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*The objective of the Regional Planning Guidelines is to provide a long-term strategic planning framework for the development of the Greater Dublin Area for a period of 12 years. While these Guidelines are set within a 12 year context, they will be reviewed after 6 years.*

# Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2004–2016

The unprecedented economic growth in the country in recent years has brought many benefits in terms of employment growth and higher standards of living. The ‘Celtic Tiger’ years have also seen a massive increase in physical development necessary to sustain this economic growth. However, the speed and volume of this growth has led to increasing pressures on our resources, the environment and on the infrastructure, services and facilities, particularly in the Greater Dublin Area.

The **National Spatial Strategy** (NSS) which was launched in November 2002 aims to improve the quality of life of all citizens, bringing jobs closer to where we live, improving our environment and building a strong sustainable economic future for ourselves and our children. The NSS sets out a framework designed to achieve a better balance of social, economic and physical development and population growth throughout the country.

To give Regional effect to the NSS, **Regional Planning Guidelines** (RPGs) were prepared and published by the eight Regional Authorities in the country with the Dublin and Mid-East regions combining to make Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2004–2016. Building on the experience of the **Strategic Planning Guidelines** (1999), the strategy set out in the RPGs charts a course for the physical, economic and social development of the region up to the year 2016. The RPGs will define and inform planning policy in each of the seven Planning Authorities of the Greater Dublin Area, and will inform Government Departments and State Bodies on the future allocation of public resources.

A unique **partnership** of Regional Authorities, County Councils, Government Departments, State Bodies and a wide range of interested bodies, including two extensive public consultation processes informed the preparation of the Regional Planning Guidelines for Greater Dublin Area, which were published on 8th July, 2004. The Guidelines and the associated Regional Report contain a comprehensive analysis of what constitutes the Greater Dublin Area today, its problems, challenges and opportunities, and the agreed vision for its future development. This publication has brought the NSS process into its implementation phase at Regional level.

The **objective** of the Regional Planning Guidelines is to provide a long-term strategic planning framework for the development of the Greater Dublin Area for a period of 12 years. While these Guidelines are set within a 12 year context, they will be reviewed after 6 years.

The published RPG report comprises Part A and Part B. The **Part A** of the Regional Planning Guidelines sets out the background and current trends regarding the Strategic Planning Guidelines and the National Spatial Strategy. It describes the current situation (and background to the Regional Planning Guidelines) in terms of the national, regional and local policy contexts. It focuses on matters for the whole of the Region to which the Guidelines relate in accordance with the principles of the proper planning and sustainable development as described in Section 23 (2) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000. This forms the basis and starting point for Part B.

The **Part B** Regional Planning Guidelines contained in the document provide a robust sustainable planning framework for the Greater Dublin Area within the context of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 and the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020. It provides a long-term strategic planning framework for the development of Greater Dublin Area in the 12 year period up to 2016 within the NSS vision for 2020. The Regional Planning Guidelines have been devised and prepared having regard not only to the recommendations of the NSS for the Dublin and Mid-East Regions (the Greater Dublin Area), but also, and importantly, for the regions surrounding the GDA.

It must be clear that Part B of the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area is to be read in conjunction with Part A.

Copies of the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2004–2016 can be obtained by contacting the Dublin Regional Authority, at the price of €40.00 per copy, or by logging on the Regional Planning Guidelines Website ([www.rpg.ie](http://www.rpg.ie)) and downloading the report.

# An Agenda for Dublin – Launch

A major report entitled **AGENDA FOR DUBLIN** was launched on 19th October 2004 in The Gresham Hotel, Dublin by Senator David Norris. This document, which sets out the key issues facing the Dublin Region into the 21st century, was drawn up by Dublin Regional Authority in association with the Dublin Employment Pact and in consultation with key Government Departments, political parties and development agencies.

This AGENDA identifies recommendations for meeting the challenges of inclusion and sustainable development in the Dublin Region, with the objective of counteracting continuing inequalities and of enhancing the region's position in an increasingly complex and challenging international setting. It highlights the need for continued sustained economic and social development within the Dublin Region, in keeping with its role as a Capital City region and Global Gateway.

Addressing the launch, guest speaker Mr. Jim Power, Chief Economist, Friends First Group stated "The danger with the National Spatial Strategy and other government policies is that the rest of the country will be developed at the expense of Dublin. That would be a mistake, as a vibrant economy needs a vibrant capital city. You cannot have one without the other." His aspirations for the city and region include - a proper approach to spatial planning with high density and high quality accommodation; an integrated and efficient public transport system where the over-reliance on cars will be seriously reduced; an economy with high quality employment opportunities, encompassing services, manufacturing and high-tech activities; a region where high quality tourism becomes a key player in the local economy.

Mr. Power also stated that "If Dublin is to develop into the city to which I think we all should aspire, the various agencies with responsibility should behave in a more mature manner, particularly in relation to planning issues". He concluded that "It is only if the various agencies work together that Dublin will be in a position to offer a 'welcoming committee' to tourists and potential investors. The choices are very clear at this point and Dublin now needs to be put on the national agenda. This report should be the beginning of the process."

Other guest speakers at the launch included Mr. Chris O'Malley, Strategic Development Executive, Dublin City University who described the potential for knowledge-age industrial clusters in the future of Dublin, and Professor Loughlin Kealy, Head of the School of Architecture, University College Dublin who spoke about the proper management of a metropolitan city.



Members of the Dublin Regional Authority at the launch of 'Agenda for Dublin'.



Pictured at the Launch of 'Agenda for Dublin' is Senator David Norris (who officially launched the Report), Councillor Stanley Laing, Cathaoirleach of the Dublin Regional Authority and Ms. Anna Lee, Chair of the Dublin Employment Pact.



Members of the Dublin Regional Authority at the launch of 'Agenda for Dublin'.

## Next step

Following the launch of the document the Dublin Regional Authority and the Dublin Employment Pact began systematically addressing the recommendations as set out in the 'Agenda for Dublin' document.

Copies of the 'Agenda for Dublin' document can be obtained by contacting the Dublin Regional Authority, or by logging on to the website ([www.dra.ie](http://www.dra.ie)).

# National Drugs Strategy – Submission

The Minister of State at the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Mr. Noel Ahern, published a Consultation Paper requesting submissions from interested parties to the Mid-Term Review of the National Drugs Strategy 2001-2008. The Dublin Regional Authority, having discussed the contents of Minister Ahern's Consultation Paper, submitted the recommendations of its members for future action to be considered as part of this Review.

## *Within the Submission the Dublin Regional Authority made a number of recommendations, including:*

1. The Dublin region, as Ireland's Capital City-Region, with the highest population growth rates and easy access to and from Europe and the US via the main sea and air ports, should have a specific and special concentration of resources and policies, within the National Drugs Strategy, to effectively address its unique situation.
2. Data should be collected and analysed at the Dublin local and regional levels to facilitate close monitoring of all aspects of the drug control programme within the National Drugs Strategy.
3. The level of co-ordination of agencies and sectors, at the Dublin local and regional levels, should be further enhanced with the required resources made available to encourage full participation.
4. The National Drugs Strategy should increase its support for the Local Area Drugs Task Forces in the Dublin region having specific regard to those Task Forces operating in areas suffering from large scale social and economic deprivation and marginalisation.
5. Existing residential drug treatment, Methadone treatment, needle exchange programme and after-care services should be expanded within the Dublin region.
6. Support facilities for former drug users should be expanded.
7. The expansion and development of new and innovative measures aimed at helping drug users and former drug users should be undertaken forthwith.
8. Drug education programmes should be devised and targeted at school children in primary and secondary levels.
9. Education programmes should be devised to discourage drug trials, targeted specifically at teenagers and early school leavers.
10. The National Drugs Strategy should specifically address the provision of alternative recreational facilities for young people and it should set out –  
(1) the sources and amounts of funding currently available to local communities for these facilities and  
(2) make recommendations for funding to be provided from the exchequer for such facilities.
11. Adequate public transport facilities should be provided within the Dublin region at specific peak times (i.e. after pub/club closing times) to ensure people can get home rapidly and safely. The National Drugs Strategy should address this issue and make recommendations to the Department of Transport in this matter.
12. The National Drugs Strategy should address the need for more on the ground police services to enhance public safety and should make recommendations to the Department of Justice in this matter.
13. There is a need for a review of the methadone treatment programme as many young people are falling into difficulties due to a lack of methadone treatment.
14. There is a need for more residential beds to be provided in the Dublin region.
15. The practice of methadone treatment buses pulling up in the centre of communities should be reviewed. This practice is causing difficulties in the community and is disrespectful to those using the programme.
16. The National Youth-Work Development Plan should be implemented.
17. Support facilities should be provided for the families and dependents of drug users.
18. Data should be collected on the effectiveness of the methadone programme.
19. The link between the housing need and addiction should be addressed, especially having regard to those people who are homeless.
20. There is a need for a Special Emergency Working Group to be set up to address the problem of cocaine use, which has been documented as being on the rise.
21. A bigger emphasis should be placed on prevention and cure.

# Information and Communications Technology in the Dublin Region

**Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) are the infrastructure of the new information based economy which transforms the way products are created and services delivered and accessed. The quality and use of ICT infrastructure has major implications for the levels of economic activity, employment and the general organisation of a Region.**

Since the liberalisation of the telecommunications market in 1998 throughout the EU, policy on the provision of information technology states that technical infrastructure should be provided by private operators and the role of the State should be concentrated on defining the market in relation to pricing and licensing through the regulatory framework. However, States can intervene in areas where it is perceived that the market is not providing the technology needed for development.

In Ireland, the Government has decided that there has been a failure by the private sector to provide the fibre needed in many parts of the Regions, outside Dublin, and as a result is providing €140million for fibre networks in 80 towns throughout the country. These local networks are funded in a variety of ways in response to local demand – e.g. partnerships between local authority and Government and public/private partnerships.

In the Dublin Region, however, the only Government funding for local networks has been the funding provided for the Digital Hub fibre network and its connection to the Dublin City Council network.

The provision of ICT infrastructure is not a fixed reality but is one of ongoing change through the continuous developments which are taking place in the technologies, services, regulations and prices. The quality of the infrastructure is also a relative issue as every Region in the EU is focusing on improving their infrastructure as a means of generating employment and improving quality of life for its citizens.

The Dublin Regional Authority prepared a report in December 2004 which gives an overview of the Information and Communications Technology infrastructure and use in the Dublin Region. The Report explains information and communications technology infrastructure; it draws EU and international comparisons; it discusses the need for new networks or means of communications between technology suppliers and the Regulator/Government; and it makes recommendations for future initiatives that Central Government and/or other agencies should undertake to ensure the future economic competitiveness of the Dublin region.

The Dublin Regional Authority intends that this Report, which will be distributed widely to the Central Government Departments, the Communications Regulator and all agencies/authorities within the region, will contribute to the development of the Dublin Region as a leading knowledge-based global economy, capable of competing with the best in the EU and internationally.



Copies of the ICT document can be obtained by contacting the Dublin Regional Authority, or by logging on to the website ([www.dra.ie](http://www.dra.ie)).

# Dublin-Merseyside Declaration Agreement

**Merseyside was for a long time the hub of Irish emigration to the UK with many Liverpool families today being of Irish descent. Therefore, the Dublin and Merseyside Regions have a distinct common heritage, linked by a shared history and culture and a love of sport and the arts, and in fact Dublin City and Liverpool have been twinned cities for many years.**

It is for this and other related reasons that the Dublin Regional Authority in its discussions on the EU Regional Policy post 2006 considered it opportune for the two regions to come together to create new opportunities for co-operation and joint action and during 2004 the Authority began a series of meetings with the Merseyside region which culminated in the preparation of a declaration wherein the Dublin Regional Authority and the Merseyside Local Authorities, with their partners, pledge their commitment to work together and to deliver on the potential that exists for meaningful and mutually beneficial co-operation in the future.

What is presented in this short declaration document is a Declaration of intent by both regions to enhance the existing relations and links by firstly, setting out priority areas of common interest and shared action and secondly, by identifying potential support programmes, so that both regions can initiate pilot actions, identify appropriate common solutions and provide a mechanism for both regions and their interests to implement a comprehensive programme of co-operation.

The Declaration, which was signed in December 2004, calls on both the Irish and UK Governments to recognise this potential and to support the efforts of the two regions to intensify their links and to create new opportunities for co-operation between the two islands and their peoples. The Dublin Regional Authority consider that the programmes set out under the proposed new EU Regional Policy can provide the regions with such opportunities and in this regard the two regions are prepared to work closely with all interests to ensure that they can benefit from the added-value that co-operation activities bring.

# Sutton to Sandycove (S2S) Project

The Sutton to Sandycove Project is a joint project of Fingal County Council, Dublin City Council, Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, the Dublin Docklands Development Authority and the Dublin Transportation Office, working under the auspices of the Dublin Regional Authority, the vision of which is to provide a continuous promenade and cycleway approximately 22 kilometres in length, around Dublin Bay from Sutton to Sandycove linking existing and proposed cycle and walking routes.

The completed project will provide a major recreational and leisure facility readily accessible by all age groups with the potential to become a significant tourist attraction within the Dublin Region, especially as the route commands unparalleled views of Dublin Bay and, when completed would be the longest promenade in Europe.

In early 2004 the Dublin Regional Authority requested tender submissions to carry out a **Preliminary Design and Environmental Study for S2S**. The study was awarded to a strategic design team formed by WSP, Awn, Tíros Resources and Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers. WSP are responsible for the Transport Planning and Engineering aspects of the route as well as the overall management of the project. The urban planning and landscape design skills required to deliver the brief are provided by Tíros Resources, whilst Awn are undertaking the Environmental Report and Archaeological assessments. Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers are providing their expertise to cost the engineering and structural proposals.

A draft report is currently being examined by the authorities concerned and will be completed in 2005.

## Irish Regions Office

The Irish Regions Office (IRO) was established in May 2000 as a Brussels based resource for the Irish members of the EU Committee of the Regions (CoR) and their regional authorities. The activities and output of the IRO continued to expand since its establishment and in 2003 it was agreed by the Regional Authorities, Regional Assemblies and their designated City/County Managers that an additional officer would be placed in the IRO to:

- (a) enhance the EU information service to the Irish regions and their constituent local authorities;
- (b) increase the opportunity for these authorities to participate in EU policy debates and project implementation;
- (c) improve the profile of Irish sub-national authorities in the Brussels environment.

This proposal also received the consent of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, which supported the establishment of the IRO.

An 'Activity Programme 2004' was drawn up in association with the designated regional directors and this was adopted by the Association of Irish Regions in November 2003. An open recruitment procedure for an additional officer was initiated in July 2003 and the successful candidate, Mr. Eamon O'HARA commenced his employment on December 1, 2003.

### *Irish Regions Office – Further Information*

Details of the activities of the IRO during 2004 can be obtained from the Irish Regions Office, Rond-Point Schuman 6, B-1040, Brussels. Tel: 32-2-2828474; Fax: 32-2-2828475; or Email: [robert.collins@iro.ie](mailto:robert.collins@iro.ie) or by logging onto [www.iro.ie](http://www.iro.ie)

# The Draft EU Constitution

The Dublin Regional Authority discussed the draft EU Constitution at its meeting in September, 2004 and agreed to assist with the publicising of its contents in the run-up to a Referendum.

## Background

The EU is currently governed by several treaties that have been revised on a number of occasions during its 50-year history. The three original Treaties founding the European Communities were the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (1951), the Treaty establishing the European Community (1957) and the Treaty establishing the Atomic Energy Community (1957). The fourth founding treaty is the Treaty of Maastricht (1992), which established the European Union.

The founding treaties have been amended by the Merger Treaty (1965), the Single European Act (1986), the Treaty of Amsterdam (1997) and the Treaty of Nice (2001), which has been in force since 1 February 2003. The Accession Treaties signed with new Member States also lead to treaty amendments.

The “Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe” (Constitutional Treaty) is a single text which would replace all the existing Treaties and give the European Union a **single legal personality** under domestic and international law.

## The New Constitutional Treaty

The overall objectives of the proposals contained in the new Constitution are:

1. to improve the transparency and efficiency of the EU and provide it with the necessary flexibility to develop in ambitious new directions;
2. to describe the EU’s values, objectives and competences;
3. to merge the EU’s basic treaties into a single text;
4. to increase the influence of the European Parliament; and
5. to create the post of EU Foreign Minister with a view to increasing the leverage of the EU internationally.

The text proposes a number of changes to the current institutional framework of the EU and to its legislative and decision-making processes.

## Points of particular relevance to Local and Regional Authorities

The new Constitution has been welcomed by European associations of local and regional authorities as “a major step forward in building a strong united Europe which properly recognises the role of the local and regional spheres of government.” The Constitution includes the following points of specific importance to local and regional government:

- Article I-5 explicitly refers to the recognition of regional and local self-government as part of the national identities of the Member States
- Article I-9 extends the concept of Subsidiarity to include the regional and local levels (i.e. the Union should only act where the objective of the action cannot be achieved by the member states at central, regional or local level). Article I-45 also confirms that decisions must be taken as closely as possible to the citizen.
- Article I-46 and a new Protocol on Subsidiarity require effective consultation by the Commission with local and regional authorities on new legislative proposals, in particular on their local and regional dimension.
- The Protocol on Subsidiarity also requires the Commission to assess and take into account the financial and administrative impact on local and regional governments of proposed new legislation.
- The principle of Territorial Cohesion is recognised amongst the shared competences of the Union, enabling the needs of Europe’s regions and areas to be better taken into account in future.
- Special State aid derogations for the EU’s outlying regions are to be reinforced by an addition to Article III- 56.3a. Particular attention will also be given to State aid to rural areas, regions in industrial decline, sparsely-populated Eastern regions, insular, border and mountain areas (Article III-116).

# The Draft EU Constitution *(Continued)*

- Article III-270 grants to the Committee of the Regions the right to institute proceedings before the Court of Justice to defend its prerogatives.
- The Constitution also provides for the extension of the term of office of the Committee of the Regions to 5 years, which in due course may be co-terminus with that of the Parliament and Commission

In general the new Constitution gives greater recognition to the local and regional dimension within the new architecture of the Union and provides a basis for local and regional authorities to play an enhanced role in the EU policy making process. Of particular significance is the requirement to consult with local and regional authorities at the pre-legislative stage of policy development. However, it remains to be seen how this will be exercised in practice.

## *Next Steps*

1. The Constitutional Treaty, which was signed in Rome on 29th October, 2004, under the Dutch EU Presidency, will now undergo a legal review after which it will be **translated into all the official languages** of the EU.
2. Following its signing, the Member States have **two years to ratify the Treaty**. The ratification process is likely to vary from Member State to Member State with some favouring direct democracy (via a popular referendum) and others favouring parliamentary democracy. A number of countries have already indicated that they will hold referenda on the constitution. These include: Denmark, Ireland, the UK, Poland, Spain, France, Portugal, Luxembourg, Belgium, the Netherlands and others could also go down this route.
3. If, however, two years following its signature only four-fifths of the Member States have ratified the Treaty, the European Council will review the situation. **Future modifications of the Constitutional Treaty will require the unanimous agreement** of the Member States.
4. Following ratification **not all of the provisions in the Constitutional Treaty will come into force straight away**. The new definition of a qualified majority will apply from 1 November 2009, the new distribution of seats in the European Parliament is to come into force for the next parliamentary term (2009), and the rotation system for the Commission will only come into force in 2014.

# Committee of the Regions Irish Delegation

The Dublin Regional Authority (DRA) is the designated secretariat to the Irish Delegation to the Committee of the Regions (CoR) with DRA Director Ms. Patricia Potter, Secretary to the Delegation.

The Committee of the Regions is the EU body established in 1994 to represent the views of local and regional authorities in the EU policy formation and decision-making process. The core work of the Committee is representing the views of the local and regional level to the other EU institutions across a wide range of policy issues.

The Irish Delegation consists of nine elected members who are nominated for a four year term by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government taking account of geographical, gender and political considerations. The nine 'full' members are backed up by nine 'alternate' members, all eight Irish regional authorities are represented in the Delegation. Following are some highlights of the Irish Delegation over the year.

## *Participation in the Irish Presidency Programme*

As part of the Irish EU Presidency Programme during the first half of 2004, a number of high-profile Committee of the Regions events were held in Ireland.

### **CoR Bureau and CONST Commission Meeting in Dublin**

The executive Bureau of the CoR met in Dublin Castle on March 19th. The Constitutional Affairs commission (CONST) also met in Dublin in conjunction with the Bureau and there were a series of social events around the CoR meetings.

The gatherings were addressed by Minister of State, Pat the Cope Gallagher T.D. and the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr. Royston Brady, at the time a member of the Bureau. The Irish Delegation was universally praised for the efficiency and hospitality shown in the organisation of the programme of events.

### **EDUC Commission and Seminar in Killarney**

Under the chairmanship of Cllr. Annette McNamara (Cork Co. Council and South West Regional Authority) the Education and Culture committee of the CoR (which has remit for Information and Communication Technology) held a meeting in Killarney in April. As a follow on, the South West Regional Authority also held a high-profile conference Delivering Broadband to Rural and Peripheral Areas to disseminate results of its project with the European Space Agency.

### **Council of Regional Policy Ministers in Portlaoise**

As the future of EU regional policy was being planned and negotiated, the Irish Delegation was active in seeking a meeting of EU Regional Policy ministers in Ireland under the Irish Presidency, an event not on the original Presidency calendar. The meeting took place in Portlaoise in April under the chairmanship of Minister of State Tom Parlon T.D. and was the first opportunity for an exchange following publication of the 3rd

Cohesion report. The Council meeting heard from Commissioner Michel Barnier and Peter Straub President of the CoR. Commissioner Barnier also met with members of the Regional Assemblies with Irish CoR members also participating.

Following the Council meeting, the Irish Delegation to the CoR remained active in stimulating discussion and in representing the views of Irish regions in the debate on this hugely significant issue.

# Committee of the Regions Irish Delegation *(Continued)*

## *EU Enlargement in May*

Following enlargement of the EU to 25 Member States on May 1st, the CoR grew to 317 full members (from 222). The expected addition of Bulgaria and Romania in 2007 would increase CoR membership to 344 and other countries (Croatia and Turkey) have also applied for EU membership.

With increasing EU competences and regulatory activity and with enlargement presenting Ireland and its regions as relatively more prosperous, there is an even greater need to ensure that the views of Irish local and regional authorities are represented and recognised. With increasing CoR membership and competition for rapporteurships and influence, the challenge facing the Irish members continues to grow.

## *Effect of Local Elections on Irish Delegation*

Following the local elections in June, five members did not maintain their local authority mandate and thus their membership of the CoR automatically lapsed.

Full members Royston Brady (Dublin City Council) and Annette McNamara (Cork Co. Council) and alternate members Angela Lupton (Galway City Council), Vivian O' Callaghan (Cork Co. Council) and P.J. Coghill (Westmeath Co. Council) were thanked for their service and contribution to the CoR and the Irish Delegation.

This third mandate of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) from 2002-2006 has seen several personnel changes within the Irish Delegation. Earlier changes had seen Cllr. Michael Fitzgerald (South Tipperary County Council and South East Regional Authority) replacing Senator Maurice Cummins; Cllr. Declan McDonnell (Galway City Council and West Regional Authority) replacing Mae Sexton T.D. and Cllr. Josie Conneely (Galway County Council and West Regional Authority) replacing Seán O' Neachtain MEP.

## *New EU Constitution*

Under the Irish presidency, the new EU Constitutional Treaty was adopted at the June European Council and later signed by the Heads of State in October. This followed extensive discussions in the IGC and earlier at the Convention on the Future of Europe. The CoR Irish Delegation had made several submissions both to the Convention and to IGC participants.

The new Constitution provides for a number of advances in enhancing the role of local and regional authorities in the EU. The Protocol on Subsidiarity and Proportionality is a step forward in better recognising the needs of and ensuring the involvement of, the national as well as the regional and local levels in monitoring EU legislation.

The Constitution would also give new powers to the CoR to take actions to the Court of Justice where the principle of subsidiarity may be infringed within its areas of competence. It also proposes changes to the term of the CoR mandate and how membership is to be constituted. The Constitution will have to be adopted in each Member State before it can come into effect.

In Ireland, the debate on the Future of Europe continued to be shadowed by the National Forum on Europe. In 2004, high profile speakers at the Forum have included Kofi Annan, Javier Solana and Giuliano Amato. The Irish CoR Delegation participates at the Forum representing the Irish local and regional authority perspective.

## *Irish Rapporteurs in 2004*

Irish members continuously reflect their regional as well as national concerns on the range of issues that can effect Ireland and its regions in the debates and through amendments at CoR Committee and Plenary stages.

In addition, three Irish members were selected as rapporteurs for CoR opinions adopted in 2004: European Road Safety Action Programme (Cllr. Royston Brady); European Capital of Culture (Cllr. Annette McNamara); and Implications of EU Regional Policy for local and regional authorities in Bulgaria (Cllr. Seamus Murray).

## *10th Anniversary of the CoR*

At the November plenary session the CoR celebrated its 10th anniversary. The anniversary programme featured speeches by former President of the Commission, Mr. Jacques Delors with the presence of all Presidents of the CoR since its inception. One element of the anniversary celebration was a Youth Debate featuring youth representatives as well as young elected local and regional politicians from throughout the EU.

## *New CoR HQ*

In July, the CoR opened its new headquarters at 101 Rue Belliard. The building in the heart of the EU quarter was once occupied by the European Parliament. The CoR will share the building with the other EU advisory body, the Economic and Social Committee (EESC). The move was necessitated by the demands of enlargement and provides better meeting facilities and work spaces for members. The CoR hopes that the building will be a focal point and meeting place for regions across Europe and their Brussels-based regional offices.

## *Further Information*

Further information on the work of the CoR and the Irish Delegation can be obtained by contacting the Dublin Regional Authority or by visiting the CoR website at [www.cor.eu.int](http://www.cor.eu.int)

# Introduction to the Dublin Regional Authority

The Dublin Regional Authority is one of Eight (8) Regional Authorities set up in 1994 under the Local Government Act 1991 (Regional Authorities) Establishment Order 1993.

## *The main functions of the Authority are:*

- To promote co-ordination, co-operation and joint action among the public services and local authorities;
- To prepare Regional Planning Guidelines (P&D Act 2000)
- To review of the overall needs and development requirements of the region;
- To review of local authority's Development Plans;
- To monitor spending and progress of the National Development Plan and EU Funds.

## *Membership of the Dublin Regional Authority*

The Dublin Regional Authority consists of a Board of 29 elected representatives nominated from the four Dublin local authorities operating within the region.

Following on from the Local Elections in June, the new Members of the Dublin Regional Authority for the period 2004 – 2009 are:

<b>Representing Dublin City Council (14 members)</b>	<b>Representing South Dublin County Council (5 members)</b>	<b>Representing Dun Laoghaire- Rathdown County Council (5 members)</b>	<b>Representing Fingal County Council 5 members</b>
Cllr. Maurice Ahern (Fianna Fáil) Cllr. Tom Brabazon (Fianna Fáil) Cllr. Christy Burke (Sinn Féin) Cllr. Catherine Byrne (Fine Gael) Cllr. Eibhlin Byrne (Fianna Fáil) Cllr. Anne Carter (Labour) Cllr. Dessie Ellis (Sinn Féin) Cllr. Mary Freehill (Labour) Cllr. Dermot Lacey (Labour) Cllr. Vincent Jackson (Community) Cllr. Bronwen Maher (Green) Cllr. Wendy Hederman (Progressive Democrats) Cllr. Brian Gillen (Fine Gael) Cllr. Andrew O'Connell (Sinn Féin) Ex-Officio Member: Lord Mayor of Dublin City	Cllr. Máire Árdagh (Fianna Fáil) Cllr. Mark Daly (Sinn Féin) Cllr. Stanley Laing (Fine Gael) Cllr. Tony McDermott (Green) Cllr. Colm Tyndall (Progressive Democrats)	Cllr. Nessa Childers (Green) Cllr. Pat Hand (Fine Gael) Cllr. Gerry Horkan (Fianna Fáil) Cllr. Eugene Regan (Fine Gael) Cllr. Lettie McCarthy (Labour)	Cllr. Peggy Hamill (Labour) Cllr. May McKeon (Independent) Cllr. Michael O'Donovan (Labour) Cllr. Margaret Richardson (Fianna Fáil) Cllr. Leo Varadkar (Fine Gael)

## *The Board is supplemented and assisted by:*

- an Operational Committee, which consists of the chief executives from the public service agencies and
- an EU Operational Committee consisting of State agencies, local authorities and public bodies to discuss EU matters.

# Conferences Attended 2004

The Regional Authority was represented at the following Conference/Seminars during 2004:

Title	Date 2004	Location	Attended by
Kerry Environmental Conference	3rd – 6th March	Ballybunion, Co. Kerry	Cllrs. A. Creevey & D. Ellis
Carlow Tourism Ltd. Growing Tourism Together	26/27th February	Co. Carlow	Cllr. Tony Kelly
The Housing Unit – Annual Housing Practitioners	11/12th March	Westport. Co. Mayo	Cllr. Mary Mooney
The Role of Broadband Technology	5th/6th April	Killarney, Co. Kerry	Cllr. Pat Hand
Local Government 1999 – 2004. How did we do?	7/8th May	Dungarvan, Co. Waterford	Cllr. Tony Gregory
Municipal Authorities of Ireland Conference	16th – 18th September	Listowell, Co. Kerry	Cllr. May McKeon
Merriman Summer School	21st – 28th August	Ennistymon, Co. Clare	Cllr. Mary Freehill
The Sunday Business Post – 2nd National Waste Summit	28/29th September	Croke Pk., Co. Dublin	Cllr. Tony McDermott
Association of Irish Regions – EU Cohesion Policy	15th October	Ballina, Co. Mayo	Cllr. Stanley Laing
S&E Regional Assembly – 5th Annual Conference	28/29th October	Navan, Co. Meath	Cllr. Stanley Laing



# Statement of Accounts for the Financial Year Ended 31st December 2004

Expenditure	2004 €	2003 €
Salaries	182,874.99	145,868.07
Office Equipment	25,010.12	24,604.32
Postal & Telephone Charges	11,449.39	12,436.86
Annual Allowances (Art.34(1))	38,408.65	33,366.93
Travel & Subsistence Allowances:		
I. Article 34(2)(a)	6,360.43	14,875.40
II. Article 34(2)(b)	–	–
III. Staff	8,712.56	11,012.45
Rent and Rates	–	–
Miscellaneous	31,772.63	54,288.55
Committee of the Regions Irish Delegation	232,337.48	205,295.76
Irish Regions Office (IRO)	68,944.92	16,617.80
SRUNA (EU TERRA Project)	119.79	80,788.47
EU Projects	8,919.28	6,992.14
S2S Project	119,157.37	4,958.67
Regional Planning Guidelines for Greater Dublin Area	155,290.79	347,473.75
<b>Expenditure total</b>	<b>889,358.40</b>	<b>958,579.17</b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	<b>2004 €</b>	<b>2003 €</b>
Local Authorities Contribution	351,951.17	349,472.46
Public Bodies Contribution	11,745.09	11,745.09
Southern & Eastern Regional Assembly Contribution	45,335.82	–
Other:		
• DoEHLG (Committee of the Regions)	364,100.00	186,538.61
• Committee of the Regions – miscellaneous	5,853.35	3,812.31
• Miscellaneous	9,171.81	25,026.25
• Irish Regions Office	59,446.30	22,786.40
• RPG Contributions	291,054.81	80,531.00
• RPG Miscellaneous	2,257.95	3,665.06
• S2S Contribution	140,000.00	5,985.13
• Bank Interest (BoI)	4,645.10	–
<b>Receipts total</b>	<b>1,285,561.40</b>	<b>689,682.08</b>
Surplus	396,203.00	(-268,897.09)
Opening Balance (Deficit)	(-143,782.77)	125,114.32
<b>Closing Balance at end of year (Surplus)</b>	<b>252,420.23</b>	<b>(-143,782.77)</b>