

## NORTH WEST MEPS – MEMBERSHIP OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT COMMITTEES

Following the European elections in June, North West of England MEPs have been appointed to their parliamentary committees and delegations. **Brian SIMPSON** (Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D), UK Labour) is the Chair of the Transport and Tourism Committee and a member of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. **Jacqueline FOSTER** (European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR), UK Conservatives) is on the Transport and Tourism Committee and the Employment and Social Affairs Committee. **Chris DAVIES** (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE), UK Liberal Democrats) is on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee and the Fisheries and the Budgetary Control Committees. **Arlene MCCARTHY** (S&D) is Vice Chair of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee and a member of the Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee. **Paul NUTTALL** (Europe of Freedom and Democracy Group (EFD), UKIP) is on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee and the Culture and Education Committee. **Sajjad KARIM** (ECR) is on the Industry, Research and Energy Committee and the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee. **Nick GRIFFIN** (non-attached member, British National Party) is on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee and the Industry, Research and Energy Committee. **Sir Robert ATKINS** (ECR) is on the Foreign Affairs Committee.



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT



The European Commission has published a report reflecting on the future of its green policies. The first review in 2001 of the Sustainable Development Strategy confirmed that a number of unsustainable trends were ongoing, and highlighted the controversial relationship between the Sustainable Development Strategy and the Lisbon Agenda for growth and jobs. The latest report discusses the impact that climate change is having on the increased global demand for food and on the depletion of forestry. The EC estimates that the annual loss of ecosystem services is equivalent to €50 billion and that the cumulated welfare losses may be equal to 7 per cent of GDP

by 2050. It stresses the need for greater synergy with the Lisbon Strategy for growth and jobs (which will be reviewed in 2010), and for better coordination and linkage between climate change, energy, and financial and social sustainability. This report will be presented to the leaders of the EU member states who will review these strategies later this year.

## REFLECTION PAPER ON THE FUTURE OF COHESION POLICY

Earlier in 2009, Commissioner Danuta Hübner, responsible for Regional Policy, presented her ideas on the future of Cohesion policy, before leaving the European Commission in May. The 'Reflection Paper on Future Cohesion Policy' was presented at the Informal Meeting of Ministers for Regional Policy. Other papers of relevance to the debate are: the Fourth Cohesion Report, Region 2020 and the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion. The Greater Manchester Brussels Office organised a meeting of the UK Brussels Office Cohesion Working Group, with special guest Ms. Madeleine Mahovsky speaking on the "Reflection Paper on Future Cohesion Policy". Ms. Mahovsky was responsible for work on cohesion policy in Commissioner Hübner's cabinet and was closely involved in the preparation of this document, which contains some broad statements on the rationale for the policy, reinforced territorial involvement, an emphasis on 'core' policy areas, and suggestions for improved delivery. Ms Mahovsky emphasised that the Reflection Paper was one element in the debate on the future of the Structural Funds. The debate is an important point on the EU agenda therefore the new Commissioner for Regional Policy, Paweł Samecki, has announced that he will take it forward with a further Reflection Paper expected in November 2009.

## NEW MEMBER OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER BRUSSELS OFFICE

Robert Delis joined the Greater Manchester Brussels Office on 12 August 2009 as Senior European Policy Officer. Since his arrival in Brussels four years ago, Robert has gained experience in EU affairs working for several organisations, including local authorities and third sector bodies. Robert has particular expertise in the following fields: the Common Agricultural Policy and Rural Development, public health, environment, transport and EU funding opportunities.

## OTHER OPEN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS – EDUCATION COOPERATION PROGRAMME

A call for exchange projects of students and staff, developing a joint curriculum and study programme between the EU and Australia, Japan and the Republic of Korea. Eligible applicants are higher education institutions, and vocational and training institutions. Total budget is €2.8m. **Deadline: 15 September 2009.**

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS – KNOWLEDGE BROKERAGE INITIATIVES

This call will support international cooperation in the development of knowledge brokerage mechanisms in the field of education and training. This action intends to strengthen the links between research, policy and practice and to create a better understanding about the results of research on education and training amongst policy, decision-makers and practitioners. Applications must be submitted by a legal person from a relevant organisation, such as Ministries of education or other public bodies, research centres and universities, foundations or associations. Total budget is €500,000. **Deadline: 29 September 2009.**

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS – MOBILITY FOR APPRENTICES

This call aims to encourage, facilitate and inform about the mobility of apprentices in alternative vocational training schemes by creating a sustainable network of operators and component bodies supported by a web-based platform. The action intends to strengthen partnership in the area of qualitative support for stakeholders, especially in the skilled trades and Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) sectors. Potential beneficiaries are organisations working in the area of vocational training and the mobility of people in vocational training in the EU-27. Proposals must be submitted by existing/future partnerships with at least five partners established in five different eligible countries. Total budget is €1m. **Deadline: 30 September 2009.**

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS – YOUTH IN ACTION

Call for projects focussing on the introduction, implementation and promotion of innovative and qualitative elements in non-formal education and youth work. Examples of such elements include activity content, implementation methods, or a novel approach to non-formal education. Projects must include partners from at least four different Programme Countries (EU, EEA and Turkey). Total budget is €1.2m. **Deadline: 30 September 2009.**

### EUROPEAN YOUTH FOUNDATION

The purpose of the fund is to encourage co-operation among young people in Europe by providing financial support to such European youth activities which serve the promotion of peace, understanding and co-operation in a spirit of respect for the Council of Europe's fundamental values of human rights, democracy, tolerance and solidarity. Previous projects have received between €8,000 and €20,000 funding. **Deadline: 01 October 2009**

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS – ERASMUS PROGRAMME WITH LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES

Call for projects developing partnerships between EU and Latin American higher education institutions. Total budget is €12.7m. **Deadline: 15 October 2009.**

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS – SAFER INTERNET PROGRAMME

Call for projects to develop a safer internet based on four actions: ensuring public awareness; fighting illegal content and tackling harmful online conduct; promoting a safer online environment and establishing a knowledge base. **Deadline: 19 November 2009.**

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS – YOUTH IN ACTION

The call aims to support various partnerships (transnational youth exchanges, national or transnational youth initiatives, European voluntary service, training and networking) between the European Commission and those organisations which aim to develop their long-term actions and programmes in the field of non-formal learning and youth. The call is open to local or regional bodies and non-profit organisations active at European. Total budget is €1.2m. **Deadline: 1 December 2009.**

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