

Speaking Arrangements for Public Session on Friday, 16 December, 1994

In response to proposals from the Secretariat, designed to avoid an excessively stilted format, especially for live television, the following arrangements for interventions by Forum delegations have been agreed.

Module 1, IBEC/CBI

Following the IBEC/CBI presentations, 40 minutes should be available in this module. Four delegations will be called upon to comment or question the panel. Each delegation will have 5 minutes including the time for the panel's response. This will take 20 minutes, allowing, a further 20 minutes for free debate and interaction with the panel. This will be open to all delegations. In calling speakers, the Chair will be guided by the principles of equity between members and between delegations.

The following are the four delegations for the opening response period:

Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, SDLP, Progressive Democrats

Module 2, ICTU

Again, 40 minutes will be available following the ICTU presentation. Again, four delegations will be called upon - Labour, Democratic Left, Greens, The Workers' Party.

The arrangements will otherwise be as for Module 1.

Module 3 (U.S. Administration/Ireland/America Economic Advisory Board)

The arrangements will be broadly as for Modules 1 and 2, except that five delegations will have the initial opportunity to respond to the presentations. This will take 25 minutes and as there will be a total of 50 minutes available after the opening presentations, 25 minutes will be left for free debate open to all delegations and members.

The following delegations may make the initial responses to the presentations - Sinn Fein, Alliance, Independent Deputies, Independent Senators, Senator Gordon Wilson.

Module 4 (European Union)

Following the presentations by the representative of the European Commission and by the European Parliament observer, 70 minutes will be available. All delegations may intervene, with 5 minutes for larger delegations and 3 for smaller, including the time for the panel's response, as per the procedure already used in other contexts. If all delegations avail of their option to comment or ask a question, this would take 55 minutes, leaving 15 minutes for free debate.

It would be helpful to the Chairperson if delegations could give advance notice, if possible before Friday, as to who will intervene on their behalf in their two formal slots and also in the various sessions of free debate.

It would also be helpful if in using their formal 5/3 minute slots, delegations initially commenced with a single question or comment. They could then ask supplementary or other, different questions to the extent that time remained after the panels had responded to the first comment or question.

Forum Secretariat
14 December, 1994