

New members of Standing Committee on Euro Preparations

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Chancellor Gordon Brown today announced the appointment of Stuart Etherington, Sir Jeremy Beecham, Sir Graham Hall and David Harker to the Standing Committee on euro Preparations.

The Chancellor said:

"The new members all bring special areas of expertise - local government, the voluntary sector, the consumer sector and regional development - to the Committee. I am sure that they will all make a significant contribution to future planning by the committee on euro preparations."

The Committee leads planning on Euro preparations across the whole economy.

Notes to Editors

1. The Standing Committee on Euro Preparations was set up by the Chancellor in October 1997 to drive forward UK preparations for membership of the Euro, monitor work programmes, engage with key stakeholders and ensure that the public sector is ready for changeover to the Euro if a decision to join is taken.

2. The current membership of the Committee is:

Gordon Brown, Chancellor (chair)
Ruth Kelly, Financial Secretary to the Treasury
Peter Hain, Secretary of State for Wales
Helen Liddell, Secretary of State for Scotland
Paul Murphy, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Patricia Hewitt, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry
Barry Sheerman, MP, Chair Cross Party Group on Euro Preps
Sir Andrew Turnbull, Head of the Home Civil Service
Sir Edward George, Governor of the Bank of England (will be replaced by Mervyn King when Sir Edward steps down as Governor)
Sir Howard Davies, Chairman of the Financial Services Authority (will be succeeded by Callum McCarthy when he takes up post as Chairman of FSA)
David Felwick, Chairman, British Retail Consortium
Digby Jones, Director General of the Confederation of British Industry
Sir George Mathewson, President, British Bankers' Association
Isabella Moore, President, British Chambers of Commerce
Brendan Barber, General Secretary, Trades Union Congress

3. The Committee meets approximately half-yearly. It has met 8 times since its formation. The last meeting took place on 18th July 2002. Minutes of each meeting are published on the Euro site.

4. There is no payment for membership of the Committee.

5. Sir Jeremy Beecham, 58, is Chair of the Local Government Association (LGA) and Leader of the Labour Group. Leader of Newcastle City Council between 1977 and 1994, Sir Jeremy was elected the first chairman of the LGA in its shadow form in 1995, having been Chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities since 1991. He has also been Labour Group Leader of both the AMA and the LGA. A solicitor by profession, Sir Jeremy leads on all aspects of local government finance and social policy. He is closely involved in developing the central-local partnership with central government and in promoting strong regional government.

6. Stuart Etherington, 48, is Chief Executive of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), the body that represents charities. He took up post in 1994. He was previously chief executive of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People. He trained as a social worker and has worked in housing and mental health.

7. Sir Graham Hall, 59, is Chairman of the Regional Development Agency for Yorkshire and the Humber (Yorkshire Forward). He took up the post in 1998. He is a former Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), Yorkshire and Humber Regional Council and retired as Chief Executive of Yorkshire Electricity Group on 3 April 2001. He leads on a number of national issues on behalf of all Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) including relationships with the Treasury, CBI, TUC and the Local Government Association. He is non-executive Chairman of Yorkshire FM and a Companion of the Chartered Management Institute. He was appointed to Bank of England Court of Non-executive Directors in June 2001.

8. David Harker, 52, is Chief Executive of Citizens Advice (formerly National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux). He took up the post in 1997. He has extensive experience of the public, private and voluntary sectors. Previously Managing Director of Sense, the national Deafblind and Rubella Association, which he helped transform from a former self-help group into a major national disability charity. Citizens Advice has a vital role to play in preventing social exclusion and ensuring that all citizens have the chance to participate fully in society. He is non-executive director PIRC Ltd, and a member of the NHS Modernisation Board.

9. Media enquirers should telephone the Treasury press office, tel. 020 7270 5238.