

Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

SJR(2)-05- 07(p.4)

Date: Thursday 22 March 2007

Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Venue: The Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

EU Work Programme Update

1. Introduction

The European Commission's Work Programme was published on 24 October 2006. It lists all strategic and priority items which the Commission will propose in 2007. A paper was presented to Members of the Committee on 1 February inviting them to note the main aspects of the forward work programme which were relevant to the remit of this Committee and which it might want to suggest are taken forward in the Third Assembly. This paper is attached as Annex 1.

This paper provides an update on the 3 areas highlighted in the paper:

Green Paper on the Establishment of the Second Phase of the Common European Asylum System

Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and the Council designating 2010 as the European Year of combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

2. Update on key areas

2.1. Social Reality Stocktaking

The European Commission initiated a public consultation to take stock of present social realities and trends in European societies on 26 February 2007. This exercise will be based on a consultation paper, a 'Eurobarometer poll' and a special website. As a starting point for the consultations, the Commission presented an interim report to the European Council on 8 and 9 March 2007, backed up by a consultation paper prepared by the Bureau of European Policy Advisers (BEPA) of the Commission.

The Eurobarometer poll was carried out at the end of 2006 through face to face interviews with a total of 26,755 people about a broad range of societal and personal

values and issues such as justice, immigration, drugs and sexual orientation. The report is available here: http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/eb/eb66/eb66_highlights_en.pdf

Anyone with an interest in the issues at stake is invited to participate in the debate (or to make its views known) during the period of consultation. The consultation will stretch over the remainder of 2007.

The full BEPA report and instructions on how to follow the public consultation are available here: http://ec.europa.eu/citizens_agenda/social_reality_stocktaking/index_en.htm

2.2. Green Paper on the Establishment of the Second Phase of the Common European Asylum System

No new developments to date

2.3. Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and the Council designating 2010 as the European Year of combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

No new developments to date

**Janice Gregory
Chair of the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee**

Social Reality Stocktaking