



**Tithe an
Oireachtais**
**Houses of the
Oireachtas**

**An Comhchoiste um Fhorfheidhmiú
Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta**

Clár Oibre 2018

**Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good
Friday Agreement**

Work Programme 2018

32/JCIGFA/05

JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT

WORK PROGRAMME 2018

1. BACKGROUND

The Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement was established following an order of the Dáil Éireann on the 29th June 2016 and of Seanad Éireann on the 21st July 2016. Standing Orders of both Houses require that

“As soon as may be following its appointment and thereafter at annual intervals, each Select Committee shall prepare a work programme and shall lay such programme before Dáil Éireann.” (S.O. 89(4) [Dáil] and S.O. 77(4) [Seanad])

2. ORDERS OF REFERENCE

DÁIL ÉIREANN

Fógraí Tairisceana : Notices of Motions: 29 June 2016

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>“(1) Go gceapfar Roghchoiste, ar a mbeidh cúig chomhalta dhéag de Dháil Éireann, a bheidh le comhcheangal le Roghchoiste atá le ceapadh ag Seanad Éireann, chun bheith ina Chomhchoiste um Fhorfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta chun breithniú a dhéanamh ar an méid seo a leanas—</p> <p>(a) saincheisteanna a éiríonn as ról na hÉireann mar shínitheoir le Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta,</p> <p>(b) forbairtí leanúnacha i dtaca le forfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta, agus</p> <p>(c) aon tograí a bhaineann le forfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta agus nithe gaolmhara a tharchuirfidh an Dáil agus/nó an Seanad chuige ó am go ham,</p> | <p>(1) That a Select Committee consisting of seven members of Dáil Éireann be appointed to be joined with a Select Committee to be appointed by Seanad Éireann to form the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement to consider—</p> <p>(a) issues arising from Ireland’s role as a signatory to the Good Friday Agreement,</p> <p>(b) ongoing developments in the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, and</p> <p>(c) any proposals relating to the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and such related matters as shall be referred to it by the Dáil and/or the Seanad from time to time,</p> |
|--|---|

- agus chun tuarascáil a thabhairt do dhá Theach an Oireachtais uair sa bhliain ar a laghad.
- (2) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 83, seachas mír (2A), (4A), (4B) agus (6A) den chéanna.
- (3) Beidh an tAire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála (nó comhalta den Rialtas nó Aire Stáit a bheidh ainmnithe ina áit nó ina háit) ina chomhalta nó ina comhalta *ex-officio* den Choiste agus beidh sé nó sí i dteideal vótáil in imeachtaí.
- (4) Féadfaidh Feisirí de chuid Pharlaimint Westminster arna dtoghadh ó thoghcheantair i dTuaisceart Éireann freastal ar chruinnithe den Chomhchoiste agus dá fho-Choistí agus féadfaidh siad páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí gan ceart vótála a bheith acu ná ceart tairiscintí a dhéanamh ná leasuithe a thairiscint.
- (5) Beidh Cathaoirleach an Chomhchoiste ina chomhalta nó ina comhalta de Dháil Éireann.
- and to report back to both Houses of the Oireachtas at least once a year.
- (2) The Joint Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Order 83, other than paragraph (2A), (4A), (4B) and (6A) thereof.
- (3) The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (or a member of the Government or Minister of State nominated in his or her stead) shall be an *ex officio* member of the Committee and shall be entitled to vote in proceedings.
- (4) Members of the Westminster Parliament elected from constituencies in Northern Ireland may attend meetings of the Joint Committee and of its sub-Committees and may take part in proceedings without having a right to vote or to move motions and amendments.
- (5) The Chairman of the Joint Committee shall be a member of Dáil Éireann."

Seanad Motion 21 July, 2016

- "(1) Go gceapfar Roghchoiste, ar a mbeidh 5 chomhalta de Sheanad Éireann, a bheidh le comhcheangal le Roghchoiste atá le ceapadh ag Dáil Éireann, chun bheith ina Chomhchoiste um Fhorfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta chun breithniú a dhéanamh ar an méid seo a leanas—
- (a) saincheisteanna a éiríonn as ról na hÉireann mar shínitheoir le Comhaontú Aoine an Chéasta,
- (b) forbairtí leanúnacha i dtaca le
- (1) That a Select Committee consisting of six members of Seanad Éireann be appointed to be joined with a Select Committee to be appointed by Dáil Éireann to form the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement to consider—
- (a) issues arising from Ireland's role as a signatory to the Good Friday Agreement,
- (b) ongoing developments in

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>forfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta, agus</p> <p>(c) aon tograí a bhaineann le forfheidhmiú Chomhaontú Aoine an Chéasta agus nithe gaolmhara a tharchuirfidh an Dáil agus/nó an Seanad chuige ó am go ham,</p> <p>agus chun tuarascáil a thabhairt do dhá Theach an Oireachtais uair sa bhliain ar a laghad.</p> | <p>the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, and</p> <p>(c) any proposals relating to the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and such related matters as shall be referred to it by the Dáil and/or the Seanad from time to time,</p> <p>and to report back to both Houses of the Oireachtas at least once a year.</p> |
| <p>(2) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 71, seachas mír (2A), (4A), (4B) agus (6A) den chéanna.</p> | <p>(2) The Joint Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Order 71, other than paragraph (2A), (4A), (4B) and (6A) thereof.</p> |
| <p>(3) Beidh an tAire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála (nó comhalta den Rialtas nó Aire Stáit a bheidh ainmnithe ina áit nó ina háit) ina chomhalta nó ina comhalta ex-officio den Choiste agus beidh sé nó sí i dteideal vótáil in imeachtaí.</p> | <p>(3) The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (or a member of the Government or Minister of State nominated in his or her stead) shall be an ex officio member of the Committee and shall be entitled to vote in proceedings.</p> |
| <p>(4) Féadfaidh Feisirí de chuid Pharlaimint Westminster arna dtoghadh ó thoghlaigh i dTuaisceart Éireann freastal ar chruinnithe den Chomhchoiste agus dá Fhochoistí agus féadfaidh siad páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí gan ceart vótála a bheith acu ná ceart tairiscintí a dhéanamh ná leasuithe a thairiscint.</p> | <p>(4) Members of the Westminster Parliament elected from constituencies in Northern Ireland may attend meetings of the Joint Committee and of its sub-Committees and may take part in proceedings without having a right to vote or to move motions and amendments.</p> |
| <p>(5) Beidh Cathaoirleach an Chomhchoiste ina chomhalta nó ina comhalta de Dháil Éireann.</p> | <p>(5) The Chairman of the Joint Committee shall be a member of Dáil Éireann."</p> |

Accordingly, the items listed in this Work Programme will be considered by the Joint Committee, within the parameters defined by the Orders of Reference of the Joint Committee, as amended from time to time.

3. OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement is committed to making a constructive contribution to the Committee System, in the Houses of the Oireachtas and to continuing to assert the proper oversight and accountability role of the Legislature, in respect of the Executive. It will endeavor to do this by properly exercising the functions and powers, which have been conferred on it, by both Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann.

4. FLUIDITY OF WORK PROGRAMME

The general items listed for consideration in this Work Programme are not in any order of priority. The Joint Committee will decide on individual items for review, in the light of its assessment of a particular need, during the year.

The Joint Committee is of the opinion that to accord a strict priority and agree a timetable for consideration of the various items would impose too rigid a structure and would not enable the Joint Committee to respond to evolving events, during the year.

In response to a particular evolving event or an urgent unforeseen matter, it shall, if it deems it necessary to do so, amend this Work Programme to include further items, or delete or revise existing items for consideration.

The Joint Committee has also agreed that, should it not have sufficient time during 2018 to consider an item, detailed in this Work Programme, it may be included in the 2019 Work Programme, should the issue continue to retain its importance and relevance.

5. JOINT COMMITTEE – SPECIFIC ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

The Joint Committee is conscious of the fact, that certain issues that both Houses of the Oireachtas have ordered it to consider, fall within the remit of several Government Departments, **both North and South**. Accordingly, the Minister responsible for that Department (and Departmental Officials) may be invited to appear before the Joint Committee, to outline policy decisions/thinking and respond to detailed questions. Where necessary, the Joint Committee may also seek submissions from the Public and may, if the need arises, engage persons with specialist or technical knowledge, to advise and assist it in its work.

The Joint Committee is committed to prioritising Legacy and Reconciliation issues, and the on-going challenges of Brexit for the Good Friday Agreement throughout 2018.

The Joint Committee has identified the following areas, which it will focus on during 2018.

- **Outstanding matters for Implementation under the Agreement and subsequent Agreements**
To include the Irish Language Act; Northern Ireland Bill of Rights; and the Legacy Institutions provided for under the Stormont House Agreement.

- **Reconciliation, Legacy Issues and dealing with the past**
Including meeting with Victims and Survivors groups, the Independent Commission on the Location of Victims Remains, the Commissioner for Victims and Survivors, engaging with victims and families, and engaging with academics working in the area.
Also including equal rights, ex-prisoners' issues, outstanding prisoner's issues, citizenship rights, parading, flags, and developing mutual respect and recognition of others.

- **North-South Co-Operation**
The workings of, and potential impact of Brexit on the North South Ministerial Council and North-South Co-operation bodies, particularly in the absence of an Executive.
To consider the continued operation of the North-South Implementation Bodies (Tourism Ireland, Safefood Ireland, InterTrade, Foras na Gaeilge, Waterways Ireland, SEUPB and the Irish Lights Commission) in tandem/ with the Brexit discussions. Cross Border cooperation in health, infrastructure, energy, education and other sectors.

- **Brexit and its Implications for the Good Friday Agreement**
The implications of Brexit for (including but not limited to) the Border, EU Programmes, Citizenship Rights and Children's Rights.

- **Outreach**
Continue to engage with community representatives, politicians, voluntary organisations, public servants, church leaders and other key stake holders on a range of cultural, economic and social issues in Northern Ireland, across all communities to ensure an agreed Ireland for all. Continue to build on constructive engagement with members of the PUL community.

- **Commemorations**
2018 represents a significant anniversary for the signing of the Good Friday Agreement and the Joint Committee will be recognising the significant achievements delivered by the Good Friday Agreement.

6. TRAVEL

Subject to Standing Order 85(9) [Dáil Éireann] and Standing Order 72(15) [Seanad Éireann], the Joint Committee may decide, subject to administrative, financial and procedural constraints, to undertake travel within Ireland North and South and also abroad, as it considers necessary, to further progress this Work Programme.

In particular, the Joint Committee will undertake a series of visits to Northern Ireland and to the border region on a regular basis to meet with leaders and members of the community who are involved in community development, in peace and reconciliation work or in work to strengthen positive North-South relations.

Such travel may also include information seeking attendance at conferences or meetings, etc. within the remit of the Committee's Orders of Reference.

7. INCOMING PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS AND OTHERS

The Joint Committee will meet with incoming parliamentary delegations and others, as requested and required.

8. NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

Taking account of the resources and facilities available to the Joint Committee and the commitments of Members, it is anticipated that the Joint Committee will meet, on average, once fortnightly, in the course of 2018.

The Joint Committee will also endeavor to travel to the border region or to Northern Ireland frequently for informal meetings with political, community and/or other appropriate leaders and organisations involved in work which could inform the work of the Joint Committee.

9. AGREEMENT OF WORK PROGRAMME

This Work Programme for 2018 of the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement was agreed by the Committee, in accordance with Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann, it was agreed that the Work Programme be laid, before both Houses of the Oireachtas.



Seán Crowe, T.D.
Chairman,
19 April 2018.

