



House of Commons  
European Scrutiny Committee

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**Second report of  
Session 2021–22**

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Documents considered by the Committee on 26 May 2021

*Report, together with formal minutes*

*Ordered by The House of Commons  
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## Notes

### Numbering of documents

Three separate numbering systems are used in this Report for European Union documents:

Numbers in brackets are the Committee's own reference numbers.

Numbers in the form "5467/05" are Council of Ministers reference numbers. This system is also used by UK Government Departments, by the House of Commons Vote Office and for proceedings in the House.

Numbers preceded by the letters COM or SEC or JOIN are Commission reference numbers.

Where only a Committee number is given, this usually indicates that no official text is available and the Government has submitted an "unnumbered Explanatory Memorandum" discussing what is likely to be included in the document or covering an unofficial text.

### Abbreviations used in the headnotes and footnotes

AFSJ	Area of Freedom Security and Justice
CFSP	Common Foreign and Security Policy
CSDP	Common Security and Defence Policy
ECA	European Court of Auditors
ECB	European Central Bank
EEAS	European External Action Service
EM	Explanatory Memorandum (submitted by the Government to the Committee) *
EP	European Parliament
EU	European Union
JHA	Justice and Home Affairs
OJ	Official Journal of the European Communities
QMV	Qualified majority voting
SEM	Supplementary Explanatory Memorandum
TEU	Treaty on European Union
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

### Euros

Where figures in euros have been converted to pounds sterling, this is normally at the market rate for the last working day of the previous month.

### Further information

Documents recommended by the Committee for debate, together with the times of forthcoming debates (where known), are listed in the European Union Documents list, which is published in the House of Commons Vote Bundle each Monday, and is also available on the [parliamentary website](#). Documents awaiting consideration by the Committee are listed in "Remaining Business": [www.parliament.uk/escom](http://www.parliament.uk/escom). The website also contains the Committee's Reports.

\*Explanatory Memoranda (EMs) and letters issued by the Ministers can be downloaded from the Cabinet Office website: <http://europeanmemoranda.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/>.

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# 1 Offshore renewable energy<sup>1</sup>

**These EU documents are politically important because:**

- they relate to future cooperation between the EU and UK in the deployment of offshore renewable energy in order to attain climate change goals, as provided for in the UK/EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

## Action

- Report to the House.
- Draw to the attention of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee.

## Overview

1.1 Recognising their shared interest in the development of offshore renewable energy, particularly in the North Sea, the UK and EU agreed in the UK/EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) to cooperate in that regard. In our [Report](#)<sup>2</sup> of 3 February 2021, we summarised the TCA’s provisions on offshore renewable energy cooperation as well as the Commission’s recent [Communication](#) on offshore renewable energy (document(a)) and its [proposal](#) (document(b)), suggesting changes to the EU Regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure (the “TEN-E Regulation”). In that proposal, the Commission suggested a new category of “projects of mutual interest” between at least one EU country and at least one third country. Such cooperation will require that the third country or countries involved have a high level of regulatory alignment or convergence to support the overall policy objectives of the EU, and an energy system which is on a trajectory towards decarbonisation.

1.2 The Minister for Business, Energy and Clean Growth (Rt Hon. Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP) has [responded](#) to our [letter](#) of 3 February 2021 in which we raised a series of queries about future UK-EU cooperation in this area.

1.3 Concerning implementation of the joint EU-UK commitment in the TCA to cooperate in the development of offshore renewable energy, the Minister indicates that the EU and UK are considering a Memorandum of Understanding to enable a “specific forum” to be created for technical discussions, building on the existing North Seas Energy Cooperation. In the meantime, the EU and UK are looking at ways to ensure that informal cooperation between the UK and other North Sea countries can resume as soon as possible.

1.4 In our letter, we noted that the Specialised Committee on Energy to be established under the TCA needs to meet to adopt guidance allowing for cooperation to begin between relevant UK and EU organisations, notably between National Grid and ENTSO-E (the

1 (a) Commission Communication: An EU Strategy to harness the potential of offshore renewable energy for a climate neutral future (b) Proposal for a Regulation on guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure and repealing Regulation (EU) No 347/2013; (a) [12950/20](#) + ADD 1, COM(20) 741, (b)—, [COM\(20\) 824](#); Legal base: (a)— (b) Article 172 TFEU, QMV, Ordinary legislative procedure; Department: Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy; Devolved Administrations: Consulted; ESC numbers: (a) 41672, (b) 41742.

2 Thirty-fifth Report HC 229–xxxii (2019–21), [chapter 1](#) (3 February 2021).

European Network of Electricity Transmission System Operators). The Minister explains that, during the negotiation of the TCA, the UK and the Commission agreed that—because it was important for cooperation between UK Transmission System Operators (TSOs) and ENTSO-E to begin as soon as possible—the Parties would disseminate what would be contained in this guidance in advance of the commencement of the work of the Specialised Committee.

1.5 The UK has therefore sent out letters to all UK TSOs asking them to develop and implement, as soon as possible, a Memorandum of Understanding to set out efficient and inclusive working arrangements for effective cooperation with ENTSO-E. Commission officials sent equivalent letters to ENTSO-E. Similar letters were also sent to UK gas TSOs and ENTSO-G (the European Network of Gas Transmission System Operators) and to the UK regulatory authorities and the Agency for Cooperation of European Regulators (ACER).

1.6 Concerning the prospect of the involvement of UK entities in “projects of mutual interest”, the Minister notes that leaving the EU means the UK can now regulate in a way that suits the UK economy and UK businesses—doing things in a more innovative and effective way, without being bound by EU rules. The Government remains alert to cooperation opportunities with the EU that are in the UK’s interest and expects that the revised TEN-E framework may provide opportunities to further UK interests.

1.7 The Minister confirms that it would be premature for any discussions to take place between the UK and EU about possible projects involving the UK. The TEN-E Regulation, she says, is unlikely to be in force until sometime in 2022. Even then, the revised TEN-E will only be relevant for projects that will feature in the next but one biennial list of projects around the end of 2023.

## **Our assessment**

1.8 We welcome the news that informal engagement is already underway concerning future North Sea offshore renewable energy cooperation and concerning cooperation between relevant UK and EU bodies.

1.9 The Minister does not engage with the question of whether the Government would be content for UK projects to be involved even if it required the UK to maintain a high level of regulatory alignment with the EU. While we accept that the Government does not want to engage with this tension at the moment, it is a factor which will need to be considered if the UK chooses to diverge from EU retained law in the area of energy.

## **Action**

1.10 We will monitor developments in this area with interest but require no further information from the Minister. We draw the Minister’s letter to the attention of the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee.

## 2 A European Strategy for Data<sup>3</sup>

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### This EU document is politically important because:

- it sets out the Commission’s high-level aims and ambitions in the data sphere over the next 5–10 years; and
- it serves as an important comparator document for the UK’s own plans in this area and the individual actions it details could potentially have policy implications for the UK as a non-EU Member State.

### Action:

- Draw to the attention of the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, and the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee.

### Overview

2.1 The ‘[European Strategy for Data](#)’ is one of the key actions outlined in the [Commission’s ‘digital future’ Communication](#) and sets out a series of policy and legislative proposals and funding commitments with the overall aim of creating a ‘single European data space’ (or ‘single market for data’). The measures outlined in the Strategy are intended to form part of a comprehensive approach to the EU’s ‘data economy’ to increase the use of, and demand for, data and data-enabled products and services throughout the Single Market.

2.2 The Communication argues that concerted action in the data sphere is required based on the growth of data volumes and the rapidity of technological change, the increasing importance of data for the economy and society, and a desire to position the EU as a leader in the use of data, its regulation and governance, and the development of data products and services. The Commission also highlights the problems that it perceives are holding the EU back from realising its full potential in the data economy. These include: the availability of data between the public, businesses and governments; imbalances in market power between small start-ups and multi-nationals; issues surrounding poor data interoperability and quality; weaknesses in data governance; EU technological dependence in areas of strategic importance (e.g. cloud computing); a lack of awareness on the part of individuals regarding their data rights; gaps in skills and data literacy; and a need to improve cybersecurity.

2.3 The Commission’s Data Strategy is built around four pillars with individual policy and legislative proposals and funding commitments set-out under each:

- i) **Pillar 1**—A cross-sector governance framework for data access and use.
- ii) **Pillar 2**—Enablers: Investments in data and strengthening Europe’s capabilities and infrastructures for hosting, processing and using data.

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3 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: A European strategy for data; Council and COM number: 6250/20 and COM(20) 66; Legal base:—Dept: Culture, Media and Sport; Devolved Administrations: Consulted; ESC number: 41088.

- iii) **Pillar 3**—Competences: Empowering individuals, investing in skills and SMEs.
- iv) **Pillar 4**—Common European data spaces in strategic sectors and domains of public interest.

2.4 For further information on the Communication and our initial assessment of its political importance see our [Thirty-First Report of Session 2019–21](#).<sup>4</sup>

2.5 In our Thirty-First Report of Session 2019–21, we considered the Commission Communication, and its content therein, deeming the document to be politically important. We wrote to the Minister responsible for the document, Minister of State for Media and Data, Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (Rt Hon. John Whittingdale OBE MP) requesting further information on certain aspects of the Communication and on the steps that the Government had taken/was going to take in light of the measures suggested by the Commission following the end of the post-Brexit transition period. Our letter principally focussed on the potential implications of the Commission’s Strategy for UK law and policy, in particular, concerning UK-based stakeholders. The Minister has since written in reply—dated 17 December 2020—and his response is considered below.<sup>5</sup>

### The Minister’s letter of 17 December 2020

2.6 In our letter of [3 December 2020](#), we noted that the Commission’s ‘European Strategy for Data’ covers a considerable number of linked areas and that the legislative proposals, policy actions, and funding initiatives outlined therein are directly relevant to the UK as a non-EU Member State. We noted that these would be assessed individually by the Committee as and when they are published.

2.7 With regard to the Commission’s headline initiatives, we drew attention to plans for the creation of European ‘data spaces’ in key economic sectors and requested further information on the work that the Government was undertaking in this area.

2.8 In response, the Minister states that the EU published the [Data Governance Act](#) on 25 November 2020. The Minister explains that the proposal is, in part, concerned with strengthening EU-wide data sharing mechanisms and supporting European data spaces with the goal of increasing data availability. The Minister notes that the proposed draft Act is the first of a set of measures previously announced in the 2020 [European Strategy for Data](#). He further states that it is too early to assess the policy implications of the proposal for the UK.

2.9 The Minister explains that the Government understands that, throughout 2021, the EU intends to publish a raft of related proposals and that the Act will support the creation of sectoral Common European Data Spaces, the first of which will be in the area of health. The Minister notes that the Government will continue to monitor these developments and their implications for the UK as a non-EU Member State.

2.10 Furthermore, the Minister states that data spaces are a Government priority and draws our attention to the fact that the [UK’s National Data Strategy](#) argues that better use of data—and enhanced data sharing mechanisms—can help organisations of every

4 Thirty-First Report HC 229–xxvii (2019–21), Chapter 1 (9 December 2020)

5 [Letter from Rt Hon. John Whittingdale OBE MP to Sir William Cash MP](#), 17 December 2020

kind succeed across the public, private and third sectors. The Minister adds that the Government will consider options for how the UK should approach the regulation of data spaces as part of its National Data Strategy commitment to develop a clear policy framework to determine the interventions that are needed to improve data availability in the wider economy.

2.11 In our letter, we also highlighted the Commission's plans to review the operation of Article 20 of the [General Data Protection Regulation](#),<sup>6</sup> and requested an update on any work that the Government was undertaking in relation to the regulation of greater data portability for individuals.

2.12 In response, the Minister states that, following the end of the post-Brexit transition period, the UK will continue to operate a high-quality data protection regime that promotes growth and innovation, underpinned by the trustworthy use of data. The Minister emphasises that the Government wants the UK's data protection regime to remain fit for purpose, as outlined in [Mission 2](#) of the National Data Strategy, as the UK economy becomes increasingly digitised and data-enabled. The Minister notes that this includes rules relating to data subject rights, such as the right to data portability, and that the results of the Government's National Data Strategy consultation are still being analysed to help inform its approach moving forward.

## Action

2.13 We draw this Report chapter to the attention of the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, and the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee.

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6 Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation) (Text with EEA relevance).

## 3 Cybersecurity: EU Strategy and revised Network and Information Systems Directive<sup>7</sup>

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### These EU documents are politically important because:

- the Government acknowledges that the proposed Network and Information Systems Directive has the potential to invoke Article 13(4) of the Northern Ireland Protocol;<sup>8</sup> and
- as the Communication refers to a cybersecurity framework that the UK has maintained after EU Exit, it holds domestic relevance for the Government as it develops the UK's own post-Brexit national cybersecurity strategy.

### Action

- Draw this Report chapter to the attention of the Digital, Culture Media and Sport Committee, the Home Affairs Committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Defence Committee.

### Overview

3.1 The two documents under scrutiny concern a Commission [Communication on the EU's Cybersecurity Strategy for the Digital Decade](#) and a related [Directive on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union](#).

3.2 The EU's Cybersecurity Strategy for the Digital Decade was adopted on 16 December 2020. The document outlines the EU's proposals and forthcoming interventions to bolster Europe's collective resilience against cyber threats and safeguard citizens and businesses by ensuring trustworthy and reliable services and digital tools. The European Commission considers this as one of its top priorities.

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7 Document (a)—[Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on the EU's Cybersecurity Strategy for the Digital Decade](#); Council and COM number: 14133/20,—; Legal base: N/A; Department: Digital, Culture, Media and Sport; Devolved Administrations: Not consulted; ESC number: 41774. Document (b)—[Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union, repealing Directive \(EU\) 2016/1148](#); Council and COM number: 14150/20 + ADDs 1–6, COM(20) 823; Legal base: Article 114 TFEU, QMV, ordinary legislative procedure; Department: Digital, Culture, Media and Sport; Devolved Administrations: Not consulted; ESC number: 41773.

8 Article 13(4) of the Protocol states "Where the Union adopts a new act that falls within the scope of this Protocol, but which neither amends nor replaces a Union act listed in the Annexes to this Protocol, the Union shall inform the United Kingdom of the adoption of that act in the Joint Committee. Upon the request of the Union or the United Kingdom, the Joint Committee shall hold an exchange of views on the implications of the newly adopted act for the proper functioning of this Protocol, within 6 weeks after the request. As soon as reasonably practical after the Union has informed the United Kingdom in the Joint Committee, the Joint Committee shall either: (a) adopt a decision adding the newly adopted act to the relevant Annex to this Protocol; or (b) where an agreement on adding the newly adopted act to the relevant Annex to this Protocol cannot be reached, examine all further possibilities to maintain the good functioning of this Protocol and take any decision necessary to this effect. If the Joint Committee has not taken a decision referred to in the second subparagraph within a reasonable time, the Union shall be entitled, after giving notice to the United Kingdom, to take appropriate remedial measures. Such measures shall take effect at the earliest 6 months after the Union informed the United Kingdom in accordance with the first subparagraph, but in no event shall such measures take effect before the date on which the newly adopted act is implemented in the Union."

3.3 The second document under scrutiny is a proposal for a revision of the Network and Information Systems Directive (also known as the ‘NIS’ Directive). The proposal is based on the results of a review of the current iteration of the Directive.<sup>9</sup>

3.4 The original NIS Directive entered into force in 2016. It places requirements on EU Member States to identify ‘Operators of Essential Services’ and ensure that they have appropriate and proportionate security measures in place to manage and mitigate any risks to their network and information systems, and to ensure the security of critical services that are important for the economy and wider society. The proposal under scrutiny would repeal the original NIS Directive and make amendments to its general framework by increasing its scope to add organisations from a range of further sectors to its list of ‘Operators of Essential Services’. By doing so, operators in these areas would become subject to an EU-wide regulatory regime.

3.5 As the UK is no longer an EU Member State, it will not have to implement the proposed Directive. However, as the proposal refers to a framework that the UK has maintained after EU Exit, it retains domestic relevance.

3.6 For further information on both EU documents and our initial assessment of their legal and political importance see our [Fortieth Report of 2019–21](#).<sup>10</sup>

3.7 In our Fortieth Report of Session 2019–21, we considered the Commission Communication and the accompanying proposed Directive, and deemed both to be politically important. We wrote to the Minister responsible for the documents, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (Matt Warman MP), requesting further information on the steps that the Government had taken/was going to take in light of the measures suggested by the Commission. Our letter principally focussed on the potential implications of the documents for UK law and policy, in particular, concerning Northern Ireland, and UK-based stakeholders. The Minister has since written in reply—dated 7 April—and his response is considered below.<sup>11</sup>

### The Minister’s letter of 7 April 2021

3.8 In our letter of [17 March 2021](#), we noted that the Government’s Explanatory Memorandum (EM) highlighted elements of the Commission’s proposed NIS Directive as having the potential to be raised with the UK by the EU under Article 13(4) of the Northern Ireland Protocol. Article 13(4) stipulates that in the event of the EU adopting a new Act that falls within the scope of the Protocol, the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee will decide whether Northern Ireland also has to adopt the new rules. If a decision cannot be reached, alternative measures to ensure the continued good functioning of the Protocol will be explored. We asked the Minister to provide further information on the likelihood of this transpiring and, were it to, what impact this could have on Government policy for the UK’s own cybersecurity strategy.

3.9 In response, the Minister notes that, as stated in its EM, the Government does not foresee any issues arising under Article 13(4) of the Northern Ireland Protocol. The

9 European Commission, ‘Annexes to the Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union, repealing Directive 2016/1148, SEC(20) 430 final, SWD(20) 344 final and SWD(20) 345 final.

10 Fortieth Report HC 229-xxxv (2019–21), [chapter 1](#) (17 March 2021).

11 [Letter from Matt Warman MP to Sir William Cash MP](#), 7 April 2021.

Minister recalls that Article 13(4) is only relevant where the Union adopts a new act that falls within the scope of this Protocol and that, while the NIS Directive governs the security requirements of operators of essential service and digital service providers, this is not covered by the provisions of the Northern Ireland Protocol on customs, tariffs, or trade. As a result, the Minister believes that any potential impact on the UK's own cybersecurity strategy would be very low.

3.10 We also drew attention to Part 4 of the UK/EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) providing scope for future cooperation between the UK and the EU in the cybersecurity field. In light of this, we asked the Minister to provide further information on how the UK might potentially interact with new and existing bodies outlined in the EU's Cybersecurity Strategy, such as its NIS Cooperation Group and Joint Cyber Unit, as well as the European Cyber Crises Liaison Organisation Network (EU-CyCLONe) and the EU Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA).

3.11 In response, the Minister acknowledges that Part 4 of the TCA allows for the UK to cooperate with the EU on cyber security through the activities of the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-EU), and some activities of the NIS Cooperation Group, and ENISA (albeit that the UK's participation in these fora is voluntary, by invitation or request, and agreement on suitable working arrangements for these groups). The Minister explains that the European Cyber Crises Liaison Organisation Network (EU-CyCLONe) is being established to coordinate incident response among EU Member States and EU institutions in particular and, that at the time of writing, the Joint Cyber Unit has yet to be set up. The Minister, therefore, notes that, in light of this, and lacking any further information in regard to the possibility of international cooperation with these two organisations, the Government does not have any plans to engage at this time.

3.12 We also asked for further information on how potential UK interaction with various EU bodies might affect continued UK participation in the Five Eyes intelligence alliance and ongoing cooperation with NATO allies in the field of cybersecurity.

3.13 In response, the Minister states that the UK's participation in any of the EU fora mentioned in its EM has no impact or bearing on the UK's continued participation in the Five Eyes intelligence alliance nor does it affect its ongoing cooperation with NATO allies on cyber security.

3.14 Finally, in our letter, we noted that, following the end of the post-Brexit transition period, the EU's General Data Protection Regulation has been converted in the UK into retained EU law. In light of this, we asked the Minister to provide more information on how the UK's core data protection principles, rights and obligations may evolve in 2021 and beyond.

3.15 The Minister does not directly address this query. That said, the Government's original EM and the Committee's previous Report chapter into both EU documents highlights that the Government is in the early stages of developing the UK's own post-Brexit cybersecurity strategy and that further announcements will be made later this year.

**Action**

3.16 We draw this Report chapter to the attention of the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee, the Home Affairs Committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Defence Committee.

## 4 Fisheries Control<sup>12</sup>

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### This EU document is politically important because:

- it will lead to changes that will need to be applied by UK vessels fishing in EU waters; and
- the UK intends to conduct its own review of fisheries control measures, during which the impact of any new EU measures on the UK industry may need to be taken into account.

### Action

- Write to the Minister.
- Draw to the attention of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, the Scottish Affairs Committee and the Welsh Affairs Committee.

### Overview

4.1 The EU’s current fisheries control regime dates back to 2009 ([Regulation 1224/2009](#)), and thus pre-dates the 2013 reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). In 2018, the Commission proposed substantial changes, including provisions to align the control regime with aspects of the reformed CFP, such as the landing obligation (“discard ban”). The EU’s 2009 fisheries control Regulation was incorporated into UK legislation as “retained EU law” and so, once the EU’s revision is complete, there will be potentially significant divergence between the EU and UK systems, with UK vessels fishing in both UK and EU waters being required to comply with both systems.

4.2 The final shape of the new EU regime is unclear. Discussions between Member States and in the European Parliament have been ongoing since 2018, although the European Parliament finally adopted a position in March 2021. Whether the Council will have a position by then, though, is not guaranteed. The next opportunity for ministerial-level agreement would be the 28–29 June Fisheries Council.

4.3 In her latest [letter](#) to the Committee, the Minister for Farming, Fisheries and Food (Victoria Prentis MP) provided little information on developments in negotiations, nor the potential impact on the UK. She confirmed that the EU’s fisheries control Regulation forms part of EU retained law in the UK, but that any changes adopted would not be applicable to the UK, other than any which amend the Regulation’s provisions on the common marketing standards for seafood as they continue to apply in Northern Ireland as part of the Northern Ireland Protocol annexed to the UK/EU Withdrawal Agreement.

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12 Proposal for a Regulation amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1224/2009, and amending Council Regulations (EC) No 768/2005, (EC) No 1967/2006, (EC) No 1005/2008, and Regulation (EU) No 2016/1139 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards fisheries control; Council and COM number: [9317/18](#) + ADDs 1–3, COM(18) 368; Legal base: Article 43(2) TFEU, Ordinary legislative procedure. QMV; Department: Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Devolved Administrations: Consulted; ESC number: 39822.

4.4 She added that, under the terms of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), additional requirements for UK vessels operating in EU waters will be notified prior to implementation via the Specialised Committee for Fisheries.

4.5 Finally, she noted that a UK review of the Regulation as retained in UK law would be undertaken in the near future.

## Our assessment

4.6 The outcome of this review will have an impact on UK vessels fishing in EU waters. It is therefore disappointing that the Minister failed to provide additional information on the nature of discussions at EU level, some information on which is in the public domain.

4.7 As the Minister pointed out, any changes affecting the provisions in the Regulation on Common Marketing Standards would apply to Northern Ireland under the terms of the Northern Ireland Protocol. While the Commission did not originally propose any substantive changes to that element of the Regulation, we will check with the Minister to ensure that remains the case.

4.8 A flavour of the types of issues causing concern at EU-level are evident from the [amendments](#) adopted by the European Parliament and by a [Progress Report](#) issued by the German Presidency of the Council late last year. These issues include:

- the use of remote electronic monitoring, including CCTV;
- the deployment of vessel monitoring systems in small-scale fleets; and
- the margin of tolerance concerning the recording of catches.

4.9 Some of the concerns expressed arise from the proposed move towards the mandatory provision of information electronically.

4.10 In the light of the possible relevance to the UK of the EU's new control rules, we will ask the Minister to update us on:

- any likely legislative changes applicable to Northern Ireland under the terms of the Northern Ireland Protocol;
- the progress of discussions at EU-level (in terms of progress made within and between the respective institutions), as far as the Government is aware from its position outside the institutions;
- the key issues of debate at EU level—insofar as those are in the public domain—and their potential relevance to UK interests, including the implications of mandatory electronic declarations;
- UK Government activity to monitor developments, such as whether UK Mission to the EU officials are actively monitoring the file and whether any analysis of the implications for the UK is underway;
- whether the economic impact on UK fishers of any fundamental divergence between UK and EU rules will be taken into account during the UK's review of the control Regulation; and

- the precise timing of the UK's review.

## Action

4.11 We have written to the Minister as set out below. We are drawing this chapter to the attention of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, the Scottish Affairs Committee and the Welsh Affairs Committee.

### ***Letter from the Chair to the Minister for Farming, Fisheries and Food (Victoria Prentis MP)***

We considered your letter of 5 March 2021 on the revision to the EU's fisheries control Regulation at our meeting of 26 May 2021.

The content of your letter was disappointing, providing us with little information on the progress of discussions concerning this proposal and their potential implications for the UK. We are mindful that any changes introduced will apply to UK fishers in EU waters and the impact of that will, in turn, depend on the outcome of the UK's own review. Whether consciously or not, it is likely that the EU's review will impact on the UK's review, if only because costs to the industry are likely to increase in line with the degree of divergence between the two regimes.

As a third country, the UK is no longer part of internal EU discussions, but some information on those discussions is in the public domain and we also anticipate that UK officials in the UK's Mission to the EU will be monitoring this negotiation to the extent that they are able from outside the institutions.

In that context, and acknowledging that the Government has access to less information than was the case during the period of the UK's EU membership, we ask that you provide us with an update covering the following matters:

- any likely legislative changes applicable to Northern Ireland under the terms of the Northern Ireland Protocol;
- the progress of discussions at EU level, including the progress made within and between the respective institutions;
- the key issues of debate at EU level and their potential relevance to UK interests, including the implications of mandatory electronic declarations;
- UK Government activity to monitor developments, such as whether UK Mission to the EU officials are actively monitoring the file and whether any analysis of the implications for the UK is underway;
- whether the economic impact on UK fishers of any fundamental divergence between UK and EU rules will be taken into account during the UK's review of the control Regulation; and
- the precise timing of the UK's review.

We would welcome a response by 7 July, reflecting any progress at the Fisheries Council on 28–29 June 2021.

## 5 EU-UK Relations: Equivalence of various seeds and plants<sup>13</sup>

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These EU documents are politically important because:

- the EU remains reluctant to grant equivalence to a number of plant products produced in the UK, including seed potatoes and vegetable seed, with a consequent impact on the export of those products from Great Britain to the EU and Northern Ireland.

### Action

- Write to the Minister.
- Draw to the attention of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, the Scottish Affairs Committee and the Welsh Affairs Committee.

### Overview

5.1 In advance of the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union on 31 January 2020 the UK submitted a request to the Commission for seed, plants and plant propagating material, including Forest Reproductive Material (“FRM”),<sup>14</sup> to be recognised as equivalent to such material produced in the EU in order to allow material produced in Great Britain to continue to be exported to the EU and Northern Ireland. We set out further details of this issue in our [Report](#) of 24 March 2021,<sup>15</sup> following which we [wrote](#) to the then Minister for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity (Lord Gardiner of Kimble).

5.2 [Responding](#)<sup>16</sup> to our letter, the then Minister told us that equivalence decisions remained outstanding for seed potatoes and for vegetable seed.

5.3 On seed potatoes, the Minister explained that, last year, the UK’s application to facilitate the export of plants to the EU, such as seed potatoes—which are otherwise prohibited under EU plant health legislation—had not been progressed on the basis that the UK was not dynamically aligned with the EU’s legislation on plant health in the same way as Switzerland is.

5.4 The Minister explained that the Government then submitted a new application on 12 January 2021, under Article 44 of the EU Plant Health Law,<sup>17</sup> requesting that the EU recognise GB’s regulations as equivalent, and for the EU to authorise imports of seed

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13 (a) Proposal for a Decision amending Council Decision 2008/971/EC as regards the equivalence of forest reproductive material produced in the United Kingdom to such material produced in the Union (b) Proposal for a Decision amending Council Decisions 2003/17/EC and 2005/834/EC as regards the equivalence of field inspections and the equivalence of checks on practices for the maintenance of varieties of agricultural plant species carried out in the United Kingdom; Council and/or COM number: (a) [COM\(20\) 852](#) (b) [5004/21+ ADD 1](#); Legal base: Article 43(2) TFEU; Department: Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Devolved Administrations: Consulted; ESC number: (a) 41765 (b) 41769.

14 Seed units, parts of plants (such as cuttings), and planting stock.

15 Forty-second Report HC 229–xxxvi (2019–21), [chapter 2](#) (24 March 2021).

16 See the Minister’s [letter of 6 April 2021](#) to the Chair of the European Scrutiny Committee (Sir William Cash MP).

17 [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/2031](#) on protective measures against plant pests.

potatoes. Article 44 allows the EU to grant equivalence on the basis that the third country concerned ensures a level of plant health protection which is equivalent to the special requirements in respect of the movement within the Union territory of the plants, plant products and other objects concerned.

5.5 The UK's application under Article 44 was rejected on 28 January on the basis of a lack of commitment to dynamic alignment, even though Article 44 contains no such restriction. The Minister indicated that the EU's position was most recently reiterated in a letter to the Secretary of State on 19 March 2021.

5.6 The EU's position, said the Minister, is despite an agreement on 11 February 2021 between the then Co-Chairs of the UK-EU Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee that any future approaches should be based on the essential or substantial equivalence of the UK's and EU's respective regimes. Given the UK's current regime aligns substantially with the EU, the UK will therefore continue to press on with its request that prohibitions are lifted. The Government, said the Minister, is acutely aware of the issues that a continued prohibition on the export of seed potatoes will cause for industry.

5.7 In terms of the equivalence recognition of the production of GB vegetable seed, the Government is engaging with the Commission to establish the reason for the omission and to push for vegetable seed production to be included in the equivalence Decision.<sup>18</sup> The Minister noted that the evidence provided in support of the UK's application demonstrated the UK's measures for meeting equivalence in the same way as for other crop sectors.

5.8 Since the Minister wrote, the Commission has authorised Member States to recognise as equivalent the "tested"<sup>19</sup> category of FRM.<sup>20</sup> In his original [Explanatory Memorandum](#), the then Minister had explained that the lack of equivalence for this category was likely to affect British nurseries exporting to the EU and Northern Ireland.

## Our assessment

5.9 We are pleased to note that there has been some movement, on the equivalence of Forest Reproductive Material, and that this will help British nurseries exporting to the EU and Northern Ireland.

5.10 The continued difficulties in securing equivalence for seed potatoes and vegetable seed are regrettable and may well be linked to the current discussions concerning implementation of the Northern Ireland Protocol, including arrangements for sanitary and phytosanitary checks. We welcome the Government's efforts to overcome the difficulties.

## Action

5.11 We have written to the current Minister for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity (Rt Hon. Lord Benyon) as set out below, looking forward to a further update in due course.

18 [Decision \(EU\) 2021/537](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 March 2021 amending Council Decisions 2003/17/EC and 2005/834/EC as regards the equivalence of field inspections and the equivalence of checks on practices for the maintenance of varieties of agricultural plant species carried out in the United Kingdom.

19 Tested material from tested seed orchards or stands which can produce seed of improved quality.

20 [Commission Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2021/773](#) of 10 May 2021 authorising Member States, in accordance with Council Directive 1999/105/EC, to temporarily decide on the equivalence of forest reproductive material of certain categories produced in certain third countries.

5.12 We are reporting the then Minister’s letter, and our response, to the House as politically important and we draw them to the attention of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee, the Scottish Affairs Committee and the Welsh Affairs Committee.

***Letter from the Chair to the Minister for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity (Rt Hon. Lord Benyon)***

We considered your predecessor’s letter of 6 April 2021 on the above documents at our meeting of 26 May 2021.

We welcome the Commission’s authorisation for Member States to recognise the “tested” category of Forest Reproductive Material from GB as equivalent to that of the EU and note your predecessor’s earlier conclusion that this would facilitate exports from British nurseries to the EU and Northern Ireland.

It is highly regrettable, however, that the EU is still refusing to recognise GB seed potatoes and vegetable seed as equivalent. We support the Government’s efforts to make progress on this issue and we look forward to a further update in due course.

## 6 The EU’s Smart Mobility Strategy<sup>21</sup>

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### This EU document is politically important because:

- it sets-out the legislative and policy initiatives that the EU intends to introduce in the field of transport over the next four years;
- these initiatives are geared towards addressing the challenges—and making the most of the opportunities created by—climate change, and the digitisation of transport systems; and
- the legislative and policy proposal trailed in the Strategy may have implications for Northern Ireland under the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland Protocol to the UK/EU Withdrawal Agreement, and will also be of interest to UK-based stakeholders as important reference points for the Government’s own plans in related areas.

### Action

- Draw this Report chapter to the attention of the Transport Committee and the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee.

### Overview

6.1 The Communication under scrutiny—[the Commission’s Smart Mobility Strategy](#)—sets out legislative and policy measures that the EU aims to introduce over the next four years. The Commission explains that these measures are necessary to ensure that European’s transport system is smart, sustainable and resilient.

6.2 The Strategy highlights the economic and social benefits of transport to Europe. It also flags the associated costs and impact of the sector on the health and well-being of EU citizens (from increased greenhouse gas emissions to air, noise and water pollution, accidents, congestion and the loss of biodiversity).

6.3 The Communication sets out ten key areas for future action and details 82 individual initiatives that it believes will help the EU to achieve its vision of developing a smarter, more sustainable and more resilient transport system by 2050. The Strategy’s headline action points are divided into three overarching objectives (sustainable, smart and resilient transport).

6.4 For further information on the Communication and our initial assessment of its legal and political importance see our [Thirty-eighth Report of Session 2019–21](#).<sup>22</sup>

6.5 In our Thirty-eighth Report of Session 2019–21, we considered the Commission Communication, and its content therein, deeming the document to be politically important. We wrote to the Minister responsible for the document, Parliamentary Under

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21 Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy—putting European transport on track for the future; Council and COM number: Unnumbered and COM(20) 789 + ADD 1; Legal base: --; Department: Transport; Devolved Administrations: Consulted; ESC number: 41716.

22 Thirty-eighth Report HC 229–xxxiii (2019–21), [Chapter 4](#) (24 February 2021).

Secretary of State at the Department for Transport (Rachel Maclean MP) requesting further information on the steps that the Government had taken/was going to take in light of the measures suggested by the Commission following the end of the post-Brexit transition period. Our letter principally focussed on the potential implications of the Commission’s Strategy for UK law and policy, in particular, concerning Northern Ireland, and UK-based manufactures and stakeholders. The Minister has since written in reply—dated 16 March 2021—and her response is considered below.<sup>23</sup>

## The Minister’s letter of 16 March 2021

6.6 In our letter of [24 February 2021](#), we noted that the Commission intends to propose a revision to current EU car and van emission reduction standards and questioned whether this development would require UK manufacturers selling vehicles into the EU market to meet these new standards. We asked the Minister to provide further information on this point and explain the guidance that the Government would offer to UK manufacturers who sell into the EU market while also doing international business with non-EU Member States.

6.7 In response, the Minister confirms that UK manufacturers placing vehicles on the EU market would have to meet these emission reduction standards (just as EU manufacturers placing vehicles on the UK market would have to meet respective UK standards). The Minister also notes that, given the UK’s own plans with regard to the decarbonisation of transport, the Government believes that it is unlikely that UK manufacturers will face significant barriers when selling vehicles to the EU or *vice versa*. The Minister further highlights that the UK has committed to phase-out internal combustion engine cars and vans by 2030 and notes that the Government is encouraging the EU to show greater ambition in this regard.

6.8 We also drew attention to the Commission’s plans to implement the ICAO Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Civil Aviation (CORSIA) through a revision of the EU Emission Trading System (ETS) Directive while recalling that, through the UK/EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), the UK and the EU are committed to having carbon pricing mechanisms for aviation recognised in their respective ETS arrangements.<sup>24</sup> The Committee asked the Minister to provide an update on whether the Government intends to implement CORSIA and, if so, what impact it envisages this having on the UK’s aviation sector.

6.9 In response, the Minister states that the UK plays a leading role in ICAO and was instrumental in the negotiation of CORSIA. She confirms that the UK is committed to participating fully in CORSIA from the start of the Pilot Phase in 2021. Regarding its wider impact on the UK’s aviation sector, the Minister notes that, while CORSIA requires airlines to offset the growth in international aviation emissions above 2019 levels by purchasing offset credits from other sectors, the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in depressed global activity levels which are unlikely to return to 2019 levels until 2024. As such, UK airlines will probably have minimal or no CORSIA obligations for the early years of the scheme. The Minister also notes that the Government conducted a high-level

23 [Letter from Rachel Maclean MP to Sir William Cash MP](#), 16 March 2021.

24 Emissions trading is a market-based approach to controlling pollution by providing economic incentives for reducing the emissions of pollutants. A central authority (usually a Government body) allocates or sells a limited number of permits that allow a discharge of a specific quantity of a specific pollutant over a set period of time.

consultation in early 2021 outlining its proposed approach to implementing CORSIA alongside the UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). The Government plans to consult with relevant UK stakeholders later this year on more detailed proposals for CORSIA and UK ETS interaction.

6.10 We also drew attention to the Commission’s plans for a new initiative on access to car data, through which it will provide a framework guaranteeing fair and effective access to vehicle data by mobility service providers. We asked the Minister to explain the potential implications of such developments for UK-based vehicle manufacturers and users.

6.11 In reply, the Minister notes that in-vehicle data has the potential to provide new and additional information which should improve both road safety and traffic management, as well as supporting the development of existing vehicle automation and new mobility services. At this stage, however, the Minister does not believe there is sufficient information on the Commission’s planned initiative to assess any likely impact for UK-based car manufacturers or users. That said, the Minister recalls that, as part of the TCA, the UK and the EU have agreed to facilitate the cross-border flow of data by prohibiting requirements to store or process data in a specific location, preventing the imposition of costly requirements for UK businesses. The Minister also states that the TCA confirms strong data protection commitments by both the UK and the EU, protecting consumers, helping to promote trust in the digital economy, and continuing to uphold the UK’s high data protection standards.

6.12 Finally, in our letter, we questioned the Minister on whether the EU’s Smart Mobility Strategy could affect the substance of EU law in place under the Northern Ireland Protocol—including that relating to vehicle emissions in the event that the applicable EU legislation in Northern Ireland is amended or replaced in accordance with Article 13(4) of the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland to the UK/EU Withdrawal Agreement and that, in addition, the Strategy may lead to a broadening of EU law in Northern Ireland in the event that any legislation arising from the Strategy falls within the scope of the Protocol. We asked the Minister to provide a list of forthcoming proposed EU legislative acts—trailed in the Strategy—that the Government believes will engage the Protocol.

6.13 In her response, the Minister emphasises that any new legislation arising from the Strategy would only become applicable in Northern Ireland following UK and EU agreement in the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee. The Minister also notes that, while the Protocol relies on specific sector EU legislative provision, if there was to be a new EU Act relevant to areas of the Strategy—such as de-carbonisation or digitisation—which was considered to be in scope of the Protocol, then its applicability in Northern Ireland would need to be discussed at Joint Committee level and a decision reached on whether or not the EU Act should be applied so as to maintain the good functioning of the Protocol.

6.14 To conclude, the Minister helpfully provides an overview of those items from the Commission’s Strategy that may potentially engage the Protocol. These are set out in the Annex to her letter and are outlined below for information.

EU Smart Mobility Strategy: initiatives that may engage the NI Protocol

Initiative number	Initiative title	Potential NIP relevance
Item 3	Revision of the CO <sub>2</sub> emission performance standards for cars and vans, for lorries and put in place CO <sub>2</sub> emission performance standards for buses.	This is most likely to be a revision of Regulation (EU) 2019/631 and Regulation (EU) 2019/1242 which are not directly in scope of the NIP. However, it could also relate to Regulation (EC) No 715/2007 on type approval of motor vehicles with respect to emissions from light passenger and commercial vehicles (Euro 5 and Euro 6) and on access to vehicle repair and maintenance information, which is in scope of the NIP.
Item 6	Propose post-Euro 6/VI emission standards for cars, vans, lorries and buses.	<p>This is most likely to amend two Regulations in scope of the NIP:</p> <p>Regulation (EC) No 715/2007 on type approval of motor vehicles with respect to emissions from light passenger and commercial vehicles (Euro 5 and Euro 6) and on access to vehicle repair and maintenance information; and</p> <p>Regulation (EC) No 595/2009 on type-approval of motor vehicles and engines with respect to emissions from heavy duty vehicles (Euro VI) and on access to vehicle repair and maintenance information and amending Regulation (EC) No 715/2007 and Directive 2007/46/EC and repealing Directives 80/1269/EEC, 2005/55/EC and 2005/78/EC.</p>

Initiative number	Initiative title	Potential NIP relevance
Item 8	Develop coherent rules for environmental, energy and safety performance of tyres.	This is most likely to relate to existing Regulation (EU) 2019/2144 on type-approval requirements for motor vehicles and their trailers, and systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles, as regards their general safety and the protection of vehicle occupants and vulnerable road users. That Regulation is not itself in scope of the NIP but amends other Regulations which are in scope, namely Regulation (EU) 2018/858; Regulations (EC) No 78/2009, (EC) No 79/2009 and (EC) No 661/2009.
Item 75	Adapt the eCall legal framework to new telecommunication technologies; consider the extension of eCall to powered two wheelers, trucks, buses and agricultural tractors.	This may relate to Regulation (EU) 2015/758 concerning type-approval requirements for the deployment of the eCall in-vehicle system based on the 112 service and amending Directive 2007/46/EC, which is in scope of the NIP.

## Action

6.15 We draw this Report chapter to the attention of the Transport Committee and the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee.

## 7 Documents not considered to be legally and/or politically important

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### Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

(41798) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) .../... of 1.2.2021 amending  
5851/21 Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/625 as regards import conditions for live  
snails, for composite products and for casings placed on the market for  
C(21) 428 human consumption.

## Annex

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### *Documents drawn to the attention of select committees:*

(‘SNC’ indicates that scrutiny (of the document) is not completed; ‘SC’ indicates that scrutiny of the document is completed)

**Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee:** Offshore renewable energy [(a) Commission Communication, (b) Proposed Regulation (SC)]; The EU’s Smart Mobility Strategy [Commission Communication (SC)]; A European Strategy for Data [Commission Communication (SC)]

**Defence Committee:** Cybersecurity: EU Strategy and revised Network and Information Systems Directive [(a) Joint Communication, (b) Proposed Directive (SC)] Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Committee: Cybersecurity: EU Strategy and revised Network and Information Systems Directive [(a) Joint Communication, (b) Proposed Directive (SC)]; A European Strategy for Data [Commission Communication (SC)] Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee: Fisheries Control [Proposed Regulation (SNC)]; EU-UK Relations: Equivalence of various seeds and plants [Proposed Decisions(SNC)]

**Foreign Affairs Committee:** Cybersecurity: EU Strategy and revised Network and Information Systems Directive [(a) Joint Communication, (b) Proposed Directive (SC)]

**Home Affairs Committee:** Cybersecurity: EU Strategy and revised Network and Information Systems Directive [(a) Joint Communication, (b) Proposed Directive (SC)]

**Northern Ireland Affairs Committee:** Fisheries Control [Proposed Regulation (SNC)]; EU-UK Relations: Equivalence of various seeds and plants [Proposed Decisions (SNC)]

**Scottish Affairs Committee:** Fisheries Control [Proposed Regulation (SNC)]

**Transport Committee:** The EU’s Smart Mobility Strategy [Commission Communication (SC)]

**Welsh Affairs Committee:** Fisheries Control [Proposed Regulation (SNC)];

# Formal Minutes

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**Wednesday 26 May 2021**

Members present:

Sir William Cash, in the Chair

Jon Cruddas	Mr Marcus Fysh
Allan Dorans	Mrs Andrea Jenkyns
Margaret Ferrier	Mr David Jones

## **Scrutiny Report**

Draft Report, proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

*Ordered*, That the draft Report be read a second time, paragraph by paragraph.

Paragraphs 1.1 to 7 read and agreed to.

*Resolved*, That the Report be the Second Report of the Committee to the House.

*Ordered*, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 9 June at 1.45 p.m.]

## Standing Order and membership

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The European Scrutiny Committee is appointed under Standing Order No.143 to examine European Union documents and—

- a) to report its opinion on the legal and political importance of each such document and, where it considers appropriate, to report also on the reasons for its opinion and on any matters of principle, policy or law which may be affected;
- b) to make recommendations for the further consideration of any such document pursuant to Standing Order No. 119 (European Committees); and
- c) to consider any issue arising upon any such document or group of documents, or related matters.

The expression “European Union document” covers—

- i) any proposal under the Community Treaties for legislation by the Council or the Council acting jointly with the European Parliament;
- ii) any document which is published for submission to the European Council, the Council or the European Central Bank;
- iii) any proposal for a common strategy, a joint action or a common position under Title V of the Treaty on European Union which is prepared for submission to the Council or to the European Council;
- iv) any proposal for a common position, framework decision, decision or a convention under Title VI of the Treaty on European Union which is prepared for submission to the Council;
- v) any document (not falling within (ii), (iii) or (iv) above) which is published by one Union institution for or with a view to submission to another Union institution and which does not relate exclusively to consideration of any proposal for legislation;
- vi) any other document relating to European Union matters deposited in the House by a Minister of the Crown.

The Committee’s powers are set out in Standing Order No. 143.

The scrutiny reserve resolution, passed by the House, provides that Ministers should not give agreement to EU proposals which have not been cleared by the European Scrutiny Committee, or on which, when they have been recommended by the Committee for debate, the House has not yet agreed a resolution. The scrutiny reserve resolution is printed with the House’s Standing Orders, which are available at [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk).

**Current membership**

[Sir William Cash MP](#) (*Conservative, Stone*) (Chair)

[Tahir Ali MP](#) (*Labour, Birmingham, Hall Green*)

[Jon Cruddas MP](#) (*Labour, Dagenham and Rainham*)

[Allan Dorans MP](#) (*Scottish National Party, Ayr Carrick and Cumnock*)

[Richard Drax MP](#) (*Conservative, South Dorset*)

[Margaret Ferrier MP](#) (*Scottish National Party, Rutherglen and Hamilton West*)

[Mr Marcus Fysh MP](#) (*Conservative, Yeovil*)

[Mrs Andrea Jenkyns MP](#) (*Conservative, Morley and Outwood*)

[Mr David Jones MP](#) (*Conservative, Clwyd West*)

[Stephen Kinnock MP](#) (*Labour, Aberavon*)

[Mr David Lammy MP](#) (*Labour, Tottenham*)

[Marco Longhi MP](#) (*Conservative, Dudley North*)

[Craig Mackinley MP](#) (*Conservative, South Thanet*)

[Ann Marie Morris MP](#) (*Conservative, Newton Abbot*)

[Charlotte Nichols MP](#) (*Labour, Warrington North*)

[Greg Smith MP](#) (*Conservative, Buckingham*)