



### Report to the Protocol & Selection Committee for noting and referral to the City Council

<b>Councillor Name</b>	Mary Freehill
<b>Conference/Seminar Name</b>	MacGill Summer School
<b>Conference/Seminar Topic</b>	Global Turbulence & Uncertainty – Ireland & Europe must prepare for a new era.
<b>Venue/Location</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup> August 2017
<b>Date (s) of Conference</b>	Glenties, County Donegal

#### **Brief Summary**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> Responding to the security threats against Europe. Speakers dealt with challenges to security from new IT methods of communication to the fact that the battle field has changed with urban attacks. "In an EU without Britain etc. Speakers were pessimistic about the impact of Brexit on our economy, mainly because GB wants to leave the Customs Union. Ireland may have to join Shengen and shift exports to Rosslaire. Also a lot of time was devoted by speakers and from the floor about the lack of politics in NI, nobody there to negotiate for NI in Brexit negotiations.

Tues 18<sup>th</sup> "Urgent need for real new politics etc" emphasis on need for Ireland to forge new alliances in EU. I pointed out that through my work in the COR that we are working on a Corridor of support from Iceland to Portugal. Again SF Westminster abstentionism was pointed out as a major negative right now. On threats to Irish economy, it was pointed out that we are better off since globalization and that protectionism is not good for us. Brexit will affect us but it will be FDI opportunities, IDA speaker said Ireland still has a good reputation as a place to do business. Coffey explained about how construction has biggest growth and now back from 2008 Ireland didn't have borrow capacity which added to our housing crisis. Pascal Donohoe pointed out how there no longer is certainty that current Institutions will be there for next generation.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> talks on Border implications abstentionism and not negotiator for NI came up again. The Session on restoring confidence in Gardai was very informative. The most informative point was that Dept of Justice have been very unhelpful in facilitating reform and have been opposed to real change. On relationship between north/south the issue of abstentionism by Sinn Fein and the lack of an Executive continue to be made and concern about the vulnerability of Northern Ireland in relation to Brexit negotiations.

Recommendations
<p>Hard to make recommendations but interesting points made. Rabbitte. On political popularism that fooling people that they can get services for nothing will only undermine democracy. Pascal Donohoe that Pharmaceutical companies cannot easily mover over night. Pollock called for more social integration north south and on social innovation and that peace can be destroyed by complacency.</p>

Declaration	
I certify that I attended the above-mentioned Conference/Training Seminar.	
<i>Mary Freehill</i>	<i>18<sup>th</sup> Aug 2017</i>
Signed by	Date