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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations
SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

18 June 2025

Dear Delyth,

I write to you following my appearance at the CCWLSIR Committee where you asked for confirmation of the engagement we have with EU institutions.

As you are aware, Wales' relationship with Europe and the European Union (EU) remains of significant importance beyond the United Kingdom's exit from the EU. The EU continues to be Wales' largest trading partner, and the EU–UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement ensures that decisions made by the EU will continue to have direct implications for Wales.

The Welsh Government's office in Brussels plays a vital role in ensuring that Welsh interests are represented and that Wales' profile is elevated within EU institutions and networks. Officials based in the Brussels office are responsible for developing and maintaining day-to-day working relationships with a wide range of stakeholders to support these objectives.

The appointment of Derek Vaughan as the Welsh Government Representative on Europe has been instrumental in maintaining our connection with the EU and ensuring that Wales' voice continues to be heard.

The Brussels office regularly engages with Members of the European Parliament to promote policies developed in Wales, such as the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Basic Income pilot. Welsh Government Ministers have also presented to the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education and the Committee on Regional Development, sharing insights on initiatives such as the Taith programme and our broader approach to EU engagement.

This engagement is further strengthened by the office's leadership roles in regional networks such as the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions and the Vanguard Initiative. These networks enable us to build connections within the EU and foster interregional collaboration among academics, small and medium-sized enterprises, and public sector organisations.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

In relation to the European Commission, Welsh Government officials and the Future Generations Commissioner have met with Commissioner Glenn Micallef, the first-ever EU Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness. This meeting provided an opportunity to share a decade of learning from our pioneering Well-being of Future Generations Act, as the EU begins to focus more closely on generational challenges and opportunities.

Learning from the EU is also a key element of the Brussels office's work. The team regularly reports back to colleagues in Wales on EU initiatives and legislation that could inform and shape Welsh policy. Recently, we hosted a panel event in collaboration with the European Policy Centre on the circular economy. This event not only showcased the work being undertaken in Wales but also provided a platform to hear from the European Commission and other stakeholders about their approaches in this area.

Throughout the year, we create opportunities for Welsh Government Ministers to engage with senior stakeholders in the European Parliament, the European Commission, and industry partners. A prime example of this is the programme of events held around Saint David's Day, during which the First Minister has previously engaged with Members of the European Parliament, promoted the excellent research projects of Welsh universities, and encouraged investment into Wales by engaging with business leaders.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio