

European and External Affairs Committee

Minutes EUR(2) 07-06

Meeting date: 27 September 2006

Meeting time: 9:00 – 11:50

Meeting venue: Committee Rooms 1&2, Senedd, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Jeff Cuthbert	Caerphilly
Rosemary Butler	Newport West
Nick Bourne	Mid and West Wales
Janet Davies	South Wales West
Mike German	South Wales East
Christine Gwyther	Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire
Ieuan Wyn Jones	Ynys Mon
Jonathan Morgan	South Wales Central
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
Phillip Bird	Head of EU Policy Secretariat
Cathy Presland	Wales European Funding Office
Damien O'Brien	Planning and Strategy Division
Neil Thomas	Head of European and International Division

Others in Attendance

Name	Representing	Agenda item(s)
Andy Klom	Head of the European Commission Office in Wales	All
Rose D'Sa	European Economic and Social Committee	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
Ian Thomson	Director, South Wales Europe Direct Information Centre	5
Dr Kevin Higgins	Director, British Council Wales	6
Martin Davidson	Deputy Director General British Council	6
Andy Egan	Team Leader, DFID Global Schools Partnership	6
Sue Ling	European Services Division, British Council	6
Andrew Templeton	British Council Wales	6

Committee Service

Chris Reading	Clerk
Abigail Phillips	Deputy Clerk

As Sandy Mewies AM was unavoidably absent, the Committee appointed Jeff Cuthbert AM as temporary Chair, in accordance with Standing Order 8.20.

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

1.1 Apologies were received from Sandy Mewies AM, Jonathan Evans MEP, Glenys Kinnock MEP, Eluned Morgan MEP and Jill Evans MEP.

1.2 A verbatim record of the meeting is available

Item 2: Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising Paper: EUR(2) 06-06 - Minutes of meeting held on 12 July Paper: EUR(2) 07-06 - Action Outstanding

2.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July were agreed as a true record.

2.2 Action Outstanding schedule: there were no comments.

2.3 Following the receipt of a letter from Jenny Randerson AM, Chair of the Committee on Standing Orders, requesting an outline of what Members considered the functions of EEAC to be post 2007, the committee resolved to discuss the matter at their next meeting on 25 October.

Item 3: First Minister's Report

Paper: EUR(2) 07-06 (p.1)

3.1 The First Minister introduced his report.

Actions Point:

- The First Minister agreed to provide a note on the changes made by the European Commission to the Community Framework on Research and Development.
- Nick Bourne AM agreed to issue a note to the First Minister outlining his specific concerns regarding the European Parliament's modulation policy and the planned REACH legislation
- The First Minister agreed that relevant statistics for Brazil, China and India would be included in future growth comparisons.

Item 4: Operational Plan for Convergence Funding (WEFO)

Paper: EUR(2) 07-06 (p.2)

4.1 The Committee considered the update on the Operational Programme for the EU Convergence Funding 2007 – 2013.

Action Points:

- The First Minister agreed to consider whether, or not, to present the proposed Convergence Operational Programme to a plenary session of the National Assembly for approval, following the consultation.
- The Clerk was asked to draft a response to the consultation that reflected the views of the Committee, based on the transcript.

Item 5: Policy Review: South Wales Direct Information Centre

Paper: EUR(2) 07-06 (p.3)

5.1 The Committee received evidence from the South Wales Direct Information Centre for the review of Global and European Citizenship Education.

Item 6: Policy Review: British Council

Paper: EUR(2) 07-06 (p.4)

6.1 The Committee received evidence from the British Council for the review of Global and

European Citizenship Education.

Item 7: Subsidiarity: 2nd Test phase, consider invitation

7.1 The Committee agreed to take part in the 2nd test phase; but to deal with this matter informally.

Action Points:

- The Committee will form a working group to consider the issues.
- The Clerk will arrange a suitable meeting for the working group.

Item 8: Update from Members of the Committee of Regions

8.1 The Committee received an oral update from the Committee of Regions

Committee Service