

Europe Matters

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EU office)



Issue 7 – September 2007

Introduction

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Europe Matters newsletter. The work of the European and External Affairs Committee is underway again in the Third Assembly. We had a short meeting in July, before the summer recess, where I was pleased to be re-elected as Chair of the Committee.

There will be a few changes to our ways of working in the Third Assembly. The First Minister is no longer a member of the Committee as a result of the Government of Wales Act, however we will still be inviting him to report on key issues to the Committee. The membership has partly changed – you can see the full details on the Assembly's website.

The Committee will also be devoting more time to inquiry work - taking evidence and making recommendations to the Welsh Assembly Government on European and international issue of importance to Wales. We will be starting by considering an inquiry into the European Investment Bank (EIB) this Autumn to explore the opportunities for financing for Wales. The EIB offers loans to large investment projects which further the European Union's policy objectives – in areas as diverse as urban regeneration, renewable energy, waste management and hospitals.

Members are also keen to develop a closer dialogue with the Members of the European Parliament who are a key part of the European decision-making process.

The Committee will be meeting monthly on Tuesday mornings – starting on the 25th September - with additional two weekly slots when required.

If you have any suggestions for the work of the Committee, or about this newsletter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Sandy Mewies
Chair of the European and External Affairs Committee

Forthcoming EU business in the Assembly's Committees

European and External Affairs Committee

25 September 2007

- ◆ **Enquiry into the European Investment Bank** – the Committee will consider undertaking an enquiry into the potential for financing for Wales from the European Investment Bank.
- ◆ **European Commission update** – Andy Klom, the European Commission's Representative in Wales will update the Committee on EU developments since it last met.
- ◆ **Future work programme** – the Committee will consider key upcoming European and International issues in order to agree its work programme.

Items related to the EU agenda

Sustainability Committee

- ◆ **Carbon Reduction in Wales** – the Committee will discuss and agree its scrutiny enquiry into carbon reduction in Wales on 20 September. They will be taking evidence from stakeholders at their 4 October meeting.

Links

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We welcome communication in either English or Welsh.

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