



**29th Summit, Jersey
10 November 2017**

Communiqué

The British-Irish Council held its 29th Summit meeting today hosted by the Government of Jersey. The heads of delegation were welcomed to L'Horizon Hotel by the Chief Minister of Jersey, Senator Ian Gorst, on behalf of the Government of Jersey. A full list of Ministerial participants is attached. The Council noted the apologies received from the First Minister of the Welsh Government and expressed its condolences to the family of the former Welsh Government Minister Carl Sargeant AM. The Council reflected on the recent death of Martin McGuinness MLA and noted his contribution to the work of the British-Irish Council.

Latest political developments

One year on from the Council's last meeting in November 2016, Ministers took the opportunity to consider key political developments across their jurisdictions.

The Council noted the ongoing engagement between the two governments and the parties in Northern Ireland following elections to the Northern Ireland Assembly. The Council looked forward to the restoration of the devolved institutions in Northern Ireland as soon as possible.

Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the Council and its role in promoting harmonious and mutually beneficial relationships across these islands as set out in the 1998 Agreement. The Council agreed that political developments

across Member Administrations underlined the importance of this unique forum to share views and strengthen relationships.

Ministers also updated the Council on their activity in relation to the UK's exit from the European Union (EU), particularly with reference to relations and engagement between Member Administrations. The Council reviewed themes identified in previous discussions, including in relation to specific topics such as: agriculture, agri-food and fisheries industries, economy and trade, free movement of goods and people, the Common Travel Area, relations with the EU and transition/implementation. Ministers also received an update on implications for the Council work sectors and asked that this be kept under review for further reporting to the Council.

Members noted recent press coverage regarding the 'Paradise Papers', reaffirming their shared commitment to meeting international standards and to working with the international community to tackle tax evasion and abusive tax avoidance. Members noted that this is also a global issue and requires a commitment from the whole international community to be effective.

Creative Industries: Capturing and Sustaining Impacts

Ministers with particular responsibility for creative industries policy met in advance of the Summit meeting to consider a paper prepared by the Council's Creative Industries work sector. The results of a data sharing and measurement initiative agreed at the 2015 BIC Creative Industries Ministerial meeting indicate that this is an area which contributes approximately £98.6bn / €110bn per year to the economies of the eight BIC administrations. This discussion was taken forward by Heads of Administration in the Summit who reflected on examples within the report of good practice in various sectors of the creative industries. Particular focus was put on initiatives to combat skills gaps that creative industry employers have had to address and also in considering the relationship within the various administrations between grass roots culture and professional creative activity.

Responding to the paper prepared by the Creative Industries work sector, Ministers endorsed a proposal for future collaboration, particularly in relation to the following priorities: Ministers agreed on the need to facilitate a pipeline of development of practical and applicable creative skills learned through the education curriculum, thus reducing the burden of skill development for creative industry employers. Ministers also asked the work sector to identify and implement measures to encourage diversity among employees within the creative sector. Finally, it was agreed that work would be undertaken to put in place initiatives to maximise inclusivity for audiences of the creative industries.

Review of Work Sectors

The Council noted the conclusions of a review of its activity and a number of tangible outcomes, including endorsement of a set of principles for work sectors at the London Summit in 2015 and the adoption of a task and finish approach to Council work sectors at the Glasgow Summit in 2016. They agreed that these measures have brought practical and positive change to the work sectors as evidenced in an increase in outputs by work sectors and the strengthened ability of the Council to shape its activity to respond to shifting priorities.

The Council noted that proposals for work sectors to be adjusted, concluded and opened remained under review and agreed that emerging topics would be brought to Ministers for future consideration.

The Council asked that official Coordinators and the Secretariat continue to consolidate feedback from the review and identify opportunities for developing the Council's work and processes, reporting to Ministers as appropriate.

BIC Secretariat

The Council noted the Secretariat's mid-year report and welcomed the publication of the Council's Annual Report for 2016.

Date and Location of the Next Summit Meeting

The Council noted that the next BIC Summit would be hosted by the Government of Guernsey in 2018.

BIC Secretariat

10 November 2017

List of Ministerial Delegates

Government of Jersey	
Chief Minister	Senator Ian Gorst
Minister for External Relations	Senator Sir Philip Bailhache
Assistant Minister, Economic Development, Tourism, Sport and Culture Department	Deputy Murray Norton
Irish Government	
An Taoiseach	Leo Varadkar TD
Government Chief Whip and Minister of State for Gaeilge, the Gaeltacht and the Islands	Joe McHugh TD
UK Government	
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland	Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Exiting the European Union	Robin Walker MP
Parliamentary Secretary and Minister for Government Resilience and Efficiency	Caroline Nokes MP
Scottish Government	
First Minister	Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs	Fiona Hyslop MSP
Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe	Michael Russell MSP
Isle of Man Government	
Chief Minister	Hon Howard Quayle MHK
Minister for Department of Economic Development	Hon Laurence Skelly MHK
Government of Guernsey	
Chief Minister	Deputy Gavin St Pier
Minister for Creative Industries	Deputy Andrea Dudley-Owen