Rule 10A.2 – Referral to lead committee

1. How often has your committee considered an EU legislative proposal under this rule and what have the outcomes been?

Never. N/a.

2. What the implications of the requirement to consider EU legislative proposals have been for your committee?

N/a.

3. How has your committee influenced outcomes at a UK and EU level as a result of this rule?

N/a.

4. How practicable is Rule 10A.2.2 (designation of lead committee where the subject matter of an EU legislative proposal falls within the remit of more than one committee) given time constraints?

N/a.

Rule 10A.3 – Consideration of proposal for European Union legislation

5. Under Rule 10A.3.1 committees are obliged to consider an EU legislative proposal where it has been referred to the Committee in terms of Rule 10A.2. Is this rule sufficiently flexible to allow a committee to decide which proposals it wishes to consider? Specifically, is it necessary for a lead committee to consider all proposals where the UK Government, UK Parliament or Scottish Government has brought to the attention of the Parliament a subsidiarity concern?

The EOC has no experience of the rule on which to base an assessment of its flexibility. Regarding whether it’s necessary for lead committees to consider all proposals brought to the Parliament’s attention for subsidiarity concerns, it’s worth noting that it isn’t always possible as occasionally such proposals relate entirely to matters reserved to the UK Parliament and cannot, therefore, be put to the Committee (I have twice received proposals falling into this category).

6. Under Rule 10A.3.2, where the lead committee considers that an EU legislative proposal does not comply with the principle of subsidiarity, the Convener shall by motion propose that the Parliament agrees that the proposal does not comply with
the principle of subsidiarity, and the Parliamentary Bureau shall allocate time for debate. How often has your committee applied this rule? Are there any issues around timing, given the constraints of the 8-week period and competing demands on parliamentary time?

N/a.

7. Under Rule 10A.3.3 where an EU legislative proposal is referred to a lead committee and the lead committee decides that there is an insufficient period remaining for report and debate, the Presiding Officer shall notify the UK Parliament of any concerns that the lead committee has that the proposal does not comply with the principle of subsidiarity. How often has this rule been invoked in the context of your committee’s consideration of an EU legislative proposal? How effective this process is?

N/a.

8. How often Rule 10A.3.4 (making special arrangements for recess periods) has been used?

N/a.

Rule 12.6.2 – EU Reporters

9. On how many occasions has your EU Reporter brought to the committee’s attention any EU issue, proposal for EU legislation, or implementation of European Communities or EU legislation, as provided for in this rule?

N/a.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE – RESPONSE FROM THE CLERK
29 JANUARY 2014