

Remarks welcoming delegates to the colloquium in Cardiff.

Mae'n wir bleser i fedru estyn croeso i chi i Gaerdydd ac i Gymru. Mae'ch ymweliad yn digwydd yn ystod cyfnod pwysig iawn yn hanes esblygiad cyfansoddiadol Cymru. Ym Mai Dwy Fil a Saith, derbyniodd ein Cynulliad Cenedlaethol gymhwysedd deddfwriaethol a fydd yn ei alluogi i ddeddfu ar nifer o bynciau, gan gynnwys yr amgylchedd. Yn ddi-os, bydd ein deddfwyr Cymreig yn defnyddio eu pwerau deddfwriaethol newydd er mwyn gwneud yr hyn a allent i frwydro yn erbyn bygythiadau amgylcheddol – yn bennaf oll yr un sy'n destun i'ch cyfarfod – newid hinsawdd.

Il est vraiment un plaisir de pouvoir vous souhaiter la bienvenue à Cardiff et au Pays de Galles. Votre visite arrive pendant une époque très importante dans l'évolution constitutionnelle du Pays de Galles. En Mai Deux Mille Sept, notre Assemblée Nationale a reçu une compétence législative qui peut lui permettre de faire des lois sur certains sujets, en comprenant l'environnement. Sans doute, nos législateurs gallois vont utiliser ses nouveaux pouvoirs législatifs pour faire ce qu'ils peuvent pour combattre les menaces environnementales – surtout l'une qui est le sujet de votre réunion – le réchauffement climatique.

It is a real pleasure to be able to wish you welcome to Cardiff and to Wales. Your visit occurs during a very important period in the constitutional evolution of Wales. In May 2007 our National Assembly acquired a legislative competence which can enable it to make law on a number of subjects, including the environment. Without doubt, our Welsh legislators will be using their new legislative powers to do what they can to combat environmental

threats – above all the one which is the subject of your colloquium – climate change.

I do hope that as many of you as possible will take advantage of your visit to see something of Cardiff and even of its hinterland. I hope in particular that you will take a bus or a train down to Cardiff Bay and to take a look inside our iconic Senedd building, the home of the National Assembly for Wales. If you do you will certainly be told about the many features which help to make it one of the most sustainable buildings of its kind in the world.

If you go in the opposite direction, up into the hills and mountains to the North of Cardiff, you will see much to delight the eye. But had you visited this same area only a few years ago you would have gained a very different impression. Few countries in Europe were so dependent economically on heavy industry – in particular coal and steel. That dependence brought with it a huge environmental cost – blackened rivers from which all wild-life had been driven, hill-sides disfigured by huge spoil tips and the very air polluted by uncontrolled emissions.

All that has now changed, as a result of government initiative and sensible regulation but also as a result of the decline of those industries which caused the environmental damage.

Whilst we remember the damage which unregulated industrial activity can cause, an irony is that as one walks around Cardiff almost all man-made objects of beauty which one sees also owe their existence to the wealth which those industries created.

Some of the greatest artistic treasures which you will see in this building hang here today, rather than in the *Musée d'Orsay*, because they were acquired by the Davies sisters using the wealth accumulated by their grandfather, David Davies of Llandinam, from the profits of docks, railways and above all coal mines.

And whilst the disappearance of heavy polluting industries has had obvious environmental benefits it has also given rise to huge economic and social challenges.

As a lawyer my role is not to make policy but to assist those who do so to give effect to that policy through legislation. But in that role I have a ring-side view of the way in which policy makers here in Wales are constantly having to struggle to reconcile the potentially competing interests of economic development and environmental protection. That is a struggle which, I have no doubt, is not unique to Wales and I expect that it will figure prominently in your discussions.

I hope that your visit to Wales will be enjoyable as well as enlightening.

Thank you for allowing me to say these few words.

Merci beaucoup.

Diolch yn fawr iawn.

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