

## **1<sup>st</sup> Report in the history of the State, by a Dáil or Seanad Committee, on achieving a United Ireland – Produced by Senator Mark Daly**

### **‘Brexit & The Future of Ireland: Uniting Ireland & It’s People in Peace & Prosperity’**

Senator Daly who is a member of the Oireachtas Joint Committee of the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement was appointed as Rapporteur of the report which runs to 1,232 pages. The report looks at 3 Key Areas

- 1. What Ireland needs to do in order to peacefully achieve its aim of a United Ireland, as outlined in Article 2 and 3 of the Irish Constitution supported by 94% of the people in a referendum.**
- 2. What Ireland should seek to have in the final agreement between the EU and the UK, so that in the event of the people of Northern Ireland voting for a United Ireland that they would get all the rights of EU citizenship automatically.**
- 3. Effect of Brexit on Ireland.**

**Some of the Key submissions, writings & findings in Senator Daly’s Report include:**

A boost of **€35.6 billion** to an all island economy in the first 8 years after unification according to **Dr. Kurt Hubner of the University of British Columbia**

**President Obama’s National Security Council, Senior Policy advisor on counter terrorism, Michael R Ortiz**, who has written a paper for the report on the issue of the need to act now to prevent the threat of future paramilitary violence attempting to subvert a referendum and reunification as provided for in the Good Friday Agreement. Michael Ortiz was the first U.S. diplomat focused on countering violent extremism and was appointed by Secretary of State John Kerry.

**High Court Justice Richard Humphreys’** book ‘Countdown to Unity’ is quoted from extensively in the Report. Justice Humphreys’ writings lay out the road map to the peaceful unity of Ireland and its people. It outlines the various options for the future of this island, the opportunities and the obstacles that are ahead to achieve the aim of a peaceful united Ireland which was approved by 94% of the people in a referendum.

**Professor emeritus of Humboldt University in Berlin, Christain Tomuschat’s** submission to the report outlines the precedent in German unification for Northern Ireland’s automatic inclusion in the EU without the need for an application or accession process in the event of a vote for reunification.

**Congressman Brendan Boyle**, a member of the US House of Representatives and member of the House Foreign Relations Committee has submitted a specially commissioned research paper from the renowned United States Congressional Research Office which is included in the report. This analyses the true nature and extent of the income and expenditure of Northern Ireland. The economic challenges of Brexit and unification are outlined in a number of different reports including some from the Oireachtas Library and Research Service, a key one of these important reports is the useful analysis of the **United Nations Human Development Index**, which measures health, education and income. The UN report ranks Ireland as **8<sup>th</sup>** in the world alongside Germany, Canada and the United States. The UK is ranked **16<sup>th</sup>** and in Northern Ireland’s case the analysis places it **44<sup>th</sup>** in the world alongside the likes of Hungary and Montenegro. As a result of Brexit, Northern Ireland is likely to drop below **50<sup>th</sup>** joining the likes of Kazakhstan and Belarus.

Included in the introduction is a quote from the man voted by the people of Ireland ‘Irish man of the 20th century’ T K Whittaker’s in a ‘Note on North-South Border Policy’ to the Taoiseach written on the 11 November 1968 on the eve of ‘The Troubles’. In it he foresaw the Good Friday Agreement, the long term nature of achieving a united Ireland, that it required the best of ourselves and a collective understanding.

**‘We were, therefore, left with only one choice, a policy of seeking unity in Ireland between Irishmen. Of its nature this is a long-term policy, requiring patience, understanding and forbearance and resolute resistance to emotionalism and opportunism. It is not the less patriotic for that.’ T K Whittaker, Irish Man of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

### **Section 1 Recommendations**

- The Irish government must negotiate for Northern Ireland to be designated with special status within the EU and for the whole island of Ireland to have a unique solution as part of the Brexit negotiation.
- If current EU funding programmes cannot be protected then the eligibility of Northern Ireland for receipt of EU Structural funds and other funding schemes and mechanisms must be clarified as a matter of urgency, to help underpin the peace process.
- The Report on the All-Ireland Economy: compiled in 2016 by Peadar Tóibín TD for the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in the light of Brexit should be updated.
- Any passport controls between Ireland and the UK should be along the same basis as for people traveling between these islands from 1939 to 1952. There should not be a return to passport controls on the borders between the North and South of Ireland.
- Given the likely impact on certain categories, including women, in border counties and employment in these areas there is a need for impact analysis on these sectors of society
- Further research into the income and expenditure for Northern Ireland should be carried out

### **Section 2 Recommendations**

- Welcome the declaration agreed to by the European Council on 29 April 2017 which provides for Northern Ireland automatically becoming part of the EU in the event of a future united Ireland.
- This declaration known in Brussels as ‘The Kenny Text’ is similar to that of Commission President Jacques Delors in January 1990 on the issue of German Unification ‘East Germany is a special case’.

### **Section 3 Recommendations**

- It is recognised that World Trade Organisation rules and a hard border would have a detrimental impact on Ireland North and South & Further impact assessment is required on the economic impact of reunification.
- The Committee urges that the matter of EU funding for Northern Ireland and the border region remains high on the agenda and an expeditious solution is found for successor programmes after 2020.

### **Section 4 Recommendations**

- The establishment of a New Ireland Forum 2 is recommended to set a pathway to achieve the peaceful reunification of Ireland.
- Establish an international task force with experts in security so that plans to meet any risks may be devised and implemented.
- Fears and concerns of the Unionist community need to be examined, understood and addressed comprehensively by all stakeholders in advance of any referendum.
- The legacy issues in society outlined by Senator Frances Black and the inter- generational impact of the troubles in terms of mental health consequences and substance abuse needs to be addressed

### **Section 5 Recommendation**

- Explore potential solutions to resolve disputes that may arise from the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, as recommended by High Court Justice Richard Humphreys.

### **Section 6 Recommendation**

- Lessons from referendums need to be learned to ensure that the Irish government fulfils its constitutional obligations.

### **Section 7 Recommendation**

- The Government needs to carry out an audit in relation to the legal and constitutional changes pre and post-unification.