British Islands and Mediterranean Region Annual Conference: 10-14 June 2012

1. The purpose of this paper is to:
   - Provide Members of the Branch Executive Committee (BEC) with a revised list of ideas for topics for discussion during the conference.
   - To agree that the Conference theme should be “Making Parliaments Relevant”.
   - Agree sub-themes as set out in Annex A
   - To ask Members to refine and agree which topics should be included.
   - To ask Members to consider and discuss suitable lead Speakers who have an expertise within certain areas.

2. At the last meeting of the BEC, Members tentatively agreed that the theme for the Conference should be “Making Parliaments Relevant”. Members were keen to include topics such as Lessons learnt from the Arab Spring; More with Less; How Parliaments Scrutinise; and Social Networking. Due to time constraints, the Secretary was asked to meet with each member of the BEC to discuss the theme and content of sessions in more detail. Based on those discussions a paper outlining the possible content of the formal sessions is attached at Annex A.

3. Members also agreed that the Special Envoy should be invited to address delegates during the Conference. A session will therefore be included, once the Special Envoy has agreed to participate.

4. Members also agreed that high profile expert speakers would be key to the success of the Conference and would endeavour to suggest suitable candidates for plenary and workshops once the theme and topics were agreed.

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