

# Cross-Committee Delegation to Stuttgart

24-26 February 2025

Over the February Recess, the Deputy Presiding Officer led a cross-Committee delegation from the Senedd to Stuttgart, to undertake an official visit to the Baden-Württemberg Landtag (State Parliament). The delegation, comprised of Llyr Gruffydd MS, Hannah Blythyn MS and Carolyn Thomas MS, met with members of the Environment, Climate, and Energy Industry Committee, the Economic Affairs, Labour and Tourism Committee, and the European and International Affairs Committee.



Senedd Delegation in the Landtag Chamber (L-R; Emil Sänze MdL, Llyr Gruffydd MS, Niklas Nüssle MdL, David Rees MS (Deputy Presiding Officer), Florian Wahl MdL, Hannah Blythyn MS, Carolyn Thomas MS, Dr. Reinhard Löffler MdL)



Senedd delegation viewing the State Parliament's Memorial Book. The memorial book commemorates members of parliament who were persecuted for their political activism from 1933 to 1945.

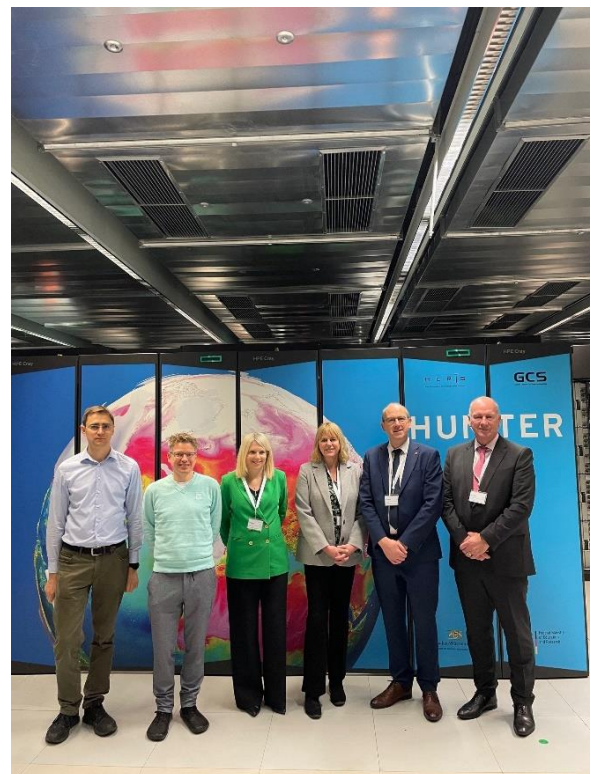
They discussed the order of business in the Landtag (including Committee and voting arrangements), and the changes afoot for both legislatures from 2026 onwards, as well as the extensive links between Wales and Baden-Württemberg. The delegation lead Niklas Nüssle MdL (whose Waldshut constituency includes Rheinfelden, twinned with of the Vale of Glamorgan) also delivered part of his welcome address in Welsh! Members visited the debating chamber, where they discussed the operation of Plenary sessions, representation in the current Landtag, and where officials explained the extensive alternations to the chamber that take place after each election to accommodate new groupings and members.



Left: Members with "Paraphrases on the National Colors" by Stuttgart artist Otto Herbert Hajek. The triptych is on permanent loan to the Landtag from the German Federal Government. Right: Members at the Mercedes-Benz plant in Boblingen.

Over an official lunch, the Deputy Presiding Officer took the opportunity to extend a reciprocal invitation to the Senedd as part of an ambition to develop relationships with the B-W Landtag.

During their time in Stuttgart, the delegation also met with representatives from EnBW, one of the largest energy companies in Germany whose current projects include a proposed offshore wind farm located off the north Wales Coastline. Members heard about the Mona Project, EnBW's ambition to phase out coal and for climate neutrality, and their work in areas of community energy and ownership, which was of particular interest.



Senedd delegation with officials from EnBW and the University of Stuttgart's High Performance Computing Centre.

Members also undertook tours of the Staatsgalerie and the Mercedes-Benz plant, where at the latter they observed the increasing automation of the production halls. Later, members were shown around Stuttgart University's high performance computing department, where they toured the AI simulation lab; here, staff displayed a projection of the city of Stuttgart that is used to test accessibility features in real locations, just one of the many ways the department is using AI and high performance computing in their projects.



The visit to Stuttgart and the Baden-Wurttemberg Landtag was delivered as part of the Senedd's International Framework, which puts Senedd Business at the heart of international activity, and with the ambition to develop and strengthen links at state-parliament level in Germany during this Sixth Senedd and beyond into future Seneddau.



Members at HLRS's Cave facility – an AI Simulation centre.