

COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS EUR-05-01 (p10)

Date: 17 October 2001
Time: 9.00 am
Venue: Committee Room 3

MEETING IN BRUSSELS

PURPOSE

To seek the Committee's direction for arrangements for its Brussels meeting

FLIGHTS

To ensure the Committee is able to have a full day in Brussels, it is proposed that members fly out the night before. Options for the evening of Tuesday 4 December are:

- Depart Cardiff 5.20 PM, arriving Brussels 7.35 pm. This would require leaving the Assembly by 3.45 pm.
- Depart Bristol 7.45pm, arriving Brussels 10.00 pm. This would require leaving the Assembly by 5.00 pm.

If any members are not able to fly out on Tuesday, the first flight out of Cardiff on Wednesday departs 7.00 am arriving 9.15 am.

To return on Wednesday, a flight departs Brussels at 8.05 pm arriving Cardiff 8.20 pm.

Are members content to leave Plenary at 3.45 pm on Tuesday 4 December?

AGENDA

The primary purpose of meeting in Brussels is to facilitate communication with Wales' MEPs.

Do members wish to identify any issues which they wish to discuss with MEPs?

The visit also provides the opportunity to make contact with relevant officials from UKRep, the European Commission and others in Brussels to discuss issues of interest. Potential issues identified by members include:

- Prospects for common agricultural policy reform;
- Cohesion Policy and the future of the Structural Funds;
- Reduction of regional wealth discrepancies in the context of enlargement;
- Maximising Wales' influence in Europe;
- European perspectives on the treatment of state aid;
- The scope for differentiated implementation of EU Directives;
- Governance White Paper: how to ensure that Wales takes full advantage of the opportunities presented;
- Promote Cardiff City of Culture bid; and
- Visit representation offices of other 'regional' governments in Brussels to compare their representation with that of Wales.

What issues does the Committee wish to identify for discussion with UKRep or the Commission?

Committee Secretariat