

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(6th Meeting)

5th March 2009**PART A**

All members were present, with the exception of Senator F.E. Cohen, Minister for Planning and Environment and Senator B.I. Le Marquand, Minister for Home Affairs, from whom apologies had been received.

Senator T.A. Le Sueur, Chief Minister
 Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, Minister for Treasury and Resources
 Senator T.J. Le Main, Minister for Housing
 Senator J.L. Perchard, Minister for Health and Social Services
 Senator A.J.H. Maclean, Minister for Economic Development
 Connétable M.K. Jackson of St. Brelade, Minister for Transport and Technical Services
 Deputy J.G. Reed, Minister for Education, Sport and Culture
 Deputy J.A. Hilton, Assistant Minister for Home Affairs
 Deputy A.E. Pryke, Assistant Minister for Planning and Environment
 Deputy I.J. Gorst, Minister for Social Security

In attendance -

Connétable K.P. Vibert, Chairman, Comité des Connétables
 W.D. Ogley, Chief Executive, States of Jersey
 W.J. Bailhache Q.C, H.M. Attorney General (for items A2, A4, B1, B6, B7 and B11)
 I. Black, Treasurer of the States (for items B3 to B6 inclusive)
 M. King, Chief Officer, Economic Development Department (for items B2, B5 and B6)
 G.C. Powell, C.B.E., Adviser- - International Affairs (for item B8)
 M. de Forest-Brown, Director – International Finance, Chief Minister’s Department (for items B2 and B8)
 D. Peedle, Economic Adviser, Chief Minister’s Department (for items B5 and B6)
 C. Haws, Head of Financial Planning, Treasury and Resources Department (for items B3 to B6 inclusive)
 K. Hemmings, Head of Decision Support, Treasury and Resources Department (for items B3 and B4)
 A. Sugden, Enterprise and Business Development Manager, Economic Development Department (for items B5 and B6)
 J. Mews, Finance Industry Development Executive, Chief Minister’s Department (for item B2)
 J. Nevitt, Personal Assistant to the Chief Minister
 M.N. de la Haye, Greffier of the States
 I. Clarkson, Clerk to the Council of Ministers

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A and Part B.

Minutes.

A1. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th February 2009 (Parts A and B), having been circulated previously, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Senator P.F.C. Ozouf was not present for this item.

States
business.
1240/7/1(1)

A2. The Council reviewed the list of public business scheduled for consideration by the States Assembly during the remainder of the First Session of 2009. Particular attention was paid to the following –

- (a) **Voisinage and Customary Law: Review (P.1/2009)** – the Council, having determined that it could not support P.1/2009, approved a comment to the proposition and requested that it be presented to the States Assembly forthwith; and
- (b) **Property sold by the Public: Restriction on Renting Back (P.7/2009)** – the Council expressed sympathy with the underlying principles of P.7/2009, particularly in terms of the need to achieve best value from all property transactions. It nevertheless concluded that the proposition as drafted could, in certain circumstances, materially hinder the ability of the States to act in the best interests of the taxpayer. On that basis the Council considered and endorsed a draft comment of the Minister for Treasury and Resources to the proposition; and
- (c) **Jersey Consumer Council: Appointment of Chairman (P.10/2009)** –The Council resolved to support the proposition. It nevertheless recommended that the Minister for Economic Development consider whether the proposed timetable for executing the recommendations made by Pact Consulting Limited following its review of the constitution and operation of the Consumer Council could be accelerated.

Regarding the proposed meeting on 24th March 2009, the Council noted that only 2 propositions, both lodged ‘au Greffe’ by the Chief Minister, were listed for debate (Projets Nos. P.20 and P.21/2009 refer). Having noted that the Chief Minister was content for both items to be considered by the States Assembly on 31st March 2009, the Council recommended that the Chief Minister write to the Chairman of the Privileges and Procedures Committee indicating that neither he nor the Council would oppose a proposition that the States should not meet on 24th March and that public business scheduled for that date should be deferred to the next meeting.

Agenda
papers:
preparation.

A3. The Council observed that an emerging trend was developing whereby important papers were being circulated, or being tabled for consideration, subsequent to production and circulation of its agenda; accordingly Ministers preparations for meetings of the Council were being affected.

The Council concluded that, in future, any late papers received should be deferred to a subsequent scheduled meeting unless –

- (a) - **arrangements for late tabling of a paper had been agreed with the Chief Minister’s Department in advance and the relevant paper had been circulated a minimum of 72 hours before the commencement of the relevant meeting, or**
- (b) - **the Chief Minister was satisfied that exceptional circumstances warranted the tabling of a paper at short notice.**

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The Council noted that the above would not affect the right of Ministers to raise important items of additional business during the course of Council meetings; however, it was expected that, wherever possible, individual Ministers would notify the Chief Minister of their intention to raise such matters prior to the commencement of a meeting.

The Chief Executive was authorized to take the necessary action.

Senator P.F.C. Ozouf was not present for this item.

Steering
Groups:
constitution.
478/4 (11)

A4. The Council, with reference to Minute No A2, dated 27th September 2007, of the Council as previously constituted, reconstituted the Energy Policy Steering Group as follows –

Senator P.F.C. Ozouf (Chairman)
Senator F.E. Cohen, Minister for Planning and Environment
Senator A.J.H. Maclean, Minister for Economic Development

Further to the foregoing, the Council ratified the constitution of the Social Policy Steering Group, the purpose of which would be to coordinate development of key social policies. The Council noted that membership of the Steering Group comprised the following -

Senator T.A. Le Sueur, Chairman,
Senator T.J. Le Main, Minister for Housing,
Senator J.L. Perchard, Minister for Health and Social Services,
Senator B.I. Le Marquand, Minister for Home Affairs, and
Deputy I.J. Gorst, Minister for Social Security.
Connétable P.F.M. Hanning of St Saviour
Connétable J. Gallichan of Trinity

Finally, the Council, with reference to its Minute No. B3 of this meeting, ratified the constitution of the Finance and International Affairs Sub-Group, the purpose of which would be to coordinate the development of policy to support and to regulate the finance industry and to further enhance the Island's international presence. The Council noted that membership of the Sub-Group comprised the following -

Senator T.A. Le Sueur, Chairman,
Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, Minister for Treasury and Resources
Senator A.J.H. Maclean, Minister for Economic Development and
Senator P.F. Routier, Assistant Minister, Chief Minister's Department.