

PWYLLGOR MATERION EWROPEAIDD AC ALLANOL

Dyddiad: 4 Rhagfyr 2003

Amser: 09:00

Lleoliad: Ystafelloedd Pwyllgora 3 a 4, Adeilad y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol, Bae Caerdydd

Teitl: Asesu manteision aelodaeth o sawl corff Ewropeaidd a rhyngwladol

PWRPAS

1. Mae'r papur hwn yn awgrymu bod Y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol yn cynnal asesiadau strategol rheolaidd o fanteision aelodaeth o sawl corff Ewropeaidd a Rhyngwladol.

GWEITHREDU

2. Gwahoddir y Pwyllgor i ystyried a yw'n dymuno adolygu manteision aelodaeth y Cynulliad o sawl corff Ewropeaidd a Rhyngwladol, yn rheolaidd.

Y CEFNDIR

3. Mae'r Cynulliad, a Llywodraeth y Cynulliad, yn ymrwymedig i ddatblygu proffil a dylanwad Cymru yn Ewrop ac yn rhyngwladol. Rhan o'r strategaeth ar gyfer gwneud hyn yw ymuno â'r cyrff Ewropeaidd a Rhyngwladol mwyaf perthnasol a dylanwadol. Agwedd arall ar y gwaith yw llofnodi memoranda dealltwriaeth a chytundebau eraill â rhanbarthau sydd â buddiannau cyffredin â Chymru.

4. Mae'r Cynulliad yn aelod o sawl corff Ewropeaidd a Rhyngwladol, ar wahân i rai sy'n sefydliadau o'r UE fel Pwyllgor y Rhanbarthau. Ymysg y sefydliadau strategol allweddol mae (ceir manylion pellach yn Atodiad A):

- Rhanbarthau â Phwerau Deddfwriaethol (Reg Leg)
- Cyngres Awdurdodau Lleol a Rhanbarthol Ewrop (CLRAE)
- Cynhadledd Rhanbarthau Arforol Ymylol (CPMR)
- Corff Rhyngseneddol Prydain-Iwerddon
- Cymdeithas Seneddol y Gymanwlad

- Cynhadledd Llywyddion Seneddau Deddfwriaethol Rhanbarthol Ewrop (CALRE)

5. Mae'r Cynulliad hefyd yn aelod o sawl grŵp mwy arbenigol sy'n canolbwyntio ar feysydd polisi penodol.

6. Mae'r Cynulliad hefyd wedi llofnodi nifer o femoranda dealltwriaeth, neu gytundebau tebyg, â rhanbarthau eraill:

- Memorandwm Dealltwriaeth â Silesia
- Memorandwm Dealltwriaeth â De Cymru Newydd
- Memorandwm Dealltwriaeth â Baden-Württemberg
- Atgyfnerthwyd Datganiad ar y Cyd â Chatalonia ym mis Ebrill 2001 â Phrotocol Cydweithredu
- Datganiad ar y Cyd â Lombardi

7. Mae'r Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol yn derbyn y newyddion diweddaraf yn rheolaidd oddi wrth Brif Weinidog Cymru a'r Llywydd ynghylch gweithgareddau mewn perthynas â nifer o'r cyrff a'r cytundebau hyn. Gwneir hyn gan amlaf ar ffurf brîff, adroddiad ysgrifenedig neu ar lafar a chyfle ar gyfer cwestiynau.

8. Serch hynny, mae rhai cyfleoedd cyfyngedig i'r Pwyllgor edrych yn strategol ar aelodaeth y cyrff hyn ac asesu beth y mae'r Cynulliad yn ei gyflawni drwy aelodaeth.

9. O ganlyniad awgrymir y dylai'r Pwyllgor asesu effeithiolrwydd aelodaeth y cyrff hyn yn barhaus, gan gynnal adolygiadau bob dwy flynedd. Nid yw adolygiadau mwy aml yn debygol o fod yn ddefnyddiol oherwydd natur hirdymor nifer o'r manteision posibl. Wrth gwrs, bydd y Pwyllgor yn parhau i dderbyn adroddiadau ynghylch cyfarfodydd a mentrau penodol yn y cyfamser.

Gallai fod yn ddefnyddiol i grŵpio mathau arbennig o gyrff ynghyd – er enghraifft cyrff seneddol neu gyrff y mae'r Llywodraeth yn aelod ohonynt, a'u harchwilio ar y cyd.

10. Mae Atodiad B yn amlinellu'r mathau o faterion y gallai'r Pwyllgor ddymuno eu hystyried wrth gynnal ei sesiadau. Yn amlwg ni fydd yr holl gwestiynau yn berthnasol ymhob achos. Byddai angen ystyried y memoranda dealltwriaeth ar wahân.

ARGYMHELLIAD

11. Argymhellir bod y Pwyllgor yn cytuno i gynnal adolygiadau rheolaidd o effeithiolrwydd y cyrff Ewropeaidd a Rhyngwladol y mae'r Cynulliad yn aelod ohonynt.

Enw cyswllt

Gwasanaethau'r Pwyllgorau ac Ymchwil yr Aelodau

Nid yw'r atodiadau ar gael yng nghymraeg

OVERVIEW OF ORGANISATIONS

(i) Conference of Presidents of European Regional Legislative Assemblies (CALRE)

Aims CALRE was founded in 1997. It brings together the 'chairmen' of the legislative federal state parliaments of Europe – i.e. the parliamentary leaders of a sector or region, not of a national parliament. Only regions within European Union Member States may become part of CALRE, and the extent to which they have done so varies considerably according to the degree of regionalism in each state.

CALRE aims to:

- Prevent a democratic deficit where the regions are concerned;
- Act as a stimulus in the organisation of parliamentary control on European Affairs;
- Be the voice of European regional parliamentarianism in Europe; and
- Be a forum for the exchange of information, between CALRE members and between the national parliaments and the European Parliament - <http://www.calre.be>

Members

- The parliaments of the Spanish autonomous communities;
- The Italian regional councils;
- The assemblies of the Belgian regions and communities;
- The parliaments of both the Austrian and German Länder;
- The autonomous parliament of Åland (Finland);
- The regional assemblies of the Azores and Madeira (Portugal); and
- The devolved institutions in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (the United Kingdom).

The Presiding Officer is the National Assembly for Wales' chairman on the CALRE.

(ii) The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE)

Aims CLRAE was created by the Council of Europe in 1994. It is a consultative body, taking over from the former Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities in the representation of local and regional authorities on the Council.

The main aim of CLRAE is to uphold and promote the political, administrative and financial autonomy of European local and regional authorities. It is also responsible for monitoring the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government in each of the Member States.

CLRAE's role is to:

- Provide a forum where directly elected local and regional representatives can discuss problems, pool experience and express their views to government;
- Advise the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on all aspects of local and regional policy;
- Co-operate with national and international organisations representing local and regional government;
- Organise hearings and conferences to reach as wide a public as possible in the interests of inclusive democracy;
- Prepare country-by-country reports on the state of local and regional democracy in all of the Member and Applicant States, in particular on how the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government are upheld.

The Congress is divided into two chambers, the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions. The work of the Congress is organised into four statutory committees, dealing with institutional issues, culture and education, sustainable development and social inclusion.

Members All Member and Applicant States. The number of seats on CLRAE varies according to the State (from 2 to 18, depending on the size of the State). There are 313 members in total (and an equal number of substitutes), who meet in Plenary session once a year.

A full list of CLRAE members and the number of seats can be found at: http://www.lgib.gov.uk/ukint/ukint_e2_1.htm

The UK has 18 representatives across both chambers of CLRAE. The National Assembly for Wales has one seat in the Chamber of Regions; this was formerly held by Gwenda Thomas AM but is currently vacant.

(iii) The Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR)

Aims

The CPMR was founded in 1973 by around 30 peripheral maritime regions who were concerned that the growth of the EU would render them more remote from the centre of power.

The CPMR has three overall aims:

- To exploit the member regions' assets (sea and coastline);
- To increase awareness of regional disparities and potential competitiveness in the EU; and
- To ensure greater involvement of the regional level in European integration.

The Conference aims to foster the development of co-operation between European regions (known as interregional co-operation) and with regions from non-EU states (external co-operations). It promotes the model of sustainable development and the maritime dimension of Europe through various EU sectoral policies (such as the Structural Funds). The 2002-03 work programme of the CPMR is available from:

[Http://www.cpmr.org/Documents/BP/CRPM_Prog_travail_2002_2003_GB.pdf](http://www.cpmr.org/Documents/BP/CRPM_Prog_travail_2002_2003_GB.pdf)

The CPMR is financed by its members.

Members

The CPMR now consists of 149 regions, from 27 countries within the EU and elsewhere.

A full list of CPMR members can be found via the following link:

[Http://www.cpmr.org](http://www.cpmr.org)

The National Assembly for Wales has been a member of the CPMR since July 2001. In the 1999-2003 administration, the First Minister was nominated by the CPMR as spokesperson on EU regional development policy. The Welsh Assembly Government is also part of an INTERREG IIIB project application involving the CPMR and other Atlantic Arc Commission regions, and has agreed to co-ordinate at official level the work of a study group within the Atlantic Arc to consider the research and development needs of its member regions.

Notes:

INTERREG IIIB is part of the European Structural Funds. It promotes balanced development across large groupings of European regions.

The Atlantic Arc Commission is one of five Commissions established by the CPMR. It

covers the western peripheral regions of Europe and is intended to bring together a group of regions with similar concerns of peripherality and particular interests in the field of transport.

(iv) The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

Aims The CPA is a charity, registered under the laws of the UK, with the aim of "promoting knowledge and understanding of the legislative, economic, social and cultural systems within a parliamentary democratic framework" - <http://www.cpahq.org>. The CPA is the only means of regular consultation among Members of the Commonwealth Parliaments.

The CPA consists of autonomous Branches, each headed by an executive committee, formed in legislatures in Commonwealth countries subscribing to parliamentary democracy. It is funded principally through annual subscriptions paid by the members. The plenary conferences of the CPA are held by rotation in different countries. The UK last hosted the conference in 2000.

Membership of the CPA is said to provide an opportunity to participate in plenary and regional conferences, seminars, visits and delegation exchanges. The secretariat of the CPA provides regular information to members on parliamentary, constitutional and Commonwealth matters.

Members All legislatures in Commonwealth countries subscribing to parliamentary democracy.

More information on membership and the Branches can be found at:

<http://www.cpahq.org/directory/default.aspx>

(v) The British-Irish Interparliamentary Body

Aims The BIIPB was established in 1990 at the request of Members of the Oireachtas in Dublin and the Parliament in Westminster. The BIIPB originally consisted of 25 members from each parliament, plus 20 associate members.

The work of the BIIPB is carried out through four committees:

- Committee A – the Committee on Sovereign Matters;
- Committee B – the European Affairs Committee;
- Committee C – the Economic Committee;
- Committee D – the Environmental and Social Committee.

The BIIPB focuses on non-legislative parliamentary activities. The four committees meet regularly to take evidence and to write reports, and maintain good relations with the European Parliament. There are usually two plenary sessions a year.

Members In 2001, the membership was extended from the original 25 (and 20 associates) to the National Assembly for Wales, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Scottish Parliament (each now have five members), as well as Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man (each can now nominate one member) - <http://www.biipb.org>.

(vi) Regions with Legislative Power (REGLEG)

Aims REGLEG is a "co-operative venture of regions" (<http://www.regleg.org/default.asp>), focused on achieving an active role for legislative regions in the European Union according to their competences and responsibilities.

The concept of 'regions with legislative powers' was recognised in the Laeken Declaration on the Future of Europe. A delegation from REGLEG was present at the Convention on the Future of Europe, and is now focusing its attention on the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) with the aim of promoting the interests of legislative regions in the EU.

Members There are currently 72 regions with legislative power in the EU, covering some 56% of the EU population. Every member of REGLEG is a country or region, which exercises a degree of democratic autonomy within its member state and controls some aspects of legislation.

REGLEG covers small autonomous regions like the Åland Islands of Finland or the Azores in Portugal, through to the large regions of Germany, Belgium, Spain, Austria, Italy and the UK.

The Welsh Assembly Government joined REGLEG in December 2001 and for the last two years, the First Minister has been attending the conferences held. The Welsh Assembly Government is also represented on the steering group at official level.

(vii) The 'Four Motors' Regions

Aims The 'Four Motor' Regions have a higher intensity of innovation than other regions in Europe, and are generally considered to be the driving forces of research and technological development in the EU. Their 'Four Motor' status is self-declared.

It is important to remember that Wales is not an unofficial 'fifth member' of the Four Motors, as has been suggested. However, it does have a history of relations with the four regions.

It has been suggested that being associated with the Four Motors provides an opportunity for technology transfer and that this creates potential for further policy and programme transfer. (*Ref: Dreiling, G. (2001: 25), Wales' European Policy: Policy Learning or Merely Yearning? University of Wales, Cardiff*)

Members The Four Motor Regions are:

- Baden-Württemberg, Germany;
- Catalonia, Spain;
- Lombardy, Italy;
- Rhône-Alpes, France.

Atodiad B

Nid yw'r atodiadau ar gael yng nghymraeg

FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MEMBERSHIP OF VARIOUS EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES

A. About the organisation / agreement

1. Rationale for joining the organisation or signing the agreement

- What does the organisation / agreement hope to achieve?
- How are its aims relevant to Wales and the Assembly?
- When did the Welsh Assembly Government / National Assembly for Wales join / sign?
- How was the decision taken as to whether it should be the Welsh Assembly Government, or the National Assembly for Wales, which should join?
- Did the Welsh Assembly Government / National Assembly for Wales have a choice in whether it joined or not?
- What assessment carried out (e.g. of how effective the organisation had been in the past) before Wales became a member or signed the agreement?

2. How the organisation / agreement works

- How many meetings are held each year? At official level? At Ministerial / Assembly Member level?
- How often does the organisation meet in Wales?
- How many of these meetings do Assembly officials / Ministers and Assembly Members attend?
- How are meetings worth attending prioritised?
- Funding for travel costs.
- Is a review point included in the agreement?

3. Cost of membership to the Welsh Assembly Government/National Assembly for Wales

- What budget has been set aside to cover the costs of membership?
- Opportunity cost: time taken to attend meetings (attendees are often Ministers/Party Leaders/the Presiding Officer);
- Is there a Membership fee? If so, how is this calculated? *Some membership fees can be based on a country's GDP: if this is the case, is it done on the basis of Wales' GDP or the UK's?*
- What cost are associated with providing input into the organisation: does membership require substantial work on the part of the National Assembly for Wales/Welsh Assembly Government? If so, what form does this work take? *e.g. prior research, use of officials' time, translation services etc.*
- Are there any other costs associated with membership?

B. Nature and quality of input into the organisation

- Does the organisation have a 'leader'? (e.g. one particular region/national representation). Will there be opportunities for the Assembly to take on a leadership role in the organisation?
- Is the organisation primarily a regional representation body or does it have representation of other levels of Government? If a range of levels of government are represented, how are regional interests considered?
- Is the organisation's prime focus: lobbying, networking or sharing best practice?

Lobbying

- How much opportunity is there for Wales to influence direction/opinions on the organisation? Does the organisation have a lobbying role? If so, how have Welsh interests been included in the lobbying agenda?
- Is there enough opportunity for the Welsh representative(s) to put across their point of view?
- How does the Welsh regional viewpoint influence discussion?

Networking

- How many other members does the organisation have?
- Does the membership overlap with that of other organisations the Assembly is a member of?

C. Monitoring outputs

- What has the Assembly / Wales gained through membership of this organisation?
- What have been the main outputs of the organisation and the Assembly's involvement since it was established? Are there easily quantifiable outputs?
- How is the work of the organisation and the Assembly's input monitored?
- Are there any indirect outputs from the organisation and the Assembly's involvement?
- Are there any specific examples of benefits from Membership either for the Assembly, Wales more widely, or the UK?