



**TITHE AN OIREACHTAIS**

**AN COMHCHOISTE UM GHNÓTHAÍ AN AONTAIS EORPAIGH**

**TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2015**

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**HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS**

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

**31ENUA0040**

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### **Chairman's Foreword**

On behalf of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, I am pleased to present the 2015 Annual Report of the Committee which sets out the work undertaken by it during period January to December 2015.

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

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

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

The Joint Committee also represented the Oireachtas at meetings of COSAC (Conference of Chairmen of European Affairs Committees of Member States

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and the European Parliament) as part of the ongoing exchange of ideas and information on best practice with representatives of other EU national parliaments.

The Joint Committee met 31 times during 2015. During the year the Committee undertook a significant body of work across the spectrum of European Union issues, including –

- **UK/EU Future Relations:** The Committee considered that the implications for Ireland of any future change in the UK's relationship with the European Union were of such significance, that it undertook an examination of this issue and accordingly published its Report in June entitled, *"UK/EU Future Relationship: Implications for Ireland"*. This constituted the main focus of the Committee's work in the first six months of 2015. The Committee agreed the scope for its work and subsequently engaged with experts, including UK parliamentarians, to tease out the issues involved and explore what an appropriate Irish response might look like, should such a change materialise. The Committee travelled twice to the UK in connection with this work, initially to meet with UK-based witnesses and subsequently to present its final report in the Irish Embassy in London. The Committee also agreed a "Legacy" document on this issue.
- **European Migration Package:** The Committee anticipated that migration to the EU would continue in earnest during 2015 and thus agreed to examine the issue. The Committee met with relevant stakeholders to examine this issue, including Mr. Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for Migration and International Development. At the *LIII* COSAC Plenary in Riga, Latvia the Irish delegation proposed various amendments to the final contribution based on the work of the Committee on this issue. A number of these amendments were accepted and are reflected in the final contribution of COSAC.
- **European Semester:** Under the Semester, EU governments must submit their National Reform and Stability or Convergence Programmes to the

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European Commission in April each year. The Committee led Oireachtas engagement on the European Semester by its scrutiny of the key documents before their submission to the European Commission. The Committee held a follow-up meeting on the resulting Country Specific Recommendations for Ireland in June.

- **Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement (TTIP):** The Committee continued the work it began in 2014 in considering this critical cross-sectoral issue in line with its work programme. The Committee engaged with various stakeholders over a number of meetings. As part of a new approach in dealing with cross-sectoral European issues, the Committee participated in an innovative joint meeting of three Joint Committees which led to an agreed joint Political Contribution on TTIP to the European Institutions.
- **Completing Economic and Monetary Union (EMU):** In June, the European Commission published a blueprint for completing EMU - *the Five Presidents' Report*. The Committee scrutinised the report with the assistance of experts, with particular emphasis on the 'Democratic Legitimacy' aspects of the report and the role of national Parliaments, in that context. [On foot of this work, the Committee agreed a Political Contribution on the Five Presidents' Report to the European Institutions.]
- **The Role of National Parliaments: Post Lisbon Treaty:** The Joint Committee continued to be involved in inter-parliamentary dialogue on the role of national Parliaments including a bilateral meeting with First-Vice President of the EU Commission, Mr. Frans Timmermans. The Committee agreed a political contribution to the European Institutions on this issue.
- **European Scrutiny:** Detailed scrutiny of EU legislative proposals falls to the sectoral Joint Committees of the Oireachtas. The Committee published the Twelfth Annual Report on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002 as required under section 5 of the Act. The report examined the EU scrutiny activities of the Oireachtas and its Committees during 2014.

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

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

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

Dominic Hannigan T.D.  
Chairman

20 January, 2016.

## **1. Content and Format of Report**

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

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

At its meeting on the 20 January 2016, the Joint Committee agreed that these items should be included in this report covering the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015.

## **2. Function and Powers**

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

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

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

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

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- 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 106(1)(a),
- notifications of proposals for the amendment of the Treaties received from the European Council pursuant to Article 48.2 of the Treaty on European Union,
- notifications of applications for membership of the European Union received from the European Council pursuant to Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union,
- other matters referred to it by the Dáil from time to time.

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

### **3. Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Membership**

Deputy Dominic Hannigan was elected as Chairman of the Joint Committee on the 26 January 2012. The Chairman of the Joint Committee is also Chairman of the Dáil Select Committee. Deputy Seán Kyne was elected Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee on 10 February 2015.

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

### **4. Meetings, Attendance and Recording**

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

Televised coverage of public meetings of the Committee was broadcast live within the Leinster House complex and was available for subsequent public broadcasting by RTE and TV3. It was also webcast making it available worldwide on the internet. Since the pilot launch of the Oireachtas TV channel in November 2011, the proceedings of committees in public session, typically recorded but occasionally live, are now available to view online, on the app and also carried live on UPC Channel 207, eVision Channel 504 and Sky Channel 574

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](http://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](http://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 31 occasions during the period under report. Included was a joint meeting with the Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine (in accordance with Orders of the Dáil and Seanad of 9 June 2015) convened to discuss the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), an EU-US trade agreement currently under negotiation with the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Mr Richard Burton T.D.

The number of hours of discussion involved in these meetings was approximately 41 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*.

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### 5.2 *Select Committee*

The Dáil Select Committee was not required to meet in 2015.

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

During the period, the number of speaking witnesses for the Joint Committee was 38.

### **7. Committee Reports Agreed**

During the period under report, the Joint Committee agreed 19 in total, as follows:

- (i) Travel Report – COSAC LII Plenary, Rome, 30 November-2 December 2014
- (ii) Travel Report - Informal meeting on the “Green Card” hosted by the Tweede Kamer, Brussels, 19 January 2015
- (iii) Travel Report - COSAC Chairpersons’ meeting, Latvia, Riga, 2 February 2015
- (iv) Political Contribution - Five years post the Lisbon Treaty: how can the role of national parliaments at EU level be improved?
- (v) Joint Committee on European Union Affairs: Work Programme 2015
- (vi) Oireachtas Committees’ EU Scrutiny Work Programme 2015: agreed list of priorities
- (vii) Travel Report – UK/EU Relations (BrExit), London, 1-3 March 2015
- (viii) Annual Report on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002 (2014)
- (ix) Policy Report - UK/EU Future Relationship: Implications for Ireland
- (x) Joint Committee on European Union Affairs: Annual Report 2014
- (xi) Travel Report - COSAC LIII plenary meeting: Riga, Latvia, 30 May - 2 June 2015
- (xii) Travel Report - Interparliamentary meeting on EU Trade Policy, Paris 17 June
- (xiii) Travel Report - Berlin, 30 June – 2 July 2015
- (xiv) Travel Report - COSAC Chairpersons’ meeting Luxembourg 12 – 13 July 2015
- (xv) Travel Report - COSAC Working Group Luxembourg 30 October 2015

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- (xvi) Travel Report - Interparliamentary Cooperation, Romania, 31 October-2 November 2015
- (xvii) Travel Report - Interparliamentary Conference on Stability, Economic Coordination and Governance in the EU (Article 13) Luxembourg 9-10 November 2015
- (xviii) Travel Report – Meeting on the Institutional Evolution of the EU, Brussels, 19 November 2015
- (xix) Political Contribution on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)

### **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:** Working Group of Committee Chairman  
**Destination:** Brussels  
**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
**Members travelling:** Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman)  
**Accompanying Official:** Fiona Cashin (Policy Advisor)
- 2. Purpose of travel:** Meeting of COSAC Chairpersons  
**Destination:** Riga, Latvia  
**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015  
**Members travelling:** Deputies Hannigan (Chairman) and Seán Kyne (Vice-Chairman)  
**Accompanying Official:** Bríd Dunne (Clerk)
- 3. Purpose of travel:** Interparliamentary conference on stability, economic coordination and Governance in the EU (Article 13)  
**Destination:** Brussels  
**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015  
**Members travelling:** Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman) and Senator Aideen Hayden  
**Accompanying Officials:** Bríd Dunne (Clerk) and Michelle Grant (Deputy Director of Committees)
- 4. Purpose of travel:** Consideration of UK-EU relations (BrExit)  
**Destination:** London  
**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> March 2015  
**Members travelling:** Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), John Halligan and Seán Kyne (Vice-Chairman). Senators Aideen Hayden, Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.  
**Accompanying Officials:** Bríd Dunne (Clerk) and Fiona Cashin (Policy Adviser)

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- 5. Purpose of travel:** Working/Cluster Group meeting on 'improving the yellow card procedure' hosted by the Polish Parliament
- Destination:** Poland  
**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015  
**Members travelling:** Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman) and Derek Keating  
**Accompanying Officials:** Michelle Grant (Deputy Director of Committees) and Fiona Cashin (Policy Advisor)
- 6. Purpose of travel:** LII COSAC Plenary
- Destination:** Riga, Latvia  
**Date:** 31<sup>st</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2015  
**Members travelling:** Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Seán Kyne (Vice-Chairman), Timmy Dooley and Derek Keating. Senator Aileen Hayden  
**Accompanying Officials:** Bríd Dunne (Clerk) and Fiona Cashin (Policy Advisor)
- 7. Purpose of travel:** Interparliamentary meeting on the European Unions' trade policy and the ongoing negotiations with the United States (TTIP), Canada (CETA) and within the WTO (Doha round)
- Destination:** Paris  
**Date:** 17<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
**Members travelling:** Deputy Dominic Hannigan (Chairman)  
**Accompanying Official:** Bríd Dunne (Clerk)
- 8. Purpose of travel:** Presentation on Committee Report entitled "UK/EU Future Relationship: Implications for Ireland"
- Destination:** London  
**Date:** 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
**Members travelling:** Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Seán Kyne (Vice-Chairman), Timmy Dooley and Senator Kathryn Reilly.  
**Accompanying Officials:** Bríd Dunne (Clerk) and Fiona Cashin (Policy Advisor)

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- 9.** Purpose of travel: Meetings with various Groups and Parliamentarians  
Destination: Berlin  
Date: 30<sup>th</sup> June – 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2015  
Members travelling: Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Bernard Durkan, John Halligan and Derek Keating.  
Accompanying Officials: Fiona Cashin (Policy Advisor) and Luke Brennan (Committee Secretariat)
- 10.** Purpose of travel: COSAC Chairpersons' meeting  
Destination: Luxembourg  
Date: 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> July 2015  
Members travelling: Deputy Seán Kyne (Vice-Chairman),  
Accompanying Official: Fiona Cashin (Policy Advisor)
- 11.** Purpose of travel: Mercator European Dialogue : "Hearing Europe"  
Destination: Berlin  
Date: 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2015  
Members travelling: Deputy Dominic Hannigan (Chairman)  
Accompanying Official: None
- 12.** Purpose of travel: Keynote Speaker at the XXV Economic Forum  
Destination: Poland  
Date: 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September 2015  
Members travelling: Deputy Dominic Hannigan (Chairman)  
Accompanying Official: None
- 13.** Purpose of travel: Keynote Speaker at British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly 51<sup>st</sup> Plenary Session  
Destination: Cheltenham, England  
Date: 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015  
Members travelling: Deputy Dominic Hannigan (Chairman)  
Accompanying Official: None
- 14.** Purpose of travel: COSAC Working Group meeting  
Destination: Luxembourg  
Date: 30<sup>th</sup> October 2015  
Members travelling: Deputy Dominic Hannigan (Chairman),

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Accompanying Official: Fiona Cashin (Policy Advisor)

**15. Purpose of travel**: Interparliamentary cooperation

Destination: Bucharest

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> October – 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015

Members travelling: Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman),

Eric Byrne, John Halligan and Derek Keating.

Accompanying Official: Fiona Cashin (Policy Advisor)

**16. Purpose of travel**: Interparliamentary conference on stability, economic coordination and Governance in the EU (Article 13)

Destination: Luxembourg

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Members travelling: Deputy Dominic Hannigan (Chairman)

Accompanying Official: Bríd Dunne (Clerk)

**17. Purpose of travel**: Interparliamentary conference: Evolution of the Union

Destination: Luxembourg

Date: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015

Members travelling: Deputy Dominic Hannigan (Chairman)

Accompanying Official: Bríd Dunne (Clerk)

**18. Purpose of travel**: LIV COSAC

Destination: Luxembourg

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015

Members travelling: Deputies Dominic Hannigan (Chairman) and Derek Keating. Senator Aideen Hayden

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

**9. Report on Functions and Powers**

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

## APPENDIX 1: Orders of Reference

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

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

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

### ***Seanad Éireann on 16 June 2011 ordered:***

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

## Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

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ghinearáltacht mhír (1),  
déanfaidh an Comhchoiste an  
méid seo a leanas a  
bhreithniú—

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

generality of paragraph (1),  
shall consider—

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

## Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

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- | tharchuirfidh an Seanad<br>chuige ó am go ham.   | be referred to it by the<br>Seanad from time to time.   |
|--|---|
| (3) Tabharfaidh an Comhchoiste tuarascáil do dhá Theach an Oireachtais ar oibriú Acht an Aontais Eorpaigh (Grinnscrúdú), 2002.   | (3) The Joint Committee shall report to both Houses of the Oireachtas on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002.   |
| (4) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Orduithe 71 (seachas mír (2A) den chéanna), 101, 102(1)(a) agus 103.  | (4) The Joint Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Orders 71 (other than paragraph (2A) thereof), 101, 102(1)(a) and 103.  |
| (5) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste an chumhacht chun moltaí a dhéanamh chun an Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála (nó chun Aire Stáit) i dtaobh nithe a bhaineann leis an Aontas Eorpach.  | (5) The Joint Committee shall have the power to make recommendations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (or Minister of State) on European Union matters.  |
| (6) Féadfaidh na daoine seo a leanas freastal ar chruinnithe den Chomhchoiste agus páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí gan ceart vótála a bheith acu ná ceart tairiscintí a dhéanamh ná leasuithe a thairiscint:<br><br>(a) Comhaltaí de Pharlaimint na hEorpa arna dtoghadh ó thoghlaigh in Éirinn, lena n-áirítear Tuaisceart Éireann,<br><br>(b) Comhaltaí de thoscaireacht na hÉireann chuig Tionól Parlaiminteach Chomhairle na hEorpa, agus<br><br>(c) ar chuireadh a fháil ón gCoiste, Comhaltaí eile de Pharlaimint na hEorpa. | (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:<br><br>(a) Members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies in Ireland, including Northern Ireland,<br><br>(b) Members of the Irish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and<br><br>(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   | (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.  |

## Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

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Oireachtais.

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

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

## APPENDIX 2: MEMBERSHIP

### *List of Members (Joint Committee)*

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <u>Chairman:</u> | Dominic Hannigan (Lab) <sup>1</sup>  |
| <u>Deputies:</u> | Eric Byrne TD (LAB) <sup>4</sup><br>Seán Crowe TD (SF) <sup>3</sup><br>Timmy Dooley TD (FF)<br>Bernard J. Durkan TD (FG)<br>John Halligan TD (IND) <sup>2</sup><br>Derek Keating TD (FG) <sup>7</sup><br>Seán Kyne TD (FG)<br>Joe O'Reilly TD (FG) |
| <u>Senators:</u> | Colm Burke (FG)<br>Terry Leyden (FF)<br>Aideen Hayden (LAB) <sup>6</sup><br>Catherine Noone (FG) <sup>5</sup><br>Kathryn Reilly (SF)   |

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

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### 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.

| <b>Meeting No. and Date</b> | <b>Topic</b>  | <b>Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended</b>   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|
| J126<br>15/1/2015           | Meeting cancelled   |   |
| J127<br>20/1/2015           | Latvia's Presidency Priorities  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>His Excellency Mr. Gints Apals, Ambassador of Latvia to Ireland</i></li> </ul>  |
| J128<br>29/1/2015           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Engagement on the European Commission Work Programme 2015.</li> <li>2. Engagement on the European Commission Work Programme 2015</li> </ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ms. Barbara Nolan, Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland and Mr. Jonathan Claridge, Head of the Political, Trade and Information Section in the European Commission</i></li> <li>• <i>Ms. Lynn Boylan, MEP; Mr. Matt Carthy, MEP; Mr. Sean Kelly, MEP; and Ms. Mairead McGuinness, MEP</i></li> </ul> |
| J129<br>10/2/2015           | United Kingdom: Possible Exit from the European Union (commonly referred to as 'BrExit'): An identification of the critical issues for Ireland.                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Colm McCarthy, Economist, University College Dublin</i></li> </ul>  |
| J130<br>12/2/2015           | United Kingdom: Possible Exit from the European Union (commonly referred to as 'BrExit'): Decision-making in the European Union.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Roland Freudenstein, Deputy Director &amp; Head of Research at the Centre for European Studies, Brussels; and Mr. Fabian Zuleeg, Chief Executive, European Policy Centre, Brussels</i></li> </ul>   |

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| <b>Meeting No. and Date</b> | <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended</b>  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| J131<br>17/2/2015           | United Kingdom: Possible Exit from the European Union (commonly referred to as 'BrExit'): The 'Four Freedoms' & Ireland/UK Economic Interdependence. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Steve Aiken, former Chief Executive of British-Irish Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Alan Matthews, Professor Emeritus of European Agricultural Policy in the Department of Economics, Trinity College Dublin; Ms. Siobhan Mullally, Professor of Law and Director of the Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights; Mr. Dáithí Ó Ceallaigh, Director of Corporate Affairs, The Institute of International and European Affairs</i></li> </ul> |
| J132<br>24/2/2015           | United Kingdom: Possible Exit from the European Union (commonly referred to as 'BrExit'): Ireland/UK Economic Interdependence.                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Joe Durkan, Lecturer, School of Economics, University College Dublin</i></li> </ul>  |
| J133<br>26/2/2015           | United Kingdom: Possible Exit from the European Union (commonly referred to as 'BrExit'): Treaty Protocols and Criminal Justice issues.              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Professor Imelda Maher, Sutherland Chair in European Law, UCD; and Mr. Eugene Regan, Senior Counsel</i></li> </ul>   |
| J134<br>5/3/2015            | United Kingdom: Possible Exit from the European Union (commonly referred to as 'BrExit')   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Dara Murphy TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for European Union Affairs; Baroness Quin, House of Lords; and Mr. Brendan Halligan, Chairman of the Institute of International and European Affairs</i></li> </ul>  |

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| <b>Meeting No. and Date</b> | <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended</b>  |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| J135<br>10/3/2015           | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Briefing on the forthcoming General Affairs Council (GAC) meeting to include briefing on the European Semester and Update on developments in Greece.</li> <li>2. United Kingdom: Possible Exit from the European Union (commonly referred to as 'BrExit')</li> </ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Dara Murphy TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs</i></li> <li>• <i>Sir Bill Cash MP</i></li> </ul>   |
| J136<br>12/3/2015           | Meeting cancelled  |  |
| J137<br>27/3/2015           | Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP)  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ms. Cecilia Malmström, Commissioner for Trade, European Commission, Brussels</i></li> </ul>  |
| J138<br>2/4/2015            | Engagement with the European Ombudsman   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ms. Emily O'Reilly, European Ombudsman</i></li> </ul>  |
| J139<br>16/4/2015           | United Kingdom: Possible Exit from the European Union (commonly referred to as 'BrExit'): Regional and Geopolitical Issues.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Professor Jennifer Todd, School of Politics and International Relations, UCD</i></li> </ul>  |
| J140<br>23/4/2015           | European Semester: Engagement on the National Reform Programme   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Minister Dara Murphy TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs.</i></li> <li>• <i>Representatives from the Committee of the Regions Cllr. Mary Freehill – Head of Delegation - Dublin City Council, Cllr. Neale Richmond – DLR Co. Council, Cllr. Maria Byrne – Limerick City &amp; Co. Council and Cllr. Enda Stenson - Leitrim Co. Council</i></li> </ul> |

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| <b>Meeting No. and Date</b> | <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended</b>   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| J141<br>29/4/2015           | European Migration Policy: Briefing on Crisis Situation in the Mediterranean Sea.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>H.E. Mr. Giovanni Adorni Braccesi Chiassi, Italian Ambassador, Mr. Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for Migration and International Development and Mr. Brian Killoran, Chief Executive of the Immigrant Council of Ireland</i></li> </ul> |
| J142<br>30/4/2015           | European Semester: Engagement on the National Reform Programme   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dr. Alan Barrett and Dr. Edgar Morgenroth, Economic and Social Research Institute</i></li> </ul>  |
| J143<br>7/5/2015            | Examination of "Changing Attitudes towards the European Union"   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ms. Liz Wall, National President, Irish Countrywomen's Association; Ms. Maureen Kavanagh, Chief Executive, Active Retirement Ireland; Representatives from Youth Work Ireland and Ms. Noelle O'Connell, European Movement Ireland</i></li> </ul>  |
| J144<br>14/5/2015           | <p>(i) The forthcoming General Affairs Council (GAC) meeting, <i>and</i></p> <p>(ii) European Commission Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs) for Ireland</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Dara Murphy TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs</i></li> </ul>   |
| J145<br>28/5/2015           | Private Meeting  |   |

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| <b>Meeting No. and Date</b> | <b>Topic</b>  | <b>Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended</b>  |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| J146<br>11/6/2015           | Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) – Update on Negotiations, including Investor State Dispute Mechanism  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Brian Cotter, American Chamber of Commerce Ireland; Mr. Colin Brown, European Commission, DG Trade, Dispute Settlement and Legal Aspects of Trade Policy; Mr. Tom Healy, Director, Nevin Economic Research Institute; Mr. Mark O'Mahoney, Chambers Ireland; and Ms. Patricia King, General Secretary, Irish Congress of Trade Unions]</i></li> </ul> |
| J147<br>18/6/2015           | <p><b>1.</b> Briefing on Country Specific Recommendations 2015 (Ireland)</p> <p><b>2.</b> Engagement on (i) Country Specific Recommendations 2015 (Ireland) (ii) Report on '<i>Better economic Governance of the Euro Area</i>' and (iii) Migration Crisis in the Mediterranean</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Seamus Coffey, Lecturer, University College Cork</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr. Dara Murphy TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs</i></li> </ul>   |
| J148<br>23/6/2015           | Engagement on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement (TTIP)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Richard Bruton, Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation</i></li> </ul>  |
| J149<br>8/7/2015            | Briefing on Luxembourg's Presidency Priorities  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>His Excellency Mr. Patrick Engelberg, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to Ireland</i></li> </ul>  |

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| <b>Meeting No. and Date</b> | <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended</b>   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| J150<br>23/9/2015           | Engagement on the Migration/Refugee Crisis in the EU   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ms. Barbara Nolan, Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland].</i></li> <li>• <i>His Excellency Mr. Matthias Höpfner, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Ireland;</i></li> <li>• <i>His Excellency Mr. Giovanni Adorni Braccesi, Ambassador of Italy to Ireland;</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr. Piotr Rakowski, Charge d’Affaire, Embassy of the Republic of Poland].</i></li> </ul> |
| J151<br>24/9/2015           | Briefing on the Five Presidents’ report on ‘Completing Europe’s Economic and Monetary Union’   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. José Leandro, Director for Policy Strategy and Coordination, Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN), European Commission</i></li> </ul>  |
| J152<br>1/10/2015           | Briefing on the Five Presidents’ report on ‘Completing Europe’s Economic and Monetary Union’   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Seamus Coffey, Lecturer, University College Cork</i></li> <li>• <i>Professor Gavin Barrett, University College Dublin</i></li> </ul>  |
| J153<br>8/10/2015           | Meeting cancelled  |   |
| J154<br>21/10/2015          | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.</b> European Movement Ireland: Accountability Report 2014</li> <li><b>2.</b> Better Europe Alliance: ‘Response to 2015 Country Specific Recommendations for Ireland’</li> </ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ms. Noelle O’Connell, Executive Director, European Movement Ireland</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr. Paul Ginnell, European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland; Ms. Audry Deane, Society of St Vincent de Paul; Ms. Joan O’Donnell, Disability Federation of Ireland</i></li> </ul>  |
| J155<br>4/11/2015           | Briefing on the Five Presidents’ Report on ‘Completing Europe’s Economic and Monetary Union’ (resumed)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Michael Tutty, Economic Governance Group, Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA).</i></li> <li>• <i>Mr. Alan Dukes, Economic Governance Group, Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA).</i></li> </ul>   |

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| <b>Meeting No. and Date</b> | <b>Topic</b>   | <b>Organisations, Groups and Individuals who attended</b>   |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| J156<br>12/11/2015          | The forthcoming General Affairs Council (GAC) meeting                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Dara Murphy TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs</i></li> </ul>                                   |
| J157<br>25/11/2015          | UK/EU Future Relationship Referendum: Implications for Ireland ('BrExit')                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Jonathan Faull, Director General, Task Force for Strategic Issues related to the UK Referendum, EU Commission.</i></li> </ul>       |
| J158<br>26/11/2015          | Engagement on the terror attacks in Paris<br><br>European Commission Work Programme 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>H.E. Jean Pierre Thebault, Ambassador of France to Ireland</i></li> <li>• <i>Phil Hogan, European Union Commissioner</i></li> </ul> |
| J159<br>16/12/2015          | European Court of Auditors Annual Report 2014  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mr. Kevin Cardiff, Member of the European Court of Auditors</i></li> </ul>  |

## **APPENDIX 4: Minutes of Proceedings of the Joint Committee**

### **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

#### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 20 JANUARY 2015**

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

- 2. ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

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

Senators: Colm Burke, Aideen Hayden and Terry Leyden.

- 3. MEETING SUSPENSION**

The Committee agreed to suspend the meeting at 2.07 p.m.

- 4. PUBLIC SESSION**

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

- 5. LATVIAN PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES** [*H.E. DR. GINTS APALS, THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA TO IRELAND; MRS VIJA BUŠA, COUNSELLOR AT THE LATVIAN EMBASSY TO IRELAND; AND MS. RITA ZALITE, THIRD SECRETARY AT THE LATVIAN EMBASSY TO IRELAND*]

The Committee met the Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia to Ireland to discuss the priorities of Latvian Presidency of the European Council. Following a presentation by the Ambassador, a question and answer session with the Members ensued.

On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Ambassador for his contribution to the meeting and wished the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union every success.

- 6. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 3.34 p.m.

**7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3.36 p.m. until Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> January.

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Dominic Hannigan T.D  
Chairman

29 January 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 29 JANUARY 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.33 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Seán Crowe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Dominic Hannigan (Chairman) and Derek Keating.

Senators: Eamonn Coghlan substitute for Catherine Noone.

Apologies were received from Deputies John Halligan and Joe O'Reilly; and Senators Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

3. **PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 2.33 p.m.

4. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

5. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

6. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

7. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

8. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

9. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

10. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

11. **PUBLIC SESSION**

The Committee went into public session at 2.58 p.m.

**12. EUROPEAN COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2015** *[Ms. BARBARA NOLAN, HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN IRELAND AND Mr. JONATHAN CLARIDGE, POLITICAL SECTION EUROPEAN COMMISSION OFFICE, DUBLIN]*

The Committee met with Ms. Barbara Nolan and Mr. Jonathan Claridge of the European Commission Office, Dublin, to discuss the European Commission Work Programme (2015). Following a presentation by Ms. Nolan, a question and answer session with the Members ensued.

On conclusion, the Chairman thanked Ms. Nolan for her contribution to the meeting.

**13. EUROPEAN COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2015** *[Ms. LYNN BOYLAN MEP, Mr. MATT CARTHY MEP, Mr. SEÁN KELLY MEP AND Ms. MAIREAD MCGUINNESS MEP]*

The Committee met with Irish MEPs, Ms. Lynn Boylan, Mr. Matt Carthy, Mr. Séan Keely and Ms. Máiread McGuinness to discuss the European Commission Work Programme (2015). Following opening statements by each MEP, a debate on the work programme ensued.

On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the MEPs for attending Committee and for their respective contribution to the debate on issue.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 4.30 p.m. until Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February.

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Dominic Hannigan T.D  
Chairman

10 February 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 29 JANUARY 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.33 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Seán Crowe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Dominic Hannigan (Chairman) and Derek Keating.

Senators: Eamonn Coghlan substitute for Catherine Noone.

Apologies were received from Deputies John Halligan and Joe O'Reilly; and Senators Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

3. **PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 2.33 p.m.

4. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION.**

5. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

6. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

7. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

8. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

9. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

10. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

11. **PUBLIC SESSION**

The Committee went into public session at 2.58 p.m.

**12. EUROPEAN COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2015** *[Ms. BARBARA NOLAN, HEAD OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATION IN IRELAND AND Mr. JONATHAN CLARIDGE, POLITICAL SECTION EUROPEAN COMMISSION OFFICE, DUBLIN]*

The Committee met with Ms. Barbara Nolan and Mr. Jonathan Claridge of the European Commission Office, Dublin, to discuss the European Commission Work Programme (2015). Following a presentation by Ms. Nolan, a question and answer session with the Members ensued.

On conclusion, the Chairman thanked Ms. Nolan for her contribution to the meeting.

**13. EUROPEAN COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2015** *[Ms. LYNN BOYLAN MEP, Mr. MATT CARTHY MEP, Mr. SEÁN KELLY MEP AND Ms. MAIREAD MCGUINNESS MEP]*

The Committee met with Irish MEPs, Ms. Lynn Boylan, Mr. Matt Carthy, Mr. Séan Keely and Ms. Máiread McGuinness to discuss the European Commission Work Programme (2015). Following opening statements by each MEP, a debate on the work programme ensued.

On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the MEPs for attending Committee and for their respective contribution to the debate on issue.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 4.30 p.m. until Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> February.

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Dominic Hannigan T.D  
Chairman

10 February 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 12 FEBRUARY 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.09 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Seán Crowe, Bernard Durkan, Dominic Hannigan (Chairman), Derek Keating and Seán Kyne.

Senators: Colm Burke, Aileen Hayden, and Terry Leyden.

3. **UNITED KINGDOM: POSSIBLE EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (BREXIT): AN IDENTIFICATION OF THE CRITICAL ISSUES FOR IRELAND** [*MR. FABIAN ZULEEG AND MR. ROLAND FREUDENSTEIN*]

The Committee met with Mr. Fabian Zuleeg and Mr. Roland Freudenstein to continue its consideration of the possible exit by the United Kingdom from the European Union and the implications for Ireland in such an event. Mr. Roland Freudenstein made an opening statement to the Committee which was followed by an opening statement by Mr. Fabian Zuleeg.

Following opening statements, a question and answer session with the Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked both witnesses for their contribution to the meeting.

4. **CONSIDERATION OF PRIVATE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the private agenda items until its next meeting.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3.31 p.m. until Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> February.

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Dominic Hannigan T.D  
Chairman  
17 February 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 17 FEBRUARY 2015**

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

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

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

Senators: Aileen Hayden, Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

Apologies were received from Senator Colm Burke.

3. **Suspension of Meeting**

The Committee agreed to suspend the meeting at 2.06 p.m. The meeting resumed in private session at 2.08 p.m.

4. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

5. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

6. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

7. **PUBLIC SESSION**

The Committee went into public session at 2.10 p.m.

8. **UNITED KINGDOM: POSSIBLE EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (BREXIT): THE 'FOUR FREEDOMS' & IRELAND/UK ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE.** [*Mr. Steve Aiken, former Chief Executive of British-Irish Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Alan Matthews, Professor Emeritus of European Agricultural Policy in the Department of Economics, Trinity College Dublin; Ms. Siobhan Mullally, Professor of Law and Director of the Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights; Mr. Dáithí Ó Ceallaigh, Director of Corporate Affairs, The Institute of International and European Affairs*]

The Committee met with Mr. Steve Aiken, Professor Alan Matthews, Professor Siobhan Mullally and Mr. Dáithí Ó Ceallaigh to continue its consideration of the possible exit by the United Kingdom from the European Union and the implications for Ireland in such an event.

Following opening statements by the witnesses, a question and answer session with the Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for their respective contributions to the meeting.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3.39 p.m. until Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> February.

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Dominic Hannigan T.D  
Chairman

24 February 2015

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 24 FEBRUARY 2015**

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

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

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

Senators: Colm Burke, Aideen Hayden, Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

3. **UNITED KINGDOM: POSSIBLE EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (BREXIT): IRELAND/UK ECONOMIC INTERDEPENDENCE.** [*Mr. Joe Durkan, UCD School of Economics*]

The Committee met with Mr. Joe Durkan to continue its consideration of the implications for Ireland of a possible exit by the United Kingdom from the European Union and in such an event.

Following an opening statement by the witness, a question and answer session with the Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Mr. Durkan for his contribution to the meeting.

4. **PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 3.02 p.m.

5. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

6. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

7. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3.11 p.m. until Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> February.

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Dominic Hannigan T.D  
Chairman

26 February 2015

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 26 FEBRUARY 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.09 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

### **2. ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan and Derek Keating.

Senators: Colm Burke, Aideen Hayden, Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

Apologies were received from Deputies Dominic Hannigan, Seán Crowe and Seán Kyne.

### **3. ELECTION OF TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN**

In the unavoidable absence of the Chair, the Clerk to the Committee invited nominations for a temporary Chairman. Senator Leyden proposed Deputy Durkan and this was agreed by the Committee.

Deputy Durkan assumed the Chair.

### **4. UNITED KINGDOM: POSSIBLE EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (BREXIT): TREATY PROTOCOLS AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES. [Professor Imelda Maher, Sutherland Chair in European Law; and Mr. Eugene Regan, Senior Counsel]**

The Committee met with Professor Imelda Maher and Mr. Eugene Regan SC to continue its consideration of the implications for Ireland of a possible exit by the United Kingdom from the European Union and in such an event.

Following opening statements by the witnesses, a question and answer session with the Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for their contribution to the meeting.

### **5. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 3.19 p.m.

### **6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

### **7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

### **8. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3.25 p.m. until Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March.

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Dominic Hannigan T.D  
Chairman

10 March 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 5 MARCH 2015**

The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.44 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **1. ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Bernard Durkan, Derek Keating, Seán Kyne (vice-Chairman) and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators: Aideen Hayden and Terry Leyden.

Apologies were received from Deputies Dominic Hannigan and Seán Crowe.

#### **2. UNITED KINGDOM: POSSIBLE EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (BREXIT) [BARONESS QUIN, HOUSE OF LORDS; AND MR. BRENDAN HALLIGAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE *Institute of International and European Affairs*]**

The Committee met with the Baroness Quin and Mr. Brendan Halligan to continue its consideration of the implications for Ireland of a possible exit by the United Kingdom from the European Union and in such an event.

Following opening statements by the witnesses, a question and answer session with the Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for their contribution to the meeting.

#### **3. MEETING SUSPENDED**

The meeting was suspended at 3.36 p.m. The meeting resumed in public session at 3.40 p.m.

#### **4. UNITED KINGDOM: POSSIBLE EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (BREXIT) [Mr. Dara Murphy TD, Minister of State for European Affairs]**

The Committee met with the Minister to continue its consideration of the implications for Ireland of a possible exit by the United Kingdom from the European Union and in such an event.

Following opening statements by the Minister, a question and answer session with the Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Minister for his contribution to the meeting.

#### **5. PRIVATE SESSION**

It was agreed that matters under consideration in private session be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 4.19 p.m. until Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March.

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Dominic Hannigan T.D  
Chairman

10 March 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 10 MARCH 2015**

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

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

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

Senators: Colm Burke, Aideen Hayden and Kathryn Reilly.

Apologies were received from Deputy Joe O'Reilly and Senator Terry Leyden.

3. **SESSION 1: BRIEFING ON THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC) INCLUDING THE EUROPEAN SEMESTER AND DEVELOPMENTS IN GREECE** [*Mr. Dara Murphy TD, Minister of State for European Affairs*]

The committee met with the Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs, Dara Murphy TD, to be briefed on the forthcoming General Affairs Council meeting scheduled for 17 March. The briefing included updates on the European Semester and developments in Greece.

Following a presentation by the Minister, a question and answer session with the Members ensued, during which the Chairman requested that the Minister raise the issue of Macedonia at the GAC meeting. The Minister undertook to do so.

In relation to the European Semester, the Minister indicated that if invited, he would meet with the Committee to discuss the draft National Reform Programme with members. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Minister for his engagement, confirmed that the Committee would wish to discuss the draft National Reform Programme with the Minister.

4. **MEETING SUSPENDED**

The meeting was suspended at 2.55 p.m. The meeting resumed in public session at 3.01 p.m.

5. **SESSION 2: UNITED KINGDOM: POSSIBLE EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (BREXIT)** [*Sir Bill Cash, MP*]

The Committee met with Sir Bill Cash, MP to continue its consideration of the implications for Ireland of a possible exit by the United Kingdom from the European Union and in such an event. Following an opening statement by the witness, a

question and answer session with the Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witness for his contribution to the meeting.

**6. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 4.09 p.m.

**7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

**8. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

**9. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 4.18 p.m. until Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> March.

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Dominic Hannigan T.D  
Chairman

12 March 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 27 MARCH 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.20 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Bernard J. Durkan, Andrew Doyle, Anthony Lawlor, Marcela Corcoran Kennedy, Derek Keating and Dominic Hannigan (Chair).

Senators: Séan Barrett, Colm Burke, Aideen Hayden, Terry Leyden and Catherine Noone.

Apologies were received from Deputies Seán Crowe and Seán Kyne.

The following Members of the European Parliament were present:

MEPs: Lynn Boylan and Matt Carthy.

3. **TRANSATLANTIC TRADE AND INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (TTIP)** [*Ms Cecilia Malmstrom, EU Commissioner for Trade*].

The Committee met the EU Commissioner for Trade, Ms Cecilia Malmstrom to discuss the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership Agreement (TTIP). Following an opening statement by the EU Commissioner, a question and answer session with the Members and with MEPs ensued.

On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Commissioner for her attendance and for her contribution to the debate.

4. **SUSPENSION OF MEETING**

The meeting was suspended at 3.05 p.m. The Committee resumed in Public Session at 3.07 p.m.

5. **PRIVATE SESSION**

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

6. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

7. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3.08 p.m. until Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

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Dominic Hannigan T.D  
Chairman

10 March 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 2<sup>ND</sup> APRIL 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.08 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Dominic Hannigan (Chair), Derek Keating and Séan Kyne.

Senators: Senator Terry Leyden and Jillian Van Turnhout

Apologies were received from Deputy Joe O'Reilly and Senator Kathryn Reilly.

#### **3. ENGAGEMENT WITH EU OMBUDSMAN [*Ms Emily O'Reilly, EU OMBUDSMAN*].**

The Committee met the EU Ombudsman Ms. Emily O'Reilly to discuss the activities of her office, including her work on TTIP. Following an opening statement by the EU Ombudsman, a question and answer session with the Members ensued.

On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the EU Ombudsman for attending the meeting.

#### **4. SUSPENSION OF MEETING**

The meeting was suspended at 14.57 p.m. The Committee resumed in Public Session at 14.59 p.m.

#### **5. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 14.59 p.m.

#### **6. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

#### **7. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

#### **8. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

#### **9. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

#### **10. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3.10 p.m. until Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> April.

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Dominic Hannigan T.D  
Chairman

16 April 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.07 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Dominic Hannigan (Chair), Joe O Reilly.

Senators: Senators Colm Burke, Aideen Hayden, Terry Leyden and Diarmuid Wilson.

Apologies were received from Deputy Séan Crowe.

3. **UNITED KINGDOM: POSSIBLE EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (BREXIT)[*PROFESSOR JENNIFER TODD*]**

The Committee met with Professor Jennifer Todd to continue its consideration of the implications for Ireland, and in particular on North South relations, of a possible exit by the United Kingdom from the European Union. Following an opening statement by the witness, a question and answer session with the Members ensued.

4. **SUSPENSION OF MEETING**

The meeting was suspended at 14.32 p.m. The Committee resumed in Public Session at 14.47 p.m.

5. **UNITED KINGDOM: POSSIBLE EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION (BREXIT)[*PROFESSOR JENNIFER TODD*] (RESUMED)**

The discussion resumed and upon its conclusion the Chairman thanked the witness for her contribution to the meeting.

6. **PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 15.06 p.m.

7. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

8. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 15.14 p.m. until Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

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Dominic Hannigan T.D  
Chairman

23 April 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 23<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.11 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Séan Crowe, Bernard Durkan, Dominic Hannigan (Chair), and Derek Keating.

Senators: Colm Burke and Aideen Hayden.

Senator Michael Mullins also attended.

Apologies were received from Deputies John Halligan, Séan Kyne and Joe O'Reilly and Senators Catherine Noone and Katherine Reilly.

3. **EUROPEAN SEMESTER: ENGAGEMENT ON THE NATIONAL REFORM PROGRAMME [MINISTER DARA MURPHY TD, MINISTER OF STATE FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS]**

The Committee met with the Minister for European Affairs, Mr. Dara Murphy TD, to discuss the draft National Reform Programme, which is a key Member State input to the annual European Semester process of economic policy co-ordination. The Minister also briefed the Committee on the outcome of the General Affairs Council meeting held on Tuesday, 21 April.

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

4. **SUSPENSION OF MEETING**

The meeting was suspended at 3.21 p.m. The Committee resumed in Public Session at 3.24 p.m.

5. **EUROPEAN SEMESTER: ENGAGEMENT ON THE NATIONAL REFORM PROGRAMME (RESUMED) [REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS CLLR. MARY FREEHILL, CLLR. NEALE RICHMOND, CLLR. MARIA BYRNE, AND CLLR. ENDA STENSON]**

The discussion on the draft National Reform Programme resumed with delegates from the Committee of the Regions. Following opening statements by the

delegates, a question and answer session with the Members ensued. On conclusion the Chairman thanked the witnesses for their contributions to the meeting, which will be reflected in the Committee's final submission on the issue.

**6. SUSPENSION OF MEETING**

The meeting was suspended at 4.35 p.m. The Committee resumed in Public Session at 4.37 p.m.

**7. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 4.37 p.m.

**8. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

**9. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

**10. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 4.42 p.m. until Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April.

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Seán Kyne T.D  
Vice-Chairman

14 May 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 29<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 12.18 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Séan Crowe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Dominic Hannigan (Chair) and Sean Kyne.

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

Apologies were received from Deputy Joe O'Reilly.

3. **EUROPEAN MIGRATION POLICY: BRIEFING ON CRISIS SITUATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA [H.E. MR. GIOVANNI ADORNI BRACCESI CHIASSI, ITALIAN AMBASSADOR, MR. PETER SUTHERLAND, SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR MIGRATION AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MR. BRIAN KILLORAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE IMMIGRANT COUNCIL OF IRELAND]**

The Committee met with the Italian Ambassador, Mr. Giovanni Adorni Braccesi Chiassi, Mr. Peter Sutherland, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Migration and International Development and Mr. Brian Killoran, Chief Executive of the Immigrant Council of Ireland, to be briefed on and discuss the migrant crisis situation in the Mediterranean Sea and the European Migration Policy.

Following opening statements by the witnesses, a question and answer session with the Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for their respective contributions to the meeting. The Chair informed the meeting that it was the Committee's intention to follow up with the Taoiseach Office on this matter.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 1.39 p.m. until Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> April.

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Seán Kyne T.D  
Vice-Chairman  
14 May 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.08 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Dominic Hannigan (Chair), John Halligan and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators: Colm Burke.

Apologies were received from Deputies Eric Byrne, Derek Keating, Séan Kyne and Senators Aideen Hayden, Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

3. **EUROPEAN SEMESTER: ENGAGEMENT ON THE NATIONAL REFORM PROGRAMME (*Resumed*) [*Professor ALAN BARRETT AND PROFESSOR EDGAR MORGENROTH, ERSI*]**

The Committee met with the Professors Alan Barrett and Edgar Morgenroth of the Economic and Social Research Institute to discuss their independent analysis the draft National Reform Programme, which is a key Member State input to the annual European Semester process of economic policy co-ordination.

Following an opening statement by Professor Barrett, a question and answer session with the Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for their work on behalf of the Committee and for their contribution to the meeting.

4. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3.10 p.m. until Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> May.

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Seán Kyne T.D  
Vice-Chairman

14 May 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.05 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Séan Crowe, Bernard Durkan, John Halligan, Dominic Hannigan (Chair), Derek Keating and Séan Kyne.

Senators: Colm Burke, Terry Leyden and Catherine Noone.

Apologies were received from Deputies Timmy Dooley, Joe O'Reilly and Senator Kathryn Reilly.

3. **"Changing Attitudes towards the European Union" [Ms. Liz Wall, National President, Irish Countrywomen's Association; Ms. Maureen Kavanagh, Chief Executive, Active Retirement Ireland; Representatives from Youth Work Ireland and Ms. Noelle O'Connell, European Movement Ireland]**

**Briefing on the TTIP; [Mr. Mark Redmond, American Chamber of Commerce Ireland; Mr. Colin Brown, European Commission; Mr. Tom Healy, Director, Nevin Economic Research Institute; Mr. Mark O'Mahoney, Chambers Ireland; and Ms. Patricia King, General Secretary, Irish Congress of Trade Unions]**

The Committee met with the citizen groups, 'The Irish Country Women's Association', 'Active Retirement Ireland' and 'Youth Work Ireland' and also with European Movement Ireland, to discuss the topic of "Changing Attitudes towards the European Union", as part of Oireachtas events to mark Europe Day.

Following opening statements by representatives from each group, a question and answer session with Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for their engagement with the Committee.

4. **PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 3.02 p.m.

5. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

6. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3.03 p.m. until Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May.

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Séan Kyne T.D  
Vice-Chairman

14 May 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.05 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Bernard Durkan, Séan Kyne and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators: Colm Burke and Terry Leyden.

Apologies were received from Deputies Eric Byrne, Séan Crowe Timmy Dooley, John Halligan, Dominic Hannigan and Derek Keating and Senator Kathryn Reilly

Deputy Brian Stanley also attended.

3. In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chair, Deputy Séan Kyne assumed the Chair.

4. **PRIVATE SESSION**

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

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. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

10. **PUBLIC SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 2.14 p.m.

11. **BRIEFING ON THE GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL AND THE EU COMMISSION COUNTRY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IRELAND (EUROPEAN SEMESTER); [*DARA MURPHY, T.D. MINISTER FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS*]**

The committee met with the Minister of State with special responsibility for

European Affairs, Dara Murphy TD, and was briefed on the forthcoming General Affairs Council meeting scheduled for 19 May. The briefing included an update on the European Semester, specifically the Country Specific Recommendations for Ireland.

Following a presentation by the Minister, a question and answer session with the Members ensued. In conclusion, the Vice-Chair thanked the Minister for his engagement with the Committee.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3.11 p.m. *sine die*.

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Dominic Hannigan T.D  
Chairman

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in Private session at 2.08 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.
2. **ATTENDANCE**  
The following Members were present:  
Deputies: Dominic Hannigan, Bernard Durkan, Derek Keating, Séan Kyne and Joe O'Reilly.  
Senators: Aileen Hayden.  
Apologies were received from Deputy Séan Crowe.
3. In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chair, Deputy Séan Kyne, assumed the Chair.
4. **SUSPENSION**  
The meeting was suspended at 2.09 p.m. The Committee resumed in Private Session at 2.13 p.m.
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. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**
10. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**
11. **ADJOURNMENT**  
The Committee adjourned at 2.37 p.m. until 2 p.m. on 11 June.

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Séan Kyne T.D.

Vice-Chair

11 June 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in Public session at 2.11 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Bernard Durkan, Derek Keating, Séan Kyne, and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators: Terry Leyden.

Deputy Sandra McLellan substituted for Senator Kathryn Reilly in accordance with Dáil S.O. 92 (2)

Apologies were received from Deputies Dominic Hannigan, Séan Crowe, Timmy Dooley, and Senator Aideen Hayden.

3. In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chair, Deputy Séan Kyne, assumed the Chair.

4. **SUSPENSION**

The meeting was suspended at 2.13 p.m. The Committee resumed in Public Session at 2.14 p.m.

5. **BRIEFING ON TTIP; [MR. COLIN BROWN, EUROPEAN COMMISSION; MR. TOM HEALY, DIRECTOR, NEVIN ECONOMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE; MR. MARK REDMOND, AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IRELAND; MR. MARK O'MAHONEY, CHAMBERS IRELAND; MS. PATRICIA KING, IRISH CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS]**

The Committee met with representatives from the European Commission, Nevin Economic Research Institute, American Chamber of Commerce Ireland, Chambers Ireland, and Irish Congress of Trade Unions, to discuss the continuing negotiations for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement.

Following opening statements by the representatives from each group, a question and answer session with Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for their engagement with the Committee.

6. **Private Session**

The Committee went into private session at 3.34 p.m.

7. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

8. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

9. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION.**

**10. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3.37 p.m. sine die

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Dominic Hannigan T.D.  
Chairman  
18 June 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in Public session at 1.35 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Bernard Durkan, John Halligan, Derek Keating, Séan Kyne, and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators: Colm Burke, Aideen Hayden, Terry Leyden, and Kathryn Reilly.

Deputy Sandra McLellan substituted for Senator Kathryn Reilly in accordance with Dáil S.O. 92 (2)

Apologies were received from Deputy Sean Crowe.

3. **SUSPENSION**

The meeting was suspended at 1.36 p.m.

The Committee resumed in Public Session at 1.38 p.m.

4. **SESSION A: BRIEFING ON COUNTRY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS 2015 (IRELAND).  
[MR. SEAMUS COFFEY, LECTURER, UCC]**

The Committee met with Mr. Seamus Coffey to discuss the European Commission Country Specific Recommendations for Ireland.

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

5. **SUSPENSION**

The meeting was suspended at 2.05 p.m.

The Committee resumed in Public Session at 2.07 p.m.

6. **SESSION B: ENGAGEMENT ON (1) COUNTRY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS 2015 (IRELAND) (2) REPORT ON 'BETTER ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE OF THE EURO AREA' AND (3) MIGRATION CRISIS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN [MINISTER FOR STATE FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, DARA MURPHY T.D.]**

The Committee met with the Minister for European Affairs, Mr. Dara Murphy TD to discuss the European Commission Country Specific Recommendations for Ireland; the Report on 'Better economic Governance of the Euro Area' and the Migration Crisis in the Mediterranean. The Minister also briefed the Committee on the progress of the ongoing Greek funding negotiations.

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

**7. Private Session**

The Committee went into private session at 3.04 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. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3.07 p.m. *sine die*

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Mr. Seán Kyne T.D.  
Vice-Chairman

8 July 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2015**

1. A joint meeting of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, the Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the was held, a quorum being present.

The Committees met in Public Session at 1.36 p.m. in Committee Room 3, Leinster House 2000.

#### **2. Attendance**

The following Members were present at the meeting:

##### **Joint Committee on European Union Affairs**

Deputies Seán Kyne, Eric Byrne, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, and John Halligan.

Apologies were received from Deputies Dominic Hannigan, Sean Crowe, Joe O'Reilly and Senator Terry Leydon.

##### **Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation**

Deputies Marcella Corcoran-Kennedy (Chair), Anthony Lawlor, John Lyons, and Peadar Tóibín.

Senators Hildegard-Naughton and Feargal Quinn.

Apologies were received from Deputies Dara Calleary, Michael Conaghan and Senator Mary White.

##### **Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine**

Deputies Andrew Doyle, Pat Deering, Martin Ferris, Éamon Ó Cuív, Willie Penrose and Thomas Pringle.

Senators Michael Comiskey, Mary Ann O'Brien and Pat O'Neill.

Apologies were received from Deputy Michael McNamara.

In accordance with Dáil Standing Order 92(3) Deputy Arthur Spring attended the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Marcella Corcoran Kennedy, Chair of the Joint Committee on Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation. She was joined by Deputy Andrew

Doyle, Chair of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Deputy Seán Kyne, Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs.

***The meeting was suspended at 1.36pm until 1.41pm***

### **3. Engagement on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership.**

Deputy Corcoran Kennedy welcomed the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton T.D. to the meeting to discuss the negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership. Deputy Corcoran Kennedy proceeded to make an opening statement on the issue. This was followed by an opening statement by Minister Bruton.

Deputy Corcoran Kennedy asked questions to the Minister which were followed by questions from Deputy Andrew Doyle, Chair of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

Deputy Seán Kyne, Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs made a short statement and put questions to the Minister. Minister Bruton responded to the questions put by the Chairpersons.

Deputy Corcoran Kennedy subsequently invited questions from the other members in attendance. Debate ensued.

On conclusion, the Chair, on behalf of three Joint Committees, thanked Minister Bruton and his officials for attending the meeting, stating that it had been constructive and informative engagement.

### **4. Adjournment.**

The meeting adjourned at 3.28 pm *sine die*.

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Mr. Seán Kyne,  
Vice-Chairman.

8 July 2015

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in Public session at 12.17 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.
2. **ATTENDANCE**  
The following Members were present:  
  
Deputies: Bernard Durkan, John Halligan and Joe O'Reilly.  
  
Senators: Colm Burke, Aideen Hayden and Terry Leyden.  
  
Apologies were received from the Chairman, Deputy Dominic Hannigan and Deputies Sean Crowe and Derek Keating.
3. In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Deputy Séan Kyne took the Chair.
4. **SUSPENSION**  
The meeting was suspended at 12.18 p.m.  
  
The Committee resumed in Public Session at 12.19 p.m.
5. **THE PRESIDENCY PRIORITIES OF LUXEMBOURG [*HIS EXCELLENCY MR. PATRICK ENGELBERG, AMBASSADOR OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG TO IRELAND*]**  
The Committee met with His Excellency Mr. Patrick Engelberg, Ambassador of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg to Ireland to discuss the Presidency Priorities of Luxembourg.  
  
Following an opening statement by the Ambassador, a question and answer session with Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Ambassador for his engagement with the Committee.
6. **PRIVATE SESSION**  
The Committee went into private session at 13.24 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. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 13.28 p.m. *sine die*

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Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.  
Chairman

23 September, 2015.

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 23<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in Public session at 12.37 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Bernard Durkan, Dominic Hannigan (*Chairman*), Derek Keating and Séan Kyne.

Senators: Aileen Hayden, Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

Apologies were received from the Deputies Séan Crowe, Joe O'Reilly and Senator Colm Burke.

3. **PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 12.37 p.m.

4. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

5. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

6. **SUSPENSION**

The meeting was suspended at 12.40 p.m.

The Committee resumed in Public Session at 12.42 p.m.

7. **THE ENGAGEMENT ON THE MIGRATION/REFUGEE CRISIS IN THE EU**

The Committee met with Ms. Barbara Nolan, Head of the EU Commission in Ireland to discuss the Migration/Refugee Crisis in the EU.

Following an opening statement by Ms. Nolan, a question and answer session with Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witness for her engagement with the Committee.

8. **SUSPENSION**

The meeting was suspended at 13.24 p.m.

The Committee resumed in Public Session at 13.26 p.m.

9. **THE ENGAGEMENT ON THE MIGRATION/REFUGEE CRISIS IN THE EU (*CONTINUED*)**

The Committee met with Mr. Matthias Höpfner, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Ireland, Mr. Giovanni A. Braccisi Chiassi, Ambassador of Italy to Ireland and Mr. Piotr Rakowski, Charge d'Affaire, Embassy of the Republic of Poland to discuss the Migration/Refugee Crisis in the EU.

Following an opening statement by each witness, a question and answer session with Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for their engagement with the Committee.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 14.15 p.m. until Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> September at 2pm.

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Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.  
Chairman

24 September, 2015.

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in Public session at 2.06 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Dominic Hannigan (*Chairman*) and Derek Keating, Séan Kyne.

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

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

3. **PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 2.06 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 2.09 p.m.

The Committee resumed in Public Session at 2.10 p.m.

9. **COMPLETION OF EUROPE'S ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION**

The Committee met with Mr. Jose Leandro, Director for Policy Strategy and Coordination, Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs (DG ECFIN), European Commission to discuss the 5 Presidents' Report on Completion of Europe's Economic and Monetary Union.

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

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 2.53 p.m. until Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> October at 2 p.m.

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Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.  
Chairman

1 October, 2015.

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.07 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Sean Crowe, Timmy Dooley, Dominic Hannigan (*Chairman*) and Séan Kyne.

Senator Colm Burke.

Deputy Robert Dowds attended as a substitute for Deputy Bernard Durkan.

Apologies were received from Deputies Bernard Durkan, John Halligan and Joe O'Reilly and Senator Aideen Hayden

3. **PRIVATE SESSION**

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

4. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

5. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

6. **SUSPENSION**

The meeting was suspended at 2.09 p.m.

The Committee resumed in public session at 2.11 p.m.

7. **COMPLETION OF EUROPE'S ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION (*RESUMED*)**

The Committee met with Dr. Seamus Coffey, University College Cork and Professor Gavin Barrett, University College Dublin, to continue its engagement on the 5 Presidents' Report on Completion of Europe's Economic and Monetary Union.

8. The Vice-Chairman, Deputy Séan Kyne assumed the Chair at 2.56 p.m.

9. **COMPLETION OF EUROPE'S ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION (*RESUMED*)**

Following opening statements by Dr. Seamus Coffey and Professor Gavin Barrett, a question and answer session with Members ensued. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for their engagement with the Committee.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3.03 p.m. until Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> October at 2 p.m.

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Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.  
Chairman

21 October, 2015.

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 12.20 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Timmy Dooley, John Halligan, Dominic Hannigan (*Chairman*), Derek Keating, Séan Kyne and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators Aideen Hayden and Terry Leyden.

3. **PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 12.20 p.m.

4. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

5. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

6. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

7. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

8. **SUSPENSION**

The meeting was suspended at 12.24 p.m.

The Committee resumed in public session at 12.26 p.m.

9. **EUROPEAN MOVEMENT IRELAND: ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT 2014**

The Committee met with Ms. Noelle O'Connell, European Movement Ireland to discuss the European Movement Ireland 'Accountability Report 2014'.

Following an opening statement by Ms. O'Connell, a question and answer session with Members ensued. Upon conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witness for her engagement with the Committee.

10. **SUSPENSION**

The meeting was suspended at 1.00 p.m.

The Committee resumed in public session at 1.06 p.m.

#### **11. BETTER EUROPE ALLIANCE: 'RESPONSE TO 2015 COUNTRY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IRELAND'**

The Committee met with representatives of the Better Europe Alliance, Mr Paul Ginnell, European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland; Ms Audry Deane, Society of St Vincent de Paul; Ms Joan O'Donnell, Disability Federation of Ireland to discuss the Better Europe Alliance response to 2015 Country Specific Recommendations for Ireland.

Following an opening statement by Mr. Ginnell, a question and answer session with Members ensued. Upon conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for their engagement with the Committee.

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 1.43 p.m. until Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> November at 1.15 p.m.

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Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.  
Chairman

4 November, 2015.

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 1.34 p.m. in Committee Room 1, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Bernard Durkan, Sean Crowe, John Halligan, Dominic Hannigan (*Chairman*), Derek Keating and Séan Kyne.

Senators: Colm Burke and Kathryn Reilly.

Apologies received from Deputies Timmy Dooley and Joe O'Reilly, and Senators Terry Leyden and Aideen Hayden.

3. **PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 1.34 p.m.

4. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

5. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

6. **SUSPENSION**

The meeting was suspended at 1.38p.m.

The Committee resumed in public session at 1.40 p.m.

7. **FIVE PRESIDENTS' REPORT 'COMPLETION OF EUROPE'S ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION' (RESUMED)**

The Committee met with Mr. Michael Tutty and Mr. Alan Dukes, Economic Governance Group, Institute of International and European Union Affairs (IIEA) to continue its consideration of the Five Presidents' Report 'Completion of Europe's Economic and Monetary Union'.

Following an opening statement by Mr. Michael Tutty, a question and answer session with Members ensued with both witnesses. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the witnesses for their engagement with the Committee.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 2.31 p.m. until Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> November at 2 p.m.

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Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.  
Chairman

12 November, 2015.

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.02 p.m. in Committee Room 1, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Bernard Durkan, John Halligan, Dominic Hannigan (*Chairman*), Derek Keating, Séan Kyne and Joe O' Reilly.

Senators: Terry Leyden

Apologies received from Deputy Seán Crowe and Senators Aideen Hayden and Kathryn Reilly.

3. **PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 2.02 p.m.

4. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

5. **ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

6. **SUSPENSION**

The meeting was suspended at 2.03 p.m.

The Committee resumed in public session at 2.06 p.m.

7. **BRIEFING ON THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL (GAC) MEETING [*MR. DARA MURPHY TD, MINISTER OF STATE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS*]**

The Committee met with the Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs, Dara Murphy TD, to discuss the forthcoming General Affairs Council meeting. Following a presentation by the Minister, a question and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Minister for his engagement with the Committee and wished him well in the negotiations.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3.18 p.m. until Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30 a.m.

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Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.  
Chairman

25 November, 2015.

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 10.35 a.m. in Committee Room 3, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Eric Byrne, Sean Crowe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, John Halligan, Dominic Hannigan (*Chairman*), Derek Keating, Séan Kyne and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators: Colm Burke, Aideen Hayden, Terry Leyden, Catherine Noone and Kathryn Reilly.

#### **3. UK/EU FUTURE RELATIONSHIP REFERENDUM: IMPLICATIONS FOR IRELAND ('BrExit') [MR. JONATHAN FAULL, DIRECTOR GENERAL, TASK FORCE FOR STRATEGIC ISSUES RELATED TO THE UK REFERENDUM, EU COMMISSION]**

The Committee met with Mr. Jonathan Faull, Director General, Task Force for Strategic issues related to the UK Referendum, EU Commission, to discuss the UK/EU Future Relationship Referendum or 'BrExit'. Following a presentation by Mr. Faull, a question and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked Mr. Faull for his engagement with the Committee and wished him well in the negotiations.

#### **4. SUSPENSION**

The meeting was suspended at 11.31 a.m.

The Committee resumed in private session at 11.35 a.m.

#### **[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**

The Committee went into Public Session at 11.54 a.m.

### **[Public Session]**

The Chairman proposed, "That the Motion be agreed to".

Question put. The Committee divided: Tá, 3; Níl, 10.

|          | <b>Tá</b>                     |          | <b>Níl</b>   |
|----------|-------------------------------|----------|--|
| Deputies | Seán Crowe,<br>John Halligan. | Deputies | Dominic Hannigan,<br>Eric Byrne,<br>Timmy Dooley,<br>Bernard Durkan,<br>Derek Keating,<br>Seán Kyne,<br>Joe O' Reilly. |
| Senator  | Kathryn Reilly.               | Senators | Colm Burke,<br>Aideen Hayden,<br>Catherine Noone.  |

The Question was declared lost accordingly.

The Chairman informed the Committee that the political contribution on TTIP would be laid before the Houses and submitted to the relevant Ministers and European Union institutions, as agreed by the Joint Committee on 21 October.

### **9. Any Other Business**

No matters arising.

### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 12.05 p.m. until Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> November at 2 p.m.

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Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.  
Chairman

16 December, 2015.

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 26<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 2.08 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

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

Senators: Colm Burke, Aideen Hayden and Terry Leyden

Apologies were received from Deputy John Halligan.

3. **SUSPENSION**

The meeting was suspended at 2.08 p.m.

The Committee resumed in public session at 2.10 p.m.

4. **ENGAGEMENT ON THE TERROR ATTACKS IN PARIS [*HIS EXCELLENCY MR. JEAN PIERRE THEBAULT, AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE TO IRELAND*]**

The Committee met with His Excellency Mr. Jean Pierre Thebault, Ambassador of France to Ireland, to discuss the terror attacks in Paris. Following a presentation by the Ambassador, a question and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee.

5. **SUSPENSION**

The meeting was suspended at 2.26 p.m.

The Committee resumed in public session at 2.45 p.m.

6. **ENGAGEMENT ON THE TERROR ATTACKS IN PARIS [*HIS EXCELLENCY MR. JEAN PIERRE THEBAULT, AMBASSADOR OF FRANCE TO IRELAND*] (RESUMED)**

The Committee resumed the debate the terror attacks in Paris. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Ambassador for his engagement with the Committee.

7. **SUSPENSION**

The meeting was suspended at 3.26 p.m.

The Committee resumed in public session at 3.30 p.m.

**8. EUROPEAN COMMISSION WORK PROGRAMME 2016 [*MR. PHIL HOGAN, EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT*]**

The Committee met with Mr. Phil Hogan, EU Commissioner to discuss the 2016 European Commission Work Programme. Following a presentation by the Commissioner, a question and answer session ensued with the members of the Committee. On conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Commissioner for his engagement with the Committee.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 4.28 p.m. until Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30 p.m.

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Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.  
Chairman

16 December, 2015.

## **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

1. The Joint Committee met in public session at 12.38 p.m. in Committee Room 2, Leinster House 2000, a quorum being present.

2. **ATTENDANCE**

The following Members were present:

Deputies: Seán Crowe, Dominic Hannigan (*Chairman*), Séan Kyne and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators: Terry Leyden and Catherine Noone

Senator Pat O' Neill also attended.

Apologies were received from Deputy Timmy Dooley.

3. **PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee went into private session at 2.02 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 12.41 p.m.

The Committee resumed in public session at 1.01 p.m.

9. **EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS ANNUAL REPORT 2014 [MR. KEVIN CARDIFF, MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS, MR. EDWARD FENNESSY AND MR. GEDIMINAS MACYS, EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS]**

The Committee met with Mr. Kevin Cardiff to discuss the European Court of Auditors Annual Report 2014. Following a presentation by Mr. Cardiff, a question

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

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 2.05 p.m. until Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 12.30 p.m.

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Mr. Dominic Hannigan T.D.  
Chairman  
20 January, 2016.