



AN COMHCHOISTE UM GHNÓTHAÍ AN AONTAIS EORPAIGH

TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL MAIDIR LE HOIBRIÚ

ACHT AN AONTAIS EORPAIGH (GRINNSCRÚDÚ) 2002

(DON TRÉIMHSE Ó 1 Eanáir 2015 go 31 Nollaig 2015)

2016

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

**ANNUAL REPORT ON THE OPERATION OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION (SCRUTINY) ACT 2002**

(FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY 2015 TO 31 DECEMBER 2015)

2016

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Chairman's Foreword

On behalf of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, I am pleased to present the Thirteenth Annual Report on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002, for 2015, as required under section 5 of the Act. The Act underpins the Irish system of EU scrutiny and enables the Houses of the Oireachtas to scrutinise all draft EU legislative measures. It is an important function that brings democratic accountability to Government decisions taken at EU level.

Scrutiny and detailed consideration of EU documents and related matters is carried out by the Oireachtas Joint Committees, in line with the Orders of Reference of the Joint Committees. The relevant Joint Committees scrutinise and report on the implications for Ireland where new EU legislation is proposed. In this context, Joint Committees also scrutinise such legislative proposals with regard to the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality, as provided for under Protocol (2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

This Joint Committee notes the adoption by both Houses of the “EU Scrutiny Work Programme 2015- Joint Committees’ Priorities”, on 2 April. Each Joint Committee identified its own priorities based on the European Commission’s Annual Work Programme. Such prioritisation allows committees to concentrate on the more important and relevant proposals for draft legislation and also facilitates a more efficient use of committee time and resources, which is critical in view of the heavy workload of these Oireachtas Committees.

The 2015 European Commission Work Programme was adopted in December 2014 and was the first of new Commission President, President Juncker. It was more narrowly focused than previous iterations, based on President Juncker's ‘Political Guidelines’. In practical terms, the number of new legislative initiatives contained in the work programme was greatly reduced from 130 new initiatives in 2014 to 23 new initiatives.

A new initiative of national Parliaments, the ‘Green Card’ initiative, was piloted in 2015. The initiative is seen as a way for national parliaments to work together to suggest EU policy initiatives which could also be used to repeal or amend existing EU legislation.

I wish to thank the Government departments for their considerable assistance in the scrutiny process, and the staff of Oireachtas Committees and the EU Coordination Unit for their efficient management

of the documentation and the preparation of meetings. The Joint Committee considers that the effectiveness of the Oireachtas EU scrutiny system is heavily dependent on the timely agreement between Government departments on responsibility for a particular file, and on the subsequent submission of the required 'Information Note' to the Oireachtas without delay.

I also wish to acknowledge the invaluable contribution and hard work of my colleagues on the Joint Committee of European Union Affairs and also of my colleagues on the other Joint Committees in carrying out their important remit in the scrutiny of draft EU legislation. Their dedication, knowledge and experience are greatly valued.

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

Dominic Hannigan T.D.
Chairman

20 January 2016.

1. Introduction

- 1) This is the Thirteenth Annual Report on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002¹ (“the Act”). The Act lays down the legislative basis for Oireachtas scrutiny of draft EU legislative measures².
- 2) Among the main provisions of the Act are:
 - *Information Notes* - the Government must forward a statement (information note) to the Houses of the Oireachtas as soon as practicable after the publication of each proposed European Union legislative measure. The note outlines the purpose, significance and implications of the new measure [s2(1)].
 - *Recommendations* - the Minister concerned shall have regard to any recommendations by either or both Houses of the Oireachtas or a Committee of either or both such Houses on a proposed measure [s2(2)].
 - *Reports by the Government* - each Minister shall report at least twice yearly to both Houses in relation to proposed measures and other EU developments within his/her remit [s2(5)]. In addition, the Government shall make an annual report to the Houses on developments in the EU [s4].
- 3) Section 5 of the Act specifically provides that the Joint Committee on European Affairs (the title of the Joint Committee at that time) shall report annually to both Houses on the operation of the Act. Accordingly, this report has been prepared by the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs in accordance with that section and with paragraph (6) of its Orders of Reference (*see Appendix 1*) in relation to how the EU scrutiny system operated in 2012.
- 4) The scrutiny process in the last Dáil/Seanad was carried out by the Joint Committee on European Scrutiny but this was changed to a ‘mainstreamed model’ in the current Dáil/Seanad, whereby each sectoral Joint Committee now considers European Union matters within the remit of the relevant Department(s) including engaging with Ministers in the context of meetings of the Council of Ministers [Dáil Standing Order 82(A) and Seanad Standing Order 70(A)].

2. Scrutiny Activity in 2015

(a) Oireachtas oversight of EU measures and legislation

- i) The sectoral Joint Committees in the current Dáil/Seanad were formed on 8 June 2011 with membership assigned from 9 June 2011, in the case of the Dáil, and 16 June 2011, in the case of the Seanad (*see Appendix 4 for Orders of Reference of the Sectoral Committees*).
- ii) The Orders of Reference of sectoral Joint Committees agreed by both Houses in

¹ Previous reports were produced by the former Joint and Sub-Committee on European Scrutiny.

² The definition of “measure” in the 2002 Act was amended by section 6 of the European Union Act 2009.

June 2011 require them to consider and report on European Union matters within the remit of the relevant Department(s) and to engage with Ministers in the context of meetings of the Council of Ministers [Dáil Standing Order 82(A) and Seanad Standing Order 70A)].

iii) Consideration of European Union matters is now a standing item on the agenda for each sectoral Joint Committee meeting during which the Committee may consider any or all of the following issues:

- draft legislative measures within the Joint Committee’s remit. Each Joint Committee will decide which proposals to scrutinise in depth, for example by engaging with relevant stakeholders;
- compliance of draft legislative acts with the principle of subsidiarity³ and related issues, in support of the role of the Houses of the Oireachtas under Article 29.4 of the Constitution, section 7 of the European Union Act 2009 and Standing Orders relating to the role of the Houses under the Lisbon Treaty. If a breach of subsidiarity is found, the Joint Committee will report to the Houses recommending the adoption of a reasoned opinion; and
- major policy issues and consultation papers from the European Commission. Joint Committees may decide to make a “contribution” to the relevant institution on particular issues of interest or concern.

Each Joint Committee may also –

- invite the relevant Minister to attend in advance of relevant European Union Council meetings to brief the Committee on the agenda and on the outcome of the previous Council meeting; and
- meet with Secretaries General in relation to the six-monthly reports on measures, proposed measures and other developments in relation to the European Union which are provided by each Minister under the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002.

iv) The Joint Committee on European Union Affairs (pursuant to the 2002 Act and paragraph (6) of its Orders of Reference) is responsible for reporting on an annual basis on the operation of the Act to both Houses of the Oireachtas. The Report will typically contain statistics on the total number of proposals considered by Joint Committees in the period under review, the number of proposals which warranted detailed scrutiny, the number of scrutiny reports laid before the Houses, contributions sent to the European Union institutions and reasoned opinions agreed in plenary. The Report will contain a qualitative assessment of the operation of the Act by the Oireachtas and its Committees and will make recommendations where necessary. It will also consider the compliance of Government Departments with the Act.

³ Subsidiarity is the principle which regulates the exercise of EU powers. It determines whether the EU can intervene or should let Member States take action. It ensures that powers are exercised at the appropriate level. The subsidiarity principle acts as both a check on the need to take action at Union level, and ensures that, where it is needed, effective action is taken at the EU level. It is defined in Article 5 of the Treaty of the European Union: “Under the principle of subsidiarity, in areas which do not fall within its exclusive competence, the Union shall act only if and insofar as the objectives of the proposed action cannot be sufficiently achieved by the Member States, either at central level or at regional level and local level, but can rather, by reason of scale or effects of the proposed action, be better achieved at Union level.”

(b) Analysis of Proposals Considered**(i) Information Notes submitted by Departments**

In 2015, **319** Information Notes were submitted by Government Departments/Offices, as follows:

Department/Office	Number of Information Notes
Agriculture, Food and the Marine	35
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	1
Communications, Energy and Natural Resources	6
Defence	-
Education and Skills	19
Environment, Community and Local Government	14
Finance including Revenue Commissioners	76
Foreign Affairs and Trade	49
Health	4
Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation	43
Justice and Equality	46
Public Expenditure and Reform	1
Social Protection	1
Taoiseach/Central Statistics Office	2
Transport, Tourism and Sport	22
Total	319

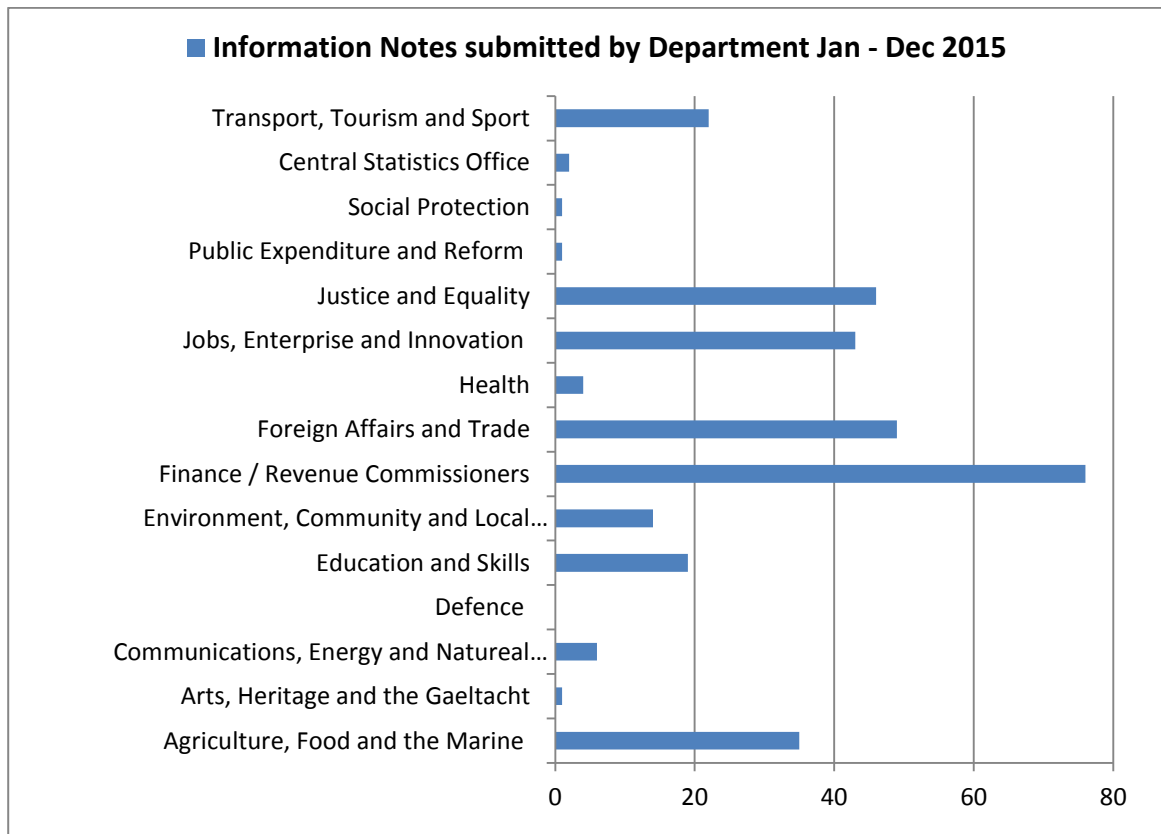


Fig 1: 2015 Information Notes submitted by Departments

(ii) EU Proposals considered by Oireachtas Committees (see Appendix 1)

In 2015, Joint Committees considered EU proposals as follows:

Joint Committee	Number of EU Proposals considered
Agriculture, Food and the Marine	47
Education and Social Protection	27
Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht	11
Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform	94
Foreign Affairs and Trade	48
Health and Children	1
Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation	50
Justice, Defence and Equality	54
Transport and Communications	30
Total	362

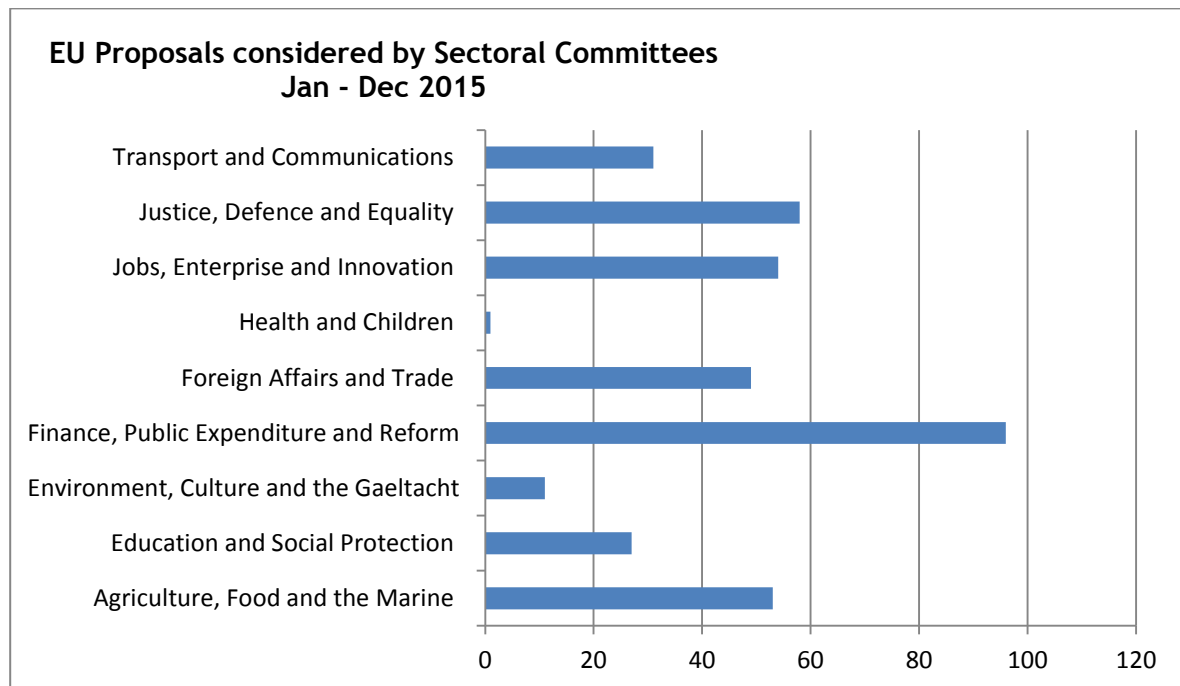


Fig 2: 2015 Considerations by Sectoral Committees

(iii) EU Proposals by 'Category'

Joint Committees considered the following categories of EU proposals: Budget Documents, CFSP Measures, Commission Reports, Communications, Decisions, Directives, Early Warning Notes (EWN), Green Papers, Recommendations and Regulations.

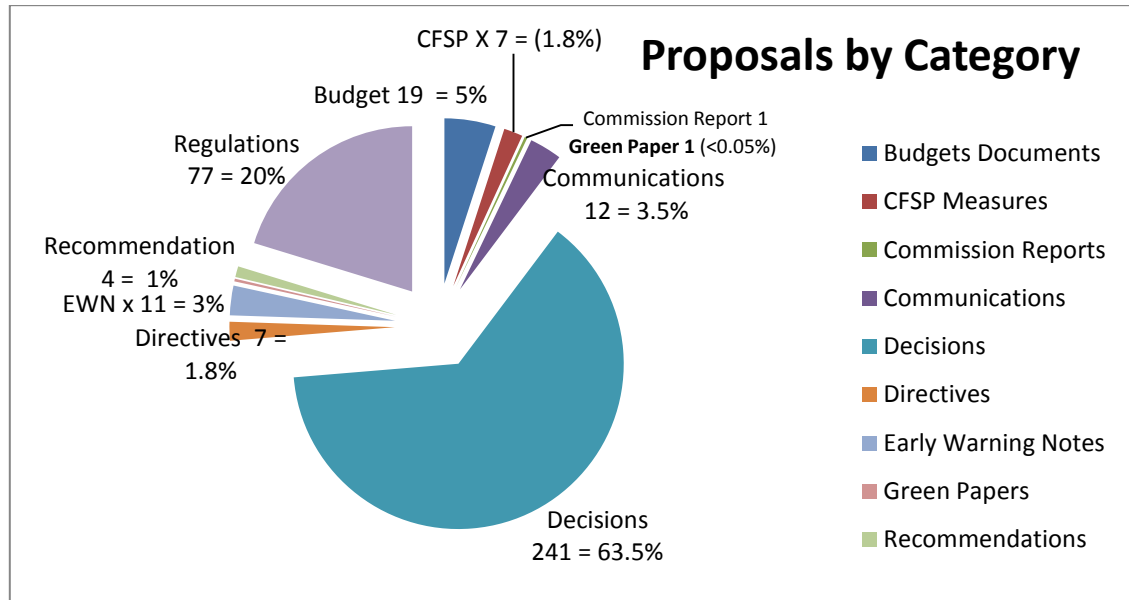


Fig 3: 2015 Proposals considered by Type

(iv) Decisions by Joint Committees

Joint Committees made **380** separate decisions on **362** EU proposals considered, as follows, 86% proposals required no further scrutiny; **11.5%** were identified as requiring further scrutiny; **1.5%** were adopted measures at the time of meeting; **1%** required no further scrutiny but follow-up action.

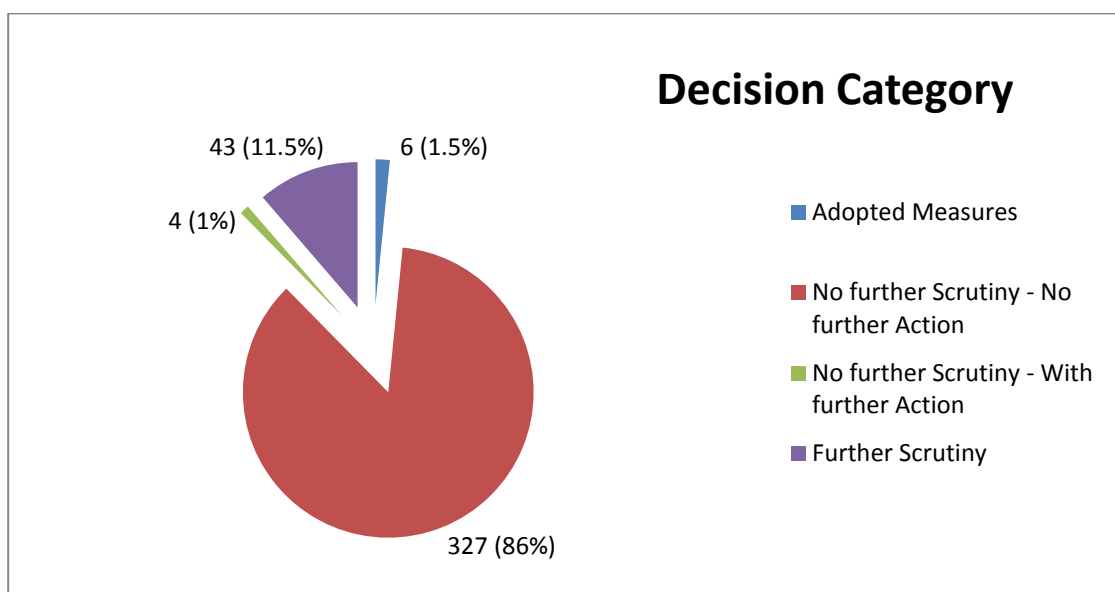


Fig 4: 2015 Decisions made by Category

(c) Reports and Political Contributions by Joint Committee

In 2015, Joint Committees published eight Reports, including Political Contributions made to the EU Institutions as set out below:

Joint Committee	Report/Contribution Title
Agriculture, Food and the Marine	<p><u>Political Contribution</u> –COM (2015)41– Fishing opportunities for Seabass</p> <p><u>Political Contribution</u> –COM (2015)177 – GMO’s – Genetically modified organisms.</p> <p><u>Political Contribution</u> –COM (2015)559 – Fixing for 2016 the Fishing Opportunities for Fishing Quota for fish stocks 2016.</p> <p><u>Political Contribution</u> – CAP Simplification</p> <p><u>Joint Political Contribution</u> –Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) which was co-signed by the Joint Committees on Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation; and European Union Affairs.</p>
European Union Affairs	<p><u>Political Contribution</u> –The Role of National Parliaments – 5 years Post Lisbon</p> <p><u>Political Contribution</u> – UK-EU Future Relationship: Implications for Ireland</p> <p><u>Joint Political Contribution</u> –Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) which was co-signed by the Joint Committees on Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation; and European Union Affairs.</p>
Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation	<p><u>Joint Political Contribution</u> –Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) which was co-signed by the Joint Committees on Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation; and European Union Affairs.</p>

Joint Committee	Report submitted via EU Public Consultation Process
Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform	<u>Report</u> on Capital Markets Union - COM(2015)63 ~ Green Paper

OTHER Joint Committee on Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht	<p>At a meeting of 7 July 2015, the Joint Committee agreed the following proposal:</p> <p><i>That the Committee agrees to lend its support to a draft House of Lords Proposal, to be submitted to the European Commission regarding Food Waste Policy</i></p>
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(d) Other European Union Matters before the Joint Committees**(i) Pre-Council meetings with Ministers**

In 2015, **12** pre-Council meetings were held by five Joint Committees with seven Ministers/Ministers of State as follows:

Joint Committee	Minister/Minister of State	Date of meeting
Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney, TD	8 December
European Union Affairs	Minister for State Dara Murphy, TD	10 March 14 May 12 Nov
Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform	Minister for State Simon Harris, TD Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan, TD	10 February 16 June 1 Dec
Foreign Affairs and Trade	Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charles Flanagan, TD	11 March 8 July 25 Nov
Transport and Communications	Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Alex White, TD Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Pascal Donohoe, TD	24 Nov 9 December

(ii) Six-Monthly Reports on developments in the EU

Under the Act, six-monthly reports are submitted by each Government Minister on proposed European Union measures and other developments within their remit. The reports are in two parts as follows:

- *Part 1* gives an overview of the significant developments at European Union level in the Minister's policy area during the European Union Presidency concerned; and
- *Part 2* gives an update on the current status of all of the European Union legislative measures being negotiated within the remit of the Minister.

In 2015, six-monthly reports were submitted by **16** Government Departments, 11 of which related to Jan – Dec 2015. During 2015, **one** Secretary General attended and discussed six-monthly reports on two occasions in relation to their respective Department, as follows:

Joint Committee	Secretary General	Date of meeting
Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	12 May 8 Dec

Appendix 1: 2015

Summary information of EU Proposals scrutinised by Oireachtas Joint Committees under the 2013 mainstream model

Sectoral Joint Committee	No. of Proposals ¹ considered	Schedule A ² / B ³		Subsidiarity letter rec'd	Reasoned Opinions submitted	Political Contributions submitted	No. of Proposals deemed for Further Scrutiny or Action	No. of Proposals deemed for No Further Scrutiny
Agriculture, Food and the Marine	47	5	42	3	-	5**	5	42
Education and Social Protection	27	1	26	1	-	-	-	27
Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht	11	3	8	3	-	-	1	10
Finance, & Public Expenditure and Reform	94	45	49	10	-	-	11	83
Foreign Affairs and Trade	48	23	25	-	-	-	5	43
Health and Children	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation	50	4	46	-	-	1**	4	46
Justice, Defence and Equality	54	9	45	12	-	-	7	47
Transport and Communications	30	7	23	2	-	-	4	26
TOTAL 2015	362	98	264	31	-	5	37 (25 on-going at 31/12/15)	325

*JC European Union Affairs submitted 2 Political Contributions

**Includes joint Political Contribution on TTIP by three Joint Committees, including the Joint Committee European Union Affairs

JC on Finance , Public Expenditure and Reform Reported Capital Markets Union [to COM(2015)63 – Green Paper] via EU Public Consultation Process

¹ Proposals includes all legislative and non-legislative proposals and a number of Adopted Measures brought before Joint Committees for scrutiny / consideration.

² Schedule 'A' denotes priority proposals

³ Schedule 'B' denotes all other proposals

Appendix 2

Proposals Considered for Further Scrutiny or action by Joint Committees in 2015

Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine

In 2015 the Joint Committee laid four Reports before both Houses of the Oireachtas as follows and it was a co-signatory to the Report on TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership), referred to under the JC on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation:

PROPOSAL NO.	Political Contribution in the context of Political Dialogue PROPOSAL TITLE -
COM(2015)41	<u>Political Contribution</u> –Fishing opportunities for Seabass Link here: <u>COM(2015)41</u>
COM(2015)177	<u>Political Contribution</u> - GMO's - Genetically modified organisms. Link here: <u>COM(2015)177</u>
COM(2015)559	<u>Political Contribution</u> – Fixing for 2016 the Fishing Opportunities for Fishing Quota for fish stocks 2016. Link here: <u>COM(2015)559</u>
	<u>Political Contribution</u> – on CAP Simplification
	<u>Joint Political Contribution</u> - on Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

The Joint Committee dealt with European Union matters at 17 meetings, involving consideration of some 47 proposals. The Joint Committee decided that the five proposals listed below should be further scrutinised.

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE - Further Scrutiny
COM(2015)41	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2015/104 as regards certain fishing opportunities for seabass: Link here: <u>COM(2015)41</u>
COM(2015)52	Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the International Grains Council with respect to the extension of the Grains Trade Convention 1995 Link here: <u>COM(2015)52</u>

COM(2015)53	<p>Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the International Sugar Council as regards the extension of the International Sugar Agreement 1992</p> <p>Link here: COM(2015)53</p>
COM(2015)177	<p><u>Political Contribution</u></p> <p>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the use of genetically modified food and feed on their territory</p> <p>Link here: COM(2015)177</p>
COM(2015)559	<p><u>Political Contribution</u> –</p> <p>Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for 2016 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union vessels, in certain non-Union waters</p> <p>Link here: COM(2015)559</p>

Joint Committee on Education and Social Protection

In 2015, the Joint Committee considered EU matters at five meetings involving consideration of 27 proposals, none of which were deemed for further scrutiny.

Joint Committee on Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht

In 2015, the Joint Committee considered European Union matters at seven meetings, involving consideration of some 11 proposals. The Joint Committee decided that one proposal listed below should be further scrutinised.

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE
COM(2015)337	<p>Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2003/87/EC to enhance cost-effective emission reductions and low-carbon investments (Text with EEA relevance) {SWD(2015) 135 final} {SWD(2015) 136 final}</p> <p>Link here: COM(2015)337</p>

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

In 2015 the Joint Committee laid two Reports before both Houses of the Oireachtas and was co-signatory to the Report on TTIP (Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, referred to under JC-Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation):

Date:	Political Contribution in the context of Political Dialogue PROPOSAL TITLE -
11 February	Political Contribution - The Role of National Parliaments - 5 years Post Lisbon
23 June	Political Contribution - UK/EU Future Relationship: Implications for Ireland
18 December	Joint Political Contribution - on Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform

In 2015, the Joint Committee considered EU matters at 11 meetings involving consideration of some 94 proposals including six Adopted Measures. The Joint Committee decided that 11 proposals should be further scrutinised, listed below.

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE - Further Scrutiny
COM(2014)473	Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Sixth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion: investment for jobs and growth Link here: COM(2014)473
COM(2014)494	Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Guidelines on the applications of the measures linking effectiveness of the European Structural and Investment Funds to sound economic governance according to Article 23 of Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 Link here: COM(2014)494
COM(2015)63	Report on Capital Markets Union Green Paper Building a Capital Markets Union {SWD(2015) 13 final} Link here: COM(2015)63

COM(2015)300	<p>Draft General Budget of the European Union for the financial year 2016 - General Introduction General statement of revenue - General statement of revenue and expenditure by section</p> <p>Link here: COM(2015)300</p>
COM(2015)302	<p>Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council - A Fair and Efficient Corporate Tax System in the European Union: 5 Key Areas for Action {SWD(2015) 121 final}</p> <p>Link here: COM(2015)302</p>
COM(2015)365	<p>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and laying down general provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund, the Cohesion Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund as regards specific measures for Greece</p> <p>Link here: COM(2015)365</p>
COM(2015)447	<p>Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 609/2014 on the methods and procedure for making available the traditional, VAT and GNI-based own resources and on the measures to meet cash requirements</p> <p>Link here: COM(2015)447</p>
COM(2015)472	<p>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down common rules on securitisation and creating a European framework for simple, transparent and standardised securitisation and amending Directives 2009/65/EC, 2009/138/EC, 2011/61/EU and Regulations (EC) No 1060/2009 and (EU) No 648/2012 (Text with EEA relevance) {SWD(2015) 185 final} {SWD(2015) 186 final}</p> <p>Link here: COM(2015)472</p>
COM(2015)473	<p>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EU) No 575/2013 on prudential requirements for credit institutions and investment firms (Text with EEA relevance) {SWD(2015) 185 final} {SWD(2015) 186 final}</p> <p>Link here: COM(2015)473</p>
COM(2015)603	<p>Proposal for a Council Decision laying down measures in view of progressively establishing unified representation of the euro area in the International Monetary Fund</p> <p>Link here: COM(2015)603</p>

COM(2015)701	<p>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of the Structural Reform Support Programme for the period 2017 to 2020 and amending Regulations (EU) No 1303/2013 and (EU) No 1305/2013 {SWD(2015) 750 final}</p> <p>Link here: COM(2015)701</p>
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Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade

In 2015 the Joint Committee considered European Union matters at seven meetings, involving consideration of some 48 proposals. The Joint Committee decided that further action be taken on five proposals, listed below.

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE - Further Action
JOIN(2015)4	<p>Joint Proposal for a Council Decision on the Union position within the Association Council established by the Association Agreement between the European Union, the European Atomic Energy Community and its Member States, of the one part and Ukraine, of the other part with regard to the adoption of a Recommendation on the implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agenda</p> <p>Link here: JOIN(2015)4</p>
CFSP(2015) Restrictions on IRAN 1	<p>Council Regulation (EU) 2015/1327 of 31 July 2015 amending Regulation (EU) No 267/2012 concerning restrictive measures against Iran</p> <p>Link here: CFSP(2015)Iran 1</p>
CFSP(2015) Restrictions on IRAN 2	<p>Council Decision (CFSP) 2015/1336 of 31 July 2015 amending Decision 2010/413/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Iran</p> <p>Link here: CFSP(2015)Iran 2</p>
COM(2015)296	<p>Proposal for a Council Decision on the financial contributions to be paid by Member States to finance the European Development Fund in 2015, including the second instalment for 2015</p> <p>Link here: COM(2015)296</p>
COM(2015)463	<p>Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2015/323 of 2 March 2015 on the financial regulation applicable to the 11th European Development Fund</p> <p>Link here: COM(2015)463</p>

Joint Committee on Health and Children

In 2015, the Joint Committee considered EU matters at one meeting involving consideration of one proposal which was concluded but required further action, as listed below:

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE - Further Action required
COM(2014)362	Proposal for a Council Decision on subjecting 4-iodo-2, 5-dimethoxy-N- (2-methoxybenzyl) phenethylamine (25I-NBOMe), 3,4-dichloro-N- [[1-(dimethylamino)cyclohexyl] methyl] benzamide (AH-7921), 3,4-methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV) and 2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-(ethylamino)cyclohexanone (methoxetamine) to control measures Link here: COM(2014)362

Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation

In 2015 the Joint Committee laid one Report before both Houses of the Oireachtas as follows:

PROPOSAL NO. Date Report laid	PROPOSAL TITLE
18 December	Joint Political Contribution - on Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

In 2015, the Joint Committee considered European Union matters at 13 meetings involving consideration of some 50 proposals. The Joint Committee decided that two proposals should be further scrutinised and further action to be taken on two other proposals, listed below.

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE - Further Scrutiny
COM(2014)576	Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing and provisional application of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the West African States, ECOWAS and the UEMOA, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part Link here: COM(2014)576
COM(2014)578	Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the West African States, ECOWAS and the UEMOA, of the one part, and the European Union and its Member States, of the other part Link here: COM(2014)578

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE - Further Action
COM(2015)38	Proposal for a Council Regulation on the suspension of customs duties applicable to imports of certain heavy oils and other similar products Link here: COM(2015)38
COM(2014)585	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the tariff treatment for goods originating from Ecuador Link here: COM(2014)585

Joint Committee on Justice and Equality

In 2015 the Joint Committee considered EU matters at 12 meetings involving consideration of some 54 proposals. The Joint Committee decided that seven proposals should be further scrutinised, listed below.

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE
COM(2013)173	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and Training (Europol) and repealing Decisions 2009/371/JHA and 2005/681/JHA Link here: COM(2013)173
COM(2015)116	Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Central Bank, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - The 2015 EU Justice Scoreboard Link here: COM(2015)116
COM(2015)185	Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - The European Agenda on Security Link here: COM(2015)185
COM(2015)240	Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - A European Agenda on Migration Link here: COM(2015)240
COM(2015)450	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a crisis relocation mechanism and amending Regulation (EU) No 604/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 establishing the

	criteria and mechanisms for determining the Member State responsible for examining an application for international protection lodged in one of the Member States by a third country national or a stateless person Link here: COM(2015)450
COM(2015)625	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on combating terrorism and replacing Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA on combating terrorism Link here: COM(2015)625
COM(2015)750	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons Link here: COM(2015)750

Joint Committee on Transport and Communications

In 2015 the Joint Committee considered EU matters at seven meetings involving consideration of some 30 proposals. The Joint Committee decided that further action be taken on four proposals, listed below.

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE - Further Scrutiny
COM(2014)739	Proposal for a Council Decision endorsing the Shift2Rail Master Plan Link here: COM(2014)739
COM(2015)84	Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on the manipulation of sports competitions with regard to matters not related to substantive criminal law and judicial cooperation in criminal matters Link here: COM(2015)84
COM(2015)86	Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Council of Europe Convention on the manipulation of sports competitions with regard to matters related to substantive criminal law and judicial cooperation in criminal matters Link here: COM(2015)86
COM(2015)234	Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 (WRC- 15) (Text with EEA relevance) Link here: COM(2015)234

Detailed information on all EU proposals scrutinised by Oireachtas Committees can be found on the [Oireachtas website](#) via the relevant Committee link.

Appendix 3

Orders of Reference of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

Dáil Éireann on 8 June 2011 ordered:

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| <p>“(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—</p> <p>(a) as ballraíocht na hÉireann san Aontas Eorpach agus</p> <p>(b) as Éirinn do chloí leis an gConradh ar an Aontas Eorpach agus leis an gConradh ar Fheidhmiú an Aontais Eorpaigh</p> <p>a roghnóidh sé agus nach bhfuil tarchurtha chuig aon Choiste eile.</p> <p>(2) Gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (1), breithneoidh an Coiste—</p> <p>(a) cibé Billí a bpléann an Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála leis an dlí reachtach ina leith,</p> <p>(b) cibé tograí a bheidh in aon tairiscint, lena n-áirítear aon tairiscint de réir bhrí Bhuan-Ordú 164, agus</p> <p>(c) cibé nithe eile,</p> <p>a tharchuirfidh an Dáil chuige.</p> <p>(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 (2)(a) agus (b) a bhreithniú agus beidh sé nó sí i dteideal vótáil in imeachtaí an Roghchoiste.</p> <p>(4) Beidh ag an gCoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 83(1), (2) agus (3).</p> <p>(5) Déanfar an Roghchoiste a chomhcheangal le Roghchoiste arna cheapadh ag Seanad Éireann chun bheith ina Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí an Aontais Eorpaigh, agus,</p> | <p>(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—</p> <p>(a) Ireland’s membership of the European Union, and</p> <p>(b) Ireland’s adherence to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,</p> <p>as it may select and which are not referred to any other Committee.</p> <p>(2) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the Select Committee shall consider such—</p> <p>(a) Bills the statute law in respect of which is dealt with by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade,</p> <p>(b) proposals contained in any motion, including any motion within the meaning of Standing Order 164, and</p> <p>(c) other matters,</p> <p>as shall be referred to it by the Dáil.</p> <p>(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 (2)(a) and (b) and shall be entitled to vote in Select Committee proceedings.</p> <p>(4) The Select Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Order 83(1), (2) and (3).</p> <p>(5) The Select Committee shall be joined with a Select Committee appointed by Seanad Éireann, to form the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs,</p> |
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- gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (1), déanfaidh an Roghchoiste 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 nAí 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 Dáil faoi Bhuan-Ordú 106(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
 - (h) cibé nithe eile a tharchuirfidh an Dáil chuige ó am go ham.
- (6) Tabharfaidh an Comhchoiste tuarascáil do dhá Theach an Oireachtais ar oibriú Acht an Aontais Eorpaigh (Grinnscrúdú), 2002.
- (7) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Orduithe 83 (seachas mír (2A) den chéanna), 106(1)(a) agus 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.
- (9) Féadfaidh na daoine seo a leanas freastal ar chruinnithe den Chomhchoiste agus
- which, 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 Dáil under Standing Order 106(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
 - (h) such other matters as may be referred to it by the Dáil from time to time.
- (6) The Joint Committee shall report to both Houses of the Oireachtas on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002.
- (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) 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) The following may attend meetings of the Joint Committee and take part in

páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí gan ceart vótála a bheith acu ná ceart tairiscintí a dhéanamh ná leasuithe a thairiscint:

- (a) Comhaltaí de Pharlaimint na hEorpa arna dtoghadh ó thoghcheantair in Éirinn, lena n-áirítear Tuaisceart Éireann,
 - (b) Comhaltaí de thoscaireacht na hÉireann chuig Tionól Parlaiminteach Chomhairle na hEorpa, agus
 - (c) ar chuireadh a fháil ón gCoiste, Comhaltaí eile de Pharlaimint na hEorpa.
- (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.
- (11) Beidh Cathaoirleach an Roghchoiste, ar comhalta de Dháil Éireann a bheidh ann nó inti, ina Chathaoirleach nó ina Cathaoirleach ar an gComhchoiste freisin.

proceedings without having a right to vote or to move motions and amendments:

- (a) Members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies in Ireland, including Northern Ireland,
 - (b) Members of the Irish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and
 - (c) at the invitation of the Committee, other Members of the European Parliament.
- (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) 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—
- (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) Déanfar an Roghchoiste a chomhcheangal le Roghchoiste arna cheapadh ag Dáil Éireann chun bheith ina Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí an Aontais 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,

- (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) 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) The Select Committee shall be joined with a Select Committee appointed by Dáil Éireann, to form the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, which, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), shall consider—
 - (a) the EU Commission’s strategic planning documents including the Commission Work Programme,

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| <p>(b) forbairtí beartais tras-earnála ag leibhéal an Aontais Eorpaigh,</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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,</p> <p>(e) fógraí arna dtarchur ag an Seanad faoi Bhuan-Ordú 102(1)(a),</p> <p>(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,</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(h) cibé nithe eile a tharchuirfidh an Seanad chuige ó am go ham.</p> | <p>(b) cross-sectoral policy developments at European Union level,</p> <p>(c) matters listed for consideration on the agenda for meetings of the General Affairs Council of Ministers and the outcome of such meetings,</p> <p>such regulations under the European Communities Acts 1972 to 2009 and</p> <p>(d) other instruments made under statute and necessitated by the obligations of membership of the European Union as the Committee may select,</p> <p>(e) notifications referred by the Seanad under Standing Order 102 (1)(a),</p> <p>(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,</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(h) such other matters as may be referred to it by the Seanad from time to time.</p> |
| <p>(3) Tabharfaidh an Comhchoiste tuarascáil do dhá Theach an Oireachtais ar oibriú Acht an Aontais Eorpaigh (Grinnscrúdú), 2002.</p> <p>(4) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Orduithe 71 (seachas mír (2A) den chéanna), 101, 102(1)(a) agus 103.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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:</p> <p>(a) Comhaltaí de Pharlaimint na hEorpa arna dtoghadh ó thoghlaigh in Éirinn, lena n-áirítear Tuisceart</p> | <p>(3) The Joint Committee shall report to both Houses of the Oireachtas on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002.</p> <p>(4) The Joint Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Orders 71 (other than paragraph (2A) thereof), 101, 102(1)(a) and 103.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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:</p> <p>(a) Members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies in Ireland, including</p> |

Éireann,	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 Parlaimintí an Aontais Eorpaigh (COSAC) agus tabharfaidh sé tuarascáil ar an gcéanna do dhá Theach an Oireachtais.	(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 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.

List of Members (Joint Committee on European Union Affairs)

Chairman: Dominic Hannigan (Lab) (Chairman)

Deputies: Eric Byrne (Lab)
Seán Crowe (SF)
Timmy Dooley (FF)
Bernard Durkan (FG)
John Halligan (Ind)
Derek Keating (FG)
Seán Kyne (FG) (Vice Chairman)
Joe O'Reilly (FG)

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

Appendix 4

Orders of Reference of sectoral Joint Committees

A. Functions of the Committee - derived from Standing Orders [DSO 82A; SSO 70A]

- (1) The Select Committee shall consider and report to the Dáil on—
 - (a) such aspects of the expenditure, administration and policy of the relevant Government Department or Departments and associated public bodies as the Committee may select, and
 - (b) European Union matters within the remit of the relevant Department or Departments.
- (2) The Select Committee may be joined with a Select Committee appointed by Seanad Éireann to form a Joint Committee for the purposes of the functions set out below, other than at paragraph (3), and to report thereon to both Houses of the Oireachtas.
- (3) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the Select Committee shall consider, in respect of the relevant Department or Departments, such—
 - (a) Bills,
 - (b) proposals contained in any motion, including any motion within the meaning of Standing Order 164,
 - (c) Estimates for Public Services, and
 - (d) other mattersas shall be referred to the Select Committee by the Dáil, and
 - (e) Annual Output Statements, and
 - (f) such Value for Money and Policy Reviews as the Select Committee may select.
- (4) The Joint Committee may consider the following matters in respect of the relevant Department or Departments and associated public bodies, and report thereon to both Houses of the Oireachtas:
 - (a) matters of policy for which the Minister is officially responsible,
 - (b) public affairs administered by the Department,
 - (c) policy issues arising from Value for Money and Policy Reviews conducted or commissioned by the Department,
 - (d) Government policy in respect of bodies under the aegis of the Department,

- (e) policy issues concerning bodies which are partly or wholly funded by the State or which are established or appointed by a member of the Government or the Oireachtas,
 - (f) the general scheme or draft heads of any Bill published by the Minister,
 - (g) statutory instruments, including those laid or laid in draft before either House or both Houses and those made under the European Communities Acts 1972 to 2009,
 - (h) strategy statements laid before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas pursuant to the Public Service Management Act 1997,
 - (i) annual reports or annual reports and accounts, required by law, and laid before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas, of the Department or bodies referred to in paragraph (4)(d) and (e) and the overall operational results, statements of strategy and corporate plans of such bodies, and
 - (j) such other matters as may be referred to it by the Dáil and/or Seanad from time to time.
- (5) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the Joint Committee shall consider, in respect of the relevant Department or Departments—
- (a) EU draft legislative acts standing referred to the Select Committee under Standing Order 105, including the compliance of such acts with the principle of subsidiarity,
 - (b) other proposals for EU legislation and related policy issues, including programmes and guidelines prepared by the European Commission as a basis of possible legislative action,
 - (c) non-legislative documents published by any EU institution in relation to EU policy matters, and
 - (d) matters listed for consideration on the agenda for meetings of the relevant EU Council of Ministers and the outcome of such meetings.
- (6) A sub-Committee stands established in respect of each Department within the remit of the Select Committee to consider the matters outlined in paragraph (3), and the following arrangements apply to such sub-Committees:
- (a) the matters outlined in paragraph (3) which require referral to the Select Committee by the Dáil may be referred directly to such sub-Committees, and
 - (b) each such sub-Committee has the powers defined in Standing Order 83(1) and (2) and may report directly to the Dáil, including by way of Message under Standing Order 87.
- (7) The Chairman of the Joint Committee, who shall be a member of Dáil Éireann, shall also be the Chairman of the Select Committee and of any sub-Committee or Committees standing established in respect of the Select Committee.
- (8) The following may attend meetings of the Select or Joint Committee, for the purposes of the functions set out in paragraph (5) and may take part in proceedings without having a right to vote or to move motions and amendments:
- (a) Members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies in Ireland, including Northern Ireland,

- (b) Members of the Irish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and
- (c) at the invitation of the Committee, other Members of the European Parliament.

B. Scope and Context of Activities of Committees [as derived from Standing Orders (DSO 82; SSO 70)]

- (1) The Joint Committee may only consider such matters, engage in such activities, exercise such powers and discharge such functions as are specifically authorised under its orders of reference and under Standing Orders.
- (2) Such matters, activities, powers and functions shall be relevant to, and shall arise only in the context of, the preparation of a report to the Dáil and/or Seanad.
- (3) It shall be an instruction to all Select Committees to which Bills are referred that they shall ensure that not more than two Select Committees shall meet to consider a Bill on any given day, unless the Dáil, after due notice given by the Chairman of the Select Committee, waives this instruction on motion made by the Taoiseach pursuant to Dáil Standing Order 26. The Chairmen of Select Committees shall have responsibility for compliance with this instruction.
- (4) The Joint Committee shall not consider any matter which is being considered, or of which notice has been given of a proposal to consider, by the Committee of Public Accounts pursuant to Dáil Standing Order 163 and/or the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993.
- (5) The Joint Committee shall refrain from inquiring into in public session or publishing confidential information regarding any matter if so requested, for stated reasons given in writing, by—
 - (a) a member of the Government or a Minister of State, or
 - (b) the principal office-holder of a body under the aegis of a Department or which is partly or wholly funded by the State or established or appointed by a member of the Government or by the Oireachtas:

Provided that the Chairman may appeal any such request made to the Ceann Comhairle / Cathaoirleach whose decision shall be final.