

European and External Affairs Committee

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Forward Work Programme

Purpose

1. To consider the forward work programme.

Background

2. At a meeting on 7 February, the Committee agreed four priority areas from the European Commission's Annual work Programme; 'subsidiarity', the future of regional policy, the CAP health check and the Lisbon strategy.
3. Meetings will be held on Thursday mornings through the summer and autumn terms. It is assumed that Members wish to continue to hold meetings at approximately monthly intervals. The proposed meeting dates are 17 April, 15 May, 19 June and 17 July.
4. The First Minister is available for the meeting on 19 June and this has been included in his diary.
5. It is suggested that Members could invite the Minister for Rural affairs to the meeting on 15 May to update the Committee on outcome of the Assembly Government's consultation on the CAP health check. Also, at this meeting the Committee could consider the issues that have emerged from the inquiry into the European Investment Bank, and frame recommendations to be included in the report.
6. Alternatively, the Committee could invite Andrew Duff MEP to address the issues of 'subsidiarity' and the need for agreement between the Westminster Parliament and the devolved institutions, to implement the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty.
7. Other possible topics, in addition to those included in the briefing paper, are an update of the activities of the 'Europe Direct Centres' in Wales, an update on the activities of the All-Wales Programme Monitoring Committee and a video link with Welsh Members of the European Parliament.

Action

8. Members are invited to discuss the attached briefing paper, produced by the Members' Research Service, and agree topics to be included in the forward work programme for the summer and autumn terms.

Committee Service