

**EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

<b>Date:</b>	6 March 2003
<b>Time:</b>	14:00
<b>Venue:</b>	Committee Rooms 3 & 4, National Assembly Building
<b>Title:</b>	Summary of key activity of European and External Affairs Committee in the first term of the Assembly and suggestions for future work of incoming Committee

**Purpose**

1. This paper, and paper to note EUR 02-03(p7) from the Assembly Government, are intended to provide an overview of activity on European and external relations issues so far for the incoming European and External Affairs Committee.
2. This paper also suggests possible areas of future activity for the new Committee.

**Recommendation**

3. Members are asked to comment on the suggestions for future activity by the incoming European and External Affairs Committee.

**Background**

4. A table containing a very brief summary of the work of the European and External Affairs Committee during the first session is attached at Annex A.
5. A table containing some suggestions for the work programme of the incoming European and External Affairs Committee is attached at Annex B.

**Action**

6. Members are invited to comment on the suggestions for future activity in the Committee and to indicate any other areas that the Committee could pursue.

**Contact point:**

## BRIEF SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY OF EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN THE FIRST SESSION

STANDING ORDER PROVISION	ACTIVITY
<p>Relations with the institutions of the European Union</p> <p>SO 15.1(i)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received presentation from the Swedish, Belgian, Danish and Greek Governments on their priorities for their Presidencies of the EU</li> <li>• Wales' representatives on Committee of the Regions, ECOSOC, European Commission's representation in Wales, MEPs have are all standing invitees to the Committee and report on their activities.</li> <li>• Received updates on involvement in a range of other EU and European organisations including: Tele Regions network, Conference of regions with Legislative Power, Conference of Maritime and Peripheral Regions, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe, Four-Motor Regions etc</li> <li>• Held meetings in Brussels</li> <li>• Consideration of the Assembly, and Wales's representation in Brussels, including secondments of Assembly staff to EU institutions</li> </ul>
<p>Liaison arrangements with UKREP and United Kingdom government</p> <p>SO 15.1(ii)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee has been informed of the outcome of meetings with senior UKREP personnel and progress in enabling Assembly Minister to lead Council delegations</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p>Mechanisms for the consideration of matters emanating from European institutions</p> <p>SO 15.1(iii)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee considers the Commission Annual work programme each year and has drawn its contents to the attention of the relevant subject committee</li> <li>• Consideration of reports from European Council meetings</li> </ul>
<p>Assembly's relations with nations external to the European Union</p> <p>SO 15.1(iv)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New aspect of remit was added in October 2001</li> <li>• Committee has received presentations on the work of Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe</li> <li>• Received presentations from representatives from countries outside the EU, for example the Czech Republic and Poland</li> </ul>
<p>Monitoring the impact of EU policies on Wales</p> <p>SO 15.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of the implications of the Euro for Wales</li> <li>• Consideration of implications of enlargement on Wales</li> <li>• Consideration of action on reform of the structural funds</li> </ul>

Liaison with Members of the European Parliament and Members of the Committee of the Regions SO 15.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MEPs are standing invitees to the Committee</li> <li>● Meetings held in Brussels</li> </ul>
Alert subject committees to relevant issues SO 15.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Circulated information on the implications for Wales of the Commission's annual work programme</li> <li>● Rolling programme of presentations from subject committee chairs about the European dimension of their work</li> </ul>
Assess the impact of legislation SO 15.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Detailed scrutiny of the White Paper on Governance</li> <li>● Held a series of discussions on the Convention on the Future of Europe</li> <li>● Consideration of proposed legislation on Liberalisation of Postal Services and Information and Consultation of Employees</li> </ul>

**ANNEX B**

**SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITY FOR INCOMING EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

<b>STANDING ORDER PROVISION</b>	<b>SUGGESTED ACTIVITY</b>
Relations with the institutions of the European Union SO 15.1(i)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hold Committee meeting in Brussels and meet representatives of EU institutions</li> <li>2. Continue programme of presentations on work programme of each Council Presidency</li> <li>3. Assessment of the effectiveness of involvement in Conference of regions with Legislative Power, Conference of Maritime and Peripheral Regions, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities in Europe and so on</li> </ol>
Liaison arrangements with UKREP and United Kingdom government SO 15.1(ii)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Series of presentations from UKREP, Cabinet Office European Secretariat and a sample of lead Whitehall departments on their role and how they work with the Assembly. (Could be tied into the work on case studies described below).</li> <li>2. Consideration of the Assembly's role in European Council meetings - in particular delegations led by the Assembly</li> <li>3. Consideration of the effectiveness of the 'Concordat on Co-ordination of European Union Policy Issues'</li> <li>4. Compare work of European and External Affairs Committee with similar committees in the UK</li> <li>5. Compare UK approach to policy co-ordination to that of other EU countries</li> </ol>

<p>Mechanisms for the consideration of matters emanating from European institutions</p> <p>SO 15.1(iii)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Examination of a series of case studies to demonstrate how the Assembly deals with European matters at various stages of the legislative process. This would include consideration of examples of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussion of Commission proposals (i.e. early stages of development before draft legislation is prepared)</li> <li>● Consideration of draft EU legislation where the Assembly is responsible for implementing the final result</li> <li>● Consideration of draft EU legislation where the Assembly has an interest but is not wholly responsible for implementing the final result</li> <li>● Implementation of EU legislation - both where the Assembly has the power to implement and where implementation powers are shared</li> </ul> </li> <li>1. Consideration of how the Assembly - including subject committees - can best feed into this process</li> </ol>
<p>Assembly's relations with nations external to the European Union</p> <p>SO 15.1(iv)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish a baseline of information on the Assembly's overseas involvement</li> <li>2. Consider success of 'Branding Wales', Wales Week in Brussels and New York, and other similar projects</li> <li>3. Assessment of the value of agreements signed with other countries and regions</li> </ol>
<p>Monitoring the impact of EU policies on Wales</p> <p>SO 15.2</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Revisit the Commission Annual work programme 2003 and identify any areas the Committee wished to pursue</li> <li>2. Consideration of developing a common approach to cost benefit analysis of European legislation</li> <li>3. Consideration success in implementing EU legislation - for example looking at infractions</li> <li>4. Detailed consideration of proposals resulting from the Convention on the Future of Europe</li> <li>5. Continued consideration of impact of enlargement and the Euro</li> </ol>
<p>Liaison with Members of the European Parliament and Members of the Committee of the Regions</p> <p>SO 15.2</p>	<p>Continue to receive regular reports from COR and EP members - work to ensure that MEPs are able to attend Committee meetings</p>
<p>Alert subject committees to relevant issues</p> <p>SO 15.3</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consider how an accurate forward plan on forthcoming European legislation might be developed - to include proposals, consultation on draft instruments and implementation</li> <li>2. Use information from forward plan, Commission work programme and so on to inform subject committees</li> <li>3. Continue inviting subject committee chairs to update on the European dimension of their work on a periodic basis</li> </ol>

Assess the impact of legislation

SO 15.3

1. Consider how an accurate forward plan on forthcoming European legislation might be developed - to include proposals, consultation on draft instruments and implementation
2. Use information from forward plan, Commission work programme and so on to identify instruments for scrutiny by the European and External Affairs Committee