



DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & PERSONNEL

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**FROM: JACK LAYBERRY
EUROPEAN DIVISION**

DATE: 12 JUNE 1997

cc PS/Mr Ingram (DED, B&L)
PS/Mr Worthington (DENI, DHSS & L)
PS/Lord Dubs (DOE, DANI&L)
PS/PUS (B&L)
PS/Sir David Fell
NI Permanent Secretaries
Mr Watkins
Mr Quinn
Mr Canavan
Miss Wilson

1. PS/MR MURPHY (DFP, B&L)
2. PS/SECRETARY OF STATE (B&L)

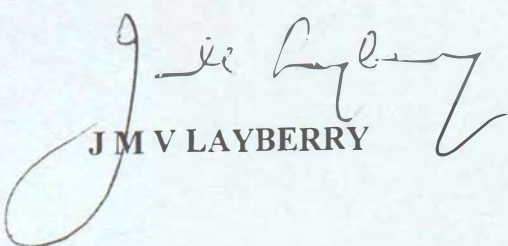
- Agreed by Minister 18/6/97

**EU SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION:
REQUEST FOR A MEETING WITH CONSULTATIVE FORUM STEERING
GROUP**

1. Mr Brian McCarty of the Consultative Forum Secretariat wrote to the Secretary of State on 16 May 1997 to request a meeting to discuss the Forum's experience of cross-community cross-border partnership and the future of the European Structural Funds.
2. One of the unique features of the Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation is the Consultative Forum, which was established to provide a mechanism

for continuing consultation. The Forum consists of representatives drawn from a range of local interests and comprises 80 members (60 from Northern Ireland and 20 from the border counties in the ROI). Joint chairpersons have been appointed from NI and the ROI and a small Steering Group has been established. Sligo Chamber of Commerce and Industry have also been appointed by the Forum to provide a Secretariat service.

3. The role of the Forum is primarily to advise the Monitoring Committee on local views about issues relating directly to the implementation of the Peace Programme. To facilitate this, the Joint Chairpersons of the Forum are members of the Monitoring Committee, which is the body with overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the Programme. The responsibilities of the Forum, as set out in the Peace Programme Operational Programme document, are quite specific. In addition to presenting their views on issues of concern regarding implementation of the Programme, their primary responsibilities are to comment on the annual report and any interim assessments. The Forum is currently in the process of developing its role and many of its members are still coming to grips with the complexities of the Peace Programme.
4. Against this background, there is no compelling reason why the Secretary of State should agree to a meeting with Forum members at this stage.
5. A draft response is attached.


J M V LAYBERRY

DRAFT LETTER FOR SIGNATURE BY PS/SECRETARY OF STATE

To: Mr B McCarthy Consultative Forum Secretariat Sligo Chamber of Commerce and Industry 16 Quay Street SLIGO	Enc:	cc: PS/Mr Ingram (DED,B&L) PS/Mr Worthington (DENI,DHSS&L) PS/Lord Dubs (DOE,DANI&L) PS/PUS (L&B) PS/Sir David Fell NI Permanent Secretaries Mr Watkins Mr Quinn Mr Canavan Miss Wilson
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June 1997

**SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION:
CONSULTATIVE FORUM**

The Secretary of State has asked me to thank you for your letter of 16 May 1997 requesting a meeting with her.

The Secretary of State was interested to learn of the role played by the Consultative Forum in the implementation of the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation. She is unable to agree to a meeting at this stage, but has suggested that it would be useful for you to make your views known to the Programme Monitoring Committee, which will then be able to take them fully into account when considering the handling of the second tranche of funding.

The Secretary of State has asked me to wish you well with your work.



CONSULTATIVE FORUM

EUROPEAN UNION SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION
IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND THE SIX BORDER COUNTIES OF IRELAND

CONSULTATIVE FORUM SECRETARIAT,
SLIGO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, 16 QUAY STREET, SLIGO.
PHONE: 071 (00 353 71) 61274, FAX: 071 (00 353 71) 60912



Dr Marjorie Moylam.
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.
Stormont Castle.
Belfast.

16 May. 1997.

Dear Dr Moylam.

SPECIAL SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION CONSULTATIVE FORUM.

As you are no doubt aware part of the structure set up by the Governments and the European Union to manage the above Programme was the establishment of a Consultative Forum.

The Forum represents a wide range of interests from both sides of the border including business, community and Trade Union and has in our view played an important role in representing the interests of those who have the potential to be positively affected by the Programme.

We have sought to insure that the Programme is used to develop a peaceful and stable society by encouraging reconciliation, increasing economic development and social inclusion.

I have been instructed by the Steering Group set up to manage the day to day business of the Forum, to write to you requesting a meeting between representatives of this Group and yourself. In particular, we would like to discuss our experience of cross - community cross - border partnership, the future of European structural funds, particularly in cross - border regions. We appreciate the ever - lengthening queue at your door but we do feel that there are positive and important issues to be discussed and developed.

DFP



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Finally, can I congratulate you and your Party on their recent success in the General Election. Our colleagues from the Northern Counties covered by the Programme are particularly keen to discuss what we hope will be a positive relationship between the Forum and your Administration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Carty". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Brian Carty.
Consultative Forum Secretariat.