



TITHE AN OIREACHTAIS

An Comhchoiste um Ghnóthaí an Aontais Eorpaigh

**Clár Oibre 2019**

Feabhra 2019

---

HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS

Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

**Work Programme 2019**

February 2019

## Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Overview of Work Programme.....	3
3. Key Policy Priorities for the Joint Committee.....	3
3.1. The European Union post-2019.....	3
(a) The United Kingdom’s Withdrawal from the European Union.....	3
(b) Alliance-Building to strengthen the European Union.....	4
(c) Institutional Renewal.....	4
(d) Future relationship between the European Union the United Kingdom.....	4
3.2. Implementation and application of European Union law.....	5
3.3. Conclusion of policy issues considered in 2018.....	5
(a) Sustainability of the European Union.....	5
(b) Improving European Union Decision-Making.....	5
4. European Union Business.....	5
4.1. Strategic Direction of the European Union.....	6
(a) Council of the European Union.....	6
(b) European Commission.....	6
(c) European Parliament.....	7
(d) The Court of Auditors.....	8
(e) National Parliaments of European Union Member States.....	8
(f) European Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee.....	8
4.2. European Legislative Matters.....	8
(a) Operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002.....	8
(b) Oireachtas EU Scrutiny Work Programme.....	8
(c) Transposition of EU Law / Infringements.....	8
(d) Treaty Amendments / Applications for Membership of the EU.....	8
5. Committee Travel.....	9
6. Incoming Parliamentary Delegations.....	9
7. Number and Frequency of Meetings.....	9
8. Select Committee.....	9
9. Role and Functions of the Joint Committee.....	9
10. Agreement of Work Programme.....	10
11. Appendices.....	11

# Annual Work Programme 2019

## 1. Introduction

The Joint Committee on European Union Affairs was established by Order of Dáil Éireann on 5 July 2016 and by Order of Seanad Éireann on 21 July 2016.

Standing Orders [DSO 89(4); SSO 77(4)] require that "*As soon as may be following its appointment and thereafter at annual intervals, each Select Committee shall prepare a work programme and shall lay such programme before [Dáil/Seanad] Éireann*".

## 2. Overview of Work Programme

The duties of the Joint Committee are discharged in two ways, (1) it selects business for consideration itself, from the policy areas within its terms of reference; and (2) there will be items of business referred to it by the House(s) and expressly detailed in the Terms of Reference. Therefore, the Joint Committee's work comprises of **Key Policy Priorities for the Joint Committee and European Union Business**.

In terms of Key Policy Priorities for the Joint Committee, the Joint Committee envisages that 2019 will be an atypical policy year for areas within its remit, given the European Parliament elections and appointment of a new European Commission. 2019 should also see the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union. As a result, the Joint Committee anticipates the first half of the year at European level focusing primarily on completing processes for proposals already made. In terms of **policy priorities**, the Joint Committee intends devoting significant time in 2019 to **considering the European Union post-2019**. In 2018, the Joint Committee began its own consideration of a number of policy issues, it intends to **successfully conclude** its thinking on those issues in 2019 and will report accordingly.

## 3. Key Policy Priorities for the Joint Committee

The Joint Committee may consider policy issues which it has **selected for itself** and which fall within its terms of reference.

The Joint Committee intends to prioritise policy priorities that are linked to the EU's withdrawal negotiations and making the European Union stronger in the future.

In light of developments, these two frameworks are the clear priorities for the European Union and for Ireland. It is the intention of the Joint Committee to consider and report to the Houses on some of the following topics:

### 3.1. The European Union post-2019

#### (a) The United Kingdom's Withdrawal from the European Union

As the European Union and the United Kingdom move into the final stages of ratification of the Draft Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community, or, should that process not be successfully completed by either side, making alternate

arrangements, the Joint Committee will continue to monitor developments and possible impacts closely.

In 2019, the Joint Committee will prioritise the consideration of the European Union's and Ireland's Preparedness Planning, or, should the Draft Withdrawal Agreement not be ratified, Contingency Planning.

Depending on how the withdrawal process develops, the Joint Committee may prioritise the impact of decisions and preparations on particular areas of policy; in particular on citizens and their entitlements and the impact on the founding principles of the European Union, especially the four freedoms.

### **(b) Alliance-Building to strengthen the European Union**

This will be a year of renewal and change within, and for, the European Union with many of those in leadership positions in European institutions changing; a process which often brings with it shifts in strategy and priorities. With the cycle of European Parliament elections and changeovers, with a key partner and ally (the United Kingdom) leaving the EU, with an anticipated (at least) seven national-level parliamentary elections in the EU (Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Poland and Portugal), and with new challenges presenting themselves - the European Union will be different. The Joint Committee believes that Ireland should continue to prioritise its relationships with all Member States of the European Union. Within the European Union, Ireland will need to continue to play a constructive and practical role - working with partners to find and develop shared solutions to the challenges that face us. The Joint Committee will consider alliances and partners that Ireland could work with to actively shape proposals that protect and strengthen the EU's interests.

The Joint Committee intends to pay particular attention to considering this issue in partnership with colleagues in other Parliaments and Assemblies.

### **(c) Institutional Renewal**

The Joint Committee will prioritise engagements and discussions with newly elected Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) after the elections in May and with the new European Commission in the Autumn. Consideration will be given to the new European Commission President's Political Guidelines and the Mission Letters issued to Commissioners'-designate.

The Joint Committee intends to complete its consideration on the Future of Europe in advance of the Summit in Sibiu, Romania on 9 May 2019.

### **(d) Future relationship between the European Union the United Kingdom**

The Joint Committee may consider policy areas (that fall within the remit of the Joint Committee) linked to the **future relationship** between the European Union and the United Kingdom.

Particular attention will be paid by the Joint Committee to any future **parliamentary considerations** for the relationship between the UK and the EU, especially any arrangements considered by, and for, COSAC.

## **3.2. Implementation and application of European Union law**

The Joint Committee believes that the European Union is an organisation based on the rule of law. As such, it is essential that Ireland prioritises the sound implementation and application of European Union law.

The Joint Committee intends to pay particular attention to the **transposition of European Union law in Ireland**, the operation of the **simplification/Refit processes**, the operation and effectiveness of **EU Scrutiny processes in Ireland**, and the **effectiveness of EU-level public consultations** and the **involvement of citizens** in European Union policy development.

## **3.3. Conclusion of policy issues considered in 2018**

The Joint Committee intends to complete its consideration of policy issues begun in 2018, specifically:

### **(a) Sustainability of the European Union**

The Joint Committee had several useful and productive engagements on the Future of Europe. The Joint Committee intends to complete its consideration in advance of the Summit in Sibiu in May.

In 2018, the Joint Committee considered the state-of-play in the various processes for potential enlargement of the European Union, specifically those with Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Macedonia/Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo. The Joint Committee intends to conclude a Report on future enlargement.

### **(b) Improving European Union Decision-Making**

The Joint Committee intends to complete its work considering the rules and practices around transparency and accountability in relation to public access to documents, especially relating to Council preparatory bodies. The Committee will revisit the inquiry undertaken by the European Ombudsman and the position paper adopted by the COSAC delegation from the Netherlands, which has been supported by a number of other COSAC delegations from National Parliaments.

The Joint Committee will return to its work on the recommendations of the Task Force which looked at 'subsidiarity, proportionality and 'doing less more efficiently', as well as the proposals subsequently made by the European Commission on this policy area.

The Joint Committee will consider any other strategic policy issues, as they arise, or in conjunction with other relevant Joint Committees.

## **4. European Union Business**

The Joint Committee will monitor, review and report on the likely implications of the strategic direction, policies and programmes pursued by the institutions of the European Union for people in their daily lives and for the longer-term future of Ireland and the European Union.

As part of this process, the Joint Committee may invite presentations from Ministers of the Government, European Commissioners, officials of Government departments and the European institutions and other interested individuals and groups in order to hear their views and perspectives on matters under consideration. The Joint Committee may also, if the need arises, engage with persons with specialist or technical knowledge to advise and assist it in its work.

## **4.1. Strategic Direction of the European Union**

### **(a) Council of the European Union**

#### **General Affairs Council (GAC)**

The Joint Committee will engage with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade or the Minister of State with Special Responsibility for European Affairs in advance and/or following their attendance at the meetings of the General Affairs Council (GAC); in relation to the topics arising on the agendas of those Council meetings.

#### **Priorities of the Presidencies of the Council of the European Union**

This year, the Joint Committee intends to engage with **Romania** and **Finland** in relation to their Presidency priorities.

The Joint Committee will consider the strategic direction that the Presidencies of the Council of the European Union intend to take by engaging directly with Ambassadors to Ireland, as representatives of those Member States, as well as through inter-institutional arrangements at European level.

### **(b) European Commission**

The **current European Commission** has in all likelihood published the last of its key strategic planning documents, including the State of the Union package and the **European Commission's Annual Work Programme for 2019**. In considering the new initiatives included in the Commission Work Programme, the Joint Committee identified **three new initiatives** which may be relevant to its work:

- (1) **Communicating Europe - Communication on how to make the Union more united, stronger and more democratic in communication terms** (expected in Q2 2019);
- (2) **Rule of Law – Further strengthening of the 2014 Rule of law framework** (expected in Q1 2019); and
- (3) **More efficient law-making in the fields of taxation, social policy** and some issues of foreign policy. While the Joint Committee may consider the use of '*passerelle*' clauses from a procedural point of view, consideration of the policy issues themselves are a matter for the relevant Committees to those policy areas, should those Committees wish to consider them.

The Joint Committee will consider the relevance of these initiatives to the remit of the Joint Committee following their publication.

The Joint Committee anticipates the **new European Commission** being formed in the final quarter of 2019, and will consider the strategic documents associated with the **formation and direction of the new European Commission**, including the incoming European Commission President's **Political Guidelines for the new European**

**Commission**, and the **Mission Letters** that the new President sends to the Commissioners-designate.

The Joint Committee will consider the key regular strategic planning documents of the European Commission, including: the first State of the Union Address of the new European Commission President and the European Commission's Annual Work Programme for 2020.

The Joint Committee will prioritise engagement with the new European Commissioners, when they visit Ireland, as well as with the European Commission Office in Dublin. The Joint Committee will explore whether it would be preferable to travel to Brussels to engage with the new European Commission in the final months of 2019 or in early 2020.

A number of Joint Committees of the Houses of the Oireachtas play a role in the consideration of the **Annual European Semester** process, including the Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform, the Select Committee on Budget Oversight and other Joint Committees as appropriate. Together these Committees ensure appropriate Parliamentary oversight at key stages during the Annual European Semester process; including consideration of the Government's proposed National Reform Programme and the Country-Specific Recommendations. Within this shared responsibility, the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs intends to focus on the strategic institutional impact, as well as the ongoing processes.

### **(c) European Parliament**

The Joint Committee very much appreciated engagements in 2018 with MEPs elected from constituencies in Ireland and hopes to continue to **engage with current MEPs** in advance of the European Parliament elections.

Following the European Parliament elections in May, the **Joint Committee intends to prioritise engagement with new MEPs**.

While those MEPs may attend all meetings of the Joint Committee and take part in proceedings, the calendar of the European Parliament and the calendar of the Houses of the Oireachtas can make participation challenging from a scheduling perspective. The Joint Committee intends to continue to explore the best way to use modern technology to augment engagement with MEPs.

Beyond these dedicated meetings of engagement with MEPs from constituencies in Ireland, the Committee hopes to engage with Chairs and other MEPs of key European Parliament Committees, with a particular focus on the Constitutional Affairs Committee (AFCO), as the most relevant to much of the work of the Joint Committee.

The Joint Committee will assess the draft programme prepared for the *European Parliamentary Week* in February each year and will participate when it is appropriate. Depending on the Agenda and Programme for the European Parliamentary Week, it may be more appropriate for other Committees of the Houses of the Oireachtas to take the lead.

The Joint Committee will consider other opportunities to engage directly with the European Parliament and MEPs in Brussels or Strasbourg as they arise and engage with the European Parliament Representation in Dublin in doing that.

The Joint Committee values the engagement that has been possible with the **European Ombudsman** and intends to repeat that in 2019, if possible.

#### **(d) The Court of Auditors**

Over the last few years, the Joint Committee has engaged with the Irish member of the Court of Auditors on an annual basis, considering the Court's Annual Report, and the use of EU public funds that year. The Joint Committee intends to continue this practice in 2019.

#### **(e) National Parliaments of European Union Member States**

The Joint Committee will represent the Houses of the Oireachtas at meetings of the **Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC)** in Bucharest and Helsinki in 2019.

The Joint Committee will continue to engage with EU Affairs Committees of other Member States' national parliaments and similar counterpart committees on a bilateral basis when it is possible.

#### **(f) European Committee of the Regions and the European Economic and Social Committee**

In 2018, the Joint Committee had a particularly strong engagement with the Committee of the Regions, including the Irish Members. The Joint Committee intends to continue to build on those links as well as to engage with the Irish Members of the EU's second advisory body: the European Economic and Social Committee.

### **4.2. European Legislative Matters**

#### **(a) Operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002**

The Joint Committee is responsible for reporting, on an annual basis, on the operation of the Act in the Oireachtas, and will prepare a Report that does that and lay it before both Houses. If warranted, the Joint Committee may consider calling for a debate on the Report.

#### **(b) Oireachtas EU Scrutiny Work Programme**

Since 2013, the Joint Committee has compiled a Report, based on input from the sectoral committees, of proposals they have identified as priorities for scrutiny during the year. The Committee intends to continue with this practice.

#### **(c) Transposition of EU Law / Infringements**

The Committee may engage with the Minister in relation to the transposition of EU Directives into Irish law by the use of statutory instruments, Ireland's transposition record and the number of current unresolved infringement cases against Ireland on foot of inadequate or late transposition. The Joint Committee does intend to consider the transposition of EU law in Ireland, as part of its consideration on the implementation and application of European Union law.

#### **(d) Treaty Amendments / Applications for Membership of the EU**

In the event that there are any applications for membership of the EU and/or proposals for Treaty Amendments, the Joint Committee will consider them.



## 5. Committee Travel

The Joint Committee may decide, subject to financial, administrative and procedural constraints, to undertake travel as it considers necessary to further progress the Work Programme. Such travel may include study visits, attendance at conferences or meetings, or delegation visits on European-related issues, within its remit. Reports will be completed for all travel undertaken. In light of the Committee's role, three types of travel are already foreseen:

- ***Cooperation between national parliaments and the European Parliament under the aegis of COSAC***

The Joint Committee will continue to represent the Oireachtas at meetings of COSAC (*Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the EU*) at both the COSAC Plenary Meetings and the COSAC Chairpersons meetings in Bucharest and Helsinki.

- ***Engagement with the European Parliament***

When practical and appropriate, the Joint Committee will participate in inter-parliamentary committee meetings organised by the European Parliament; when the issues under consideration fall within the remit of the Joint Committee.

- ***Bilateral Relations: Ireland's Partners in Europe***

To progress its work and to continue to develop relations with European Affairs Committees in National Parliaments and Assemblies, the Joint Committee may seek to visit with their counterparts in other Member States.

## 6. Incoming Parliamentary Delegations

The Joint Committee continues to be interested in receiving visits and engaging with Members of parliaments, including European Affairs Committees, of other European Member States, for discussion and exchange of information and ideas on matters of mutual interest. The Joint Committee may, when appropriate, issue invitations to other Parliaments and/or Committees.

## 7. Number and Frequency of Meetings

The Joint Committee is scheduled to meet once every two weeks. When required, the Joint Committee will hold additional meetings. The Joint Committee may also have informal meetings and exchanges with incoming delegations, visiting Ministers from other European Union Member States and other stakeholders.

## 8. Select Committee

The Select Committee will convene, as necessary, to consider such matters as are referred to it.

## 9. Role and Functions of the Joint Committee

At the time of drafting, the Joint Committee has no recommendations to make with regard to changing its role and functions.

## **10. Agreement of Work Programme**

This Work Programme for 2019 of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs was agreed by the Joint Committee at its meeting on 6 February 2019. In accordance with Standing Orders of Dáil Éireann and Seanad Éireann, it was agreed that the Work Programme be laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas.

It was also agreed that the Work Programme would be published on the Joint Committee's page of the Oireachtas website.



Michael Healy Rae TD  
Chairman

6 February 2019

## 11. Appendices

### 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 mbeidh seacht gcomhalta de Dháil Éireann, chun breithniú a dhéanamh ar cibé nithe a éiríonn—
- (a) as ballraíocht na hÉireann san Aontas Eorpach, agus
- (b) as Éirinn do chloí leis an gConradh ar an Aontas Eorpach agus leis an gConradh ar Fheidhmiú an Aontais Eorpaigh,
- a roghnóidh sé agus nach bhfuil tarchurtha chuig aon Choiste eile.
- (2) Gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (1), breithneoidh an Coiste—
- (a) cibé Billí a bpléann an Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála leis an dlí reachtach ina leith,
- (b) cibé tograí a bheidh in aon tairiscint, lena n-áirítear aon tairiscint de réir bhrí Bhuan-Ordú 187, agus
- (c) cibé nithe eile,
- a tharchuirfidh an Dáil chuige.
- (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) 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.
- (4) Beidh ag an Roghchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 85(1), (2) agus (3).
- (5) Déanfar an Roghchoiste a chomhcheangal le Roghchoiste arna cheapadh ag Seanad Éireann chun bheith ina Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí an Aontais Eorpaigh, agus, gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (1), déanfaidh an Roghchoiste an méid seo a leanas a bhreithniú—
- (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
- (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.
- (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

Chomhairle Gnóthaí Ginearálta na nAirí agus toradh cruinnithe den sórt sin,

- (d) cibé rialacháin faoi Achtanna na gComhphobal Eorpach, 1972 go 2009 agus ionstraimí eile arna ndéanamh faoi reacht agus is gá de dhroim na n-oibleagáidí a ghabhann le ballraíocht san Aontas Eorpach a roghnóidh an Coiste,
- (e) fógraí arna dtarchur ag an Dáil faoi Bhuan-Ordú 115(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.

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),
- (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) Tabharfaidh an Comhchoiste

(6) The Joint Committee shall report to

tuarascáil do dhá Theach an Oireachtais ar oibriú Acht an Aontais Eorpaigh (Grinnscrúdú), 2002.

both Houses of the Oireachtas on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002.

(7) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Orduithe 85 (seachas mír (2A) den chéanna), 114, 115(1)(a) agus 116.

(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) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste an chumhacht chun moltaí a dhéanamh chun an Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála (nó chun Aire Stáit) i dtaobh nithe a bhaineann leis an Aontas Eorpach.

(8) The Joint Committee shall have the power to make recommendations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (or Minister of State) on European Union matters.

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

(9) The following may attend meetings of the Joint Committee and take part in proceedings without having a right to vote or to move motions and amendments:

(a) omhaltaí de Pharlaimint na hEorpa arna dtoghadh ó thoghcheantair in Éirinn, lena n-áirítear Tuaisceart Éireann,

(a) Members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies in Ireland, including Northern Ireland,

(b) Comhaltaí de thoscaireacht na hÉireann chuig Tionól 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.

(10) 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.

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

(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.”

**Seanad Éireann on 21 July 2016 ordered:**

- “(1) Go gceapfar Roghchoiste, dá ngairfear an Roghchoiste um Ghnóthaí an Aontais Eorpaigh, ar a mbeidh ceathrar gcomhalta 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) Beidh ag an Roghchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 71(1), (2) agus (3).
- (3) 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
- (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



a bhreithniú—

- (a) doiciméid phleanála straitéiseacha Choimisiún AE lena n-áirítear Clár Oibre an Choimisiúin,
- (b) forbairtí beartais tras-earnála ag leibhéal an Aontais Eorpaigh,
- (c) nithe a liostaítear lena mbreithniú ar an gclár gnó i gcomhair cruinnithe de Chomhairle Gnóthaí Ginearálta na nAirí agus toradh cruinnithe den sórt sin.
- (d) cibé rialacháin faoi Achtanna na gComhphobal Eorpach, 1972 go 2009 agus ionstraimí eile arna ndéanamh faoi reacht agus is gá de dhroim na n-oibleagáidí a ghabhann le ballraíocht san Aontas Eorpach a roghnóidh an Coiste,
- (e) fógraí arna dtarchur ag an Seanad faoi Bhuan-Ordú 108(1)(a),

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),

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <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>(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) 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>(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) cibé nithe eile a tharchuirfidh an Seanad chuige ó am go ham.</p>   | <p>(h) such other matters as may be referred to it by the Seanad from time to time.</p>  |
| <p>(4) Tabharfaidh an Comhchoiste tuarascáil do dhá Theach an Oireachtais ar oibriú Acht an Aontais Eorpaigh (Grinnscrúdú), 2002.</p>                                | <p>(4) The Joint Committee shall report to both Houses of the Oireachtas on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002.</p>                                     |
| <p>(5) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Orduithe 71 (seachas mír (2A) den chéanna), 107, 108(1)(a) agus 109.</p>                           | <p>(5) The Joint Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Orders 71 (other than paragraph (2A) thereof), 107, 108(1)(a) and 109.</p>                              |
| <p>(6) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste an chumhacht chun moltaí a dhéanamh</p>  | <p>(6) The Joint Committee shall have the power to make recommendations to</p>   |

chun an Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála (nó chun Aire Stáit) i dtaobh nithe a bhaineann leis an Aontas Eorpach.

the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (or Minister of State) on European Union matters.

(7) 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:

(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) Comhaltaí de Pharlaimint na hEorpa arna dtoghadh ó thoghlaigh in Éirinn, lena n-áirítear Tuaisceart Éireann,

(a) Members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies in Ireland, including Northern Ireland,

(b) Comhaltaí de thoscaireacht na hÉireann chuig Tionól Parlaiminteach Chomhairle na hEorpa, agus

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

(c) ar chuireadh a fháil ón gCoiste, Comhaltaí eile de Pharlaimint na hEorpa.

(c) at the invitation of the Committee, other Members of the European Parliament.

(8) 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

(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

tabharfaidh sé tuarascáil ar an gcéanna do dhá Theach an Oireachtais.

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 of the Joint Committee**

Chairman	Michael Healy-Rae (RIG)
Deputies	Colm Brophy (FG) David Cullinane (SF) Bernard Durkan (FG) Seán Haughey (FF) Mattie McGrath (RIG) Frank O'Rourke (FF)
Senators	Paul Coghlan (FG) Gerard Craughwell (Ind) Terry Leyden (FF) Neale Richmond (FG)