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EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY

CONSTITUENCY COMMISSION

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REPORT

4th October, 1977.

European Assembly Constituency Commission

Report

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European Assembly Constituency Commission

Report

Terms of Reference

The Commission was established by the Government to advise on the formation of the constituencies for elections to the Assembly of the European Communities and was requested to report not later than mid-October, 1977. The Commission was given the following terms of reference -

"to advise and report on the formation of the constituencies for elections to the Assembly of the European Communities. In making its report the Commission should have regard to the following guidelines -

- (1) the system of election to be the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote,
- (2) the number of members to be elected for any constituency to be not less than three,
- (3) there should be reasonable equality of representation as between constituencies,
- (4) each constituency should be composed of contiguous areas, and
- (5) the desirability of avoiding the breaching of county boundaries;
- (6) in the application of these guidelines there should be regard to geographical considerations including the extent of the proposed constituencies".

Relevant European Community Provisions

The Assembly (also known as the European Parliament) exercises the advisory and supervisory powers conferred on it by the treaties establishing the European Communities and at present consists of delegates designated from among their members by the respective Parliaments of the Member States. Article 138(3) of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community (and the corresponding articles of the Treaties establishing the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community) requires the Assembly to draw up proposals for its election by direct universal suffrage in accordance with a uniform procedure in all

Member States and provides that the Council of Ministers shall, acting unanimously, lay down the appropriate provisions for such elections, which it shall recommend to Member States for adoption in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements.

Having considered proposals prepared by the Assembly, the Council of Ministers on 20th September, 1976 laid down provisions in relation to direct elections. The Council acted by means of a Council Decision to which was annexed an Act entitled "Act concerning the election of the representatives of the Assembly by direct universal suffrage".

The Act laid down certain provisions in relation to the elections, including the number of representatives to be elected in each Member State, the term of office of the Assembly and the machinery for fixing the election period but it did not, as envisaged in the Treaties, lay down a uniform electoral procedure to apply in each Member State. Instead, it provided that pending the entry into force of a uniform electoral procedure, the procedure is governed in each Member State by its national provisions. While an obligation is placed on the Assembly to draw up proposals for a uniform electoral procedure no time limit is set for this purpose. The Act provided that the number of representatives for Ireland to be elected to the Assembly is to be 15 out of a total membership of 410.

The European Community instrument does not lay down rules in relation to the formation of constituencies for Assembly elections. This question, together with the other details of the electoral procedure, is left to the national law of the individual Member States. Not all the Member States will actually form constituencies. France will conduct the elections on the basis of a single national constituency using a party list system. The German draft law proposes a similar arrangement and it is expected that the Netherlands will also adopt this course. Denmark is likely to be a single constituency with Greenland as a separate constituency returning one member. The United Kingdom proposes a party list system with regional constituencies but leaves open the possibility of adopting instead the straight

vote in single member constituencies in Great Britain and the single transferable vote system in Northern Ireland. Italy too is expected to base the election on regional constituencies. The Commission is not aware of the arrangements proposed in Belgium and Luxembourg.

Submissions

The Commission invited written submissions by way of advertisement in the "Cork Examiner", "Irish Independent", "Irish Press" and "Irish Times" on 25th August and by way of notice published in "Iris Oifigiúil" on 26th August. In view of the requirement to report not later than mid-October the Commission thought it reasonable to set 19th September as the last date for receiving submissions. The time factor rendered it impracticable for the Commission to invite oral submissions and in fact only two persons offered to give oral evidence. In all, nineteen submissions were received and the persons and bodies who made submissions are listed in the fourth appendix to the report. The Commission wishes to express its gratitude to these persons and bodies for their thoughtful and helpful suggestions. In addition to recommending specific arrangements of constituencies, the submissions contained useful suggestions on the practical application of the guidelines given to the Commission and helpful advice in relation to other factors which the Commission might take into account in making its recommendations.

Not unexpectedly, differing views were expressed in relation to some of the principles by which it was felt the Commission should be guided and different weightings were allocated for various factors. Some recommended a single national constituency as making for maximum proportionality and minimum wastage of votes, others expressed regret that the terms of reference appeared to them to rule out consideration of this solution. On the other hand the view was expressed that it was undesirable to create any constituencies larger than absolutely necessary and that large sprawling constituencies should be avoided. Some stressed that the ratio of population to the number of seats should be as nearly uniform as possible

throughout the country; others urged that thinly populated areas should be given relatively higher representation than the more densely populated. Some submissions recommended that the constituencies should be such as to permit reasonable representation of minority interests and to ensure that overall representation of parties and groups would be broadly in line with their share of the national vote. It was suggested that representation should be, as far as possible, on geographical lines grouping together similar areas and that there should be adequate regional representation. There was wide support for the view that each constituency should be a well-defined entity, homogeneous from the geographic, economic and social viewpoints and with a clear sense of identity to which the ordinary elector could relate. Emphasis was laid upon the importance of securing the highest possible voter participation in the elections. It was submitted that it might not be easy to persuade the public that the direct elections were important and that it should take an active interest in them. It was urged that the ordinary voter was more likely to display the desired interest if he could be made to feel that his candidates represented an area with which the voter ordinarily identified himself.

Population

The latest census of population was taken in April, 1971. In view of the increase in total population since that date, the Commission considered it desirable to examine the possibility of basing the allocation of seats on more recent figures. Reliable estimates for the total population are obtained annually for the State as a whole by using the annual totals for births and deaths and estimated net migration in conjunction with the latest census figures. The 1977 estimate shows a total population of 3,192,000 as compared with the 1971 census figure of 2,978,248. As the annual estimates are not broken down by county or other suitable unit, they could not be used as a basis for allocating Assembly seats.

The Commission consulted the Director of the Central Statistics Office who

advised that with regard to the question of regional population estimates for years subsequent to 1971, the only available data that he would consider to be sufficiently reliable for the Commission's purposes are the estimates for the physical planning regions derived from the 1975 Labour Force Survey. This survey was a comprehensive sample inquiry covering some 30,000 households, carried out during the Spring and early Summer of 1975 as part of a community-wide EEC operation and the results were published in an official report "Labour Force Survey 1975 First Results" (Pr1.6382). The information contained in the Survey report relates to the usually resident population while census of population figures related to the de facto population. The 1975 regional population estimates contained in the published Survey report have, therefore, been adjusted by the Central Statistics Office in order to make them directly comparable with the 1971 census figures. The 1975 estimates are not available for individual counties and county boroughs and the Donegal planning region has for this purpose been combined with the North West region. It was possible, however, to subdivide the estimate for the East region into two parts, one covering Dublin city and Dun Laoghaire with their suburbs (as defined in the 1971 census report), the other covering the remainder of the region. The regional estimates are given in the following table:-

Estimated population in different Regions in 1975 with corresponding figures from the 1971 Census

Region	Population (000)		Estimated change in population 1971/75	
	1971 Census data	1975 estimates	000	%
East (Dublin, Dublin County Borough, Kildare, Meath and Wicklow)	1,062	1,143	+ 81	+ 8
Dublin County Borough Dun Laoghaire Borough, including suburbs	778	779	+ 1	0
Remainder of East Region	284	364	+ 80	+28
South West (Cork, Cork County Borough and Kerry)	466	497	+ 31	+ 7
South East (Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary South Riding, Waterford, Waterford County Borough and Wexford)	329	349	+ 20	+ 6
North East (Cavan, Louth and Monaghan)	174	177	+ 3	+ 2
Mid West (Clare, Limerick, Limerick County Borough and Tipperary North Riding)	270	286	+ 16	+ 6
Midlands (Laoighis, Longford, Offaly, Roscommon and Westmeath)	232	235	+ 3	+ 1
West (Galway and Mayo)	259	258	- 1	0
North West and Donegal (Leitrim, Sligo and Donegal)	187	182	- 5	- 3
State	2,978	3,127	+149	+ 5

The table shows that while the total population of the State went up by 149,000 or 5 per cent, between 1971 and 1975, this increase was not evenly distributed over the whole country. The East region experienced the most rapid increase in population, going up by 81,000 or 8 per cent, and it will be noted in particular that this increase occurred almost entirely outside of the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Urban Areas as defined. In the South West, South East and Mid West regions the increases were of the order of 6 to 7 per cent while the North East and Midland regions showed small increases of only 1 or 2 per cent. The estimates show that the West region did not experience any significant change in population over the period concerned while the figures indicate that in the North West and Donegal regions the total population actually declined by some 3 per cent. The Commission enquired whether the 1975 population estimates could be related to a provincial basis and the following special estimates were prepared by the Central Statistics Office:

<u>Provinces</u>	<u>Estimated population in 1975</u>
Connacht and Ulster (part of)	590,000
Leinster	1,599,000
Munster	<u>938,000</u>
	3,127,000

It seemed to the Commission that, so far as population figures are concerned, the reasonable course would be to proceed on the basis of the 1971 census figures supplemented as far as possible by the information derived from the 1975 Labour Force Survey.

Electorate

In many countries the practice is to allocate parliamentary seats on the basis of electorate rather than population and in others the electorate is

taken into account as well as total population. The Commission considered the desirability and feasibility of basing the constituencies for Assembly elections on the size and distribution of the electorate rather than the size and distribution of the population. The register of electors is prepared each year by the county councils and county borough corporations. Every person who has reached the age of eighteen years and is ordinarily resident in the State is entitled to be registered as a Dáil and local government elector if he is a citizen of Ireland, or as a local government elector only if he is not a citizen of Ireland. Electorate figures for each county and county borough are readily available and the figures for the current (1977/78) register of Dáil electors are set out in the third appendix to this report. The total Dáil electorate is 2,118,606. (The difference between the Dáil electorate and the local government electorate is negligible - less than 1%).

Comparing the electorate with the population as estimated in 1975, the electorate for the country as a whole represents 67.8% of the total population while the proportion in the different planning regions is as follows:-

East 66.5%, South-West 66.1%, South-East 65.6%, North-East 70.3%, Mid-West 67.4%, Midlands 67.5%, West 73.3%, North-West and Donegal 75%.

On the general question of whether to use the size and distribution of the electorate or the size and distribution of the population, the Commission felt it should take cognisance of the fact that the distribution of Dáil seats is, by direction of the Constitution, based on the population as ascertained at the last preceding census.

It concluded, therefore, that it should base the allocation, primarily on the 1971 census of population, supplemented as appropriate by the 1975 estimates but should also take into account the size and distribution of the electorate

Matters arising from terms of reference

Before proceeding to detailed examination of specific schemes of constituencies the Commission examined the terms of reference and the

guidelines given to it with a view to clarifying any difficulties of interpretation that might arise.

(a) Purpose of the single transferable vote system

Guideline (1) specifies proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote (STV) as the system of election which would apply. The Commission considered that this guideline required it to take into account the purpose of the STV system which, generally speaking, is to secure appropriate representation of both majority and minority groupings. The Commission's view was, therefore, that it should endeavour to achieve a formulation which, given the relatively small number of seats available, would provide a reasonable basis for the achievement of this goal.

(b) Number of representatives in each constituency

Guideline (2) indicates that the minimum number of members to be elected for any constituency is three. The Commission was, therefore, empowered to consider constituencies returning three or more members. In considering this question the Commission had regard to the provision of guideline (6) in relation to geographical considerations including the extent of proposed constituencies. On the basis that no constituency may have less than three representatives there are 17 possible ways in which 15 seats can be arranged from the purely numerical point of view. The possible arrangements are as follows -

1 constituency	:	1 possible arrangement	:	15 seats
2 constituencies	:	5 possible arrangements	:	12 + 3 seats
				11 + 4 seats
				10 + 5 seats
				9 + 6 seats
				8 + 7 seats
3 constituencies	:	7 possible arrangements	:	9 + 3 + 3 seats
				8 + 4 + 3 seats
				7 + 5 + 3 seats
				7 + 4 + 4 seats

6 + 6 + 3 seats

6 + 4 + 5 seats

5 + 5 + 5 seats

4 constituencies : 3 possible arrangements : 3 + 3 + 3 + 6 seats

3 + 3 + 4 + 5 seats

3 + 4 + 4 + 4 seats

5 constituencies : 1 possible arrangement : 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 seats

The terms of reference refer to "the formation of constituencies" and this phrase, taken in conjunction with the guidelines generally, indicated to the Commission that a single national constituency was not contemplated.

The Commission does not recommend a single national constituency.

Elsewhere in this report it is indicated that some of the other Member States (e.g. Germany and France) will operate on the basis of a single national constituency. That this arrangement is appropriate in these States and not in Ireland derives from the essential difference between list systems and the STV system. Basically, under a list system the elector votes for a party (although there may also be some choice as between candidates) whereas under the STV system the elector has the rather more difficult task of placing the individual candidates in the order of his choice. The greater the number of candidates the more difficult the choice becomes. In Ireland in the context of the direct elections to the European Assembly a large number of candidates in a single national constituency of 26,599 square miles would probably have the effect of discouraging voter participation or, at least, of making it more difficult for the voter to make a fully informed use of his vote. A single national constituency could also have the effect of making adequate regional representation more difficult. It seemed to the Commission that these arguments would apply also (although with less force) to constituencies returning six, seven or more members and that these could have the additional disadvantage of not constituting a coherent unit with which the

elector could identify himself or herself. The Commission formed the view that relatively smaller constituencies offered distinct advantages and that it should endeavour to find a solution based on constituencies returning not more than five members. This view coincides with the views expressed by the great bulk of the submissions made to the Commission. Each Assembly member will represent about 200,000 people and each constituency must return at least three members. It follows that (outside Dublin) every constituency must cover quite an extensive area. At first sight there might appear to be a strong case for recommending the smallest permissible size of constituency throughout, that is, five three-seaters, and the Commission has given careful thought to this possibility. However, it was submitted in various submissions that a three-seat arrangement could tend to reduce the proportionality of the overall result and could make it more difficult for minority groups to secure representation. It was also submitted that such an arrangement would impose too rigid a pattern making inadequate allowance for the varying sizes, in population terms, of the different socio-economic groupings. The Commission is satisfied that these submissions are well founded.

(c) Equality of representation

Guideline (3) indicates that there should be reasonable equality of representation as between constituencies. In following this guideline regard must be had, in accordance with guideline (6), to geographical considerations including the extent of the proposed constituencies. Article 16.2.3^o of the Constitution of Ireland provides, in relation to the formation of Dáil constituencies, as follows

"The ratio between the number of members to be elected at any time for each constituency and the population of each constituency, as ascertained at the last preceding census, shall, so far as it is practicable ("sa mhéid gur féidir é"), be the same throughout the country".

It is understood that the practice at recent revisions of Dáil constituencies has been to limit to approximately 5% any variation from the national

average. The constitutional provision does not govern the formation of the Assembly constituencies and it is clear from the difference in the wording of guideline (3) that the Commission is not limited to the 5% variation adopted in practice at the revision of Dáil constituencies. The Commission is not confined to population numbers as the sole basis for determining constituencies but is free to consider other factors. Nor is the Commission limited to the last preceding census and it is free to have regard to reliable later estimates of the size and distribution of population. The Commission understands that variations wider than those used at Dáil revisions are allowable in the formation of electoral units in other countries and that there is less concentration on purely mathematical equality while relatively greater weight is given to other factors.

In the case of the constituencies proposed in the European Assembly Elections Bill, 1977 (which lapsed with the dissolution of the Dáil) the variation from the national average on the basis of the 1971 census figures ranged from + 7.3% to - 4.7%.

The Third Amendment of the Constitution Bill, 1968, proposed to amend the Constitution so as to allow variations of up to one-sixth (16%) of the national average in the formation of Dáil constituencies. This proposal, which was put to a referendum on the same day as a proposal to change the voting system, was not approved by the people.

In the "Report of the Committee on the Constitution, December 1967" (Pr. 9817) there was a suggestion that a variation of 12% from the national average might be reasonable. The Commission decided that, for its purpose, a figure of this order would be useful as a measure of the extent to which variations from the national average might be allowable.

(d) Adherence to boundaries of Dáil constituencies

Guideline (4) which requires that each constituency should be composed of contiguous areas is self-explanatory and so also is guideline (5) which refers to the desirability of avoiding the breaching of county boundaries.

A matter which the Commission considered in relation to this guideline was whether it should attempt to adhere to the boundaries of Dáil constituencies in the formation of Assembly constituencies. The Electoral (Amendment) Act, 1974 defined forty-two constituencies for the election of 148 deputies to the Dáil. Fifteen of the forty-two constituencies cross the boundary of a county or county borough, some cross more than one such boundary and some also cross provincial boundaries. Political parties are organised generally by reference to Dáil constituencies and it was represented to the Commission that it would facilitate the organisation of the elections if the Assembly constituencies were to consist of groupings of existing Dáil constituencies. The Commission recognised the validity of this view and accepted that it should, as far as possible within its terms of reference, avoid breaching the boundaries of these constituencies. However, as Dáil constituencies in some cases overlap county boundaries, full acceptance of that view could conflict with the guideline which requires the Commission to have regard to the desirability of avoiding the breaching of county boundaries. In the event of such conflict the Commission feels that it should give priority to the county boundaries.

Areas where special considerations arise

(a) The Dublin Area

Because of the relative size of its population, the Dublin area (i.e. the county borough and the administrative county including Dun Laoghaire) presented a special case. On the basis of either the 1971 population (852,219) or the current electorate (598,928) the area would warrant four Assembly seats. The ratio would be somewhat above the national average (7.3% on a population basis, 6% on the basis of electorate) which would appear to be reasonable having regard to the compact nature of the area involved. This arrangement is acceptable recognising, as it does, the essential social, economic and demographic unity of the area.

The Commission also considered the county borough as a possible three-seat

constituency. On the basis of the 1971 census (567,866), however, the population-member ratio would be 4.7% below the national average and based on the current electorate (368,249) the ratio would be 13% below average. It did not seem to the Commission to be either equitable or in accordance with the Commission's guidelines that such a compact area should be treated so favourably by comparison with geographically more extensive areas. In addition, this arrangement would ignore the artificial nature of the county borough boundary. The Commission rejected as unreal in the present context a solution involving the division of the city and county along the line of the river Liffey and joining each part to neighbouring counties to form two separate constituencies nor did it see any special merit in basing a five-seat constituency on Dublin with the addition of two or more neighbouring counties. Apart from other factors, either of these arrangements would violate the essential homogeneity of the Dublin city and county area.

(b) West of the Shannon

Several of the submissions made to the Commission suggested a three-seat constituency for the area west of the Shannon, that is, the area comprising the province of Connacht together with the counties of Clare and Donegal. On the face of it, this suggestion has much to recommend it and the Commission gave it serious thought. However, it decided not to recommend this arrangement on the grounds that while Clare is located geographically West of the Shannon, historically it is a Munster county, its orientation is towards Limerick rather than Galway, its economic life is based largely on the Limerick-Shannon-Ennis axis and together with Limerick and North Tipperary it is part of the Mid West region for planning and development purposes. It appeared to the Commission that the weight of the argument rested with leaving Clare in a constituency with Munster counties rather than with Connacht counties.

Allocation on the basis of Provinces or Regions

The Commission considered whether Assembly seats should be allocated on the basis of existing divisions i.e., the provinces or the regions used for physical planning and other administrative purposes. This possibility is discussed in the succeeding paragraphs, taking the regions first.

(a) Regions

For administrative purposes the services provided by many Government Departments and other public bodies are organised on a regional basis. In each case the regional boundaries appear to have been drawn to meet the needs of the particular service and a variety of such regional areas are employed by public bodies. The better known regions include the physical planning regions, the health board regions and the tourist regions. The nine planning regions were established for physical planning and development purposes and each has a Regional Development Organisation. The planning regions have been adopted as operational units by other bodies such as the Industrial Development Authority, An Comhairle Oilúna, National Manpower Service, etc. and some of the other regions are closely related to the planning regions (the health board and tourist regions, for example). None of the planning regions (except the East) is in itself large enough to form a constituency and it would be necessary to group regions together. The East region could be given five seats, the South-East and Midland regions could be joined to form a three-seat constituency, the South-West and Mid-West regions could form a four-seater and the West, North-West, Donegal and North-East regions could form a second three-seater. The constituencies so formed would generally be extensive in area. The constituency comprising the West, North-West, Donegal and North-East regions, in particular, would be of an awkward shape, extending from Galway to Donegal to Louth. In this constituency the population-representative ratio (1971) would be 4% above average and the electorate-representative ratio 6% above. However, if the 1975 population estimates were used the

the ratio would be 1.4% below average. Over and above this, however, is the view that the groupings so formed would have no real sense of social cohesion. As an administrative framework the regions have obvious advantages for the particular purposes for which they were defined but it must be recognised that they do not inspire a sense of identity in the people who live within them.

(b) Provinces

The provinces are long-established, historical divisions with clearly defined boundaries which are recognised and accepted for many cultural, social, sporting and other purposes. Each has a definite community of interest from the social, economic and political viewpoints with a clear sense of cohesion and identity. Furthermore, each province enjoys a large measure of local allegiance and is the only existing geographical unit between county and national levels with which the ordinary person identifies himself or herself.

Conclusions

The province of Leinster (including the Dublin area) with a population of 1,498,140 in 1971 would qualify for seven seats giving it a ratio of 7.8% above the national average. Using the 1975 estimated population of the province (1,59,000) the ratio would be 9.5% above average and on the basis of electorate (1,062,528) the ratio would be 7.4% above average. For reasons already mentioned (i.e. avoidance of over-large constituencies and recognition of the special position of the Dublin area) the Commission's conclusion is that Leinster (other than Dublin) should be a three-seat constituency.

Connacht with a 1971 population of 390,902 and an electorate of 282,647 would be too small to form a constituency on its own. Adding the three Ulster counties of Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan (1971 population 207,204, electorate 151,020) would enable three seats to be allocated to the combined area. This would give a ratio of 0.4% in excess of the national average or an excess of 2.3% basing the allocation on electorate. If, however,

regard is had to the 1975 estimate of population (590,000) the ratio would be 5.6% below the national average. Notwithstanding the comparatively extensive and thinly populated area of Connacht and Ulster the Commission felt that the arrangement proposed is preferable to the alternatives which would be to increase considerably the size of the constituency and give it four seats (the addition of Clare alone would be insufficient for this purpose) or to take out some part of the area with a view to bringing the ratio below the national average on the basis of the 1971 population or the current electorate.

The arrangements suggested above would enable five seats to be allocated to the province of Munster. This gives rise to the difficulty that the population-representative ratio in Munster (1971 population 832,002) would be 11% below the national average. Based on electorate (622,411) the variation would be 11.8%. However, if regard is had to the 1975 estimates of population it will be seen that the ratio would be just under 10% below the national average. In any event, the Commission considers that a departure of 11% from national average based on 1971 population is acceptable and is preferable to the alternative which, in this instance, would be to add a non-Munster county (say, Co. Kilkenny) to Munster with a view to improving the ratio.

There is no perfect formula for the "best" or "ideal" formation of constituencies. The most that can be done is to devise a scheme which, in addition to meeting certain objective criteria, appears to provide a reasonable basis for the fair conduct of elections and has due regard to social and economic factors, the electorate and density of population as well as to total population. Having given careful consideration to the guidelines given to it and the submissions made to it as well as to the other matters discussed in this report, the Commission has come to the conclusion that the following arrangement of constituencies is the most suitable:

- (1) a constituency comprising Dublin county and county borough to be known as the constituency of Dublin, returning four representatives (1971 population 352,219, electorate 598,928);
- (2) a constituency comprising the remainder of the province of Leinster (i.e., the counties of Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laoighis, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow) to be known as the constituency of Leinster returning three representatives (1971 population 645,921, electorate 463,600);
- (3) a constituency comprising the province of Munster (i.e., the counties of Clare, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary North Riding, Tipperary South Riding, and Waterford and the county boroughs of Cork, Limerick and Waterford) to be known as the constituency of Munster returning five representatives (1971 population 382,002, estimated 1975 population 938,000, electorate 622,411); and
- (4) a constituency comprising the province of Connacht (i.e., the counties of Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo) and the Ulster counties of Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan, to be known as the constituency of Connacht - Ulster returning three representatives (1971 population 598,106, estimated 1975 population 590,000, electorate 433,667).

Recommendation

The Commission, therefore, recommends that the areas specified hereunder should be the constituencies for the election of representatives to the Assembly of the European Communities:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Number of Representatives</u>
Connacht-Ulster	The administrative counties of Cavan, Donegal, Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Monaghan, Roscommon and Sligo.	Three

<u>Name</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Number of Representatives</u>
Dublin	The administrative county of Dublin and the county borough of Dublin	Four
Leinster	The administrative counties of Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laoighis, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Westmeath, Wexford, and Wicklow.	Three
Munster	The administrative counties of Clare, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary North Riding, Tipperary South Riding, and Waterford and the county boroughs of Cork, Limerick, and Waterford.	Five

The Commission wishes to record its gratitude for the services rendered by its Secretary, Mr. T. Sexton. His exceptional knowledge and efficiency were of very great assistance to the Commission.

Brian Walsh, Chairman of the Commission.

G. A. Meagher.

T. Sexton, Secretary to
the Commission.

J. R. Tobin

4th October, 1977.

First Appendix

Map of proposed constituencies



Second Appendix

Statistics relating to proposed constituencies

	Connacht- Ulster	Dublin	Leinster	Munster	Totals
No. of Members	3	4	3	5	15
Population (1971 Census)	598,106	852,219	645,921	882,002	2,978,248
Population per member	199,369	213,055	215,307	176,400	198,550
Variation from national average population per member of 198,550	+ 819 (0.41%)	+14,505 (7.31%)	+16,757 (8.44%)	-22,150 (11.16%)	
Dáil Electorate 1977/78	433,667	598,928	463,600	622,411	2,118,606
Dáil Electorate per member	144,556	149,732	154,533	124,482	141,240
Variation from national average of 141,240	+3,316 (2.35%)	+8,492 (6.01%)	+13,293 (9.41%)	-16,758 (11.86%)	
*Estimated Population 1975	590,000	1,599,000		938,000	3,127,000
Estimated Population (1975) per member	196,667	228,429		187,600	208,467
Variation from national average estimated population per member of 208,467	-11,800 (5.7%)	+19,962 (9.6%)		-20,867 (10%)	
Area in Square Miles	9,703.87	355.86	7,224.4	9,315.34	26,599.47

* Separate figures of estimated population for Dublin and Leinster not available.

Third Appendix

Population 1971 and Dáil electorate 1977/78 of each county and county borough

County	Population (1971 Census)	Dáil Electorate (1977/78)
Carlow	34,237	24,045
Cavan	52,618	37,868
Clare	75,008	55,818
Cork	224,238	162,470
Donegal	108,344	79,880
*Dublin	284,353	230,679
Galway	149,223	108,700
Kerry	112,772	82,471
Kildare	71,977	56,070
Kilkenny	61,473	43,165
Laoighis	45,259	30,252
Leitrim	28,360	20,558
Limerick	83,298	61,719
Longford	28,250	20,020
Louth	74,951	53,244
Mayo	109,525	80,316
Meath	71,729	54,246
Monaghan	46,242	33,272
Offaly	51,829	35,000
Roscommon	53,519	37,003
Sligo	50,275	36,070
Tipperary (N.R.)	54,337	37,749
Tipperary (S.R.)	69,228	47,679
Waterford	45,347	33,812
Westmeath	53,570	36,401
Wexford	86,351	60,386
Wicklow	66,295	50,771
 <u>County Boroughs</u>		
Cork	128,645	83,353
Dublin	567,866	368,249
Limerick	57,161	37,341
Waterford	31,968	19,999
	2,978,248	2,118,606

* Including Dun Laoghaire Borough.

Fourth Appendix

List of persons and bodies from whom submissions were received.

The Fine Gael Party.

The Labour Party.

Sinn Féin The Workers Party.

Dun Laoghaire Constituency Council of the Labour Party.

The Political Research Society.

Senator Michael B. Yeats, Vice-President, European Parliament.

Alderman G.E. Russell, Limerick.

Mr. Peter McDermott, c/o Statute Law Reform and Consolidation Office.

Mr. Joseph Mangan, B.C.L., Solicitor, 64 Catherine St., Limerick.

Mr. Tim Leddin, P.C., 8 Eden Terrace, N.C. Road, Limerick.

Mr. Michael J. Stokes, P.C., 2 Willington Green, Templeogue, Dublin 12.

Mr. J.L.B. Deane, Gartan, Bandon, Co. Cork.

Mr. Mike Norris, 15 North Avenue, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin.

Mr. Adrian Munnally, 67 Childer's Heights, Ballina, Co. Mayo.

Mr. Patrick Hogan, 92 Bishopswater, Wexford.

Mr. Sean T. Walsh, 33 Home Farm Road, Dublin 9.

Mr. John Hearn, 173 Booth Road, Colindale, London N.W.9.

Mr. F.N. Fitzgerald, Hedge End, Herbert Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow and

Ms. Ruth Anne Fitzgerald, 166 Monalea, Ballycullen Road, Tallaght, Co. Dublin.

Mr. Maurice J. O'Connell, Albany Court, Ballybrack, Co. Dublin.

PAÍPÉIR ATÁ LE TÍOLACADH ~~DON DAIL AGUS DON tSEANAD~~
 PAPERS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE ~~DAIL AND~~ SEANAD.

1. An Roinn atá ag déanamh an tíolactha
 Department making presentation ...

Environment



2. Teideal an Pháipéir atá le tíolacadh ...
 Title of Paper to be presented ...

European Assembly Constituency

Commission - Report

3. Más do réir Reachta atá an tíolacadh á dhéanamh, luaitear Teideal agus Alt an Achta a údaráíonn an tíolacadh ...
 If presented pursuant to Statute, state authority for presentation, giving Title and Section of Act ...

SEANAD t-REANN

27 OCT 1977

ON ORDER PAPER

4. Más gá é a bheith ar taispeáint ar an mBord ar feadh tréimhse áirithe, luaitear :

If required to be on the Table for a specified period, state :

Not required

(1) An tréimhse ...
 Period ...

(2) Cé acu tréimhse de laethe siosóin de laethe suí í ...
 Whether days of session or sitting days ...

5. An gá tairiscint ag lorg aontuithe gach Tí? ...

If motion of approval by each House necessary? ...

No

Sinithe
 Signed

Ceann na Roinne.
 a/j Head of Department.

Duphialy

PÁIPEÍR ATÁ LE TIOLACADH ~~DON DAIL AGUS DON tSEANAD~~
PAPERS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE ~~DAIL AND~~ SEANAD.

1. An Roinn atá ag déanamh an tíolactha
Department making presentation ...

..... **Environment**

2. Teideal an Pháipéir atá le tíolacadh ...
Title of Paper to be presented ...

..... **European Assembly Constituency**

..... **Commission - Report**

3. Más do réir Reachta atá an tíolacadh á
dhéanamh, luaitear Teideal agus Alt
an Achta a údaraíonn an tíolacadh ...

If presented pursuant to Statute, state
authority for presentation, giving Title
and Section of Act

.....
.....
.....

4. Más gá é a bheith ar taispeáint ar an
mBord ar feadh tréimhse áirithe,
luaitear :

If required to be on the Table for a
specified period, state :

Not required

(1) An tréimhse
Period

.....

(2) Cé acu tréimhse de laethe siosóin
de laethe suí í
Whether days of session or sitting
days


.....

5. An gá tairiscint ag lorg aontuithe gach
Tí?

If motion of approval by each House
necessary?

..... **No**

Sinithe
Signed


a/s Ceann na Roinne.
Head of Department.