



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Richard Lohead MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs
and the Environment

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Direct Tel: 0131-348-5226
(RNID Typetalk calls welcome)
Tel: 0131 348 5240

racce.committee@scottish.parliament.uk

11 March 2013

Dear Richard,

European Commission Work Programme 2013 – Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee priorities for engagement and scrutiny

The Committee considered and agreed its EU priorities at its meeting of 16 January 2013 to inform the European and External Relations Committee as part of its report on the EU priorities of the Committees of the Scottish Parliament which has now been published.¹ A note on the priorities of the RACCE Committee, including the agreed action of the Committee, is outlined in this letter. The Committee also agreed to seek specific information from the Scottish Government on a number of EU legislative proposals and this is also outlined below.

In summary the Committee agreed to:

- continue to engage in the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and related instruments
- consider, as part of it's ongoing committee work, instruments which relate to climate change commitments (including writing to the Scottish Government on the New Climate Change and Energy Framework to 2030)

The Committee also agreed to keep a watching brief via the Brussels Bulletin on the following proposals:

¹ <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/59909.aspx>

- 7th Environmental Action Programme (legislative/non legislative)
- Invasive Alien Species (legislative)
- Maritime Spatial Planning (legislative) may come out
- Safeguarding Europe's Water Resources (legislative/non legislative)
- Official Controls along the food chain (legislative)
- EU plant health law (legislative)
- Marketing of seed and propagating materials to foster innovation (legislative)
- EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change (non legislative)

In addition to maintaining a watching brief via the Brussels Bulletin, the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government seeking further information on the following legislative proposals:

1. Review of EU political and legal framework for organic production: The Committee would welcome information from the Scottish Government in relation to its engagement in the development of the proposal and the likely impact of the proposal on the agriculture and food production sectors in Scotland.
2. Review of thematic strategy on air pollution and assessment legislation: The Committee agreed to monitor developments in this area and seeks information from the Scottish Government on how it plans to contribute to the review.
3. Review of waste policy and legislation: The Committee agreed to monitor developments in this area and seeks information from the Scottish Government on how it plans to contribute to the review.
4. Animal health law: The Committee believes there may be potential costs arising to the farming industry in relation to this proposal and it seeks information from the Scottish Government on its engagement in the development of the proposal.

We understand that the Scottish Government will shortly be agreeing it's EU priorities. The Committee would welcome sight of the Scottish Government's EU priorities and plans for EU engagement, once agreed.

We are planning to visit Brussels in late April to engage directly with the Commission and Parliament on a number of our EU priorities and the Clerks to the Committee will contact the Scottish Government's Europe Office to advise officials of our plans.

Yours sincerely



Rob Gibson

Convener, Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee

C.c Paul Wheelhouse MSP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change