



Welcome to the November 2012 edition of my regular enewsletter.

If you require any further information on the issues contained within it then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Social Enterprises

Social enterprises bring huge economic benefits to the EU and last week in Strasbourg I voted to support the Social Business Initiative, which fosters the further development of the social enterprise sector. The initiative looks in particular at promoting social entrepreneurship for young and disadvantaged people and is a positive step towards encouraging the development of existing, and the creation of new, innovative social enterprises. In Wales the sector includes over 3,000 organisations funding up to 30,000 full time jobs. With recent figures estimating a total annual turnover of around £2.2 billion it is clear that this sector is vital to the Welsh economy and I am delighted that the European Parliament has supported measures to promote the sector further.

Ban on Shark finning



Labour MEPs voted recently in favour of more stringent measures to protect sharks by banning the practice of cutting off sharks' fins on board vessels. Until now, hunters have been able to cut off the animals' fins and toss them back into the sea alive, where they drown. Even though shark finning was banned by the EU a decade ago, loopholes in the old legislation made it possible for this barbaric act to continue. The UK is already up to speed on the issue of shark finning and doesn't carry out this wasteful practice. MEPs have now done the right thing and voted to bring EU law in line with UK rules. Special exemptions which allow Member States to get round shark finning rules will cease to exist once this legislation becomes law in 2013.

Better Protection for Children

This Strasbourg session I voted in favour of a report calling on EU Member States to step up their efforts to protect children in the digital world. The Internet is central to the daily lives of today's generation of young Europeans, with half of those aged between 11 and 16 feeling more comfortable expressing themselves online than in real life, according to a recent survey. It is therefore vitally important that frameworks are put into place to protect children from the more sinister aspects of the Web. Minors are particularly vulnerable to cyber bullying and grooming, so I agree with this report's proposals that EU countries should increase their efforts to limit online risks and combat the circulation of illegal content. The report, which was adopted by the European Parliament, also recommends that education in new media be extended to parents as well as children, so that they can better understand both the benefits and the dangers of the Internet during childhood.

Rural Leadership Training Programme

This month in Brussels I welcomed Welsh participants in the Rural Leadership Programme to the European Parliament. The programme is an initiative to help develop core leadership skills in Wales and it aims to inspire a new generation of leaders, with enhanced rural knowledge



Contact me :

4th Floor
Transport House
1 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9SD
T: 029 20 227660
Vernon House
39 Rhosddu Road
Wrexham
LL11 2NS
T: 01978 350052

E: contact@derekvaughanmep.org.uk

W: www.derekvaughanmep.org.uk

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/derekvaughanmep

Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/derekvaughan>

-
-

and political awareness. In an interesting and lively discussion with the group I listened to their concerns about the proposed cuts to the EU budget, which could potentially see a reduction in CAP money coming to Wales. I have always emphasised the need for Wales to continue to receive its fair share of support for agriculture and that any cut in the EU budget would be highly damaging.

Autism Cymru/Gwenda Thomas AM



I was very pleased to welcome Welsh Assembly Member, Gwenda Thomas, to the European Parliament this month. As the Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services she was in Brussels to discuss health improvement and healthy ageing and also to speak at an event on Developing a Europe-wide Autism Strategy. Wales has a successful national strategy in place to identify and meet the needs of people with autism and Wales was highlighted as a brilliant example for other areas in the EU to follow, but there is still much more to be done. Autism Cymru is leading the way and working tirelessly to make the case for a strategy for autism at EU level and I was delighted to be able to attend the event to show my support. This strategy would help with the coordination of services, such as adapted education and training, which is so vital to the 3.3 million people in the EU who have autism.

7-year spending plan for the EU

European leaders last week gathered in Brussels to debate the EU's spending plan for the next 7 years. Heads of States will have to try again to thrash out a deal on the next round of European funding - negotiations are expected to be tough, with net contributors seeking a cut in the budget and net recipients wanting to at least maintain the current amounts. I have consistently fought hard to protect Wales' interests and to make sure that Wales receives its fair share of structural funding. Any cut to these programmes would be highly damaging to Wales, especially during these tough economic times. We need to be regenerating deprived areas and pumping money in to providing jobs and growth, not cutting the money that Wales receives. I welcome the Welsh Government's position, to oppose cuts to structural funds in Wales. As an active member of the Budget committee I will continue to follow this issue closely and to make sure that Wales' voice is heard in Europe.

Cardiff, European Capital of Sport 2014

Last year it was announced that Cardiff is to be the European Capital of Sport in 2014, and I was delighted to be able to support representatives from Cardiff Council as they collected the award in a ceremony held at the European Parliament earlier this month. This prestigious and well-deserved title was awarded in recognition of the capital's world-class sports venues and impressive grassroots programmes. Cardiff's open-minded and inclusive ethos makes it an ideal European Capital of Sport, and I am proud that Wales's significant sporting achievements have been recognised on a European scale.

In the constituency

In recent weeks, I have had the pleasure of meeting constituents, local groups and organisations in Barry, Cardiff, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire with future engagements already in my diary in Cynon

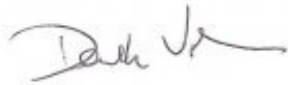
Valley, Ebbw Vale, Pontyclun and Rhondda.

I am also in the process of organising my next round of European Policy discussion events that will be open for Labour Party members to attend in the New Year. They will take place in Rhyl, Cwmbran, Llanelli, Neath and Pontypridd and I expect to be able to confirm guest speakers and dates in my next enewsletter.

Christmas Card Competition

Once again, I have had a great response from schools across Wales entering my Christmas Card Design Competition. The winning entrant, Kiah Rose (Ysgol Rhys Pritchard, Llandovery) will now have their design printed on the front of my Christmas Card with age category winners Jayla Mullen (Cogan Nursery School, Penarth) and Thomas Hames (Dwr Y Felin Comprehensive, Neath) also being highly commended for their efforts.

Best Wishes



Derek Vaughan MEP

Member of the European Parliament

Labour, Wales

[Forward this email](#) to a friend.

Derek Vaughan MEP
4th Floor, Transport House, 1 Cathedral Road, Cardiff, CF11 9SD, United Kingdom.

[Unsubscribe or update your details](#)

Alternatively reply to this email with the word 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

This email was delivered to anthony.taylor@derekvaughanmep.org.uk.
powered by [mailvivo](#).