

E1S1421

*The President
of the European Parliament*

April 1995

Mr Mark Pinkerton
Training & Employment Agency
Clarendon House
Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8DJ

Dear Mr Pinkerton

**“Implementing Europe’s Programme for Peace”
Tuesday 11 April 1995
Balmoral Conference Centre, Belfast**

*File with
you
7/4.*

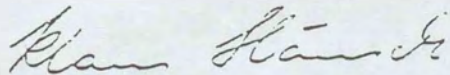
I take great pleasure in inviting you to attend a one-day conference, which is being held by the European Parliament in close co-operation with the European Commission, entitled **“Implementing Europe’s Programme for Peace”**. The Conference is being held thanks to the joint initiative taken through the Regional Policy Committee by the three MEPs who represent Northern Ireland and will demonstrate their commitment to its success. The Conference, which will host 400 decision-makers from both the public and private sectors, will take place on Tuesday 11 April in the Balmoral Conference Centre, Belfast.

As you are aware, the European Parliament is currently considering proposals from the European Commission for a Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland. This is designed to make available to Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Republic of Ireland a package of aid worth 300 million ECUs (approximately £240 million) in the period 1995-97, with perhaps more to follow over the two years beyond that. The five recommended priorities of the package are: employment; urban and rural regeneration; cross-border development; social inclusion; and investment and industrial development.

This initiative is unique in two respects, which the Conference aims to reflect. It is genuinely additional to existing EU and national funding and it will rely heavily on the input and support of grass-roots organisations. The Conference will bring together on the one hand those at European level - the Members of the European Parliament, especially the Regional Policy Committee, and MEPs from Northern Ireland and the border counties, and representatives of the European Commission - who are responsible for the shaping and early application of the Programme and, on the other, representatives of those authorities and organisations at national and local level who will be called upon to co-operate in its implementation. The Conference will thus help to put the finishing touches to the package and to inform local organisations about the practical details of how the special support will be channelled.

I hope that you will be able to take part and I look forward to welcoming you on the 11th April.

Yours sincerely



Klaus Hänsch

Encs

0247 279777 P.01

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

**"IMPLEMENTING EUROPE'S PROGRAMME
FOR PEACE"**

Convened by MEPs: Dr Ian Paisley
Mr John Hume
Mr Jim Nicholson

Sponsored by

Committee on Regional Policy, European Parliament,
in conjunction with the European Commission

Tuesday 11 April 1995

**Balmoral Conference Centre
Belfast**

8.30 REGISTRATION

9.00 CONFERENCE OPENING

Chairman: Mr Roberto Speciale MEP, Chairman,
Regional Affairs Committee, European Parliament

Mr Antoni Gutierrez Dias MEP, Vice-President, European Parliament

Mr Jacques Santer, President, European Commission

Northern Ireland Government Spokesperson

9.35 SESSION 1: CONTEXT OF PEACE INITIATIVE

"The new circumstances provide a challenge to all to promote social inclusion, to put behind them the alienation and marginalisation caused by the violence. In particular, those who have been victims, whether individuals or whole communities, and those who have not benefitted from life in a normal society, expect the new developments to bring about a clear change. A basic ingredient will be the promotion of understanding, communication and partnership by developing a reconciliation process, in particular in those areas most damaged by the conflict, which develops and builds on the existing solidarity within communities."

Delors Communication (Com(94)607 final)

Introduced by Mr John Hume, MP MEP

10.45 BREAK

11.00 SESSION II: CONTENT OF PEACE INITIATIVE (I)

"The Commission has, therefore, come to the conclusion that, as a result of the cessation of violence, the following priorities should be addressed:
(i) Employment, (v) investment and industrial development."

Delors Communication (Com(94)607 final)

Introduced by Dr Ian Paisley, MP MEP

12.15 SESSION III: CONTENT OF PEACE INITIATIVE (II)

"The Commission has, therefore, come to the conclusion that, as a result of the cessation of violence, the following priorities should be addressed: (ii) urban and rural regeneration, (iii) cross-border development, (iv) social inclusion."

Delors Communication (Com(94)607 final)

Introduced by Mr Carlo Trojan, Deputy Secretary General, European Commission

13.30

LUNCH

14.30

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Commissioner Monika Wulf-Mathies
Commissioner for Regional Policy

14.50

SESSION IV: IMPLEMENTATION OF PEACE INITIATIVE

"The appropriate involvement of local and grass roots organisations in shaping and implementing the programmes is strongly recommended. Appropriate consultative platforms for the whole package should also be considered. Monitoring and management arrangements should build on the experience with cross-border programmes under INTERREG."

Delors Communication (Com(94)607 final)

Introduced by Mr Jim Nicholson, MEP

16.00

BREAK

16.15

CONFERENCE CONCLUSIONS

Chairman: Northern Ireland Government Spokesperson

SESSION REPORTS

FROM:

- Dr Ian Paisley, MEP
- Mr John Hume, MEP
- Mr Jim Nicholson, MEP

RESPONSE:

- Department of Finance & Personnel
 - European Commission - DG XVI
 - Department of Foreign Affairs - Dublin
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17.00

CONFERENCE CLOSE
