



National Assembly for **Wales**  
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol **Cymru**

## **Assembly Committees: scrutinising and engaging with the European Union's decision- making process**

### **Abstract**

This paper explains the opportunities for influencing European Union (EU) policy development and its legislative process. It suggests ways in which the committees of the National Assembly for Wales may wish to handle EU issues.

January 2006





# Assembly Committees: scrutinising and engaging with the EU's decision-making process

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January 2006

Paper number: 06/007/AD

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## **Executive Summary**

Many of the most significant areas devolved to the National Assembly for Wales contain a substantial EU component, for example regional policy, agriculture and the environment. It is therefore important for the Assembly's committees to scrutinise these effectively and, where necessary, influence the EU policy development process. This paper outlines a variety of options available to committees seeking to do so.

There are three key players in the EU decision-making process: the Commission, Council of Ministers and European Parliament. Each institution has a varying degree of influence according to the decision-making process which mostly depends on the policy area. Under the so-called *co-decision* procedure, the European Parliament has equal power to influence the shape of legislation as the Council of Ministers. Co-decision is used to legislate in a number of the Assembly's policy areas; therefore the Parliament provides an important complementary channel of influence alongside UK governmental representation at the Council.

The three main channels of influence for Assembly committees on EU proposals are through:

**Welsh Assembly Government** input into the UK Government negotiating line in the Council of Ministers, often being focused on:

- the potential implications for Wales, how it would be implemented and whether work is being done to prepare for this;
- the WAG's view of the proposal and the impact they have had on the UK Government's position;
- feedback from WAG on the outcome of Council of Ministers meetings.

The **European Parliament** - particularly important where a proposal is subject to co-decision. There will be greatest scope for influence before the first reading. Committees may wish to maintain dialogue with the Welsh Members of the European Parliament who can, in turn:

- submit amendments to proposals reflecting the Committee's view;
- be used in a more proactive way to raise any issue of concern during question time with the representatives of the Council or Commission;
- discuss and influence the political group line through their colleagues in the EP.

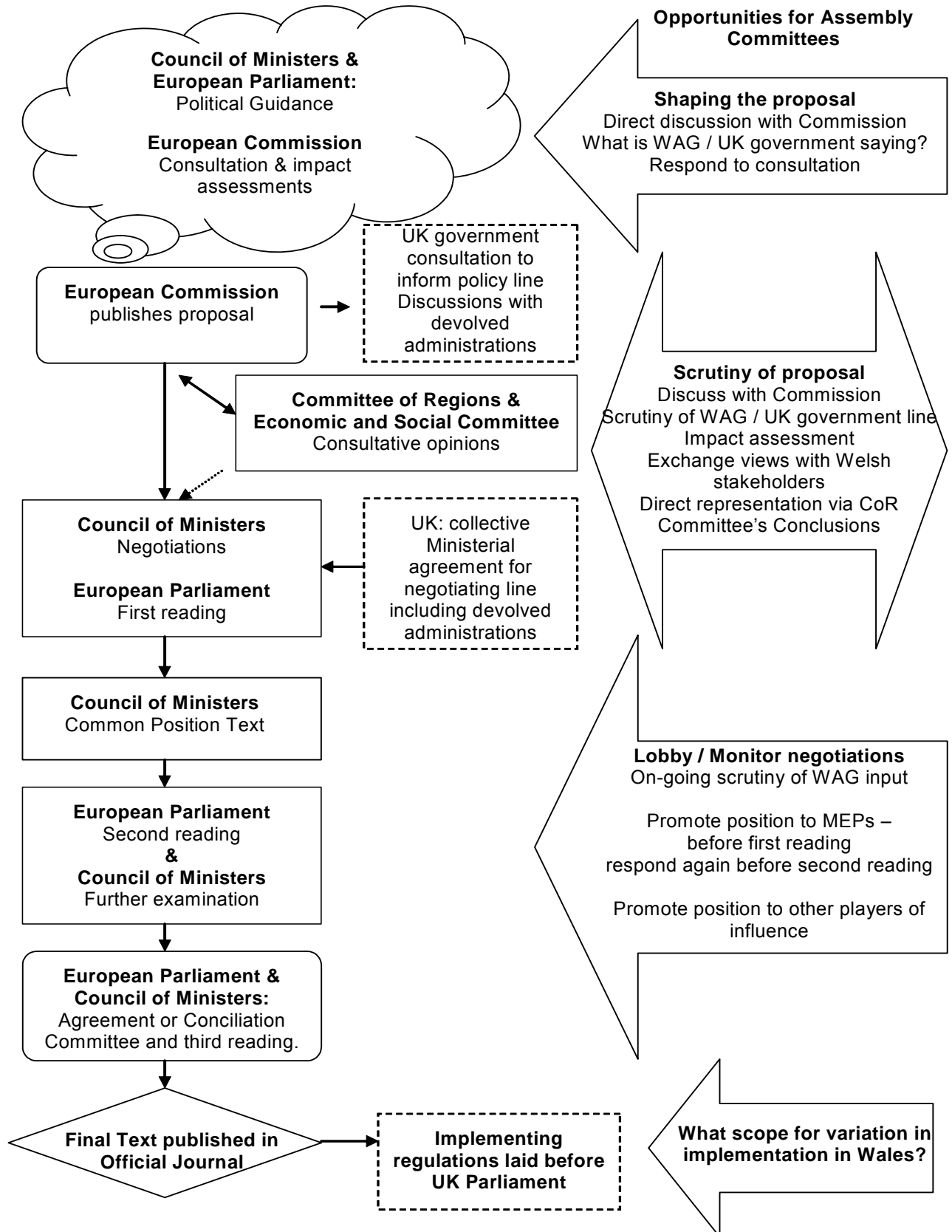
The **European Commission**, which drafts and proposes legislation and policy. The most effective time to engage with the Commission and seek to influence its position is prior to the publication of the proposal. Committees may therefore wish to:

- respond to Commission consultations;
- write to the relevant Commissioner responsible for the policy to promote its view;
- engage in direct dialogue with the Commission at meetings and conferences.

In addition, external organisations could be invited to make their views known to the Committee. If a Committee reaches a consensus view on a particular issue, it could elect to promote its position to others, e.g. the UK government or players who have a more indirect influence e.g. the committees of the Houses of Parliament; the Committee of the Regions through the Assembly's members; and relevant European associations.

A sketch of the decision-making process and opportunities for committee action is shown overleaf.

**Diagram 1: The EU decision-making process: scrutiny and influence (the process shown is that of a directive subject to co-decision)**





## Introduction

This paper sets out the main ways in which the committees of the National Assembly for Wales and the Assembly Government can influence the general development and passage of EU policies. While these are the more formal routes for influence, it is also possible for Assembly Members and Committees to get involved in the policy-making process through informal lobbying networks and other policy-specific organisations.

It gives a brief overview of the various decision-making processes and players involved and the different types of legislative instruments used. For a more detailed and comprehensive explanation see the separate research paper: "EU institutions and policy-making procedures" (library reference: 05/014).

### 1 How the EU works - a brief overview

#### 1.1 *The EU's decision making process – where the power lies*

Although it is the European Commission which proposes legislation, it is the Council of Ministers (Ministerial representatives of Member States) and the European Parliament that pass the law. The Council of Ministers is the most powerful institution, and has to approve all laws apart from those such as competition law where the Commission has sole competence.

There are three main types of legislative procedure in the EU to which regulations, directives and decisions are subject, depending on the nature of the proposal and in particular which policy field it falls within. The main difference between them is the way the European Parliament interacts with the Council.

The European Parliament has gained influence with each successive revision of the EU's treaty, and now has equal power with the Council of Ministers where the co-decision procedure is used. This is in a number of the Assembly's key policy areas, therefore the Parliament provides an important complementary channel of influence alongside the governmental routes, (UK government / Welsh Assembly Government) to the European Council of Ministers.

The three procedures are:

- **Consultation:** the European Parliament can submit an opinion on the matter, but it is not binding in any way on the Council. Unless the Commission accepts some of the Parliament's amendments and puts them to the Council, Parliament will only be able to apply political pressure for changes, rather than have any direct input. In some cases, the Council cannot take a decision until it has received the EP's opinion, then the EP can withhold its opinion until the Council and Commission make concessions.
- **Assent:** where a proposal is subject to assent, Parliament must either accept or reject it, the threat of which may force the Council into changing its position. This is used in a very limited number of areas such as the accession of new Member States, but includes the general regulation on the structural funds and the cohesion fund.
- **Co-decision:** In the co-decision procedure, Parliament and the Council share legislative power. Briefly, co-decision normally involves at least two readings at the European Parliament, with the Council reaching a "common position" after the first reading. If they still cannot agree, then Council and the Parliament have six weeks to negotiate an agreement on the proposal in what is known as a "Conciliation Committee". Commission representatives also attend these committee meetings and

contribute to the discussion. Once the Committee has reached an agreement, the agreed text is then sent to Parliament and the Council for a third reading, so that they can finally adopt it as law.

Additionally, there is what is known as the open method of co-ordination, which is essentially an inter-governmental process used for converging national policy towards common EU objectives in certain areas where the EU has no legislative authority. Member States draw up National Action Plans which undergo peer review and evaluation by the Commission and allow Member States to exchange experiences and learn from each other to improve national policy.

## **1.2 The main legislative instruments - influencing regulations and directives**

European legislative instruments take several different forms:

- **Regulations** are directly applicable and binding in all Member States without having to be transposed into national law. Therefore there is little flexibility in the way they are implemented in the UK, other than what is provided for at the EU level.
- **Directives** lay down the objectives which must be achieved within a time-limit, but leave it open to Member States to decide how this should be achieved and what form it should take, as they transpose it into their domestic law. At this point, there may be an opportunity for a directive to be implemented differently across the UK's home nations. The progress of European directives should therefore be followed through the UK Parliamentary process in order to assess whether there is scope for a degree of flexibility in the way that it is implemented in Wales, if the Assembly has to transpose it separately. Otherwise, by the time it is laid before the Assembly, the scope to press the Welsh Assembly Government for variation will be limited.
- **Decisions** are binding in their entirety for those to whom they are addressed, be they any or all Member States, enterprises or individuals. They do not need implementing legislation.

## **1.3 Assembly committees - identifying significant proposals for the year ahead**

The European Commission has the sole right to initiate legislation. Therefore, it is the Commission's **five-year strategy and its annual strategy and work programme**, that provides details of its priorities and up-coming proposals. How these proceed through the decision-making process will then depend on the priorities and agenda of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, which each Member State takes on in turn for six months (the UK held the Presidency in the second half of 2005), as well as the European Parliament's agenda.

This year, the Assembly committees have identified, on the basis of the Commission's Annual Work Programme for 2006, legislative and policy proposals of particular relevance to Wales. These will then be monitored and subject to further scrutiny when they are published.

In support of this, the Members' Research and Committee Services will provide Members with regular updates as proposals progress through the Council and the European Parliament, so that committees can take up opportunities to influence the process. For

legislative proposals, it is particularly important to focus on discussions in the Council and the European Parliament. The time frame for influencing proposals varies according to a number of factors, including which decision-making process is used, and how controversial an issue it is. Generally, the earlier the Assembly's committees can comment, the better, however detailed scrutiny of precise content of legislation, out of necessity, cannot be carried out until the proposal is published.

## **2 The Institutional Channels of Influence**

There are three main channels of influence, the most immediate is through UK representation at the Council of Ministers; second, the European Parliament and third, the European Commission.

Annex A sets out how the Assembly's committees relate to the EU's structures, the various directorates of the Commission, the Council of Ministers configuration and the European Parliament's committees.

### **2.1 The Council of Ministers**

#### *2.1.1 UK governmental structures*

As decisions taken at the EU level are mostly implemented at the regional or local level, the UK government has recognised that the devolved administrations have a significant role to play in EU issues, despite EU policy being reserved to the UK Government. This role is formalised in the Memorandum of Understanding and the Concordat on the Co-ordination of European Policy (the Concordat)<sup>1</sup> and the Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe).

The European and External Affairs Division of the Welsh Assembly Government takes the lead in co-ordinating the Assembly Government's approach to EU issues. However, it is for each Division to lead on their individual policy areas. The main institutions in the UK are: the Whitehall Departments which liaise with Welsh counterparts; the Cabinet Office European Sub Committee and Secretariat who are responsible for policy co-ordination; the Foreign Office which holds responsibility for policy at the EU institutional level, including UKRep (its EU arm in Brussels); the Foreign Secretary who serves as Chair of the Cabinet Office European Sub Committee.

The **Concordat** between the Cabinets of the devolved administrations and the UK Government was published on 1 October 1999 and sets out the agreement which has been reached on the handling of EU business. The Concordat covers such issues as the provision of information, formulation of UK policy on European issues, attendance at the Council of Ministers and so on.

It specifies three objectives:

- To provide full involvement of Ministers and officials in policy formulation, negotiation and implementation of devolved issues;
- To ensure that the UK can negotiate effectively with other Member States, the Commission and the European Parliament, in pursuit of a single UK policy line which

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<sup>1</sup> The Concordat can be seen at:  
[http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstandingorders/content/moupt2b\\_e.htm](http://www.wales.gov.uk/keypubstandingorders/content/moupt2b_e.htm)

reflects the diversity of the UK, but with the flexibility that fast-moving negotiations require;

- To ensure EU obligations are implemented with consistency. For example, reporting on the progress of the transposition of EU directives and encouraging policy divisions to complete the Welsh legislation on time.

The Concordat is not legally enforceable and “is binding in honour only”, as it states. As foreign policy issues are not devolved, the UK will generally remain the Member State representing Wales in the EU on all matters. The only exception to this is when Assembly Ministers speak on behalf of the UK delegation in place of the UK Government Ministers: in these instances, Assembly Ministers are representing the whole of the UK and will promote the agreed ‘UK line’ on a policy.

A **Joint Ministerial Committee** on EU matters has also been established to cohere policy at a Ministerial level which is chaired by the Foreign Secretary. The Welsh Assembly Government is usually represented by the First Minister. Other Ministers of the Welsh Assembly Government may attend where necessary. UKRep also attends. The Committee’s remit is:

*“ to consider the UK Government's position on European Union issues which impinge on devolved responsibilities; to consider the implementation of EU law in the different parts of the United Kingdom; to keep the arrangements for liaison between the UK Government and the three devolved administrations on EU issues under review; and to consider disputes between the administrations on EU issues.”*

It normally meets around four times a year, usually during the run-up to European Council summits but it can meet more often when business demands. The First Minister currently provides a list of issues discussed at JMC(E) in his Ministerial report to the European and External Affairs Committee (EEAC).

The Assembly Government also has a standing invitation to attend weekly meetings chaired by the European Secretariat of the Cabinet Office to cohere European policy across the UK. Officials attend when there are agenda items of interest.

### 2.1.2 UK Parliamentary scrutiny of the UK position

The **House of Commons European Scrutiny committee** scrutinises every EU document deposited in the House and the UK Government’s view of its policy implications for the UK, which takes the form of an Explanatory Memorandum. The Committee can choose which documents are important enough to be debated in the European Standing Committees or even occasionally on the floor of the House – subject to the Government’s support.

The European Scrutiny Committee also undertakes pre- and post- Council scrutiny to ensure that it impacts on the actions of UK Ministers in the EU Council of Ministers. The agenda for a particular Council is often not known very far in advance, in practice the Committee has usually decided to focus on one important issue to be considered by the Council and takes oral evidence from the Minister who will represent the UK or departmental officials, or asks for a memorandum on particular points.

When the outcome of the Council is known, the Committee may take oral evidence from the Minister on the line he took in negotiations, or on the implications for the UK of the

decisions reached by the Council. The Committee also obtains a written report on each Council by means of a Parliamentary Question tabled by the Chairman.<sup>2</sup>

Both Houses, the Commons and Lords have adopted a Scrutiny Reserve Resolution, and it plays a pivotal role in the scrutiny of EU policy and legislation. This is an undertaking by Ministers that, bar exceptional circumstances, they will not agree to anything in the Council until it has been cleared through Parliament. If Ministers do, then they must write to the European Scrutiny Committee immediately with an explanation, and may be called before the committee for questioning.

The House of Lords' European committee and sub-committees undertake detailed scrutiny as well, take evidence from interested organisations and regularly produce reports.

The Scottish Parliament's European Committee also systematically scrutinises the Scottish Executive's action pre and post Council meetings, to ensure the transparency of the work of ministers and officials when considering EU issues.

### *2.1.3 Scrutiny of the Welsh Assembly Government input*

The Concordat requires that all discussions with Whitehall be held in private, and that any material relevant to the development of policy and the single UK negotiating line is confidential.

Although this may limit the extent of Assembly committee scrutiny of the WAG input into the UK government position, at any stage in the legislative process, individual Members or Assembly Committees may wish to ask the relevant **Assembly Government Minister**:

- what impact a particular proposal may have on Wales, how will it be implemented and whether any work is being done to prepare for this;
- how the Assembly Government contributes towards achieving the EU's policy objectives in specific subject areas;
- what is the Assembly Government's view on the proposal and what steps is it taking to influence decision-making;
- what is the UK government's view;
- to provide updates on the progress of Council negotiations on the issue, in particular to report on the outcome of Council meetings on the issue.

The Committees may wish to invite UK government officials to explain the UK position.

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<sup>2</sup> Information from "The European Scrutiny System in the House of Commons: A short guide for Members of Parliament by the staff of the European Scrutiny Committee".  
[http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary\\_committees/european\\_scrutiny/esc\\_guide\\_to\\_eu\\_institutions\\_and\\_legislation.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/european_scrutiny/esc_guide_to_eu_institutions_and_legislation.cfm)

## 2.2 *The European Parliament*

### 2.2.1 *How the European Parliament deals with legislation*

Once the European Parliament receives the Commission proposal, it is assigned to the relevant subject committee, which appoints one of its members as a 'rapporteur' who will draw up the Parliament's response. The other political groups also appoint 'shadow rapporteurs' who will handle negotiations with the rapporteur and steer the group whip during the vote. One committee will always be assigned the lead, but other committees may submit their agreed amendments to the lead committee to consider alongside its own members' proposed amendments.

The committee may spend at least two or three meetings discussing the initial proposal, the rapporteur's draft report and all amendments before voting. Once adopted by the committee, the report is considered at the plenary session of the Parliament, where it is adopted after voting on further amendments.

The whole process takes at least a few months, sometimes more than a year, allowing interested organisations time to put forward their views to the rapporteur and the shadow rapporteurs, which are the key targets for influencing a report. However, any member may table amendments to the report at the committee stage. Depending on the issue under debate, it may be useful to form a pan-European coalition to gain support from MEPs of other countries or to work through a pan-European association.

Within political groups, there are national sections, which meet to discuss the impact of legislation nationally, and how the group line in Parliament can be squared with the position of the domestic party back at home. They will often appoint MEPs to lead on specific policy issues to liaise with their home counterparts.

### 2.2.2 *Influence through Members of the European Parliament (MEPs)*

As mentioned earlier, the European Parliament has equal power with the Council of Ministers in a number of the Assembly's key policy areas. Where a proposal is subject to **co-decision**, a significant proportion of the European Parliament's amendments to legislation end up in the finally adopted regulation or directive, here, therefore, it is at its most powerful. There will be greatest scope for influence before the first reading. At this point, it is possible for all members to table any amendment they wish. By the second reading, Members may only work with their first reading text or amend new elements introduced by the Council. It cannot introduce wholly new amendments. The scope of influence will then be limited to areas of disagreement between the Council and the European Parliament.

Although the four Wales MEPs may not always sit on the relevant subject committee, they are free to submit amendments to reports being considered by any committee, and through discussions with their political colleagues, they can potentially influence the party line taken by the European Parliament's political groups when it comes to the vote in the committee.

Assembly Committees may wish to invite MEPs to discuss their approach to a particular proposal, preferably at an early stage in the discussions (before first reading, if it is subject

to co-decision)<sup>3</sup>. The MEPs may then put forward amendments to the Commission's proposals as they are considered in the Parliament. At the second reading stage, if timely, the Committee could consider at this point whether the Council's or the European Parliament's view would be most favourable to Wales, and whether any compromises would improve the text.

Committees may also wish to consider approaching MEPs for their support to raise any issue of concern during question time with the representatives of the Council or Commission.

### **2.3     *The European Commission***

Most legislative proposals from the Commission will normally be preceded by a formal consultation process, either through the publication of a Green Paper, followed by a White Paper or through a communication which sets out its policy options inviting responses.

Given their importance in implementing many of the EU's laws and policies, local and regional authorities have been pressing the Commission for a **systematic dialogue** with the Commission, so that they are regularly consulted on issues when proposals are in the making. The idea of a structured dialogue between the European Commission, Committee of the Regions and European and national associations of regional and local authorities was initiated in the wake of the European Commission's 2001 White Paper on European Governance. The Commission confirmed its commitment to this principle in a communication in December 2003. The Committee of the Regions has been given a key role in organising the dialogue between the CoR's politicians and the European Commissioners.

Once the Commission has issued its proposal, it remains involved in the process, by elaborating on its proposal as negotiations develop in Council. It also responds to the European Parliament's amendments, and to the Council's common position, which can radically alter its original proposal. If political pressure is strong from the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers, it may revise its original proposal, or withdraw the proposal altogether. It's important therefore to maintain a dialogue with the Commission on the issue.

In some policy areas, it has sole competence, for example, on state aids. Here the Member States discuss the proposal in Council and through political pressure may achieve some changes. The European Parliament may occasionally be consulted as well.

#### **2.3.1     *Influencing the Commission's "thinking"***

At the outset of policy development, the Commission is the main player. The most effective way of influencing the Commission is through participating in the **consultation process** and through direct dialogue. Committees could invite Commission representatives to discuss their policy orientations with them, pro-actively, once it is known that something is in the pipeline or during the consultation period. Committees may wish to respond to the Commission with its views, as it has done in the past for example, on the revision of the working time directive.

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<sup>3</sup> In practice, the Assembly's committee meetings may often clash with the European Parliament's sessions, making it difficult for MEPs to personally attend committee meetings in Cardiff.

**Conferences or forums** also provide opportunities for dialogue with the Commission. The Commission often organises large-scale conferences, mostly in Brussels, to launch new initiatives and to consult stakeholders.

The Commission also has a representative office in Wales. One element of the role of the Office is to create to keep Brussels informed about developments in Welsh business, politics, education and other areas so that these can be taken into account by policy makers.<sup>4</sup>

## **2.4 Others**

The Assembly's Committees may wish to keep other players informed of their views, who have a more indirect influence, such as the relevant committees of the Houses of Parliament which may also be considering the issue; the Committee of the Regions through the Assembly's members; and European associations representing the Assembly.

The **Committee of the Regions (CoR)** represents Europe's regional and local authorities. The National Assembly for Wales has two seats on the CoR, as does the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA). It is not formally an EU institution but it is part of the EU set up, in that it has the right to be consulted by the Commission in policy areas which have a significant impact on the competencies of local and regional authorities. However, neither the Council nor the European Parliament is obliged to take its views on board. It can be a useful channel of influence, in particular when Assembly members are appointed as "rapporteurs" on opinions, and are able to use this as an opportunity to represent the Committee of the Regions in the inter-institutional debate. Representatives of the EU institutions are often invited to attend meetings, in particular Commission officers, and members can raise their concerns directly with them during debate.

There are several **Welsh organisations** which pro-actively lobby in Brussels on EU matters. The WLGA has representation in Brussels and Wales Higher Education in Brussels<sup>5</sup> are both based in Wales House along with the Welsh Assembly Government EU office and the National Assembly for Wales EU office. Business interests, the trade unions, environmental lobby groups, farmers, are all represented in Brussels either by European sister organisations or directly through UK offices. Taking account of the whole range of views and analysis of EU proposals will be useful in supporting committee scrutiny work. Committees can invite such organisations to submit their opinions where time permits and or attend committee to present it directly.

Exchanging views with **other regions** is also a route towards closer relations and forming pan-European coalitions on an issue, and provides a way for Assembly Members to promote their views to a wider EU audience. The Scottish European Committee in the past has invited Ministers of governments in other countries to give evidence to the Scottish Parliament, for example, the Fisheries Minister of the Galician government.

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<sup>4</sup>For further information see: <http://www.cec.org.uk/wales/index.htm>

<sup>5</sup> This is a newly created representation, following the closure of the Wales European Centre in November 2005. The Wales European Centre used to work on behalf of the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), the higher education sector and the Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies. ASPBs and WCVA are now supported by the WAG EU office.



## 2.5 *Subsidiarity and the early warning mechanism*

The **principle of subsidiarity** regulates the exercise of the EU's powers. The main aim of the principle is to ensure that decisions in Europe are taken at the level that achieves the best effect and as close to the citizen as possible. In an area where there is joint competence, it will determine whether action should be taken at the EU level, or whether it should be left as a matter for the Member States, whether at national, regional or local

level. Compliance with this principle may be monitored in two different ways, either politically or legally.

The **EU constitutional Treaty** (currently "on-hold" following its rejection by French and Dutch voters in national referendums) extends the principle of subsidiarity to regional and local authorities and would provide a route for regions to block EU legislation which they regard as being in breach of the principle. It allows the CoR to lodge an appeal with the European Court of Justice, on behalf of the EU's regional and local government, to ensure compliance with the subsidiarity principle.

The Constitution also includes provisions which would allow national parliaments to be directly involved in monitoring the application of the subsidiarity principle. The Commission's proposal would be sent to national parliaments at the same time as it is sent to the Council of Ministers and the European Parliaments. National parliaments will then have six weeks to publicly notify the European institutions and their own government through a reasoned opinion if they consider that the principle of subsidiarity has not been complied with (**early warning system**). If one third of parliaments share the same view, the Commission must review its proposal. For initiatives relating to matters of freedom, security and justice, the threshold is set at a minimum of one quarter. It may decide to maintain, amend or withdraw its proposal, and must give reasons for its decision.

The Protocol to the Constitution on subsidiarity also gives national parliaments, the right to bring actions before the Court of Justice, via their Member State, on grounds of infringement of the principle of subsidiarity by a legislative act.

The Houses of Parliament have already indicated that they would consult the UK's devolved institutions, as part of this process.

Given that the future of the EU Constitutional Treaty is uncertain, the Committee of the Regions and national parliaments are now considering ways in which they can strengthen the monitoring of the application of the subsidiarity principle. The Assembly's European and External Affairs Committee are following this issue and are working with the Committee of Regions on it. For further information, see the Committee of the Region's website<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> [www.cor.eu.int](http://www.cor.eu.int)

### **3 Summary – potential for the engagement of committees in the EU decision-making process**

The key to influencing European legislative and policy proposals is to engage with the right players at the right time. Committees may wish to consider some or all of the following in order to maximise their effectiveness:

- inviting the Welsh Assembly Government to explain the impact of a proposal on Wales, to give its response to the proposal and explain how it is making its views known to the UK government and Commission.
- inviting a Commission representative, UK government officials or MEPs for a direct exchange of views – which may be more easily done in Brussels than Cardiff.
- inviting Welsh or UK organisations to the committee or expert witnesses to give their views on any particular issue, (e.g. business representatives, ASPBs, Welsh Local Government Association, social and environmental NGOs, universities).
- having agreed its position on an issue, Committees may wish to promote this to the key institutions in the decision-making process, and other relevant players:
  - the European Parliament: for example, by communicating this to Wales' MEPs and inviting them to pursue the issue in the EP. Channels open to MEPs to do so include influencing relevant EP committee rapporteurs, tabling amendments, tabling questions to the Commission, influencing the position of their EP political grouping. Where a proposal is subject to co-decision, there will be greatest scope for influence before the first reading.
  - the European Commission: by responding to Commission consultations; engaging in direct dialogue with the Commission at meetings and conferences; writing to the relevant Commissioner responsible for the policy to promote its view.
  - in addition to scrutinising the WAG's position, the Committee may wish to write to the relevant UK government Minister to make its view known.
  - other potential players include:
    - the European committees of the Houses of Parliament, for example, submitting evidence to House of Lords' enquiries;
    - Assembly Members of the Committee of the Regions may table amendments to the CoR's reports;
    - European associations on which the Assembly is represented e.g. CPMR, CALRE, and other networks of regions and organisations with similar interests. Forming a pan-European coalition on an issue is important for having a wider

impact and a platform at the European level which takes the debate beyond national boundaries.

- monitoring the progress of the proposal through the decision-making process, either through updates from the Welsh Assembly Government in particular on the outcome of Council meetings (Minister's report, for example), or through European update briefings from the Members' Research Service.
- considering a further response to developments if good opportunities present themselves as the debate matures and the institutions' viewpoints become clear.

#### **Annex A: Welsh Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) 2004-09 – Committee membership**

##### **Jill Evans, MEP (Plaid Cymru)**

Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, Member  
Committee on Regional Development, Substitute  
Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, Substitute  
Delegation for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council, Member  
Delegation for relations with the Gulf States, including Yemen, Substitute

##### **Jonathan Evans, MEP (Conservative)**

Member of the Bureau  
Conference of Delegation Chairmen, Member  
Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs, Member  
Committee on Foreign Affairs, Substitute  
Delegation for relations with the United States, Chairman  
Delegation for relations with Japan, Substitute

##### **Glenys Kinnock, MEP (Labour)**

Conference of Delegation Chairmen, Member  
Committee on Development, Member  
Committee on Foreign Affairs, Substitute  
Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Chairwoman

##### **Eluned Morgan, MEP (Labour)**

Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, Member  
Committee on Budgetary Control, Substitute  
Committee on Regional Development, Substitute  
Delegation to the EU-Bulgaria Joint Parliamentary Committee, Member  
Delegation to the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly, Member  
Delegation to the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Substitute

## Annex B: How do Assembly Committees relate to the EU institutions?

### Culture, Welsh Language and Sport

European Commission	European Parliament	Council of Ministers
<a href="#">DG Education and Culture (EAC)</a> Commissioner: Ján Figel, Education, Training, Culture and Multilingualism	<a href="#">Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)</a> Chair: Nikolaos SIFUNAKIS (PES – Greece)	<a href="#">Education, Youth and Culture (EYC)</a>

### Economic Development and Transport

European Commission	European Parliament	Council of Ministers
<a href="#">DG Regional Policy</a> Commissioner: Danuta Hubner  <a href="#">DG Energy and Transport</a> – Commissioner for Transport: Jacques Barrot, and Vice- President of the Commission Energy: Andris Piebalgs  <a href="#">DG Competition</a> Commissioner: Neelie Kroes  <a href="#">DG Economic and Financial Affairs</a> Commissioner: Joaquín Almunia  <a href="#">DG Employment and Social Affairs</a> Commissioner: Vladimír Špidla	<a href="#">Committee on Regional Development (REGI)</a> Chair: Gerardo Galeote Quecedo (EPP – Spain)  <a href="#">Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN)</a> Chair: Paolo Costa (ALDE – Italy)  <a href="#">Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON)</a> Chair: Pervenche Beres (PES – France)  <a href="#">Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)</a> Chair: Ottaviano del Turco (PES – Italy)	<a href="#">Economic and Financial Affairs Council (ECOFIN)</a>  <a href="#">Competitiveness Council</a>  <a href="#">Transport Telecommunications and Energy Council (TTE)</a>  <a href="#">Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)</a>

### Economic Development and Transport continued

European Commission	European Parliament	Council of Ministers
<p><a href="#">DG Enterprise and Industry</a> Commissioner: Günter Verheugen and Vice-President of the Commission</p> <p><a href="#">DG Internal Market and Services</a> Commissioner: Charlie McCreevy</p> <p><a href="#">DG Research</a> Commissioner: Janez Potočnik, Science and Research</p>	<p><a href="#">Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)</a> Chair: Giles Chichester (EPP – UK)</p> <p><a href="#">Committee on Internal market and consumer protection (IMCO)</a> Chair: Philip Whitehead (PES – UK)</p>	

### Education and Lifelong Learning

European Commission	European Parliament	Council of Ministers
<p><a href="#">DG Education and Culture (EAC)</a> Commissioner: Ján Figel</p>	<p><a href="#">Committee on Culture and Education (CULT)</a> Chair: Nikolaos SIFUNAKIS (PES – Greece)</p> <p><a href="#">Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)</a> Chair: Ottaviano del Turco (PES – Italy)</p>	<p><a href="#">Education, Youth and Culture (EYC)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)</a></p>

### Environment Planning and Countryside

European Commission	European Parliament	Council of Ministers
<a href="#">DG Environment</a> Commissioner: Stavros Dimas  <a href="#">DG Agriculture and Rural Development</a> Commissioner: Mariann Fischer Boel  <a href="#">DG Fisheries and Maritime Affairs</a> Commissioner: Joe Borg	<a href="#">Committee on the Environment (ENVI)</a> Chair: Karl-Heinz Florenz (EPP-ED - Germany)  <a href="#">Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI)</a> Chair: Joseph Daul (EPP-ED – France)  <a href="#">Committee on Fisheries (PECH)</a> Chair: Philippe Morillon (ALDE – France)	<a href="#">Agriculture and Fisheries Council</a>  <a href="#">Environment Council</a>

### Health and Social Services

European Commission	European Parliament	Council of Ministers
<a href="#">DG Health and Consumer Protection</a> Commissioner: Markos Kyprianou	<a href="#">Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)</a> Chair: Karl-Heinz Florenz (EPP-ED - Germany)	<a href="#">Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)</a>

### Local Government and Public Services

European Commission	European Parliament	Council of Ministers
<a href="#">DG Internal Market and Services</a> Commissioner: Charlie McCreevy	<a href="#">Committee on Internal market and consumer protection (IMCO)</a> Chair: Philip Whitehead (PES – UK)	<a href="#">Competitiveness Council</a>

## Social Justice and Regeneration

European Commission	European Parliament	Council of Ministers
<p><a href="#">DG Justice Freedom and Security</a> Commissioner: Franco Frattini</p> <p><a href="#">DG Employment and Social Affairs</a> Commissioner: Vladimír Špidla</p> <p><a href="#">DG Health and Consumer Protection</a> Commissioner: Markos Kyprianou</p>	<p><a href="#">Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs</a> Chair: Jean-Louis Bourlanges (ALDE – France)</p> <p><a href="#">Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)</a> Chair: Ottaviano del Turco (PES – Italy)</p> <p><a href="#">Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI)</a> Chair: Karl-Heinz Florenz (EPP-ED - Germany)</p>	<p><a href="#">Justice and Home Affairs Council</a></p> <p><a href="#">Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)</a></p>

## Equal Opportunities

European Commission	European Parliament	Council of Ministers
<p><a href="#">DG Justice Freedom and Security</a> Commissioner: Franco Frattini</p> <p><a href="#">DG Employment and Social Affairs</a> Commissioner: Vladimír Špidla</p>	<p><a href="#">Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs</a> Chair: Jean-Louis Bourlanges (ALDE – France)</p> <p><a href="#">Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL)</a> Chair: Ottaviano del Turco (PSE – Italy)</p>	<p><a href="#">Justice and Home Affairs Council</a></p> <p><a href="#">Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)</a></p>

**Members' Research Service: Research Paper**  
**Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau: Papur Ymchwil**



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Cymru Wales