Welcome to the October edition of the Committee's newsletter.

**Current inquiries**

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**Select Committee on the European Union**

A delegation of Lord Roper, Lord Bowness and Lord Harrison represented the House of Lords at the 46th plenary meeting of the Conference of Committees of EU Affairs of EU National Parliaments (COSAC) hosted by the Polish Parliament in Warsaw on 2-4 October. The conference produced a biannual report which looked at national parliaments’ engagement with the next Multiannual Financial Framework and reviewed the first two years of operation of the Lisbon Treaty provisions on national parliaments.

The meeting also appointed Libby Kurien, formerly the House of Commons’ permanent representative in Brussels, to replace Loreta Raulinaityte as the permanent member of the COSAC secretariat.

For information on the Committee’s meetings and to see transcripts from the evidence hearings, please visit our webpage at [http://www.parliament.uk/hleu](http://www.parliament.uk/hleu).

For further details contact the 2nd Clerk of the Committee, Dominique Gracia on 020 7219 5864, or graciat@parliament.uk
**Economic and Financial Affairs and International Trade**

On 6 September the Sub-Committee held an evidence session with the EU Trade Commissioner, Karel de Gucht. The session ranged over a number of issues, including the current state of the EU’s trade policy, the Doha talks, the attitude of the United States on trade, and the impact of the Arab spring. The Sub-Committee wrote to the Commissioner in October to follow up several of the points raised.

During October the Sub-Committee will be hearing evidence for a short follow-up report on the euro area crisis. On 11 October the Sub-Committee will hear from the German Ambassador to the UK, Georg Boomgaard, and from Sharon Bowles MEP, Chair of the European Parliament Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (ECON). On 18 October the Sub-Committee will hear evidence from Professor Willem Buiter, Chief Economist, Citi, and the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Mark Hoban MP. It is expected that the report will be published at the end of the year.

The Sub-Committee has also published the Call for Evidence for its forthcoming inquiry, *Towards a Financial Transaction Tax?* This follows the publication of the Commission’s proposal for a Directive on a common system of Financial Transaction Tax (FTT). The purpose of the inquiry is to investigate the rationale behind the introduction of a financial sector tax, and will consider the potential risks, benefits and shortcomings of an FTT and its significance for the City of London. It will also assess whether an FTT could plausibly be implemented at an EU level, or whether it will only work effectively if implemented globally. The Sub-Committee will begin taking oral evidence in November, and the report is expected to be published in the first quarter of 2012.

The Sub-Committee continues its scrutiny of new regulations: notable items include a Commission proposal for a new Energy Tax Directive and a Commission proposal on prudential requirements for credit institutions and investment firms.

For further information on the Sub-Committee’s meetings and to see transcripts from the evidence hearings, please visit our webpage at [http://www.parliament.uk/hleua](http://www.parliament.uk/hleua).

**For further details contact the Clerk of the Sub-Committee, Stuart Stoner on 020 7219 3616, or stoners@parliament.uk**

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**Internal Market, Energy and Transport**

Sub-Committee B continues its inquiry into the EU Rail Market and the Channel Tunnel. The Sub-Committee took oral evidence in early October from representatives from Eurotunnel on questions of rail access charging, governance and the future expansion of European rail travel, ahead of deliberations on the report. It is expected that the report will be published in November.

Key current proposals for scrutiny include a proposed Regulation on mobile phone roaming, which intends to impose a cap on retail data charging, and a proposed Directive on limiting the sulphur content of marine fuels. The Sub-Committee will also be examining a proposed Decision and linked Communication on energy policy relations with third parties; the Communication is aimed at ensuring the sustainability and security of energy supplies through better engagement with non-EU nations, whilst the Decision looks to increase transparency with respect to energy agreements between Member States and other nations.

For further information on the Sub-Committee’s meetings and to see transcripts from the evidence hearings, please visit our webpage at [http://www.parliament.uk/hleub](http://www.parliament.uk/hleub).

**For further details contact the Clerk of the Sub-Committee, Mark Davies on 020 7219 4840, or daviesma@parliament.uk**
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Development Policy

The Sub-Committee resumes its meetings on 13 October when it considers the items deposited by the Government during the late September recess. Many of these were overrides due to the recess and the fast-moving nature of events in Brussels in foreign affairs on such subjects as Libya and Syria.

Mr Thomas Valasek, Centre for European Reform, has been appointed as Special Adviser for the Sub-Committee’s inquiry into the EU’s military capabilities. The first session on the inquiry will take evidence from Sir Peter Ricketts, National Security Adviser, on 13 October. The following week, on 20 October, evidence will be heard from officials from the FCO and MOD. The Sub-Committee intend thereafter to take evidence from academic experts, including from France and Germany, and from defence industry representatives. Members will also visit Brussels in November to hear from EU and NATO representatives.

For further information on the Sub-Committee’s meetings and to see transcripts from the evidence hearings, please visit our webpage at http://www.parliament.uk/hleuc

For further details contact the Clerk of the Sub-Committee, Kathryn Colvin on 020 7219 6099, or colvink@parliament.uk

Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has submitted the Government’s response to the July 2011 report on the inquiry into innovation in EU agriculture, offering agreement with many key findings. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee drew on the report in participating in a meeting on reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), attended by Agriculture Committee Chairmen and hosted by the Polish Parliament, in Warsaw at the end of September. Planning is in hand for a seminar to be held by the Sub-Committee in autumn, to follow up the key findings.

The European Commission is publishing legislative proposals for the reform of the CAP in the second week of October. These will be scrutinised by the Sub-Committee in the weeks ahead, on the basis of the detailed consideration embodied in the “innovation” report.

Scrutiny continues of the July 2011 proposals for reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). On 12 October, the Sub-Committee is hearing from experts (from the fishing sector and from the environmental movement) about the proposals; on 19 October, Lord Cameron will represent the Sub-Committee at an inter-parliamentary meeting on the CFP, hosted by Commissioner Damanaki, in Brussels.

The Sub-Committee has received a good deal of written submissions in response to its July 2011 call for evidence for its inquiry into EU freshwater policy. Oral evidence sessions begin in October.

For further information on the Sub-Committee’s meetings and to see transcripts from evidence hearings, please visit our webpage at http://www.parliament.uk/hleud

For further details contact the Clerk of the Sub-Committee, Paul Bristow, on 020 7219 4579, or bristowpn@parliament.uk

Justice and Institutions

The Report of the Sub-Committee, The Workload of the Court of Justice of the European Union, will be debated in the House on 17 October during dinner break business. This follows the response of the Government to the report last month.
The Sub-Committee is not conducting an inquiry at present. It is instead focusing on its scrutiny functions in private meetings. Items to be scrutinised include proposed Directives to establish minimum standards of support and protection for victims of crime, and to facilitate cross-border enforcement in the field of road safety.

For further information on the Sub-Committee’s meetings and to see transcripts from the evidence hearings, please visit our webpage at http://www.parliament.uk/hleue

For further details contact the Clerk of the Sub-Committee, Mark Davies on 020 7219 4840, or daviesma@parliament.uk

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Home Affairs

On 14 September Damian Green MP, the Minister for Immigration, gave evidence to the Sub-Committee on recent trends in EU immigration. He was asked in particular about the Mobility Partnerships between the EU and Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt; the implications for the UK’s own borders of the EU proposals for developing more integrated border management; synergies between EU developments and the UK’s own e-Borders system; the incorporation of Bulgaria and Romania into the Schengen system; the integration of third-country nationals; and what exceptional circumstances would have to exist before internal border controls were temporarily introduced within the Schengen Area.

The Minister was asked whether, on the accession of Croatia, the Government would introduce temporary controls similar to those on those on the accession of Bulgaria and Romania, or whether it would allow immediate free movement into the UK, as in 2004; he made clear that the UK would take advantage of any temporary restrictions available under the Croatian Treaty of Accession.

The Minister’s full evidence can be read at http://www.parliament.uk/documents/lords-committees/eu-sub-com-fi/ucEUF140911ev1.pdf

On 12 October the Sub-Committee will be taking evidence from the Information Commissioner and the Director of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) on the implementation by SOCA of the ICO report on data protection for over a million money laundering suspicious activity reports kept in the ELMER database.

In subsequent weeks the Sub-Committee will be hearing evidence for its inquiry into the EU Drugs Strategy.

For further information on the Sub-Committee’s meetings and to see transcripts from the evidence hearings, please visit our webpage at http://www.parliament.uk/hleuf

For further details contact the Clerk of the Sub-Committee, Michael Collon on 020 7219 8650, or collonm@parliament.uk

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Social Policies and Consumer Protection

The Sub-Committee has two new members, Viscount Bridgeman and the Earl of Courtown, who were appointed by the EU Select Committee in September 2011.

The Sub-Committee's next report, The Mobility of Healthcare Professionals in the EU, is due to be published before the end of October 2011.

On 6 October, the Sub-Committee met in private to deliberate on its future work programme, including consideration of its next topic of inquiry, which is likely to begin before the end of October. As a follow-up to the Sub-Committee’s report: Making it work: the European Social Fund, which was published in March 2010, a seminar on this matter will also be held before the end of 2011.
For further information on the Sub-Committee’s meetings and to see transcripts from the evidence hearings, please visit our webpage at http://www.parliament.uk/hleug

For further details contact the Clerk of the Sub-Committee, Michael Torrance on 020 7219 6929, or torrancem@parliament.uk

House of Lords Representative in Brussels

Lord Hannay of Chiswick, Chairman of the EU Home Affairs Sub-Committee, was in Brussels on 5 and 6 October, taking part in an Interparliamentary Committee Meeting (ICM) hosted by the European Parliament’s Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) Committee. The meeting brought together national parliamentarians and members of the European Parliament to discuss Democratic Accountability of the Internal Security Strategy and the Role of Europol, Eurojust and Frontex. Lord Hannay was invited to chair the final two sessions of the meeting.

During the meeting Lord Hannay presented the findings of his Sub-Committee's recent report, The EU Internal Security Strategy (ISS). The Committee concluded that although the Commission had correctly identified the internal security priorities, it needed to do more to link internal to external security and that the strategy omitted the military dimension which would be crucial, particularly to any efforts for disaster recovery. Responding, Cecilia Malmström, the Justice and Home Affairs Commissioner, welcomed the Lords report and agreed that more needed to be done to find links to the external dimensions of security. She undertook to meet with High Representative Ashton to discuss this before the Commission produced its implementation report on the ISS. She conceded that more had to be done to establish the military dimension to the strategy. Meanwhile Adam Rapacki, current Chairman of the Standing Committee on Internal Security (COSI) said that, along with the Commission, COSI would be preparing a 'roadmap' setting out concrete steps to take in order to produce coherent internal and external security strategies.

The ICM represented a model which the EU Committee would like to see consolidated for the interparliamentary oversight of the EU Agencies in the area of Freedom, Security and Justice. The Committee sees interparliamentary scrutiny co-ordinated by the LIBE Committee as a more effective and proportionate approach than a new interparliamentary body as recently suggested by the Commission.

Our representative in Brussels is Duncan Sagar. He would welcome the opportunity to discuss the forthcoming work of the EU Committee and can be reached at Duncan.sagar@europarl.europa.eu or +32 (0) 2 283 1496
Subsidiarity Scrutiny
We have drawn the following dossiers to the attention of other national parliaments as a possible breach of
the subsidiarity principle:

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<td>5084/11</td>
<td>Draft Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a common organisation of agricultural markets and on specific provisions for certain agricultural products (Single CMO Regulation) The Sub-Committee agreed to write to the Presidents of the European Institutions reminding them of the House’s subsidiarity concerns about food for deprived persons (See below). The letter will also draw attention to the concerns of the Scottish Parliament Rural Affairs and Environment Committee</td>
<td>Uncleared</td>
<td>Paul Bristow, Clerk, Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment Sub-Committee <a href="mailto:bristowpn@parliament.uk">bristowpn@parliament.uk</a></td>
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The Committee has considered and cleared from scrutiny the Commission’s work programme for 2011. Below are the items which it considers may require particularly close scrutiny in respect of subsidiarity and the sub-committees which will deal with them.

**Economic and Financial Affairs, and International Trade Sub-Committee (www.parliament.uk/hleua)**
- Proposal on access to basic banking services;
- Proposal for a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base;
- Legislative initiative on a framework for bank crisis management and resolution;
- Financial sector taxation.

**Internal Market, Energy and Transport Sub-Committee (www.parliament.uk/hleub)**
- Proposed inventory of airport capacities.

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment Sub-Committee (www.parliament.uk/hleud)**
- Aquaculture, within Common Fisheries Policy reform proposals;
- Initiative on water efficiency to promote water savings in public and private buildings.

**Justice and Institutions Sub-Committee (www.parliament.uk/hleue)**
- Rights for victims of crime.

**Social Policies and Consumer Protection Sub-Committee (www.parliament.uk/hleug)**
- Proposal on the posting of workers;
- Revision of the Working Time Directive;
- White Paper on Pensions;
- New Competences Initiative, including a European Skills Passport;
- Promotion and validation of informal and non-formal learning;
- Pricing of medicinal products;
- Environmental Tobacco Smoke at the workplace;
- Reconciliation between work, life and family.
## Documents on which the House of Lords has issued a Reasoned Opinion

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Date of Reasoned Opinion</th>
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| 12208/10        | Proposal for a Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of seasonal employment  
Report Subsidiarity assessment: admission of third-country nationals as seasonal workers  
Traduction en langue francaise | 20 October 2010 |
| 13435/10 COM (10) 486 | Proposal for a Regulation amending regulations (EC) No 1290/2005 and (EC) No 1234/2007, as regards distribution of food products to the most deprived persons in the Union  
Report Subsidiarity assessment: distribution of food products to deprived persons  
Traduction en langue francaise | 3 November 2010 |