

NOTE OF MEETING ON 12 JUNE 1996 WITH ROI OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS THE
CO-OPERATION BETWEEN PUBLIC BODIES MEASURE IN THE CROSS-BORDER
SUB-PROGRAMME OF THE PEACE PROGRAMME

PAR 161

In attendance:

Mr J M V Layberry	(DFP)	<i>Mrs McKenna ✓ 24/6/96</i>
Miss L Wilson	(DFP)	<i>etc.</i>
Mr D Harley	(DHSS)	<i>This is the official note of</i>
Mr B Gamble	(T&EA)	<i>the recent meeting which I</i>
Mr R McMinnis	(DED)	<i>attended in Dublin. Lascu & M</i>
Mr J Simpson	(DENI)	<i>pl.</i>
Ms P McVeigh	(DOE)	<i>File 24/6</i>
Mr M O'Fainin	(DED)	
Mr S O'Sullivan	(DOF)	
Mr I Keating	(Environment)	
Mr J Walsh	(Arts, Culture & the Gaeltacht)	
Mr P Dowling	(Education)	
Ms P Moreau	(Tourism & Trade)	
Mr S O'Broin	(Agric, Food & Forestry)	
Mr Kieran McCann	(Marine)	
Mr B Brogan	(Health)	
Ms C Morrissey	(Transport, Energy & Comm)	
Mr D O'Briain	(Social Welfare)	
Mr D Cannon	(Enterprise & Employment)	
Ms D Hayes	(Foreign Affairs)	

1. The purpose of the meeting was to agree a way forward for implementing the Co-operation Between Public Bodies Measure in the Cross-border Sub-programme and to try to accelerate progress. To date, Northern Departments had been working on the basis of indicative allocations, whereas the South had preferred to operate a single pool of funding with projects prioritised for funds.
2. Mr O'Fainin introduced draft guidelines drawn from the Programme document as a basis for discussion, which he wished to issue for response by mid-September. In response, Mr Layberry pointed to the need to accelerate expenditure and proposed a 2-phase approach. Phase 1 would consider any good VFM projects which had already been submitted and which could proceed immediately if approval was given. Phase 2 would consist of a call for applications with a closing date of mid-September.

3. Departmental representatives were asked to update the meeting on the applications which had been received to date. A number of projects were nearing the stage where they could be formally approved but there were still a relatively small number of applications on the table, although some of the proposals which had been submitted were in excess of £1m.
4. It was agreed that the funding should be divided into 2 tranches and that similar criteria must be applied to applications in both tranches. Mr Layberry suggested that the evaluators for the baseline study could be employed to develop selection criteria for the Measure and to advise on the prioritisation of projects which had been recommended for funds. The evaluators should be able to advise on criteria quickly as they already have an extensive knowledge of the Programme.
5. The Measure involves all 4 Funds but it was agreed that EAGGF and FIFG would be handled separately as Departments were not competing for these funds. If the Agriculture Departments wished to propose projects under ERDF or ESF, they should submit the projects formally and compete for funds with other project promoters.
6. A series of bilaterals between relevant Departments produced a broad consensus on the way forward. Following these, there was a concluding plenary session, in which the following approach was agreed:-
 - i. the ERDF and ESF elements of the Measure would be handled in the same way;
 - ii. a maximum of a third of the available funding would be allocated in Phase 1 - this would be 1.8 mecu for ERDF and 0.312 for ESF on each side of the border;

- iii. large projects should be broken down if possible and presented in tranches of £200-250,000 maximum;
 - iv. in the event of over-subscription, eligible projects would not be rejected but would be held for the Phase 2 selection process;
 - v. Departments would be asked to recommend formally to DFP/DFA by end June 1996, projects in priority order, which should be considered in Phase 1 (on the understanding that all economic appraisals, etc should be complete and available if required);
 - vi. the external evaluators for the baseline study would be invited to develop selection criteria and to advise on the final project selection;
 - vii. the selection stage of Phase 1 should be complete and Departments notified by mid-July;
 - viii. Departments should proceed to work up further applications for consideration under Phase 2, which will close in mid-September with a view to announcing successful projects in the Autumn.
7. The same group will meet again in Belfast on 23 July to review progress in Phase 1 and discuss Phase 2.

LINDA WILSON

19 June 1996

PP-LW-9585

North/South Inter-Departmental Meeting at Iveagh House,
at 11 0'C on Wednesday 12 June 1996

Representatives of Irish Government Departments attending as of Monday 10 June

Department

Environment talked to Pat Keane AP
 Arts Culture & the Gaeltacht
 Education
 Tourism & Trade
 Agriculture, Food & Forestry
 Marine
 Finance
 Health
 Transport Energy & Communication
 Social Welfare
 Enterprise & Employment

Total = 11 Depts.

Representative

Mr Ian Keating PO
 Mr John Walsh
 Mr Pat Dowling and A N Other
 Ms Pauline Moreau ✓
 Mr Sean O Broin
 Mr Kieran McCann
 Mr Sean O'Sullivan
 Mr Brian Brogan
 Ms Cathleen Morrissey ✓
 Mr Declan O Briain
 Mr Damian Cannon + Fás rep.

Total 13 Representatives

*D. FAffairs: M O'Leary
 + Frank Flood*