

European and External Affairs Committee

Minutes : EUR(3)-09-10 : 8 June 2010

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Time: 9.21 - 11.00

Venue: Committee Room 1, Senedd

Assembly Members in attendance

Rhodri Morgan, Cardiff West (Chair)
Jeff Cuthbert, Caerphilly
Rhodri Glyn Thomas, Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
Mike German, South Wales East
Nick Ramsay, Monmouth

Witnesses

Rosemary Butler, Member of BIPA Steering Committee (Item 2)
Robert Lloyd-Williams, International Relations Manager, National Assembly for Wales (Item 2)
Jon Townley, Head of International Sustainable Development/Wales for Africa, Welsh Government (Item 3)
Travers Merrill, Small and Medium-sized Development Organisations in Wales Network (Item 3)
Chris Johnes, Head of Oxfam Cymru (Item 3)

Committee Staff

Lara Date, Clerk
Sarita Marshall, Deputy Clerk
Gregg Jones, MRS
Gwyn Griffiths, Legal Adviser

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

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public.
- 1.2 Apologies had been received from Nick Bourne. Nick Ramsay was substituting.
- 1.3 Mike German made an informal declaration of interest that he is the Honorary President of Dolen Cymru, which receives money from the Wales for Africa programme.
- 1.4 The Chair congratulated Mike German on being named as a Working Peer in the Dissolution Honours list.
- 1.5 The Chair informed the Committee that he had presented a paper at the 10th Doha Forum on Democracy, Development and Free Trade. He also informed Members that he would be speaking at the Wilton Park Anglo-German Forum in July, Wilton Park being the Foreign and Commonwealth Office study centre.

Item 2: International Relations: Update on Assembly Members' activities: British-Irish Parliament Assembly

Papers:

EUR(3)-09-10 (p.1) - BIPA
EUR(3)-09-10 (p.1a) - BIPA - Supplementary paper on macro-regions
EUR(3)-09-10 (p.2) - CALRE
EUR(3)-09-10 (p.3) - Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

2.1 The Committee received an update on Members' activities in external bodies, with an oral update on the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly.

Actions

Rosemary Butler to supply the Committee with any further information available on bilateral work between Wales and Northern Ireland within BIPA on cross-border issues including Structural Funding.

Rosemary Butler to feedback to the BIPA Secretariat on future BIPA consideration of the handling of the public sector deficit reduction programmes of various Member States as a topic of common interest.

Item 3: International relations: Wales for Africa International Development Summit

Papers:

EUR(3)-09-10(p.4) - Welsh Government

EUR(3)-09-10(p.5) - SMIDOS

EUR(3)-09-10(p.6) - Oxfam Cymru

3.1 The Committee heard from presenters about how the Welsh Government supports international development activity; the activities of smaller and larger organisations working in this field and the issues they face; and how the quality and impact of that work can be maximised in the future.

Action

The Committee's legal adviser to provide a note on the differing legal basis for international development activities undertaken by the devolved Governments of Scotland and Wales.

Item 4: Scrutiny Inquiry into Future of Cohesion Policy -Consideration of 2nd interim report

Paper: EUR(3)-09-10(p.7)

4.1 The Chair moved a motion, under Standing Order 10.37(ix), to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting, to discuss matters relating to the Committee's internal business.

4.2 The Committee agreed to the motion.

Action

The report was agreed for publication before the end of term, subject to amendments to be circulated by the Clerk for agreement in correspondence.

5: Papers Noted

5.1 The Committee noted the following papers:

EUR(3)-09-10(p.8) Paper from Welsh Higher Education Brussels on FP8

EUR(3)-09-10(p.9) Paper from Wales for Africa Health Links Network

Minutes of previous meeting - EUR(3)-08-10