

Fairtrade Motion Passed Unopposed at Stormont Parliament

06 March 2012

Belfast, NORTHERN IRELAND: On behalf of the All Party Group on International Development, Chairperson Conall McDevitt MLA (SDLP) and Members: Jim Wells MLA (DUP), Stewart Dickson (A), Jennifer McCann (SF) and Robin Swann (UUP), brought forward a cross-party motion on Fairtrade.

The motion was for Stormont Parliament (Northern Ireland Assembly) to acknowledge 'Fairtrade Fortnight', the adoption of Fairtrade procurement policies by all branches of central and local government, and calls on the Executive to review Fairtrade procurement policy to support Fairtrade, in the interests of developing countries.

This follows the long term efforts of Dr Christopher Stange – Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines to Northern Ireland & Chair of Fairtrade Belfast, whom has been leading the Fairtrade movement in Northern Ireland to develop robust policies on Fairtrade procurement and consensus across all government (central and local), for the most disadvantaged developing world producers in the Caribbean and Africa.

Engaging the All Party Group on International Development and the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister (OFMdfM), whom hold the portfolio for Fairtrade, a meeting was held between Fairtrade Belfast and Conall McDevitt MLA to strategically progress Fairtrade on a National level, leading to the Fairtrade motion.

Simon Hamilton MLA (DUP), Kieran McCarthy (A), Michael Copeland MLA (UUP), Colm Eastwood MLA (SDLP), John Dallat MLA (SDLP) and Justice Minister David Ford MLA (A), also supported the motion providing comments.

Enterprise Minister Arlene Foster MLA (DUP) replying on behalf of the Finance Minister Sammy Wilson MLA (DUP) said: “The key was sustainability in the developing world and was delighted to join her colleagues in supporting the motion.”

The Fairtrade motion was passed unopposed and is with the Executive for review.



ENDS

NOTES FOR EDITOR:

MLA – Member of the Legislative Assembly

A - Alliance Party

DUP - Democratic Unionist Party

UUP - Ulster Unionist Party

SDLP - Social Democratic Labour Party

SF – Sinn Féin Party