EAST MIDLANDS REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
REGIONAL & COMMUNITIES POLICY BOARD
Friday 13 June 2008
10.00am, Galileo Room, Pera, Melton Mowbray

European Issues

Synopsis

This report provides an update on key European issues of particular relevance to this Board.

CAP Health Check –

On 20 May 2008 the Commission launched legislative proposals for the next round of CAP reform, the so called CAP Health Check covering elements outlined in the Commission's Communication of 20 November 2007. The Health Check will review the 2003 reforms and contribute to the discussion on the future shape of the CAP. The UK Government has put forward the following ambitions for the Health Check including:

- Removing the production linked farm payments which remained after the 2003 reforms and avoiding the re-introduction of new distortions;
- Further shifting the balance away from farm subsidies towards measures which protect and enhance the environment;
- Simplifying the bureaucracy associated with the CAP, including the Single Payment Scheme;
- Simplifying the system of cross-compliance which makes farm payments dependent on meeting a range of environmental and other standards, and targeting the system better at delivering key environmental objectives;
- Setting a clear timetable for phasing out price support and market controls including the use of intervention, production controls and export subsidies;
- Phasing out the milk quota system in a way which provides a smooth transition for dairy farmers and gives them the certainty they need to plan their businesses.
- Putting measures in place to capture the key environmental benefits provided by set-aside;

The legislative proposals are part of six months of negotiations, with the intention of concluding a deal by the end of the year

Commissioner highlights East Midlands best practice to Slovenian Presidency

On 7 April Commissioner for Regional Policy Danuta Hubner gave a keynote address on the future of Cohesion Policy to the Slovenian Presidency, advocating the need for an integrated approach, partnership working and multilevel governance. The East Midlands was highlighted as an example of best practice in this field, through the region's new ERDF 2007-2013 Operational Programme and its focus on the local dimension of climate change. Below is an extract of Commissioner Hubner's speech in Maribor (Slovenia):

"East Midlands in Great Britain set as one of its priorities, under 2007-2013 Operational Programme, a series of actions addressing the local dimension of climate change. The focus is on the role of regional and local decision makers in the implementation of actions related to issues surrounding the Energy Climate Package – for example through the promotion of "low carbon lifestyles" in the local community or incentives to low carbon enterprises". 22-

Green Paper on Education and Migration

A Green Paper on Education and Migration will be adopted by the Commission at the end of June, followed by a consultation which will remain open until December. This joint work between DG Education, DG Justice and DG Employment will focus on the central role of education in the integration of new migrants and the importance of equality and access to learning across the EU 27. The Commission also proposes to initiate an analysis of best practice approaches from across the EU.

The Green Paper will deal with a wide range of issues, such as representation, neighbourhood and community policies, the link to anti-discrimination practices and diversity management. The aim will to be foster social and cultural understanding in education policies, and explore the role of voluntary work and community partnerships in these processes.

ENRICH Conference in Lincoln

The region's Department of Health team at Government Office are involved in the ENRICH public health network of European regions. ENRICH has 15 member regions including Aquitaine, Tuscany and Andalucía and has working groups on obesity, inequalities in health and organ transplantation and donation. On 3-5 June the East Midlands held a series of ENRICH events including a conference on obesity at the University of Lincoln.

Richard Woods
Director, East Midlands European Office

Item 6

EMEO