

# European and External Affairs Committee

## Minutes (EUR(3) 05-08)

**Date:** 19 June 2008

**Time:** 9.00am - 11.00am

**Venue:** Committee Room 2, Senedd

### Assembly Members in Attendance

Sandy Mewies, Delyn (Chair)

Jeff Cuthbert, Caerphilly

Nerys Evans, Mid and West Wales

Michael German, South Wales East

William Graham, South Wales East

### Committee Service

Kathryn Jenkins, Clerk

Daniel Collier, Deputy Clerk

### Others in Attendance

Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM, First Minister

Gary Davies, Head of European and External Affairs

Philip Bird, Head of European Policy Secretariat

Rory O'Sullivan, Head of Countryside Policy Division

Jeff Andrews, Department of the First Minister

Jeff Davies, Chair, Land Use Working Group, Wales Environment Link

Michele Aitchison, Advocacy Officer, Wales Environment Link

### 1: Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public.

1.2 Following the reconstitution of the Committee, the Chair thanked former Members for their contributions.

### 2: Additional Item - Oral update on Committee of Regions

2.1 Nerys Evans updated the Committee on proceedings in the Committee of Regions.

#### Action point:

The Clerk to liaise with Nerys Evans regarding Committee input to discussions of the Committee of the Regions and to ensure that where appropriate Members receive the Committee's briefs.

### 3: Video Conference Session - European Commission proposals on the Common Agricultural Policy health check

#### Paper: EUR(3) 05-08 - Paper 1

3.1 The Committee received a presentation from Klaus-Dieter Borchardt, DG Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission, and questioned him on the Commission's proposals on the Common Agricultural Policy health check.

### 4: Scrutiny of the First Minister

#### Paper: EUR(3) 05-08 - Paper 2

4.1 In addition to his written memorandum, the First Minister updated the Committee on the following:

Implications for Wales following Ireland's decision not to ratify the Treaty of Lisbon.

Wind fall gains for Wales following the 2000 - 2006 Structural Funds Programme as a result of devaluation of Sterling against the Euro.

4.2 The Committee scrutinised the First Minister.

### 5: Wales Environment Link evidence on the European Commission proposals on the Common Agricultural Policy health check

#### Paper: EUR(3) 05-08 - Paper 3

5.1 The Committee welcomed Jeff Davies, Chair, Land Use Working Group, Wales Environment Link; and Michele Aitchison, Advocacy Officer, Wales Environment Link.

5.2 The Committee scrutinised the witnesses.

**Action point:**

**Committee Service to:**

Distribute 'New challenges, new CAP' published by Birdlife International and 'Beyond the Pillars: Wildlife and Countryside Link's policy perspective on the future of the CAP' published by Wildlife and Countryside Link to the Committee.

**Papers to note:**

**Report on the European Commission conference on Application of the Principle of Subsidiarity - 19 May 2008**

**Paper: EUR(3) 05-08 - Paper 4**

The Chair thanked the Members' Research Service for their succinct and useful report. A scoping paper on subsidiarity would follow the next meeting

**Minutes of the last meeting**

**Paper: EUR(3) 04-08 - Minutes**

The Committee ratified the minutes of the 15 May meeting.

**Action Point:**

The Clerk to:

Draft a report of the EC-UK Forum of Chairs and Clerks on 30 June for the Committee to consider at its next meeting.

**Committee Service**

**June 2008**