

e-Agenda from Andrew Duff MEP

January 2007

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WELCOME to the second edition of e-Agenda. Its purpose is, first, to provide party members with more regular information about my activities, and, second, to introduce a more interactive form of communication with the regional party than is provided for by traditional eastern Agenda.

With all good wishes for the New Year,

Andrew

Headlines from the European Parliament

Germany takes over the presidency of the Council from January to June. Its main goal is to salvage the stalled EU constitution. Andrew has taken the lead in the European Parliament to ensure that any renegotiated package is a genuine improvement on the 2004 draft text.

The REACH directive on chemicals and the Services directive were passed by the Parliament and the Council before Christmas. They are two major milestones in completing the European single market, making it easier to trade goods and offer services across the whole territory of the Union.

Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU on 1 January. There are now 27 member states, and the total population grows to 490 million.

Meanwhile, Turkey's accession hopes have been dampened by the suspension of several chapters of their membership negotiations because of the continuing row over Cyprus.

In the Parliament, German Christian Democrat Hans-Gert Poettering will take over as President until June 2009 from Spanish Socialist Josep Borrell

For official *Pre-briefings* and *Post-briefing* of each plenary session of the Parliament, click here:

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/tous_les_briefing/default/default_en.htm

Latest on the Constitution

Andrew Duff's recent pamphlet, **Plan B: how to rescue the European Constitution** is available in English and French at www.notre-europe.eu.

Press Articles

Andrew writes regularly for many publications. Some of his recent articles are:-

European Constitution plan 'B', *East Anglian Daily Times*, 20th October
 Bulgarian and Romanian Accession. *FT.com*, 9th November
 How to save the Constitution, *Liberal Democrat News*, 14th November
 The impact of REACH, *Cambridge Herald* 15th December
 Making the Green Tax Switch, *Mid Suffolk News* 20th December
 Enlargement of the Union, *FT.com*, 22nd December
 Greening Europe's Constitution, *Green Futures*, 31st December

All of the these articles can be found at <http://www.andrewduffmep.org.uk/articles/>

Photos

Photographs of many of Andrew's activities are usually posted on the website as they become available.

They can be found at <http://www.andrewduffmep.org.uk/photos/>

Andrew's Diary

Here is a diary of some of Andrew's recent events (excluding routine group and committee meetings):-

18 October	Brussels launch of <i>Plan B: how to rescue the European Constitution</i> , Notre Europe
21 October	Green tax switch campaign
23-26 October	Plenary session, Strasbourg
30 October	Demos Europa conference, Warsaw
2 November	Future of Europe conference, Budapest
4 November	Norfolk County Lib Dem conference, Costessey
8 November	Convened new European Movement branch, Brussels
9-10 November	European Civil Society Forum, Bergamo
10 November	Cambridge Lib Dems AGM
13-16 November	Plenary session, Strasbourg: speeches on EU-Turkey and EU-NATO relations, Commission's 2007 work programme, and EU Fundamental Rights Agency
18 November	East of England Lib Dem conference, Huntingdon Federal Union conference, London
19-21 November	National parliamentary conference (COSAC), Helsinki
25 November	UK European Movement conference, London
27-28 November	EU-Turkey Joint Parliamentary Committee, Brussels
28 November	Presentation to Committee of Regions
29 November	Plenary session, Brussels: speech on Future of Europe
30 November-2 December	German Pre-Presidency conference, Berlin
4-5 December	2nd Inter-parliamentary Forum on Future of Europe, Brussels
7 December	University of Essex speech, Colchester
9 December	United Nations Association speech, Harpenden
11-14 December	Plenary session, Strasbourg: speeches on EU's 'absorption capacity', EP scrutiny of delegated legislation, and EP mid-term reorganisation
12 December	University of Third Age (SW Herts branch), Strasbourg
15 December	East of England student journalists, Brussels

18 December Meeting on Kashmir, Watford
Plenary session, Brussels

Here is a diary of some of Andrew's future events (excluding routine group and committee meetings):-

10-11 January	ALDE spokesmen visit to Berlin
12 January	Plan B debate, Paris
13 January	East of England Lib Dem executive committee Norfolk County Council Lib Dem group
15-18 January	Plenary session, Strasbourg
19 January	Lib Dem Political Evening, Bury St Edmunds
24 January	Plan B debate, The Hague
25 January	Plan B debate, EU employers federation (UNICE), Brussels
7 February	ALDE conference speech on 'open borders'
12-15 February	Plenary session, Strasbourg
20 February	Future of Europe debate, Cheapside, London
23 February	Plan B speech, Chatham House, London
2-4 March	Lib Dem Spring Conference, Harrogate

Comments?

Please email us at ea@andrewduffmeb.org with your views or comments on e-Agenda.

If you wish to be added to or removed from this list please send an email to this list

