



**AN COMHCHOISTE UM GHNÓTHAÍ AN AONTAIS EORPAIGH**

**TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL MAIDIR LE HOIBRIÚ**

**ACHT AN AONTAIS EORPAIGH (GRINNSCRÚDÚ), 2002**

**(DON TRÉIMHSE Ó 1 Eanáir 2014 go 31 Nollaig 2014)**

**2015**

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**JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

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

**(FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 JANUARY 2014 TO 31 DECEMBER 2014)**

**2015**

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## **Chairman's Foreword**

On behalf of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, I am pleased to present the Twelfth Annual Report on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002 for 2014 as required under section 5 of the Act. The Act underpins the Irish system of EU scrutiny and enables the Houses of the Oireachtas to scrutinise all draft EU legislative measures. It is an important function that brings democratic accountability to Government decisions taken at EU level.

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

This Joint Committee notes the adoption by both Houses of the “EU Scrutiny Work Programme 2014”- Joint Committees’ Priorities”, in line with a recommendation contained in the Ninth Annual Report. Each Joint Committee identified its own priorities based on the European Commission’s Annual Work Programme. Such prioritisation allows committees to concentrate on the more important and relevant proposals for draft legislation and also facilitates a more efficient use of committee time and resources, which is critical in view of the heavy workload of these Oireachtas Committees.

The Joint Committee looks forward to greater engagement by Oireachtas Joint Committees in the timely scrutiny of the main inputs to the 2014 European Semester process for economic policy coordination, in particular, the Annual Growth Survey, prepared by the European Commission, the National Reform Programme prepared by the Department of the Taoiseach, and the Stability Programme prepared by the Department of Finance. The Joint Committee considers that a coherent approach to Oireachtas involvement in the European Semester will be necessary in future years as it will be of central importance to Ireland's budgetary and economic development process.

I wish to thank the Government departments for their considerable assistance in the scrutiny process, and the staff of Oireachtas Committees and the EU Coordination Unit for their efficient management of the documentation and the preparation of meetings. The Joint Committee considers that the effectiveness of the Oireachtas EU scrutiny system is heavily dependent on the timely agreement between Government departments on responsibility for a particular file, and on the subsequent submission of the required ‘Information Note’ to the Oireachtas without delay. The Joint Committee looks forward to the follow up with the Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs to the work begun in improving the process of scrutiny of EU proposals.

I also wish to acknowledge the invaluable contribution and hard work of my colleagues on the Joint

Committee of European Union Affairs and also of my colleagues on the other Joint Committees in carrying out their important remit in the scrutiny of draft EU legislation. Their dedication, knowledge and experience are greatly valued. The Joint Committee looks forward to improved and more regular communication between it and the Joint Committees regarding their scrutiny activity.

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

*Dominic Hannigan T.D.*

*Chairman*

14 May 2015.

## 1. Introduction

- 1) This is the Twelfth Annual Report on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002<sup>1</sup> (“the Act”). The Act lays down the legislative basis for Oireachtas scrutiny of draft EU legislative measures<sup>2</sup>.
- 2) Among the main provisions of the Act are:
  - *Information Notes* - the Government must forward a statement (information note) to the Houses of the Oireachtas as soon as practicable after the publication of each proposed European Union legislative measure. The note outlines the purpose, significance and implications of the new measure [s2(1)].
  - *Recommendations* - the Minister concerned shall have regard to any recommendations by either or both Houses of the Oireachtas or a Committee of either or both such Houses on a proposed measure [s2(2)].
  - *Reports by the Government* - each Minister shall report at least twice yearly to both Houses in relation to proposed measures and other EU developments within his/her remit [s2(5)]. In addition, the Government shall make an annual report to the Houses on developments in the EU [s4].
- 3) Section 5 of the Act specifically provides that the Joint Committee on European Affairs (the title of the Joint Committee at that time) shall report annually to both Houses on the operation of the Act. Accordingly, this report has been prepared by the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs in accordance with that section and with paragraph (6) of its Orders of Reference (*see Appendix 1*) in relation to how the EU scrutiny system operated in 2012.
- 4) The scrutiny process in the last Dáil/Seanad was carried out by the Joint Committee on European Scrutiny but this was changed to a ‘mainstreamed model’ in the current Dáil/Seanad, whereby each sectoral Joint Committee now considers European Union matters within the remit of the relevant Department(s) including engaging with Ministers in the context of meetings of the Council of Ministers [Dáil Standing Order 82(A) and Seanad Standing Order 70(A)].

## 2. Scrutiny Activity in 2014

### (a) Oireachtas oversight of EU measures and legislation

- i) The sectoral Joint Committees in the current Dáil/Seanad were formed on 8 June 2011 with membership assigned from 9 June 2011, in the case of the Dáil, and 16 June 2011, in the case of the Seanad (*see Appendix 2 for Orders of Reference of the Sectoral Committees*).
- ii) The Orders of Reference of sectoral Joint Committees agreed by both Houses in

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

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

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

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

- draft legislative measures within the Joint Committee's remit. Each Joint Committee will decide which proposals to scrutinise in depth, for example by engaging with relevant stakeholders;
- compliance of draft legislative acts with the principle of subsidiarity<sup>3</sup> and related issues, in support of the role of the Houses of the Oireachtas under Article 29.4 of the Constitution, section 7 of the European Union Act 2009 and Standing Orders relating to the role of the Houses under the Lisbon Treaty. If a breach of subsidiarity is found, the Joint Committee will report to the Houses recommending the adoption of a reasoned opinion; and
- major policy issues and consultation papers from the European Commission. Joint Committees may decide to make a "contribution" to the relevant institution on particular issues of interest or concern.

Each Joint Committee may also –

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

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

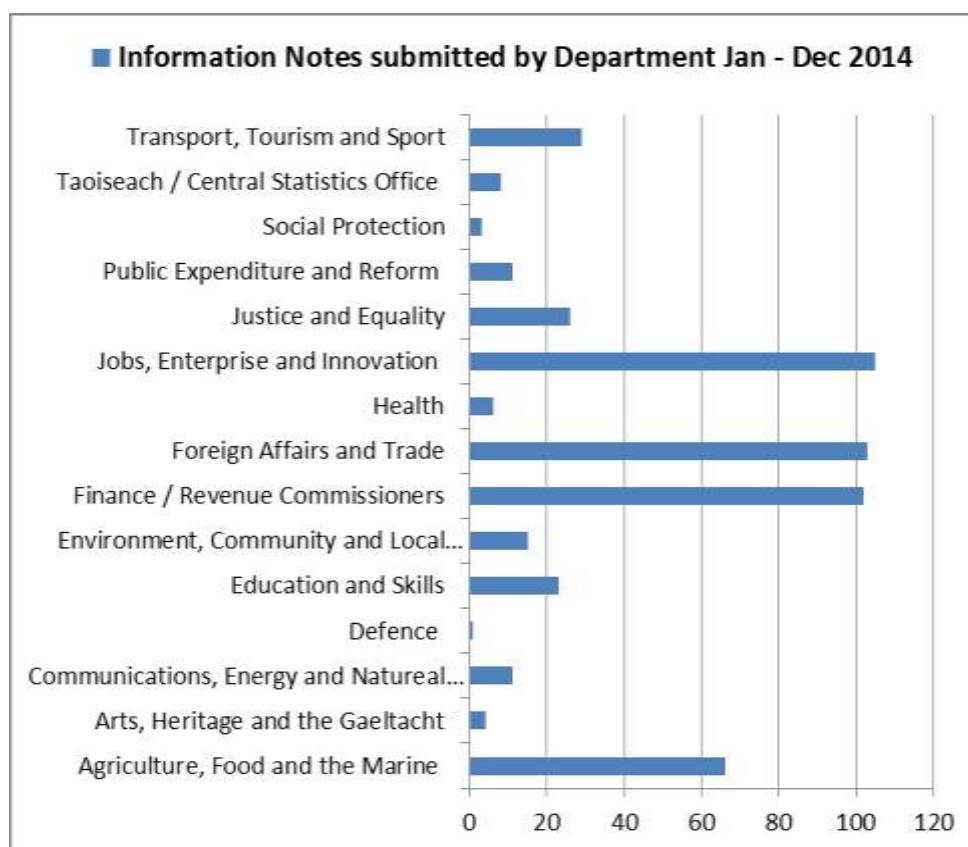
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<sup>3</sup> Subsidiarity is the principle which regulates the exercise of EU powers. It determines whether the EU can intervene or should let Member States take action. It ensures that powers are exercised at the appropriate level. The subsidiarity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

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

In the period 1 January to 31 December 2014, 513 Information Notes were submitted by Government Departments/Offices, broken down as follows:

<b>Department/Office - 2014</b>	<b>Number of Information Notes</b>
Agriculture, Food and the Marine	66
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	4
Communications, Energy and Natural Resources	11
Defence	1
Education and Skills	23
Environment, Community and Local Government	15
Finance / Revenue Commissioners	102
Foreign Affairs and Trade	103
Health	6
Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation	105
Justice and Equality	26
Public Expenditure and Reform	11
Social Protection	3
Taoiseach / Central Statistics Office	8
Transport, Tourism and Sport	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>513</b>



*Fig 1: 2014 Information Notes submitted by Departments*

(ii) Decisions taken by Oireachtas Committees on EU Proposals (see Appendix 3)

The Joint Committees met and considered decisions on proposals as follows:

<b>Joint Committee</b>	<b>Number of Proposals considered</b>	<b>No. of Decisions taken on Proposals Considered</b>
Agriculture, Food and the Marine	53	54
Education and Social Protection	21	23
Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht	25	25
Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform	121	134
Foreign Affairs and Trade	103	103
Health and Children	6	6
Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation	99	113
Justice, Defence and Equality	31	35
Transport and Communications	35	35
European Union Affairs	4	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>498 Proposals</b>	<b>532 Decisions</b>

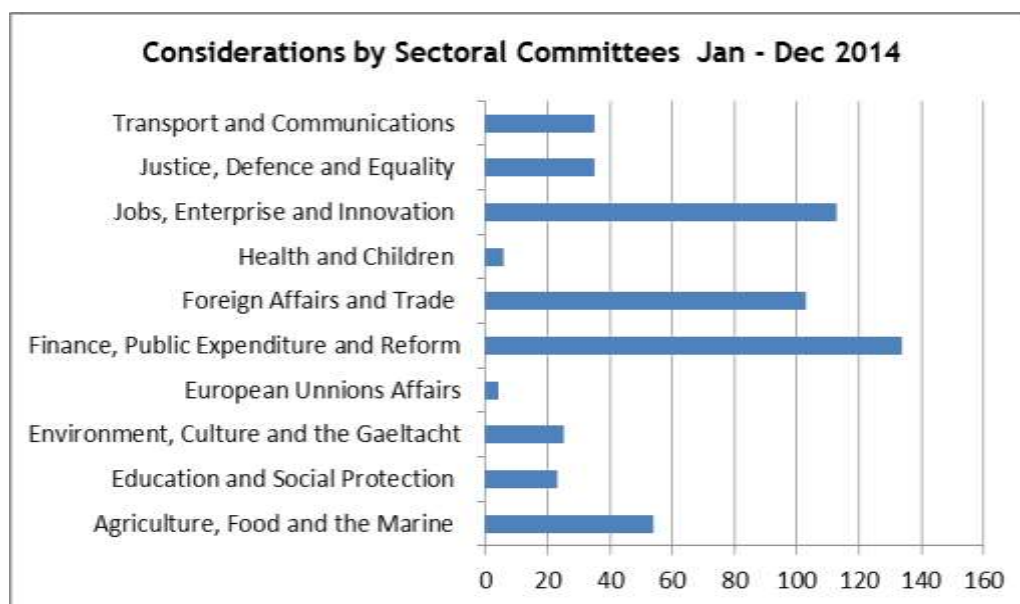


Fig 2: 2014 Considerations by Sectoral Committees



(ii) Proposals considered by type 2014

These were made up of Budget Documents, CFSP Measures, Commission Reports, Communications, Council Opinions, Decisions, Directives, Early Warning Notes, Green Papers, White Paper, Recommendations and Regulations.

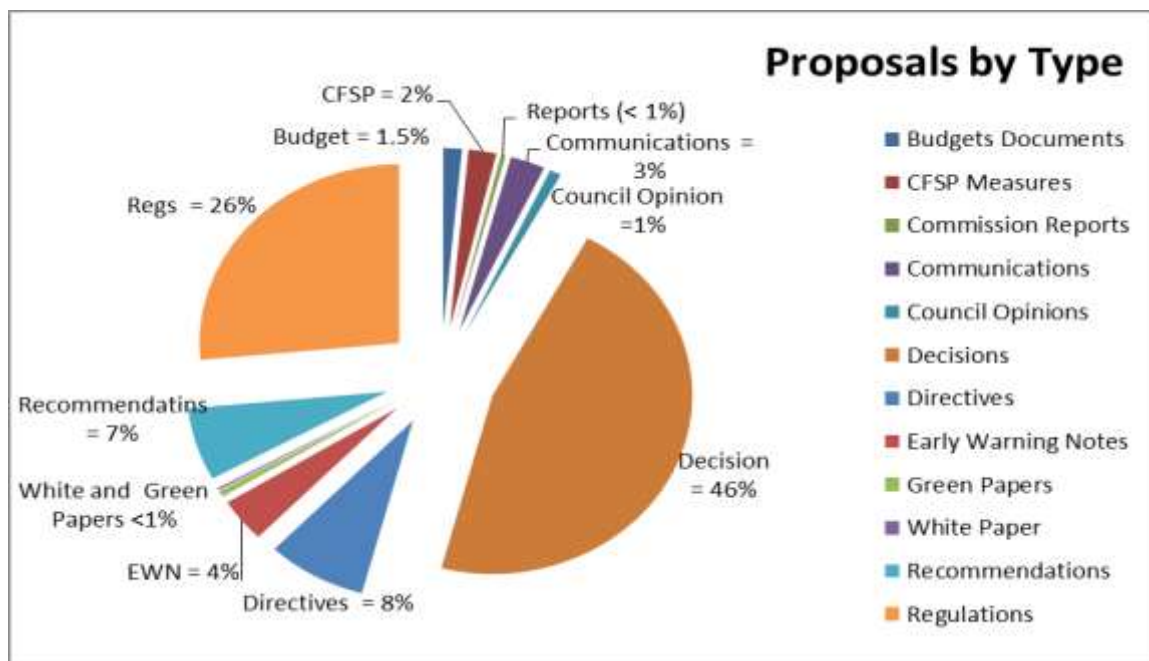


Fig 3: 2014 Proposals considered by Type

(iv) Decisions by Joint Committees

Of the 532 decisions on proposals considered, 8.5% were identified as adopted measures at the time of meeting, 77% required no further action or detailed scrutiny, 1.5% required no further scrutiny but further action and the remaining 13% were identified as requiring further scrutiny.

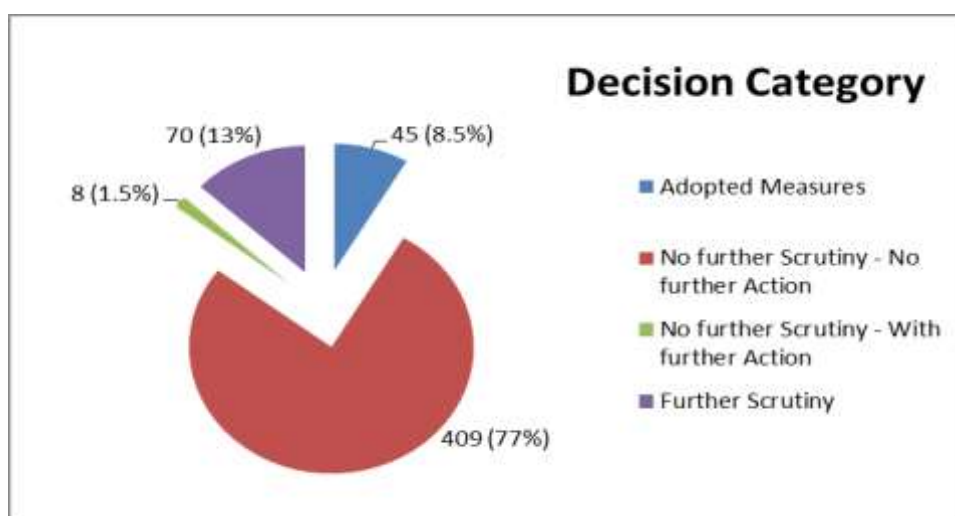


Fig 4: 2014 Decisions made by Category

See Appendix 4 for detail of proposals considered for further action or scrutiny by the Joint Committees.

**(c) Reports and Political Contributions by Joint Committee in 2014**

Reports published and Political Contributions made by Joint Committees are set out below:

Joint Committee	Report/Contribution Title
Agriculture, Food and the Marine	<p><a href="#"><u>Political Contribution</u></a> on COM (2014) 180 – Proposed Regulation on Organic Production and labelling of Organic products</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Political Contribution</u></a> on COM(2014)670 - Fishing Opportunities in 2015</p>
European Union Affairs	<p><a href="#"><u>Political Contribution</u></a> – the Role of National Parliaments in Free Trade Agreements – (Ireland was co-signatory to a Letter signed on 25 June 2014 by 20 Chambers of National Parliaments)</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Political Contribution</u></a> – on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership - 08/07/2014</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Political Contribution</u></a> – on Voting rights of Irish citizens abroad - 04/11/2014</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Political Contribution</u></a> – on Mid-term Review of the Europe 2020 Strategy – 04/11/2014</p>
Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation	<p><a href="#"><u>Political Contribution</u></a> – on COM(2011)569 - on the Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Trade Agreement between the European Union and Colombia and Peru</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Political Contribution</u></a> - Report on Access to Finance for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)</p>

**(d) Other European Union Matters before the Joint Committees****(i) Pre-Council meetings with Ministers**

In the period January to December 2014, a total of 20 pre-Council meetings were held by seven Joint Committees with 11 Ministers / Ministers of State as follows:

<b>Joint Committee</b>	<b>Minister/Minister of State</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>
Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney, TD	10 June 2 December
Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht	Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Phil Hogan, TD	5 June
European Union Affairs	Minister for State Pascal Donohoe, TD  Minister for State Dara Murphy TD	5 February 13 March 6 May 25 September 13 November
Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform	Minister for Finance, Michael Noonan, TD	13 February 18 June 4 November
Foreign Affairs and Trade	Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Eamon Gilmore, TD  Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charles Flanagan, TD	4 March 25 June  11 November
Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation	Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton, TD  Minister of State Gerald Nash, TD	18 February 4 March 10 June 7 October
Transport and Communications	Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Leo Varadkar, TD  Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Pat Rabbitte, TD	29 May  29 May

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

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

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

In 2014, six-monthly reports were submitted by 12 of the 16 Government Departments. Secretaries General from four Departments attended and discussed six-monthly reports on four occasions in 2014 in relation to their respective Departments.

<b>Joint Committee</b>	<b>Secretary General</b>	<b>Date of meeting</b>
Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Secretary General, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	8 July
Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht	Secretary General, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government	8 April
Health and Children	Secretary General, Department of Health,	8 May
	Secretary General, Department of Children and Youth Affairs	8 May

## Appendix 1

### Orders of Reference of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs

#### *Dáil Éireann on 8 June 2011 ordered:*

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| <p>“(1) Go gceapfar Roghchoiste, dá ngairfear an Roghchoiste um Ghnóthaí an Aontais Eorpaigh, ar a mbeidh 9 gcomhalta de Dháil Éireann, chun breithniú a dhéanamh ar cibé nithe a éiríonn—</p> <p>(a) as ballraíocht na hÉireann san Aontas Eorpach agus</p> <p>(b) as Éirinn do chloí leis an gConradh ar an Aontas Eorpach agus leis an gConradh ar Fheidhmiú an Aontais Eorpaigh</p> <p>a roghnóidh sé agus nach bhfuil tarchurtha chuig aon Choiste eile.</p> <p>(2) Gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (1), breithneoidh an Coiste—</p> <p>(a) cibé Billí a bpléann an Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála leis an dlí reachtach ina leith,</p> <p>(b) cibé tograí a bheidh in aon tairiscint, lena n-áirítear aon tairiscint de réir bhrí Bhuan-Ordú 164, agus</p> <p>(c) cibé nithe eile,</p> <p>a tharchuirfidh an Dáil chuige.</p> <p>(3) Beidh an tAire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála (nó comhalta den Rialtas nó Aire Stáit a ainmneofar chun gníomhú ina áit nó ina háit chun na críche sin), ina chomhalta nó ina comhalta ex officio den Roghchoiste chun na nithe atá leagtha amach i mír (2)(a) agus (b) a bhreithniú agus beidh sé nó sí i dteideal vótáil in imeachtaí an Roghchoiste.</p> <p>(4) Beidh ag an gCoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 83(1), (2) agus (3).</p> <p>(5) Déanfar an Roghchoiste a chomhcheangal le Roghchoiste arna cheapadh ag Seanad Éireann chun bheith ina Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí an Aontais Eorpaigh, agus, gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (1), déanfaidh an Roghchoiste an méid seo a leanas a bhreithniú—</p> <p>(a) doiciméid phleanála straitéiseacha Choimisiún AE lena n-áirítear Clár Oibre an Choimisiúin,</p> | <p>(1) That a Select Committee, which shall be called the Select Committee on European Union Affairs, consisting of nine members of Dáil Éireann, be appointed to consider such matters arising from—</p> <p>(a) Ireland’s membership of the European Union, and</p> <p>(b) Ireland’s adherence to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,</p> <p>as it may select and which are not referred to any other Committee.</p> <p>(2) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the Select Committee shall consider such—</p> <p>(a) Bills the statute law in respect of which is dealt with by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade,</p> <p>(b) proposals contained in any motion, including any motion within the meaning of Standing Order 164, and</p> <p>(c) other matters,</p> <p>as shall be referred to it by the Dáil.</p> <p>(3) The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (or a member of the Government or Minister of State nominated to act in his or her stead for that purpose) shall be an ex officio member of the Select Committee for the purpose of consideration of the matters outlined at paragraph (2)(a) and (b) and shall be entitled to vote in Select Committee proceedings.</p> <p>(4) The Select Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Order 83(1), (2) and (3).</p> <p>(5) The Select Committee shall be joined with a Select Committee appointed by Seanad Éireann, to form the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, which, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), shall consider—</p> <p>(a) the EU Commission’s strategic planning documents including the Commission Work Programme,</p> |
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| <p>(b) forbairtí beartais tras-earnála ag leibhéal an Aontais Eorpaigh,</p> <p>(c) nithe a liostaítear lena mbreithniú ar an gclár gnó i gcomhair cruinnithe de Chomhairle Gnóthaí Ginearálta na nAirí agus toradh cruinnithe den sórt sin.</p> <p>(d) cibé rialacháin faoi Achtanna na gComhphobal Eorpach, 1972 go 2009 agus ionstraimí eile arna ndéanamh faoi reacht agus is gá de dhroim na n-oibleagáidí a ghabhann le ballraíocht san Aontas Eorpach a roghnóidh an Coiste,</p> <p>(e) fógraí arna dtarchur ag an Dáil faoi Bhuan-Ordú 106(1)(a),</p> <p>(f) fógraí i dtaobh tograí chun na Conarthaí a leasú a fuarthas ón gComhairle Eorpach de bhun Airteagal 48.2 den Chonradh ar an Aontas Eorpach,</p> <p>(g) fógraí i dtaobh iarratas ar bhallraíocht san Aontas Eorpach a fuarthas ón gComhairle Eorpach de bhun Airteagal 49 den Chonradh ar an Aontas Eorpach, agus</p> <p>(h) cibé nithe eile a tharchuirfidh an Dáil chuige ó am go ham.</p> <p>(6) Tabharfaidh an Comhchoiste tuarascáil do dhá Theach an Oireachtais ar oibriú Acht an Aontais Eorpaigh (Grinnscrúdú), 2002.</p> <p>(7) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Orduithe 83 (seachas mír (2A) den chéanna), 106(1)(a) agus 107.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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:</p> <p>(a) Comhaltaí de Pharlaimint na hEorpa arna dtoghadh ó thoghcheantair in Éirinn, lena n-áirítear Tuaisceart Éireann,</p> <p>(b) Comhaltaí de thoscaireacht na hÉireann chuig Tionól Parlaiminteach Chomhairle na hEorpa, agus</p> | <p>(b) cross-sectoral policy developments at European Union level,</p> <p>(c) matters listed for consideration on the agenda for meetings of the General Affairs Council of Ministers and the outcome of such meetings,</p> <p>(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,</p> <p>(e) notifications referred by the Dáil under Standing Order 106(1)(a),</p> <p>(f) notifications of proposals for the amendment of the Treaties received from the European Council pursuant to Article 48.2 of the Treaty on European Union,</p> <p>(g) notifications of applications for membership of the European Union received from the European Council pursuant to Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, and</p> <p>(h) such other matters as may be referred to it by the Dáil from time to time.</p> <p>(6) The Joint Committee shall report to both Houses of the Oireachtas on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002.</p> <p>(7) The Joint Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Orders 83 (other than paragraph (2A) thereof), 105, 106(1)(a) and 107.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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:</p> <p>(a) Members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies in Ireland, including Northern Ireland,</p> <p>(b) Members of the Irish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and</p> |
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| <p>(c) ar chuireadh a fháil ón gCoiste, Comhaltaí eile de Pharlaimint na hEorpa.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(11) Beidh Cathaoirleach an Roghchoiste, ar comhalta de Dháil Éireann a bheidh ann nó inti, ina Chathaoirleach nó ina Cathaoirleach ar an gComhchoiste freisin.</p> | <p>(c) at the invitation of the Committee, other Members of the European Parliament.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(11) The Chairman of the Joint Committee, who shall be a member of Dáil Éireann, shall also be Chairman of the Select Committee.”</p> |
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***Seanad Éireann on 16 June 2011 ordered:***

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| <p>“(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—</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) Déanfar an Roghchoiste a chomhcheangal le Roghchoiste arna cheapadh ag Dáil Éireann chun bheith ina Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí an Aontais Eorpaigh, agus, gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (1), déanfaidh an Comhchoiste an méid seo a leanas a bhreithniú—</p> <p>(a) doiciméid phleanála straitéiseacha Choimisiún AE lena n-áirítear Clár Oibre an Choimisiúin,</p> <p>(b) forbairtí beartais tras-earnála ag leibhéal an Aontais Eorpaigh,</p> <p>(c) nithe a liostaítear lena mbreithniú ar an gclár gnó i gcomhair cruinnithe de Chomhairle Gnóthaí Ginearálta na nAirí agus toradh cruinnithe den sórt sin.</p> <p>(d) cibé rialacháin faoi Achtanna na gComhphobal Eorpach, 1972 go 2009 agus ionstraimí eile arna ndéanamh faoi reacht agus is gá de dhroim na n-oibleagáidí a ghabhann le ballraíocht san Aontas Eorpach a roghnóidh an Coiste,</p> | <p>(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—</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) The Select Committee shall be joined with a Select Committee appointed by Dáil Éireann, to form the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, which, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), shall consider—</p> <p>(a) the EU Commission’s strategic planning documents including the Commission Work Programme,</p> <p>(b) cross-sectoral policy developments at European Union level,</p> <p>(c) matters listed for consideration on the agenda for meetings of the General Affairs Council of Ministers and the outcome of such meetings,</p> <p>such regulations under the European Communities Acts 1972 to 2009 and</p> <p>(d) other instruments made under statute and necessitated by the obligations of membership of the European Union as the Committee may select,</p> |
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| (e) fógraí arna dtarchur ag an Seanad faoi Bhuan-Ordú 102(1)(a),   | (e) notifications referred by the Seanad under Standing Order 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,  | (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) 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 Seanad chuige ó am go ham.  | (h) such other matters as may be referred to it by the Seanad from time to time.   |
| (3) Tabharfaidh an Comhchoiste tuarascáil do dhá Theach an Oireachtais ar oibriú Acht an Aontais Eorpaigh (Grinnscrúdú), 2002.   | (3) The Joint Committee shall report to both Houses of the Oireachtas on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002.  |
| (4) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Orduithe 71 (seachas mír (2A) den chéanna), 101, 102(1)(a) agus 103.  | (4) The Joint Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Orders 71 (other than paragraph (2A) thereof), 101, 102(1)(a) and 103.   |
| (5) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste an chumhacht chun moltaí a dhéanamh chun an Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála (nó chun Aire Stáit) i dtaobh nithe a bhaineann leis an Aontas Eorpach.  | (5) The Joint Committee shall have the power to make recommendations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (or Minister of State) on European Union matters.   |
| (6) Féadfaidh na daoine seo a leanas freastal ar chruinnithe den Chomhchoiste agus páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí gan ceart vótála a bheith acu ná ceart tairiscintí a dhéanamh ná leasuithe a thairiscint:   | (6) The following may attend meetings of the Joint Committee and take part in proceedings without having a right to vote or to move motions and amendments:  |
| (a) Comhaltaí de Pharlaimint na hEorpa arna dtoghadh ó thoghlaigh in Éirinn, lena n-áirítear Tuaisceart Éireann,   | (a) Members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies in Ireland, including Northern Ireland,   |
| (b) Comhaltaí de thoscaireacht na hÉireann chuig Tionól Parlaiminteach Chomhairle na hEorpa, agus  | (b) Members of the Irish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and  |
| (c) ar chuireadh a fháil ón gCoiste, Comhaltaí eile de Pharlaimint na hEorpa.  | (c) at the invitation of the Committee, other Members of the European Parliament.  |
| (7) Déanfaidh an Comhchoiste ionadaíocht do dhá Theach an Oireachtais ag Comhdháil na gCoistí um Ghnóthaí Comhphobail agus Eorpacha de chuid Pharlaimintí an Aontais Eorpaigh (COSAC) agus tabharfaidh sé tuarascáil ar an gcéanna do dhá Theach an Oireachtais. | (7) The Joint Committee shall represent both Houses of the Oireachtas at the Conference of Community and European Affairs Committees of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) and shall report to both Houses of the Oireachtas thereon. |
| (8) Beidh Cathaoirleach an Chomhchoiste ina chomhalta nó ina comhalta de Dháil Éireann.  | (8) The Chairman of the Joint Committee shall be a member of Dáil Éireann.   |



**LIST OF MEMBERS (JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS)**

Chairman: Dominic Hannigan (Lab) (Chairman)

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

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

## Appendix 2

### Orders of Reference of sectoral Joint Committees

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Appendix 3:

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

Sectoral Joint Committee	No. of meetings	No. of Proposals <sup>1</sup> considered	Schedule A <sup>2</sup> / B <sup>3</sup>		Subsidiarity letter rec'd	Reasoned Opinions submitted	Political Contributions submitted	No. of Proposals deemed for Further Scrutiny or Action	No. of Proposals deemed for No Further Scrutiny
Agriculture, Food and the Marine	12	53	8	45	11	-	2	5	48
Education and Social Protection	5	21	3	18	2	-	-	3	18
Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht	6	25	10	15	7	-	-	3	22
Finance, & Public Expenditure and Reform	8	121	40	81	23	-	-	19	102
Foreign Affairs and Trade	11	103	21	82	-	-	-	4	99
Health and Children	3	6	5	1	1	-	-	4	2
Jobs, Enterprise & Innovation	13	99	12	87	6	-	2	18	81
Justice, Defence and Equality	8	31	14	17	11	-	-	8	23
Transport and Communications	7	35	12	23	4	-	-	6	29
<b>TOTAL 2014</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4*</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>422</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Proposals include all legislative, non-legislative proposals and a number of Adopted measures brought before Joint Committees for scrutiny / consideration

<sup>2</sup> Schedule 'A' denotes priority proposals

<sup>3</sup> Schedule 'B' denotes all other proposals

**The EU Affairs Committee also submitted 4\* separate Political Contribution bringing the over-all total of Political Contributions to 8. The EUAC considered 4 Proposals at 2 meetings during the period Jan – Dec 2014**

Full Breakdown of EU Proposals scrutinised by Oireachtas Joint Committees Jan- Dec 2014

Sectoral Committee	No. of Meetings	No. of Proposals considered	Lead Department	Proposal Type	No. Decisions taken by Proposals type	Subsidiarity letter rec'd	Number of Decisions Further Scrutiny/ action	Number of Decisions No further Scrutiny - no further action	Adopted Measures at time of meeting
<b>Agriculture, Food and the Marine</b>	12		Agriculture, Food and the Marine	REG	22	7	4	18	(1)
				DEC	26	-		26	
				DIR	4	4		4	
				Communication Pre-leg	2	-	1	1	
			<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>54</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>49</b>	
<b>Total for JC-AFM</b>		<b>53 COMs</b>			<b>54</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>49</b>	
<b>Education and Social Protection</b>	4	19	Education and Skills	Communication	1	-	-	1	
				DEC	16	-	-	16	
				Recommendation	2	-	1	1	
			<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>	
		2	Social Protection	Directive	3	1	3	-	
				REG	1	1	-	1	
			<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	

Sectoral Committee	No. of Meetings	No. of Proposals considered	Lead Department	Proposal Type	No. Decisions taken by Proposals type	Subsidiarity letter rec'd	Number of Decisions Further Scrutiny/ action	Number of Decisions No further Scrutiny - no further action	Adopted Measures at time of meeting
<b>Total for JC-ESP</b>		<b>21 COMs</b>			<b>23</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>19</b>	
<b>Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht</b>			Environment, Culture and Local Government	REG	5		-	5	(2)
				DEC	11		2	9	(1)
				Directive	5		-	5	-
			<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>(3)</b>
			Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	Decisions	<b>4</b>	-	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	-
			<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total for JC-ECG</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>25</b>			<b>25</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>(3)</b>
<b>Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform</b>									
	96	Finance		Council Opinions	5	-	-	-	5
				Communication	2	-	1	1	-
				Decisions	37	-	1	32	4
				Directive	5	-	2	3	-
				Draft Amend Budget	8	-	2	3	3
				Recommendations (Pre-leg)	30	-	4	2	1
				REG	18	-	6	34	1
			<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>105</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>14</b>

Sectoral Committee	No. of Meetings	No. of Proposals considered	Lead Department	Proposal Type	No. Decisions taken by Proposals type	Subsidiarity letter rec'd	Number of Decisions Further Scrutiny/ action	Number of Decisions No further Scrutiny - no further action	Adopted Measures at time of meeting
		12	Office of the Revenue Commissioner	Directives	3		1	2	-
				DEC	8		-	8	-
				REG	2		-	2	-
			Sub-Total		13	3	1	12	-
		9	Public Expenditure and Reform	Decisions	5	-	3	2	-
				DIR	1	-	-	1	-
				REG	5	-	2	3	-
			Sub-Total		11	6	2	7	2
		1	Taoiseach	DEC	1	-	-	1	-
			Sub-Total		1	0	0	1	0
		3	Central Statistics Office	DEC	1	-	-	1	-
				REG	3	-	-	3	-
			Sub-Total		4	2	0	4	0
<b>Total for JC-Fin &amp; PER</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>121</b>			<b>134</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Foreign Affairs and Trade</b>			Foreign Affairs and Trade	CFSP – Decisions	8	-	2	2	4
				Joint Decision	1	-	-	1	-
				Decisions	62	-	2	51	9
				CFSP - Reg	4	-	-	1	3
				Joint Regulation	20	-	-	16	4



Sectoral Committee	No. of Meetings	No. of Proposals considered	Lead Department	Proposal Type	No. Decisions taken by Proposals type	Subsidiarity letter rec'd	Number of Decisions Further Scrutiny/ action	Number of Decisions No further Scrutiny - no further action	Adopted Measures at time of meeting
				REG	8	-	-	8	-
<b>Total for JC-FAT</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>103</b>			<b>103</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Health and Children</b>			Health	Green Paper	1	-	1	-	
				DEC	3	-	3	-	
				DIR	1	1	-	1	
				REG	1	-	-	1	
<b>Total for JC-H&amp;C</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>			<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>Jobs, Enterprise &amp; Innovation</b>			Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation	DEC	37		8	29	(1) further Action
				DIR	13		10	3	(1)
				EWN	21		-	21	
				Green Paper	1		-	1	
				White Paper	1		-	1	
				REG	40		5	35	(2)~ 1 x FA and 1 concluded
<b>Total for JC-JEI</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>99</b>			<b>113</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>(4)</b>
<b>Justice, Defence and Equality</b>			Justice and Equality	Commission Reports	2		-	2	
				Communication	3		2	1	
				Decisions	13		-	13	
				Directive	6		6	-	
				Regulation	10		4	6	
				Recommendation	1		-	1	

Sectoral Committee	No. of Meetings	No. of Proposals considered	Lead Department	Proposal Type	No. Decisions taken by Proposals type	Subsidiarity letter rec'd	Number of Decisions Further Scrutiny/ action	Number of Decisions No further Scrutiny - no further action	Adopted Measures at time of meeting
<b>Total for JC-JDE</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>31</b>			<b>35</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23</b>	
<b>Transport and Communications</b>		<b>27</b>	Transport, Tourism and Sport	DEC	20		-	20	
				Directive	2		-	2	
				Green Paper	1		-	1	
				REG	3		1	2	
				Recommendation	1		-	1	
			<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>	
		8	Communications, Energy and Natural Resources	DEC	1		1	-	
				REG	1		1	-	
				Communication	5		2	3	
				Recommendation	1		1	-	
			<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	
<b>Total for JC-T&amp;C</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>35</b>			<b>35</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>29</b>	
<b>TOTAL for 2014 all Sectoral Committees</b>		<b>494</b>			<b>528</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>36</b>

<b>EU Affairs Committee</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>COMBINED TOTALS for all Committees</b>		<b>498</b>			<b>532</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>36</b>

## Appendix 4

### Proposals Considered for Further Scrutiny or action by Joint Committees 2014

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

In 2014 the Joint Committee laid two Reports before both Houses of the Oireachtas as follows:

PROPOSAL NO.	Political Contribution in the context of Political Dialogue PROPOSAL TITLE -
COM(2014)180	<a href="#">Political Contribution</a> on COM (2014) 180 - Proposed Regulation on Organic Production and labelling of Organic products
COM(2014)670	<a href="#">Political Contribution</a> COM 670 - Fishing Opportunities in 2015

The Joint Committee dealt with European Union matters at 12 meetings, involving consideration of some 53 legislative proposals. The Joint Committee decided that the three proposals listed below should be further scrutinised, and further action (for example, requesting an update from the relevant Department) to be taken on two other proposals.

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE - Further Scrutiny
COM(2014)180	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on organic production and labelling of organic products, amending Regulation (EU) of the European Parliament and of the Council [Official controls Regulation] and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)180</a>
COM(2014)388	Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council Concerning a consultation on Fishing Opportunities for 2015 under the Common Fisheries Policy Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)388</a>
COM(2014)670	Proposal for a Council Regulation fixing for 2015 the fishing opportunities for certain fish stocks and groups of fish stocks, applicable in Union waters and, for Union vessels, in certain non-Union waters and repealing Council Regulation (EU) No 779/2014 Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)670</a>
COM(2014)175	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on fixing an adjustment rate for direct payments provided for in Council Regulation (EC) No 73/2009 in respect of calendar year 2014 Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)175</a>
COM(2014)195	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 43/2014 as regards certain fishing opportunities Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)195</a>

**Joint Committee on Education and Social Protection**

In 2014, the Joint Committee considered EU matters at five meetings involving consideration of 21 legislative proposals. The Joint Committee decided that one proposal should be further scrutinised, and further action to be taken on two proposals, listed below.

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE - Further Scrutiny
COM(2014)167	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the activities and supervision of institutions for occupational retirement provision (recast) (Text with EEA relevance) {SWD(2014) 102 final}{SWD(2014) 103 final}{SWD(2014) 104 final} Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)167</a>
COM(2013)857	Proposal for a Council Recommendation on a Quality Framework for Traineeships {SWD(2013) 495 final} {SWD(2013) 496 final} Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)857</a>
COM(2014)6	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on a European network of Employment Services, workers' access to mobility services and the further integration of labour markets (Text with EEA relevance) {SWD(2014) 9 final} {SWD(2014) 10 final} Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)6</a>

**Joint Committee on Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht**

In 2014, the Joint Committee considered European Union matters at six meetings, involving consideration of some 25 legislative proposals.

The Joint Committee decided that the three proposals listed below should be further scrutinised.

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE
COM(2013)758	Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the placing on the market for cultivation, in accordance with Directive 2001/18/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of a maize product ( <i>Zea mays</i> L., line 1507) genetically modified for resistance to certain lepidopteran pests  Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)758</a>
COM(2014)20	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the establishment and operation of a market stability reserve for the Union greenhouse gas emission trading scheme and amending Directive 2003/87/EC (Text with EEA relevance) {SWD(2014) 17 final} {SWD(2014) 18 final} Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)20</a>
COM(2013)867	Proposal for a Council Decision on the Accession of the European Union to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)  Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)867</a>

**Joint Committee on European Union Affairs**

In 2014 the Joint Committee laid three Reports before both Houses of the Oireachtas and the Chairman was Co-signatory on a letter signed by 20 Chambers on the role of National Parliaments on Free Trade Agreements:

Date:	Political Contribution in the context of Political Dialogue PROPOSAL TITLE -
25 June	<a href="#">Political Contribution/ dialogue</a> - The role of national parliaments in Free Trade Agreements (Ireland was co-signatory on Letter on 25 June 2014).
9 July	<a href="#">Political Contribution</a> - on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership
12 Nov	<a href="#">Political Contribution</a> - Voting rights of Irish Citizens abroad
12 Nov	<a href="#">Political Contribution</a> - the Mid Term Review of the Europe 2020 Strategy - (Report agreed and laid on 16 July 2014)

In 2014 the Joint Committee considered EU matters at 2 meetings involving 4 legislative proposals. The Joint Committee decided that one proposal should be further scrutinised and further action to be taken on one other proposal, listed below.

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE - Further Scrutiny
COM(2014)158	Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council - A new EU Framework to strengthen the Rule of Law Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)158</a>
COM(2014)130	Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Taking stock of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)130</a>

**Joint Committee on Finance, Public Expenditure and Reform**

In 2014, the Joint Committee considered EU matters at 8 meetings involving consideration of some 121 legislative proposals. The Joint Committee decided that 17 proposals should be further scrutinised, and further action to be taken on one proposal, listed below.

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE - Further Scrutiny	
COM(2013)615	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Money Market Funds Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)615</a>	Not concluded
COM(2013)884	Proposal for a Directive of the European	Not concluded

	Parliament and of the Council on the Union legal framework for customs infringements and sanctions {SWD(2013) 513 final} {SWD(2013) 514 final} {SWD(2013) 515 final} Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)884</a>	
COM(2014)40	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on reporting and transparency of securities financing transactions (Text with EEA relevance) {SWD(2014) 30 final}{SWD(2014) 31 final} Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)40</a>	Not concluded
COM(2014)43	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on structural measures improving the resilience of EU credit institutions (Text with EEA relevance) {SWD(2013) 30 final}{SWD(2013) 31 final} Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)43</a>	Not concluded
COM(2014)300	Draft General Budget of the European Union for the financial year 2015 - General Introduction - General statement of revenue - General statement of revenue and expenditure by section Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)300</a>	Not concluded
COM(2014)328	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Mobilisation of the Contingency Margin in 2014 Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)328</a>	Not concluded
COM(2014)329	Draft Amending Budget N° 3 to the General Budget 2014 - General Statement of Revenue - Statement of Expenditure by Section - Section III - Commission Section VII - Committee of the Regions -Section IX - European Data Protection Supervisor Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)329</a>	Not concluded
COM(2014)401	Recommendation for a Council Recommendation the implementation of the broad guidelines for the economic policies of the Member States whose currency is the euro ink here: <a href="#">COM(2014)401</a>	Not concluded
COM(2014)408	Recommendation for a Council Recommendation on Ireland's 2014 national reform programme and delivering a Council opinion on Ireland's 2014 stability programme Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)408</a>	Not concluded
COM(2013)547	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on payment services in the internal market and amending Directives 2002/65/EC, 2013/36/EU and 2009/110/EC and repealing Directive 2007/64/EC Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)547</a>	Concluded

COM(2013)550	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on interchange fees for card-based payment transactions Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)550</a>	Concluded
COM(2013)641	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on indices used as benchmarks in financial instruments and financial contracts ink here: <a href="#">COM(2014)641</a>	Concluded
COM(2013)814	Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 2011/96/EU on the common system of taxation applicable in the case of parent companies and subsidiaries of different Member States: Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)814</a>	Concluded
COM(2013)895	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council adjusting with the effect from 1 July 2011 the remuneration and pension of the officials and other servants of the European Union and the correction coefficients applied thereto Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)895</a>	Concluded
COM(2013)896	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council adjusting with the effect from 1 July 2012 the remuneration and pensions of the officials and other servants of the European Union and the correction coefficients applied thereto Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)896</a>	Concluded
COM(2014)402	Recommendation for a Council Recommendation on Belgium's 2014 national reform programme and delivering a Council opinion on Belgium's 2014 stability programme : Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)402</a>	Concluded
COM(2014)420	Recommendation for a Council Recommendation on the Netherlands' 2014 national reform programme and delivering a Council opinion on the Netherlands' 2014 stability programme :Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)420</a>	Concluded
COM(2014)168	Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on Long-Term Financing of the European Economy {SWD(2014) 105 final}Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)168</a>	Concluded
COM(2014)379	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 184/2005 on Community statistics concerning balance of payments, international trade in services and foreign direct investment as regards conferring of delegated and implementing powers upon the Commission for the adoption of certain measures Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)379</a>	Concluded

**Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade**

In 2014 the Joint Committee considered European Union matters at 11 meetings, involving consideration of some 103 legislative proposals. The Joint Committee decided that further action be taken on four proposals, listed below.

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE - Further Action	Comment
CFSP(2014)Columbia	Council Decision of ... authorising the opening of negotiations with the Republic of Colombia, for an agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Colombia establishing a framework for the participation of the Republic of Colombia in European Union crisis management operations ('framework participation agreement')	Adopted Measure
CFSP(2014)Cuba	<p>Council Decision authorising the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to open negotiations, on behalf of the European Union, on the provisions that fall within the Union competence of a Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Cuba, of the other part.</p> <p>Decision of the Representatives of the Government of the Member States meeting within the Council, authorising the Commission to open negotiations on behalf of the Member States, on the provisions that fall within the competence of the Member States of a Political Dialogue and Cooperation agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Cuba, of the other part</p>	Adopted Measure
COM(2013)924	<p>Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, of the other part</p> <p>Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)924</a></p>	
COM(2013)925	<p>Proposal for a COUNCIL DECISION on the conclusion of the Framework Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of the Philippines, of the other part</p> <p>Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)925</a></p>	



**Joint Committee on Health and Children**

In the period January to December 2014, the Joint Committee considered EU matters at three meetings involving consideration of some six legislative proposals. The Joint Committee decided that four proposals should be further scrutinised, listed below.

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE - Further Scrutiny
COM(2013)538	Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products to the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, in so far as the provisions of the Protocol which do not fall under Title V of Part III of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union are concerned Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)538</a>
COM(2013)539	Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union, of the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products to the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, in so far as the provisions of the Protocol are concerned which fall under Title V of Part III of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)539</a>
COM(2014)362	Proposal for a Council Decision on subjecting 4-iodo-2, 5-dimethoxy-N- (2-methoxybenzyl) phenethylamine (25I-NBOMe), 3,4-dichloro-N- [[1-(dimethylamino)cyclohexyl] methyl] benzamide (AH-7921), 3,4-methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MDPV) and 2-(3-methoxyphenyl)-2-(ethylamino)cyclohexanone (methoxetamine) to control measures  Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)362</a>
COM(2014)219	Green Paper on mobile Health ("mHealth") {SWD(2014) 135 final} Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)219</a>

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

In 2014 the Joint Committee laid two Reports before both Houses of the Oireachtas as follows:

PROPOSAL NO. Date Report laid	PROPOSAL TITLE
COM(2011)569	<a href="#">Political Contribution</a> - Political Contribution on the Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Trade Agreement between the European Union and Colombia and Peru
16 July 2014	<a href="#">Political Contribution</a> / Dialogue - Report on Access to Finance for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

In 2014, the Joint Committee considered European Union matters at 13 meetings involving consideration of some 99 legislative proposals. The Joint Committee decided that fifteen proposals should be further scrutinised, and further action to be taken on three proposal, listed below.

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE - Further Scrutiny	Status
COM(2013)813	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of undisclosed know-how and business information (trade secrets) against their unlawful acquisition, use and disclosure (Text with EEA relevance) {SWD(2013) 471 final} {SWD(2013) 472 final} {SWD(2013) 493 final}  Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)813</a>	Concluded
COM(2014)1	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1236/2005 concerning trade in certain goods which could be used for capital punishment, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)1</a>	Concluded
COM(2014)212	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on single-member private limited liability companies (Text with EEA relevance) {SWD(2014) 123 final} {SWD(2014) 124 final}{SWD(2014) 125 final} Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)212</a>	Not Concluded
COM(2014)213	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2007/36/EC as regards the encouragement of long-term shareholder engagement and Directive 2013/34/EU as regards certain elements of the corporate governance statement Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)213</a>	Not Concluded
COM(2014)221	Proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on establishing a European Platform to enhance cooperation in the prevention and deterrence of undeclared work (Text with EEA relevance) {SWD(2014) 137 final} {SWD(2014) 138 final} Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)221</a>	Concluded
COM(2014)344	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the dissemination of Earth observation satellite data for commercial purposes  Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)344</a>	Not Concluded
COM(2014)345	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on common rules for imports of textile products from certain third countries not covered by bilateral agreements, protocols or other arrangements, or by other specific Union import rules (recast) Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)345</a>	Concluded
COM(2014)452	Proposal for a Council Directive implementing the	Not

	European Agreement concluded by the European Barge Union (EBU), the European Skippers Organisation (ESO) and the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF) concerning certain aspects of the organisation of working time in inland waterway transport Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)452</a>	Concluded
COM(2014)503	Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion on behalf of the European Union and its Member States of the Additional Protocol to the Trade Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Colombia and Peru, of the other part, to take account of the accession of Croatia to the European Union Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)503</a>	Concluded
COM(2014)504	Proposal for a Council Decision on the signing, on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, and provisional application of the Additional Protocol to the Trade Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Colombia and Peru, of the other part, to take account of the accession of Croatia to the European Union Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)504</a>	Concluded
COM(2014)539	Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the position to be taken by the European Union within the Committee on Government Procurement on the withdrawal of the Union objections to the delisting of three entities from Japan's Annex 3 to Appendix I to the Agreement on Government Procurement Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)539</a>	Concluded
COM(2014)585	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the tariff treatment for goods originating from Ecuador Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)585</a>	Not Concluded
COM(2014)573	Proposal for a Council Decision establishing the position to be taken on behalf of the European Union within the Committee on Government Procurement on the accession of Montenegro to the Agreement on Government Procurement Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)573</a>	Concluded
COM(2014)574	Procurement on the accession of New Zealand to the Agreement on Government Procurement Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)574</a>	Concluded
COM(2014)693	Proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EU) No 1388/2013 opening and providing for the management of autonomous tariff quotas of the Union for certain agricultural and industrial products Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)693</a>	Not Concluded

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE - Further Action	Status
COM(2011)569	Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion of the Trade Agreement between the European Union and Colombia and Peru	Political Contribution submitted

	Link here: <a href="#">COM(2011)569</a>	
COM(2014)166	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction or elimination of customs duties on goods originating in Ukraine  Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)166</a>	Not Concluded  Adopted Measure
COM(2014)170	Proposal for a Council Decision on a position to be taken by the European Union within the Trade Committee set up by the Trade Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Colombia and Peru, of the other part, as regards the adoption of the Rules of Procedure for the Trade Committee, the Rules of Procedure and Code of Conduct for arbitrators, the establishment of the lists of arbitrators and the list of experts of the Group of Experts, and the adoption of the Rules of Procedure for the Group of Experts on Trade and Sustainable Development  Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)170</a>	Not Concluded  Adopted Measure

### **Joint Committee on Justice and Equality**

In 2014 the Joint Committee considered EU matters at eight meetings involving consideration of some 31 legislative proposals. The Joint Committee decided that eight proposals should be further scrutinised, listed below.

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE
2012/0812(COD) CEPOL 16378/13	Initiative of Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, Greece, Spain, France, Croatia, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, the Netherlands, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Finland and Sweden for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Decision 2005/681/JHA establishing the European Police College (CEPOL) Link here: <a href="#">2012/0812(COD) CEPOL 16378/13</a>
COM(2013)534	Proposal for a Council Regulation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor's Office Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)534</a>
COM(2013)173	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation and Training (Europol) and repealing Decisions 2009/371/JHA and 2005/681/JHA Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)173</a>
COM(2013)821	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at trial in criminal proceedings {SWD(2013) 478 final}{SWD(2013) 479 final}{SWD(2013) 500 final} Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)821</a>

COM(2013)822	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on procedural safeguards for children suspected or accused in criminal proceedings {SWD(2013) 480 final}{SWD(2013) 481 final} {SWD(2013) 492 final} Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)822</a>
COM(2013)824	Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on provisional legal aid for suspects or accused persons deprived of liberty and legal aid in European arrest warrant proceedings {SWD(2013) 476 final} {SWD(2013) 477 final} {SWD(2013) 499 final} Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)824</a>
COM(2014)144	Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. The EU Justice Agenda for 2020 - Strengthening Trust, Mobility and Growth within the Union Link here: <a href="#">COM(2013)144</a>
COM(2014)154	Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - An open and secure Europe: making it happen Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)154</a>

### **Joint Committee on Transport and Communications**

In 2014 the Joint Committee considered EU matters at 7 meetings involving consideration of some 35 legislative proposals. The Joint Committee decided that five proposals should be further scrutinised, and further action to be taken on one other proposal, listed below.

PROPOSAL NO.	PROPOSAL TITLE - Further Scrutiny
C(2014)267-4	Commission Recommendation of 22 January 2014 on minimum principles for the exploration and production of hydrocarbons (such as shale gas) using high-volume hydraulic fracturing Link here: <a href="#">C(2014)267-4</a>
COM(2014)15	Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council , the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - A policy framework for climate and energy in the period from 2020 to 2030 {SWD(2014) 15 final} {SWD(2014) 16 final} Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)15</a>
COM(2014)23	Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the exploration and production of hydrocarbons (such as shale gas) using high volume hydraulic fracturing in the EU (Text with EEA relevance) {SWD(2014) 21 final} {SWD(2014) 22 final} Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)23</a>
COM(2014)111	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council setting up a Union system for supply chain due diligence self-certification of responsible importers of tin, tantalum and tungsten, their ores, and gold originating in conflict affected and high-risk areas {SWD(2014) 52 final} {SWD(2014) 53 final} Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)111</a>

COM(2014)187	Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on cableway installations (Text with EEA relevance) {SWD(2014) 116 final} {SWD(2014) 117 final} Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)187</a>
COM(2014)131 (Adopted Measure)	Proposal for a Council Decision on the position to be adopted, on behalf of the European Union, in the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO)  Link here: <a href="#">COM(2014)131</a>