



**TITHE AN OIREACHTAIS**

**An Comhchoiste um Ghnóthaí an Aontais Eorpaigh**

**TUARASCÁIL BHLIANTÚIL 2011**

**Feabhra 2012**

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**HOUSES OF THE OIREACHTAS**

**Joint Committee on European Union Affairs**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2011**

**February 2012**



# **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2011**

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# **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

## **Chairman's Foreword**



On behalf of the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs I am pleased to present the first Annual Report on the work of the Joint Committee for the period June to December 2011. The purpose of the report is to set out the work undertaken by the Joint Committee during this period and the work in progress.

The main 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 Polish 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. In this context, the Committee's principal focus is on strategic and cross sectoral issues, as the scrutiny of EU legislative proposals now falls to the sectoral committees of the Oireachtas under the 'mainstreaming' model.

The Joint Committee met 19 times during its first six months of operation. This included regular meetings with the Minister of State with Special Responsibility for European Affairs in advance of meetings of the General Affairs Council. This regular contact 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.

In order to monitor the likely implications of the policies and programmes pursued by the Institutions of the European Union for people in their daily lives and for the longer-term future for Ireland and Europe, the Committee also met and 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.

The Joint Committee also represented the Oireachtas at meetings of COSAC (Conference of Chairmen of European Affairs Committees of Member States and the European Parliament) as part of the ongoing exchange of ideas and information on best practice with representatives of other EU national parliaments.

The Joint Committee will continue to fulfil its important role, whilst additionally helping to inform the Irish public of the crucial issues during this challenging period the European Union finds itself in.



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 Foreign Affairs and Trade, 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. Finally I would also like to recognise the valuable work done by my predecessor as Chairman to this Committee, Deputy Joe Costello and I wish him every success in his new role as Minister for State at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



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Dominic Hannigan T.D.  
Chairman

9 February 2012



# **JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2011**

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

This annual report covers the period from 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011. It 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 12 January 2012, the Joint Committee agreed that all these items should be included in this annual report.

### **2. Function and Powers**

The Dáil Select Committee was established by Order of Dáil Éireann of 8 June 2011 to consider 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,
- 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 ,
- 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, Convenors and Membership**

Deputy Joe Costello was elected as Chairman of the Joint Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011. By order of Dáil Éireann, Deputy Joe Costello was replaced by Deputy Dominic Hannigan who was elected Chairman on the 26<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

Deputy Paschal Donohoe was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011. The Chairman of the Joint Committee is also Chairman of the Dáil Select Committee.

The Members of the Joint Committee are set out 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 Committees was broadcast live within the Leinster House complex and the internet and was available for subsequent public broadcasting.

An Official Report (Parliamentary Debates) of the public meetings of the Committees is published and may be purchased from the Government Publications Sales Office, Sun Alliance House, Molesworth Street, Dublin 2. The Official Reports may also 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 may be obtained from the Clerk, Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, Kildare House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. A list of these reports is set out at Section 8.



## **5. Number and Duration of Meetings**

The work of the Joint Committee and the date and subject matter each meeting is set out in Section 6 below and at Appendix 3. The Joint Committee met on 19 occasions in the period under report. The number of hours of discussion involved in these meetings was 29 hours and 18 minutes.

Minutes of proceedings of the Joint Committee meeting in public session are attached at Appendix 4.

The Dáil Select Committee did not meet during the period under report.

## **6. Work of the Committee**

The Joint Committee on European Union Affairs is mandated to monitor, review and report on the likely implications of EU policies and programmes for people in their daily lives and for the longer-term future of Ireland and Europe. The work of the Joint Committee is primarily informed by the legislative and work programme of the European Union, the priorities of the EU Presidency and the European Council which sets the strategic direction of the EU. The Committee also identifies its own priorities in relation to EU matters which are of special importance for Ireland. At the beginning of each year the Committee draws up a work programme which sets out the main topics the Committee will address during the coming year.

An important aspect of the oversight work of the Committee is consideration of the approach taken by the Government in relation to matters for discussion and decision at meetings in Europe. Prior to meetings of the General Affairs Council, the Minister for Foreign Affairs or the Minister of State for European Affairs briefs the Committee on the items for discussion and decision on the agenda of the Council meetings and the Government's approach in relation to these matters. This enables the Committee to make its views known in advance of the Minister's participation in meetings of those Councils.

In order to monitor the likely implications of the policies and programmes pursued by the Institutions of the European Union for people in their daily lives and for the longer-term future for Ireland and Europe, the Committee also meets and engages with the various stakeholders in order to hear their views and perspectives. These include 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.

On the 19 occasions the Joint Committee met it examined the following matters:

- Government priorities in the Area of European Affairs (2 occasions)
- The role of the stakeholder institutions with regard to European Affairs
- Ireland- EU relations
- Forthcoming General Affairs Council Meetings (4 occasions)
- Enhancing communication between the Oireachtas and the European Parliament



- The role of the Institute of International and European Affairs with regard to European Affairs
- Priorities of the 18-month EU Presidency Programme of Poland, Denmark and Cyprus
- Measures agreed by the Council of the European Union on 21st July 2011
- Israel’s military actions in the Occupied Territories
- Accession Treaty of the Republic of Croatia and its subsequent ratification
- Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia and the accession of Serbia to the European Union
- The European Movement Ireland’s Accountability Campaign Report for 2010
- The role of national School/Business Partnerships in delivering the EU2020 strategy targets on education and training
- Current developments in the socio-economic situation in the context of the EU 2020 Strategy and Ireland’s National Reform Programme
- EU-Serbia relations
- The work of the European Court of Auditors and its Annual Report on the 2010 EU Budget
- Stability and Growth enhancing policies outlined in “A Roadmap to Stability and Growth” and delivery of the EU2020 Strategy;
- Outcome of the December European Council

## **7. Groups and Individuals attending before Committees**

In the period under report the Joint Committee met with the following organisations, groups and individuals:

- Mr. Eamon Gilmore T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Ms. Lucinda Creighton T.D., Minister of State for European Affairs
- Prof. Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament
- Representatives of the Institute of International and European Affairs
- Representatives of the European Commission Representation in Ireland
- Representatives of the European Parliament Information Office in Ireland
- H.E. Marcin Nawrot, Ambassador of Poland
- H.E. Niels Pultz, Ambassador of Denmark
- H.E. Dr. M. Stavrinos, Ambassador of Cyprus
- Secretary General of the Department of Finance
- Officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Noam Chayut, Breaking the Silence
- European Integration Committee of the Croatian Parliament
- Ms. Jelena Milic, Centre for Euro-Atlantic Studies
- Representatives of European Movement Ireland
- Representatives of Business in the Community Ireland
- Representatives of Social Justice Ireland
- Mr. Božidar Đelić, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia
- Mr. Eoin O’Shea, Member of the Court of Auditors
- Second Secretary General of the Department of an Taoiseach



- Representatives of IBEC
- Representatives of SFA
- Representatives of ISME.

## 8. Committee Reports

During the period under report the Joint Committee adopted the following policy reports:

- Report on Meeting with Mr. Božidar Đelić, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia and Serbia's Application for EU Candidate Status

## 9. Travel

The Joint Committee undertook the following travel in accordance with its Orders of Reference and in connection with its work programme.

**Purpose of travel:** 6<sup>th</sup> Croatia Summit

**Destination:** Dubrovnik, Croatia

**Date:** 8 - 9 July 2011

**Members travelling:** Joe Costello T.D., Chairman of the Joint Committee, and Timmy Dooley T.D.

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**Purpose of travel:** COSAC Chairpersons Conference

**Destination:** Warsaw, Poland

**Date:** 10 – 11 July 2011

**Members travelling:** Joe Costello T.D., Chairman of the Joint Committee

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**Purpose of travel:** 21<sup>st</sup> Economic Forum

**Destination:** Krynica Zdrój, Poland

**Date:** 7 – 9 September 2011

**Members travelling:** Joe Costello T.D., Chairman of the Joint Committee

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**Purpose of travel:** Familiarisation Visit to the EU Institutions

**Destination:** Brussels, Belgium

**Date:** 19 – 20 September 2011

**Members travelling:** Joe Costello T.D., Chairman of the Joint Committee, Paschal Donohoe T.D., Vice-Chairman of the Joint Committee, Timmy Dooley T.D. and Joe O'Reilly T.D.. Senators Fidelma Healy Eames and Kathryn Reilly.

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**Purpose of travel:** COSAC XLVI Plenary Session



**Destination:** Warsaw, Poland  
**Date:** 2 – 4 October 2011  
**Members travelling:** Joe Costello T.D., Chairman of the Joint Committee, Timmy Dooley T.D. and Colm Keaveney T.D. Senator Fidelma Healy Eames.

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**Purpose of travel:** EU Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020

**Destination:** Brussels, Belgium  
**Date:** 20 – 21 October 2011  
**Members travelling:** Timmy Dooley T.D.

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**Purpose of travel:** Friends of Europe Policy Summits  
**Destination:** Brussels, Belgium  
**Date:** 29 - 30 November 2011  
**Members travelling:** Senator Fidelma Healy Eames

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**Purpose of travel:** EU-US Forum on Ukraine  
**Destination:** Washington D.C, USA  
**Date:** 8 – 9 December 2011  
**Members travelling:** Joe Costello T.D., Chairman of the Joint Committee

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## 10. Consideration of Functions and Powers

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



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Dominic Hannigan T.D.  
Chairman of the Joint Committee on European Affairs  
9 February 2012



# APPENDIX 1

## JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

### 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 Choiste—</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</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</p> |
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- (b) a bhreithniú agus beidh sé nó sí i dteideal vótáil in imeachtaí an Roghchoiste.
- (4) Beidh ag an gCoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordú 83(1), (2) agus (3).
- (5) Déanfar an Roghchoiste a chomhcheangal le Roghchoiste arna cheapadh ag Seanad Éireann chun bheith ina Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí an Aontais Eorpaigh, agus, gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (1), déanfaidh an Roghchoiste an méid seo a leanas a bhreithniú—
- (a) doiciméid phleanála straitéiseacha Choimisiún AE lena n-áirítear Clár Oibre an Choimisiúin,
- (b) forbairtí beartais tras-earnála ag leibhéal an Aontais Eorpaigh,
- (c) nithe a liostaítear lena mbreithniú ar an gclár gnó i gcomhair cruinnithe de Chomhairle Gnóthaí Ginearálta na nAirí agus toradh cruinnithe den sórt sin.
- (d) cibé rialacháin faoi Achtanna na gComhphobal Eorpach, 1972 go 2009 agus ionstraimí eile arna ndéanamh faoi reacht agus is gá de dhroim na n-oibleagáidí a ghabhann le ballraíocht san Aontas Eorpach a roghnóidh an Coiste,
- (e) fógraí arna dtarchur ag an Dáil faoi Bhuan-Ordú 106(1)(a),
- (f) fógraí i dtaobh tograí chun na Conarthaí a leasú a fuarthas ón gComhairle Eorpach de bhun Airteagal 48.2 den Chonradh ar an Aontas Eorpach,
- (2)(a) and (b) and shall be entitled to vote in Select Committee proceedings.
- (4) The Select Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Order 83(1), (2) and (3).
- (5) The Select Committee shall be joined with a Select Committee appointed by Seanad Éireann, to form the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, which, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), shall consider—
- (a) the EU Commission's strategic planning documents including the Commission Work Programme,
- (b) cross-sectoral policy developments at European Union level,
- (c) matters listed for consideration on the agenda for meetings of the General Affairs Council of Ministers and the outcome of such meetings,
- (d) such regulations under the European Communities Acts 1972 to 2009 and other instruments made under statute and necessitated by the obligations of membership of the European Union as the Committee may select,
- (e) notifications referred by the Dáil under Standing Order 106(1)(a),
- (f) notifications of proposals for the amendment of the Treaties received from the European Council pursuant to Article 48.2 of the Treaty on European Union,



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| <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>(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) Tabharfaidh an Comhchoiste tuarascáil do dhá Theach an Oireachtais ar oibriú Acht an Aontais Eorpaigh (Grinnscrúdú), 2002.</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) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Orduithe 83 (seachas mír (2A) den chéanna), 106(1)(a) agus 107.</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) 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>(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) 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 Comhairle na hEorpa, agus</p> <p>(c) ar chuireadh a fháil ón gCoiste, Comhaltaí eile de Pharlaimint na hEorpa.</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> <p>(c) at the invitation of the Committee, other Members of the European Parliament.</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</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</p>   |



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

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—

- (a) as ballraíocht na hÉireann san Aontas Eorpach agus
- (b) as Éirinn do chloí leis an gConradh ar an Aontas Eorpach agus leis an gConradh ar Fheidhmiú an Aontais Eorpaigh

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

- (2) Déanfar an Roghchoiste a chomhcheangal le Roghchoiste arna cheapadh ag Dáil Éireann chun bheith ina Chomhchoiste um Ghnóthaí an Aontais Eorpaigh, agus, gan dochar do ghinearáltacht mhír (1), déanfaidh an Comhchoiste an méid seo a leanas a bhreithniú—

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

- (1) That a Select Committee, which shall be called the Select Committee on European Union Affairs, consisting of 5 members of Seanad Éireann, be appointed to consider such matters arising from—

- (a) Ireland's membership of the European Union, and
- (b) Ireland's adherence to the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

as it may select and which are not referred to any other Committee.

- (2) The Select Committee shall be joined with a Select Committee appointed by Dáil Éireann, to form the Joint Committee on European Union Affairs, which, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), shall consider—

- (a) the EU Commission's strategic planning documents including the Commission Work Programme,
- (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,



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| <p>(d) cibé rialacháin faoi Achtanna na gComhphobal Eorpach, 1972 go 2009 agus ionstraimí eile arna ndéanamh faoi reacht agus is gá de dhroim na n-oibleagáidí a ghabhann le ballraíocht san Aontas Eorpach a roghnóidh an Coiste,</p> <p>(e) fógraí arna dtarchur ag an Seanad faoi Bhuan-Ordú 102(1)(a),</p> <p>(f) fógraí i dtaobh tograí chun na Conarthaí a leasú a fuarthas ón gComhairle Eorpach de bhun Airteagal 48.2 den Chonradh ar an Aontas Eorpach,</p> <p>(g) fógraí i dtaobh iarratas ar bhallraíocht san Aontas Eorpach a fuarthas ón gComhairle Eorpach de bhun Airteagal 49 den Chonradh ar an Aontas Eorpach, agus</p> <p>(h) cibé nithe eile a tharchuirfidh an Seanad chuige ó am go ham.</p> | <p>such regulations under the European Communities Acts</p> <p>(d) 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 Seanad under Standing Order 102 (1)(a),</p> <p>(f) notifications of proposals for the amendment of the Treaties received from the European Council pursuant to Article 48.2 of the Treaty on European Union,</p> <p>(g) notifications of applications for membership of the European Union received from the European Council pursuant to Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, and</p> <p>(h) such other matters as may be referred to it by the Seanad from time to time.</p> |
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| <p>(3) Tabharfaidh an Comhchoiste tuarascáil do dhá Theach an Oireachtais ar oibriú Acht an Aontais Eorpaigh (Grinnscrúdú), 2002.</p> <p>(4) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste na cumhachtaí a mhínítear i mBuan-Ordúithe 71 (seachas mír (2A) den chéanna), 101, 102(1)(a) agus 103.</p> <p>(5) Beidh ag an gComhchoiste an chumhacht chun moltaí a dhéanamh chun an Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála (nó chun Aire Stáit) i dtaobh nithe a bhaineann leis an Aontas Eorpach.</p> <p>(6) Féadfaidh na daoine seo a leanas freastal ar chruinnithe den Chomhchoiste agus páirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí gan ceart vótála a bheith acu ná ceart tairiscintí a dhéanamh ná</p> | <p>(3) The Joint Committee shall report to both Houses of the Oireachtas on the operation of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002.</p> <p>(4) The Joint Committee shall have the powers defined in Standing Orders 71 (other than paragraph (2A) thereof), 101, 102(1)(a) and 103.</p> <p>(5) The Joint Committee shall have the power to make recommendations to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade (or Minister of State) on European Union matters.</p> <p>(6) The following may attend meetings of the Joint Committee and take part in proceedings without having a right to vote or to move motions and amendments:</p> |
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leasuithe a thairiscint:

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| <p>(a) Comhaltaí de Pharlaimint na hEorpa arna dtoghadh ó thoghlaigh in Éirinn, lena n-áirítear Tuaisceart Éireann,</p> <p>(b) Comhaltaí de thoscaireacht na hÉireann chuig Tionól Parlaiminteach Chomhairle na hEorpa, agus</p> <p>(c) ar chuireadh a fháil ón gCoiste, Comhaltaí eile de Pharlaimint na hEorpa.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(8) Beidh Cathaoirleach an Chomhchoiste ina chomhalta nó ina comhalta de Dháil Éireann.</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> <p>(c) at the invitation of the Committee, other Members of the European Parliament.</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(8) The Chairman of the Joint Committee shall be a member of Dáil Éireann.</p> |
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## **APPENDIX 2**

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

#### **LIST OF MEMBERS**

Chairman:	Dominic Hannihan TD (LAB)
Deputies:	Paschal Donohoe TD (FG) Timmy Dooley TD (FF) Bernard J. Durkan TD (FG) Colm Keaveney TD (LAB) Seán Kyne TD (FG) Pádraig Mac Lochlainn TD (SF) Joe O'Reilly TD (FG) Mick Wallace TD (IND)
Senators:	Senator Colm Burke (FG) Senator Fidelma Healy Eames (FG) Senator James Heffernan (LAB) Senator Terry Leyden (FF) Senator Kathryn Reilly (SF)

**Deputy Joe Costello was discharged from the Committee by order of the Dáil on 26 January 2012.**



## APPENDIX 3

### JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

MEETING NO.	DATE	SUBJECT
1	23/06/2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Election of Chairman</li> <li>– Election of Vice-Chairman</li> </ul>
2	07/07/2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Priorities in the Area of European Affairs [<i>Ms. Lucinda Creighton TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs</i>]</li> <li>– The role of the stakeholder institutions with regard to European Affairs [<i>Mr. Francis Jacobs, Head of the European Parliament Information Office in Ireland, Ms. Barbara Nolan, Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland</i>]</li> </ul>
3	12/07/2011	Exchange of Views on Ireland- EU relations [ <i>Prof. Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament</i> ]
4	14/07/2011	Discussion on, the forthcoming General Affairs Council Meeting [ <i>Ms. Lucinda Creighton TD, Minister of State for European Affairs</i> ]
5	21/07/2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Priorities in the Area of European Affairs [<i>Mr. Eamon Gilmore TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade</i>]</li> <li>– Enhancing communication between the Oireachtas and the European Parliament [<i>Discussion with MEPs</i>]</li> <li>– The role of the Institute of International and European Affairs with regard to European Affairs [<i>Mr. Brendan Halligan, Chairman, Dáithí O'Ceallaigh Director General and Ms. Jill Donoghue, Director of Research, IIEA</i>]</li> </ul>
6	15/09/2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Priorities of the 18-month EU Presidency Programme of Poland, Denmark and Cyprus [<i>H.E Marcin Nawrot, Ambassador of Poland, H.E. Niels Pultz, Ambassador of Denmark and H.E. Dr. M. Stavrinou, Ambassador of Cyprus</i>]</li> <li>– Discussion on the measures agreed by the Council of the European Union on 21st July 2011 [<i>Mr. Kevin Cardiff, Secretary General, Department of Finance</i>]</li> <li>– Discussion on the Middle East Peace Process [<i>Mr. Pat Kelly, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</i>]</li> </ul>



7	22/09/2011	Discussion on Israel's military actions in the Occupied Territories [ <i>Mr. Noam Chayut, Breaking the Silence</i> ]
8	27/09/2011	Discussion on the Accession Treaty of the Republic of Croatia and its subsequent ratification [ <i>Mr. Neven Mimica, Chairman of the European Integration Committee of the Croatian Parliament</i> ]
9	29/09/2011	Discussion on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia and the accession of Serbia to the European Union [ <i>Ms. Jelena Milic, Center for Euro-Atlantic Studies</i> ]
10	06/10/2011	Discussion on the forthcoming General Affairs Council Meeting [ <i>Ms. Lucinda Creighton TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs</i> ]
11	13/10/2011	The European Movement Ireland's Accountability Campaign Report for 2010 [ <i>Noelle O'Connell, Billie Sparks and Jenny Flynn from European Movement Ireland</i> ]
12	20/10/2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The role of national School/Business Partnerships in delivering the EU2020 strategy targets on education and training [<i>Germaine Noonan, Business in the Community Ireland</i>]</li> <li>– Current developments in the socio-economic situation in the context of the EU 2020 Strategy and Ireland's National Reform Programme [<i>Dr. Seán Healy SMA, Social Justice Ireland</i>]</li> </ul>
13	26/10/2011	<i>Private</i>
14	10/11/2011	Discussion on the forthcoming General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council Meetings [ <i>Ms. Lucinda Creighton TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs</i> ]
15	10/11/2011	<i>Private</i>
16	17/11/2011	Discussion on EU-Serbia relations [ <i>Mr. Bozidar Djelic, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Serbia</i> ]
17	24/11/2011	The work of the European Court of Auditors and its Annual Report on the 2010 EU Budget [ <i>Mr. Eoin O'Shea, Member of the Court of Auditors</i> ]
18	29/11/2011	Discussion on the forthcoming General Affairs Council Meeting [ <i>Ms. Lucinda Creighton TD, Minister of State with special responsibility for European Affairs</i> ]
19	15/12/2011	– Outcome of the December European Council [ <i>Ms. Geraldine Byrne-Nason, Second Secretary General,</i>



		<p><i>Dept. of an Taoiseach]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Discussion on the stability and growth enhancing policies outlined in “A Roadmap to Stability and Growth” and delivery of the EU2020 Strategy [<i>Representatives from IBEC, SFA and ISME</i>]</li> </ul>
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## **APPENDIX 4**

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

#### **MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE**



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 23 JUNE 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met at 11.30 a.m. in Committee Room 2, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Joe Costello, Paschal Donohoe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Colm Keaveney, Seán Kyne, Padraig Mac Lochlainn and Mick Wallace.

Senators Colm Burke, James Heffernan, Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

Apologies were received from Deputy Joe O'Reilly and Senator Fidelma Healy-Eames.

#### **3. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

The Clerk invited nominations for the position of Chairman of the Committee. Deputy Durkan moved "That Deputy Joe Costello be the Chairman of the Committee".

The question was put by the Clerk and agreed to unanimously. Deputy Costello took the Chair accordingly.

#### **4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

The Chairman invited nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman. Deputy Dooley moved "That Deputy Paschal Donohoe be the Vice-Chairman of the committee".

The question was put and agreed to unanimously.

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

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 11.55 a.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. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 12.13 p.m. until 12.00 p.m. on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

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Mr. Joe Costello, T.D.  
Chairman  
14 July 2011



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 7 JULY 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met at 12.06 p.m. in Committee Room 4, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Joe Costello, Paschal Donohoe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Colm Keaveney, Seán Kyne, Pádraig Mac Lochlainn, Joe O'Reilly and Mick Wallace.

Senators Fidelma Healy Eames, James Heffernan, Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

Apologies were received from Senator Colm Burke.

#### **3. DISCUSSION ON PRIORITIES IN THE AREA OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS [MS. LUCINDA CREIGHTON TD, MINISTER OF STATE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS].**

The Chairman welcomed Minister of State with responsibility for European Affairs, Ms. Lucinda Creighton T.D. to the meeting and invited her to make a presentation on her views and priorities in the area of European affairs.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the Minister of State for attending and wished her well in her work.

#### **4. DISCUSSION ON THE ROLE OF STAKEHOLDER INSTITUTIONS WITH REGARD TO EUROPEAN AFFAIRS**

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Barbara Nolan, European Commission Representation in Dublin, and Mr. Francis Jacobs, European Parliament Information Office, to the meeting. Both were invited to make presentations about the roles of their respective institutions and the ways in which communication between the Offices and the Committee can be enhanced.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked Ms. Nolan and Mr. Jacobs for attending the meeting.

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

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 2.10 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. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 2.35 p.m. until 3.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

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Mr. Joe Costello, T.D.  
Chairman  
14 July 2011



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 12 JULY 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met at 3.34 p.m. in Committee Room 4, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Joe Costello, Paschal Donohoe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Seán Kyne, Joe O'Reilly and Mick Wallace.

Senators Colm Burke, Fidelma Healy Eames, Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

Apologies were received from Deputy Padraig Mac Lochlainn.

MEPs Pat "The Cope" Gallagher and Gay Mitchell also attended.

#### **3. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON IRELAND- EU RELATIONS [PROF. JERZY BUZEK, PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT]**

The Chairman welcomed Prof. Jerzy Buzek, President of the European Parliament, to the meeting and invited him to make a presentation on his views on the relationship between Ireland and the European Union.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the President for attending and for facilitating the opportunity to forge closer cooperation between the Houses of the Oireachtas and the European Parliament

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 4.30 p.m. until 12 noon on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011.

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Mr. Joe Costello, T.D.  
Chairman  
14 July 2011



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 14 JULY 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met at 12.03 p.m. in Committee Room 4, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Joe Costello, Paschal Donohoe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Colm Keaveney, Seán Kyne, Padraig Mac Lochlainn and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators Fidelma Healy Eames, Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

Apologies were received from Deputy Mick Wallace and Senator Colm Burke.

Deputy Anne Phelan also attended.

#### **3. DISCUSSION ON THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL MEETING [MS. LUCINDA CREIGHTON TD, MINISTER OF STATE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS].**

The Chairman welcomed Minister of State with responsibility for European Affairs, Ms. Lucinda Creighton T.D. to the meeting and invited her to make a presentation on the upcoming General Affairs Council.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the Minister of State for attending and wished her well in the negotiations.

#### **4. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 1.18 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 1.42 p.m. until 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> July 2011.



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Mr. Joe Costello, T.D.  
Chairman  
21 July 2011



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 21 JULY 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met at 11.45 a.m. in Committee Room 4, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Joe Costello, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Colm Keaveney, Seán Kyne, Pádraig Mac Lochlainn, Joe O'Reilly and Mick Wallace.

Senators James Heffernan, Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

Apologies were received from Deputy Paschal Donohoe and Senators Colm Burke and Fidelma Healy Eames.

Liam Aylward MEP, Prionsias De Rossa MEP, Pat "The Cope" Gallagher MEP, Mairead McGuinness MEP and Phil Prendergast MEP also attended.

#### **3. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 11.45 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **11. MEETING SUSPENDED**

The meeting was suspended at 11.55 a.m. until 12.15 p.m.



*The Committee went out of private session.*

**12. PRIORITIES IN THE AREA OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS [MR. EAMON GILMORE TD, TÁNAISTE AND MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE]**

The Chairman welcomed Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Eamon Gilmore T.D. to the meeting and invited him to make a presentation on his priorities in the area of European affairs.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the Minister for attending and wished him well in his work.

**13. ENHANCING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE OIREACHTAS AND THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

The Chairman welcomed Liam Aylward MEP, Prionsias De Rossa MEP, Pat “The Cope” Gallagher MEP, Mairead McGuinness MEP and Phil Prendergast MEP to the meeting. The Chairman invited the MEPs to make a presentation on their role in the European Parliament and their views on enhancing cooperation and communication with the Oireachtas.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the MEPs for attending and wished them well in their work.

Apologies were also noted from Nessa Childers MEP, Brian Crowley MEP, Bairbre de Brún MEP, Jim Higgins MEP, Seán Kelly MEP, Marian Harkin MEP, Jim Higgins MEP and Paul Murphy MEP.

**14. MEETING SUSPENDED**

The meeting was suspended at 2 p.m. until 2.15 p.m.

**15. THE ROLE OF THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS WITH REGARD TO EUROPEAN AFFAIRS [MR. DÁITHÍ O'CEALLAIGH, DIRECTOR GENERAL, MS. JILL DONOGHUE, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH AND MR. SHANE FITZGERALD, RESEARCHER]**

The Chairman welcomed the delegation from the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA); Mr. Dáithí O'Ceallaigh, Director General, Ms. Jill Donoghue, Director of Research and Mr. Shane Fitzgerald, Researcher to the meeting and invited them to make a presentation on the work of the IIEA.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the delegation for attending.



## **16. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 2.55 p.m. until 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

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Mr. Joe Costello, T.D.  
Chairman  
15 September 2011



## JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS

### MINUTES OF MEETING OF 15 SEPTEMBER 2011

1. The Joint Committee met at 11.35 a.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### 2. MEMBERS PRESENT

Deputies Joe Costello, Paschal Donohoe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Colm Keaveney, Seán Kyne, Padraig Mac Lochlainn, Joe O'Reilly and Mick Wallace.

Senators Fidelma Healy Eames and Terry Leyden.

Apologies were received from Senator Kathryn Reilly.

#### 3. RESOLUTION REGARDING COMMENTS MADE BY EU ENERGY COMMISSIONER GUNTER OETTINGER.

The Chairman brought forward a draft resolution expressing concern and dismay at the recent comments by Commissioner Gunter Oettinger which suggested that Member States with excessive deficits "should fly their flags at half mast". The resolution was agreed unanimously by the Committee. It was agreed that the resolution be forwarded to Commissioner Oettinger and that a press release be issued.

#### *Resolution of the Joint Committee*

*The Joint Committee on European Union Affairs is dismayed at the recent remarks made by EU Energy Commissioner, Mr Gunter Oettinger appearing to propose that the national flags of "deficit sinners" be flown at half mast as a symbol and deterrent. The Joint Committee believes it would be a powerful symbol but one of arrogance, ignorance and divisiveness that would not reflect the principles of the European Union.*

*The European Union is facing an historic challenge posed by the financial and economic crisis and the Joint Committee acknowledges the assistance provided to Ireland by the Member States of the European Union in dealing with our current difficult situation.*

*Ireland and its citizens have had to make sacrifices in order to set our country on course for recovery. In this respect Ireland and its citizens have done everything that has so far been required of it, both in the interests of our own future and the future of the European Union as a whole. Ireland needs the European Union and the European Union needs Ireland.*

*Ireland was ready to offer support to Greece when needed and is grateful for the support provided by our partners in the European Union, support offered in the spirit of solidarity between equal sovereign nations engaged in a Union promoting common democratic goals.*



*The Joint Committee finds the Commissioners remarks not just careless, irresponsible and inappropriate but also lacking in an understanding of the complexity of the economic realities and the seriousness of the difficulties faced by ordinary citizens in Ireland and across Europe. A nation's national flag is a proud symbol of a country and its citizens and should be treated with respect.*

*The Joint Committee calls on the Commissioner to withdraw his unacceptable remarks, to acknowledge that such remarks are damaging and to affirm that only in working together as friendly and respectful nations can Europe be restored and its future secured.*

**4. PRIORITIES OF THE 18-MONTH EU PRESIDENCY PROGRAMME OF POLAND, DENMARK AND CYPRUS [DISCUSSION WITH H.E MARCIN NAWROT, AMBASSADOR OF POLAND, H.E. NIELS PULTZ, AMBASSADOR OF DENMARK AND H.E. DR. M. STAVRINOS, AMBASSADOR OF CYPRUS].**

The Chairman welcomed H.E Marcin Nawrot, Ambassador of Poland, accompanied by Mr. Mariusz Błachowicz, Mr. Zbigniew Ruciński and Mr. Jacek Jędruszak, H.E. Niels Pultz, Ambassador of Denmark and H.E. Dr. M. Stavrinis, Ambassador of Cyprus to the meeting and invited them to make a presentation on the Programme and Priorities of the Polish Presidency together with the 18-month programme of the Polish, Denmark and Cyprus Presidencies.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the Ambassadors for attending and wished them well in their work.

**5. MEETING SUSPENDED**

The meeting was suspended at 12.48 p.m. until 1.15 p.m.

**6. DISCUSSION ON THE MEASURES AGREED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION ON 21ST JULY 2011 [DISCUSSION WITH MR. KEVIN CARDIFF, SECRETARY GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE].**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Kevin Cardiff, Secretary General of the Department of Finance to the meeting to discuss the measures agreed by the Council of the European Union on 21 July 2011. Mr Cardiff was accompanied by Department officials Mr. Jim O'Brien, Mr. Gary Tobin, Mr. John McCarthy, Mr. Feargal O'Brolchain and Mr. Tadhg O'Connell.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked Mr. Cardiff and his colleagues for attending the meeting.

**7. MEETING SUSPENDED**



The meeting was suspended at 2.13 p.m. until 2.21 p.m.

**8. MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS [DISCUSSION WITH MR. PAT KELLY, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE]**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Pat Kelly from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to the meeting and invited him to provide an update to Committee on the Middle East Peace Process.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked Mr. Kelly for attending the meeting.

**9. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 2.56 p.m.

**10. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

**11. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

**12. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 3.06 p.m. until 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011.

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Mr. Joe Costello, T.D.  
Chairman  
22 September 2011



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 22 SEPTEMBER 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met at 11.33 a.m. in Committee Room 43, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Joe Costello, Paschal Donohoe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard J. Durkan, Colm Keaveney, Seán Kyne, Pádraig Mac Lochlainn and Mick Wallace.

Senators Fidelma Healy Eames and Terry Leyden.

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

Deputy Michael McNamara, Senator Michael Mullins and Phil Prendergast MEP also attended.

#### **3. DISCUSSION ON ISRAEL'S MILITARY ACTIONS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES [MR. NOAM CHAYUT, BREAKING THE SILENCE]**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Noam Chayut, a founder member of the NGO "Breaking the Silence" who was accompanied by Mr. Sorley McCaughey, Christian Aid and Ms. Eilish Ni Riain, Trocaire to the meeting. Mr. Chayut was invited to make a presentation on the recent publication by Breaking the Silence entitled "Occupation of the Territories: Israeli Soliders' Testimonies 2000 – 2010".

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the Mr. Chayut for attending and wished him well in his work.

#### **4. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 12.54 p.m.

#### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 1.07 p.m. until 12 noon on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

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Mr. Joe Costello, T.D.  
Chairman  
29 September 2011



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 27 SEPTEMBER 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met at 12.10 p.m. in Committee Room 2, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Joe Costello, Paschal Donohoe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard J. Durkan, Colm Keaveney and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators Colm Burke, Fidelma Healy Eames, Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

Apologies were received from Deputies Mick Wallace and Seán Kyne.

#### **3. DISCUSSION ON THE ACCESSION TREATY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA AND ITS SUBSEQUENT RATIFICATION [DELEGATION FROM THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION COMMITTEE OF THE CROATIAN PARLIAMENT]**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Neven Mimica, Chairman of the Committee, Mrs. Marija Pejčinović Burić and Ms. Tanja Vrbat, members of the Committee, to the meeting and invited Mr. Mimica to make a presentation on the current state of play regarding Croatia's accession to the EU.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the delegation for attending and added that the Committee looked forward to Croatia becoming a full member of the EU.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 1.12 p.m. until 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

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Mr. Paschal Donohoe, T.D.  
Vice-Chairman  
29 September 2011



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 29 SEPTEMBER 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met at 11.48 a.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Paschal Donohoe, Bernard Durkan, Colm Keaveney, Seán Kyne, Padraig Mac Lochlainn and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

Apologies were received from Deputies Joe Costello, Timmy Dooley and Mick Wallace.

#### **3. DISCUSSION ON THE STABILISATION AND ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH SERBIA AND THE ACCESSION OF SERBIA TO THE EUROPEAN UNION [MS. JELENA MILIĆ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CENTER OF EURO-ATLANTIC STUDIES]**

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Milić to the meeting and invited her to make a presentation on Serbia and its preparations for EU candidacy status.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked Ms. Milić for attending and wished her well in her work.

#### **4. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 12.46 a.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 12.55 p.m. until 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011.



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Mr. Joe Costello, T.D.  
Chairman  
6 October 2011



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 6 OCTOBER 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met at 11.41 a.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Joe Costello, Timmy Dooley, Colm Keaveney, Seán Kyne and Padraig Mac Lochlainn.

Senators Fidelma Healy Eames and James Heffernan.

Apologies were received from Deputy Paschal Donohoe and Senators Colm Burke and Terry Leyden.

#### **3. DISCUSSION ON THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL MEETING [MS. LUCINDA CREIGHTON TD, MINISTER OF STATE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS]**

The Chairman welcomed Minister of State with responsibility for European Affairs, Ms. Lucinda Creighton T.D. to the meeting and invited her to make a presentation on the upcoming General Affairs Council.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the Minister of State for attending and wished her well in the negotiations.

#### **4. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 12.41 p.m.

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

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

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 12.46 p.m. until 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

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Mr. Joe Costello, T.D.  
Chairman  
13 October 2011



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 13 OCTOBER 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met at 11.40 a.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Joe Costello, Paschal Donohoe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Colm Keaveney and Seán Kyne.

Senators Fidelma Healy Eames, James Heffernan and Terry Leyden.

#### **3. THE EUROPEAN MOVEMENT IRELAND'S ACCOUNTABILITY CAMPAIGN REPORT FOR 2010 [NOELLE O'CONNELL, BILLIE SPARKS AND JENNY FLYNN FROM EUROPEAN MOVEMENT IRELAND]**

The Chairman welcomed the delegation to the meeting and invited Ms. Noelle O'Connell to make a presentation on the work of European Movement Ireland and the findings of the Accountability Report for 2010.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the delegation for attending and wished them well in their work.

#### **4. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 12.43 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 12.58 p.m. until 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

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Mr. Joe Costello, T.D.  
Chairman



20 October 2011

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN UNION AFFAIRS**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF 20 OCTOBER 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met at 11.40 a.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

- 2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Joe Costello, Paschal Donohoe, Bernard Durkan, Colm Keaveney, Seán Kyne, Pádraig Mac Lochlainn and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators Fidelma Healy Eames and Terry Leyden.

Apologies were received from Deputy Timmy Dooley and Senator James Heffernan.

MEP Phil Prendergast also attended.

- 3. THE ROLE OF NATIONAL SCHOOL/BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS IN DELIVERING THE EU2020 STRATEGY TARGETS ON EDUCATION AND TRAINING [GERMAINE NOONAN AND TOMÁS SERCOVICH, BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY IRELAND]**

The Chairman welcomed Germaine Noonan, Programme Manager and Tomás Sercovich, Membership Services Manager from Business in the Community Ireland to the meeting and invited Ms. Noonan to make a presentation on the Schools' Business Partnership and the Business Working Responsibly Mark.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked Ms. Noonan and Mr. Sercovich for attending and wished them well in their work.

- 4. MEETING SUSPENDED**

The meeting was suspended at 12.28 p.m. until 12.30 p.m.

- 5. CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE CONTEXT OF THE EU 2020 STRATEGY AND IRELAND'S NATIONAL REFORM PROGRAMME [SOCIAL JUSTICE IRELAND]**

The Chairman welcomed Dr. Seán Healy SMA, Sr. Brigid Reynolds SM and Ms. Sandra Mallon to the meeting, and Dr. Healy was invited to make a presentation on Social Justice Ireland's views on the targets set out in the EU 2020 Strategy and National Reform Programme.



Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the delegation for attending and wished them well in their work.

**6. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 1.47 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 2 p.m. until 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

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Mr. Joe Costello, T.D.  
Chairman  
26 October 2011



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 26 OCTOBER 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met at 10.07 a.m. in Committee Room 4, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Joe Costello, Bernard Durkan, Seán Kyne, Pádraig Mac Lochlainn, Joe O'Reilly and Mick Wallace.

Senators Colm Burke, Fidelma Healy Eames and Terry Leyden.

Apologies were received from Deputy Timmy Dooley.

#### **3. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 10.07 a.m.

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

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

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

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

#### **8. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 11.00 a.m. until 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

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Mr. Joe Costello, T.D.  
Chairman  
10 November 2011



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 10 NOVEMBER 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met in **joint session** with the Joint Committee of Foreign Affairs and Trade at 11.39 a.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Joe Costello, Timmy Dooley, Colm Keaveney, Padraig Mac Lochlainn, and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators Colm Burke, James Heffernan and Terry Leyden.

The following members of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade were present:-

Deputies Pat Breen, Eric Byrne, Dara Murphy and Sean Ó Fearghaíl.

Senators Deirdre Clune, Michael Mullins and David Norris.

Apologies were received from Deputies Bernard Durkan and Maureen O'Sullivan, and Senator Fidelma Healy Eames.

Phil Prendergast MEP also attended.

#### **3. DISCUSSION ON THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL MEETINGS [MS. LUCINDA CREIGHTON TD, MINISTER OF STATE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS]**

The Committee met with Minister of State Lucinda Creighton to discuss the forthcoming meetings of the Foreign Affairs Council and the General Affairs Council.

Following the Minister of State's presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the Minister of State for attending and wished her well in the negotiations.

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 1.20 p.m.

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Mr. Joe Costello, T.D.  
Chairman  
17 November 2011



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 10 NOVEMBER 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met at 1.32 p.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Joe Costello, Colm Keaveney and Seán Kyne.

Senators Colm Burke.

Apologies were received from Deputy Bernard Durkan and Senator Fidelma Healy Eames.

Deputy Eric Byrne also attended.

#### **3. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 1.32 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. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 1.40 p.m. until 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

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Mr. Joe Costello, T.D.  
Chairman  
17 November 2011



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 17 NOVEMBER 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met at 11.35 a.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Joe Costello, Paschal Donohoe, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Seán Kyne and Joe O'Reilly.

Senators Fidelma Healy Eames, James Heffernan and Terry Leyden.

Apologies were received from Padraig Mac Lochlainn

#### **3. DISCUSSION ON EU-SERBIA RELATIONS [MR. BOŽIDAR DJELIĆ, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA]**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Božidar Djelić, Deputy Prime Minister and his accompanying delegation, Ms. Jelena Danilović, Deputy Chief of Cabinet, Mr. Mihajlo Papazogli, EU advisor and Mr. Branimir Filipović, Deputy Head of Mission, to the meeting and invited the Deputy Prime Minister to make a presentation on Serbia's EU integration path.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the delegation for attending and wished the Deputy Prime Minister well in his work.

The Committee agreed that the Secretariat should draft a recommendation to the Government based on the views expressed by members during the discussion with the Deputy Prime Minister.

#### **4. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 12.37 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 12.48 p.m. until 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

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Mr. Joe Costello, T.D.  
Chairman  
24 November 2011



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 24 NOVEMBER 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met at 11.35 a.m. in Committee Room 3, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Joe Costello, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Colm Keaveney, Seán Kyne, Pádraig Mac Lochlainn and Mick Wallace.

Senators Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

MEP Phil Prendergast was also in attendance.

Apologies were received from Deputies Paschal Donohoe and Joe O'Reilly and Senator Fidelma Healy Eames.

#### **3. THE WORK OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS AND ITS ANNUAL REPORT ON THE 2010 EU BUDGET [MR. EOIN O'SHEA, MEMBER OF THE COURT OF AUDITORS]**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. Eoin O'Shea, Irish Member of the Court of Auditors, to the meeting and his colleagues Mr. John Sweeney and Ms. Marie-Claire Walsh. Mr. Eoin O'Shea was invited to make a presentation on the work of the Court and its Annual Report on the 2010 EU budget.

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session.

#### **4. MEETING SUSPENDED**

The meeting was suspended at 12.12 p.m. until 12.30 p.m.

#### **5. THE WORK OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS AND ITS ANNUAL REPORT ON THE 2010 EU BUDGET [MR. EOIN O'SHEA, MEMBER OF THE COURT OF AUDITORS] [CONTINUED]**

During the course of the meeting, an email was brought to the attention of the Committee which was written by Mr. O'Shea and sent to Mr. Jens Geier MEP and Ms. Ingeborg Gräßle MEP, members of the European Parliament Committee on Budgetary Control. The email advised the MEPs that Mr. O'Shea's position in the European Court of Auditors was not being renewed and made inferences regarding the suitability of his proposed replacement.

Mr. O'Shea apologised unreservedly for the emails, which had been written in anger when he learned that he was not going to be reappointed and he further



acknowledged that they should not have been sent. The Committee agreed to consider the matter further in private session.

#### **6. MEETING SUSPENDED**

The meeting was suspended at 1.11 p.m. until 1.34 p.m.

#### **7. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 1.34 p.m.

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

*The Committee resumed in public session.*

#### **9. THE WORK OF THE EUROPEAN COURT OF AUDITORS AND ITS ANNUAL REPORT ON THE 2010 EU BUDGET [MR. EOIN O'SHEA, MEMBER OF THE COURT OF AUDITORS] [CONTINUED]**

The Committee agreed to proceed as outlined above. Mr. O'Shea agreed to cooperate fully with the Committee and undertook to correspond as suggested with the relevant parties.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 4.30 p.m. until 3.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011.

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Mr. Joe Costello, T.D.  
Chairman  
29 November 2011



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 29 NOVEMBER 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met at 3.35 p.m. in Committee Room 2, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Joe Costello, Timmy Dooley, Bernard Durkan, Colm Keaveney, Seán Kyne, Pádraig MacLochlainn, Joe O'Reilly and Mick Wallace.

Senators Colm Burke, James Heffernan, Terry Leyden and Kathryn Reilly.

Apologies were received from Deputy Paschal Donohoe and Senator Fidelma Healy Eames.

#### **3. DISCUSSION ON THE FORTHCOMING GENERAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL MEETING [MS. LUCINDA CREIGHTON TD, MINISTER OF STATE WITH SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS]**

The Committee met with Minister of State Lucinda Creighton to discuss the forthcoming meeting of the General Affairs Council.

Following the Minister of State's presentation there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Chairman thanked the Minister of State for attending and wished her well in the negotiations.

#### **4. MEETING SUSPENDED**

The meeting was suspended at 4.57 p.m. until 4.58 p.m.

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

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 4.58 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 17.00 p.m. until 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011.

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Mr. Joe Costello, T.D.  
Chairman  
15 December 2011



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

### **MINUTES OF MEETING OF 15 DECEMBER 2011**

1. The Joint Committee met at 10.03 a.m. in Committee Room 2, LH 2000, a quorum being present.

#### **2. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Deputies Joe Costello, Timmy Dooley, Paschal Donohoe, Bernard Durkan, Colm Keaveney, Seán Kyne, Joe O'Reilly and Mick Wallace.

Senators Colm Burke, Fidelma Healy Eames and Terry Leyden.

Deputy Dara Murphy also attended.

#### **3. OUTCOME OF THE DECEMBER EUROPEAN COUNCIL [MS. GERALDINE BYRNE-NASON, SECOND SECRETARY GENERAL, DEPT. OF AN TAOISEACH]**

The Committee met with Ms. Geraldine Byrne-Nason, Second Secretary-General at the Department of an Taoiseach, to discuss the outcome of the December European Council and in particular the agreement on a new fiscal compact.

Following Ms. Byrne-Nason's presentation, there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Vice-Chairman thanked Ms. Byrne-Nason for attending and wished her well in her work at the Department.

#### **4. MEETING SUSPENDED**

The meeting was suspended at 11.15 a.m. until 11.37 a.m.

#### **5. DISCUSSION ON THE STABILITY AND GROWTH ENHANCING POLICIES OUTLINED IN "A ROADMAP TO STABILITY AND GROWTH" AND DELIVERY OF THE EU2020 STRATEGY [REPRESENTATIVES FROM IBEC, SFA AND ISME]**

The Vice-Chairman welcomed the delegates from the Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC), Mr. Brendan Butler, Director of Policy and International Affairs, Ms. Heidi Lougheed, Head of European Affairs, and Mr. Fergal O'Brien, Chief Economist and also welcomed Mr. Mark Fielding, Chief Executive Officer of the Irish Small and Medium Enterprises Association (ISME) and Ms. Patricia Callan, Director of the Small Firms Association (SFA).

#### **6. MEETING SUSPENDED**

The meeting was suspended at 11.50 a.m. until 12.10 p.m.



**7. DISCUSSION ON THE STABILITY AND GROWTH ENHANCING POLICIES OUTLINED IN “A ROADMAP TO STABILITY AND GROWTH” AND DELIVERY OF THE EU2020 STRATEGY [REPRESENTATIVES FROM IBEC, SFA AND ISME]**

Mr. Butler, Mr. Fielding and Ms. Callan each made a presentation to the Committee, following which there was a question and answer session. On conclusion of the debate, the Vice-Chairman thanked the delegates for attending and for the interesting presentations and discussion.

**8. PRIVATE SESSION**

The Committee agreed to go into private session at 1.15 p.m.

**9. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

**10. ITEM DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE SESSION**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The Committee adjourned at 1.20 p.m. sine die.

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Mr. Paschal Donohoe, T.D.  
Vice-Chairman  
12 January 2012