

Europe Matters

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Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Issue 2 - September 2006

Introduction

Welcome to the second edition of the Europe Matters Newsletter. This month the European and External Affairs Committee will be continuing its review of Global and European Citizenship Education in Wales. We are looking at what opportunities young people have to learn about the European Union and international and development matters - the way that they work and impact on Wales as well as the opportunities it can offer them. This is an issue that has been recently highlighted by the European Parliament's Education and Culture Committee in its own initiative report. We intend to produce our own recommendations for Wales early in the new year but would welcome any comments.

With €1.85bn of EU Structural Funds allocated to West Wales and the Valleys for 2007-2013, the Welsh Assembly Government's draft plans for using it – known as the Convergence Programme - will be under scrutiny at the Enterprise Innovation and Network Committee and the European and External Affairs Committee in September.

Finally, a delegation from the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee had an excellent visit to Brussels last week and met with key representatives of the EU institutions and other stakeholders. They discussed current issues and longer term prospects for EU agriculture and environment policy, including the 2008 Common Agricultural Policy "health check", the forthcoming green paper on adaptation to climate change, the green paper on maritime policy and animal welfare.

Sandy Mewies
Chair of the European and External Affairs Committee

Forthcoming EU business in the Assembly 's Committees

[Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee](#)

[20 September 2006](#)

- **Structural Funds: Convergence Programme for West Wales & the Valleys** – Members will scrutinise the draft programme (Welsh Assembly Government consultation closes on 6 October 2006).

Other Assembly items related to EU policy

[20 September 2006](#)

- **Draft Transport Strategy** – the Committee will consider the Welsh Assembly Government's draft strategy.

[5 October 2006](#)

- **Review of the Committee's Report on Economic Inactivity.**

[Social Justice and Regeneration](#)

[21 September 2006](#)

- **Update on EU issues** – Members will receive an update on the Committee's selected EU priorities.

[European and External Affairs Committee](#)

[27 September 2006](#)

- **Structural Funds: Convergence Programme for West Wales & the Valleys** – Members will scrutinise the draft programme (Welsh Assembly Government consultation closes on 6 October 2006).
- **European Citizenship Education Policy Review** – the Committee will receive evidence from the newly established South Wales Europe Direct Information Centre and the British Council on their role in promoting a better understanding of EU issues.
- **Subsidiarity Monitoring** – the Committee will consider the Committee of the Regions' invitation to participate in the second test of its subsidiarity monitoring network.

[Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee](#)

[28 September 2006](#)

- **Biodiversity** – The Committee will receive and discuss a Welsh Assembly Government paper on the EU Commission's Communication on 'Halting the

Loss of Biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond’.

- **Brussels Visit** – The Committee will receive information on the EPC delegation’s visit to Brussels.
- **“Public Participation Directive”** – The Committee will scrutinise The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006, transposing Directive 2003/35/EC into national law.

[Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee](#)

[28 September 2006](#)

- **European Digital Libraries** – The Committee will examine digitising cultural heritage (including EU plans for digital libraries), with a presentation from the National Library of Wales.
- **Football Review** – The Committee will take evidence from UEFA and look at the European angle for its ongoing policy review on football in Wales.

[Local Government and Public Services](#)

[4 October 2006](#)

- **Update on EU issues** – Members will receive a summary of recent developments relating to the Committee’s portfolio.

[Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee](#)

[5 October 2006](#)

- **Special Educational Needs** – The Committee will visit Denmark to gather evidence for its on-going policy review on special educational needs

EU-related topics discussed or noted in the Assembly's Committees

[European and External Affairs Committee](#) – 12 July 2006

- **First Minister's report** – Members discussed the consultation on the state aids map under the regional aid guidelines.
- **Jane Davidson, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning** - the Minister agreed to provide further information notes on: the similarities between the European Qualifications Framework and the Assembly Government’s Credit and Qualifications Framework; the number of students currently undertaking the Welsh Baccalaureate; the modern foreign languages primary schools initiative.
- **Lisbon Strategy** - UK government officials agreed to provide the Committee with a note of the stakeholder meeting held on 24th July in London; and to provide information on future meetings, possibly in Wales.
- **EU citizenship education in other EU Member States** - the Commission's

Office in Wales presented this paper. The Committee agreed to investigate the possibility of the National Assembly assisting in the dissemination of EU publications produced by the European Commission.

[Health and Social Affairs](#) – 5 July 2006

- **Minister's report** – Members discussed NHS Wales' compliance with the current European Working Time Directive and the Welsh Assembly Government's "Designed to Comply" document on the subject; on World Health Organisation child growth standards, the Minister will provide information on the development of breast feeding awareness.

[Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee](#) – 13 July 2006

- **Minister's report** – briefly covered an update on the 2005 Single Payment Scheme, as well as subordinate legislation on seed marketing (transposing EU decision 2004/842/EC) and maximum residue levels of pesticides (transposing directive 2006/53/EC).
- **Rural Development Plan for Wales** – the Committee agreed its response to the Plan.
- **Fisheries** – the Committee considered *The Fishing Boats (Satellite-tracking Devices) (Wales) Scheme 2006* and *The Sea Fishing (Enforcement Of Community Satellite Monitoring Measures) (Wales) Order 2006* implementing Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2244/2003
- **Sheep and Goats double tagging requirement** – The Minister drew the Committee's attention to the *Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement)(Amendment) (Wales) Order 2006*, which aims to address concerns raised by the European Commission regarding a current derogation from the requirements of double tagging.

*Please note transcripts may take 5-10 days to appear after the meeting has taken place

Links

- [National Assembly for Wales homepage](#)
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- [Current Policy reviews - summary of work on-going](#)
- [Assembly Calendar](#)
- [News from the Assembly Parliamentary Service](#)
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This e-mail has been sent to you as we think it may be of interest to you. If you do not wish to receive future editions of this newsletter, or if you have not received this directly and would like to add your name to the mailing list, please e-mail Ross McCalden.

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