

**European and External Affairs Committee  
Strategic Forward Work Programme  
May 2006 – April 2007**

The Committee will normally consider at each meeting:

- A report from the First Minister;
- Reports from Members of the Committee of the Regions, Welsh Members of the European Parliament and the Commission Office in Wales, if present;

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

- European Commission's Annual Work Programme - published in December each year and a mid-year review. From this it will identify issues for further more detailed examination. The Committee will also consider progress reports from the Commission and strategic documents such as its Annual policy Statements;
- Representatives of the countries holding the European Union Presidency, if possible, twice per year;

The Committee will consider developments with the following issues:

- European Structural Funds and Cohesion policy; maintaining an overview of the operation of the existing programmes and developments for future years, with particular regard to the priorities for Wales post-2007;
- European Regional Policy, including examining the draft Regional Guidelines and the State Aids Road map when available;
- Progress with the Lisbon Strategy for economic growth, in the context of the Assembly Government's policies set out in 'Wales: A Vibrant Economy';
- Enlargement of the European Union;
- The Subsidiarity Early Warning System, including possible participation in a further pilot project to be arranged by the Committee of the Regions;
- Relations with other European countries;
- Wider external relations, including the Assembly Government's External Relations Strategy;

In addition to those mentioned above, the Committee will consider the following items from the European Commission's Work Programme for 2006:

- White Paper on Communications Strategy
- The Future of the Constitutional Treaty: Plan D
- The State Aid Action Plan: Regional Aid Guidelines 2007-2013
- The Services Directive;
- The Working Time Directive;

The Committee will maintain an overview of the scrutiny of European Union legislation and policies by National Assembly subject committees;

The Committee will maintain and develop collaborative links with other United Kingdom European Committees, both at official and political levels.