest report on policing and justice, the TUV Leader published, from Strasbourg, details of its contents.

In a statement Jim Allister said:-

"The report agreed, by the Executive Review Committee of the Stormont Assembly, is the latest manifestation of the November 08 deal when the DUP rolled over on Sinn Fein's demand for early devolution of policing and justice. Despite all the pretence, back in November, that nothing was agreed about timescale, this report takes IRA/Sinn Fein a step closer to attaining its policing and justice demands, in that the report records that Peter Robinson told the Committee that he and McGuinness *"wished to proceed without undue delay"*. Where now the "political lifetimes" so repetitively guaranteed?

The report was railroaded through the Committee on the strength of joint DUP/Sinn Fein votes, with every contested and recorded vote seeing the DUP side with Sinn Fein to provide a majority. In this regard the DUP and Sinn Fein voted through Recommendation 5 that the vitally important Judicial Appointments Commission would be "the responsibility of, and be attached and accountable to" OFMDFM. It could have been transferred to the intended Department of Justice, but instead the DUP helped Sinn Fein get it under the aegis and control of McGuinness as Joint First Minister.

So much for the assurance that all judicial appointment powers would be removed from the reach of Sinn Fein. Where now the undertaking of Peter Robinson just a few months ago that "The DUP does not believe there would be support for the devolution of policing and justice if Sinn Fein Ministers were to have responsibility for any policing and justice function"?

(Source:<http://www.peterrobinson.org/>)

Now, they get this and appointing the Attorney General!

Other issues which the DUP helped Sinn Fein railroad through the Committee related to the "interim arrangements" for the appointment of the Justice Minister (Recommendations 9-12 refer). It was only at the DUP Conference on 1st November that Justice spokesman, Ian Paisley Junior, was boasting, "We have quite rightly an agreed position that for "all time" the assembly will by a weighted vote determine who the Minister should be. This means our choice of ministries is not affected by the allocation of this post but we must ensure that

we veto who takes this position. We can give a copper-bottomed guarantee that Sinn Fein will never have that position and we should not be behind the door in saying so!" (Source: <http://www.ipjr.net/>)

"However, now the Report produced by Mr Paisley's committee makes clear that the DUP's "all time" veto will run out in 2012!

In a massive retreat from the DUP's "victory" that the Minister would be "elected at all times" from the Assembly on a cross-community vote - thus providing a veto over Sinn Fein attaining the post - the DUP joined with Sinn Fein to vote through a "sunset clause" which means this safeguard expires not later than May 2012. From then on the door of the Justice Ministry is open to Gerry Kelly! In a move which strengthens Sinn Fein's negotiating position it is agreed in Recommendation 9 that *"there would be no fall back arrangements"* if permanent arrangements are not in place by May 2012 - gifting Sinn Fein another opportunity to engage in its blackmail and bully-boy tactics.

The DUP had an opportunity in this Committee to vote down Sinn Fein's demand on OFMDFM controlling the Judicial Appointments Commission and to keep the Justice Ministry firmly and indefinitely beyond their reach, but instead they caved in, holding the line only to 2012, if that. Why, because it was part of the price they paid in November 08 in their shameful secret deal with the Shinners.

Now, no doubt, DUP MLAs will all meekly vote for this when the report is debated. There isn't much credibility in Jim Wells and others protesting at Sinn Fein's glorification of terrorism and then voting to open the door to Sinn Fein control of justice from 2012.

It is also noteworthy that the prospect of OFMDFM acting as the "sponsor department" of the Public Prosecution Service is still very much in play.



With Sinn Fein already having obtained joint control over the appointment of the Attorney General, through OFMDFM, it is clear they wish to get the Public Prosecution Service under their influence as well. The Committee is to return to this subject in a further report.

Other interesting aspects of this report include the muddle which still exists about whether the Justice Minister will be a full member of the Executive. Justice will be a new and additional department (Recommendation 1), but where the Minister stands vis-à-vis the Executive is unclear. The report indicates they shall further consider (no doubt when DUP/Sinn Fein have resolved the issue) "what role the Minister of Justice would have in, and what relationship the Minister of Justice would have with, the Northern Ireland Executive." This further consideration will result in a further report later this year, when we can expect further concessions to keep insatiable Sinn Fein content.

However, it is clear, despite DUP denials when I previously alleged such, that north/south involvement in policing and justice is anticipated. The report commits to further consideration this year of "having appropriate measures in place to address issues such as all-Ireland policing arrangements?" and the question of "a Justice Sector of the North South Ministerial Council?"

Thus, it is clear, that, contrary to some assurances, Northern Ireland's policing and justice will indeed become polluted by north/southern, which of course fits exactly within the all-Ireland template of the Belfast Agreement under which the devolution of policing and justice will occur. Hence, my continuing repudiation of the devolving of policing and justice to an Assembly and Executive in which IRA/Sinn Fein hold sway."

MEP questions focus on wind energy

In a debate in the European Parliament on renewable energy, Jim Allister MEP has expressed doubt about the focus on wind energy, but welcomed emphasis on fuel from waste, both agricultural and industrial.

Extract from contribution:-

"I am not one carried away by much of the hysteria over energy and climate change, but pursuing renewable energy is sensible. However, it must be economically sustainable. On that ba-

sis I'm far from convinced about the rush to wind energy through unachievable targets.

But my primary observation is to support the move from agro-fuel and the focus of biomass on waste streams, not food. Turning waste, agricultural, domestic and industrial, into energy has always seemed to me the most sensible of all the renewable options. Thus development of the third generation of energy from biomass and biogas has my full support."

Time for all parties to break their Sinn Fein links

Commenting on Sinn Fein's pilgrimage of celebration to the site of the IRA's Narrow Water massacre, Jim Allister stated:

"All decent people will be disgusted by the ghoulish exercise of visiting the IRA's mass murder scene of Narrow Water, Warrenpoint.



"The attack at Narrow Water was one of the most infamous of the Troubles. The manner in which the IRA detonated a second device to kill and injure those treating their dying and wounded colleagues was particularly vicious.

"The fact that Sinn Fein could organize a trip to gloat over this event is yet further evidence of their continuing unfitness for government.

They manifestly remain wedded to terrorism and celebrating their bloody past, both of which are incompatible with democracy.

"All the fine words of Jim Wells in condemning the Sinn Fein event are so much hot air as long as the DUP continue to prop up Sinn Fein in government. I urge all Unionists to break their unholy alliance with this wicked organisation."

Farming News

New Year Message on Agricultural issues by TUV MEP Jim Allister

“2008 was a tough year for our vital agri-food industry. Quite apart from having to weather the general economic downturn, virtually every sector in agriculture has been buffeted. The exceptionally wet weather of August and into September and October in itself would have made this year one many farmers will be keen to forget.

The turbulence in the milk price has delivered us from boom to near bust, making the attainment of a floor in the market the top priority of the New Year. I will continue to pursue the Commission till the response is adequate.

Our pork industry suffered unnecessarily from the Republic’s dioxin contamination, making me more determined than ever to secure proper country of origin labelling. For the sake of our poultry industry 2009 must be a year of progress in putting in place the much-needed litter disposal energy project.

In truth the red meat sector has not had the attention and progress promised by the task force. DARD has allowed its proposals to stagnate. In 2009 we must tackle the disparity in price across the UK. Northern Ireland producers can’t afford to be the poor relations in the market place. As Brazil gears up to again try and increase its exports to the EU, I will remain

vigilant to defend our sector from unfair competition. Though WTO is fading, those issues are still out there.

Now that oil prices have so dramatically fallen we must see the benefits fully passed on in fertiliser and commodity prices. The frustration and feedstuff price hike caused by tardy GMO approvals will continue to be something on which I will be pressing for action.

The exchange rate will also present both opportunities and challenges for our agri-food industry. While the weaker Sterling will mean added input costs, particularly in relation to imported feed, undoubtedly the more competitive exchange rate will offer new scope for our agri-food industry to become more export focused. I trust the benefits of being more competitive on the World market will work its way through the entire supply chain.

I have no doubt 2009 will be as challenging as any for the sector, but together, we must work to meet those challenges, and keep competitive our primary industry in Northern Ireland.

My pledge is to continue to fight tenaciously in Brussels for our farming interests.

I wish all a prosperous and successful year.”

Allister deplores Parliament vote on pesticides

TUV MEP Jim Allister has expressed disappointment at the European Parliament’s approval of the Pesticide Directive at Second Reading. The rejection of amendments, tabled mostly by members from the British Isles, to require a proper impact assessment before pesticides currently relied on are banned, was particularly disappointing.

Speaking after the vote Jim Allister said:-

“Once more in Parliament we have seen a rush to regulate, with scant regard to common sense or consequences. The herd instinct to push through what is presented prevailed. Yet, northern



European cereal and vegetable production will suffer as essential pesticides are withdrawn over time.

Now, the fire-fighting which will have to be focused upon must centre on ensuring that the UK Government takes full advantage of the derogations and roll-over provisions which exist in regard to retaining some essential pesticides where demonstrably no acceptable alternative exists. Last week Secretary of State Hilary Benn declared his opposition to the EU proposals, now, it is over to him as DEFRA Minister to act to protect British interests by maximising available derogations and roll-over approvals.”

Allister lambasts Executive failure to compensate dioxin farmers

Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister has criticised the Executive's failure to address the key issue of compensation for farmers caught up in the dioxin scare.

"Despite the gloss, the Executive has failed to address the key issue -which is the devastating losses set to be inflicted on a number of beef farmers who have had their herds condemned through no fault of their own. The offer by the Executive to pay for disposal costs acts only to absolve Government of its statutory duty to assist the farmers in question -it offers no help in safeguarding those livelihoods which are set to be destroyed."

"I am sceptical of a successful outcome coming out of the Executive's efforts to make the Southern Irish compensation scheme accessible to Northern Ireland producers and processors. The fact remains that the Irish scheme has only been approved for those suffering loss as a result of the dioxin crisis within that Member State, and has not secured EU approval to be transferable to producers in another Member State."

"The Executive should have provided compensation to the farmers in question, while, if their efforts to recoup these costs from the Irish Government come good over time, well and good. The decline of compensation has left these farmers with nowhere to go."

Allister welcomes news on pork plant

Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister has welcomed the news that a buyer had been found for Stevenson & Co. in Cullybackey.



"This is good news both for the plant workforce, and of course for the Northern Ireland pig industry. I trust its new owners will work to enhance producer prices as producers seek to recover from the difficulties posed by the dioxin scare in the Irish Republic."

producers and processors - who suffered extensive losses before Christmas in lost product and markets - are fully compensated.

There was no breach of feed law on the part of the Northern Ireland pig industry, and so the losses they have incurred must be recovered."

"I am continuing in my efforts to ensure pig

Allister comments on December Monitoring Round

The announcement by the Finance Minister, of cash allocations from the December monitoring round falls very short of the expectations and needs of the people of Northern Ireland. In reality the Monitoring round has simply 'recycled' existing commitments, with very little evidence of new money being made available.

Taking, for example the announcement of an additional £20m to the Farm Nutrient Management Scheme, the MEP commented:

"Of course farmers making huge financial commitments under this Scheme expect to have the 60% grant rate honoured. However, all successful applicants had already been promised that this would indeed be the case before today's announcement. These 'additional' funds are only necessary because of the gaping black hole created by the Executive's blunder of committing

£90 million to DARD, on the gross overvaluation of DARD assets at Crossnacreevy".

"The allocation of £500,000 to cover the costs of farmers affected by August's flash floods is miserly, on the basis that 11% of the potato crop and 14% of the total cereal crop was destroyed. £0.7million to fishermen at this time is of little comfort as they face the prospect of further cuts in quotas and days at sea which is likely to further reduce the fleet, helped little by an incompetent Agriculture Minister supposedly defending their interests."

If the Executive Parties didn't persist with the unnecessary waste of 11 Departments, 108 MLA's and pouring money down the North/South drain, then there would be so much more available for the real needs of our hard-pressed sectors and citizens."

MEP urges Minister to act against illegal IRA monument

Jim Allister MEP has written to Planning Minister Sammy Wilson, urging him to act to remove an illegal IRA monument in Dromore.

The MEP said,

“Omagh District Council has thus far failed to carry out an equality impact assessment on its proposal to dispose of Council owned land to Dromore Memorial Committee, on which this illegal memorial is situated. This is in direct contradiction to Equality Commission guidelines, and has recently prompted the Commission to refer the matter to the Secretary of State.”

“I have written to the Minister responsible for Local Government, Sammy Wilson, urging him to make Omagh District Council accountable for its failure to adhere to due process in respect of its

equality responsibilities. Furthermore, as Planning Minister, Sammy Wilson has a duty to ensure instances of unlawful development are fully investigated, with appropriate enforcement action taken where appropriate. While I understand an enforcement case against this monument has now been opened by Planning Service, I am appalled that it has taken until my recent intervention for this to be so. Furthermore, I have also raised this matter with the Chief Local Government Auditor.”

“A crack-down against the many offensive monuments erected by Republicans, which serve to glorify the acts of terror perpetrated by their dead, is long overdue”.

Expose of IRA murder produces more Sinn Fein lies and DUP silence

The revelation that the IRA, despite decades of denials by IRA/Sinn Fein, did in fact murder Gerard Evans is a reminder of their inter-dependent capacity to murder and lie. IRA/Sinn Fein’s mendacity has not diminished. Yet Sinn Fein still has the audacity to deny the truth to the Evans family and the DUP still compliantly turns yet another blind eye?

Commenting Jim Allister said, “How predictable that within hours of the IRA being exposed over this brutal murder Government Minister Murphy was out to peddle the usual IRA propaganda of denial. Just as he denied any IRA involvement in the Paul Quinn murder and in the Northern Bank robbery.

“No one believes him. What a scandal that such an apologist for terrorists is permitted to be a

Government Minister, paid by the British taxpayer to spout Provo propaganda. If this was happening under Trimble the DUP would be orchestrating uproar, but with clinging to office with IRA/Sinn Fein now mattering more than anything else, sadly, they are strategically silent.”



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

Join Jim on YouTube!

You can now see recent speeches and interviews with Jim Allister - and links to other videos of interest - on his YouTube homepage:

www.youtube.com/jimallister

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