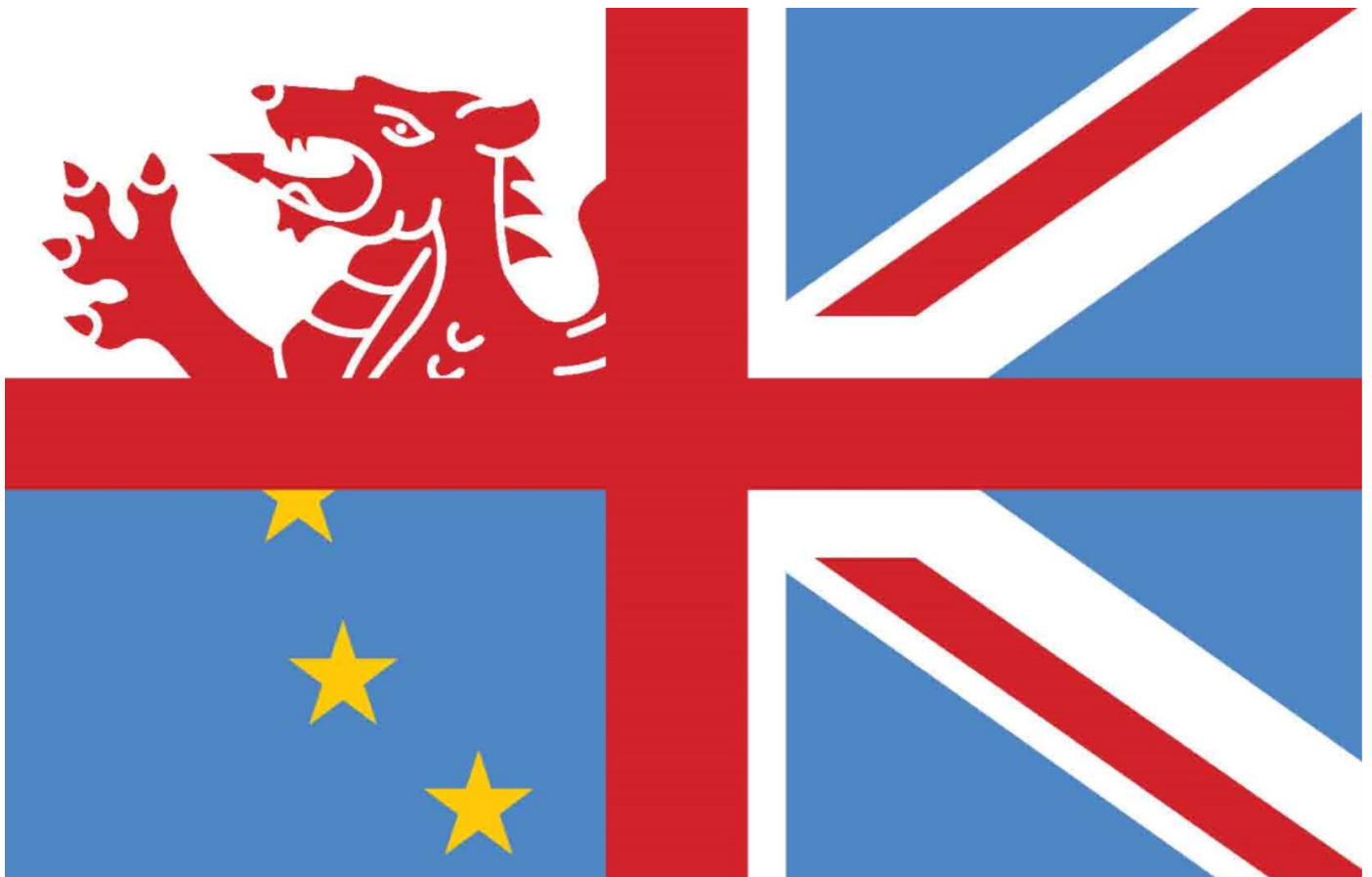




THE LEARNED SOCIETY OF WALES
CYMDEITHAS DDYSGEDIG CYMRU

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY - CELEBRATING SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVING THE NATION
YR ACADEMI GENEDLAETHOL - YN DATHLU YSGOLHEICTOD A GWASANAETHU'R GENEDL

Learned Society of Wales: Europe Activity 2016-17



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A. Submitted evidence to the following Welsh and UK inquiries:

- **January 2016: Lords Science & Technology Committee:** Sir Emyr Jones Parry appeared in front of the *Science and Technology Committee of the House of Lords* to give evidence to the [inquiry on the relationship between EU Membership and the Effectiveness of UK Science](#).
- **July 2016: Treasury Select Committee:** Sir Emyr Jones Parry provided evidence to the Committee on the Future economic relationship with the European Union.
- **February 2017: National Assembly for Wales External Affairs and Additional Legislation Committee:** Sir Emyr Jones Parry presented evidence on the Welsh Government's response to the Brexit referendum which was highlighted on several parts of the published report. In particular the committee endorsed the President's suggestion that the Welsh Government continue to press the UK Government for full involvement in shaping its negotiating position and direct participation in those negotiations which involve devolved powers, or issues that affect devolved powers. [The report can be accessed here](#).
- **February/ March 2017:** Sir Emyr Jones Parry provided evidence to the [House of Lords EU Committee: Brexit: Devolution](#).

B. Membership and engagement with European scholarly networks and Science policy

The LSW is an active member of **ALLEA**, currently one of 5 groups contributing to **SAPEA** (*Science Advice for Policy by European Academies*). This works within the European Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) involving five European academy networks (Academia Europaea, ALLEA, EASAC, Euro-CASE, and FEAM). The first scientific activities are already in operation. In this context, **Prof Ole Peterson (LSW: Vice President for Science)** has taken a proactive role as Director of the new Academia Europaea Hub in Cardiff. The first SAM topic to be coordinated by the SAPEA Consortium *Food from the Oceans* will be led by Academia Europaea, with responsibility for delivery of the work given to the Cardiff Hub.

C. Joint UK Academy statements:

- **July 2016:** [the 7 UK national academies provided a joint statement on research and innovation after the EU Referendum](#). The LSW joined the Academy of Medical Sciences, the British Academy, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Royal Society, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Royal Irish Academy in publishing a joint statement highlighting the need to maintain research and collaboration with the EU after the Referendum.
- **July 2016:** [European Academies' statement: Science is global](#). The LSW joined the [joint statement](#) from some 30 national academies of Europe encouraging all governments in their countries and institutions to work in partnership to deliver research, scholarship and innovation across the continent for the greater benefit of society.
- **February/ March 2017:** The Learned Society of Wales, the British Academy and the Royal Society of Edinburgh provided a joint submission to the [House of Lords EU Committee: Brexit: Devolution](#).
- **March 2017:** The Learned Society of Wales was one of several societies that engaged with the development of [Science priorities for Brexit](#) by **Stephen Metcalfe**, Chair of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee and the Commons Science and Technology Committee.
- **March 2017:** The Learned Society of Wales joined with other 7 academies to provide a [Joint Academies Statement](#) to the decision to trigger Article 50 as part of the European Union (Notification of Withdrawal).

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D. Lectures & Events

- **March 2016: William Menelaus Memorial Lecture (Cardiff)** "[Whither a British Constitution](#)" Sir Emyr Jones Parry offered a personal reflection on the present UK constitutional challenges and potential implications the EU referendum for Wales. In this talk Sir Emyr argued for a new federal structure including a written constitution that preserves the unity of the United Kingdom, while better reflecting the distribution of powers and different responsibilities of Westminster and the UK devolved legislatures.
- **May 2016: [Foundation for Science and Technology Debate on the pros and cons of EU membership for UK research.](#)** Sir Emyr Jones Parry took part in the debate and after dinner discussion organised by the *Foundation for Science and Technology* together with Professor The Lord Hennessy of Nympsfield. The Viscount Ridley and Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, President, The Royal Society of Edinburgh. The event was held at the Royal Society and had an attendance of over 120. Speaking in a private capacity, Sir Emyr said that the EU had been good for researchers and students as a valuable funding stream and that going forward, we needed to maintain this influence for Horizon 2020 so that it benefited both the UK and the EU.
- **July 2016: 28th [Academia Europaea Annual Conference in Cardiff.](#)** The LSW sponsored the main debate on "**Scientific Advice Mechanisms**" chaired by Sir Emyr Jones Parry (President of the Learned Society of Wales and Former UK Ambassador to the United Nations, New York) and included contributions from Patrick Child (Deputy Director-General of DG-Research and Innovation, European Commission); Sierd Cloetingh [President of Academia Europaea], Professor Colin Riordan (President and Vice-Chancellor of Cardiff University), Sir John Skehel (Biological Secretary & Vice-President of The Royal Society), Günter Stock (President of ALLEA), Sir Mark Walport (The UK Government's Chief Scientific Adviser & Chair of the Prime Minister's Council for Science & Technology) and Professor Julie Williams (Chief Scientific Adviser to The Welsh Government).
- **November 2016: Academia Europaea Cardiff Knowledge Hub** in partnership with the **Learned Society of Wales** held a [panel session to explore ideas about how best to pursue European and other international collaborations post-Brexit.](#) Chaired by **Prof Peter Halligan**, this involved contributions from Professor Richard Catlow, incoming Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society, Sir John Skehel, Vice-President of the Royal Society, Professor Nora de Leeuw, Cardiff University pro-Vice Chancellor for International and Europe, Professor Ole Petersen, Academic Director of the Cardiff Hub and VP LSW and Professor Angela Casini, Board Member of the Young Academy of Europe.

E. Media and UK Government

- **June 2016:** Sir Emyr Jones Parry wrote to the [Secretary of State for Wales](#), urging that the UK government work to maintain UK researchers' access to EU Research programmes, and that the level of financial support for UK research is at least maintained at the current level.
- **August 2016 :** [Western Mail Newspaper:](#) Sir Emyr Jones Parry, President of the LSW outlined the wider challenges that Wales faces, and that much work was needed to identify precisely the full impact in Wales of withdrawal from the EU, the interests that need to be protected, and Welsh objectives for the forthcoming negotiations. In a second article, **Professor Peter Halligan**, Chief Executive, considered the challenges facing universities in Wales and the UK, in terms of funding, collaboration, and researcher and student mobility.
- **March 2017: Western Mail article** Sir Emyr Jones Parry outlined the [risks and challenges of leaving the EU](#)