

Y Pwyllgor Materion Ewropeaidd ac Allanol

EUR(2) 07-06 (p1)

Dyddiad: 27 Medi 2006

Lleoliad: Ystafelloedd Pwyllgora 1 a 2, Y Senedd, Bae Caerdydd

Teitl: Adroddiad y Gweinidog

Diben

1. Rhoi'r newyddion diweddaraf am amrediad o faterion sydd wedi codi ers cyfarfod diwethaf y Pwyllgor.

Argymhelliad

2. Bod yr aelodau'n nodi cynnwys yr adroddiad.

Cefndir

3. 12 Gorffennaf 2006 oedd y tro diwethaf i'r Pwyllgor gyfarfod. Mae'r papur hwn yn rhoi'r newyddion diweddaraf.

Gweithgareddau Rhyngwladol Prif Weinidog Cymru

7 Medi 2006 Ymweliad Chen Guangguo, Is-faer Bwrdeistref Chongqing, Tsieina

Ynghyd â'r Gweinidog dros yr Amgylchedd, Cynllunio a Chefn Gwlad, cyfarfûm â Chen Guangguo, Is-Faer Bwrdeistref Chongqing, yn ystod ei ymweliad â Chymru. Mae'n arbenigo ar faterion amaethyddiaeth a choedwigaeth ynghyd â ffermio organig, a chafodd cyfarfodydd eu trefnu gyda nifer o gyrff a sefydliadau yn y meysydd hyn.

11 Medi 2006 Ymweliad â Chynulliad Gogledd Iwerddon, Belfast

Ymwelais â Chynulliad Gogledd Iwerddon ar 11 Medi, gan roi anerchiad ac ateb cwestiynau am ein profiad ninnau o ddatganoli yng Nghymru.

13 Medi 2006 Cyfarfodydd â'r Comisiynwyr Hübner a Špidla

Ymwelais â Brwsel ar 13 Medi a chyfarfod â'r Comisiynwyr Hübner (Polisi Rhanbarthol) a Špidla (Cyflogaeth, Materion Cymdeithasol a Chyfleoedd Cyfartal), i drafod y cylch newydd o arian cydgyfeirio i'r Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd.

26 Medi 2006 "Y Dwyrain yn Cwrdd â'r Gorllewin – Cyfle i Fasnachu â Hong Kong a Tsieina" Digwyddiad Ymwybyddiaeth, Caerdydd

Bûm yn y digwyddiad ymwybyddiaeth "Y Dwyrain yn Cwrdd â'r Gorllewin – Cyfle i Fasnachu â Hong Kong a Tsieina", a gafodd ei gynnal yng Nghaerdydd ar 26 Medi 2006.

Materion Eraill

Adolygiad Canol-tymor ar Raglen Deddfau a Gwaith y Comisiwn Ewropeaidd 2006

Ym mis Hydref 2005, cyflwynodd y Comisiwn eu Rhaglen Deddfau a Gwaith ar gyfer 2006. Mae'r rhaglen yn nodi'r blaenoriaethau a fydd yn llywio ymdrechion y Comisiwn i droi'r amcanion strategol yn realiti yn 2006. Gan ei fod yn canolbwyntio ar bron cant o flaenoriaethau ar gyfer gweithredu, mae'n adlewyrchu'r broses cynllunio polisi fwy integredig a chydlynol sydd wedi'i gweld yn y blynyddoedd diwethaf.

Trafododd y Pwyllgor y rhaglen yn y cyfarfod a gynhaliwyd ar 18 Ionawr 2006.

Ar 30 Awst, cyhoeddodd y Comisiwn adolygiad canol-tymor ar y rhaglen. O'r 96 o fesurau yn y rhaglen, nododd yr adolygiad fod 37 (39%) wedi'u cyflwyno. Mae hyn yn llai na'r 84% a ddisgwyliid yn ôl y rhagolygon cychwynol ar gyfer y rhaglen waith, a'r esboniad yw nifer cynyddol o ohiriadau tan chwarter olaf y flwyddyn a 2007. Ynghyd â'r adolygiad cafwyd galwad ar i aelodau perthnasol y Comisiwn sicrhau y bydd yr holl fentrau a oedd i fod i gael eu mabwysiadu yn 2006 yn cael eu mabwysiadu mewn da bryd, gan bwysleisio mor bwysig yw sicrhau bod egwyddorion gwell deddfu yn cael eu parchu'n llwyr.

Mae copi o'r adolygiad ar gael yn ec.europa.eu/atwork/programmes/index

Pwyntiau Gweithredu yn Codi o Gyfarfodydd Blaenorol

Gofynnodd y Pwyllgor yn ei gyfarfod ar 22 Mehefin 2006 am ymchwiliad i'r posibilrwydd o ddarparu gwasanaeth gwybodaeth Ewropeaidd.

Yn sgil cyfnewid gohebiaeth, cyfarfu swyddogion o Ysgrifenyddiaeth Polisi UE Llywodraeth y Cynulliad ag Ian Thomson ac Alec McSkimming o Brifysgol Caerdydd i drafod cymorth ariannol posibl i'r Brifysgol i helpu eu cynnig i ymgymryd â rhedeg y gwasanaeth gwybodaeth electronig yn lle'r cyhoeddwr masnachol cyfredol, sef ProQuest. Fe hoffai'r cyhoeddwr i'r Brifysgol ymgymryd â'r gwasanaeth cyn gynted â phosibl ac mae'r negodi ar yr agweddau technegol yn parhau. Er nad oes arian ar gael gan y Cynulliad yn y tymor byr, fe fydd y swyddogion yn parhau i gydweithio'n agos â'r Brifysgol i ddod o hyd i arian posibl yn y dyfodol a hefyd i sicrhau y cydymffurfir â'r rheoliadau ar gymorth gwladol.

Yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor ar 22 Mehefin 2006, cytunais y byddwn yn chwilio am wybodaeth am gymorth gwladol i'r sector dofednod.

Ym mis Ebrill, mabwysiadodd y Cyngor Ewropeaidd fesurau a gynigiwyd gan y Comisiwn i ganiatáu cymorth ariannol i'r farchnad ddofednod oherwydd effeithiau'r ffliw adar. Mae'r cynigion yn pennu'r mesurau a all gael eu cyd-ariannu hyd at 50 y cant gan yr UE, gan hoelio sylw ar fesurau i leihau'r cynhyrchu dros dro. Rhaid i'r 50 y cant arall gael ei ariannu o'r cyllidebau gwladol.

Mae'r mesurau'n cynnwys:

- Dinistrio wyau sy'n deor
- Prosesu wyau sy'n deor
- Dinistrio cywion (sef cywion ieir, adar gini, hwyaid, tyrcïod a gwyddau)
- Lladd rhywfaint o'r haid fagu yn gynnar
- Estyn y cyfnodau o beidio â chynhyrchu dros dro i fwy na thair wythnos
- Gostyngiad gwirfoddol yn yr allbwn drwy osod llai o gywion
- Lladd cywennod sy'n barod i ddodwy yn gynnar.

Fe bennodd y cynigion hefyd uchafswm yr iawndal am bob uned a gâi ei dinistrio; uchafswm yr unedau i bob aelod-wladwriaeth a'r amserlen.

Disgwylir y bydd hyn yn costio rhwng €50 a €65 miliwn i gyllideb yr UE. Mae 14 o aelod-wladwriaethau wedi gwneud cais am gymorth: Awstria, Cyprus, Ffrainc, Groeg, Gwlad Pwyl, Hwngari, Iwerddon, Portiwgal, Sbaen, Slofacia, Y Weriniaeth Siec, Yr Almaen, Yr Eidal, Yr Iseldiroedd.

Cyhoeddodd Ffrainc becyn cymorth o €63 miliwn ym mis Mawrth i helpu'r diwydiant ac i roi iawndal am y cynhyrchu a gâi ei golli. Does dim cais wedi'i wneud gan y DU.

Yn y cyfamser, cyhoeddodd y Comisiwn ym mis Gorffennaf eu bod am ymchwilio i'r mesurau a fabwysiadwyd gan yr Eidal a allai fod wedi torri'r canllawiau ar gymorth gwladol.

Yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor ar 22 Mehefin 2006, cytunais y byddwn yn rhoi rhagor o wybodaeth am y refferendwm diweddar yng Nghatalonia, ar y statud newydd. Mae hyn ar gael yn Atodiad A

Yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor ar 12 Gorffennaf 2006, cytunodd y Gweinidog dros Addysg, Dysgu Gydol Oes a Sgiliau roi nodyn ar y fenter arfaethedig ynglyn ag ieithoedd tramor modern yn yr ysgol gynradd. Mae hyn ar gael yn Atodiad B.

Newyddion Ewropeaidd

Latfia'n tynhau'r deddfau ar ddinasyddiaeth – mae Latfia wedi cyflwyno deddfau llym newydd ar ddinasyddiaeth, sy'n ei gwneud yn ofynnol bod gan bobl wybodaeth dda o'r Latfieg. Caiff dinasyddiaeth ei gwrthod os bydd yr ymgeisydd yn methu prawf iaith dair gwaith. Cafodd y Latfieg ei hailgyflwyno fel yr iaith swyddogol yn sgil annibyniaeth oddi wth yr Undeb Sofietaidd yn 1991. Mae mwy nag 20% o'r boblogaeth yn dal yn siarad Rwsieg yn famiaith ac mae mwy na 400,000 o bobl heb gael dinasyddiaeth. Er mai Rwsiaid o safbwynt ethnig yw'r mwyafrif mawr sydd heb gael

dinasyddiaeth, does dim hawl gan y rhai sydd heb ddinasyddiaeth i gael pasbort UE na hawliau pleidleisio.

Twf yr UE yn gynt na'r Unol Daleithiau a Japan - mae economi Ewrop yn tyfu'n gynt nag economi'r Unol Daleithiau neu Japan, yn ôl y ffigurau diweddaraf ar gyfer ail chwarter y flwyddyn. Roedd y twf ar draws y 25 o aelodau'r UE yn 0.9% yn ystod y chwarter, i fyny o 0.8% yn y chwarter cyntaf, sy'n gyfystyr â 2.8% dros y flwyddyn. 0.7% a 0.2% oedd y ffigurau cyfatebol ar gyfer yr Unol Daleithiau a Japan. Er hynny, mae Ewrop yn llusgo y tu ôl iddyn nhw o ran creu swyddi newydd. Parhaodd diweithdra ledled yr UE yn ddigyfnewid yn 8%, dros yr un cyfnod, ond roedd diweithdra yn 4.8% yn yr Unol Daleithiau a 4.1% yn Japan.

Iardiau Llongau Gwlad Pwyl – mae Gwlad Pwyl o dan bwysau cynyddol i gyflwyno cynlluniau busnes credadwy ar gyfer dyfodol yr iardiau llongau ar y Môr Baltig, oedd i fod i gael eu cyflwyno ym mis Mehefin 2005. Fe allai'r iardiau, gan gynnwys hel Iard Lenin yn Gdansk (man geni mudiad Solidarity), gael eu gorfodi i ddychwelyd symiau mawr o gymorth gwladol, y mae'r Comisiwn Ewropeaidd yn dweud eu bod yn groes i reolau'r UE. Gallai'r iardiau gael eu cyfarwyddo i ddechrau ad-dalu arian y maen nhw wedi'i gael gan lywodraeth Gwlad Pwyl mor gynnar â mis Tachwedd. Mae'r iardiau'n mynnu nad yw'r adnoddau ganddyn nhw. O ran tunelli o longau, Gwlad Pwyl yw'r bumed yn y byd ar ôl De Corea, Japan, Tsieina a'r Almaen, ond er hynny, mae'n ymdrech i'r iardiau barhau. Er bod y llyfrau archebion yn edrych yn iach, cafodd llawer o'r llongau sy'n cael eu hadeiladu heddiw eu contractio rai blynyddoedd yn ôl pan oedd prisiau byd-eang yn isel. I ychwanegu at anawsterau'r iardiau, mae llawer o weithwyr medrus wedi ymadael er mwyn ennill cyflogau uwch yng ngorllewin Ewrop.

Rhodri Morgan AC
Prif Weinidog Cymru

EEAC First Minister's Report

Date	Assembly Minister/ Official/ Division	Event	Objectives	Outcomes

14 July 2006	Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning	EARLALL Board meeting, Brussels	<p>The Minister attended this meeting in her capacity as Vice President of EARLALL. Membership of EARLALL provides a valuable opportunity for European regions to work together on strategies and programmes for lifelong learning. Wales contributed a paper, updating members on key EU policy developments aimed at influencing future priorities and activity of the Association.</p>	<p>The Minister's attendance at these meetings and her Vice Presidency of EARLALL further cements relationships with other EARLALL Board members and provides an opportunity for raising the profile of Wales within Europe.</p> <p>It was agreed that the seminar, that Wales and Scotland are holding on credit frameworks on 19 October 2006, would be partly badged as an EARLALL event and would include material on EARLALL projects such as ESVAC and PREVALET. It was also agreed that key Commission officials would be invited to meet the Board to discuss a range of issues including Adult Education, prior to the next EARLALL GA on 20 October 2006. The Board met a key Finnish official to discuss how EARLALL could engage in the Finnish Presidency of the EU.</p>
18 – 19 July 2006	Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks	Cork Regatta	To identify the importance of marina development in promoting such tourism events.	Still evolving

31 August 2006	Minister for Health and Social Services/ Chris Riley (DHSS)	Meeting with George Smitherman, Minister of Health and Long Term Care, for Ontario	Mr Smitherman indicated a wish to understand the Welsh approach to: ·1 Waiting time strategies (non-emergency). ·2 Waiting times in A and E. ·3 Primary care reform and in particular chronic disease management in the primary care setting. ·4 Innovative and creative human resource deployment.	The Ontario Minister was very pleased with the discussion/ exchange of information, and was able to follow up other points with officials and a Welsh NHS Trust.
7 September 2006	First Minister and Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside	Visit by Mr Chen Guangguo, Vice-Mayor Chongqing Municipality, China	Meetings regarding agriculture/forestry and organic farming were arranged with: - First Minister - Minister for Environment Planning and Countryside - Coleg Sir Gar - Food Centre Wales Llandysul - Govt Departments and sponsored bodies involved in Agriculture - Vice Chancellor of Aberystwyth University - National Park Forestry Division, Betwys Y Coed	Helped to cement the growing relationship with Chongqing. Useful contacts were made in preparation for a Welsh trade and education mission to Chongqing in October, and there was agreement to share information in the fields of agriculture, forestry, agri-food and education.
11 September 2006	First Minister	Visit to the Northern Ireland Assembly, Belfast	To address the Northern Ireland Assembly on devolution in Wales.	

13 September 2006	First Minister	Meetings with Commissioners Hubner (Regional Policy) and Spidla (Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities), Brussels	To discuss convergence programme for West Wales and the Valleys.	Both Commissioners were content with progress to date.
20-23 September 2006	Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks	Ryder Cup, Ireland	To have a Welsh presence at the event, bearing in mind that it will be taking place in Wales in 2010	
26 September 2006	First Minister	"East Meets West – Opportunity for Trading with Hong Kong and China" Awareness Event, Cardiff	Develop further links with Hong Kong	

European and External Affairs Committee : Thursday 22 June 2006

Minutes EUR (2) 05-06

Item 7: First Minister's Report

Paper EUR(2) 05-06 (p.1)

Action Point: The First Minister agreed to provide further information on the recent Catalan referendum in due course.

Catalonia

On 18 June 73.9% of Catalans voted "yes" and 20.8% "no" in a low 49.5% turnout in the referendum for a new Statute to regulate the regions relationship with the Spanish state. The most substantial changes from the 1979 Statute are about money (Catalonia will retain a greater percentage of revenue from some taxes) and symbolism (recognition of "nation" status within Spain). It also devolves more power, as many shared competencies become exclusive to the regional government. The new

financial model gives Catalonia more financial powers, the retention of 50% of income tax and VAT (instead of 33% and 35% respectively) and 58% of tax on alcohol, tobacco and petrol (instead of 40%).

The referendum was the final step in a process that began in September 2005, when Catalonia's parliament approved a new version of the Statute – the document that sets out the relationship and division of political powers between Spain and Catalonia.

The "yes" campaigners were pleased with the result. Prime Minister Zapatero welcomed the approval of a broad majority. The "no" campaign have made unfavourable comparisons to the 1979 referendum, which had a turnout ten points higher. The Popular Party (PP) noted that 2 out of every 3 citizens in Catalonia did not support the revised Statute. Others have pointed out that the turnout was higher than the 40.6% who voted in the referendum for the European Constitutional Treaty. Opinion polls had predicted a comfortable "yes" vote and the real test was seen as the turnout.

The impact on politics in Catalonia and indeed the rest of Spain is likely to unfold quickly. The coalition government in Catalonia collapsed when the left wing nationalist Esquerra Republicana (ERC) called for its supporters to reject the Statute in the referendum against their coalition partners' wishes. Catalan President, Pasqual Maragall, has already signalled that he will call elections in the autumn. A post election alliance with the centre right Catalan nationalists, Convergencia I Unio (CiU) is one possible outcome.

The new Statute guarantees the regional government participation in European issues that could affect its competences or interests, and gives them more influence in forming Spanish positions. It also extends the right to promote Catalonia overseas, as well as the right to Foreign Ministry help for international co-operation on areas of the regional government's competence. The implication for EU policy formation is unclear, in theory the regions should now exert greater influence but Catalans (and representatives from other regions) have been attending EU Councils for the past 2 years.

The practical implications will continue to unfold. The approval of the Statute is seen as an endorsement of Zapatero's policy of modernising the relationship of the autonomous regions with the rest of Spain, a cornerstone of his domestic agenda and attention is now likely to move to the Basque region.

The Ministry of Economy is working out the impact of the reduction in central government income from Catalonia and possible implications for fiscal discipline, especially as other autonomous regions are likely to demand similar treatment. This deal is likely to benefit all the richer regions of Spain and the Government will have to find some way to make up the shortfall to poorer regions. Many of the concessions contained in the Statute are will also be extended to the rest of Spain but the timeframe is unclear.

Conclusion

Catalonia accounts for one –fifth of Spain's economy even though it is home to less than one-sixth of the population. One of the main drivers behind the revised Statute was to ensure a degree of

economic self determination for the region. The Generalitat (Catalonia's regional government) will now have not only enhanced powers in taxation, more control over airports, ports and immigration and judicial matters but also "nation" status. The wider impact on the other autonomous regions will become clearer in the coming months.

European and External Affairs Committee : Wednesday 12 July 2006.

Minutes EUR (2) 06-06

Item 6: Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Paper: EUR(2) 06-06 (p.4)

Action point: The Minister agreed to provide a note on current work to promote Modern Foreign Languages in primary schools.

Modern Foreign Languages in Key Stage 2.

"Languages Count", the Assembly Government's national foreign languages strategy, was developed to address concerns surrounding the numbers of our young people opting to take up modern foreign languages in secondary schools. In broad terms the strategy aims to:

- improve the take up and standard of foreign language learning particularly beyond the age of 14 and 16;
- increase recognition by schools, pupils and parents of the importance of language learning;
- increase recognition by employers of the importance of language skills;
- ensure that foreign language learning builds on the learning of English and Welsh and brings learners to value diversity through better understanding of other cultures.

To address this agenda the Assembly Government supported the establishment on CILT Cymru (Centre for Information on Language Teaching) to provide support for language learners and teachers throughout Wales, including provision of materials, training, development work and conferences. In 2006-07 the Assembly has made £700k available to CILT Cymru.

Languages are a mandatory part of the schools curriculum for all pupils in the first three years of secondary education but it is recognised that there is some way to go in ensuring that all young people are alive to the benefits to be derived from the study of Modern Foreign Languages. That is why in concert with CILT we launched the Key Stage 2 (8-11 year olds) pilots. The work in this area is groundbreaking and central to the overall strategy with a view to leveraging up take up of modern foreign languages at 14-19.

Since September 2003, 2,500 pupils have been involved in a three year pilot project involving 105 primary schools in clusters based on 21 secondary schools. The languages being taught within the pilot schools are French, German, Spanish and Italian. With Assembly support every primary school has been provided with funding and support and guidance from CILT Cymru. A DVD produced by

CILT Cymru, Step by Step sets out the range of innovative used by primary and secondary schools to improve opportunities for MFL in the primary sector including delivery in partnership with a local secondary schools, use of peripatetic teachers and developing the skills of staff in the primary sector to deliver MFL. It also confirms the very positive impact on standards at Key Stage 3 and illustrates how the work has broken down barriers to language learning and in particular by engaging boys.

Initial feedback on Phase 1 has been very encouraging with teachers, pupils and parents responding well to the new experience. Pupils have described their first exposure to language learning as fun and enjoyable and teachers have been surprised by their pupils' speed of linguistic progression. A full independent evaluation report is due to be submitted in October 2006

Funding has been confirmed for the second phase of the project which will extend the work until July 2008 with a further 18 schools joining the pilot. Phase two will focus on how MFL can support ongoing work to improve transition from primary to secondary school. It was particularly encouraging to see ACCAC's view that already "many of the secondary schools involved in the Key Stage 2 pilot project have already made changes to their year 7 MFL provision in order to build on the progress made in the primary school".

CILT Cymru has already put in place a raft of support to promote MFL in secondary schools and the pilot work in Key Stage 2 is central in informing how best to promote MFL at Key Stage 3 and encourage take-up of the opportunities presented by 14-19 Learning Pathways

Progress is kept under regular review and it is planned that the Languages Count strategy be refreshed by autumn 2007. We are four years on from the launch and there is need to take stock and consider how we can build on strengths and address areas for improvement. In addition, there have been significant changes in that time including the ongoing work on the new revised curriculum and further developments in the piloting of the Welsh Bac.

The refreshed strategy will ensure that we make best use of the opportunities presented in driving forward the objectives set out in Languages Count.