

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**Minutes of the 1st Meeting, held at 11.00am on Tuesday, 19 May 2026,
Committee Room 3**

Present:

Lord Stirrup (Chair)

Baroness Ashton of Upholland

Lord Barrow

Lord Brennan of Canton

Baroness Brown

Lord Elliot of Mickle Fell

Lord Jackson of Peterborough

Lord Moynihan of Chelsea

Baroness Smith of Newnham

Lord Tugendhat

Mr Tim Mitchell, the Counsel for European Law, was in attendance

1. Apologies and Notices

Apologies were received from Baroness Suttie

2. Inquiry: Dynamic Alignment, Session 6

At 11.00am the Committee heard evidence from:

- Tom Bradshaw, President, National Farmers' Union (NFU) of England and Wales
- John Powell, Chief Executive, British Meat Processors Association (BMPA)
- Richard Ballantyne OBE, Chief Executive, British Ports Association

3. Inquiry: Dynamic Alignment, Session 7

At 11:50, the Committee heard evidence from:

- Professor Emily Lydgate, Professor of Environmental Law, Co-Director of the UK Trade Policy Observatory and Deputy Director of the Centre for Inclusive Trade Policy, University of Sussex
- Catherine McBride OBE, CEO, Great British Business Council

The Committee *considered* a note by the Policy Analyst **(EAC/26-27/002)**

4. Forward Work Programme

The Committee *considered* a note by the Clerk **(EAC/26-27/003)**

5. Draft letter on the EU internal electricity market – Letter from Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP, 25 March 2025

COM(2025)804: Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations between the European Union and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the participation of the United Kingdom in the internal electricity market of the Union and on the financial contribution of the United Kingdom towards reducing economic and social disparities between the regions of the Union.

Related documents:

- The Committee *considered* a Note by the Clerk **(EAC/26-27/004)**
- Letter from the Chair to Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP, 12 March 2026
- Letter of response from Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP, 25 March 2026

6. Draft letter on the Youth Experience Scheme negotiations

- The Committee *considered* a Note by the Clerk **(EAC/26-27/005)**

7. Scrutiny of International Agreements: Draft report on Amendments to the EEA EFTA-UK Free Trade Agreement with respect to Mobile Roaming Rates (2026)

The Committee *considered* a note by the Policy Analyst (**EAC/26-27/006**)

- The Committee *agreed* a Chair's Draft Report: Scrutiny of International Agreements: Amendments to the EEA EFTA-UK Free Trade Agreement with respect to Mobile Roaming Rates (2026)

Documents also circulated:

- Letter dated 23 April 2026 from the Treaty Unit, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Decision No. 1/2025 of the United Kingdom-EEA EFTA Joint Committee (Adopted on 25 November 2025) Amendments to Annex XX to the Agreement on the International Mobile Roaming Rates
- Explanatory Memorandum on Decision No. 1/2025 of the United Kingdom-EEA EFTA Joint Committee (Adopted on 25 November 2025) Amendments to Annex XX to the Agreement on the International Mobile Roaming Rates
- Decision No. 1/2025 of the United Kingdom-EEA EFTA Joint Committee (Adopted on 25 November 2025) Amendments to Annex XX to the Agreement on the International Mobile Roaming Rates, presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs by Command of His Majesty, April 2026, Miscellaneous No. 6 (2026), CP 1574

8. Written Evidence

The Committee *accepted* the following written submissions:

- Ulster Farmers' Union (**DYN0064**)
- Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission (**DYN0066**)
- Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (**DYN0067**)
- General Council of the Bar of England and Wales (**DYN0068**)

9. Any other business

The Committee *took note* of the following documents:

- Minutes of the fourth meeting of the TCA Partnership Council, London, 2 February 2026 (published on 6 May 2026)

- Letter from Stephen Doughty MP, Minister of State for Europe, North America and UK Overseas Territories, FCDO, re: sanctions update, 24 April 2026
- Agenda for the 18th Meeting of the Specialised Committee on Citizens' Rights, 13 May 2026
- Letter from Rt Hon Nick Thomas Symonds, Minister for the Cabinet Office, His Majesty's Paymaster General, re: Independent Monitoring Authority (IMA) and European Commission 2024 annual reports on citizens' rights, 10 May 2026
- 12th meeting of the Specialised Committee on Fisheries, recommendation on Monitoring, Control and Surveillance, 22 April 2026

The Committee agreed the Minutes of the 53rd Meeting (**EAC/24-26/285**)

The Committee will next meet on 2 June 2026 at 11.00am

28 May 2026