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FROM: T MCCUSKER

EU Ask
NI

cc: Mr Cowan O/R
 Mr Hamilton
 Mr Mackenzie
 Mr Radcliffe
 Mr Warburton
 Mr Hayes
 Mr Foster
 Mr Galway
 Mrs L Brown
 Mr Kearney DHSS
 Mr McCormick DENI
 Mr Hamilton DED
 Mr Maccabe PAB
 Mrs D Brown
 Mr Layberry
 Ms Cavanagh
 Mr Parker
 Team Leaders
 Mr Murphy
 Ms McDonough
 Mrs McGuinness
 Dr J Harrison
 Mr Harrison
 Mr Price

430808
PA

DATE: 3 AUGUST 1995

TO: SECRETARY

John
✓ Mr McKinnon

I have just read this paper. It
 is ~~really~~ superficial, but
 does raise some large problems.
 Further dialogue with depts is
 planned

Y 7/P

EU PROGRAMME FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION: PARTNERSHIP MEASURE

1. We have now received details of the final programme for the EU Peace and Reconciliation programme and a copy is attached.
2. You have agreed that DOE would become the responsible Department for the Partnerships measure in addition to DOE carrying responsibility for the Urban Regeneration package in Belfast, Derry and the rest of Northern Ireland. This note is primarily concerned with arrangements for the Partnership Measure which needs to be put in place fairly soon and which has significant implications; hence the wide circulation list.
3. The elements of the programme are straightforward but their implementation will require a great deal of care and sensitivity, particularly in relation to financial accountability.
4. The broad developments require the creation of one partnership in each District Council area to be responsible for drawing together the various proposals within the District and presenting them as a cohesive plan and bid for the resources allocated to that area. Those bids will be submitted to a new executive Partnership Board which will be established to handle all the resources relating to the measure. That body may decide to fund projects directly or use another intermediary for funding which might be a public body or another organisation with a track record for dispersing public funds. The wording of the measure also makes it a possibility

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that the Partnership Board could give each District partnership a package of resources to undertake the funding of projects directly. This is a provision which we objected to very strongly in the negotiations in Brussels because of the possibility of creating 26 executive agencies throughout Northern Ireland and I hope we can avoid that.

5. The Partnership Board has to be established within 3 months and *applications proposals* [programmes] must be submitted within 9 months. There is no timetable for the creation of District partnerships, though clearly these will have to be put in place fairly quickly. I am attaching an initial discussion paper on the formation of partnerships which flags up some of the sensitive issues and invites discussion on the more political issues.
6. Pending discussions with Mr Cowan when he returns from leave about the arrangements for managing this measure, I have asked Roisin McDonough and Julie Harrison to undertake the preliminary work so that we don't lose any momentum in getting the arrangements in place. While we will need to involve colleagues throughout DOE and in other Departments and agencies, I think the main focus for taking the measure forward will lie within the Urban Affairs Division and Geoff Harrison has already registered a bid in the latest monitoring round for additional staff to respond to the peace package. In the meantime I will arrange to meet Richie Warburton, Eddie Hayes and Jim Foster to discuss the implementation of the measure and to agree arrangements for its initial management. Following that we will meet with other Departmental colleagues, Central Secretariat and PAB to discuss the implementation and financial arrangements for the partnerships. All this will have to take place following my return from leave in mid-August.
7. Following a meeting with Belfast City Council on 28 July I would be confident that we could get acceptance for local authority representation at party level (including Sinn Fein). We will need to draw up guidelines for membership of the district partnerships and the Partnership Board and we will have this

available for discussion within the next two weeks. Those guidelines will form the basis of a discussion with local authorities and other sectors towards the end of August. We hope to begin by arranging a meeting of local authority Chief Executives later in the month. A note will go to them now to advise them about future arrangements.

Bob Kinnear

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EUROPEAN UNION PEACE INITIATIVE: DISCUSSION PAPER ON DISTRICT
PARTNERSHIPS: SUB PROGRAMME 6

DISTRICT PARTNERSHIPS

It has been proposed that district partnerships should comprise one third elected representatives from the local council, one third community/voluntary representatives and one third from the private and other sectors.

Principles

Consideration should be given to the representativeness or inclusiveness of all the sectors concerned.

- i) With regard to the councillors, an essential requirement will be that appointments should reflect the main political parties represented on the Council.
- ii) Community/voluntary sector representatives - these should be individuals who are recognised as representing the broad swathe of concerns that local communities have and should be people who are involved in recognised sectoral organisations.

It should be possible to define a number of criteria to make it more likely that people with a background in community/grass roots development would be involved, through involving organisations representing the sector, such as NICVA.

- iii) Private sector and others - Private sector nominations could come from the usual sources such as Business in the Community (where they are organised at the local level), from local chambers of commerce, from locally based major employers or local CBI representatives. Border councils may also wish to consider involving IBEC.

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District partnerships should aim to achieve appropriate gender and community balance. In the case of the former, 40% of the total places should, if possible, be allocated to either sex in order to meet the government's and the EU's own equal opportunities guidelines in a practical manner.

Role?

Size of District Partnership Boards

In terms of the numbers on each district partnership, it would be inappropriate to be overly prescriptive. Clearly the optimum size would vary from one partnership to another, but large, unwieldy partnerships would make the practical tasks of drawing up action plans unworkable. Minimum numbers, given that there are 3 different constituencies (at least) might be in the region of 12 with the maximum being up to 24. Another way may be for the district partnerships to draw in 'experts' on specific proposals and plans in order to maximise participation in the regeneration strategy. They should have flexibility and perhaps resources to do this.

In general, each council area would have a partnership and whilst the council itself may act as a catalyst or facilitator of the process, other existing organisations and bodies may also potentially assume a lead role.

Participants as Beneficiaries

It may not be necessary to state that participants on the partnerships can also be potential beneficiaries, given that there are already expectations that this will be so. However, it probably will be necessary to suggest some basic guidelines (declarations of interest register for example) to obviate possible perceptions about pre-ordained carve-ups by those who are approving the action plans for submission for funding.

Belfast and Derry

In respect of Belfast, it may be possible to establish a Belfast Partnership Board reasonably quickly, given the background work that has already been done by the DOE and MBW with, for example, the TMCC95668/MBW

Business Strategy Group, local community organisations and the improved relations with the local authority as evidenced in the Greater Shankill and East Belfast shadow partnerships. In Londonderry, a City Partnership Board has recently been established and may be able to handle this new role with some adjustments.

EXECUTIVE PARTNERSHIP BOARD FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The membership of the Partnership Board will include representatives from the community/voluntary sector, local government, the private sector and other interests, including the public and statutory sectors.

While the Board must be able to reflect these interests and have an acceptable community, gender and geographical balance, it must not be unwieldy in size (for example, the IFI Board consists of 8 members).

Possible composition might be:-

- 2 from local government;
- 2 from the private sector;
- 2 from the voluntary sector;
- 1 from NIC/ICTU;
- 2 from the public sector;

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plus a Chairman. A senior DOE official would be a member of the Board.

Chair and Staff arrangements

A suitable, acceptable chair who has time to devote to the task would need to be found quickly and a CEO with support staff appointed almost immediately. Secondments could be considered in the short term.

Timetable

By the end of August there should be agreement on how to proceed, given the issues raised in this paper.

By the end of September/early October the wider partnership board should be in place.

In early November it should be launched publicly.

As late as this?

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