

Office of the Independent Chairmen

Castle Buildings Stormont Belfast BT4 3SG Northern Ireland
Telephone 01232 522957 Facsimile 01232 768905

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL PARTICIPANTS

FROM: THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRMEN

We invite your written comments, by 10.00 a.m. on Monday, December 2, on the following questions:

1. What are the rights of the participants to table motions, including the right to have motions debated and voted on? Should there be a specific time limit imposed to guarantee a vote? If so, what should that limit be? If not, how can participants be assured that continuing delay is not an effective denial of their rights?
2. Should any distinction be made when the motion is not relevant to the matter then pending?
3. Although we did not raise this orally at the Plenary, we take this opportunity to invite your comments on the question of the rights of participants to offer amendments to motions. Should motions be amendable? If so, in how many degrees (i.e. how many amendments to amendments should be permitted)? What should the order of voting be when there are amendments pending to other amendments or to motions (i.e. should the first vote occur on the last amendment offered, with the vote^s then working back to the original motion)?
4. It may be that these questions in turn raise other procedural questions. Please do not feel constrained in making your comments. We want to do what is fair and right and the widest range of your comments will be helpful to us.

Independent Chairmen

27 November 1996