

EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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| Date: | 6 March 2003 |
| Time: | 14:00 |
| Venue: | Committee Room 3 & 4, National Assembly Building |
| Title: | Minister's Report |

Purpose

1. To provide an update on a range of issues arising since the Committee's last meeting

Recommendation

2. Members to note the content of the report.

Background

3. The Committee last met on 30 January 2003. This paper provides an update.

Deputy First Minister's Activities

4. **February 7** – Conference on Democracy and Young People. Delegates from all regions of the Commonwealth - Asian, African, Australasia, Caribbean, European and Pacific - attended the conference, which was held in the Assembly Chamber. Young people from local schools also took part. Delegates examined ways of ensuring the full involvement of young people in the democratic process, highlighted best practice and made proposals for future action.
5. **February 20-21** - Agriculture Council Meeting in Brussels. Discussions on the CAP Mid-Term Review.
6. **March 3** – Wales Week Brussels. To help promote the profile of Wales in the European Union.

Other International Activities

7. The attached annex 1 provides details of other events involving Assembly Ministers and Officials.
8. **“Wales Week Brussels 2003 - A Sustainable Future”** will be held between 3 - 6 March. The event which is being managed by the Welsh Assembly Government and WEC, with the support of the WDA, builds on previous events to promote Wales amongst the European political community based in the city and promote Welsh culture and cuisine.
9. This year's activities will include:

- four policy seminars on Sustainable Development, Information Technology, the Environment and Health (3,4 & 5 March);
- a reception at the European Parliament hosted by the First Minister and with Neil Kinnock as guest speaker (3 March);
- a lunch to promote Welsh food to a targeted gathering at the British Ambassador's residence which I am attending (3 March);
- a performance of Dylan Thomas' Portrait of the Artist as a Young Dog by Clwyd Theatr Cymru (6 March).

10. Attached at Annex 2 is the schedule of events for the week.

General European Issues

11. **The EU Accession Treaty.** The drafting of the Accession Treaty was concluded on 5 February based largely on the results agreed at the Copenhagen European Council although some last-minute adjustments were made for certain candidate countries. The modifications were strictly non-financial in nature and were all made in the "spirit of Copenhagen".

**Michael German AM
Deputy First Minister and
Minister for Rural Development and Wales Abroad**