



TITHE AN OIREACHTAIS

AN COMHCHOISTE UM GHNÓTHAÍ AN AONTAIS EORPAIGH

TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2014

HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Chairman's Foreword	3
1. Content and Format of Report	7
2. Function and Powers	7
3. Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Membership	8
4. Meetings, Attendance and Recording	8
5. Number and Duration of Meetings.....	9
5.1 Joint Committee.....	9
5.2 Select Committee.....	9
6. Witnesses attending before the Joint Committee.....	9
7. Committee Reports Published.....	9
8. Travel	10
9. Report on Functions and Powers	12
APPENDIX 1: Orders of Reference.....	14
APPENDIX 2: MEMBERSHIP	21
List of Members (Joint Committee)	21
APPENDIX 3: Meetings of the Joint Committee	22
APPENDIX 4: Minutes of Proceedings of the Joint Committee.....	27



Chairman's Foreword

On behalf of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, I am pleased to present the 2014 Annual Report of the Committee which sets out the work undertaken by it during period January to December 2014.

The principal task of the Joint Committee is to consider issues arising from Ireland's membership of the European Union and Ireland's adherence to the EU Treaties. The Committee's work programme was informed by the legislative and work programme of the European Commission and also took into account the priorities of the Presidency of the Council.

The work of the Committee is also guided by relevant European Council conclusions which set the strategic direction of the EU. The Committee's main focus is on strategic and cross-sectoral issues. In this context, regular meetings are held with the Minister of State with Special Responsibility for European Affairs in advance of meetings of the General Affairs Council. This enabled the Joint Committee to carry out effective oversight of the Government's policy approach and to have an input into, and an exchange of views on, topics arising on the agendas of those Council meetings.

The Committee engaged with representatives of the EU Institutions, the ambassadors of the EU Presidency 'Trio' countries, Irish MEPs, representatives of government departments and other interested individuals and groups in order to hear their views and perspectives on the policies and programmes pursued by the Institutions of the European.

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

The Joint Committee also represented the Oireachtas at meetings of COSAC (Conference of Chairmen of European Affairs Committees of Member States and the European Parliament) as part of the ongoing exchange of ideas and information on best practice with representatives of other EU national parliaments.

The Joint Committee met 31 times during 2014. During the year the Committee undertook a significant body of work across the spectrum of European Union issues, including –

- **Review of Foreign Policy and External Relations:** The Committee made a formal submission to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in the context of a Review of Ireland's Foreign Policy and External Relations. The submission focused on aspects of Ireland's foreign policy and external relations that are concerned with the promotion of Ireland's interests within the European Union, and to ensuring that Europe's voice is stronger at a global level in line with the remit of the Committee.
- **European Semester:** Ireland participated fully in the European Semester for the first time in 2014. Under the Semester, EU governments must submit their National Reform and Stability or Convergence Programmes to the European Commission in April each year. The Committee led the Oireachtas engagement on the European Semester by its scrutiny of the key documents before their submission to Brussels. The Committee held a follow-up meeting on the resulting Country Specific recommendations in June.
- **Voting Rights of Citizens within the EU:** In 2014, the European Commission published a Communication in which it criticised Ireland for not providing for voting rights for its citizens living in other Member States in national elections. The Committee examined this issue with the assistance of stakeholders and subsequently published a report entitled Voting Rights of Irish Citizens Abroad in November.

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

- **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement (TTIP):** The Committee considered this cross sectoral issue in line with its work programme and the potential importance of the Agreement. The Committee engaged with various stakeholders over a number of meetings and submitted a formal Political Contribution to the EU institutions on the issue in July.
- **EU Rule of Law:** The Committee considered the EU framework aimed at safeguarding the rule of law in the European Union with the assistance of EU Commission officials.
- **Europe 2020 Strategy–Mid Term Review:** The Committee sought public submissions and held hearings with stakeholders on this issue. In November, a formal Political Contribution was subsequently submitted to the EU institutions making recommendations to improve the Strategy. A number of these recommendations were agreed at the plenary meeting of COSAC (in Rome) in December and formed part of the final agreed Contribution of COSAC.
- **European Scrutiny:** Detailed scrutiny of EU legislative proposals falls to the sectoral Joint Committees of the Oireachtas. The Committee published the Eleventh Annual Report on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002 as required under section 5 of the Act. The report examined the EU scrutiny activities of the Oireachtas and its Committees during 2013.

The work of the Joint Committee would not be possible without the continued co-operation of a number of key contributors. I would like to acknowledge the essential contribution of the officials in the Department of the Taoiseach and other government Departments and thank them for their continued assistance.

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

I would like to acknowledge and thank my colleagues on the Joint Committee and the staff of the secretariat for their continuous hard work and dedication in carrying out the important work of the Committee.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dom Hannigan", followed by a horizontal line.

Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
8 July 2015

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

1. Content and Format of Report

This report has been prepared pursuant to Standing Order 86 (3), (4), (5) and (6) (Dáil Éireann) and Standing Order 75 (3), (4), (5) and (6) (Seanad Éireann) which provide for the Joint Committee to-

- undertake a review of its procedure and its role generally;
- prepare an annual work programme;
- lay minutes of its proceedings before both Houses;
- make an annual report to both Houses.

At its meeting on the 8 July 2015, the Joint Committee agreed that all these items should be included in this report covering the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2014.

2. Function and Powers

The Dáil Select Committee was established by Order of Dáil Éireann of 8 June 2011 to consider such matters arising from;

- Ireland's membership of the European Union, and
- Ireland's adherence to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, as it may select and which are not referred to any other Committee, and
- bills the statute law in respect of which is dealt with by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- proposals contained in any motion, including any motion within the meaning of Standing Order 164, and
- other matters referred to it by the Dáil.

The Dáil Select Committee under the same Order was enjoined with a Select Committee of Seanad Éireann, established by Order of Seanad Éireann of 16 June 2011, to form the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs. Among the principal functions of the Joint Committee are to consider matters arising from;

- the European Commission's strategic planning documents including the Commission Work Programme,
- cross-sectoral policy developments at European Union level,

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

- matters listed for consideration on the agenda for meetings of the General Affairs Council of Ministers and the outcome of such meetings,
- regulations under the European Communities Acts 1972 to 2009,
- other instruments made under statute and necessitated by the obligations of membership of the European Union as the Committee ,
- notifications referred by the Dáil under Standing Order 106(1)(a),
- notifications of proposals for the amendment of the Treaties received from the European Council pursuant to Article 48.2 of the Treaty on European Union,
- notifications of applications for membership of the European Union received from the European Council pursuant to Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union,
- other matters referred to it by the Dáil from time to time.

The Joint Committee represents both Houses of the Oireachtas at the Conference of European Affairs Committees (COSAC) and reports thereon to both Houses. The consolidated Orders of Reference of the Joint Committee on European Affairs are set out at *Appendix 1*.

3. Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Membership

Deputy Dominic Hannigan was elected as Chairman of the Joint Committee on the 26 January 2012. The Chairman of the Joint Committee is also Chairman of the Dáil Select Committee. In 2014, the following change in membership was made:-

- By Order of Dáil Éireann of 2 December 2014, Deputy Dara Murphy, Vice-Chairman was discharged from the Committee and replaced by Deputy Derek Keating.

Membership of the Committee, including all internal changes within the reported period, is listed at *Appendix 2*.

4. Meetings, Attendance and Recording

Meetings of the Joint Committee took place in the Committee rooms in Leinster House 2000. Meetings were in public unless otherwise ordered by

the Committee.

Televised coverage of public meetings of the Committee was broadcast live within the Leinster House complex and was available for subsequent public broadcasting by RTE and TV3. It was also webcast making it available worldwide on the internet. Since the pilot launch of the Oireachtas TV channel in November 2011, the proceedings of committees in public session, typically recorded but occasionally live, are now broadcast on UPC channel 207.

An Official Report (Parliamentary Debates) of the public meetings of the Committee may be viewed on the Houses of the Oireachtas website at www.oireachtas.ie. Copies of other reports published by the Joint Committee are also available on the Oireachtas Committee website pages at www.oireachtas.ie. A list of these reports is set out at paragraph 7.

5. Number and Duration of Meetings

5.1 Joint Committee

The Joint Committee met 31 occasions during the period under report. The subject matter of each meeting of the Joint Committee, including the groups, organisations or individuals who attended the meetings, is detailed in *Appendix 3*. The Minutes of Proceedings of the Joint Committee in public session are attached at *Appendix 4*.

5.2 Select Committee

The Dáil Select Committee was not required to meet in 2014.

6. Witnesses attending before the Joint Committee

During the period, the number of speaking witnesses for the Joint Committee was 65.

7. Committee Reports Published

During the period under report, the Joint Committee published the following reports:

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

- Joint Committee submission on the Review of Foreign Policy and External Relations
- Work Programme 2014
- Joint Committee for Europe Union Affairs Annual Report 2013
- Report on Oireachtas EU Scrutiny Priorities 2014
- Assessment of Current Structures for Oireachtas Scrutiny of EU Affairs
- Report on COSAC LI Plenary Meeting Greece 15-17 June
- Political Contribution on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership
- Report on Voting Rights of Irish Citizens abroad
- Report on Ireland: EMU, Integration and Accountability
- Political Contribution on the Mid-Term of the Europe 2020 Strategy

8. Travel

The Joint Committee undertook the following travel in accordance with its Orders of Reference in connection with its Work Programme.

- 1. Purpose of travel:** European Parliamentary Week 2014 (Article 13)
Destination: Brussels
Date: 20th – 22th January 2014
Members travelling: Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman) and Dara Murphy (Vice-Chairman)
Accompanying Official: Conor Gouldsbury (Policy Advisor)
- 2. Purpose of travel:** Meeting of COSAC Chairpersons
Destination: Athens
Date: 26th – 27th January 2014
Members travelling: Deputies Hannigan (Chairman)
Accompanying Official: Conor Gouldsbury (Policy Advisor)
- 3. Purpose of travel:** Familiarisation and Study visit
Destination: Brussels
Date: 9th – 11th February 2014
Members travelling: Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne, Sean Crowe and Senator Catherine Noone
Accompanying Official: John Hamilton (Clerk)

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

- 4. Purpose of travel:** EU Parliaments in global governance
Destination: Brussels
Date: 17-18 February 2014
Members travelling: Deputy Dara Murphy (Vice-Chairman)
Accompanying Official: John Hamilton (Clerk)
- 5. Purpose of travel:** Conference in Latvia to mark 10 years of EU Membership
Destination: Latvia
Date: 30th April– 1st May 2014
Members travelling: Deputy Dominic Hannigan (Chairman)
Accompanying Official: Conor Gouldsbury (Policy Advisor)
- 6. Purpose of travel:** Meeting of COSAC Chairpersons and visit to countries in the enlargement process: Albania and Montenegro
Destination: Athens, Tirana and Podgorica
Date: 14th – 20th June 2014
Members travelling: Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne and Senator Catherine Noone.
Accompanying Official(s): Bríd Dunne (Clerk)* and Conor Gouldsbury (Policy Advisor)
*Travelled to Athens only
- 7. Purpose of travel:** Article 13 of the Fiscal Compact
Destination: Rome
Date: 29th – 30th September 2014
Members travelling: Deputy Dominic Hannigan (Chairman)
Accompanying Official: Kieran Lenihan (Committee Secretariat)
- 8. Purpose of travel:** Foreign Policy Forum
Destination: Berlin
Date: 10th – 12th November 2014
Members travelling: Deputy Dominic Hannigan(Chairman),
- 9. Purpose of travel:** European Movement Federal Assembly
Destination: Rome
Date: 27th – 29th November 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

Members travelling: Deputy Dominic Hannigan(Chairman) and Senator Catherine Noone

10. Purpose of travel: LII COSAC Plenary

Destination: Rome

Date: 30th November– 2nd December 2014

Members travelling: Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Timmy Dooley, Bernard J. Durkan and Senator Aideen Hayden.

Accompanying Official(s): Bríd Dunne (Clerk) and Fiona Cashin (Policy Advisor)

11. Purpose of travel: Progressive Economy Policy Roundtable and Dutch Event-Engaging with Europe: Parliamentary Control in EU Affairs

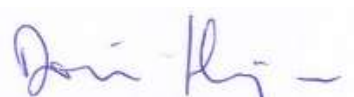
Destination: Brussels

Date: 10th – 12th December 2014

Members travelling: Deputy Dominic Hannigan (Chairman),

9. Report on Functions and Powers

The Joint Committee is currently satisfied with its present procedures and role.



Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman.

8 July, 2015.

APPENDIX 1: Orders of Reference

Dáil Éireann on 8 June 2011 ordered:

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| “(1) Go gceapfar Roghchoiste, dá ngairfear an Roghchoiste um Ghnóthaí an Aontais Eorpaigh, ar a mbeidh 9 gcomhalta de Dháil Éireann, chun breithniú a dhéanamh ar cibé nithe a éiríonn—

(a) as ballraíocht na hÉireann san Aontas Eorpach agus

(b) as Éirinn do chloí leis an gConradh ar an Aontas Eorpach agus leis an gConradh ar Fheidhmiú an Aontais Eorpaigh

a roghnóidh sé agus nach bhfuil tarchurtha chuig aon Choiste eile.

(2) Gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (1), breithneoidh an Coiste—

(a) cibé Billí a bpléann an Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála leis an dlí reachtach ina leith,

(b) cibé tograí a bheidh in aon tairiscint, lena n-áirítear aon tairiscint de réir bhrí Bhuan-Ordú 164, agus

(c) cibé nithe eile,

a tharchuirfidh an Dáil chuige.

(3) Beidh an tAire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála (nó comhalta den Rialtas nó Aire Stáit a ainmneofar chun gníomhú ina áit nó ina háit chun na críche sin), ina chomhalta nó ina comhalta ex officio den Roghchoiste chun na nithe atá leagtha amach i mír | (1) That a Select Committee, which shall be called the Select Committee on European Union Affairs, consisting of nine members of Dáil Éireann, be appointed to consider such matters arising from—

(a) Ireland’s membership of the European Union, and

(b) Ireland’s adherence to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

as it may select and which are not referred to any other Committee.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the Select Committee shall consider such—

(a) Bills the statute law in respect of which is dealt with by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade,

(b) proposals contained in any motion, including any motion within the meaning of Standing Order 164, and

(c) other matters,

as shall be referred to it by the Dáil.

(3) The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (or a member of the Government or Minister of State nominated to act in his or her stead for that purpose) shall be an ex officio member of the Select Committee for the purpose of consideration of the matters outlined at paragraph |
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Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

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| (2)(a) agus (b) a bhreithniú agus beidh sé nó sí i dteideal vótáil in imeachtaí an Roghchoiste. | (2)(a) and (b) and shall be entitled to vote in Select Committee proceedings. |
| (4) Beidh ag an gCoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 83(1), (2) agus (3). | (4) The Select Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Order 83(1), (2) and (3). |
| (5) Déanfar an Roghchoiste a chomhcheangal le Roghchoiste arna cheapadh ag Seanad Éireann chun bheith ina Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí an Aontais Eorpaigh, agus, gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (1), déanfaidh an Roghchoiste an méid seo a leanas a bhreithniú— | (5) The Select Committee shall be joined with a Select Committee appointed by Seanad Éireann, to form the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, which, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), shall consider— |
| (a) doiciméid phleanála straitéiseacha Choimisiún AE lena n-áirítear Clár Oibre an Choimisiúin, | (a) the EU Commission's strategic planning documents including the Commission Work Programme, |
| (b) forbairtí beartais tras-earnála ag leibhéal an Aontais Eorpaigh, | (b) cross-sectoral policy developments at European Union level, |
| (c) nithe a liostaítear lena mbreithniú ar an gclár gnó i gcomhair cruinnithe de Chomhairle Gnóthaí Ginearálta na nAirí agus toradh cruinnithe den sórt sin. | (c) matters listed for consideration on the agenda for meetings of the General Affairs Council of Ministers and the outcome of such meetings, |
| (d) cibé rialacháin faoi Achtanna na gComhphobal Eorpach, 1972 go 2009 agus ionstraimí eile arna ndéanamh faoi reacht agus is gá de dhroim na n-oibleagáidí a ghabhann le ballraíocht san Aontas Eorpach a roghnóidh an Coiste, | (d) such regulations under the European Communities Acts 1972 to 2009 and other instruments made under statute and necessitated by the obligations of membership of the European Union as the Committee may select, |
| (e) fógraí arna dtarchur ag an Dáil faoi Bhuan-Ordú 106(1)(a), | (e) notifications referred by the Dáil under Standing Order 106(1)(a), |
| (f) fógraí i dtaobh tograí chun | (f) notifications of proposals |

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

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| na Conarthaí a leasú a fuarthas ón gComhairle Eorpach de bhun Airteagal 48.2 den Chonradh ar an Aontas Eorpach, | for the amendment of the Treaties received from the European Council pursuant to Article 48.2 of the Treaty on European Union, |
| (g) fógraí i dtaobh iarratas ar bhallraíocht san Aontas Eorpach a fuarthas ón gComhairle Eorpach de bhun Airteagal 49 den Chonradh ar an Aontas Eorpach, agus | (g) notifications of applications for membership of the European Union received from the European Council pursuant to Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, and |
| (h) cibé nithe eile a tharchuirfidh an Dáil chuige ó am go ham. | (h) such other matters as may be referred to it by the Dáil from time to time. |
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| (6) Tabharfaidh an Comhchoiste tuarascáil do dhá Theach an Oireachtais ar oibriú Acht an Aontais Eorpaigh (Grinnskrúdú), 2002. | (6) The Joint Committee shall report to both Houses of the Oireachtas on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002. |
| (7) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Orduithe 83 (seachas mír (2A) den chéanna), 106(1)(a) agus 107. | (7) The Joint Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Orders 83 (other than paragraph (2A) thereof), 105, 106(1)(a) and 107. |
| (8) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste an chumhacht chun moltaí a dhéanamh chun an Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála (nó chun Aire Stáit) i dtaobh nithe a bhaineann leis an Aontas Eorpach. | (8) The Joint Committee shall have the power to make recommendations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (or Minister of State) on European Union matters. |
| (9) Féadfaidh na daoine seo a leanas freastal ar chruinnithe den Chomhchoiste agus páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí gan ceart vótála a bheith acu ná ceart tairiscintí a dhéanamh ná leasuithe a thairiscint: | (9) The following may attend meetings of the Joint Committee and take part in proceedings without having a right to vote or to move motions and amendments: |
| (a) Comhaltaí de Pharlaimint na hEorpa arna dtoghadh ó thoghcheantair in Éirinn, lena n-áirítear Tuaisceart Éireann, | (a) Members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies in Ireland, including Northern Ireland, |
| (b) Comhaltaí de thoscaireacht na hÉireann chuig Tionól | (b) Members of the Irish delegation to the |

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

Parlaiminteach Chomhairle
na hEorpa, agus

Parliamentary Assembly of
the Council of Europe, and

- (c) ar chuireadh a fháil ón
gCoiste, Comhaltaí eile de
Pharlaimint na hEorpa.
- (c) at the invitation of the
Committee, other Members
of the European
Parliament.
- (10) Déanfaidh an Comhchoiste
ionadaíocht do dhá Theach an
Oireachtais ag Comhdháil na
gCoistí um Ghnóthaí
Comhphobail agus Eorpacha de
chuid Pharlaimintí an Aontais
Eorpaigh (COSAC) agus
tabharfaidh sé tuarascáil ar an
gcéanna do dhá Theach an
Oireachtais.
- (10) The Joint Committee shall
represent both Houses of the
Oireachtas at the Conference of
Community and European
Affairs Committees of
Parliaments of the European
Union (COSAC) and shall report
to both Houses of the
Oireachtas thereon.
- (11) Beidh Cathaoirleach an
Roghchoiste, ar comhalta de
Dháil Éireann a bheidh ann nó
inti, ina Chathaoirleach nó ina
Cathaoirleach ar an
gComhchoiste freisin.
- (11) The Chairman of the Joint
Committee, who shall be a
member of Dáil Éireann, shall
also be Chairman of the Select
Committee."

Seanad Éireann on 16 June 2011 ordered:

- "(1) Go gceapfar Roghchoiste, dá
ngairfear an Roghchoiste um
Ghnóthaí an Aontais Eorpaigh,
ar a mbeidh 5 chomhalta de
Sheanad Éireann, chun
breithniú a dhéanamh ar cibé
nithe a éiríonn—
- (1) That a Select Committee, which
shall be called the Select
Committee on European Union
Affairs, consisting of 5 members
of Seanad Éireann, be appointed
to consider such matters arising
from—
- (a) as ballraíocht na hÉireann
san Aontas Eorpach agus
- (a) Ireland's membership of
the European Union, and
- (b) as Éirinn do chloí leis an
gConradh ar an Aontas
Eorpach agus leis an
gConradh ar Fheidhmiú an
Aontais Eorpaigh
- (b) Ireland's adherence to the
Treaty on European Union
and the Treaty on the
Functioning of the European
Union,
- a roghnóidh sé agus nach bhfuil
tarchurtha chuig aon Choiste
eile.
- as it may select and which are
not referred to any other
Committee.
- (2) Déanfar an Roghchoiste a
chomhcheangal le Roghchoiste
arna cheapadh ag Dáil Éireann
chun bheith ina Chomhchoiste
um Ghnóthaí an Aontais
- (2) The Select Committee shall be
joined with a Select Committee
appointed by Dáil Éireann, to
form the Joint Committee on
European Union Affairs, which,

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

Eorpaigh, agus, gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (1), déanfaidh an Comhchoiste an méid seo a leanas a bhreithniú—

- (a) doiciméid phleanála straitéiseacha Choimisiún AE lena n-áirítear Clár Oibre an Choimisiúin,
- (b) forbairtí beartais tras-earnála ag leibhéal an Aontais Eorpaigh,
- (c) nithe a liostaítear lena mbreithniú ar an gclár gnó i gcomhair cruinnithe de Chomhairle Gnóthaí Ginearálta na nAirí agus toradh cruinnithe den sórt sin.
- (d) cibé rialacháin faoi Achtanna na gComhphobal Eorpach, 1972 go 2009 agus ionstraimí eile arna ndéanamh faoi reacht agus is gá de dhroim na n-oibleagáidí a ghabhann le ballraíocht san Aontas Eorpach a roghnóidh an Coiste,
- (e) fógraí arna dtarchur ag an Seanad faoi Bhuan-Ordú 102(1)(a),
- (f) fógraí i dtaobh tograí chun na Conarthaí a leasú a fuarthas ón gComhairle Eorpach de bhun Airteagal 48.2 den Chonradh ar an Aontas Eorpach,
- (g) fógraí i dtaobh iarratas ar bhallraíocht san Aontas Eorpach a fuarthas ón gComhairle Eorpach de bhun Airteagal 49 den Chonradh ar an Aontas Eorpach, agus

without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), shall consider—

- (a) the EU Commission's strategic planning documents including the Commission Work Programme,
- (b) cross-sectoral policy developments at European Union level,
- (c) matters listed for consideration on the agenda for meetings of the General Affairs Council of Ministers and the outcome of such meetings,
- (d) such regulations under the European Communities Acts 1972 to 2009 and other instruments made under statute and necessitated by the obligations of membership of the European Union as the Committee may select,
- (e) notifications referred by the Seanad under Standing Order 102 (1)(a),
- (f) notifications of proposals for the amendment of the Treaties received from the European Council pursuant to Article 48.2 of the Treaty on European Union,
- (g) notifications of applications for membership of the European Union received from the European Council pursuant to Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, and

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

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| (h) cibé nithe eile a tharchuirfidh an Seanad chuige ó am go ham. | (h) such other matters as may be referred to it by the Seanad from time to time. |
| (3) Tabharfaidh an Comhchoiste tuarascáil do dhá Theach an Oireachtais ar oibriú Acht an Aontais Eorpaigh (Grinnscrúdú), 2002. | (3) The Joint Committee shall report to both Houses of the Oireachtas on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002. |
| (4) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Orduithe 71 (seachas mír (2A) den chéanna), 101, 102(1)(a) agus 103. | (4) The Joint Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Orders 71 (other than paragraph (2A) thereof), 101, 102(1)(a) and 103. |
| (5) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste an chumhacht chun moltaí a dhéanamh chun an Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála (nó chun Aire Stáit) i dtaobh nithe a bhaineann leis an Aontas Eorpach. | (5) The Joint Committee shall have the power to make recommendations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (or Minister of State) on European Union matters. |
| (6) Féadfaidh na daoine seo a leanas freastal ar chruinnithe den Chomhchoiste agus páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí gan ceart vótála a bheith acu ná ceart tairiscintí a dhéanamh ná leasuithe a thairiscint: | (6) The following may attend meetings of the Joint Committee and take part in proceedings without having a right to vote or to move motions and amendments: |
| (a) Comhaltaí de Pharlaimint na hEorpa arna dtoghadh ó thoghlaigh in Éirinn, lena n-áirítear Tuaisceart Éireann, | (a) Members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies in Ireland, including Northern Ireland, |
| (b) Comhaltaí de thoscaireacht na hÉireann chuig Tionól Parlaiminteach Chomhairle na hEorpa, agus | (b) Members of the Irish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and |
| (c) ar chuireadh a fháil ón gCoiste, Comhaltaí eile de Pharlaimint na hEorpa. | (c) at the invitation of the Committee, other Members of the European Parliament. |
| (7) Déanfaidh an Comhchoiste ionadaíocht do dhá Theach an Oireachtais ag Comhdháil na gCoistí um Ghnóthaí Comhphobail agus Eorpacha de chuid Pharlaimintí an Aontais Eorpaigh (COSAC) agus tabharfaidh sé tuarascáil ar an | (7) The Joint Committee shall represent both Houses of the Oireachtas at the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) and shall report to both Houses of the |

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

gcéanna do dhá Theach an
Oireachtais.

Oireachtas thereon.

- (8) Beidh Cathaoirleach an
Chomhchoiste ina chomhalta nó
ina comhalta de Dháil Éireann.

- (8) The Chairman of the Joint
Committee shall be a member
of Dáil Éireann.

APPENDIX 2: MEMBERSHIP

List of Members (Joint Committee)

Chairman: Dominic Hannigan (Lab) ¹

Deputies: Eric Byrne TD (LAB) ⁴
Seán Crowe TD (SF) ³
Timmy Dooley TD (FF)
Bernard J. Durkan TD (FG)
John Halligan TD (IND) ²
Derek Keating TD (FG) ⁷
Seán Kyne TD (FG)
Joe O'Reilly TD (FG)

Senators: Colm Burke (FG)
Terry Leyden (FF)
Aideen Hayden (LAB) ⁶
Catherine Noone (FG) ⁵
Kathryn Reilly (SF)

1 Deputy Dominic Hannigan replaced Deputy Joe Costello by Order of the Dáil on 26th January 2012

2 Deputy John Halligan replaced Deputy Mick Wallace by Order of the Dáil on 27th June 2012

3 Deputy Seán Crowe replaced Deputy Pádraig MacLochlainn by order of the Dáil on 25 September 2012

4 Deputy Eric Byrne replaced Deputy Colm Keaveney by Order of the Dáil on 17th January 2013

5 Senator Catherine Noone replaced Senator Fidelma Healy Eames by Order of the Seanad on 19th July 2013

6 Senator Aideen Hayden replaced Senator Marie Moloney by Order of the Seanad on 5 November 2013

7 Deputy Derek Keating replaced Deputy Dara Murphy (Vice-Chair) by Order of the Dáil on 2 December 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

APPENDIX 3: Meetings of the Joint Committee

The following are the details, in date order, of the scheduled meetings of the Joint Committee which took place during the period under report.

Meeting No. and Date	Topic	Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended
J94 16/1/2014	Discussion on the Presidency priorities of Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her Excellency Diana Zagorianou-Prifti, Ambassador of Greece
J95 23/1/2014	The role of National Parliaments in the European Semester and the Annual Growth Survey 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Catherine Day, Secretary-General of the European Commission.
J96 4/2/2014	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's review of Foreign Policy and External Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Proinsias De Rossa; • Dr. John O'Brennan; • Mr. Tony Connelly
J97 5/2/2014	General Affairs Council Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for Europe
J98 13/2/2014	Exchange of views with the Irish delegation to the Committee of the Regions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr. Patrick McGowan, Chair; • Cllr. Constance Hannify; • Cllr. Des Hurley; • Cllr. Declan McDonnell; • Cllr. Brian Meaney; • Cllr. John Sheahan; • Cllr. Fiona O'Loughlin; • Cllr. Paul O'Donoghue
J99 20/2/2014	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's review of Foreign Policy and External Relations (<i>resumed</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Marie Cross, Former Assistant Secretary at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; • Dr. Pat Ivory, Head of EU and International Development, IBEC
J100 27/2/2014	Private Meeting	

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

Meeting No. and Date	Topic	Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended
J101 11/3/2014	1. Voting Rights of Citizens within the EU 2. Introduction of the Euro to Lithuania in 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Barbara Nolan, Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland; • Ms. Eimear Ní Bhroin, Political Affairs Officer at the European Commission Representation in Ireland • His Excellency Vidmantas Purlys, Ambassador of Lithuania to Ireland
J102 13/3/2014	General Affairs Council Meeting	Mr. Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for Europe
J103 1/4/2014	1. European Semester Process 2. Update on the National Reform Programme for Ireland 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Fiona O'Loughlin, Irish delegation to the Committee of the Regions • Mr. Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister for Europe
J104 10/4/2014	Voting Rights of Citizens within the EU (<i>resumed</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Excellency The Ambassador of Cyprus to Ireland Mr. Michalis Stavrinou; • His Excellency The Ambassador of Denmark to Ireland Mr. Niels Pultz; • His Excellency The Ambassador of Estonia to Ireland; Mr. Mait Martinson • His Excellency The Ambassador of Spain to Ireland, Mr Javier Garrigues
J105 15/4/2014	Voting rights of Citizens within the EU (<i>resumed</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Timmy Dooley TD; Fianna Fáil • Mr John Halligan T.D, Independent; • Ms. Lynn Boylan, Sinn Féin Ard Comhairle Member
J106 6/5/2014	1. General Affairs Council of Ministers meeting 2. European Parliament Elections 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister for European Affairs

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

Meeting No. and Date	Topic	Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended
J107 13/5/2014	Voting rights of EU Citizens (<i>resumed</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Adrian Kavanagh, Department of Geography, NUI Maynooth; • Ms. Jennie McShannon, CEO of Irish in Britain
J108 27/5/2014	Progress of the negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Richard Bruton TD, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation
J109 5/6/2014	Progress of the Negotiations for a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement (TTIP) (<i>resumed</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Werner Raza, Austrian Foundation of Development Research • Mr. Simon McKeever, Irish Exporters Association • Dr. Pat Ivory, IBEC
J110 12/6/2014	Progress of the European Commission's Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) for Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister for European Affairs
J111 24/6/2014	Outcome of the European Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Gail McElroy, Department of Political Science, Trinity College Dublin • Ms. Suzanne Lynch, European Correspondent, Irish Times
J112 3/7/2014	EU Scrutiny: COM (2014)158- Communication on a new EU framework to strengthen the rule of law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Emmanuel Crabit, European Commission • Deglán Ó Briain, Department of Justice and Equality
J113 8/7/2014	Priorities of Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Excellency Mr. Giovanni Adorni Braccesi, Ambassador of Italy to Ireland
J114 25/9/2014	General Affairs Council Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Dara Murphy TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs
J115 2/10/2014	Engagement with newly elected MEPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lynn Boylan MEP • Mr. Brian Hayes MEP • Mr. Francis Jacobs, Head of the European Parliament Office in Ireland

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

Meeting No. and Date	Topic	Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended
J116 7/10/2014	1. Hungary and the Rule of Law 2. Europe 2020 Strategy- Mid Term Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. John Devitt, Transparency International Ireland • Dr. Miklós Ligeti, Transparency International Hungary • Dr. Pat Ivory, Ibec • Mr. Erik O'Donovan, Ibec; • Mr. Paul Ginnell, European Anti-Poverty Network; • Ms. Bríd O'Brien, Irish National Organisation of the unemployed; • Ms. Lorraine Mulligan, SIPTU representing 'Better Europe Alliance'
J117 9/10/2014	Hungary and the Rule of Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Excellency Dr. Tamás Magyarics, Ambassador of Hungary to Ireland
J118 16/10/2014	Europe 2020 Strategy : Mid-Term Review (resumed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor John Sheahan, Committee of the Regions; • Councillor Maria Byrne, Committee of the Regions; • Mr. Neale Richmond, European Movement Ireland; • Mr. Joe Bishop, European Movement Ireland; • Ms Barbara Gerstenberger, Eurofound
J119 4/11/2014	Report on Ireland's Country Specific Recommendations (2014)	Better Europe Alliance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Michelle Murphy, Social Justice Ireland; • Ms. Alice-Mary Higgins, National Women's Council of Ireland; • Mr. Michael Ewing, Environmental Pillar.

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

Meeting No. and Date	Topic	Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended
J120 13/11/2014	1. General Affairs Council Meeting 2. EU enlargement Strategy: Progress Report on the Balkan Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Dara Murphy TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs • Mr. Erwan Fouère, The Centre for European Policy Studies
J121 18/11/2014	1. European Movement Ireland: Accountability Report 2013 2. Update on activities and priorities of Eurofound	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Noelle O'Connell, Executive Director, European Movement Ireland • Mr. Juan Menéndez- Valdés, Director, Eurofound; and Ms. Mary McCaughey, Head of Information and Communication, Eurofound
J122 25/11/2014	Private	
J123 4/12/2014	EU Investment Package and the European Semester: Annual Growth Survey 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Barbara Nolan, Head of Representation, European Commission Office Ireland; • Mr. Patrick O'Riordan, European Semester Officer, European Commission Office Ireland
J124 9/12/2014	Cancelled	
J125 16/12/2014	1. (i) Annual Report of the European Court of Auditors 2013 (ii) Landscape Reviews on Financial Risks to the EU Budget and Accountability and Audit in the European Union 2. 2015: The European Year for Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Kevin Cardiff; • Mr. Ned Fennessy; • Ms. Mary Kerrigan • Mr. Hans Zomer, Dóchas; • Ms. Sharan Kelly, Dóchas; • Ms. Olive Towey, Concern

APPENDIX 4: Minutes of Proceedings of the Joint Committee

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 16 JANUARY 2014

1. The Joint Committee met at 2.09 p.m. in Committee Room 4, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dara Murphy (Vice-Chairman), Eric Byrne, Bernard Durkan, John Halligan and Séan Kyne. Senators Colm Burke, Catherine Noone and Kathryn Reilly

Deputy Peter Mathews attended as a substitute for Deputy Joe O'Reilly

Apologies were received from Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Seán Crowe and Joe O'Reilly; and Senator Terry Leyden.

3. DISCUSSION ON THE PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES OF GREECE [HER EXCELLENCY DIANA ZAGORIANOU-PRIFTI, AMBASSADOR OF GREECE TO IRELAND]

The Committee met with Ambassador Zagorianou-Prifti to discuss the priorities of the Greek Presidency of the European Council of Ministers.

Following a presentation there was a question and answer session. The Chairman thanked the Ambassador and wished Greece success with the Presidency.

4. MEETING SUSPENDED

The meeting was suspended at 2.10 p.m. until 3.20 p.m.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of 17 December were agreed.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- I. *Copy of letter sent to Ceann Comhairle re Dáil reform measures and implications for Committees on behalf of the Working Group of Committee Chairs*
Correspondence noted.
- II. *Received from Derek Dignam- Recent Developments in the European Parliament and the EU - Bulletin No. 60: 20 December 2013.*

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

Correspondence noted.

- III. *Received from the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation- Statutory Instrument No. 484 of 2013: European Union (Consumer Information, Cancellation and Other Rights) Regulations 2013.*
Correspondence noted.
- IV. *Letter forwarded by Deirdre Lane, Clerk of Seanad Éireann re Parliamentary Assembly Union for the Mediterranean*
Correspondence noted.
- V. *Letter forwarded by Deirdre Lane, Clerk of Seanad Éireann re text adopted by European Parliament*
Correspondence noted.
- VI. *Newsletter of the International Fund for Ireland – December 2013.*
Correspondence noted.
- VII. *House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee Twenty-sixth Report of Session 2013-14 - Link to Report:*
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmeuleg/86-xxvi/86xxvi.pdf>
Correspondence noted.
- VIII. *House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee Twenty-seventh Report of Session 2013-14. Link to report:*
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmeuleg/83-xxiv/83xxiv.pdf>
Correspondence noted.
- IX. *Received from Derek Dignam – Bulletin entitled "This week in the European Institutions 13-17 January 2014".*
Correspondence noted.
- X. *House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee Twenty-eight Report of Session 2013-14. Link to report:*
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmeuleg/83-xxv/83xxv.pdf>
Correspondence noted.
- XI. *Email received from Timmy Dooley TD regarding recent flooding*
Correspondence noted.
- XII. *Republique Francaise- Comptes rendus des travaux de la commission des affaires européennes du Sénat du 1er au 31 décembre 2013. No 52 (Hard copy only)*
Correspondence noted.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3.20 p.m. until 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 23 January 2014.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
5 February 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 23 JANUARY 2014

1. The Joint Committee met at 10.04 a.m. in Committee Room 4, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Dara Murphy (Vice-Chairman), Eric Byrne, Sean Crowe, Timmy Dooley and Séan Kyne

Deputy Regina Doherty attended as a substitute for Deputy Joe O'Reilly

Senators Colm Burke, Aideen Hayden, Terry Leyden and Catherine Noone

Apologies were received from Senator Kathryn Reilly.

3. DISCUSSION ON THE ROLE OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS IN THE EUROPEAN SEMESTER, AND THE ANNUAL GROWTH SURVEY 2014 [MS. CATHERINE DAY, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION]

The Committee met with the Secretary-General of the European Commission, Ms. Catherine Day, to discuss the priorities of the European Semester, and the Annual Growth Survey 2014.

Following a presentation from Ms. Day there was a question and answer session. The Chairman thanked the Secretary-General for her attendance and wished her well with her work in the future.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 11.15 a.m. until 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday 4 February 2014.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
5 February 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 5 FEBRUARY 2014

1. The Joint Committee met at 10.06 a.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne, Sean Crowe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, John Halligan and Dara Murphy

Senators Colm Burke and Catherine Noone

Apologies were received from Senator Kathryn Reilly.

3. DISCUSSION ON THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL MEETING [MR. PASCHAL DONOHOE TD, MINISTER OF STATE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EUROPE]

The Committee met with Minister of State Paschal Donohoe, to discuss the General Affairs Council meeting scheduled for 11 February.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the Minister for his participation and wished him well in the negotiations

4. MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

The minutes of 16 and 23 January 2013 were agreed.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

(i) *Received from the Department of Health – S.I. No. 7 of 2014 European Union (Recognition of Professional Qualifications relating to the Professions of Dentist, Medical Practitioners, Nurse and Midwife) Regulations 2014*
Correspondence noted.

(ii) *Received from Derek Dignam - This week in the European Institutions 20-24 January 2014*
Correspondence noted.

(iii) *Received from the European Court of Auditors - a copy of the press*

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

release on the Special Report 15/2013 Has the Environment component of the LIFE programme been effective? published on January 17th together with the link to the complete text. (received hard copy of Report from Kevin Cardiff, Member of the European Court of Auditors)

Correspondence noted.

- (iv) *Received from the Press Office Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade- Tánaiste announces expansion of Irish embassy network in support of trade and aid*

Correspondence noted.

- (v) *Received from Derek Dignam - This week in the European Institutions 27-31 January 2014*

Correspondence noted.

- (vi) *Received from the Press Office of the European Court of Auditors press release re Vítor Manuel da Silva Caldeira re-elected President of the European Court of Auditors*

Correspondence noted.

- (vii) *Received from the Department of Health – S.I. No. 11 of 2014 European Union (Nutrition and Health Claims made on Foods) Regulations 2014*

Correspondence noted.

- (viii) *Received from the Department of Health – S.I. No. 14 of 2014 European Communities (Official Controls on the Import of Food of Non-Animal Origin) (Amendment) Regulations 2014*

Correspondence noted.

- (ix) *Received from the Department of Health – S.I. No. 15 of 2014 European Union (Microbiological Criteria for Foodstuffs) (Amendment) Regulations 2014*

Correspondence noted.

- (x) *Received from Press Office, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – press release re Political leaders must work together to advance Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU prospects*

Correspondence noted.

- (xi) *Forwarded by the Office of the Ceann Comhairle a letter from Mr Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament enclosing an invitation to attend ' EU Parliaments in global governance ' one-day Parliamentary Forum*

Correspondence noted.

- (xii) *House of Commons European Scrutiny Committee Twenty-ninth Report of Session 2013-14.*

Correspondence noted.

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

- (xiii) *Received from Derek Dignam – This week in the European Institutions 3-7 February 2014*
Correspondence noted.
- (xiv) *Received from the Mission of the State of Palestine in Ireland the first issue of the " Palestine Week in review"*
Correspondence noted.
- (xv) *Received from the Press Office, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – press release Tánaiste publishes Ireland's Economic Diplomacy in Action, 2013.*
Correspondence noted.
- (xvi) *Received from Derek Dignam - Recent Developments in the European Parliament and the EU Bulletin No. 61.*
Correspondence noted

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 11.31 a.m. until 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 13 February 2014.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
13 February 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 13 FEBRUARY 2014

1. The Joint Committee met at 2.11 p.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne, Bernard Durkan, Seán Kyne, Dara Murphy and Joe O'Reilly

Senators Aideen Hayden, Terry Leyden and Catherine Noone

Apologies were received from Deputy Sean Crowe.

3. **EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH THE IRISH DELEGATION TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS [CLLR. PATRICK MCGOWAN, CHAIR; CLLR. CONSTANCE HANIFFY; CLLR. DES HURLEY; CLLR. DECLAN McDONNELL; CLLR. BRIAN MEANEY; CLLR. JOHN SHEAHAN; CLLR. FIONA O'LOUGHLIN; AND CLLR. PAUL O'DONOGHUE]**

The Committee met with members of the Irish delegation to the Committee of the Regions, to discuss their experiences with the EU institutions and their thoughts on the future of Europe.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the delegates and wished them well in the future.

4. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 3.47 p.m.

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3.57 p.m. until 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 20 February 2014.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
20 February 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 20 FEBRUARY 2014

1. The Joint Committee met at 2.06 p.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Seán Kyne, Dara Murphy and Joe O'Reilly

Senators Colm Burke, Terry Leyden, Catherine Noone and Kathryn Reilly

Apologies were received from Deputy Sean Crowe and Senator Aideen Hayden.

3. DISCUSSION ON THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE'S REVIEW OF FOREIGN POLICY AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS [MS. MARIE CROSS, FORMER ASSISTANT SECRETARY AT THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE; AND DR. PAT IVORY, HEAD OF EU AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, IBEC]

The Committee met with Marie Cross and Dr. Pat Ivory, to discuss their views on the Review of Foreign Policy currently underway at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Following the witnesses' presentations there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the delegates and wished them well in the future.

4. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 3.51 p.m.

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3.53 p.m. until 11.30 a.m. on Thursday 27 February 2014.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
27 February 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 27 FEBRUARY 2014

1. PRIVATE SESSION

The Joint Committee met in private session at 11.50 a.m. in Committee Room 4, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan and Dara Murphy ;

Senators Aideen Hayden and Catherine Noone .

Apologies were received from Deputies Sean Crowe and Joe O'Reilly.

3. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

4. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

8. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 12.33 p.m. until 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday 11 March 2014.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
11 March 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 11 MARCH 2014

1. The Joint Committee met at 14.02 p.m. in Committee Room 1, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne, Sean Crowe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, John Halligan and Séan Kyne

Senators Colm Burke, Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly

Apologies were received from Deputies Dara Murphy and Joe O'Reilly.

3. VOTING RIGHTS OF CITIZENS WITHIN THE EU. [MS. BARBARA NOLAN, HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN IRELAND; AND MS. EIMEAR NÍ BHROIN, POLITICAL AFFAIRS OFFICER AT THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN IRELAND]

The Committee met with Ms. Barbara Nolan of the European Commission office in Ireland to discuss the European Commission Communication and Recommendation on the consequences of disenfranchisement of Union citizens exercising their right to free movement.

After the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the Ms. Nolan for attending and for the interesting discussion which ensued.

4. INTRODUCTION OF THE EURO TO LITHUANIA IN 2015. [HIS EXCELLENCY VIDMANTAS PURLYS, AMBASSADOR OF LITHUANIA TO IRELAND]

The Committee met with the Ambassador of Lithuania to Ireland, His Excellency Mr. Vidmantas Purlys, to discuss the introduction of the Euro to Lithuania in 2015.

After the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the Ambassador for attending and wished Lithuania well for the future.

5. MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

Minutes and Correspondence deferred until the next meeting.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 15.26 p.m. until 3.00 p.m. on Thursday 13 March 2014.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
13 March 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 13 MARCH 2014

1. PRIVATE SESSION

The Joint Committee met in private session at 3.10 p.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dara Murphy (Vice-Chairman), Eric Byrne, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan and Joe O'Reilly

Senator Colm Burke

Apologies were received from Deputy Dominic Hannigan and Senators Aideen Hayden, Terry Leyden and Catherine Noone.

3. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

4. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. PUBLIC SESSION

The Committee went into public session at 3.12 p.m.

7. DISCUSSION ON THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL MEETING [MR. PASCHAL DONOHOE TD, MINISTER OF STATE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EUROPE]

The Committee met with Minister of State Paschal Donohoe, to discuss the General Affairs Council meeting scheduled for 18 March.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the Minister for his participation and wished him well in the negotiations

8. ADJOURNMENT

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

The Committee adjourned at 4.27 p.m. until 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 27 March 2014.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
1 April 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 1 APRIL 2014

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.05 p.m. in Committee Room 1, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Seán Kyne and Joe O'Reilly

Senators Colm Burke, Terry Leyden, Catherine Noone and Kathryn Reilly

Also in attendance were Deputy Michael Colreavy and Senators Michael Comiskey and Pat O'Neill.

Apologies were received from Deputies Sean Crowe, John Halligan and Dara Murphy, and Senator Aideen Hayden.

2. THE EUROPEAN SEMESTER PROCESS [COUNCILLOR FIONA O'LOUGHLIN, IRISH DELEGATION TO THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS]

The Committee met with Councillor Fiona O'Loughlin, from the Irish delegation to the Committee of the Regions, to discuss its views on the European Semester Process.

Following the presentation there was a short question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the Councillor O'Loughlin for her participation and wished her well in the future.

3. MEETING SUSPENDED

The meeting was suspended at 2.31 p.m. until 2.32 p.m.

4. DISCUSSION ON THE NATIONAL REFORM PROGRAMME FOR IRELAND 2014 UPDATE [MR. PASCHAL DONOHOE TD, MINISTER FOR EUROPE]

The Committee met with Mr. Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister of State for European Affairs, to discuss the National Reform Programme for Ireland 2014. Following Minister Donohoe's presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the Minister for his participation and wished him well in the future.

5. MEETING SUSPENDED

The meeting was suspended at 4.11 p.m. until 4.13 p.m.

6. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee went into private session at 4.13 p.m.

7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

8. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

9. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

10. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 4.19 p.m. until 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 10 April 2014.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
10 April 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 10 APRIL 2014

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.08 p.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne, Sean Crowe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan and Dara Murphy

Senator Aideen Hayden

Apologies were received from Deputies John Halligan and Joe O'Reilly.

2. VOTING RIGHTS OF CITIZENS WITHIN THE EU (RESUMED). [HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR OF CYPRUS TO IRELAND, MR. MICHALIS STAVRINOS; HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR OF DENMARK TO IRELAND, MR. NIELS PULTZ; HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR OF ESTONIA TO IRELAND, MR. MAIT MARTINSON; AND HIS EXCELLENCY THE AMBASSADOR OF SPAIN TO IRELAND, MR. JAVIER GARRIGUES]

The Committee met with the Ambassadors of Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia and Spain to discuss the European Commission Communication regarding the voting rights of EU citizens.

After each Ambassador made a presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked witnesses and wished them well for the future.

3. MEETING SUSPENDED

The meeting was suspended at 3.32 p.m. until 3.33 p.m.

4. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee went into private session at 3.33 p.m.

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

8. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3.42 p.m. until 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday 15 April 2014.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
15 April 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 15 APRIL 2014

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.07 p.m. in Committee Room 1, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne, Sean Crowe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, John Halligan, Dara Murphy and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators Colm Burke, Aideen Hayden and Kathryn Reilly.

2. VOTING RIGHTS OF CITIZENS WITHIN THE EU (RESUMED). [MR. TIMMY DOOLEY T.D., FIANNA FÁIL; MR. JOHN HALLIGAN T.D, INDEPENDENT AND MS. LYNN BOYLAN, SINN FÉIN ARD COMHAIRLE MEMBER]

The Committee met with Timmy Dooley TD, John Halligan TD and Ms. Lynn Boylan to discuss the European Commission Communication regarding the voting rights of EU citizens. Deputy Dooley and Ms. Boylan presented the positions of Fianna Fáil and Sinn Féin respectively. While appearing on behalf of the Technical Group, the Committee noted that Deputy Halligan was presenting his own views and not those of the Technical Group as a whole.

Following the witnesses' presentations there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked witnesses and wished them well for the future.

3. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee went into private session at 3.07 p.m.

4. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3.23 p.m. until 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday 6 May 2014.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
13 May 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 6 MAY 2014

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.04 p.m. in Committee Room 1, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Sean Kyne, Dara Murphy and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators Aideen Hayden and Michael Mullins.

Apologies were received from Deputies Sean Crowe and John Halligan. Senators Colm Burke, Terry Leyden, Catherine Noone and Kathryn Reilly.

2. DISCUSSION (I) ON THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING AND (II) EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS 2014 [PASCHAL DONOHUE TD, MINISTER FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS]

The Committee met with the Minister for European Affairs, Paschal Donohoe TD, to discuss the forthcoming General Affairs Council meeting and the European Parliament Elections 2014. Following a presentation by the Minister there was a question and answer session. The Chairman thanked the Minister and wished him well in the negotiations.

3. MINUTES AND CORRESPONDENCE

Minutes and Correspondence deferred until the next meeting.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3.33 p.m. until 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday 13 May 2014.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
13 May 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 13 MAY 2014

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.08 p.m. in Committee Room 1, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, John Halligan and Joe O'Reilly

Senators Colm Burke, Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly

Apologies were received from Deputies Sean Crowe and Dara Murphy.

2. DISCUSSION VOTING RIGHTS OF EU CITIZENS [DR. ADRIAN KAVANAGH, DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, NUI MAYNOOTH; AND MS. JENNIE MCSHANNON, CEO OF IRISH IN BRITAIN]

The Committee met with Dr. Adrian Kavanagh of NUI Maynooth, and Ms. Jennie McShannon, CEO Irish in Britain, to discuss their views on the European Commission's Communication regarding voting rights of EU citizens. Following presentations there was a question and answer session.

The Chairman thanked witnesses and wished them well in the future.

3. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee went into private session at 3.25 p.m.

4. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3.29 p.m. until 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday 27 May 2014.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
27 May 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 27 MAY 2014

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.06 p.m. in Committee Room 1, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne, Bernard Durkan and Seán Kyne

Senator Kathryn Reilly

Apologies were received from Deputies Timmy Dooley and Dara Murphy; and Senator Terry Leyden.

2. DISCUSSION ON THE PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP (TTIP) [MR. RICHARD BRUTON TD, MINISTER FOR JOBS, ENTERPRISE AND INNOVATION]

The Committee met with the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Mr. Richard Bruton TD, to discuss the progress of the negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Following the Minister's presentation there was a question and answer session.

The Chairman thanked the Minister and wished him well in the negotiations.

3. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee went into private session at 2.55 p.m.

4. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3.12 p.m. until 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 5 June 2014.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
12 June 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 5 JUNE 2014

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.09 p.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne, Sean Crowe, Bernard Durkan and Dara Murphy,

Senators Terry Leyden, Catherine Noone and Mary White

Apologies were received from Deputy John Halligan and Senator Colm Burke

2. MEETING SUSPENDED

The meeting was suspended at 2.12 p.m. and resumed at 2.38 p.m.

3. DISCUSSION ON THE PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (TTIP) (RESUMED)

The Joint Committee met with the Dr. Werner Raza, Austrian Foundation of Development Research; Mr. Simon McKeever, Irish Exporters Association; and Dr. Pat Ivory IBEC to discuss the potential of a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement (TTIP). Following opening presentations by the speakers, a question and answer session ensued with the Members.

On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for contributing to a very interesting discussion. The Joint Committee agreed to submit a political contribution to the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and to the European Commission on its consideration of TTIP.

4. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of private business until its next meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 4.05 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Thursday, 12 June 2014.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
12 June 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 12 JUNE 2014

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.05 p.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne, Sean Crowe, Bernard Durkan, John Halligan and Seán Kyne,

Senators Colm Burke, Aileen Hayden and Catherine Noone,

Apologies were received from Deputies Dara Murphy and Joe O'Reilly, and Senator Kathryn Reilly.

2. DISCUSSION ON THE PROGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION'S COUNTRY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS (CSRs) FOR IRELAND [MR. PASCHAL DONOHOE TD, MINISTER FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS]

The Joint Committee met with the Minister for European Affairs, Mr. Paschal Donohoe TD, to discuss the European Commission's, recently published, Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) for Ireland. Following an opening presentation by the Minister, a question and answer session ensued with the Members.

On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Minister for contributing towards a very informative meeting.

3. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee went into private session at 3.30 p.m.

4. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 4.01 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Thursday, 24 June 2014.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
24 June 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 24 JUNE 2014

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.06 p.m. in Committee Room 1, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Seán Kyne and Dara Murphy, and Senators Colm Burke, Paul Bradford and Aideen Hayden.

Apologies were received from Deputies Sean Crowe and Joe O'Reilly; and Senator Terry Leyden.

2. DISCUSSION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS [PROFESSOR GAIL MCELROY, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN; AND MS. SUZANNE LYNCH, EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENT, IRISH TIMES]

The Joint Committee met with Professor Gail McElroy, Trinity College and Ms. Suzanne Lynch, Irish Times to discuss the outcome of the European Parliamentary elections.

Following presentations by the Witnesses, a question and answer session with Members ensued. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for attending and for their contribution to a very informative meeting.

3. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee went into private session at 3.16 p.m.

4. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3.20 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Thursday, 3 July 2014.

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
3 July 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 3 JULY 2014

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.05 p.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Dara Murphy (in the Chair for part of the meeting), Eric Byrne, Sean Crowe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, John Halligan, Seán Kyne and Joe O'Reilly, and Senators Terry Leyden, Catherine Noone and Kathryn Reilly.

In the unavoidable absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, Deputy Dara Murphy, took the Chair.

2. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee went into private session at 2.06 p.m.

3. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

4. PUBLIC SESSION

The Committee went into public session at 2.09 p.m.

5. EU SCRUTINY: [COM\(2014\)158](#) – COMMUNICATION ON A NEW EU FRAMEWORK TO STRENGTHEN THE RULE OF LAW [MR. E CRABIT, EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND DEGLÁN Ó BRIAIN, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND EQUALITY]

The Joint Committee met with Mr. Emmanuel Crabit, European Commission and Declán Ó Briain, Department of Justice and Equality to discuss the European Commission's recently adopted framework to strengthen the rule of law

The Chairman, Deputy Dominic Hannigan, assumed the Chair at 2.43 p.m.

Following presentations by the Witnesses, a question and answer session with Members ensued. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for attending and for their contribution to a very informative meeting.

6. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee went into private session at 3.25 p.m.

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

8. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

9. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

10. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

11. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3.38 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 8 July 2014.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
8 July 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 8 JULY 2014

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.14 p.m. in Committee Room 1, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Dara Murphy, Eric Byrne, Sean Crowe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan and John Halligan, and Senators Colm Burke and Terry Leyden.

Senator Trevor Ó Clochartaigh was also present.

In the unavoidable absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, Deputy Dara Murphy, took the Chair.

2. THE PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES OF ITALY [H.E. MR. GIOVANNI ADORNI BRACCESI, AMBASSADOR OF ITALY TO IRELAND]

The Joint Committee met with Ambassador Braccesi to discuss the priorities of the Italian Presidency of the European Council of Ministers.

The Chairman, Deputy Dominic Hannigan, assumed the Chair at 2.43 p.m.

Following presentation by the Ambassador there was a question and answer session. The Chairman thanked the Ambassador for a very informative presentation and discussion. He wished Italy success with during its Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

3. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee went into private session at 3.20 p.m.

4. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

8. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3.31 p.m. *sine die*.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
25 September 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 25 SEPTEMBER 2014

The Joint Committee met at 2.10 p.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan and Joe O'Reilly, *and* Senators Colm Burke, Terry Leyden and Catherine Noone.

[IN PRIVATE SESSION]

2. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

3. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

4. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

MEETING SUSPENSION

The Committee agreed to suspend the meeting at 2.22 p.m. to facilitate the attendance of witnesses. The meeting resumed at 2.30 p.m.

[IN PUBLIC SESSION]

5. DISCUSSION ON THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL [MR. DARA MURPHY TD, MINISTER OF STATE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS]

The Committee met with the Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs, Dara Murphy TD, to discuss the forthcoming General Affairs Council meeting.

Following a presentation by the Minister, a question and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Minister for his engagement with the Committee.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3.31 p.m. until 2.00 p.m. Thursday, 2 October.

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
2 October 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 2 OCTOBER 2014

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.09 p.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Seán Crowe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan and Seán Kyne; and Senator Kathryn Reilly.

Apologies were received from Deputy Eric Byrne.

2. ENGAGEMENT WITH NEWLY ELECTED MEPS [MS. LYNN BOYLAN MEP AND MR. BRIAN HAYES MEP] AND MR. FRANCIS JACOBS, HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT OFFICE IN IRELAND

The Committee met with the MEPS Ms. Lynn Boylan and Mr. Brian Hayes, and Mr. Francis Jacobs Head of the European Parliament Office in Ireland. Mr. Jacobs updated the Committee on ongoing developments in the European Parliament, after which the MEPS made opening statements to the Committee. A discussion ensued.

On conclusion, the Chairman thanked Mr. Jacobs, Ms. Boylan MEP, and Mr. Hayes, MEP for their engagement with the Committee. The Chairman reiterated the need for regular engagement between the Committee and all the Irish MEPS. He wished them every success during their tenure in the European Parliament.

3. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee went into private session at 3.47 p.m.

4. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3.53 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 7th October.

Chairman
9 October 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 7 OCTOBER 2014

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.09 p.m. in Committee Room 1, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Eric Byrne, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan and Joe O'Reilly; and Senators Colm Burke and Catherine Noone.

Apologies were received from Deputy Seán Crowe.

2. HUNGARY AND THE RULE OF LAW [MR. JOHN DEVITT, TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL IRELAND; AND DR. MIKLÓS LIGETI, TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL HUNGARY]

The Committee heard presentations from Mr. John Devitt and Dr. Miklós Ligeti, Transparency International, on the Rule of Law in Hungary, following which, a question and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for their contribution to the meeting.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that a meeting was scheduled on Thursday, 9 October at 2 p.m. to continue consideration of this item with the Ambassador of Hungary.

MEETING SUSPENSION

The Committee agreed to suspend the meeting at 3.08 p.m. The meeting resumed at 3.16 p.m.

[IN PUBLIC SESSION]

3. EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY – MID-TERM REVIEW [DR. PAT IVORY AND MR. ERIK O'DONOVAN, IBEC; MR. PAUL GINNELL, EUROPEAN ANTI-POVERTY NETWORK; MS. BRÍD O'BRIEN, IRISH NATIONAL ORGANISATION OF THE UNEMPLOYED; AND MS. LORRAINE MULLIGAN, SIPTU, REPRESENTING 'BETTER EUROPE ALLIANCE']

The Committee met with representatives from Ibec, Dr. Pat Ivory and Mr. Erik O'Donovan; and representatives from 'Better Europe Alliance', Mr. Paul Ginnell, Ms. Bríd O'Brien and Ms. Lorraine Mulligan, to discuss their organisations submissions to the Committee on the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Following presentations from a representative of each organisation, a question and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for their contribution to the meeting.

4. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 4.26 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Thursday, 9th October.

Chairman
9 October 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 9 OCTOBER 2014

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.06 p.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan and Seán Kyne; and Senators Colm Burke, Aideen Hayden, Catherine Noone and Kathryn Reilly.

Apologies were received from Deputies Dominic Hannigan, Seán Crowe, Eric Byrne and Joe O'Reilly; and Senator Terry Leyden.

2. ELECTION OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN

In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, the Committee Clerk invited nominations for a temporary Chairman. Senator Kathryn Reilly moved that Deputy Bernard Durkan take the Chair.

The question was put and agreed to. Deputy Durkan assumed the Chair.

3. HUNGARY AND THE RULE OF LAW [H.E. DR. TAMÁS MAGYARICS, AMBASSADOR OF HUNGARY TO IRELAND]

The Committee met with the Ambassador of Hungary to Ireland, H.E. Dr. Tamás Magyarics to continue its consideration of Hungary and the Rule of Law.

Following a presentation by the Ambassador, a question and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Ambassador for his engagement with the Committee on this issue.

4. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee went into private session at 3.10 p.m.

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

7. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3.11 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Thursday, 16th October.

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
16 October 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 16 OCTOBER 2014

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.15 p.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

1. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Eric Byrne, Dominic Halligan (Chair), Billy Kelleher (substitute for Timmy Dooley), Bernard Durkan and Joe O'Reilly; and Senators Colm Burke and Terry Leyden.

Apologies were received from Deputy Séan Crowe.

2. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee went into private session at 2.16 p.m.

3. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

4. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

7. PUBLIC SESSION

The Committee went into public session at 2.23 p.m.

8. EUROPE 2020 STRATEGY: MID-TERM REVIEW (*RESUMED*)

[COUNCILLORS JOHN SHEAHAN AND MARIA BYRNE, REPRESENTING THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS; MR. NEALE RICHMOND AND MR. JOE BISHOP OF EUROPEAN MOVEMENT IRELAND; AND MS. BARBARA GERSTENBERGER OF EUROFOUND]

The Committee heard opening statements by witnesses representing each organisation after which, a question and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for their direct engagement as well as their respective written submissions to the Committee on this issue.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3.55 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, 4th November.

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman
4 November 2014

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF 4 NOVEMBER 2014

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.05 p.m. in Committee Room 1, Leinster House 2000.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Seán Kyne, and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators: Colm Burke, Terry Leyden and Aideen Hayden.

Apologies were received from Deputy John Halligan.

3. **PUBLIC SESSION**

The Committee went into public session at 2.05 p.m.

4. **REPORT ON IRELAND'S COUNTRY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS (2014):
BETTER EUROPE ALLIANCE [MS. MICHELLE MURPHY, SOCIAL JUSTICE
IRELAND; MS. ALICE-MARY HIGGINS, NATIONAL WOMEN'S COUNCIL OF
IRELAND; AND MICHAEL EWING, ENVIRONMENTAL PILLAR]**

The Committee heard an opening statement by Ms. Michelle Murphy of Social Justice Ireland, on behalf of the 'Better Europe Alliance', after which, a question and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for attending the meeting and for their engaging with the Committee on this issue.

5. **PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 3.22 p.m.

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

8. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

9. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

10. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3.38 p.m. until 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 13th November.

Dominic Hannigan T.D
Chairman
13 November 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF 13 NOVEMBER 2014

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.08 p.m. in Committee Room 1, Leinster House 2000.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Seán Kyne, and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators: Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

Apologies were received from Deputies Seán Crowe and Timmy Dooley.

3. **PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 2.11 p.m.

4. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

8. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

9. **PUBLIC SESSION**

The Committee went into public session at 2.18 p.m.

10. **BRIEFING BY THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS ON THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC) MEETING**

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

The Committee met with the Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs, Dara Murphy TD, to discuss the forthcoming General Affairs Council meeting.

Following a presentation by the Minister, a question and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Minister for his engagement with the Committee and wished him well in the negotiations.

11. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee went into private session at 3.07 p.m.

12. PUBLIC SESSION

The Committee went into public session at 3.08 p.m.

13. BRIEFING EU ENLARGEMENT STRATEGY: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE BALKAN REGION [MR. ERWAN FOUÉRE, THE CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES]

The Committee met with Mr. Erwan Fouéré to discuss the state of play of the EU Enlargement strategy, with particular reference to the Western Balkan region. Following a presentation by Mr. Fouéré, a question and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witness for his comprehension report and engagement with Members on this issue.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 4.05 p.m. until 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday 18th November.

Dominic Hannigan T.D
Chairman
18 November 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF 18 NOVEMBER 2014

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.07 p.m. in Committee Room 1, Leinster House 2000.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Seán Crowe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Seán Kyne, and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators: Colm Burke, Aideen Hayden and Kathryn Reilly.

3. **PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 2.07 p.m.

4. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

7. **PUBLIC SESSION**

The Committee went into public session at 2.09 p.m.

8. **EUROPEAN MOVEMENT IRELAND: ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT 2013 [Ms. NOELLE O'CONNELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, EUROPEAN MOVEMENT IRELAND]**

The Committee met with the Executive Director of European Movement Ireland, Ms. Noelle O'Connell, to discuss its Accountability Report 2013. Following a presentation by Ms. O'Connell, a question

and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witness for her engagement with the Committee.

9. MEETING SUSPENSION

The Committee agreed to suspend the meeting at 3.20 p.m. The meeting resumed at 3.24.

10. UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES AND PRIORITIES OF EUROFOUND [MR. JUAN MENÉNDEZ-VALDÉS, DIRECTOR, EUROFOUND; AND MS. MARY MCCaughey, HEAD OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION, EUROFOUND]

The Committee met with Mr. Juan Menéndez-Valdés and Ms. Mary McCaughey to discuss the activities and priorities of Eurofound. Following a presentation by Mr. Menéndez-Valdés, a question and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for their engagement with the Committee.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 3.55 p.m. until 2.00 p.m. on Tuesday 25th November.

Dominic Hannigan T.D
Chairman
25 November 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF 25 NOVEMBER 2014

1. The Joint Committee met in private session at 6.37 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), John Halligan and Seán Kyne.

Senators: Colm Burke and Aideen Hayden.

Apologies were received from Deputy Joe O'Reilly; and Senators Terry Leyden and Catherine Noone.

3. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION
4. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION
5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION
6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION
7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 6.47 p.m. until 2 p.m. on Thursday, 4 December.

Dominic Hannigan T.D
Chairman
4 December 2014

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF 16 DECEMBER 2014

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.19 p.m. in Committee Room 1, Leinster House 2000.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Seán Crowe, Bernard Durkan, Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Derek Keating, Seán Kyne and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators: Colm Burke, Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

Apologies were received from Deputy Timmy Dooley.

3. **PUBLIC SESSION**

The Committee went into public session at 2.19 p.m.

4. **(I) ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS 2013
(II) LANDSCAPE REVIEWS ON FINANCIAL RISKS TO THE EU BUDGET AND ACCOUNTABILITY AND AUDIT IN THE EUROPEAN UNION
[MR. KEVIN CARDIFF, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS;
MR. EDWARD FENNESSY, DIRECTOR, EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS;
AND MS. MARY KERRIGAN, HEAD OF PRIVATE OFFICE, EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS]**

The Committee met Mr. Kevin Cardiff, Mr. Edward Fennessy and Ms. Mary Kerrigan to discuss the Annual Report of the European Court of Auditors; and the Landscape Reviews on Financial Risks to the EU Budget and Accountability and Audit in the European Union. Following a presentation by Mr. Cardiff a question and answer session with the Members ensued.

On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the speakers for their contributions to the debate.

5. **MEETING SUSPENSION**

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

The Committee agreed to suspend the meeting at 3.31 p.m. The meeting resumed at 3.35 p.m.

6. 2015: THE EUROPEAN YEAR FOR DEVELOPMENT [MR. HANS ZOMER, DIRECTOR, DÓCHAS; MS. SHARAN KELLY, CEO OF TEARFUND AND CHAIRPERSON OF DÓCHAS; AND MS. OLIVE TOWEY OF CONCERN]

The Committee met Mr. Hans Zomer, Ms. Sharan Kelly and Ms. Olive Towey to discuss the preparations for the European Year of Development 2015. Following a presentation by Ms. Towey and Ms. Kelly a question and answer session with the Members ensued.

On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the speakers for their contributions to the debate.

7. PRIVATE SESSION

The Committee went into private session at 4.10 p.m.

8. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

9. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

10. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 4.17 p.m. until 2.p.m. on Thursday 15th January.

Dominic Hannigan T.D
Chairman

15 January 2015