



**LIAISON COMMITTEE
MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2020 at 3 pm
DECISIONS DOCUMENT**

Present:

Bradley, L.
Davies of Oldham, L.
Hayter of Kentish Town, B.
Howe, E.
Judge, L.
Lang of Monkton, L.
Low of Dalston, L.
McFall of Alcluith, L. (Chair)
Smith of Hindhead, L.
Tyler, L.
Walmsley, B.

I. SPECIAL INQUIRY COMMITTEE PROPOSALS

The Committee *agreed* that the following proposals should be scoped before their next meeting, to which the members who had made the proposals should be invited in accordance with the new procedure set out in the Liaison Committee review.

- (i) Lord Rees of Ludlow – Risk assessment and risk planning
- (ii) Lord Ravensdale – Net zero roadmap to 2050, combined with Lord Browne of Ladyton – The adequacy and resilience of the Government’s plans to deliver net zero carbon emissions by 2050
- (iii) Lord Moynihan – National plan for sport and recreation

In addition, in connection with Lord Trees’ proposal for an inquiry into “Globilisation and Biosecurity – risks and benefits for animal, plant and environmental health, the Committee noted that the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy were conducting an inquiry into how biosecurity is addressed in national security planning and resilience. Staff would investigate the wider remit of this inquiry before the Committee’s next meeting as part of the scoping exercise.

The Committee further *agreed* that members of the House would be invited to submit fresh proposals, or re-submit earlier proposals, as part of a new expressions of interest exercise to be conducted later in the year.

2. SPECIAL INQUIRY COMMITTEE FOLLOW UP

At their previous meeting the Committee had considered five proposals which had been received

and had agreed to select (i) Artificial Intelligence and (ii) Political Polling for the first two follow-up sessions, which were originally scheduled for March and July 2020. The Committee *agreed* that those two sessions should be rescheduled for the autumn.

The Committee noted the four further proposals which had been received for follow-up sessions and *agreed* to consider these, together with the earlier proposals received, at a later date once the first two follow-up sessions had been re-arranged.

3. COMMON FRAMEWORKS

The Committee *agreed* to take note of **L/19-21/55**: Letter from Minister of State, Chloe Smith MP on Common Frameworks, and that the Chair should respond with a small number of detailed points such as commenting on the tight timescale which was being proposed for parliamentary scrutiny of the documents.

The Committee noted that there were a number of issues to be scrutinised in addition to common frameworks. The potential scrutiny gaps included:

- Scrutiny of the Government's forthcoming proposals to strengthen the UK internal market;
- Scrutiny of inter-governmental relations, including the review of these commissioned by the JMC plenary
- Establishing mechanisms for scrutiny of the implementation of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland after the end of the transition period
- Strengthening inter-parliamentary dialogue, including the evolution of the Interparliamentary Forum on Brexit.

Whilst hoping that the EU Committee or a Sub-Committee might scrutinise the first few common frameworks, the Committee *agreed* to consider further at its next meeting the case for recommending the appointment of a sessional Committee on devolution, to begin its work as soon as possible after the House returns from the summer recess. That would allow any new Committee to begin work on common frameworks and other issues in the autumn. The consideration would include prior discussion between the Chair and the Chairs of the EU and Constitution Committees (which discussions were already underway) and a note on the resources likely to be needed for the new Committee.

4. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee would meet next in the first half of July, at a date to be communicated shortly.

June 2020