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Chairman’s Foreword

On behalf of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, I am pleased to present the first Annual Report of the Committee which sets out the work undertaken by it during the period July to December 2016.

The main role 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 in 2016 was directed by the legislative and work programme of the European Commission and also took into account the priorities of the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The UK’s vote to leave the European Union, the uncertainty that created and the preparations for the negotiations were an important part of the Committee’s work. In this context, regular meetings were 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 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, as well as Ireland’s efforts to prepare for the negotiations.

The Committee engaged with representatives of the European Institutions, the ambassadors of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union ‘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 of the European Union.
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 6 times from July 2016. During this time the Committee undertook a significant body of work focused mainly on:

- **UK/EU Future Relations**: The negotiations between the UK and the rest of the EU are of great importance to Ireland. This constituted the main focus of the Committee’s work in the last six months of 2016. The Committee agreed the scope for its work and subsequently engaged with Ambassadors of the EU Presidency ‘Trio’ countries; Mr Dara Murphy, Minister of State for European Affairs; and Mr Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development. The Joint Committee also held informal meetings with the House of Lords; Department of the Taoiseach and in December, Members of the Committee met with Lord Jay, House of Lords, to discuss the House of Lords Report on the implications on the British-Irish relationship.

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, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and other government Departments and thank them for their continued assistance.

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.

Michael Healy-Rae T.D.
Chairman

14 February, 2017.
1. Content and Format of Report

This report has been prepared pursuant to Standing Order 89 (3), (4), (5) and (6) (Dáil Éireann) and Standing Order 76 (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 1 February 2017 the Joint Committee agreed that these items should be included in this report covering the period from 5 July 2016 to 31 December 2016.

2. Establishment and Functions

The Dáil Select Committee was established by Order of Dáil Éireann of 5 July 2016 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 187, 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 21 July 2016, 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 may select,
- notifications referred by the Dáil under Standing Order 108(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 Seanad 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

Dáil SO 93(2) provides for a proportion of Chairs to be allocated to each group by means of the D'Hondt System. Deputy Michael Healy-Rae was appointed as Chairman of the Select Committee by Resolution of Dáil Éireann on 7 July 2016. The Chairman of the Select Committee is also Chairman of the Joint Committee. Senator Terry Leyden was elected Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee on 4 October 2016.

Membership of the Committee 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.
Committee proceedings were broadcast live within Leinster House and also made available to RTE, TV3 and TG4. Proceedings were also webcast making them available worldwide on the internet. Since September 2014 the proceedings of Committees in public session, typically recorded but occasionally live, are broadcast on the dedicated parliamentary channel Oireachtas TV which is available on these channels:

- Saorview 22, Sky 574, Virgin Media 207, eir Vision 504
- Vodafone Channels 201, 207 and 208

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 on six occasions during the period under report. The discussions involved in these meetings lasted approximately 9.5 hours.

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.
Meetings of the Joint Committee

 الحقائق المقدمة 

**State of the Union**
European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr Phil Hogan, engaged with the Committee on 20 October 2016 to discuss the State of the Union address delivered by President of the European Commission, Mr Jean-Claude Juncker, and to discuss current EU issues of interest to Ireland. Commissioner Hogan is pictured with Members of the Committee prior to the commencement of the meeting.

**The Slovak EU Presidency**
Ambassador of Slovakia, HE Mr Dušan Matulay, pictured at the Committee’s meeting on 8th September 2016 with the Chairman, Michael Healy-Rae TD, and Members of the Committee: Seán Haughey TD and Senator Paul Coghlan. Ambassador Matulay set out the priorities and objectives for the Slovak Presidency and answered questions from Members of the Committee.

**Potential Impact of Brexit**
On 7th December 2016, the Committee met the Director General for EU Affairs from the Maltese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ms Helga Mizzi and the Maltese Charge d’Affaires in Ireland, Ms Joanna Pisani to discuss the challenges posed by UK withdrawal. Ms Pisani and Ms Mizzi are pictured left with the Chairman, Michael Healy-Rae TD and Members of the Committee, Senator Gerard Craughwell and Seán Haughey TD.

5.2 Select Committee

In accordance with the Order of Dáil Éireann of 19 July 2016, the Select Committee of Dáil Éireann met on 19 July to consider business ordinarily considered by the Joint Committee. The Select Committee has not met since that date and, accordingly, minutes have not yet been agreed.
5.3 Informal Meetings

An important part of the Committee’s work is to meet with incoming parliamentary delegations. Often for logistical reasons these take the form of informal meetings.

The Joint Committee met informally with groups on four occasions during the period under report. In addition, the Chairman held an additional five informal meetings and the Vice-Chairman held one informal meeting during the period under report.

Among the key meetings were the Committee’s joint meetings with parliamentary delegations from the United Kingdom, France and Latvia. This presented opportunities to discuss and explore varying perspectives on a number of issues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Informal Meetings held with the Committee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Delegation of the Saeima of Latvia led by the Speaker of the Saeima, HE Ms Ināra Mūrniece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Senate Delegation led by Mr Jean Bizet, Chairman, French Senate European Affairs Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegation of the House of Lords led by Lord Boswell of Aynho, Chairman, House of Lords EU Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord Jay of Ewelme, Member of the House of Lords EU Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**United Kingdom**

The Committee jointly received a delegation of the House of Lords EU Committee with the Joint Committee on the Implementation of the Good Friday Agreement on 18 October 2016. The delegation was in Dublin to hold hearings for its inquiry into the impact of Brexit on UK-Ireland relations. Over lunch, the Committees emphasised the importance and closeness of the UK-Irish relationship and noted the importance of respecting the British decision on Membership of the EU.

The House of Lords Committee published its findings on 12 December 2016 and a delegation of the Committee received Lord Jay of Ewelme, a Member of the House of Lords EU Committee, in Leinster House to discuss the findings of the inquiry and the future development of UK-Irish relations.
France

A delegation of the Committee met a delegation of the French Senate to discuss common issues resulting from the UK exit from the EU and a number of other policy issues. The delegation was on a visit to Ireland to learn about Irish agricultural practices.

Latvia

A delegation of the Saeima, led by Speaker of the Saeima, H.E. Ms. Ināra Mūrniece, met the Ceann Comhairle, Leas-Cheann Comhairle and a delegation of the Committee in Leinster House on 22 November 2016. The delegations discussed the experience of Latvia as a Member State of the EU, and the challenges and benefits encountered by the 30,000 Latvians resident in Ireland.

Security and EU Languages were among the other issues considered. The Speaker was accompanied by a number of Latvian parliamentarians and possible actions to enhance cooperation between Ireland and Latvia on issues of mutual concern were discussed.
The Chairman, Michael Healy-Rae TD, assisted by the Vice-Chairman, Senator Terry Leyden, undertook to hold regular meetings with the diplomatic community posted in Ireland, visiting dignitaries and key stakeholders.

The meetings were a chance to improve mutual understanding and the complexity of positions, and have been very useful.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Informal Meetings held by Chairman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HE Mr Ognjen Pribićević, Ambassador of Serbia to Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HE Mr José María Rodríguez-Coso, Ambassador of Spain to Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HE Mr Jean-Pierre Thébault, Ambassador of France to Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Noelle O'Connell, Executive Director, European Movement Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HE Ms Manuela Breazu, Ambassador of Romania to Ireland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Informal Meetings held by Vice-Chairman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Sanja Štiglic, State Secretary for European Affairs, Slovenia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Advocacy and Stakeholders

**European Movement Ireland**

The Chairman met with Executive Director of European Movement Ireland, Ms Noelle O’Connell, on 8 November 2016.
Above, from left to right:

The Chairman of the Committee, Michael Healy-Rae TD, met the **Ambassador of Romania, HE Ms Manuela Breazu** on 7 December 2016.

The Chairman met the **Ambassador of Spain, HE Mr José María Rodríguez-Coso** on 26 October 2016.

The Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Senator Terry Leyden, met **Slovenian State-Secretary for European Affairs, Ms Sanja Štiglic**, on 24 November 2016 on her visit to Ireland.

6. **Witnesses attending before the Joint Committee**

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

7. **Committee Reports Agreed**

During the period under report, the Joint Committee agreed three in total, as follows:

(i) Annual Work Programme 2016


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:** Plenary Meeting of the LVI COSAC  
   **Destination:** Bratislava  
   **Date:** 13-15 November 2016  
   **Members travelling:** Senator Terry Leyden (Vice Chairman) and Senator Gerard Craughwell  
   **Accompanying Officials:** Heidi Lougheed (Clerk) and Ivan Farmer (Policy Adviser)

2. **Purpose of travel:** "The State of Europe", High Level Roundtable  
   13th Edition, Friends of Europe  
   **Destination:** Brussels  
   **Date:** 13 October 2016  
   **Member travelling:** Senator Gerard Craughwell


The Joint Committee is currently satisfied with its present procedures and role, but will consider them under the Annual Work Programme.
APPENDIX 1: Orders of Reference

Dáil Éireann on 5 July 2016 ordered:

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

(a) as ballrafocht 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 bpleann an Roinn Gnóthaí eachtracha agus Trádála leis an dlí reachtach ina leith,
(b) cibé tográí a bheidh in aon tairiscint, lena n-áirítear aon tairiscint de réir bhri Bhuan-Ordú 187, agus
(c) cibé nithe eile,

a tharchuirfidh an Dáil chuige.

(3) Beidh an tAire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála (nó comhailta den Rialtas nó Aire Stáit a ainmeofar chun gníomhú ina áit nó ina háit chun na críche sin), ina chomhailta nó ina comhailta ex officio den Roghchoiste chun na nithe atá leagtha amach i

(1) That a Select Committee, which shall be called the Select Committee on European Union Affairs, consisting of seven 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 187, 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
Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

mír (2)(a) agus (b) a bhreithniú agus beidh sé nó sí i dteideal vótáil in imeachtaí an Roghchoiste.

(4) Beidh ag an Roghchoiste na cumhacthaí a mhínitear i mBuan-Ordú 85(1), (2) agus (3).

(5) Déanfar an Roghchoiste a chomhcheangal le chumhacht na Cathaoirleachta um Ghnóthaí an Aontais Eorpaigh, agus, gan dochar do ghuí do ghnáthacht mír (1), déanfaidh an Roghchoiste an méid seo a leasú a bhréithniú—

(a) doiciméid phleanála straitéiseacha Choimisiún AE lena n-áirítear Clár Oibre an Choimisiún,

(b) forbairtí beartais tras-earnála ag leibhéal an Aontais Eorpaigh,

(c) nithe a liostaítear lena mbreithniú ar an gcéad gníomh cruinnithe de Chomhairle Gnóthaí Ginearálta na nAirí agus toradh cruinnithe den sórt sin,

(d) cibé rialacháin faoi Achtanna na gComhpobail Eorpach, 1972 go 2009 agus ionstraimí eile arna ndéanamh faoi reacht agus is gá de dhroim na n-oibreacháidí a ghabhann le ballraíocht san Aontas Eorpaigh a roghnaíodh an Coiste,

(e) fógraí arna dtarchur ag an Dáil faoi Bhuan-Ordú 115(1)(a), (2)(a) and (b) and shall be entitled to vote in Select Committee proceedings.

(4) The Select Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Order 85(1), (2) and (3).

(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) 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 115(1)(a),
tabharfaidh an comhchoiste tuarascáil do dhá theach an oireachtas ar oibiriú acht an aontais eorpaigh (Grinnscrúdú), 2002.

(7) beidh ag an gcomhchoiste na cumhachtí a mhínítear i mBuan-Orduithe 85 (seachas mór (2A) den chéanna), 114, 115(1)(a) agus 116.

(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 Eorpaich.

(9) féadfaidh na daoine seo a leanas freastal ar chruinnithe den Chomhchoiste agus páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí gan ceart vótala a bheith acu ná ceart tairiscintí a dhéanamh ná leasuithe a thairiscint:

(a) omhailtaí de Pharmací sa hEorpa arna dtoghadh ó thoghcheantair in

(6) 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,

(7) 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 85 (other than paragraph (2A) thereof), 114, 115(1)(a) and 116.

(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.

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) Members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies in Ireland,
Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

(b) Members of the Irish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and including Northern Ireland,

(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 Dáil Select Committee shall also be the Chairman of the Joint Committee.”
Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

Seanad Éireann on 21 July 2016 ordered:

“(1) Go gceapfar Roghchoiste, dá ngairfear an Roghchoiste um Ghnóthai an Aontais Eorpaigh, ar a mbeidh ceathrar gcomhalta de Sheanad Éireann, chun breithniú a dhéanann ar cibé níthe a éirionn—

(a) as ballrafocht na hÉireann san Aontas Eorpach, agus

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

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

(2) Beidh ag an Roghchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínteir i mBuan-Ordú 71(1), (2) agus (3).

(3) Déanfar an Roghchoiste a chomhcheangal le Roghchoiste arnacheapadh ag Dáil Éireann chun bheith ina Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthai an Aontais Eorpaigh, agus, gan dochar do ghinearáltaacht mhir (1), déanfaidh an Chomhchoiste 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

(1) That a Select Committee, which shall be called the Select Committee on European Union Affairs, consisting of four 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 have the powers defined in Standing Order 71(1), (2) and (3).

(3) 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,

(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 108 (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 Seanad from time to time.

(4) The Joint Committee shall report to both Houses of the Oireachtas on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002.
(5) The Joint Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Orders 71 (other than paragraph (2A) thereof), 107, 108(1)(a) and 109.

(6) 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.

(7) 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) 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.

(8) 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.
(9) Beidh Cathaoirleach an Roghchoiste Dála ina Cathaoirleach ar an Chomhchoiste freisin.

(9) The Chairman of the Dail Select Committee shall also be the Chairman of the Joint Committee.”.
APPENDIX 2: Membership

List of Members (Joint Committee)

Chairman: Michael Healy-Rae TD (RIG)

Deputies: Colm Brophy TD (LAB)
          Seán Crowe TD (SF)
          Bernard J. Durkan TD (FG)
          Seán Haughey TD (FF)
          Mattie McGrath TD (RIG)
          Frank O’Rourke TD (FF)

Senators: Paul Coghlan (FG)
          Gerard P Craughwell (Ind)
          Terry Leyden (FF)
          Neale Richmond (FG)
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting No. and Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>J08 1/2/2017</td>
<td>Private Meeting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J02 4/10/2016</td>
<td>1. The work of the General Affairs Council (GAC), to include the results of the Bratislava Summit and the decision of the United Kingdom to withdraw from the European Union 2. Election of Vice-Chair</td>
<td>1. Mr Dara Murphy, TD, Minister of State for European Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J03 20/10/2016</td>
<td>State of the Union 2016</td>
<td>Mr Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J04 8/11/2016</td>
<td>Priorities and position of Member States of the European Union on the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union</td>
<td>His Excellency Mr Dušan Matulay, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Ireland and His Excellency Mr Paul Schellekens, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J05 29/11/2016</td>
<td>1. European Court of Auditors ‘Annual Report 2015’ and the European Union’s use of public funds. 2. Briefing on the work of the General Affairs Council (GAC).</td>
<td>1.(i) Mr Kevin Cardiff, Member of the European Court of Auditors (ii)Mr Gerhard Ross, Member of the European Court of Auditors 2. Mr Dara Murphy TD, Minister of State for European Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J06 7/12/2016</td>
<td>Priorities and position of Member States of the European Union on the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union</td>
<td>Ms Helga Mizzi, Director General, Political EU Affairs and Maltese Abroad, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Malta</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX 4: Minutes of Proceedings of the Joint Committee

JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING OF 18TH JANUARY 2017

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.03 p.m. in Committee Room 1, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. ATTENDANCE
The following Members were present:
Deputies: Michael Healy-Rae (Chairman), Seán Crowe, Séan Haughey, Frank O'Rourke.

Senators: Paul Coghlan, Gerard P Craughwell, and Neale Richmond

Apologies received from Deputy Colm Brophy and Senator Terry Leyden

Deputy Eamon Scanlon also attended

3. ENGAGEMENT ON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION’S ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME AND THE WORK OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN IRELAND
[MR GERRY KIELY, HEAD OF REPRESENTATION, EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN IRELAND]

The Committee met with Mr Gerry Kiely, Head of Representation, European Commission Representation in Ireland to discuss European Commission’s Annual Work Programme and the work of the European Commission Representation in Ireland. Following a presentation by Mr Kiely, a question and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee.

On conclusion, the Chairman thanked Mr Kiely for his engagement with the Committee.

4. SUSPENSION
The meeting was suspended at 3.06 p.m.

The Committee resumed in Public Session at 3.09 p.m.

In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman; Deputy Sean Haughey took the Chair.
5. **Policy Implications for the European Union of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine & Israel's Work [Mr Alex Dunne and Ms Jenny Derbyshire Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine & Israel (EAPPI)]**

The Committee met with Mr Alex Dunne and Ms Jenny Derbyshire from the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine & Israel (EAPPI) to discuss the Policy implications for the European Union of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine & Israel's work. Following a presentation by Mr Dunne and Ms Derbyshire, a question and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee.

On conclusion, the Chairman thanked Mr Dunne and Ms Derbyshire for their engagement with the Committee.

6. **Suspension**
The meeting was suspended at 3.53 p.m.

The Committee resumed in Private Session at 3.54 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. **Item Discussed in Private Session**
12. **Item Discussed in Private Session**
13. **Item Discussed in Private Session**

The Committee adjourned at 4.18 p.m. until Wednesday, 1st February 2017.

Mr Michael Healy-Rae TD  
Chairman  
1 February, 2017.
MINUTES OF MEETING OF 8TH SEPTEMBER 2016

1. The Joint Committee met in Public session at 11.30 a.m. in Committee Room 1, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. ATTENDANCE
The following Members were present:

Deputies: Bernard Durkan, Séan Haughey, Michael Healy-Rae (Chairman), Frank O’Rourke.

Senators: Paul Coghlan, Gerard Craughwell, Terry Leyden and Neale Richmond.

Apologies were received from Deputy Seán Crowe, Deputy Mattie McGrath and Deputy Colm Brophy

3. PRIVATE SESSION
The Committee went into private session at 11.31 a.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. SUSPENSION
The meeting was suspended at 11.57 a.m.
The Committee resumed in Public Session at 12.14 p.m.

10. The Priorities of the Slovak presidency of the Council of the EU
The Committee met with His Excellency Mr Dušan Matulay, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Ireland to discuss the priorities of the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union Affairs.
Following an opening statement by Ambassador Matulay, a question and answer session with Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Ambassador for his engagement with the Committee.

11. Adjournment
The Committee adjourned at 1.03 p.m. until Tuesday, 4th October at 5.00 p.m.
Mr Michael Healy-Rae TD
Chairman

4 October, 2016.
MINUTES OF MEETING OF 4TH OCTOBER 2016

1. The Joint Committee met in Public session at 5.02 pm in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. ATTENDANCE
The following Members were present:

Deputies: Séan Crowe, Bernard Durkan, Séan Haughey, Michael Healy-Rae (Chairman), Frank O’Rourke and Declan Breathnach*.

Senators: Paul Coghlan, Gerard Craughwell, Terry Leyden and Neale Richmond.

Apologies were received from Deputy Colm Brophy and Deputy Mattie McGrath.

Other Members Attending: Regina Doherty TD, Government Chief Whip.

* In substitution for Deputy Mattie McGrath.

3. ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIR
The Chairman invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman.

There were two nominations for the position – firstly Senator Leyden, and secondly Deputy Bernard Durkan.

Question: “That Senator Leyden be elected Vice-Chairman of the Committee” – put. The Committee divided. Tá, 7; Níl, 3.

For: - Deputies Declan Breathnach, Seán Crowe, Seán Haughey, Michael Healy-Rae, Terry Leyden, Frank O’Rourke and Senator Gerard Craughwell

Against: - Deputy Bernard Durkan and Senators Paul Coghlan and Neale Richmond

The Question was declared carried accordingly.

4. SUSPENSION
The meeting was suspended at 5.17 pm

The Committee resumed in Public Session at 5.18 pm

The Committee met with Minister Dara Murphy to discuss the work of the General Affairs Council, the Bratislava summit and the decision of the United Kingdom to withdraw from the European Union.
Following an opening statement by the Minister, a question and answer session with Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Minister for his engagement with the Committee.

6. **PRIVATE SESSION**  
The Committee went into private session at 6.45 pm

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. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

13. **ADJOURNMENT**  
The Committee adjourned at 7.10 pm until Thursday, 20th October.

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Mr Michael Healy-Rae TD  
Chairman

20 October, 2016.
Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 20TH OCTOBER 2016

1. The Joint Committee met in Public session at 12.07 pm in Committee Room 1, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. ATTENDANCE
The following Members were present:

Deputies: Colm Brophy, Séan Crowe, Bernard Durkan, Séan Haughey, Michael Healy-Rae (Chairman), Frank O’Rourke.

Senators: Paul Coghlan, Gerard Craughwell, Terry Leyden and Neale Richmond.

Apologies were received from Deputy Mattie McGrath.

Other Members Attending: Richard Boyd Barrett TD and Kieran O’Donnell TD.

3. ENGAGEMENT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION 2016 [MR PHIL HOGAN, EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT]
The Committee met with Mr Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development to discuss the State of the Union 2016.

Following an opening statement by the Commissioner, a question and answer session with Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Commissioner for his engagement with the Committee.

4. SUSPENSION
The meeting was suspended at 1.23 pm

The Committee resumed in Private Session at 1.29 pm

5. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION

8. ADJOURNMENT
The Committee adjourned at 1.50 pm until Tuesday, 8th November.

Mr Michael Healy-Rae TD
Chairman

8 November, 2016.
1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 5.02 p.m. in Committee Room 3, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. ATTENDANCE
The following Members were present:

Deputies: Séan Crowe, Bernard Durkan, Séan Haughey, Michael Healy-Rae (Chairman), Mattie McGrath and Frank O’Rourke.

Senators: Paul Coghlan, Gerard Craughwell, Terry Leyden and Neale Richmond.

Other Members Attending: Deputy Pat “the Cope” Gallagher.

3. PRIVATE SESSION
The Committee went into private session at 5.02 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. SUSPENSION
The meeting was suspended at 5.25 pm

The Committee resumed in Public Session at 5.30 pm

9. Engagement on the priorities and position of Member States of the European Union on the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union [His Excellency Mr Dušan Matulay, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Ireland and His Excellency Mr Paul Schellekens, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Ireland]

The Committee met with His Excellency Mr Dušan Matulay, Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to Ireland and His Excellency Mr Paul Schellekens, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Ireland to discuss the priorities and position of Members States of the European Union on the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union.

Following an opening statement by the Ambassadors, a question and answer session with Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Ambassadors for their engagement with the Committee.
The Committee adjourned at 6.35 p.m. until Tuesday, 29th November at 4 p.m.

Mr Michael Healy-Rae TD
Chairman
29 November, 2016.
Minutes of Meeting of 29th November 2016

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 4.05 p.m. in Committee Room 1, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. Attendance
   The following Members were present:

   Deputies: Colm Brophy, Bernard Durkan, Séan Haughey and Frank O'Rourke.

   Senators: Gerard Craughwell

   In attendance via video conference: Matt Carthy MEP, Marian Harkin MEP, Brian Hayes MEP, Sean Kelly MEP and Mairead McGuiness MEP.

   Apologies were received from Deputy Michael Healy-Rae and Senators Paul Coghlan, Terry Leyden and Neale Richmond.

3. Election of temporary Chairman
   In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Deputy Séan Haughey was elected as a temporary Chairman.

4. Engagement on the European Court of Auditors 'Annual Report 2015' and the European Union's Use of Public Funds [Mr. Kevin Cardiff, Member of the European Court of Auditors]

   The Committee met with Mr. Kevin Cardiff to discuss the European Court of Auditors Annual Report 2015. Following a presentation by Mr. Cardiff, a question and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee.

   On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witness and his colleagues for their engagement with the Committee.

5. Suspension
   The meeting was suspended at 5.04 p.m.

   The Committee resumed in Public Session at 5.07 p.m.

6. Engagement on the Work of the General Affairs Council (GAC) [Mr Dara Murphy TD, Minister of State with Special Responsibility for European Affairs]

   The Committee met with Minister Dara Murphy to discuss the work of the General Affairs Council.

   Following an opening statement by the Minister, a question and answer session with Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Minister for his engagement with the Committee.
7. **SUSPENSION**
The meeting was suspended at 6.08 p.m.

The Committee resumed in Private Session at 6.09 p.m.

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. Item discussed in private session

13. Item discussed in private session

The Committee adjourned at 6.14 p.m. until Wednesday, 7th December 2016.

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**Mr Michael Healy-Rae TD**
Chairman

7 December, 2016.
**Minutes of Meeting of 7th December 2016**

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

2. **Attendance**
The following Members were present:

   Deputies: Colm Brophy, Seán Crowe, Bernard Durkan, Séan Haughey, Michael Healy-Rae (Chairman), Mattie McGrath, Frank O'Rourke.

   Senators: Gerard Craughwell, Terry Leyden and Neale Richmond

3. **Engagement on the Priorities and Position of Member States of the European Union on the UK's withdrawal from the European Union [Ms Helga Mizzi, Director General, Political EU Affairs and Maltese Abroad, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Malta]**

   The Committee met with Ms Helga Mizzi, Director General, Political EU Affairs and Maltese Abroad, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Malta to discuss the priorities and position of Malta on the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. Following a presentation by Ms Mizzi, a question and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee.

   On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witness and her colleague, Joanna Pisani, Chargé d'Affaires for their engagement with the Committee.

4. **Suspension**
The meeting was suspended at 2.48 p.m.

   The Committee resumed in Private Session at 2.50 p.m.

5. **Item Discussed in Private Session**

6. **Item Discussed in Private Session**

7. **Item Discussed in Private Session**

The Committee adjourned at 3.00 p.m. until Wednesday, 18th January 2017.

Mr Michael Healy-Rae TD
Chairman
