

Jim Allister MEP - Leading for Ulster

# BRUSSELS BRIEFING

February 2009

Non-attached Member of the European Parliament [www.jimallister.org](http://www.jimallister.org)



## Report of Shame - Allister

TUV Leader, Jim Allister MEP, who with victims' groups, picketed at the launch of the Eames/Bradley proposals with a poster declaring, "The wages of murder is £12,000", has described the report as one of "shame".

In a statement the MEP said:

"The utterly immoral equivalence which this report bestows on murderer and murdered is not just disgusting, but it provides the basis of sand upon which its proposals are built.

For me, to stand outside with Michelle Williamson, who lost both her parents in the Shankill bomb, and then to see inside the man, Gerry Adams, who glorified the murderer of her parents, Begley, by carrying his coffin, was stomach-turning. Adams was there to gloat on how his IRA killers had been elevated by Eames/Bradley to the same status as their innocent victims. I was there to convey my outrage that Eames and Bradley, and their support cast, had delivered such a victory to terrorism. Lord Eames, in particular, should hang his head in shame.

The truth is that despite all their platitudes, Eames/Bradley have visited huge pain and renewed grief on the innocent victims by peddling the lie that those who made them victims are also victims.

MLAs pretend empathy with innocent victims, but allow the definition of victim, in the 2006 Order, which equates perpetrator with the innocent, to continue. Thus their condemnations of Eames/Bradley exude hypocrisy. Stormont could change the iniquitous definition, but won't because of the veto bestowed on IRA/Sinn Fein.

The poison of "equivalence" which runs through this report extends well beyond the definition of victim, it even includes the insult of bracketing Remembrance Day with the IRA's Easter Sunday's Commemoration, as it proposes a shared "Day of Reflection".

It is also clear to me that the gameplan of this report is to move away from the criminal justice system to information gathering, where amnesty would operate. Under Eames/Bradley the HET will be phased out and pursuit of justice abandoned."



### "Name and shame duplicitous politicians"

"The allegation from Jarlath Burns of the Eames/Bradley Commission that prominent Unionist politicians, who have publicly protested about the contents of the report, were supportive in private, is disturbing and a further blow to the morale of the innocent victims. It is appalling if some, for the sake of public consumption and approval, have trotted out condemnation while all the time encouraging Eames/Bradley down this path. This truly would be duplicitous. I call on Eames/Bradley to name and shame those dabbling in such hypocrisy.

It is an irrefutable fact that last year, when the Assembly was legislating for the Victims Commission, no attempt was made by the DUP - who tell us they control Stormont - to amend the immoral definition of "victim". Stormont has the power to change it, but because the Victims Commission was the product of a DUP/Sinn Fein deal, shamefully, no such attempt was made.

Actions do indeed speak louder than words."

The last date to register for inclusion on the electoral register for the European Election is 7th April. Contact us on 90655011 for registration forms.

## Allister visits Auschwitz

Speaking after his visit to Auschwitz, to attend the European Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony, as part of a joint mission of Members of the European Parliament, EU National Parliaments and the Knesset, TUV Leader Jim Allister MEP said:-

“Anyone who has ever visited Auschwitz and stood in the gas chambers where millions of Jews were murdered and seen the awful conditions in which they were detained, could not fail to be moved and renewed in their determination to oppose Nazism and all such freedom-denying causes, be it terrorism or fascism.

I had the privilege of meeting Naoh Kleiger, an 83 year old French-born journalist who is one of the few remaining Holocaust survivors. To hear him recount the night unspeakable horror to which he and millions more were subjected was



*Jim Allister with Auschwitz survivor, Noah Kleiger*

heart-rending. Little wonder the international conclusion, after the Holocaust, was that the Jews must have their own homeland. Thus the justice and necessity for Israel to exist, free from the modern day terrorism to which it is subjected.

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## Another ignored IRA murder

The recent 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.

### Allister slams Murphy's defence of the IRA

"How predictable: the IRA exposed as having brutally murdered Gerard Evans and within hours Government Minister Murphy is 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 in uproar, but with clinging to office with IRA/Sinn Fein now mattering more than anything else, sadly, they are strategically compliant."

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## Allister slams "absurd" Commission proposal on recreational fishing

Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister has raised with the President of the Fisheries Council, Petr Gandalovic, at a meeting of the Fisheries Committee in Brussels, what he termed "the latest ludicrous proposal" from the EU Commission whereby leisure sea anglers would be subjected to the full weight of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

In a proposal to tighten even further control mechanisms under the CFP, the Commission is proposing that any fish caught by recreational sea fishermen should be recorded and deducted from the member state's annual quota for the species involved. "This is absurd", said Mr Allister. "It would extend the strangling tentacles of the CFP to every leisure sea angler who goes out for an afternoon's fishing.

I have never encountered such a disproportionate and ridiculous proposition. Most recreational anglers do not sell their catch, indeed many return the fish caught to the sea and the proportion caught is miniscule. It is preposterous that a Commission which presides over the scandal of discards, whereby tons of edible dead fish are thrown back every day into the sea, should now, as the ultimate killjoy, try and crucify leisure fishermen with needless bureaucratic regulation.

As this proposal proceeds through the Fisheries Committee I will be relentless in seeking to expunge it from the Commission's package of proposals."

## Allister protests removal of Protection Weapons from ex-security personnel

Statement by TUV Leader Jim Allister MEP:

“It has become increasingly clear that there is an orchestrated drive afoot by the PSNI and the NIO to radically reduce the number of Personal Protection Weapons held by former members of the security forces. The escalating number of appeals which I have been asked to support makes this very clear as almost every ppw licence renewal is being refused.

The Chief Constable tells us the threat from republican terrorists, flying under the flag of “dissidents” has never been higher, yet simultaneously he is presiding over the determined removal from former security personnel - many living in areas where the threat is highest - of their only means of protection, their ppw. This is scandalous!

I believe this calculated campaign by the PSNI is

driven by a desire to placate Sinn Fein and demonstrate a drastic reduction in weapons lawfully held by civilians. The scant regard which it shows for the safety of men and women, who put themselves on the front line, is appalling. Because of their bravery in standing against terrorism these ex-security personnel, whose actions have not been forgotten by those they thwarted, are vulnerable to terrorist attack. They should not be left as easy targets, denuded of protection for the sake of the political expediency of humouring Sinn Fein.

This is but another knock-on effect of having a terrorist-inclusive government in Northern Ireland and another manifestation of how discarded are former members of our gallant security forces.

At the same time, I wonder how many Sinn Fein “bodyguards” have been facilitated with licences to carry weapons?”



Allister meets Management and staff of North Down Citizens Advice Bureau

## Shrine, not stadium, is the issue - MEP

Responding to news that no multi-sports stadium is to be built at the Maze Jim Allister said:

“The primary concern which Unionists across the Province have always had about the Maze was the potential it had to become a shrine to Republican terror. Any announcement to scrap the proposed stadium, therefore, does not address the core issue.

“Far from the DUP taking a stand, they have sold out to Republicans on the Maze. Firstly, both Arlene Foster and her successor as DOE Minister, Sammy Wilson, refused to de-list the ugly buildings at the Maze, whereby they then could have been demolished.

“Secondly, OFMDFM, under both Ian Paisley and Peter Robinson, has lobbied the EU for a so-called “Conflict Transformation Centre”. This euphemistic language will fool no one. Whether built with EU money or Executive money, neither is possible without DUP assent. So why has the plug not been pulled by the First Minister on any request for EU funding?

“As I have repeatedly warned, the shrine, not the stadium, is the issue. It’s permission, under any guise, is a matter which Unionists will not quickly forgive or forget”.



## Allister scornfully rejects SDLP attack

Statement by Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister:-

“I will take it as a compliment that, in his struggle to make himself relevant to the upcoming European Election, Alban Maginness’ pitch at the SDLP Conference was to attack me.

In choosing to attack my record he showed just how little he knows about what goes on in the European Parliament, but if he wants to talk records I’ll happily pitch mine against that of the SDLP, the last time they held a seat in Europe. In the whole 5 years from 1999 to 2004 John Hume managed to speak only 11 times in the Parliament. Since 2004 I have made 200 speeches in Parliament on behalf of Northern Ireland. So, if that’s his best point, his will be a pretty poor campaign.

As for his swearing of allegiance to the socialist banner in the European Parliament, it’s not a cause anyone who wishes to see economic prosperity restored would wish to embrace. The socialist dogma in Europe is more regulation, more restraint, more Europe, whereas business and our economy desperately needs less regulation, less control and, very definitely, less Europe.

Alban Maginness stands for further subservience to the EU, with unquestioning acceptance of the Lisbon Treaty and surrendering our last vestiges of financial independence and monetary control by joining the Euro. I oppose both as abject folly and the surest route to national decline and deeper economic crisis. As for his espousal of the cul-de-sac of the mythical “all-Ireland economy”, that too would lead us to ruin.”

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## Allister condemns Stormont's new "Special Powers Act"

Statement by TUV Leader Jim Allister MEP

“We have all heard the saying that a week is a long time in politics but it would seem as far as some parties are concerned 24 hours is equivalent to a political lifetime. How can the DUP expect people to take them seriously when, on Monday, they are proposing a motion to reduce the number of departments and then, on Tuesday, joining Sinn Fein in the lobbies to vote in favour of a report which makes plans for the creation of an additional department?

“I would agree that 12 Ministers, 2 Junior Ministers, 11 departments and all the special advisers and civil servants which accompany them is far too much for a place as small as Northern Ireland. But how you can propose cutting the number of Ministries on Monday and support the creation of an additional Ministry on Tuesday is beyond me!

In terms of where Stormont is headed, the Financial Assistance Bill has to be the most alarming in terms of buttressing undemocratic practices. This Bill has all the signs of the latest

wheeze to concentrate more powers exclusively in the hands of the DUP and Sinn Fein. In a brazen drive for power and glory OFMDFM are garnering to themselves more and more powers, through this their own “Special Powers Act”.

The ability to nominate a department, which could be their own, to deliver a project through regulations which are subject only to negative resolution - therefore never subjected to proper democratic scrutiny and control - is an alarming denuding of power from the Assembly itself. Sadly, the number of MLAs who understand or care seems to be limited. Moreover, the acquiescence of DFP in the absence of proper budgetary control powers from this proposal is disturbing.

Built upon the absence of adequate democratic controls, most notably no scope for an Opposition, the present system of devolution is increasingly degenerating into undemocratic practices. OFMDFM is becoming more and more the polit bureau as they exercise power grab at every opportunity.”



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.

## Protestant employment share in SEUPB suffers dramatic fall

Statement by TUV MEP Jim Allister:-

"I am appalled, but not totally surprised, to note a radical worsening in the imbalance in the staffing of the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), to the detriment of the Protestant/Unionist community.

This body handles the very sensitive issues associated with PEACE funding and time and time again its credentials have been questioned as the majority community receives less than its share of funding. To find that in the past year the Protestant complement of the staff has fallen from 37% to 30% in just 12 months, and at a time of a 50% growth in

staff numbers, is indicative of gross and systemic failure of its supposed "affirmative action programme."

I raised these issues, again, with Mr Pat Colgan, SEUPB Chief Executive, at a meeting on 30th January 2009 and expressed my utter dissatisfaction with the regression in Protestant employment.

I firmly believe there is a direct correlation between the chill factor which SEUPB generates through its oversight of PEACE funding distribution and its inability to attract and appoint a balanced workforce."

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## "Moral turpitude rules the day" - Allister

Speaking at a fund-raising dinner for Fermanagh TUV, Jim Allister MEP spoke of the "moral turpitude" which hallmarks what he termed "the Belfast Agreement society".

In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said:-  
"This has been a week which exposed the sham and moral turpitude upon which our post Belfast Agreement society is built. When you reach the point when murderers are equated with those they murdered, then the moral death in high places is truly shocking.

While I make no excuses for Eames/Bradley and have nothing but disdain for their monstrous suggestion of wages for murder, I do have to recognise that when the highest political offices in the land, OFMDFM and the Executive, are constructed on the same amoral equivalence of democrat and terrorist, then what do we expect? Treating Martin McGuinness - the personification of the IRA's murderous campaign - as fit to be Joint First Minister, is no different from treating the "volunteers" of his IRA as equal to their victims.

Likewise, the hypocrisy of those who condemn Eames/Bradley, while every day they clutch IRA/Sinn Fein to their bosom in government, arises from the same loss of moral direction. Be it the



political rewarding of terrorists with Executive office, or their financial rewarding through "recognition payments", both are wrong.

The maxim of "that which is morally wrong, can never be politically right", is as applicable to Peter Robinson as it is to Lord Eames.

Soon, in the European Election, the people of Northern Ireland will give their verdict on all these issues. Being the only candidate opposed to terrorists in government, I will be able to look the voters in the eye and afford them an honest invitation to join me in saying of terrorist-inclusive government, "Not in my name". I will need no verbal gymnastics to explain or justify my stance."

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## McGuinness misused Brussels visit for republican propaganda offensive

Statement by TUV MEP Jim Allister:-

"I deplore the fact that the Joint First Minister McGuinness, on an occasion when he visited Brussels, at public expense, supposedly to lobby with his partner, Peter Robinson, on agricultural issues, devoted his afternoon to a Sinn Fein propaganda offensive in the European Parliament.

In an event hosted by Sinn Fein he spoke on the

IRA mantra of "Build a lasting peace - Conflict resolution in Ireland".

At a time of ever-deepening economic crisis and a distinct deficit in NI Executive activity in Brussels, it is shameful that McGuinness chose to devote time in Brussels to party political activity, rather than putting in a full day's work on behalf of the country over which he jointly presides.

## Allister identifies subservience to EU as cause of industrial unrest

Traditional Unionist MEP, Jim Allister, has raised in the European Parliament in Strasbourg the rising industrial unrest in the UK over the influx of foreign workers to deliver major public contracts.

Identifying the UK's membership of the EU as the source of this influx, the Ulster Euro MP said that thereby we subjected ourselves to the supremacy of EU law and the rulings of the European Court of Justice. Hence, the inability of the UK to write and shape its own labour laws.

The EU rules on procurement, whereby all sizeable contracts have to be opened up to all EU countries and companies, are also contributing to this situation, with preference for local contractors and workers outlawed by EU procurement policy.

In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said:-  
"As the economic crisis deepens, major issues, leading to industrial action, are emerging in the UK, flowing from the compulsion of unrestricted free movement of labour within the EU and the procurement requirements in regard to major works, whereby contracts won by foreign contractors are resulting in a huge influx of foreign workers, to the disadvantage of local workers and unemployed.

In this, I believe, many will come to see the price being paid by the UK for EU membership, in that we have been compelled to subject our labour market and laws to the supremacy of EU law and the rulings of the ECJ.

Procurement policy, which prohibits preference for local contractors and workers, is stoking up more and more resentment of the EU and its inflexible dogma."

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## Allister speaks on climate change

In a debate in the European Parliament, Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister again counselled against the rush to huge expenditure, driven by unrealistic targets on CO2 emission reductions, as part of the fashionable climate change hysteria.

In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said:-  
"Once more we have preened ourselves in this Parliament on our green credentials and speakers have competed to push higher and higher the unrealistic targets for energy from only renewable sources and the targets for reduction of CO2 emissions, all in the belief

that by our puny, but costly, efforts we will save the planet.

Yes, we should use and promote sustainable energy sources, but pursuit of what for most has become a dogma, with no regard to cost or viability, needs to be tempered by reality, including the reality that climate change is not new, but cyclical. And, the reality that while we inflict these targets on ourselves manufacturing increasingly switches to where no such restraints inhibit them. One day, we will have to account for the own goals in which the EU excels."

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## Sinn Fein split - MEPs divided on European anthem

Recently an interesting split in Sinn Fein emerged in the European Parliament in Strasbourg over the status and respect due to the so called European Anthem, 'Ode to Joy'.

During its playing in the plenary session at the start of a formal sitting for a visiting Head of State, Barbara de Brun stood to attention, while Mary Lou McDonald remained seated, as did Eurosceptics, including myself, across the Chamber.

Clearly, de Brun supports the trappings of statehood which the EU has gathered to itself. Hence, her craven deference to the anthem, the most potent of those trappings.

This mixed message from its two MEPs demonstrates that Sinn Fein is in a muddle over its attitude to the EU. One MEP embraces the symbols of Europhile expansionism, the other studiously sits it out. So, just where does Sinn Fein stand? Is it Eurosceptic in the Republic and Euro-fanatical in Northern Ireland, just as it opposed the Euro currency in the Republic, but wants it in Northern Ireland?

Sinn Fein can't have it both ways - but, then, on its experience in Northern Ireland, it probably thinks it can, because there it can be in government while still glorifying terrorism and retaining its IRA Army Council!

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## Allister responds to DUP candidature in Europe

Commenting on the DUP's selection of a candidate for Europe, sitting Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister said:-

"The decision of the DUP to split the Unionist vote in circumstances where there are two sitting Unionist MEPs, and where the second seat is far from assured, is regrettable. As DUP Assembly Member Trevor Clarke said, *"It takes a bizarre logic to advocate vote-splitting as a means of advancing Unionism...The last thing Unionism needs is more "vote-splitting".*"

"The identity of the DUP vote-splitting candidate is less important than the policies which they will have to defend. I certainly look forward, as the only candidate opposed to terrorists in

government, to holding to account those that gave us Martin McGuinness as our Joint First Minister, Catrina Ruane to wreck our education system and Gerry Kelly preening himself as Justice Minister in waiting.

Mine will be a campaign based on dynamic and durable principle, not here today, gone tomorrow pledges. Likewise, on Sinn Fein I will be able to look every voter in the eye, for my opposition to the advancement of IRA/Sinn Fein is 24/7 and not just at election time. Nor have I the embarrassment of promoting them to the top of government while pretending an interest in preventing them from topping the poll. My purpose in that regard is undefiled."

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## Thank you, Nelson. Yes, it's still IRA/Sinn Fein

"Thank you, Nelson McCausland for putting the focus back on the fact that the Leader of the party that is your partner in government was an IRA Leader. Indeed, not so long ago the Republic's Justice Minister named him as a member of the IRA Army Council. Yet, you and your party sit happily in government with them. Given your Christian name, you should know you're now supposed to turn a blind eye to the fact that it's still IRA/Sinn Fein.

What sort of surreal world does Speaker Hay occupy if the patent truth cannot be stated. Good job he wasn't Speaker on 8th May 2001



when Peter Robinson so explicitly expounded Martin McGuinness' terrorist pedigree on the floor of the Assembly and railed against the immorality of such a person being in government. Now, you can't say "Boo" to Sinn Fein in Stormont and Peter Robinson is McGuinness' buddy in government!

What a "Fair Deal" we have been delivered! Adams cocooned by a DUP Speaker, McGuinness accompanied round the world by Peter Robinson as Joint First Minister and poor Nelson, who dares to occasionally speak the truth, booted out of Stormont!"

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## Allister objects to EU 'Open House' for Guantanamo detainees

Traditional Unionist MEP Jim Allister has condemned and voted against a European Parliament demand that EU countries should receive detainees released from Guantanamo.

Speaking in the Strasbourg Parliament the Ulster Euro MP said:-

"Ever eager to jump on any passing bandwagon, today the European Parliament demanded that Member States throw open their doors to Guantanamo detainees. On the very day when security services reveal that Mullah Sakir, who was released last year, is now on the High Command of Al Qaeda, leading attacks on British and other NATO forces in Afghanistan, we declare

the EU as an open house for such terrorist leaders. Are we mad?

Remember, once admitted and regularised in citizenship, such people can move freely through every member state in the EU.

I trust those who vote for this madness will stand over it when it all goes wrong."

Commenting after the vote Mr Allister said, "I was not at all surprised to note that the ever terrorist-friendly Sinn Fein representatives voted for this proposal. They've embraced ETA, FARC, Middle East insurrectionists, so there is no surprise in them welcoming Al Quada suspects."

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## Don't be DUPED - Allister

Extract from a speech by Jim Allister MEP at a TUV Public Meeting in Clough, Co Down:

“Much obfuscation will dominate the next four months, making clear thinking more important than ever.

“The man or woman who truly cares about defeating Sinn Fein doesn't elevate them to the highest office in the land. Hence, the disingenuous farce of the DUP pretending an interest in stopping Sinn Fein topping the Euro poll. It is ego, not principle which drives such sham politics.

“The day when, sadly and to my great disappointment, Diane Dodds put her hand up to bring IRA/SF into Government was the day she surrendered the ground from which the advance of SF can be resisted with principle and conviction. As a barrister I know that a witness, who for the convenience of the moment, says one thing, but has done another, will never convince the jury.

“If you gift Martin McGuinness the top office of Joint First Minister, you can't, with credibility, pretend concern about Barbara de Brun!

“If you make Sinn Fein your primary partner in government, then they are not your enemy at the polls! So, please, spare the electorate the hypocrisy of “vote DUP to stop Sinn Fein,” because the last time voters took this advice they got Sinn Fein to rule over them.

In the up-coming election I will be proud to be the only candidate opposed to Sinn Fein in government and the only candidate fighting Sinn Fein 24/7, rather than after another day of propping them up in government.

My challenge to the DUP is to be honest. Fight this election by defending your gifting of power to Sinn Fein, rather than pretending you stand for the opposite of what you practice.”

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## DUP put your pound in Dublin's pocket - Allister

Responding to a recent debate in the Assembly on the North-South Ministerial Council Jim Allister said:

“The motion tabled in the names of David Simpson and William McCrea is totally disingenuous. While it seeks to portray the DUP as anti-North/Southerly the reality is very different. Far from working towards the abolition of the North-South Ministerial Council, at the last meeting of that body two new additional levels of Dublin interference were discussed - a North South Consultative Forum and a North South Parliamentary Forum. The DUP is building up North-Southerly, not destroying it.

“Additionally, correspondence which I had with DFP last year revealed that the DUP controlled ministry rubberstamped every single financial request from the North-South bodies established

by the Belfast Agreement. And every body saw its funding increased. So much for the pre-devolution boasts of addressing the imbalance between North-South and East-West!

“The DUP know fine well that its motion has zero chance of achieving anything because of the veto which Republicans have over everything that happens at Stormont. But worse than that, they know that for all their posturing they have accepted the very North-South arrangements which, as Peter Robinson once said amounted to, *“a direct tangible legislative link with the Republic through All-Ireland bodies. The distinction between Northern Ireland and the Republic has been torn away, under this deal North and South come closer together and Northern Ireland ever more distant from Great Britain”*.

### 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](http://www.youtube.com/jimallister)

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## One year on from Dromore

In a statement to coincide with the anniversary of the Dromore by-election TUV Leader Jim Allister MEP said:-

“One year on from the political earthquake that was the Dromore by-election, TUV is proud to remain the voice of those opposed to terrorists in government and to continue to require much over-the-shoulder attention from those who ushered IRA/Sinn Fein into government.

I look forward to the 4th June when Unionists right across the Province will have the opportunity to give their verdict on terrorist-inclusive government. As the only candidate opposed to IRA/Sinn Fein ruling over us, it will be an honour to galvanise the deep-seated opposition which I know continues to exist among citizens who believe what is morally wrong can never be politically right.



Considering the impact of 800 votes at Dromore, I look forward to the consequences of tens of thousands of votes from ordinary Unionists who have not sold principle for the expediency of office.”

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## Review of CFP must bring change - Allister

With the EU Commission due to publish an important Green Paper in April, dealing with reform and the future of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the Fisheries Committee in Brussels has held its first debate with Commissioner Borg on its likely contents.

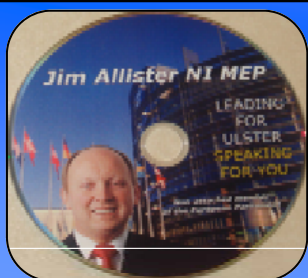
Taking part in the debate Jim Allister MEP launched a strong attack on the current CFP, which he described as an "abject failure". Illustrating its failure with reference to the Irish Sea, Jim Allister observed that the Northern Ireland whitefish fleet had crashed from 40 boats to 6, yet we are still told stocks are falling, despite all the stringent quotas, effort management tools and Spring closures. "This", declared Mr Allister, "is the clearest evidence imaginable of a failed policy, where failure has come at the huge cost of robbing many fishermen of their livelihoods."

Focusing, in particular, on the unfairness of Quota policy, the TUV MEP called for their total

removal as a management tool with more localised effort management as the key tool of the future. Giving local fishermen real responsibility will reap far better conservation rewards, he said.

Once more Mr Allister attacked the CFP policy on discards, whereby thousands of tons of fish are compulsorily thrown back into the sea. Describing it as "the most scandalous of all the lunacy which the CFP management system had promoted", he referred to the situation in Norway as far more sustainable, where discards are banned and all fish caught must be landed.

As 2009 proceeds there will be very serious negotiations on the future of the CFP and it is vital that Northern Ireland's interests are vigorously pursued. Mr Allister has already discussed these issues with the Senior Fisheries Officer from DEFRA.



Copies of Jim Allister's DVD, 'Leading for Ulster, Speaking for You' are available free from Jim Allister's office at 139 Hollywood Road, Belfast (Tel: 028 90 655011) or can be ordered by email on [info@jimallister.org](mailto:info@jimallister.org)

The DVD can also be viewed at [www.jimallister.org/links.asp](http://www.jimallister.org/links.asp)

# Farming News

## Queues for farm modernisation grant reflective of DARD neglect

MEP Jim Allister has said the spectacle of long queues of farmers camping overnight outside DARD offices, in order to submit farm modernisation applications, is appalling.

The MEP said, "The steps farmers have been forced to take, just to be in with a chance of getting grant aid up of £5000 is a shameful indictment on DARD. I have said repeatedly that the share of Rural Development funds allocated to Axis 1, and specifically for such purposes as Farm Modernisation are derisory, while the huge demand for



funding is testament to that fact."

"Farm Minister Michelle Gildernew presided over increased modulation deductions from farmers' Single Farm Payments, which is costing the industry Millions of Pounds each year, while little is got back in return. Clearly, the industry is in dire need of investing in new technology which can enhance its competitiveness on the World market. I call on DARD to redistribute its priorities under Rural Development, to ensure farmers get a better deal out of the Rural Development Programme than they do at present."

## Allister urges Commission to block Sterling equalisation moves

Ulster MEP Jim Allister has urged the European Commission to block any moves which could result in Irish exports to the UK being subsidised under a Sterling Equalisation Scheme.

The MEP's remarks came in response to calls by the Irish Farmers Association and the Irish Exporters Association for the Irish Government to establish a Sterling Equalisation Fund, which would guarantee food exporters an exchange rate of £0.80.

The MEP said, "The Northern Ireland agri-food industry has, until very recently, had to put up with the huge competitive disadvantage of a strong Pound, while the Irish have enjoyed boom times stemming from the comparatively weak Euro. Now that the tables have turned, we see Irish producers and meat exporters calling for a Government export subsidy to be introduced, which would give Republic of Ireland product a direct trading advantage over UK product. This is unacceptable."

"For some time now, we have watched as the Irish have looked after their own interests, regardless of the impact on their Northern Ireland neighbours -their handling of the recent dioxin situation as a case in point. This latest proposal -to establish an export subsidy aimed squarely at the United Kingdom - is in contravention of the fundamental principles of the Common market, and would be detrimental to the interests of all UK producers. Therefore, I have tabled a question to the European Commission, asking for confirmation that such a fund would indeed be in contravention of EU competition rules."

Question to Commission:

*"Having regard to the currency fluctuations which habitually afflict commerce within the EU and the fact that no Euro or Sterling Equalisation Scheme was thought appropriate when sterling was strong, does the Commission agree that there is no case requiring a Sterling Equalisation Scheme or guaranteed trading rate, and that such would be anti-competitive and amount to an export subsidy on trade?"*

## Allister comments on Total Income from Farming Figures

"I note with disappointment the reduction in total income from farming during 2008, with provisional figures estimating a 5.5% fall in real terms. The importance of the single farm payment to local farmers -which is in excess of the total income from farming -must be recognised. The siphoning off of funds by DARD from farmers' direct payments via increased

modulation rates, into more elusive 'rural development' measures, is damaging to the total income farmers receive. The Department must consider reshuffling its priorities within the £500 million Rural Development scheme into measures which will assist our important sectors become more competitive on what is an increasingly volatile World market."

## Food before political correctness, says MEP

### MEP attacks Sinn Fein stance

Speaking in Strasbourg in the European Parliament's debate on its report on climate change, Traditional Unionist MEP, Jim Allister, who is openly sceptical about much of the hype generated on the subject, warned that production of adequate food to feed a growing world population could be seriously jeopardised by some of the unrealistic targets being set for emission reductions.

With natural emissions from livestock and modern farming practices being targeted, the Ulster Euro MP cautioned that what was being demanded was not only impracticable but prejudicial to food production. EU agriculture, he said, had already made huge reductions in emissions (20% from 1990 to 2005), but there was a limit to what more could be done.

In the course of his remarks Mr Allister said:-  
"I want to raise a voice of caution in this frenzied debate about climate change, particularly as it could affect food production.

We are told the world population will spiral to

9 billion by 2050. Thus food production must correspondingly increase. Yet, within this climate change package we have emission reduction demands, which if met, would reduce food production when we'll need it most. I refer, in particular, to the targets on methane and nitrous oxide and the assault on meat and dairy consumption. These reduction targets can not be met without serious diminution in food production.

Faced with the choice of feeding the world, or ticking climate change correctness boxes, I'm afraid I'm on the side of common sense and necessity."

The TUV MEP went on to attack Sinn Fein member, Barbara de Brun, for her fanatical support for every extreme climate change demand. "I'm sure it will not be lost on the important agri-food sector in Northern Ireland, that out in Strasbourg Sinn Fein is supporting ever increasing restraints on our agricultural practices, including a demand for reduction in intensive livestock production. Once more Sinn Fein is prepared to put dogma before the economic interests of Northern Ireland."

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### Allister welcomes ongoing scrutiny of Brazilian beef

TUV MEP Jim Allister has said he welcomes the ongoing level of scrutiny of Brazilian beef by the European authorities. Recently, members of the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee were updated by the Commission on the controls which are in place to ensure only meat which meets European standards can be imported.

The MEP said,  
"At last, it seems EU officials are ensuring the high production standards being applied within Europe are being enforced on beef imports from Brazil -this is only fair, and something which I have been pressing for, for some time".

"Only 733 farms in Brazil are currently permitted to export beef to the EU, compared with the 18,000 farms which could export prior to enforcement measures being introduced. This is a clear indication of the extent of non-compliance to EU standards which existed in South America before the European authorities were eventually

forced into taking action."

"I am led to believe that it will be some time before beef farms in Brazil make the necessary investment to be able to comply with EU standards, which is some positive news to local farmers in the short to medium term. The Commission also believes that the opening of the Russian market, where lower animal health requirements exist, will further delay Brazilian beef flooding onto the European market any time soon."





## Two women in favour of terrorists in government

The comments of Iris Robinson about Barbara Brown topping the European poll are totally disingenuous. With her husband as Joint First Minister alongside Martin McGuinness and Diane Dodds' serving alongside three convicted terrorists in the Stormont government the old "vote DUP to stop Sinn Fein" line no longer washes with the electorate.

If the DUP were genuinely concerned about thwarting the advancement of Republicans they would not have gone into government with them. Simple as that.

To try and portray the DUP candidate as one round whom all Unionists can unite is also nonsense. Unionism was united until the DUP decided to go sell their principles for the price of

office. Then it became imperative that a new party be formed to provide a voice for those Traditional Unionists who still opposed Belfast Agreement devolution.

Mrs Robinson pretends concern at the idea that Sinn Fein/IRA could strut the world stage as the voice of Northern Ireland yet this is exactly what Martin McGuinness already does when, with the DUP leader in toe, he visits the States and, indeed, Brussels just recently. By elevating the personification of IRA violence to the head of government the DUP have gifted the role of strutting the world stage to them.

Only by voting for the Traditional Unionist in June's poll can the people of Ulster hope to thwart the advance of Sinn Fein/IRA.



**Jim Allister visiting the recent agricultural machinery show in Fintona**

## Allister asks Robinson to support collusion inquiry on McGuinness

"As the orchestrated demands for a hand-picked inquiry into the Funicane murder are renewed - even though the type of judicial inquiry good enough for every other case has been on offer for years - and given the audacity of Martin McGuinness to head up these demands, I call for a public inquiry into the collusion between the holders of government office in Northern Ireland today and the murder of many of our best citizens.

"McGuinness' role should be at the heart of any such inquiry and Peter Robinson's allegations in

the Assembly on 8th May 2001 - before he became his buddy in government - should form a key part of that investigation. If we have as our Joint First Minister a person guilty of the crimes alleged by Mr Robinson, then the public have the right to know and the consequences, which would flow anywhere else, of his removal from office should follow.

"I call on Mr Robinson to support this demand for a collusion inquiry centred on his joint office holder."