An EU document is ‘deposited’ in Parliament by the Government

Within 10 days, the Government submits an Explanatory Memorandum (EM)

The document and EM are included in the next ‘Chairman’s Sift’

Chairman’s Sift: the Chairman decides on one of three options

(1) Document is cleared from scrutiny

(2) Document is cleared from scrutiny but copied to relevant committee for information

(3) Document is retained under scrutiny and sent to relevant committee for further examination

Committee meets and considers the document and accompanying EM, choosing between four options

(1) Document is cleared from scrutiny

(2) Committee writes to Government seeking further information

(3) Committee holds one or two meetings to hear views of witnesses/stakeholders before writing to Government

(4) Committee launches a full inquiry

At end of inquiry report is published

Government responds to report within 2 months. Report is then debated in House of Lords

Continued correspondence until committee is satisfied

Scrutiny Reserve lifted

The Committee may request further updates from the Government, in which case correspondence continues beyond the formal Scrutiny Reserve process

For more information visit: www.parliament.uk/hleu

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