

European and External Affairs Committee

Minutes EUR(2) 07-05

Meeting date: 22 September 2005

Meeting time: 9.00-12.30

Meeting venue: National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Sandy Mewies (Chair)	Delyn
Nick Bourne	Mid and West Wales
Rosemary Butler	Newport West
Jeff Cuthbert	Caerphilly
Mike German	South Wales East
Christine Gwyther	Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
Jonathan Morgan	South Wales Central
Rhodri Morgan	Cardiff West
Rhodri Glyn Thomas	Carmarthen East and Dinefwr

Standing Invitees

Janet Davies AM	Committee of the Regions
Rose D' Sa	European Economic and Social Committee

Officials in Attendance

Name	Job Title
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Gary Davies	Head of European and External Affairs Division
Rob Halford	Economic Policy Division
Anna Daniel	Assembly Parliamentary Service

Others in Attendance

Name	Representing	Agenda item(s)
David Frost	Director (EU)- Internal, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)	4
Edward Mason	Stakeholder Manager, Foreign and Commonwealth Office	4
Professor Michael Scott	Principal, North East Wales Institute	5
Andrew Parry	Head of Corporate Communications, North East Wales Institute	5
Andy Klom	Head of the European Commission Office in Wales	

Committee Service

Chris Reading	Clerk
Sarah Bartlett	Deputy Clerk

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

1.1 Apologies had been received Jonathan Evans MEP, Glenys Kinnock MEP, Eluned Morgan MEP.

1.2 The Chair noted that Janet Davies AM would be substituting for Ieuan Wyn Jones AM.

1.3 There were no declarations of interest.

1.4 The Chair noted that Members had been invited to a meeting with Commissioner Hübner on the 29th September and asked Members to inform the Clerk if they wished to attend.

Item 2: Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Paper: EUR(2) 06-05 - Minutes of meeting held on 7 July

Paper: EUR(2) 07-05 - Action Outstanding

2.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July were agreed as a true record.

Item 3: First Minister's Report

Paper: EUR(2) 07-05 (p.1)

Actions

- The First Minister agreed to circulate to Members a list of events that would be taking place in Wales for the UK Presidency and more specifically a note on the Youth Event.
- The First Minister agreed to provide a note to the Committee on when the new 'Eurostat' statistics on economic performance would come into effect.

Item 4: European Union Presidency Briefing

Paper: EUR(2) 07-05 (p.2)

Action

Members asked several questions in the context of the plans set out in 'Prospects for the EU in 2005 - The UK Presidency of the European Union'

- FCO officials agreed to provide the Clerk with a note on the UK position on the strategy for rural development and the protection of geographical indications - e.g. Welsh lamb.
- The Committee would welcome timely updates from the FCO, via the Clerk, on the services directive and the chemicals regulation (REACH).
- FCO Officials agreed to provide the Clerk with a note on inter-governmental negotiations on climate change, with specific reference to aviation emissions.
- FCO Officials agreed to provide the Clerk with a note on state aid for regional airlines and airports, and the possible implications of climate change considerations.
- Given the Committee's interest in aviation issues, the Chair proposed that this should be a future agenda item, which was agreed and the Clerk was asked to include this in the forward work programme.
- FCO Officials agreed to provide the Clerk with a note on the clean coal agreements with China and India, including funding and the implications for such technology in the EU / UK.

Item 5: North East Wales Institute - Partnerships Abroad

Paper: EUR(2) 07-05 (p.3)

5.1 Members welcomed the presentation

Item 6: Draft Regional Aid Guidelines

Paper: EUR(2) 07-05 (p.4)

Actions:

- Officials agreed to provide a geographical map on 87(3)(c) assisted areas, when available, and also a proposed timetable for the implementation of the guidelines.
- Officials agreed to provide a note on the current formal definition of a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) and whether this was likely to be amended.

Item 7: Update from Members of the Committee of the Regions

Actions:

- Rosemary Butler agreed to circulate to Members CoR reports and seminar notes
- Rosemary Butler agreed to circulate to Members the minutes from the last Committee of the Regions meeting.
- The Chair agreed that the communication strategy would be included on the agenda for the meeting on 24 November.

Committee Service