

European and External Affairs Committee

Minutes EUR(2) 02-07

Meeting date: 28 February 2007

Meeting time: 9:30 – 12.31

Meeting venue: Committee Room 3, Senedd, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Sandy Mewies (Chair)	Delyn
Rosemary Butler	Newport West
Jeff Cuthbert	Caerphilly
Janet Davies	South Wales West
Mike German	South Wales East
Rhodri Morgan (First Minister)	Cardiff West
Rhodri Glyn Thomas	Carmarthen East and Dinefwr

Officials in Attendance

Name	Job Title
Gary Davies	Head of European and External Affairs
Des Clifford	Head, European Union Brussels Office
Terri Thomas	Head, Countryside Policy Division

Others in Attendance

Name	Representing

Andy Klom	Head of the European Commission Office in Wales
Robert Holmes Tuttle	Ambassador of the United States of America to the Court of St James's
Maria Tuttle	.
Commissioner Margot Wallström	Vice President/Commissioner for Institutional Relations and Communication Strategy

Committee Service

Chris Reading	Committee Clerk
Sarah Bartlett	Deputy Committee Clerk
Anna Daniel	Members' Research Service

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

1.1 Apologies were received from Ieuan Wyn Jones AM, Jonathan Morgan AM, Christine Gwyther AM, Nick Bourne AM, Glenys Kinnock, MEP; Eluned Morgan, MEP; Jonathan Evans, MEP; Jill Evans, MEP and Rose D'Sa.

1.2 A verbatim record of the meeting is available.

Item 2: Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Paper: EUR(2) 01-07 - Minutes of meeting held on 24 January

Paper: EUR(2) 02-07 - Action Outstanding

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

Item 3: First Minister's Report

Paper: EUR(2) 02-07 (p1)

3.1 The First Minister introduced his report.

Action Points:

- The First Minister undertook to provide a breakdown of where students from China are studying in Wales.

- The First Minister undertook to establish whether there was a St David's Day exhibition at the tourist information office in central London.
- The First Minister undertook to circulate a note to Members on progress with the Rural Development Plan, with specific reference to agreement on voluntary modulation and match funding.

Item 4: Policy Review Report

Paper: EUR(2) 02-07 (p2)

4.1 The Committee agreed the recommendations in the draft report.

Action Point:

- The Clerk was asked to circulate the draft policy review report to all Assembly Members, prior to the Local Government and Public Services Committee Report plenary debate on their report on 6 March.
- Subject to any final comments from Members, the Clerk will arrange for translation and printing of the final report.

Item 5: Annual Report, Legacy Paper and EC Work Programme 2007

Paper: EUR(2) 02-07 (p3)

Paper: EUR(2) 02-07 (p4)

Paper: EUR(2) 02-07 (p5)

Paper: EUR(2) 02-07 (p6)

5.1 The Committee agreed the annual report (subject to the amendment described below) and the legacy paper (subject to inclusion of topics from the EC Work Programme 2007).

5.2 The Committee noted the papers on the EC work programme for 2007.

Action Point:

- The Clerk was asked to include a paragraph in the annual report, making reference to the work that the Committee has done regarding the use of the Welsh language in the various EU Institutions.

Item 6: Update from Members of the Committee of the Regions

6.1 The Committee received an oral update from Rosemary Butler AM and Janet Davies AM on recent meetings of the Committee of the Regions.

Action Point:

- Janet Davies AM undertook to provide the Clerk with an electronic copy of a letter she had submitted to ECOS, for circulation to Members.

Item 7: Address by His Excellency Robert Holmes Tuttle, Ambassador of the United States of America to the Court of St James's

7.1 The Committee welcomed the presentation from the Ambassador, including a St David's Day message from President George W Bush.

Item 8: EC Commissioner Margot Wallström

8.1 The Committee welcomed the presentation from the Commissioner concerning how European issues could be better communicated to citizens by politicians and how European citizenship education could be improved.

8.2 The First Minister invited the Commissioner to undertake a formal visit to Wales later in the year. This invitation was accepted.

Action Point:

- The Clerk was asked to send a copy of the Committee's policy review report to Commissioner Wallström.

Closing Remarks

9.1 The First Minister thanked the Chair for her work in chairing the committee over the past four years.

9.2 The Chair thanked the First Minister, Members and officials for their support and wished the successor committee good luck for the future.

Committee Service