Welcome to the September edition of the Committee’s newsletter.

Current inquiries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inquiry</th>
<th>Sub-Committee</th>
<th>Expected publication date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU Freshwater Policy</td>
<td>Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment</td>
<td>Easter 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The European Rail Market and the Role of the Channel Tunnel</td>
<td>Internal Market, Energy and Transport</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mobility of Health Professionals</td>
<td>Social Policies and Consumer Protection</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU MilitaryCapabilities: lessons from the past, signposts to the future</td>
<td>Foreign Affairs, Defence and Development Policy</td>
<td>Late Autumn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU Drugs Strategy</td>
<td>Home Affairs</td>
<td>Early 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select Committee on the European Union

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.

For further details contact the 2nd Clerk of the Committee, Kate Meanwell on 020 7219 5964, or meanwellk@parliament.uk
Economic and Financial Affairs and International Trade

On 6 April the Sub-Committee launched a short inquiry on Credit Rating Agencies and EU Sovereign Debt. The report was published on 21 July. A response is expected from the Government by the end of September, and a debate will be held in the House towards the end of the year.

At the beginning of May the Sub-Committee held two short evidence sessions on the new EU financial supervisory framework with the European Banking Authority and the Financial Services Authority. The Sub-Committee published a short report with observations on the evidence it heard on 21 July. A response is expected from the Government by the end of September, and it is hoped that a debate will be held in the House towards the end of the year.

On 28 June, the Sub-Committee heard evidence from Justine Greening MP, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, on the Draft EU Budget for 2012. The Sub-Committee wrote to the Minister setting out its views on 13 July. Correspondence between the Government and the Committee continues as negotiations on the draft Budget progress.

At the beginning of September the Sub-Committee decided to hear evidence in October for a short follow-up report on the euro area crisis. The Minister, Mark Hoban MP, will be giving evidence to the Sub-Committee on 18 October. It is expected that the report will be published at the end of the year.

Also in October, the Sub-Committee will be launching an inquiry into forthcoming proposals for a Financial Transaction Tax (a ‘Tobin Tax’). The Sub-Committee is expected to launch a Call for Evidence at the start of October, and start taking evidence in November. The report will 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 Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base, and a Commission proposal for a new Energy Tax Directive.

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.

For further details contact the Clerk of the Sub-Committee, Antony Willott on 020 7219 3616, or willotta@parliament.uk

Internal Market, Energy and Transport

On 13 September the Sub-Committee’s last report, Re-launching the Single Market, was debated in Grand Committee. Many members of the Sub-Committee either spoke in or attended the debate, which was an interesting examination of the report’s findings.

Sub-Committee B continues its inquiry into the EU Rail Market and the Channel Tunnel. The Sub-Committee took a substantial amount of oral evidence in July and will take further evidence from Lord Berkeley in September and from Eurotunnel in October.

In June the Committee conducted an evidence session jointly with the Sub-Committee on Agriculture and Environment with the DECC Minister, Greg Barker MP, to discuss energy efficiency and the EU’s Low Carbon Roadmap. The Commission has now published an Energy Efficiency Directive, and the Sub-Committee will consider this proposal in September.

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.

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

The Sub-Committee held its first post-recess meeting on 8 September when it considered the items deposited by the Government during the summer recess, many of which were overrides due to the recess and the fast-moving nature of events in Brussels in foreign affairs. The Sub-Committee was also given an informal update by officials of the FCO on the situation in Libya and Syria following developments during the summer.

The Sub-Committee's first hearing for its inquiry into the EU's military capabilities will take place in October, once a Special Adviser has been appointed.

The Chairman attended the meeting in Warsaw of the Conference of Foreign Affairs Committee Chairmen from 4-6 September. The conference was addressed by the EU's High Representative, Baroness Ashton, and by the Polish Foreign Minister, Mr. Radoslav Sikorski, as well as by Polish Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs and the Speakers of the two Polish Houses. The conference held sessions on current foreign policy during the Polish EU Presidency, Europe's obligations in its Eastern Policy, and the situation in North Africa, challenges for the EU. The Chairmen also discussed the options for the future of COFACC and of interparliamentary scrutiny of the EU's foreign and security policy following the demise of the Western European Union Parliamentary Assembly.

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](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**

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**Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment**

The report on the inquiry into innovation in EU agriculture was published on 7 July. The inquiry’s findings bear closely on consideration of the future of the Common Agriculture Policy (from 2014 onwards), about which the European Commission is expected to publish legislative proposals in October of this year. On 25 and 26 September, the Chairman of the Sub-Committee will attend a meeting of the Agriculture Committee Chairmen, in Warsaw, hosted by the Polish Parliament, to discuss CAP reform.

On 19 July the Sub-Committee issued a call for evidence for its new inquiry, into the future direction of EU freshwater policy. The European Commission plans a “Blueprint to Safeguard Europe’s Water” for publication towards the end of 2012. Taking account of evidence which will be heard in the autumn, the Sub-Committee plans to complete this inquiry in order to produce a report by Easter 2012.

Also in July, the European Commission published proposals for reform of the Common Fisheries Policy. The Sub-Committee will scrutinise these proposals at meetings in September and October; on 19 October, Lord Cameron will represent the Sub-Committee at an inter-parliamentary meeting on the CFP held by the Commission in Brussels.

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](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
On 14 September, the Sub-Committee will take oral evidence from the Lord Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke MP, on the EU’s accession to the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Sub-Committee has recently received a response from the Government to its report *The Workload of the Court of Justice of the European Union*. It is hoped that the report will be debated in the House in the near future. In the context of this report, proposals have recently been made to increase the number of judges in the General Court, and to make arrangements for replacing Civil Service Tribunal judges who are unable to fulfil their duties due to illness.

Notable items of ongoing scrutiny include the European Investigation Order, which would introduce a new system for gathering evidence in criminal cases involving a cross-border dimension, proposals on matrimonial property, and a Directive introducing new rules on human trafficking.

The Commission have already recently produced a significant amount of new legislation relating to intellectual property, which the Committee will continue to scrutinise through the autumn.

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, John Turner on 020 7219 4840, or turnerjd@parliament.uk

Home Affairs
The Sub-Committee issues a call for evidence for its inquiry into the EU Drugs Strategy. The deadline for submission of evidence has passed. Some of the evidence submitted dealt with matters outside the scope of the inquiry, like the decriminalisation of drugs. Only a small number of submissions were received directly with the EU strategy. The Sub-Committee will now be considering this evidence before embarking on a programme of oral evidence when the House returns in October.

The Sub-Committee has received the Government’s response to its report on the EU Internal Security Strategy, which was published in May. The Government accepts many of the report’s recommendations. However, it declines to sign or ratify the Council of Europe (Warsaw) Convention on Money Laundering, despite having told the Sub-Committee two years ago that it intended to do so shortly. This and other matters will be taken up when the report is debated later this year.

The Minister for Immigration will be coming to a one-off evidence session to address the Committee on recent developments in immigration, in particular those resulting from the events in North Africa which have led to large numbers of migrants entering the EU from third countries.

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
Social Policies and Consumer Protection

Before the recess, the Sub-Committee concluded its oral evidence sessions for its inquiry into the mobility of healthcare professionals. The Sub-Committee heard from five UK regulators, a patient representative, the Commission and Anne Milton MP, Minister for Public Health. In September, the Committee will consider a draft report which is expected to be published in early October. The report will make recommendations to the Government as well as representing the Committee’s response to the Commission Green Paper ‘Modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive’.

The Sub-Committee’s scrutiny work in September will include a proposed regulation on foods for young children and a directive aimed at minimising the risk to workers from electromagnetic fields.

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, Talitha Rowland on 020 7219 6929, or rowlandt@parliament.uk

House of Lords Representative in Brussels

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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<th>Document Number</th>
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<tr>
<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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</tbody>
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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](http://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](http://www.parliament.uk/hleub))
- Proposed inventory of airport capacities.

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Environment Sub-Committee** ([www.parliament.uk/hleud](http://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](http://www.parliament.uk/hleue))
- Rights for victims of crime.

**Social Policies and Consumer Protection Sub-Committee** ([www.parliament.uk/hleug](http://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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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document Number</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date of Reasoned Opinion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12208/10</td>
<td>Proposal for a Directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purposes of seasonal employment</td>
<td>20 October 2010</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Report Subsidiarity assessment: admission of third-country nationals as seasonal workers</td>
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<td>Traduction en langue francaise</td>
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<td>13435/10 COM (10) 486</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>3 November 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Report Subsidiarity assessment: distribution of food products to deprived persons</td>
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