

# European and External Affairs Committee

## Minutes (EUR(3)-02-07)

**Date:** 25 September 2007

**Time:** 9.30am – 11.30am

**Venue:** Committee Room 3, National Assembly for Wales

### Assembly Members in Attendance

Sandy Mewies AM (Chair), Delyn  
Nicholas Bourne AM, Mid & West Wales  
Christine Chapman AM, Cynon Valley  
Jeff Cuthbert AM, Caerphilly  
Nerys Evans AM, Mid and West Wales  
Gareth Jones AM, Arberconwy  
Mike German AM, South Wales East  
William Graham AM, South Wales East  
Val Lloyd AM, Swansea East

### Officials in Attendance

Anna Daniel, Head of National Assembly for Wales European Union Office  
Andy Klom, Head of European Commission Office in Wales

### Committee Service

Chris Reading, Clerk  
Olga Lewis, Deputy Clerk

### Item 1: Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

- 1.1 There were no apologies or substitutions
- 1.2 A verbatim record of the meeting is available.

### Item 2: Inquiry into the European Investment Bank

- 2.1 At the informal meeting in July, Members proposed to undertake a scrutiny inquiry into the role of the European Investment Bank (EIB). The Committee considered a scoping paper and agreed the terms of reference, programme and possible witnesses; to include TUC Wales. The terms of reference were expanded to include exemplars of how the European Investment Bank operates outside the United Kingdom. The Committee was interested to learn more about the 'JEREMIE', 'JESSICA' programmes.
- 2.2 The Clerk undertook to seek advice on whether approval would be required from HM Treasury for any borrowing by the Welsh Assembly Government from the European Investment Bank.
- 2.3 The Clerk undertook to prepare a note on the role of the Committee.
- 2.4 The Clerk undertook to explore options for gathering evidence for the European Investment Bank inquiry, during the visit to Brussels in the spring.

### Item 3: Oral Report from the European Commission

- 3.1 Mr Andy Klom, Head of the European Commission Office in Wales provided an oral update on relevant activity by the European Commission.
- 3.2 Mr Klom undertook to provide Val Lloyd AM with the information on current activity of the six 'Europe Direct Centres' in Wales.
- 3.3 Mr Klom undertook to provide the Clerk with information leaflets on the work of the European Commission, for distribution to Assembly Members.

### Item 4: Forward Work Programme

- 4.1 The Committee agreed its priorities and asked the Clerk to prepare a forward work programme. The Leader of the Opposition and other Members asked for frequent, regular reports from the First Minister.
- 4.2 The Chair undertook to write to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing to enquire whether the Welsh Assembly Government proposes to respond to the consultation on the Green Paper on a European climate change adaptation programme.

4.3 The Chair to write to the Chairs of other committees; asking if they intend to consider the European Commission's work programme, when it is issued later this year.

4.4 The Chair to circulate Members with the key points agreed at her meeting with the First Minister on 3 October 2007.