

Debate on Common Agricultural Policy

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The EU has opened public debate on its agricultural policy, the prelude to a major reform in 2013. This is in line with the EU's new long-term economic strategy which is a 10-year economic plan, the Europe 2020 strategy. It is likely to have far-reaching implications for agriculture, in part because of its emphasis on a low-carbon economy.

In a speech at the European parliament, agriculture commissioner Dacian Cioloş, said the current policy faces major challenges, including climate change, problems with food availability and pressures on resources and rural economies.

Changes will be proposed toward the end of this year, after the commission has reviewed public comments. They would take effect after the current programme of funding expires in 2013.

It is hoped the consultation, which ended in June, will draw contributions from consumers, environmental campaigners and animal welfare groups, in addition to farmers.

EU agricultural policy - CAP - seeks to guarantee farmers a reasonable standard of living, ensure sufficient food at fair prices, and preserve Europe's rural heritage. Costing about €55bn a year, it accounts for 40% of the EU's budget, most of which is paid to farmers in the form of direct subsidies. About 5% of the working population is engaged in agriculture.

The EU has made extensive changes to the policy over the last decades, abolishing production-based farm aid and giving farmers more freedom to grow what the market wants. A recent survey shows broad support for the policy, with six in 10 respondents saying they support current spending levels or an even bigger budget.

As the EU pursues further reform, commissioner Cioloş warned that the stakes are high: "The events that the world has experience in the last two years serve as a reminder of this."

In 2008 the world saw a sudden and steep rise in food prices that triggered protests in many countries. Last year, European dairy farmers took to the streets in anger over plummeting milk prices.



The political consequences of the Smolensk tragedy

The Smolensk tragedy on 10 April put the entire Polish nation in shock, as many top political figures were killed. The multiple human tragedy immediately suspended political debate. The state entered into emergency mode and some questions on the stability of the Polish democracy emerged. It was the country's greatest human and political catastrophe since 1945.

The state institutions reacted to the crisis in a timely and organised manner. The constitutional provisions were applied. The acting President took up the responsibilities of the Head of State. All other state officials were replaced by their acting successors. Early Presidential elections took place on 20 June.

As the Polish state passed the test of political stability, the Polish nation passed the test of democratic maturity. The direct aftermath of the Smolensk tragedy also opens new possibilities for Poland's foreign and European policies and links with the European Union.



What has Europe Direct Wrexham been up to and plans ahead.

Christmas Farmers Market

Europe Direct Wrexham were invited to participate in the annual Christmas Farmers market, held in Queen's Square, Wrexham. Although it was a very cold day, it was a great way to get out and speak to the public, taking questions and giving out Information.

Europe Direct Wrexham provides up- to- date, free information regarding Europe and the European Union and organises and participates in local events.

If your organisation would like to Europe Direct to participate in an event , please do not hesitate to call us on:

Tel: 01978 292090

Email: europedirect@wrexham.gov.uk



Wales Europe and the World in Glyndwr University

Europe Direct Wrexham attended an event organised by Europe Direct Llangollen, CILT Cymru and the European Commission Representation in Wales.

The event was aimed at school children 14-19 years old, and its aim was to highlight Wales' European and global links and to help the pupils find out more about working, studying and travelling in Europe and the wider world whilst using languages to get the most out of the experience.

The day involved many activities including Salsa Dancing, Tai Chi, Humanitarian Aid presentation, Japanese taster sessions and Euro-Quiz. It was also a great opportunity to help them learn more about Europe and the wealth of opportunities that are available.



Wrexham Learning Festival

Europe Direct Wrexham was invited to attend one of the events during Wrexham Learning Festival held in Queen's Square Wrexham as part of Adult Learners Week.

The aim of the day was to make the public aware of the organisations that are available around Wrexham which offer a wide range of learning such as hands-on computer skills and basic photo editing skills.



Europe Direct distributed a wide range of publications to help people learn about languages, the EU, different cultures and countries and the environment.

Broughton Together

A cultural event was organised by the local Beat Manager to celebrate the diversity of cultures in New Broughton.

The event aimed at bringing the community closer together to learn more about each others cultures, beliefs and lifestyles.

Activities included a singing performance by the local Rainbow group as well as organisations promoting their services

Europe Direct was also invited to disseminate publications in order to raise awareness of issues in the European Union and Europe, including cultural and linguistic diversity.

Europe Day Celebrations

Europe Direct Wrexham organised a day of activities for children from secondary schools around Wrexham.

The day began with a general presentation about the European Union, its history, institutions, languages and candidate countries.

The first workshop was a quiz about Europe where the children had to work in groups of twos or threes and a prize consisting of a goody bags containing lots of publications for the team that gained the highest score.

One workshop gave pupils the opportunity to 'Design your own MEP' (Member of the European Parliament). The children were given a sheet of paper with an outline of a person for which they had to discuss and establish the attributes which they thought were the most important for a successful MEP to possess. Through this workshop the participating children learned what an MEP is and about their role.

The third and final workshop was all about decorating an Eco Cotton Shopper bag, with the inspiration from issues around Europe.



European Day of Languages 22nd September 2010

Europe Direct Wrexham is in the process of organising the 2010 European Day of Languages. It is an annual event that is celebrated around all of Europe.

There are 500 million citizens and 23 official languages in the EU. Due to this it is important to learn new languages to be able to travel, live or work with ease all around Europe. Knowing other languages promotes cross-cultural contacts, mutual understanding and direct communications between citizens.

Many people are put off learning foreign languages as they are under the impression it would take a lifetime to learn. However, research suggests that with the right approach and motivation anyone can pick up at least a basic command of a foreign language.

Recently, Europe Direct Wrexham was invited to Ysgol Morgan Llwyd to talk to students about Europe and the benefits of learning modern foreign languages. Language skills gained in schools can maximise the prospects of studying, working and living abroad.



Another important point was made, that learning languages does not have to be restricted to school, colleges or universities. Languages can be learned throughout life, whatever age. Local Colleges and Universities often offer language courses for adults.

Wrexham Library also holds a large amount of foreign languages learning packs which can be hired for extended periods.

This years European Day of Languages will be held in the Memorial Hall, and children from schools around Wrexham will be given the opportunity to participate in several workshops based on the principals of learning modern foreign languages.



Twinning Celebrations

16th October 2010

Wrexham, has a diverse and exciting multicultural heritage, exemplified by its twinning agreement with Märkischer Kreis, Germany and Racibórz, Poland.

The first Twinning was established on 17th March 1970 between the former Kreis Iserlohn and Wrexham Rural District. Its early success ensured that, after local government reorganisation in both countries in the mid-seventies, the Twinning was taken over by the new Councils of Märkischer Kreis and Wrexham Maelor Borough Council and, in 1996, by Wrexham County Borough Council.

In 2001 Märkischer Kreis entered a Twinning arrangement with Racibórz (Ratibor), a county in Poland, which was formerly part of Silesia, Germany. In September 2002, a delegation from Racibórz visited Wrexham and began initial discussions about possible co-operation which led, eventually, to the signing of Articles of Twinning between Wrexham and Racibórz in March 2004

In September 2008, an event was held by Europe Direct Wrexham. The day had consisted of many performances and stalls set up by local organisations involved in Twinning. It turned out to be a great success and was very much enjoyed by the local crowd.

This year a similar event will take place in Wrexham's Queen's Square, where a 'Twinning Market' will be set up providing a variety of information, foods and crafts from local organisations and businesses. Such an event will give the people of Wrexham the chance to discover more about Twinning, Wrexham and its twin regions and what it means to be a citizen of Europe.

Organisations, clubs, choirs and individuals who have been involved in twinning will be invited to participate and will be on hand to answer any questions the public may have.



The day's events will see many performances such as fencing demonstrations, local choirs, and speakers compered by the community radio station, Calon FM.

So come along on the day and browse the stalls, speak to the organisations and listen to the performances!

European Fairies

Europe Direct Wrexham and Europe Direct Llangollen have been working together hosting workshops across parts of North Wales where children in primary school get to learn about Europe.

Each child is given a premade cardboard fairy, which they then are asked to decorate with objects, pictures or stickers that are relevant to a country in the European Union.

After they have completed their European Fairy, they can place them on the relevant country on a large floor map and describe what they have learned about the country.

So far the fairies that have been made have been brilliant, as lots of hard work and imagination have gone into them and the children have really enjoyed the hands-on experience!



Summer European Union Quiz

1. How many stars does the EU flag have?
2. How many official languages can we find in the EU?
3. Do you need a visa to travel in the EU?
4. What is the capital of Bulgaria?
5. How many countries are in the Eurozone?
6. Which country is famous for flamenco dancing?
7. In which country is the Eiffel Tower?
8. In which country do people speak Finnish?
9. How many countries are member states of the EU?



10. What year was the Euro currency introduced in the EU?
11. What year was the EU named the European Union?
12. Which country's flag is this?



13. Name these and which country are they associated with?



14. On which day is Europe Day celebrated?
15. What do the letters MEP stand for?



16. Where is the European Parliament based?
17. What is the European emergency number?
18. How would you say Hello in Italian?
19. In which year did the UK join the EU?
20. What is the motto of the EU?

Useful websites for information about the European Union:

[Answers are printed on page 6](#)

www.europarl.com
www.europe.org.uk
www.europa.eu

European Wordsearch

See how many European related words you can spot!

F	T	E	F	S	Q	Y	A	E	N	E	Y	E	E	X
Q	A	S	L	G	T	E	U	R	O	A	J	V	U	S
N	O	R	W	A	Y	Y	G	M	R	B	I	R	R	S
O	V	C	M	Z	U	Q	T	G	W	I	A	O	O	N
L	S	N	R	I	E	G	J	E	A	Z	J	U	P	Z
I	N	E	W	U	N	N	O	R	Y	O	P	E	E	U
O	P	D	A	B	B	G	T	M	E	D	M	A	A	T
X	B	E	R	L	I	N	W	A	L	L	T	E	N	D
C	R	T	D	O	J	D	I	N	F	J	P	U	U	L
E	U	R	O	P	E	D	A	Y	D	B	I	L	N	I
P	A	V	K	Q	M	Z	G	W	E	M	A	I	I	A
S	O	C	I	A	L	E	X	C	L	U	S	I	O	N
M	P	E	A	U	H	B	S	N	K	B	S	N	N	O
E	I	F	F	E	L	T	O	W	E	R	O	M	E	E
Q	E	E	Y	E	N	L	A	R	G	E	M	E	N	T

- Europe Day
- Farming
- Poverty
- Eiffel Tower
- European Union
- Euro
- Germany
- Rome
- Berlin Wall
- Enlargement
- Social Exclusion



Quiz Answers

- | | | |
|------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. 12 | 9. 27 | 17. 112 |
| 2. 23 | 10. 2002 | 18. Ciao |
| 3. No | 11. 1991 | 19. 1973 |
| 4. Sofia | 12. Sweden | 20. United in Diversity |
| 5. 16 | 13. Clogs, Netherland | |
| 6. Spain | 14. 9th May | |
| 7. France | 15. Member of the European Parliament | |
| 8. Finland | 16. Brussels | |



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