

European and External Affairs Committee

Minutes EUR(2) 01-06

Meeting date: 26 January 2006

Meeting time: 9.00-12.00

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 |
| Ieuan Wyn Jones | Ynys Môn |
| Jonathan Morgan | South Wales Central |
| Rhodri Morgan | Cardiff West |
| Rhodri Glyn Thomas | Carmarthen East and Dinefwr |

Standing Invitees

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|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Janet Davies AM | Committee of the Regions |
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Officials in Attendance

| Name | Job Title |
|-------------|------------------|
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| Gary Davies | Head of European and External Affairs Division |
| Des Clifford | European and External Affairs Division |
| Rory O'Sullivan | Head of Countryside Policy Division |
| Anna Daniel | Assembly Parliamentary Service |

Others in Attendance

| Name | Representing | Agenda item(s) |
|-----------------------------|---|----------------|
| Andy Klom | Head of the European Commission Office in Wales | |
| Dr. Gabriele Matzner-Holzer | Austrian Ambassador | 7 |

Committee Service

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| Chris Reading | Clerk |
| Sarah Bartlett | Deputy Clerk |

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

1.1 Apologies had been received from Jonathan Evans MEP, Glenys Kinnock MEP, Eluned Morgan MEP and Rose D'Sa.

1.2 There were no declarations of interest.

1.3 The Chair noted that the Committee had been invited by the House of Lords EU Committee to submit views on its inquiry as to how they can do more to explain the workings of the EU to the public at large. Committee Members were invited to submit any comments to the Clerk who will prepare a response and circulate to Members.

1.4 A verbatim record of the meeting is available

Item 2: Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Paper: EUR(2) 09-05 - Minutes of meeting held on 24 November

Paper: EUR(2) 01-06 - Action Outstanding

2.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November were agreed as a true record

Item 3: First Minister's Report

Paper: EUR(2) 01-06 (p.1)

3.1 The Minister introduced his report

Actions Points:

- The Chair agreed that there would be an item at the next meeting to discuss the EU budget agreement and the implications for Wales of the 'Convergence and Competitiveness' funding stream.
- If there are developments before the next meeting, the First Minister agreed to provide a note to the Committee on the consultation process for determining the coverage of the 87.3.c area for structural funds.
- The First Minister agreed to circulate a letter sent to voluntary sector organisations giving advice on how to gain access to European funding.

Item 4: The EC Work programme 2005- Review of scrutiny by Assembly Committees

Paper: EUR(2) 01-06 (p.2)

4.1 Officials introduced the paper

Actions Points:

- The Chair agreed that the procedural issues raised at the Committee, concerning the protocol for committee scrutiny and action on EU policy, would be raised at the Panel of Chairs meeting on the 31 January. The Chair agreed to report back at the next meeting.

Item 5: The EC Work Programme 2006

Paper: EUR(2) 01-06 (p.3)

EUR(2) 01-06 (p.4)

EUR(2) 01-06 (p.5)

5.1 Officials introduced the paper

5.2 Members felt that the information provided in the three papers, whilst informative, was confusing.

Action Point:

- The Chair to discuss the matter of the papers with the Clerk.
- The First Minister agreed to check and report to the Committee on the position of the EU's Trade Union movement's on the Working Time Directive
- The First Minister agreed to provide a note to the Committee on the form that the proposal for a Council Regulation establishing the European Institute of Technology (EIT) and how this would link into education
- The Chair agreed that the Wales' Presidency of the Regions with Legislative Powers will be scheduled into the forward work programme and the First Minister agreed to provide a paper.
- The Clerk agreed to circulate a note outlining the Committee priorities of the EC Forward work programme to Members for their approval.

Item 6: Subsidiarity Monitoring Network of the Committee of the Regions

Paper: EUR(2) 01-06 (p.6)

6.1 Officials introduced the paper

Action Points:

- Members agreed to set up a subsidiarity sub Committee, the Chair noted that this would reflect the political balance of the Committee and names should be submitted to the Clerk.

Item 7: EU Presidency Briefing

Paper: EUR(2) 01-06 (p.7)

7.1 The Committee welcomed the presentation from the Austrian Ambassador

Item 8: Update from Members of the Committee of the Regions

8.1 There was nothing to report.

Paper to note: Members note paper EUR(2) 01-06(p8)

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