

## Decommissioning

1. The participants agreed, in the Procedural Motion adopted on 24 September 1997, "that the resolution of the Decommissioning issue is an indispensable part of the process of negotiation." It is, therefore an indispensable part of this agreement.
2. The participants note the progress made by the Independent Commission on Decommissioning and the Governments in developing schemes which represent a workable basis for achieving the decommissioning of illegally-held arms in the possession of paramilitary groups.
3. All participants reaffirm their commitment to the total disarmament of all paramilitary organisations and their intention to continue to work constructively with the Independent Commission on Decommissioning to achieve this *and their conviction that those who participate in democratic bodies should use only democratic means.*
4. All participants undertake to work constructively and in good faith with the Independent Commission to achieve the decommissioning of all paramilitary arms within a fixed and limited period of [x years, following endorsement in referenda North and South of the overall settlement] in the context of the implementation of the overall settlement, *with the process of actual decommissioning beginning as soon as the agreement comes into force.*
5. The Independent Commission will monitor, review and verify progress on decommissioning of illegal arms, and will report to both governments at regular intervals.
6. Both governments will take all necessary steps to facilitate the decommissioning process.
7. *All participants affirm their complete opposition to paramilitary beatings and shootings (so-called 'punishment attacks'), recognise that such practices are completely incompatible with democratic methods, and commit themselves to do everything in their power to bring a complete end to all such activities.*