

European & External Affairs Committee

EUR(3)-10-08 : (Paper 1) : 13 November 2008

First Minister Report

Purpose

This report is provided in response to an invitation from the Committee Chair to present an update on a range of issues and specifically, at the Chair's request, on the EU budget; the Lisbon strategy; subsidiarity; progress of the European Commission proposals on the CAP Health Check and the First Minister's response to the European Commission's Forward Work Programme.

Recommendation

1. That members note the content of the report.

Background

2. I last addressed the Committee on 19 June 2008. This paper provides an update.

First Minister's International Activities

- **23/24 June 2008 - Visit of HE Mr Ron Prosor, Envoy of the State of Israel, accompanied by his Deputy Head of Mission and Cultural Attaché**

During his visit HE Ambassador Ron Prosor, Envoy of the State of Israel and I identified possible areas of cooperation between Wales and Israel as rural and crop sciences, energy conservation / climate change, trade and education.

The Cultural Attaché, who followed a separate programme, made contacts with the Museum of Welsh Life, St Fagan's, Hay Book Festival, the Marketing and Sponsorship team at Cardiff County Council and Assembly officials in Culture and Creative Business.

- **26 June 2008 – Wales Somaliland Links Event, Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff**

This event, was organised by the Wales Somaliland Community Links Project which is funded by the Assembly Government's Wales for Africa Programme. Over 100 members of the Somaliland community in Wales attended along with representatives of the wider Welsh community. I met with Edna Adan Ismail, former First Lady of Somalia and then Somaliland who has built a maternity hospital in Hargeisa, the capital of the unrecognised Republic of

Somaliland. In her speech she urged the many young Welsh Somalilanders present, in an inspirational address, to take advantage of the opportunities which surround them in Wales and to start doing more for the country of origin of their parents and grandparents.

- **27 June 2008 – Address to the NHS Wales for Africa Health Links Group Annual Conference, Dylan Thomas Centre in Swansea**

This conference provided an opportunity to support and promote the work of the NHS Wales for Africa Health Links Group and to encourage other segments of the NHS in Wales to be involved.

- **30 June 08 - Visit of HE Carlos Santos-Neves, Brazilian Ambassador to the UK**

I was pleased to welcome HE Ambassador Carlos Santos-Neves, the newly appointed Brazilian Ambassador to the UK, on a familiarisation visit to Wales.

The Ambassador met with the Head of Wales Pre 2012 Olympic Games Training and agreed to pass on details of Welsh venues to colleagues in Brazil. He was also keen to get members of his trade team to Wales to discuss sector opportunities between Brazilian and Welsh companies.

- **1 & 2 July 08 - Visit by Members of the Standing Committee of the Parliament of Baden-Württemberg, Germany**

This was a familiarisation visit by Members of the Standing Committee of the Parliament of Baden-Württemberg, we discussed a number of matters including the MOU with Baden- Württemberg and whether it needed re-activating.

Members of the EEA and EL committees were able to discuss matters of particular interest to their areas of work.

- **9 July 2008 – Visit of Edgar Zalans, Minister for Regional Development & Local Government for the Republic of Latvia**

Edgar Zalans, Minister for Regional Development & Local Government for the Republic of Latvia was keen to learn more about long term development in Wales and in particular 'The Wales Spatial Plan'. Arrangements were made for the Minister to meet with Cardiff University's School of City & Regional Planning, to tour the Senedd, Cardiff Bay and International Sports Village.

I understand that the Minister has suggested returning to Wales with other planning officials to discuss the 'Spatial Plan for Wales' in more detail.

- **10 July 2008 – Meeting with Dr Dmetri Piskounov, MD of the Programme Development and Technical Co-operation Division of UNIDO (UN Industrial Development Organisation)**

I met with Dr Dmetri Piskounov during his visit to Wales to understand better what Wales could do to help the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation's (UNIDO) mission to alleviate poverty in developing countries through sustainable industrial development.

- **21 July 2008 – Reception hosted by the Prime Minister of the French Republic, François Fillon and his wife Penelope in Paris**

I was delighted to attend a reception hosted by Prime Minister François Fillon and his Welsh wife Penelope (from Llanover near Abergavenny) at their official residence, the Hotel Matignon to encourage more French investment in Wales, and more two-way trade and partnership.

- **2 & 3 August 2008 – Visit of Mayor Wang, from the Mayor of the Chongqing Municipality, China and his delegation**

I welcomed Mayor Wang and his delegation to Wales as a further example of the relationship developed over the past 2 years with the Municipality of Chongqing. The delegation visited Enfis, the Swansea-based company which has a joint venture with Tianhai Medical Equipment company, Chongqing; the Swansea Technium; the National Waterfront Museum; and Techniquet.

- **8 August 2008 – Meeting with Mayor of Chubut**

I met the Mayor of Chubut during his visit to the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff. He is very keen on the link with Wales and the Wladfa Welsh heritage. He represents a new generation of locally elected leaders in Patagonia.

- **4 September 2008 – UDiTE Congress Event**

I gave the opening address to UDiTE, the European Federation of Local Government Chief Executives from across 14 European countries. The event was being held in Wales for the first time and was an opportunity to address key policy makers and to showcase Cardiff and Wales.

- **9 Sept 2008 – Visit of Republic of Latvia Ambassador to the UK, HE Mr Indulis Berzins**

HE Ambassador Mr Indulis Berzins, Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia to the UK attended the EU Mock Council event with me as Jaunpiebalga Secondary School, Latvia (which is twinned with Tredegar Comprehensive) was taking part in the event.

The Ambassador also joined me to meet with Latvian Local Authority Chief Executives attending the UDiTE Conference in Cardiff.

10 September – World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) dinner

I was guest speaker at the WIPO gala dinner. The dinner marked the start of WIPO's 2 day Forum on Intellectual Property, covering the use of IP assets by innovators and SMEs. This year's forum, the 5th to be held and the first in Wales, was attended by representatives of 30 countries and 50 institutions.

- **19 – 21 September 2008 - Ryder Cup, Kentucky**

I visited Kentucky in September to attend the final Ryder Cup competition before this major event comes to Wales in October 2010. It is crucial for Wales to learn all the lessons possible from previous hosts to ensure we maximise the chances of success when the Ryder Cup comes to Newport.

- **6 October 2008 – Meeting with USA Ambassador to the UK HE Robert Tuttle**

I met HE Ambassador Tuttle at the US Embassy in London. We discussed the global financial situation and its impact on American inward investment and re-investment by American companies already in Wales.

- **7 – 8 October 08 – Visit by Polish Ambassador to the UK, HE Ms Barbara Tuge-Erecińska**

I met the Ambassador who was accompanied by the Consul General, based in Manchester, who has responsibility for Wales. The Ambassador expressed the intention to appoint an honorary consul to Poland in Wales. She also met members of the Polish community in Wales.

- **8 October 2008 – Meeting with Ugandan Minister, Luwero Triangle**

I met the Ugandan Minister and we discussed the opportunity to promote even stronger links between Wales and Uganda. He met the main activists leading Welsh projects in Uganda, some of which are in the Triangle.

- **10 October 2008 – Wales Forum on Europe, Trinity College, Carmarthen**

I hosted the Wales Forum on Europe which focused on the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008. Further details of the event are available later on in my report.

- **15 & 16 October 2008 – Visit of the President of the Republic of Estonia, Mr Toomas Hendrik Ilves**

I was delighted to welcome President of the Republic of Estonia Mr Toomas Hendrik Ilves on his first visit to Wales. The President also addressed the Assembly.

- **15 October 2008 – Visit of Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan, HE Mr Kairat Abusseitov**

HE Mr Kairat Abusseitov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan is a newly appointed ambassador.

During my meeting with him we discussed potential cooperation in education, IGER, ADAS, Agriculture / forestry and minerals.

- **16 October 2008 – Visit of Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany HE Mr Georg Boomgaarden**

This was another introductory visit by a newly appointed ambassador and an opportunity for him to familiarise himself with the different regions of the UK and the process of devolution. Wales is the first part of the UK outside London he has visited to date. We discussed the credit crunch and the funding of devolved administrations in the UK and Germany, in the context of the Holtham Commission.

The Ambassador was given briefings on devolution and the Welsh language. He met with International Business Wales officials and paid a company visit to Waldon Ltd in Tonyrefail – a German owned automotive manufacturer.

- **16 October 2008 – Meeting with Leonard Orban, European Commissioner for Multilingualism**

I met the European Commissioner for Multilingualism, Leonard Orban to discuss multilingualism and the use of Welsh at EU institutions.

The Commissioner was in Cardiff to meet members of the Welsh Language Board and to visit a Welsh-medium school. I had the opportunity to speak with the Commissioner jointly with The Minister for Heritage. The Commissioner also met with the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, had a meeting with AMs and attended a reception at the European Commission Office in Wales.

- **17 October 2008 – Visit of Foreign Secretary, the Rt Hon David Miliband**

I met and hosted lunch for the Rt Hon David Miliband MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs during his visit to Wales. Guests included representatives of other political parties, the European and External Affairs Committee and the Director of the British Council in Wales. In the afternoon I joined the Foreign Secretary at a Q&A for an invited audience drawn from the Somali community.

- **20 October 2008 – Meeting with Danuta Hübner, European Commissioner for Regional Policy**

I met the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Danuta Hübner, who was in Cardiff to speak at the meeting of the Homologues Group, consisting of representatives from the national control bodies of the 27 Member states, as well as the European Commission's audit services for the Structural Funds, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Court of Auditors.

The Commissioner and I discussed issues relating to Structural Funds and co-operation between Wales and the Commission.

- **12 November 2008 - Reception with King Letsie III, King of Lesotho**

This reception was to welcome the King of Lesotho to Wales – on the occasion of the Wales and South Africa rugby match in Cardiff and also to promote the already strong links between Wales and Lesotho.

Other Issues

EU Budget

As stated in my previous report, the Welsh Assembly Government submitted its response to the European Commission's consultation on the EU Budget Review in April. The response set out our view on the direction of EU spending post-2013, advocating continued financial support for achieving the goals of the EU's Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs (incorporating the associated Gothenburg Agenda for sustainable development), for transitional funding for regions moving out of Convergence funding and for further simplification in the management of EU funds. The response is available, in both Welsh and English, on the Commission's website for reforming the budget.

Following on from the consultation, Commission President José Manuel Barroso will host a conference in November on "Reforming the Budget, Changing Europe". One of my officials will be representing the Assembly Government.

It had been expected that the Commission would issue a White Paper in the latter part of 2008, building on the responses to the consultation and the conference. However, it now appears likely that this will be published next year. My officials will continue their full engagement with the EU Budget Review process.

Lisbon Strategy

The work on this year's UK National Reform Programme (NRP), the document which details the policies in the UK that support the EU's Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs, has continued with full engagement by the Welsh Assembly Government, since my last report to the Committee. A Welsh Assembly

Government official participated in June in a meeting at the Treasury to discuss the NRP, involving a team from the Commission and officials from Whitehall Departments and the other Devolved Administrations.

Our engagement and involvement in the process resulted in the incorporation of a significant range of contributions from the Assembly Government in this year's document. These covered a number of areas including: skills and training; employment; R&D, innovation and entrepreneurship; business support; childcare; housing supply; climate change; energy; and sustainable development.

I endorsed the NRP, together with the other Devolved Administrations and the relevant UK Government Cabinet Committee, in early September and the document was published, and submitted to the Commission, at the end of the month. It is expected that the Commission will respond to the NRP, and issue recommendations, in December.

The Assembly Government will remain committed to the Lisbon Strategy and my officials will continue their engagement in the NRP process. It is expected that the EU, and its Member States and regions, will, in the near future, start considering the future of the Lisbon Strategy beyond 2010 and my officials will be fully involved in that process.

Subsidiarity

The Welsh Assembly Government has a strong interest in the principle of subsidiarity and, indeed, was active in securing references to the principle in the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe. This approach was maintained and a Subsidiarity Protocol was incorporated in the Treaty of Lisbon.

Under the Protocol, if it were to come into force, it would be for each national (Member State) parliament or each chamber of a national parliament to consult, where appropriate, regional parliaments with legislative powers on the compliance of draft legislative acts with the principle of subsidiarity. The Assembly Government supports this approach. The next steps to be taken will depend on the outcome of the Treaty process.

CAP Health Check

Negotiations are on-going at an EU level. The aim remains to reach political agreement at the November Agricultural and Rural Development Council.

The Welsh Assembly Government - at Ministerial and at official level - is fully engaged in shaping the UK negotiating priorities as events move towards the EU end-game position.

European Commission's Forward Work Programme

Publication of the European Commission's Forward Work Programme has been delayed; therefore it is not possible to include an analysis within my report. The Forward Work Programme is likely to be short as it will only cover the period until the next Commission takes office and will be subject to review.

Treaty Of Lisbon

The Irish Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, presented an analysis of the results of the referendum on the Treaty of Lisbon to the October Council of the European Union. The Irish Government will continue its consultations with a view to contributing to finding a way to resolve the situation. On that basis, the Council agreed to return to this matter at the next meeting in December with a view to defining elements of a solution and a common path to be followed.

Joint Ministerial Committee On The European Union (Jmc(E))

I attended JMC(E) on Monday 6th October. The items discussed were the prospects for the European Council (subsequently held on 15th and 16th October), UK-Devolved Administration co-ordination, and Climate Change. The next JMC(E) is scheduled for Monday 1st December.

Territorial Cohesion

The European Commission published a Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion on October 6, beginning a consultation that will conclude at the end of February 2009. The work on Territorial Cohesion will likely run alongside the ongoing EU Budget Review. The Assembly Government participated in a conference on Territorial Cohesion, organised by the French EU Presidency, at the end of October and we will remain fully engaged in the process. The Assembly Government will be considering a response to the consultation and we would also encourage stakeholders in Wales to respond.

Mock Council of the European Union – 9 September 2008 Tŷ Hywel, Cardiff Bay

European and External Affairs Division's EU Policy Secretariat held a Mock Council of the European Union in the Siambr Fach, Tŷ Hywel. I hosted the event, which was chaired by Sandy Mewies AM. The Mock Council involved the participation of students from 27 schools across Wales and one school from Latvia, reflecting our bilateral relationship. Each of the schools represented the government of an EU Member State, with the final school representing the European Commission.

The students debated, and voted, on two topical issues affecting the European Union – Climate Change (the use of renewable sources of energy) and Enlargement. Also in attendance were Reijo Kemppinen, Head of the European Commission Office in the UK, and His Excellency Indulis Bērziņš, Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia to the UK. This was the first of what is expected to become an annual event.

European Year Of Intercultural Dialogue – 10 October 2008 Trinity College, Carmarthen

EEAD's EU Policy Secretariat held a Wales Forum on Europe in Trinity College focusing on the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008. I hosted the event, which considered the impact that linguistic diversity, migration and multiculturalism has had on the EU and Wales, particularly in an era of EU enlargement and globalisation, and the importance of intercultural dialogue in addressing these issues.

The event was chaired by Dr Medwin Hughes, Principal of Trinity College, and key speakers included Jean-Pierre Thomin, member of the Regional Council of Brittany, Alison Crabb, of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education and Culture, and Meri Huws, Chair of the Welsh Language Board. I had the opportunity to discuss with M. Thomin the bilateral relationship between Wales and Brittany and our cultural links.

The event helped to stimulate discussion and awareness of the issues of 'regional and minority' languages, including Welsh and Breton, and the interaction of different cultures, post-enlargement. Delegates represented a wide range of organisations, including local governments, town twinning associations, Europe Direct Centres and universities.

European Awareness Days

As part of the Welsh Assembly Government's EU Communications Strategy for raising awareness of EU issues, EEAD hosted an information stand in Cathays Park on 26 September to celebrate the European Day of Languages.

They displayed and distributed brochures and booklets informing colleagues about language learning and the achievements and activities of the European Union.

Education and Training

In my report to EEAC on 19 June I noted work underway through the Welsh Assembly Government's membership of EARLALL (the European Association for Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning) to develop Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) in the field of educational mobility. This work continues with the signing, at the Wales end, of a MoU with the Balearic Islands Government by the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills on 20 October, when a delegation of FE professionals from the Balearic Islands was in Wales developing inter-institutional links. The MoU will come into force when signed by the Balearic Islands Minister at an international mobility event in Mallorca in January. These links with the Balearic Islands follow the piloting of student exchanges between Welsh FE colleges and partner institutions in the Balearic Islands last year. Student mobility is a strong feature of France's EU Presidency, consequently we can

expect greater emphasis on mobility in the future, and I want Welsh students to be able to take best advantage of these learning opportunities.

Festival Interceltique Lorient, Brittany

Wales was the Nation of Honour at the Festival in August. During the 10-day festival over 300,000 Festival-goers visited the Wales Pavilion where they were able to sample Welsh food & drink and learn more about Welsh cultural tourism, business opportunities while enjoying an extensive programme of musical performances. We were represented by the Heritage Minister.

Smithsonian Folklife Festival

We are preparing for Wales being the guest nation at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in 2009. This annual, cultural Festival takes place outdoors during the 4th July holiday period on the National Mall in Washington DC. This evening (13 November) I will host an event in the Senedd to officially launch the Festival programme and to profile the ancillary activities planned as part of the wider Wales Smithsonian Cymru project to target specific sectors and audiences beyond the remit of the Festival programme itself. Tonight's event provides an opportunity to thank all the partners involved in the project to date and affords a chance for them to meet each other. It is also an opportunity for us to encourage further support and advocacy from potential sponsors and additional partners. There is already significant media interest in the project and this event will also enable us to foster that.

Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM
First Minister

EEAC FIRST MINISTER'S REPORT

Date	Assembly Minister/Official/ Division	Event	Objectives	Outcomes
23/24 June 2008	Minister for Rural Affairs	Agriculture Council in Luxembourg	Attend Council – to be party to the discussions on CAP health check and Fuel Crisis Affecting the Fishing Industry.	Secured a meeting of Devolved Ministers to agree collectively on key Issues.
23/24 June 2008	First Minister	Visit of HE Mr Ron Prosor, Envoy of the State of Israel, accompanied by his Deputy Head of Mission and Cultural Attaché	To discuss areas of possible co-operation in relation to inward/outward trade development and cultural ties. To address Members at the invitation of Mohammad Asghar Plaid Cymru Assembly Member for South Wales East on the Israeli/Palestinian situation	Ambassador met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Minister • Party Leaders • Mohammad Asghar & other Members Areas of cooperation identified as rural and crop sciences, energy conservation / climate change, trade and education. The Ambassador attended a gathering of approx. 150 people from synagogues in Swansea, Cardiff and Newport. The Cultural Attaché made contacts with the Museum of Welsh Life, St Fagan's, Hay Book Festival, the Marketing and Sponsorship team at

				Cardiff County Council and Assembly officials in Culture and Creative Business.
26 June 2008	First Minister	Somaliland Event	To promote links between Wales and Somaliland, particularly the Somali Community in Wales with communities in Somaliland.	Discussion at the conference helped to further the relationships and emerging work on Health and School links between Somaliland and Wales.
27 June 2008	First Minister	Address the NHS Wales for Africa Health Links Group Annual Conference	To support and promote the work of the NHS Wales for Africa Health Links Group and to encourage others to be involved.	Information was shared on the successful health links with Africa taking place across Wales. People with an interest in establishing new links were shown ideas and advice on setting those up.
30 June 08	First Minister	Visit of His Excellency Carlos Santos-Neves, Brazilian Ambassador to the UK	Familiarisation visit by a newly appointed ambassador.	Ambassador met with the Head of Wales Pre 2012 Olympic Games Training and agreed to pass on details of Welsh venues to colleagues in Brazil. He was also keen to get members of his trade team to Wales to discuss sector opportunities between Brazilian and Welsh companies.
1 & 2 July 08	First Minister	Visit by Members of the Standing Committee of the Parliament of Baden-	The delegation was interested in the constitutional structure of the UK and the process of devolution. Other fields of interest were questions of economic and media policy.	The group had a full and interesting programme with opportunities of meeting First Minister and other Assembly Members. This gave First Minister an opportunity to express support for the MOU with Baden-Württemberg.

		Württemberg, Germany		The members of the EEA and EL committees were able to discuss matters of particular interest to their areas of work.
9 July 08	First Minister	Visit of Edgars Zalans, Minister for Regional Development & Local Government for the Republic of Latvia	To enable the Minister to learn more about long term development in Wales and in particular 'The Wales Spatial Plan'. (Minister Zalans is a qualified architect and was previously a special advisor on Spatial Planning to the former Minister)	Minister met with Cardiff University School of City & Regional Planning, toured the Senedd, Cardiff Bay and International Sports Village. He also visited Cardiff Castle. Following a meeting with the Head of the Wales Spatial Plan Unit, Minister Zalans requested that he return with other planning officials to discuss the 'Spatial Plan for Wales' in more detail.
10 July 2008	First Minister	Meeting with Dr Dmetri Piskounov of UNIDO	This meeting was the highlight of a visit to Wales by the new MD of the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO). He was visiting Wales so as to understand better what Wales could do to help UNIDO's mission to alleviate poverty in developing countries through sustainable industrial development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signing by Mr Piskounov and Gareth Hall of a Joint Declaration, which signals the mutual wish to work together; • Subsequently Mr Piskounov arranged an invitation for the FM to address the UNIDO Industrial Development Board in December. This was declined due to other commitments; • Based on the positive dialogue with the FM, Mr Piskounov's assistant, who was also present, made a further visit to Wales in

				early October to help develop mutually agreeable proposals for moving forward.
14 July 2008	Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong learning and skills	Meeting with delegation from Baden-Wurtemberg	To discuss how to maximise the economic impact of Higher Education. To explore the potential for research collaboration between Wales and Baden-Württemberg.	As described
21-22 July 2008	First Minister	Visit to France	The visit comprised a reception hosted by the French Prime Minister at his Official Residence, and one-to-one meetings with important inward investors Alcatel (who have an operation in Newport) and Sword IT (Cwmbran). The reception was focussed heavily on the inward investment impact that French companies have had and continue to have on Wales and provided a good opportunity build on the economic links between the two nations.	The reception helped generate 9 visits to companies for IBW Officials to pursue and 3 company visits to Wales. The one-to-one meetings with Alcatel and Sword IT provided the opportunity to discuss their current operations in Wales and any possible future opportunities for further development that may exist.
2 & 3 August 2008	First Minister & Deputy First Minister	Visit by Mayor Wang of Chongqing, China + delegation	To underpin the relationship developed over the past 2 years with the Municipality of Chongqing. The programme included visits to Technium Swansea, Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff Bay, the 2010 Ryder Cup golf course, the Waterfront Museum, Techniquet and Caerphilly Castle. During this visit:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further strengthening of the relationship between Wales and Chongqing. • Subsequent to the visit Techniquet Cardiff and the Science and Technology Association in Chongqing have been discussing signing a agreement to share expertise, exhibits etc. It is hoped that this

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enfis (LED technology solutions and systems to the lighting, medical, industrial and consumer markets) signed an agreement with Tianhai Medical Manufacturing. • The Chinese School in Cardiff presented a cheque to the mayor for the Sichuan earthquake appeal • Children from Oakfield Primary School, Cardiff presented the Mayor with some of their work to take to their twinned school in Chongqing (Oakfield is just 1 of more than 30 school in Wales twinned with schools in Chongqing) 	will be signed November 2008.
6 August 2008	Minister for Heritage	Meeting with Patagonian Students at Eisteddfod	Informal, unplanned meeting with Patagonian students at the Eisteddfod.	No formal outcomes.
8 August 2008	First Minister	Meeting with Mayor of Chubut at Eisteddfod	This was an informal meeting at the National Eisteddfod where the First Minister and the Mayor of Chebut had the opportunity to introduce themselves.	No formal outcomes.
29 August 2008	First Minister	Meeting with Dr Grube, Chairman of EADS	Meet and greet between the First Minister and the chairman of EADS on a rare visit to the UK by Dr Grube.	No formal outcomes.
4 September 2008	First Minister	UDiTE Congress Event	The First Minister gave the opening address to UDiTE, the European Federation of Local Government Chief Executives from across 14	The event was being held in Wales for the first time and was an opportunity to address key policy

			European countries.	makers and to showcase Cardiff and Wales.
4 September 2008	Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills	Meeting with UNCRC Rapporteur - Lucy Smith followed by Reception hosted by First Minister	The UN committee on the rights of the child met towards the end of September, and in preparation for the review, one of the 2 rapporteurs for the UK state party, Lucy Smith, visited Wales and Northern Ireland.	As described
8 September 2008	Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills	Meeting with Lithuania delegation, including regional Youth Coordinators, local councillors, Youth coordinators and Youth workers	General discussions concerning youth work in Wales and Lithuania.	As described
9 September 2008	First Minister & Jeff Cuthbert AM	Visit of HE Mr Indulis Berzins, Ambassador of the Republic of	Introductory visit and to meet First Minister	Attended the EU Mock Council event hosted in Wales (Jaunpiebalga Secondary School, Latvia (which is twinned with Tredegar Comprehensive) attended the event). Also to meet with Latvian Local

		Latvia to the UK		Authority Chief Executives attending the UDiTE Conference in Cardiff
10 September 2008	First Minister	WIPO dinner	<p>The First Minister attended the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) gala dinner on Wednesday September 10th as the event's guest speaker.</p> <p>The WIPO is a specialist agency of the United Nations, dedicated to the development of a balanced and accessible Intellectual Property system which rewards creativity and stimulates innovation.</p> <p>The dinner marked the start of WIPO's 2 day Forum on Intellectual Property, covering the use of IP assets by innovators and SMEs. This year's forum, the 5th to be held and the first in Wales, was attended by representatives of 30 countries and 50 institutions.</p>	There were no official outcomes from this event.
16-21 September 2008	Deputy First Minister (16-19 September 2008) First Minister (18-21 September 2008)	Minister's visit to Washington and Kentucky	To attend the 37th Ryder Cup in Kentucky and promote not just golf tourism in Wales but to develop inward investment opportunities and forge trade relationships between Wales and significant stakeholders in the United States. At the closing ceremony the First Minister also accepted the handover of responsibility from Kentucky to Wales for the Ryder Cup.	Both the First Minister and Deputy First Minister undertook a series of intensive business meetings while in the United States and capitalised on the superb opportunity provided by the Ryder Cup to host key guests and hold key meetings. Guests from the business and tourism sectors were hosted, formal one to one meetings

				held, meetings with the Governors of Kentucky and Oklahoma took place and the UKTI in Washington were visited. In all some 40 formal engagements were held each one of them promoting Wales to wide and varied audiences of key decision makers and influencers.
18 September 2008	Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills	Delegates from several European Countries (HEI institutions, and other organisations), from the UK and Wales, both an academic and practitioner audience, Trinity College, Carmarthen	The Minister provided a keynote Speech at European Conference Re: How Outdoor Learning/ Education with Young People contributes to Environmental education & sustainability.	As described
25 September 2008	Minister for Heritage	Meeting with Swiss Ambassador	The Minister was invited to the Swiss Ambassador's Award Concert. Cardiff featured for the first time on this annual	No official outcomes.

		and Honorary Consul at Ambassador's Concert	concert tour. The musician selected to perform in the 2008 concert was Louis Schwizgebel-Wang. The Ambassador of Switzerland, Alexis P. Lautenberg personally supported the concert in Cardiff. The First Minister met the Ambassador last year during the event at the Senedd to mark the official opening of the Honorary Consulate in Wales and the appointment of Ruth Thomas-Lehmann, Honorary Consul of Switzerland in Wales.	
26 September 2008	Deputy Minister for Skills	EARLALL Board and meeting with CEDEFOP	Discussions on the future direction and priorities of this European Lifelong Learning Association, and introductory discussions with Director of CEDEFOP (EU education research agency) on engagement at the regional level.	Meetings took place as described, with the agreement to develop a forward work plan between EARLALL and CEDEFOP.
29 September 2008	First Minister	International Forum for Child Welfare (IFCW) World Forum	The First Minister gave a speech to officially open the forum where he gave an overview of Welsh policy involving Children and young people.	As described.
30 September and 1 October 2008	Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, First Minister, David Hawker – Director	WorldForum 'Early Intervention and Prevention' Gala Dinner and	In addition to attendees from across the UK, there were approximately 100 international delegates (from around 30 different countries). Including a mixture of people with backgrounds including voluntary, academic, social work, government agencies, policy, advocacy, and health. There were also some	As described

	Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills	Conference, City Hall, Cardiff	young people at the Gala Dinner, who were here on a British Council sponsored programme.	
1 October 2008	Minister for Health and Social Services	Meeting with Don Berwick and FM	To continue to build the links and welcome the collaboration between the health service in Wales and the internationally renowned Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and the academic links with the University of Wales, and Harvard University.	
6 October 2008	First Minister	Meeting with Ambassador Tuttle	The First Minister met Ambassador Robert Tuttle in London. This was the latest in a series of meetings the FM has had with the Ambassador since his appointment. The global financial situation was discussed.	No formal outcomes
8 October 2008	First Minister	Meeting with Polish Ambassador, HE Ms Barbara Tuge-Erecińska	Meeting between the First Minister and the Polish Ambassador to the UK. The Ambassador was accompanied by the Consul General, based in Manchester, who has responsibility for Wales.	The Ambassador is keen to appoint an honorary consul to Poland in Wales. The Ambassador also met members of the Polish community whilst she was in Wales.
8 October 2008	First Minister	Meeting Ugandan Minister	To promote links between Wales and Uganda, and to help make the Ugandan Minister (Luwero Triangle) aware of the Welsh-led work taking place in Uganda. Also to give groups in Wales working in Uganda the opportunity to meet with each other and	Links were made between the organisations in Wales working in Uganda. The Ugandan Minister heard details of the work that was taking place and invited the First Minister to visit Uganda.

			share ideas.	
9 October 2008	Minister for Heritage	Welcome Chinese Delegation to National Museum	A delegation of Chinese Museum Directors and Managers visited a number of UK museums in October 2008 as part of the British Council's ' <i>Connections through Culture</i> ' project. The project aims to develop further cultural co-operation between the UK and China with a view to improving overall relations, including diplomatic and trade ties, between the two countries.	The visit coincided with a developing relationship between Wales and Chongqing. This relationship was boosted by the signing of a Letter of Intent on Friendly Co-operation between Chongqing's Three Gorges Museum and Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales during the visit. This outlines the two Museums' commitments to exploring ways of working together in the future.
10 October 2008	First Minister	Wales Forum on Europe Event	The First Minister hosted the Wales Forum on Europe in Trinity College which focused on the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue 2008. The event considered the impact that linguistic diversity, migration and multiculturalism has had on the EU and Wales, particularly in an era of EU enlargement and globalisation, and the importance of intercultural dialogue in addressing these issues.	The event helped to stimulate discussion and awareness of the issues of 'regional and minority' languages, including Welsh and Breton, and the interaction of different cultures, post-enlargement. Delegates represented a wide range of organisations, including local governments, town twinning associations, Europe Direct Centres and universities.
10 October 2008	Deputy Minister for Skills	EARLALL General Assembly	Six monthly meeting of the full Association, including specific considerations on student mobility, e-learning and entrepreneurship.	Meeting took place as described.

10 October 2008	Deputy Minister for Skills	Bilateral with State Secretary Wacker, Baden-Wurttemberg	Initial exploratory discussions with the State Secretary with responsibility for education (except HE) in Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany.	Agreement to pursue joint working in VET student mobility, and to arrange a visit to Wales in November 2008 for Mr Wacker to investigate Welsh adult learning and early year's provision.
11 October 2008	First Minister	Attend concert by Morrison Orpheus Choir in Geneva	The First Minister was invited to attend the concert in Geneva where the Morrison Orpheus Choir was performing.	No formal outcomes.
15 October 08	First Minister	HE Mr Kairat Abusseitov, Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan	Introductory visit by a newly appointed Ambassador to discuss areas of cooperation.	Met with First Minister and identified possible areas of cooperation including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education • IGER • ADAS • Agriculture / forestry
15 & 16 October 08	First Minister	President of the Republic of Estonia Mr Toomas Hendrik Ilves	To address Members in the Chamber and to attend various cultural events associated with the Wales / Estonian Festival.	President addressed Members in the Chamber, visited St Donats Art Centre and Brangwyn Hall, Swansea. President also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opened an Estonian-Wales business seminar in Cardiff • welcomed the two-year scholarship for an Estonian student announced by Atlantic College

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opened an art exhibition by 2 Estonian artists at St Donats Art Centre • Attended a concert by an Estonian National Male Choir joined the BBC National Orchestra for Wales – broadcast live by BBC Radio 3
16 October 2008	Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills	Meeting with European Commissioner for Multilingualism - Leonard Orban	<p>Mr Orban is the Commissioner for Multilingualism, responsible for promoting language learning, but also responsible for the translation service of the EC/EU</p> <p>Agenda items included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - multilingualism in Wales (both Welsh language and foreign language learning), following the EC's Communication on Multilingualism adopted in Sept. 2008 (it should be noted that the Commissioner visited Ysgol Glantaf to witness both in the morning) - the new status as co-official language of Welsh within the EU and the possible consequences under the "co-official" status for interpretation and translation into Welsh. 	No formal outcomes.
16 October	Minister for Heritage	To meet European	Welsh Language Issues.	No formal outcomes.

2008		Multilingualism Commissioner Orban		
16 October 2008	First Minister & Deputy First Minister	HE Mr Georg Boongaarden Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany	Introductory visit by a newly appointed ambassador and opportunity to familiarise himself with the different regions of the UK and the process of devolution.	Briefings on devolution and the Welsh language. A meeting with International Business Wales officials, an opportunity to discuss the Technium Challenge International Competition and the MOU between the Technium, Ulm in Germany and a company visit to Waldon Ltd in Tonyrefail – a German owned automotive manufacturer.
17 October 2008	First Minister	Visit of Foreign Secretary	The First Minister met and hosted lunch for the Rt Hon David Miliband MP, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs during his visit to Wales. Guests included representatives of other political parties, the European and External Affairs Committee and the Director of the British Council in Wales. In the afternoon the First Minister joined the Foreign Secretary at a Q&A for an invited audience drawn from the Somali community.	No formal outcomes
20 October 2008	First Minister	Meeting with Commissioner Hubner	The First Minister met the European Commissioner for Regional Policy, Danuta Hübner, who was in Cardiff to speak at the meeting of the Homologues Group, the	The First Minister and the Commissioner discussed issues relating to Structural Funds and co- operation between Wales and the

			annual conference of the financial control authorities of EU Member States and the Commission services responsible for Structural and Cohesion Funds, which the First Minister hosted.	Commission.
20 October 2008	Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills	Balearic Islands Delegation	Meeting Balearic Islands Government delegation as part of a week long programme of visits to FE colleges to facilitate inward and outward VET student mobility. Also, the Wales end signing of mobility MoU to underpin student mobility. The MoU will come into force when signed by the Balearic Islands Minister at a similar event in January.	Meeting and MoU signing took place as described.
22 October 2008	Jane Hutt AM, Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills	Columbian Headteachers	Short meeting with Columbian and Welsh Head Teachers engaged on a British Council (SLANT) CPD programme.	Meeting took place as described.
25-31 October 2008	Deputy First Minister	Inward investment mission to Japan	The Deputy First Minister lead an inward investment mission to Japan taking in Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka to pursue new inward investment opportunities and to maintain and develop existing relationships with existing investors in Wales in order to raise the profile of Wales, attract more inward investment and promote trade opportunities.	No outcomes available yet.
5	Minister for	Senedd Tour	Part of the Walestonia Celebration.	No outcomes available yet.

November 2008	Heritage	for Estonian Children (tbc)		
12 November 2008	First Minister and Minister for Children Education Lifelong Learning and Skills	Reception with King Letsie III, King of Lesotho	To welcome the King of Lesotho to Wales – on the occasion of the Wales and South Africa rugby match in Cardiff. And to promote the links between Wales and Lesotho.	No outcomes available yet.