

## **COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

Date: 23 May 2001

Time: 9.30am

Venue: Committee Room 3 & 4

## **FUTURE ACTIVITY EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

### **Background**

This paper sets out conclusions of the Committee's discussion of 4 April 2001 on future activity of the committee and proposes consequent action by the Committee.

### **Proposed Action**

#### **1. Circulate information on the activity of other UK EU Committees**

The secretariat will circulate to members copies of agendas, reports and notification of inquiries received from other UK European parliamentary committees.

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION: Endorse the proposal.

#### **2. Subject Committee rapporteurs**

The Committee wishes to see established a rapporteur on the Committee for each subject committee. The Committee will allocate time for reports from rapporteurs at its meetings. Rapporteurs will also be responsible for raising issues referred by the Committee with the relevant subject committee.

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION: To resolve: "That the Chair write to the Business

Committee to request that, in accordance with Standing Order 15.4, membership of committees be changed so that all subject committees are represented on the European Affairs Committee and to the Panel of Chairs recommending that a system of rapporteurs be established."

Members of subject committees:

Agriculture: John Griffiths

Economic: Christine Chapman, Val Feld, Mike German Phil Williams

Environment: John Griffiths, Rhodri Glyn Thomas

Health: Nil

Culture: Rosemary Butler, Jonathan Morgan, Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Chair)

Education: Eleanor Burnham, Jonathan Morgan

Local Government: Nil

### **3. Reports from Standing Invitees**

The Committee will allocate time at each meeting for a brief report from those regularly attending from the European Parliament, the Committee of the Regions, the Economic and Social Committee, and the European Commission Representation in Wales.

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION: Endorse the proposal.

### **4. Reports from the First Minister on the Commission's Work Programme**

The Committee requests that the First Minister provide the Committee with a report on each work programme of the European Commission noting issues of potential significance falling within the responsibility of each Assembly Minister.

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION: To resolve: "The Committee requests that the First Minister provide the Committee with a report as soon as possible following the release of each work programme of the European Commission noting issues of potential significance arising from the programme falling within the responsibility of each Assembly Minister."

### **5. Subject Committee progress reports**

The Committee requests that subject committees include a report on European issues within their progress reports;

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION: To resolve: "That the Chair write to the Panel of Chairs requesting that all subject committees include a report on European issues within their progress reports.

## **6. Attendance of subject committee chairs**

The Committee will invite each subject committee chair to attend the Committee each year to discuss the co-ordination of European issues with the subject committee.

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION: Endorse the proposal

## **7. Amendment of Standing Orders**

The Committee recommends to the Business Committee that standing orders be amended to:

- allow the European Affairs Committee to consider a matter within the remit of a single subject committee with the permission of that committee; and
- increase the Committee's remit to include external affairs.

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION: To resolve: "That the Chair write to the Business Committee and the Assembly Review of Procedure requesting that standing orders be amended to allow the European Affairs Committee to consider a matter within the remit of a single subject committee with the permission of that committee and to increase the Committee's remit to include external affairs."

## **8. Meeting with Members of the European Parliament**

The Committee will ensure that at least one meeting per year is held at a time and place which is convenient for the attendance of Wales' representatives in the European Parliament. To facilitate such a meeting during 2001, the Committee recommends holding a meeting in Brussels and that consideration be given to holding meetings in Brussels annually.

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION: To resolve "That the Committee agrees to ensure that at least one meeting a year is held at a time and place which is convenient for the attendance of Wales' representatives in the European Parliament."

PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION: To confirm whether it wishes to meet in Brussels his

year.

## **9. In depth consideration of major strategic issues**

The Committee noted that some major strategic issues may repay more detailed consideration than is possible within a single meeting and that it could explore alternatives for doing so. One option suggested was establishing an all-party sub-group when the Committee wished to give more consideration to a matter than is possible during normal meetings.

**PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION:** To decide whether any current strategic issue requires more detailed consideration.

**Committee Secretariat**