

## EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE EUR-02-02(p.6)

**Date:** 20 March 2002  
**Time:** 9.30am  
**Venue:** Committee Rooms 3 & 4, National Assembly Building.  
**Title:** Reports from Standing Invitees

### **Report from Eluned Morgan MEP**

#### Appointment of new members to the European Economic and Social Committee

- Members of the European Economic and Social Committee (ESC) are due to be re-nominated shortly. The Assembly may wish to consider how members of the ESC are appointed, in particular whether this is an issue which should be devolved to Wales.

#### Steel

- Glenys Kinnock and I met the European Commissioner with responsibility for trade, Commissioner Pascal Lamy, on March 12<sup>th</sup> in Strasbourg, to discuss the situation for the Welsh steel industry in light of the recent introduction of tariffs by the USA. One of the main concerns we raised was the possibility of a flood of cheap steel coming into the UK from other countries, having been diverted from America. Commissioner Lamy assured us that steps would be taken to prevent this and said he was confident that these measures will be in place in a matter of weeks. We also pressed the Commissioner on the question of compensation for the steel industry when it is confirmed that the US have acted illegally. We were informed that this will now be considered, along with the possibility of putting retaliation measures into place.

#### Commission visits to Wales

- Commissioner Viviane Reding (who has responsibility for Education and Culture) has accepted my invitation to attend the Urdd Eisteddfod in Cardiff on 7<sup>th</sup> June. I am currently arranging a programme of visits which will include meetings with local, Assembly and Westminster politicians, members of the 2008 Capital of Culture team and representatives of community organisations.
- European Commission President Romano Prodi will be visiting Wales on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### Question to the European Commission

- I recently received a response to a Question I submitted to the European Commission on their

understanding of 'full national status'. Copies of the response can be obtained from my office ([emorgan@europarl.eu.int](mailto:emorgan@europarl.eu.int)).