

## **EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

- Date:** 29 April 2004
- Time:** 09:30
- Venue:** Committee Rooms 3 & 4, National Assembly Building, Cardiff Bay
- Title:** Draft forward work programme for European and External Affairs Committee: May 2004 - May 2005

### **Purpose**

1. This paper provides an outline forward work programme for the European and External Affairs Committee.

### **Recommendation**

2. Members are invited to comment on the draft forward work programme, attached at Annex A, and agree a final version.

### **Background**

3. The statutory basis for the European and External Affairs Committee is set out in Standing Order 15. Relevant extracts can be found in Annex B.
4. Essentially the Committee's remit is to ensure that the Assembly has a coherent strategic approach in relation to EU and external affairs. The Committee is required to keep under review:
  - the Assembly's relations with the institutions of the European Union, and its methods for informing and advising those institutions of the needs of Wales;
  - the Assembly's liaison arrangements with UKREP, and with United Kingdom government departments on European issues;
  - the Assembly's methods and procedures for the consideration of documents, issues and questions emanating from European institutions, having particular regard to the need for liaison with Members of Parliament responsible for scrutiny of European matters of particular relevance to Wales.

- the Assembly's relations with nations external to the European Union.

5. The forward work programme draws on the Committee's activity over the last year and on forthcoming areas of interest.

## **Action**

6. Members are invited to comment on the forward work programme and agree a final version.

## **Contact Point**

Members' Research and Committee Services

## **Annex A**

# **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MAY 2004 - MAY 2005**

At each meeting the Committee shall consider:

- A report from the Minister
- Reports from Members of the Committee of the Regions, Welsh MEPs, the Commission Office in Wales and Members of ECOSOC, if present
- A list of European proposals deposited in the UK Parliament since the last Committee meeting. The list will consist of two parts: one covering issues of particular interest to the European and External Affairs Committee; and the other being a full list of all items deposited
- A report from a subject committee chair on scrutiny of European issues in that committee

The Committee shall also consider the following items at the appropriate time during the year:

- EU Commission Annual Work Programme - published in December each year and a mid-year review
- A presentation from the Ambassador to the UK of the country holding the next Presidency of the EU - twice a year
- The Committee annual report

In addition to the regular items already indicated the Committee shall also consider the following issues:

- External Relations Strategy
- Reform of regional policy
- Update on the IGC and draft European constitution

- Work of Wales Trade International, WDA and WTB in promoting Wales
- Review of process for scrutinising European legislation in the Assembly
- Update on progress in the World Trade Organisation's negotiations on the Doha Development agenda
- Progress on the Lisbon Agenda
- Consultation on the Sustainable Development Action Plan
- Annual updates from various EU and international bodies

Further details of the programme for each term are given in the following table.

Timing	Item
<b>Summer 04</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minister's reports</li> <li>• Reports from Members of the Committee of the Regions, Welsh MEPs and the Commission Office in Wales</li> <li>• European proposals deposited in the UK Parliament</li> <li>• Reports from subject committee chairs on scrutiny of European issues</li> <li>• Committee forward work programme</li> <li>• Presentation from Ambassador of the Netherlands on priorities for the EU Presidency</li> <li>• Update on the reform of regional policy</li> <li>• Update on the work of the British-Irish Parliamentary body</li> <li>• Presentation from new EU Commissioner for Malta</li> <li>• Committee annual report</li> <li>• Mid-year review of progress on the Commission annual work programme</li> <li>• Update on the IGC and draft European constitution</li> <li>• Review of system for monitoring European proposals</li> <li>• Progress on the Lisbon Agenda</li> <li>• Consultation on the Sustainable Development Action Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Autumn 04</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minister's reports</li> <li>• Reports from Members of the Committee of the Regions, Welsh MEPs and the Commission Office in Wales</li> <li>• European proposals deposited in the UK Parliament</li> <li>• Reports from subject committee chairs on scrutiny of European issues</li> <li>• The Welsh Assembly Government's External Relations Strategy</li> <li>• Work of Wales Trade International, WDA and WTB in promoting Wales</li> <li>• Update on progress in the World Trade Organisation's negotiations on the Doha Development agenda</li> <li>• Assessing the effectiveness of the Assembly Government's co-ordination with UK Government on EU issues</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- role of individual Assembly Government policy divisions</li> <li>● Possible meeting in Brussels (meeting with new UK Commissioner)</li> <li>● Presentation from Ambassador of Luxembourg on priorities for the EU Presidency</li> <li>● Enlargement - six months on</li> <li>● Update on the reform of regional policy</li> <li>● Annual update from various EU and international bodies (CALRE, CPA, RegLeg, CPMR)</li> </ul>
<b>Spring 05</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Minister's reports</li> <li>● Reports from Members of the Committee of the Regions, Welsh MEPs and the Commission Office in Wales</li> <li>● European proposals deposited in the UK Parliament</li> <li>● Reports from subject committee chairs on scrutiny of European issues</li> <li>● Commission annual work programme 2005</li> <li>● Assessing the success of the Branding Wales project</li> <li>● Update on the reform of regional policy</li> <li>● Annual update from various EU and international bodies (CALRE, CPA, RegLeg, CPMR)</li> </ul>

## Annex B

# NATIONAL ASSEMBLY EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

## REFERENCES IN STANDING ORDERS

*Extract from Standing Order 6:*

6.5 Time shall be made available in each 12 month period for the following categories of Assembly business:

(xiii) debate on matters related to the European Union

*Standing order 15:*

### **STANDING ORDER 15 - Committee on European and External Affairs**

Title and Terms of Reference

15.1 There shall be a Committee on European and External Affairs, which shall keep under review

(i) the Assembly's relations with the institutions of the European Union, and its methods for informing and advising those institutions of the needs of Wales;

(ii) the Assembly's liaison arrangements with UKREP, and with United Kingdom government departments on European issues;

(iii) the Assembly's methods and procedures for the consideration of documents, issues and questions emanating from European institutions, having particular regard to the need for liaison with Members of Parliament responsible for scrutiny of European matters of particular relevance to Wales.

(iv) the Assembly's relations with nations external to the European Union.

15.2. The Committee shall monitor the general impact and consequences for Wales of policies pursued by institutions of the European Union, and ensure that there is adequate liaison with the Members of the European Parliament representing Wales and Welsh representatives on the Committee of the Regions.

15.3. The Committee shall avoid duplicating the work of subject committees, but may draw particular issues to the attention of relevant subject committees and, with the agreement of the relevant subject committee, may consider any matter falling within paragraphs 15.1 or 15.2 which is otherwise wholly within the remit of that subject committee. The Committee may assess and where necessary report on the significance of proposed European legislation affecting Wales which falls within the remit of more than one subject committee.

## **Membership**

15.4 The Members of the Committee shall be elected by the Assembly having regard to the desirability of each subject committee being represented on the Committee and so as to ensure that, so far as practicable, the balance of political groups in the Assembly is reflected in its membership. The Assembly shall elect one of the members of the committee to chair the Committee, but it may not be chaired by a Minister.

15.5 A committee member who has given advance notice to the chair may be represented at a meeting of the committee by another Member from the same political group who has been identified in advance. In giving such notice, the Member shall indicate the reason for the need for substitution. The nominated representative may participate in the meeting of the committee in all respects as if he or she were a member of it. No Member may represent more than one committee member at a meeting.

15.6 Members of the European Parliament representing Wales, and Welsh the Assembly's representatives on the Committee of the Regions, may attend and, with the permission of the chair, speak at the Committee's meetings when these are in public, but they may not vote.

15.7 Assembly Members who have specific constituency or regional interests to pursue in relation to the work of the Committee may in advance of any meeting seek the chair's permission to make representations to the Committee at that meeting, but they may not vote. Members may also write to the chair requesting that their observations on any aspect of the Committee's work be tabled for consideration by the Committee at its next meeting, and the chair shall arrange for such tabling to take place.

## **Reports**

15.8 The Committee shall report to the Assembly from time to time.