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Pg. 05

## The Northern Ireland Assembly and Europe

- There are European issues that impact at a regional level and should therefore be within the competence of our new regional tier of government; the experiences of other member states with strong regional government would be useful to draw upon. This, of course, would in no way be in conflict with Westminster's control over foreign policy and UK departments would have the lead role in EU matters.
- Assembly committee chairpersons and officials would be fully involved in discussions within HMG about the formulation of UK policy position on all matters which touch on Assembly responsibility. It would be proper for the Assembly to scrutinise all EU proposals and documents affecting Northern Ireland. In addition the Assembly would have the responsibility of implementing and enforcing relevant EU obligations.
- In areas which touch upon Northern Ireland the Assembly should have input into any UK delegation on terms agreed in advance between the Assembly and the Secretary of State analogous to the participation of German Lander in German delegations to the EU.
- The United Kingdom operates in the EU via the offices of UKREP which promotes agreed government policies in Europe. Against this background it should be free for the Assembly to determine its own presence in Brussels to complement the work of UKREP. In addition, as in Wales, provision should be made for members of the assembly to be appointed to the Committee of the Regions.

Strand One Team

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