

## European and External Relations Committee Work Programme 2015-16

The table below summarises the Committee's work programme from September 2015 until dissolution in March 2016.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>
Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership	The Committee will continue to monitor developments in relation to the TTIP negotiations.
Connecting Scotland inquiry	<p>The Committee initiated its inquiry into "Connecting Scotland: how Scotland can engage most effectively in a globalising world" in early 2015. It will publish a report on the first two strands (how the Scottish Government engages internationally and how non-governmental and third sector organisations in Scotland engage internationally) in early autumn 2015.</p> <p>The Committee will hold a number of one-off evidence sessions linked to the third strand - Scotland's virtual and social connectivity with the world - in autumn 2015.</p> <p>Issues relating to the fourth strand – the value of membership of international organisations to Scotland and Scotland's relationship with them – will be considered as part of the Committee's inquiry work on EU reform and the EU referendum, and on the Human Rights Act.</p>
Inquiry into EU reform and the EU referendum: implications for Scotland	The Committee has agreed to conduct an inquiry into the implications of EU reform and the EU referendum for Scotland. The inquiry will cover two strands: EU reform and the EU referendum, with the theme of UK intergovernmental relations being considered in relation to both strands. The Committee will focus on the EU referendum in autumn 2015, and EU reform in early 2016 when there may be more clarity on the result of the UK Government's negotiations with the EU on its membership terms.
Human Rights Act	The Committee will monitor developments relating to any UK Government proposals to amend or repeal the Human Rights Act.
Horizon 2020	The Committee will consider six-monthly updates from the Scottish Government on Horizon 2020 (in June and December of each year).
EU Structural and Investment Funds	The Committee will consider six-monthly updates from the Scottish Government on the EU Structural Funds (in June and December of each year). It will also monitor the

	development of the programmes by considering the Partnership Agreement and by hearing views on the implementation of the programmes once they have been initiated. As part of this continuing scrutiny, the Committee has agreed to conduct visits to projects.
EU funding	The Committee will continue its work on EU funding, including consideration of evidence on EU competitive funding for the 2014-2020 programming period and how Scotland can seek to maximise funding opportunities.
Scottish Government's Action Plan on EU Engagement	The Committee will consider an update from the Scottish Government's on its Action Plan for EU Engagement for each six-monthly Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
Presidency of the Council of the European Union	The Committee will take evidence from the respective Ambassador to the UK for the EU Member State holding the six-month presidency of the Council of the European Union on the Presidency's priorities.
European Parliament elections	The Committee will seek to maintain its engagement with Scotland's MEPs on issues of importance to Scotland.
Transposition of EU directives	The Committee will consider six-monthly updates from the Scottish Government (in June and December of each year).
Foreign language learning in primary schools	The Committee will consider six-monthly updates from the Scottish Government on its progress in promoting foreign language learning in primary schools (in June and December of each year).