

**SECRET & PERSONAL****3. INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL**

- 3.1 A British-Irish Intergovernmental Council [British/Irish Forum] to be established under a new British/Irish Agreement to deal with the totality of relationships.
- 3.2 Intergovernmental Council (British/Irish Forum) to include representatives of the British and Irish Governments and devolved institutions in Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales, the Isle of Man, the Channel Isles and (if appropriate) elsewhere in the United Kingdom, when established.
- 3.3 Intergovernmental Council [British/Irish Forum] to meet twice a year at Summit level, with devolved institutions in Northern Ireland represented by an Assembly Commission.
- 3.4 Other meetings on sectoral issues to be convened as necessary and to comprise relevant representatives of each of the relevant member institutions.
- 3.5 Remit of the Intergovernmental Council [British/Irish Forum] to include:
- (i) totality of relationships among these islands;
  - (ii) consideration of issues of mutual interest;
  - (iii) promotion of cooperation at all levels among the countries and regions represented;
  - (iv) facilitation of bilateral and other contacts, including any suitable mechanisms to enable consultation, cooperation and joint decision-

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making on matters of mutual interest with the agreement of relevant participants.

- 3.6 Suitable issues for early discussion in the Intergovernmental Council could include: transport links; protection of rights; cultural issues; minority languages; approaches to EU issues.
- 3.7 Intergovernmental Council to operate by consensus. A secretariat to be provided by British and Irish Governments.
- 3.8 Implementation mechanisms to be for agreement among the relevant institutions.

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