



TITHE AN OIREACHTAIS

AN COMHCHOISTE UM SHLÁINTE

Clár Oibre Grinnscrúdú an Aontais Eorpaigh

2017

HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

European Union Scrutiny Work Programme

2017

1. Role and Remit of the Joint Committee

The Joint Committee is required, in line with its Orders of Reference, to consider draft EU legislative Acts; other proposals for EU legislation and related policy issues; non-legislative documents published by any EU institution in relation to EU policy matters and matters listed for consideration on the agenda for meetings of the relevant EU Council of Ministers and the outcome of such meetings.

The Joint Committee on Health shadows the Department of Health ('the Department'). The remit of the Department, in the European context, forms the basis of the Joint Committee's remit in terms of scrutiny of European matters.

2. Joint Committee Engagement on EU Matters

Scrutiny of EU Legislative Proposals

The scrutiny of draft EU legislative proposals will continue to be a standing agenda item of the Joint Committee. Draft proposals will be brought to the attention of the Joint Committee in line with the 2012 mainstreaming model as agreed by the Working Group of Committee Chairs (WGCC) by setting out priority (Schedule A) and non-priority (Schedule B) items (see section 3 below).

Engagement with Ministers

The Joint Committee will engage with the Minister(s) in the Department of Health, as appropriate, in advance of their attendance at EU Ministerial Council meetings. Engagement with the Minister provides the Joint Committee with a valuable opportunity to influence the Irish position on EU legislation, prior to negotiation at Ministerial Council and is therefore an essential element of Parliamentary scrutiny of draft EU legislation and policy initiatives.

Engagement on the Statutory Departmental EU Scrutiny Report

There is a requirement under S.2(5) of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002 for Ministers to report twice yearly to both Houses on the measures, proposed measures and other developments in relation to the European Communities and the European Union in relation to which he/she performs functions. The Joint Committee intends to consider such reports with the Secretary-General of the Department.

Engagement with European Bodies

The Committee will engage with European bodies such as the EU Commission and the EU Parliament, its committees, MEPs and the Council during 2017 as envisaged under the Lisbon Treaty and will seek to develop further this engagement.

3. Scrutiny of draft EU Legislative Proposals

EU Commission Work Programme 2017 – COM (2016) 710

In October 2016, the European Commission published its Work Programme (CWP), setting out its priorities for the coming year. The EU CWP 2017 can be referenced at [Work Programme for 2017- Delivering a Europe that protects, empowers and defends](#) .

This work programme gives an indication of the legislative proposals, initiatives and communications that will be pursued in 2017. The CWP contains five annexes. These are:

- Annex I contains a list of 21 new legislative and non-legislative initiatives that the Commission intends to take forward in 2017.
- Annex II lists 18 REFIT actions, where the Commission screens the EU's regulatory acquis and identifies necessary corrective action. These actions include legislative initiatives to simplify and reduce regulatory burden, repeals of legislation no longer needed, withdrawals of proposals without a realistic chance of adoption or where the initial objectives can no longer be achieved, and evaluations and Fitness Checks to assess relevance, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness and EU added value of EU legislation and identify further opportunities for simplification and burden reduction.
- Annex III lists 35 priority pending proposals.
- Annex IV lists 19 pending proposals that are to be withdrawn or modified;
- Annex V lists 16 envisaged repeals

The 2012 revised mainstreaming model provides that draft EU proposals will be separated into priority (Schedule A) and non-priority items (Schedule B).

Priority Items (Schedule A)

The Joint Committee has selected the proposed initiative on coordinated health technology assessments from the CWP 2017 as a priority item.

Non-Priority Items (Schedule B)

Schedule B will list non-priority items as they arise. However, the Joint Committee has the option of re-classifying any draft legislative or non-legislative proposal as a priority proposal at any time, taking account of the Department's Information Note regarding its significance.