

FÓRSA

2024 Conference Minutes

**A Better Deal,
A Better Ireland.**

**Biennial Delegate
Conference
2026**

Minutes of Fórsa's National Conference

15-17 May 2024, Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney

In the Chair: Michael Smyth, President

National Executive Committee

Name	Title
Martin Walsh	Senior Vice-President
Helen Sheridan	Vice-President
Betty Tyrrell - Collard	Vice-President
Julie Flood	Treasurer

Melissa Brennan	Bernard McNeely
Orla Carroll	Andy Meaney
Denis Conway	Thomas Murtagh
Ursula Cox	Jarlath O'Connor
Michael Crowe	Tanya O'Neill
Michael Davis	Noreen O'Mahony
Cormac Donoghue	Patricia O'Sullivan
Clodagh Kavanagh	Ian Patel
Darragh Fox	Corinne Phelan
Clodagh Kavanagh	Paul Salter
Seamus Kavanagh	Leonard Sheils
Helen Linehan	Jean Taylor
Eilise McGarrell	Gerry Wilson
Padraig McGivney	Michael Whyms

Standing Orders Committee

Mick Brophy	Civil Service
Helen Lundy (Secretary)	Civil Service
Eileen Coman (Returning Officer)	Education
Niamh Jordan	Education
Don Gibney	Health and Welfare
Don Meskill	Health and Welfare
Michael Barry	Local Government and Local Services
Rose Marie Conroy (Chairperson)	Local Government and Local Services
Tommy Kavanagh	Municipal Employees
Michael Ross	Municipal Employees
Billy Gallagher (Vice Chairperson)	Services and Enterprises
Teresa Kearns (Assistant Returning Officer)	Services and Enterprises

Attendance: There were 628 additional delegates registered.

Wednesday 15th May 2024

1. Opening ceremony

The President welcomed all to the Conference.

2. The President introduced Angela McAllen, Head of Finance in Kerry County Council who opened Conference.

It was noted that Moira Murrell, Chief Executive, Kerry County Council was unable to attend but wished all well in their deliberations.

3. President's address

The President addressed Conference. His speech emphasised the importance of how we all connect to one another, saying "Connection lies at the heart of everything we do as a union. From fostering connections between members and their representatives to building relationships with other unions and civil society organisations, we continue to strengthen those bonds". The President noted that Fórsa is "now a greater force to be reckoned with - more so than at any other time in our shared history".

The President ended with a rallying call to delegates, calling on members "Let's help to make life what it should be for every human being".

4. Appointment of tellers and scrutineers

Each of the six divisions were invited to nominate two scrutineers to count the ballots in the elections. The nominations were noted.

The Conference then agreed 12 members to act as tellers to conduct a re-count of votes on motions if the result is very close. These tellers reported to the SOC for instructions.

5. Adoption of standing orders

Rose Marie Conroy drew attention to general standing orders for Conference, on page 9 of the agenda.

Standing Orders Report No. 2, which incorporates General Standing Orders
Proposed by Rose Marie Conroy, Chair, Standing Orders Committee
Adopted

Standing Orders Report No. 3
Proposed by Rose Marie Conroy, Chair, Standing Orders Committee
Adopted

6. Minutes of Conference 2022

Agreed.

7. Report on motions from Conference 2022

The report on motions from Conference 2022 was proposed and agreed.

Motions (the Action on Motions document included in the Conference documents for 2024, lists all the motions that were passed.)

The Biennial report was adopted.

The Conference then proceeded to consider motions on the agenda. Unless motions were defeated, withdrawn, referred back (remitted), or guillotined, they were carried. All of these resolutions are included in the action on motions document which has been circulated separately.

8. Public policy

Motions 125, 126, 127 and 128 (to be taken in common debate).

9. Distinguished Service Awards

Presentation of Distinguished Service Awards to the following:

Teresa Barrett	DSP Executive Grades
Paul Carey	NETB
Mary Carty	Ballinasloe
Michael Cryan	DSP Executive Grades
Lorraine Currivan	State Enterprises No. 1
Dorothy Doherty	DSP Executive Grades
Mary Fuller	Cork Health and Local Government
Michelle Kenny	Dublin Hospitals
Kevin Lewis	NETB
Dermot McCague	Monaghan Health and Local Government
Geraldine McCarthy	Limerick Health and Welfare
Carol McGeough	Monaghan Health and Local Government
Gina O'Brien	Higher Education
Noreen O Mahony	NEC
Brian Reynolds	DSP Executive Grades
Mick Scully	Ordnance Survey
Helen Sheridan	ATC
Frances Tallon	Meath Health and Local Government
Marie Turner	Cork Health and Local Government

Conference adjourned.

Thursday 16th May 2024

Conference resumed.

10. Pay policy

Motions 1, 2 and 3 (to be taken in common debate)

11. Address by Kevin Callinan, General Secretary

The General Secretary delivered a wide-ranging address which included reference to the recently ratified Public Service Agreement 2024 - 26.

12. Pay Policy

Motions 4 and 5 (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 7 and 8 (to be taken in common debate)

13. Address by Ms. Esther Lynch, European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) General Secretary

14. Pay policy

Motions 9, 10, 12 and 17 (to be taken in common debate)

Motion 6 (remitted) and Motion 11

Motions 13, 16, and 18 (to be taken in common debate) (all remitted)

Motions 14 and 19 (to be taken in common debate) (all remitted)

Motions 15, 20 and 21 (to be taken in common debate) (all remitted)

Motions 22, 23, Motion 24 (carried as amended), Motion 25 (not carried)

Motion 26 (remitted), Motion 27 (carried as amended) and Motion 28 (to be taken in common debate)

Conference closed session.

15. Treasurer's report

The financial reports 2023 and audited accounts 2023 were circulated to branches on 10th May 2024. The Conference was advised that a detailed presentation of the accounts was given by the auditors to the Trustees and that the NEC had subsequently adopted the financial reports. It was noted that the finances of the union are in good health.

16. Address by Deputy General Secretary, Matt Staunton

The Deputy General Secretary covered a range of financial and organisational matters.

17. Elections – Presidential results

Teresa Kearns, SOC announced the results of the presidential election.

Martin Walsh was deemed elected.

Arrangements for the Treasurer election was announced.

18. Appointment of union trustees

The following were proposed as trustees of the union:

Mary McPartlan

James Gerard Monahan

Tara Robertson

A panel of substitute trustees was also nominated:

Gina O'Brien

Stephen Pilgrim

Denis Rooney

These were agreed unanimously.

19. Internal union organisation

Motion 192

Motion 226

Motion 245

Motions 183 (carried as amended), 184, 196 and 197 (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 194, 198 and 193 (to be taken in common debate) (all guillotined)

Motions 181, 182, 188, 199 and 200 (all guillotined)

End closed session.

20. Address by Mr. Daniel Bertossa, Public Services International (PSI) General Secretary

21. Honorary Lifetime Membership Award

Presentation of Honorary Lifetime Membership Award to the following:

Alan Hanlon

Conference closed session.

22. Presentation: Strategic Change

A presentation on strategic change was delivered by Ian McDonnell, Assistant General Secretary, Fórsa's Strategic Change Project.

23. Internal union organisation

Motions 165, 166 and 167 (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 168, 169 and 170 (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 178, 187 (to be taken in common debate), 189 (withdrawn)

Motions 190 and 191 (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 171, 172, 173

Motion 174 (not carried)

Motions 175 and 176

24. Elections -Treasurer results

Teresa Kearns, SOC announced the results of the Treasurer election.

Michael Smyth was deemed elected.

25. Internal union organisation

Motions 179 and 180 (to be taken in common debate) (all remitted)

Motions 185 and 186 (to be taken in common debate)

End closed session.

26. International Policy

Motions 148, 149, 152, 153, Motion 158 (not carried) and Motion 159 (not carried) (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 157, 161 and 282 (to be taken in common debate) Motion 282 was brought back onto the agenda at the adoption of standing orders report 3

Motions 151, 154, 155, 156, 160, 162, 163

Motion 164 (remitted)

Conference adjourned.

Friday 17th May 2024

Conference resumed.

27. Public Policy

Motions 118, 119, 120, 121, 124, 134, 136, 137 and 112

Motions 129, 130, 131 and 132 (to be taken in common debate).

Motions 133, 135, and 146.

28. Address by Ms. Phil Ni Sheaghda, Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) Vice President

29. Terms and conditions

Motions 29, 30, 31 and 33 (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 35, 36, and 37 (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 38 and 40 (to be taken in common debate)

Motion 41 (remitted) and Motion 42 (to be taken in common debate)

30. Address by Mr. Owen Reidy, Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) General Secretary

31. Terms and conditions

Motions 43, 44, 45, 46, 47 and Motion 48 (not carried) (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 50 (not carried), Motion 51, Motion 55 (remitted) (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 53 and 54 (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 57, 58 and 59 (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 60 and 61 (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 64 (to cover motions 68 and 69)

Motions 65, 66 and 67 (to be taken in common debate)

Conference adjourned.

32. Address by Dr. Jilan Wahba Abdalmajid, Palestinian Ambassador to Ireland

Conference resumed.

Conference closed session.

33. Union Rule Book

Motion 201, 202,203, 204, 205

End closed session.

34. Public policy

Motions 113, 114, 116, Motion 117 (carried as unamended) (to be taken in common debate)

Motion 115

Motions 122 and 123 (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 141 and 142 (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 138, 139, 140, 143, 144, 145, 147

Motion 150

35. Elections - Vice Presidents

Teresa Kearns, SOC announced the results of the vice-presidential election.

Julie Flood was deemed elected as senior vice-president.

Michael Crowe and Tara Horigan were deemed elected to the other two vice-president positions.

36. Terms and conditions

Motions 71, 73, 74 and 75 (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 76, 77, 78 and 79 (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 84 and 85 (to be taken in common debate)

Motion 287 was brought back onto the agenda at the adoption of standing orders report 3.

37. Pension policy

Motions 101, 102 (all guillotined), Motion 103 (carried), Motions 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110 and 111 (to be taken in common debate) (all guillotined)

38. Terms and conditions

Motions 87, 88 (all guillotined) and Motion 195 (withdrawn) (to be taken in common debate)

Motions 94 and 95 (to be taken in common debate) (all guillotined)

Motions 97 (to cover Motion 98 (withdrawn)) (guillotined)

Motions 99 and 100 (to be taken in common debate) (all guillotined)

Motions 32, 34, 39, 49, 52, 56, 62, 63, 70, 72, (all guillotined), Motion 80 (remitted), Motions 81, 82, 83 (all guillotined), Motion 86 (remitted) Motions 89, 90, 92, 93 and 96 (all guillotined)

Conference adjourned.

Following a brief closing ceremony, the Conference closed.



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