

Belfast: a European City

The European Commission Office in Northern Ireland



Belfast has undergone a dramatic transformation over the last decade thanks to the combined efforts of the private and public sectors.

The city's bus and rail transport network has been boosted by EU money.

The European Union too has played its part through a range of funding programmes, including the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Peace and Reconciliation Programme.

EU money was invested in the Laganside weir, which helped clean up the River Lagan. This was a necessary first step in unleashing the development potential of the city's river-banks which up to then had been polluted and neglected. Belfast's well-known Waterfront Hall, which opened in 1997 and became the anchor project of the

entire Laganside development, was also part funded with EU money. Today the whole river area with a mix of commercial, retail and housing developments, can rightly claim to be at the heart of Belfast's ongoing regeneration.

Further EU investment helped to turn a derelict and heavily polluted former gasworks site into a modern business park. The city's arterial routes, many of which had suffered years of environmental decay, are undergoing a facelift thanks to EU support. The city's bus and rail transport network has been boosted by EU money. Small businesses ►



Image courtesy of Belfast Convention Bureau