

**Transition  
Programme**

Dept. Finance &  
Personnel

Phone: 01232 526731  
FAX: 01232 526135  
email:

---

# *Facsimile*

To: Mike Maxwell  
@Fax: 29485  
From: William Stuart  
Date: 1 September 1998  
Re: EU Seminar 7 Sept  
Pages: 2, including this

Please find attached

Programme for Seminar on Monday 7 September in the Europa Hotel..



William Stuart

THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

# TRANSITION



THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY  
AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

There are a range of significant issues on the European Union (EU) agenda which pose major challenges to Northern Ireland.

This seminar aims to

- give an overview of key EU issues
- outline how the processes work
- identify the opportunities to put in place appropriate approaches to EU issues.

The European Commission invites Assembly Members to Brussels from 3-6 November 1998 to build on this seminar and provide a more detailed insight into EU policy processes and Northern Ireland's evolving relationship with the EU.

9.15am **Welcome & Overview**

*Jim Dougal*, Head of Representation,  
European Commission, Northern Ireland

9.30am **Session 1**

**Regional Development**

Regional support from the EU is within well-defined frameworks. This session aims to give an overview of the financial perspectives of the EU and the relationship with Northern Ireland. It will outline the current Agenda 2000 process, identify roles and responsibilities and give an indication of timescales in the next programming cycle.

*Ronnie Hall*,  
DGXVI, Regional Policies and Cohesion

*Esben Poulsen*,  
Head of Northern Ireland/Ireland Unit,  
DGXVI, Regional Policies & Cohesion

*Stephen Quinn*,  
Department of Finance & Personnel

Feedback and Discussion

11.15am **Session 2**

**Core Issues**

This session will give a brief summary of some of the main EU policies and their impact on Northern Ireland including Agricultural & Rural Development, European Investment Bank, the Euro, Industrial & Competition Policy, Employment, Education & Training. Further aspects will be addressed in the briefing material and during the Brussels conference.

*Danny McNeill*, Department of Agriculture

*Tom Barrett*, European Investment Bank

*John Simpson*, Economic and Social Committee

*Hywel Ceri Jones*, Deputy Director General,  
DGV, Employment and Social Affairs

Feedback and Discussion

1.00pm **Lunch**

**Lines of Communication**

*Geoffrey Martin*, Head of the European  
Commission Representations in the  
United Kingdom

2.30pm **Session 3**

**Effective Working Relationships**

A hallmark of success for any region is the development of effective working relationships between all sectors and the European Union. The Assembly will have a central role to play as Northern Ireland defines and structures its relationship with the European Union. This session aims to set out some of the main issues in ensuring Northern Ireland has the most appropriate mechanisms to address issues arising from membership of the European Union.

*Martin Donnelly*, European Secretariat, the  
Cabinet Office

*Colm Larkin*, Director, European Commission  
Representation in Ireland

*Professor Alice Brown*, Department of Politics,  
University of Edinburgh

*John Kennedy*, Chief Executive, Northern  
Ireland Centre in Europe

Feedback and Discussion