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## Press Release

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### **EU funding for Peace Building in Northern Ireland**

Delegates to the European Peace Network have been attending a seminar to hear about the success of the EU Peace Programmes in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland and to share the lessons and experiences of these programmes with representatives from other regions throughout Europe.

Contributors to the one day work shop which was held in conjunction with the University of Ulster's INCORE International Summer School have been outlining the challenges faced and the opportunities EU funding presents for local communities.

Welcoming delegates Bill Pauley, Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland said:

“Special European PEACE funding over the last 15 years represents a unique investment from Europe from which many thousands of projects have benefited. It has always been challenging to deliver and we are glad to be sharing our experience of these programmes with other regions in Europe so that they can consider whether the lessons learned here are relevant to their own circumstances.”

Commenting on the work shop SEUPB's Chief Executive Pat Colgan said:

“The strategic aim of the PEACE I & II programmes was to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society and to take advantage of the opportunities arising from the peace. The new PEACE III programme aims to build on those foundations by helping to build positive relationships and cohesion between the communities in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland.”

Contributors to the event included Tomas Baum, Flemish Peace Institute, Gorka Espiau Idoiaga, Basque Centre of Social Innovation, Kyriacos Charalambous, DG Regional Policy, and European Commission Kristin van der Leest, from Partners for Democratic Change (European Peace building Liaison Office) and Brandon Hamber, INCORE, (the international conflict research institute).

**Ends**

For further information please contact John McCandless on Tel: 00 44 (0) 28 9026 6691 or Michelle Rea on Tel: 00 44 (0) 28 9026 682