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Oireachtais
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Oireachtas

An Comhchoiste um Thurasóireacht, Cultúr, Ealaíona, Spórt agus Meáin

Clár Oibre Grinnscrúdú an Aontais Eorpaigh 2024

Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media

European Union Scrutiny Work Programme 2024

TCASM/24/03

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Related information

Publications

All publications for this committee are available on the [Oireachtas website](#).

Committee videos

Footage of Committee proceedings can be found on the [Committee videos page](#).

Contact details

The contact details for the Committee can be found on the [Committee page](#).

Terms of reference

Read the [terms of reference](#) for the Committee.

Committee Membership

Cathaoirleach

[Niamh Smyth TD](#), Fianna Fáil

Leas-Cathaoirleach

[Senator Malcolm Byrne](#), Fianna Fáil

Members

[Chris Andrews TD](#), Sinn Féin

[Ciaran Cannon TD](#), Fine Gael

[Peter Fitzpatrick TD](#), Independent

[Brendan Griffin TD](#), Fine Gael

[Mattie McGrath TD](#), Independent

[Imelda Munster TD](#), Sinn Féin

[Christopher O'Sullivan TD](#), Fianna Fáil

[Michael Ring TD](#), Fine Gael

[Senator Micheál Carrigy](#), Fine Gael

[Senator Shane Cassells](#), Fianna Fáil

[Senator Annie Hoey](#), Labour Party

[Senator Fintan Warfield](#), Sinn Féin

Committee Membership History

[Alan Dillon TD](#), Fine Gael | Sep 2020 - Apr 2024

[Johnny Mythen TD](#), Sinn Féin | Sep 2020 - Apr 2023

Role and remit of the Joint Committee in EU affairs

The Joint Committee is required, in line with its orders of reference, to consider draft EU legislative Acts, other proposals for EU legislation and related policy issues, non-legislative documents published by any EU institution in relation to EU policy matters, matters listed for consideration on the agenda for meetings of the relevant EU Council of Ministers, and the outcome of such meetings.

As a sectoral Committee, the remit of the relevant Department in respect of European affairs delineates the remit of the Committee in this regard. In its scrutiny of European matters, the Committee may consider the following:

- European Union legislative and non-legislative proposals;
- engagements with Ministers in advance of European Council meetings;
 - the Committee may request Departmental briefing four to six weeks in advance of Ministerial attendance at European Council meetings.
- engagements with the relevant Department's Secretary General in relation to statutory Departmental EU Scrutiny Reports, as per Section 2(5) of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002;
 - under Section 2(5) of the European Union (Scrutiny) Act 2002, Ministers are required to report twice-yearly to both Houses on the measures, proposed measures and other developments in relation to the European Communities and the European Union in relation to which they perform functions;
 - it is the intention of the Committee to engage with these reports upon their referral to the Committee.
- attendance at European interparliamentary committee meetings;
- engagement with relevant bodies at European level, including, but not limited to, the European Commission, the European Parliament and its committees, and the European Council, in addition to EC committees and working groups.

The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media services part of the Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council configuration (EYCS). The remit of the Joint Committee extends, therefore, to the relevant agenda items of this Council.

The [EYCS Council](#) is composed of ministers responsible for education, culture, youth, media, communication, and sport from all EU Member States. Its primary objective is to preserve the cultural heritage of Europe, support its cultural industries, ensure a high quality of education, and promote physical activity. As these policy areas are primarily the competence of the Member States, the EU's role is to provide a framework for cooperation between them and adopt incentive measures and recommendations.

The Department engages with several working groups and committees at the European Union level, including:

- the [Working Party on Competitiveness and Growth \(Tourism subgroup\)](#);

- the [Tourism Advisory Committee](#);
- the [Committee on Cultural Affairs](#);
- the [Working Party on Sport](#); and
- the [Audiovisual Working Party](#).

Further, the Department's Statement of Strategy 2023-2025 indicates it is working on preparations for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union in the second half of 2026.

Furthermore, the work of the following committees in the European Parliament may also be considered:

- [Committee on Transport and Tourism](#) (TRAN); and
- [Committee on Culture and Education](#) (CULT).

Additionally, the Committee may engage with interparliamentary activities undertaken in relation to the Parliamentary Dimension of the Presidencies of the Council of the European Union. In 2024, the Presidency is held by [Belgium](#) (January to June) and Hungary (July to December).

The Council of the European Union's current [Work Plan for Culture 2023-2026](#) sets out four priorities for European cooperation in cultural policymaking:

- artists and cultural professionals: empowering the cultural and creative sectors
- culture for the people: enhancing cultural participation and the role of culture in society
- culture for the planet: enhancing the power of culture
- culture for co-creative partnerships: strengthening the cultural dimension of the EU external relations.

The Council of the European Union's current [Work Plan for Sport 2021-2024](#) runs until 30 June 2024 and sets out three priorities for European cooperation in sport policymaking:

- Protect integrity and values in sport
- Socioeconomic and environmental dimensions of sport
- Promotion of participation in sport and health-enhancing physical activity.

Scrutiny of EU policy and legislative proposals

European Commission Work Programme 2024

On 17 October 2023, the European Commission adopted its [2024 Commission Work Programme](#). This is the final Work Programme of the Commission's current mandate, and outlines the Commission's new proposals for the months ahead and presents significant initiatives. With the 2024 Work Programme, the Commission is putting forward 26 additional proposals to reduce administrative burden without lowering social, safety, consumer protection, environmental or economic standards.

The European Commission work programme contains [five annexes](#):

- **Annex I**, listing 15 new policy and legislative initiatives;
- **Annex II**, listing 57 significant proposals and initiatives to rationalise reporting requirements and evaluations and fitness checks;
- **Annex III**, listing 154 pending proposals; and
- **Annex IV**, listing 6 intended withdrawals of pending proposals.

European Commission New Mandate 2024-2029

Following European elections in June 2024 and the anticipated appointment of a new European Commission, the Committee may engage with the anticipated renewed mandate and key policy priorities of the European Commission 2024-2029.

Priority items (Schedule A)

The Joint Committee will list priority items as they arise.

At the time of publication, there are no Schedule A items arising from the European Commission Work Programme 2024.

Non-priority items (Schedule B)

The Joint Committee will list non-priority items as they arise.

The Joint Committee has the option of re-classifying any draft legislative or non-legislative proposal as a priority proposal at any time, taking account of any Departmental information note(s) regarding its significance.

At the date of agreement, there are no Schedule B items arising from the European Commission Work Programme 2024.

Niamh Smyth, T.D.

Cathaoirleach

21 February 2024