

## **COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

**Date : 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2000**

**Venue: Committee Room ?**

**Title: Plans for the next European Forum**

### **Purpose**

1. To inform Committee members of the plans for the next forum.

### **Recommendation**

2. The Committee is invited to note the content of the report.

### **Summary**

3. The aim is to hold the second European Forum on the morning of Friday 19 May, at the Cardiff International Arena.

### **Background**

4. The first meeting of the Wales European Forum was held on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at Cardiff International Arena and attended by over one hundred delegates from a wide range of public, private and voluntary organisations. The day was well received and the working groups and plenary sessions stimulated lively debate. A full report of the day's proceedings has been prepared and a copy will be sent to all delegates and European Affairs Committee members as soon as possible.

5. At its meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> October, the European Affairs Committee agreed to hold a second Wales European Forum during the spring of this year. The meeting of the European Affairs Committee held on the 25<sup>th</sup> November subsequently agreed that the second meeting of the Forum should be held in South Wales. The October forum meeting will be held in North Wales.

6. Following the experience of the first forum meeting it is planned to complete the business of the conference in a half day. The morning session will be followed by a buffet lunch. Attached at Annex A is the outline programme for the day. You will see from this that as before, we are

having a main speaker to complement the overall theme of the conference, which is to be "Europe and Business". The Forum will be based on a similar format to the October meeting, involving a mixture of plenary and working group sessions. The topics for the second forum meeting are the Euro, Enlargement and Research and Development.

7. Invitations to attend the meeting will be extended to a wide range of private sector bodies and organisations as well as public bodies working in the field of business and economic development.

### **Cross Cutting Themes**

8. A wide range of partners from public, private and voluntary sectors will participate in the Forum.

### **Compliance**

9. Under Section 33 of the Government of Wales Act 1998 the Assembly may consider and make appropriate representations about any matter affecting Wales.

### **Contact Point**

European Affairs Division.

**Annex A**

## **Wales Forum on European Affairs - Draft Programme**

**Date: 19 May 2000**

**Venue: Cardiff International Arena**

- 30. - 10am: Coffee and registration
- 0. - 10.10am: Opening Address (First Secretary)
- 10. - 10.50am: **Plenary session: Major Speaker**
- 50. - 11.10am: Coffee

10. - 12.15am: Working Groups:

- Enlargement
- Euro
- Research and Development

15. - 13.00pm: Working Groups report back

0. - 13.10pm: Closing remarks (First Secretary)

13.10 - 14.00pm: Lunch and close.