

## **PARLIAMENTARY BUREAU**

### **CONSTITUTION, EUROPE, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND CULTURE COMMITTEE - REQUEST FOR MEMBERS TO TRAVEL TO BELFAST AND DUBLIN**

#### **Nature of request**

1. As required under Rule 12.10 of Standing Orders, Bureau approval is sought for the CEEAC Committee to travel to Belfast and Dublin on Sunday 12 to Tuesday 14 November.
2. It is intended that the six members of the Committee, if available, and two clerks and one SPICe researcher will undertake the visit which would run from Sunday to Tuesday.
3. Approval will also be sought from the Conveners Group, which will consider the request at its first meeting in September.

#### **Justification/benefit**

4. The purpose of the visit would be to further consider four of the Committee's ongoing workstreams for which it would be beneficial for members to meet with their counterparts and others in person in Belfast and Dublin—
  - Operation of the Windsor Framework / Northern Ireland Protocol and its implications for Scotland
  - Operation of the Trade and Co-operation Agreement (TCA) including parliamentary scrutiny of the Agreement
  - How Ireland prioritises, measures and evaluates the impact of its international work (so as to inform the Committee's scrutiny of the Scottish Government's National Outcomes)
  - The SG's commitment to align with EU law where appropriate (and overlap with the situation in Northern Ireland, which is required to align with a number of EU regulations as a result of the Windsor Framework)

#### **Inter-parliamentary relations**

5. A key priority for the Committee this session is developing inter-parliamentary relations, While the Northern Ireland Assembly is not currently sitting there may nevertheless be opportunities to meet with MLAs, Assembly officials and officials from the Northern Ireland Executive. The Committee also intend to meet with our counterpart Committee in the Dail in Dublin and the Irish Government.
6. Meeting with parliamentarians will allow the Committee to discuss different approaches to scrutiny, including of the governance arrangements in the TCA and scrutiny of international policies.

#### **Conveners Group**

7. The Conveners Group will consider this request and the associated costs at its next meeting. All costs will fall within the current financial year and sufficient budget is available to cover them.

**Decision**

8. **The Bureau is invited to approve the request by the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee for travel to Belfast and Dublin to meet with counterparts to discuss the workstreams set out at paragraph 4.**

**CEEAC Committee Clerks  
August 2023**