

IC/SC/072

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

(10th Meeting)

1st March 2012**PART A**

All members were present.

Senator I.J. Gorst, Chief Minister
 Senator P.F.C. Ozouf, Minister for Treasury and Resources (except for item B2)
 Senator A.J.H. Maclean, Minister for Economic Development
 Senator B.I. Le Marquand, Minister for Home Affairs
 Senator F. du H. Le Gresley, M.B.E., Minister for Social Security
 Deputy R.C. Duhamel, Minister for Planning and Environment
 Deputy A.E. Pryke, Minister for Health and Social Services
 Deputy K.C. Lewis, Minister for Transport and Technical Services
 Deputy E.J. Noel, Assistant Minister for Treasury and Resources (for item B2 only)
 Deputy A.K.F. Green, M.B.E, Minister for Housing
 Deputy P.J.D. Ryan, Minister for Education, Sport and Culture

In attendance -

Senator Sir P.M. Bailhache, Assistant Chief Minister
 J. Richardson, Interim Chief Executive, States of Jersey
 T.J.Le Cocq, Q.C., H.M. Attorney General
 L. Rowley, Treasurer of the States
 C. Keir, Communications J. Norris, Research and Policy Officer
 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 9th February 2012 (Parts A and B), having been circulated previously, were taken as read and were confirmed.

Fair Trade
Island.
1444/4(23)

A2. The Council, with the Chief Officer, Environment Department in attendance, considered a report entitled: 'Proposed Strategy for Renewal of "Fairtrade Island Status" for Jersey.'

Senator P.F.C. Ozouf declared an historical, indirect and non-pecuniary interest in the matter under consideration.

The States recalled that on 9th March 2004 the States had adopted a proposition entitled: 'Fairtrade Island' (Projet No. P.20/2004 refers). In doing so, they had, amongst other things, committed to support all possible initiatives to enable the Island to be recognised by the Fairtrade Foundation as a Fairtrade Island. Subsequent to that decision, the Island had been awarded Fairtrade Island status and both the States Assembly and the Environment Department had registered as members of Fairtrade Jersey.

The Council noted that on 26th January 2012 the Chief Minister had received correspondence from the Chairman, Jersey Fairtrade Island Group advising of a request that the Island revalidate its status as a Fairtrade Island and, as part of that process, reconfirm the support of the States of Jersey for the Fairtrade initiative.

The Council recalled the underlying principles of the Fairtrade initiative and agreed that these principles remained well aligned with its own beliefs and values. Having acknowledged: that the Ministerial system of government had been introduced following the decision of the States in respect of P.20/2004; the extent to which Fairtrade principles described a global social policy with ancillary environmental benefits, and having noted the extent to which the procurement function within the Treasury and Resources Department would have a key role to play in maintaining or increasing the range and volume of Fairtrade products purchased across the States of Jersey, it was agreed that the Chief Minister should formally assume political responsibility for overseeing the Fairtrade Island commitment.

The Council confirmed its endorsement of the Fairtrade Island commitment given by the States on 9th March 2004, subject to the completion by the Chief Minister's Department of due diligence checks sufficient to enable the Chief Minister to be satisfied that the practical application of Fairtrade principles was continuing to have a suitably positive impact worldwide. It further recommended –

- (a) that the Chief Minister notify the Chairman, Jersey Fairtrade Island Group of the Council's endorsement, and
- (b) that the Chief Minister consult the Minister for Treasury and Resources with a view to ensuring that the procurement section of the Treasury and Resources Department would give proportionate priority to Fairtrade products in accordance with the relevant Act of the States dated 9th March 2004.

Questions in
the States
Assembly:
procedural
guidance.
1240/4(184)

A3. The Council noted correspondence dated 2nd February 2012 from the Bailiff of Jersey to the Chief Minister concerning questions in the States Assembly and the general principles applied by the Chair.

It was agreed that the correspondence should be circulated to all members of the Corporate Management Board for their attention and with a view to ensuring that any draft answers or other preparatory work completed for Ministers concerning questions in the States Assembly would take appropriate account of the guidance given.

The Research and Policy Officer was authorised to take the necessary action.

States
business.
1240/7/1(1)

A4. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. A2 of 16th February 2012, noted the list of public business scheduled for consideration by the States Assembly during the First Session of 2012. Particular consideration was given to the following items.

Draft Amendment (No. 18) of the Standing Orders of the States of Jersey (P.4/2012)

The Council noted the proposition and agreed that all Ministers should continue to ensure their respective entries in the Register of Members' Interests were kept fully up to date.

Electoral Commission: composition and terms of reference (P.5/2012)

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The Council confirmed that it would not be inclined to reach a collective view on the subject matter of the proposition and related amendments.

Channel Islands Lottery: allocation of profits for 2011 (P.6/2012)

The Council endorsed the proposition.

Income Tax: individual tax assessments (P.11/2012)

The Council, having noted the comment to the proposition presented by the Minister for Treasury and Resources, confirmed its intention to oppose the proposition.

Old Age Pension: method for increase (P.164/2011)

The Council resolved to consider the proposition, together with a draft comment of the Minister for Social Security, during the course of its next scheduled meeting.

Ex gratia payment: Mr. D. Turner. (P.166/2011)

The Council resolved to give further consideration to the proposition prior to 20th March 2012 if the matters cited in the proposition had not been resolved in the intervening period.

Draft Civil Partnership (Jersey) Law 2012 (Appointed Day) Act 201-

The Council endorsed the proposition.

Planning Applications Panel: appointment of member.

The Council endorsed the proposition.

Draft Employment (Jersey) Law 2003 (Amendment Nos. 5, 6 and 7) (Appointed Day) Act 201-

The Council endorsed the proposition.

Code of
Conduct for
Ministers.
1444/3(17)

A5. The Council, with reference to its Minute No. A6 of 24th November 2011 and following related observations made by the Minister for Planning and Environment and the Assistant Chief Minister in connexion with the Council's consideration of forthcoming business in the States Assembly, recalled that it had endorsed the Code of Conduct for Ministers as originally approved in 2006 by the Council as previously constituted R.14/2006 refers). This endorsement had been given on the understanding that a review of the Code of Conduct had been commissioned and that a revised draft Code of Conduct would be tabled for consideration by the Council prior to the end of 2011.

The Council agreed that a revised draft Code of Conduct for Ministers should be tabled for consideration by the Council in early course and, further, that either the draft Code or an associated protocol should address the question of the procedure for notifying or tabling for prior consideration by the Council propositions, subordinate legislation, reports or comments that a Minister was minded to lodge 'au Greffe' or present to or lay before the States.

The Interim Chief Executive was authorised to take the necessary action.