



BRITISH-IRISH PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY
TIONÓL PARLAIMINTEACH NA BREATAINE-NA
hÉIREANN

FINAL REPORT

from

Committee C (Economic Affairs)

on

The implications of Brexit for the agri-food sector

June 2018

Introduction

Background to the inquiry and overview of work carried out so far

1. In July 2016, in the aftermath of the UK's referendum on leaving the European Union (EU), the Committee agreed to undertake an inquiry into the consequences of the UK's decision on the agri-food sectors across the BIPA member jurisdictions. The Committee were conscious that this sector played an important role in both the UK and Ireland and that there were significant trading relations between the jurisdictions which would be affected by the UK's decision to leave the EU. While the Committee has been undertaking its work, BIPA sovereign Parliaments and devolved administrations and their Committees have been undertaking work on the implications of Brexit, including for the agri-food sector.
2. During the course of our inquiry, the Committee heard evidence from a range of stakeholders in Belfast (13 October 2016), Dublin (14 October 2016), Cardiff (29 November 2016), London (17 January 2018) and Edinburgh (18 January 2018). The Committee had hoped to visit Brussels as part of its inquiry but for several reasons outside of its control it was unable to do so. Instead the Committee agreed to write to Commissioner Phil Hogan, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, and Czesław Siekierski MEP, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development, to try and seek their views. The Committee wrote to them in February. Mr Siekierski shared with this Committee his Committee's resolution of 16 March 2017 which it submitted to the European Parliament's Steering Group on Brexit.¹
3. The Committee is grateful to all of those who attended meetings with it and shared their expertise and opinions as well as to those who helped to organise its meetings in the different places.
4. This final Report is an update to the Committee's interim conclusions and recommendations made in its interim Report which the Committee published in July

¹ <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-%2F%2FEP%2F%2FNONGML%2BCOMPARL%2BPE-602.815%2B02%2BDOC%2BPDF%2BV0%2F%2FEN>

2017.² Specifically, this Report includes the additional evidence received in London and Edinburgh in January 2018 and the information that the Committee received from Brussels. The interim Report contained some further key facts and figures on the agri-food sector which are not replicated in this Report.

5. This final report provides:

- an overview of the significance of the agri-food sectors in the BIPA member jurisdictions;
- key issues; and
- conclusions and recommendations.

Our inquiry

Meetings and evidence

6. The Committee held five meetings as part of this inquiry. On 13 October 2016, the Committee met in Belfast and heard evidence from: representatives of the Northern Ireland Meat Exporters Association (NIMEA); the Ulster Farmers Union; and Northern Ireland Environmental Link. The Committee sought a meeting with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and none was forthcoming.
7. On 14 October 2016, the Committee met in Dublin and heard evidence from: representatives of: the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; the Irish State Agencies, including Enterprise Ireland, Bord Bia and Teagasc; and sectoral organisations such as the Irish Exporters Association, the Irish Farmers Association, Irish Creamery Milk Supplier Association, and Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association.
8. On 29 November 2016, the Committee met in Cardiff and heard evidence from: representatives of the Government of Wales; farming organisations, including the National Farmers' Union, the Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW) and the Wales Young Farmers Committee; and Welsh academics working in relevant fields.
9. On 17 January 2018, the Committee met in London and heard evidence from: the UK Government; representatives of the Crown Dependencies; the National Farmers' Union;

² <http://www.britishtish.org/assets/com-D/04-Interim-Agrifood-report-to-Committee-copy.pdf>

British Meat Processors Association; and National Association of British and Irish Flour Millers.

10. On 18 January 2018, the Committee met in Edinburgh. The Committee visited an East Lothian arable farm and met with the farmer and NFU Scotland as well as hearing evidence from Scottish Government Ministers and academics. Further details on those who attended and gave evidence at these meetings is included at Annex A.

Key issues

11. Key issues and concerns emerged in the course of our inquiry from the evidence the Committee has heard. This section provides a brief outline of some of these areas. The Committee has endeavoured to provide reasonable conclusions and achievable recommendations for each key issue.

Trade between the member jurisdictions

12. The agri-food industries in BIPA member jurisdictions are closely connected, including through significant trade and (joint) processing aspects. The BIPA members are key export and import markets for each other's agri-food sectors. The UK and Ireland are each other's largest export market for food and drink. Within this category, the main sub-sectors are dairy, meat, prepared consumer food and beverages, and alcoholic beverages.³
13. Trade between the UK and Ireland is significant. The Irish Food Board, Bord Bia, finds that 37% of Ireland's food and drink exports are to the UK—the largest category of exports—while 32% of Ireland's food and drink exports go to other EU countries and the remaining 21% to international markets.⁴ For the UK, the value of food, feed and drink exports was £18 billion, with the principal destinations being the Irish Republic (17%),

³ Much of the information in this section has been extracted from IBEC (2016) *The impact of a possible Brexit on Irish business*. Available at [http://www.ibec.ie/IBEC/Press/PressPublicationsdoelib3.nsf/vPages/Newsroom~new-ibec-report-sets-out-brex-it-risks-10-04-2016/\\$file/The+UK+referendum+on+EU+membership+-+The+impact+of+a+possible+Brexit+on+Irish+business.pdf](http://www.ibec.ie/IBEC/Press/PressPublicationsdoelib3.nsf/vPages/Newsroom~new-ibec-report-sets-out-brex-it-risks-10-04-2016/$file/The+UK+referendum+on+EU+membership+-+The+impact+of+a+possible+Brexit+on+Irish+business.pdf)

⁴ Bord Bia, Factsheet on the Irish Agriculture and Food & Drink Sector. Available at: Factsheet on the Irish Agriculture and Food & Drink Sector

France (11%) and the USA (10%).⁵ UK exports to the Irish Republic in 2015 had a value of over £3 billion.⁶ On the other hand, agri-food imports into the UK amounted to £38.5 billion, with the principal countries of dispatch being the Netherlands (12%), the Irish Republic (10%) and France (10%).

14. Ireland exports food and drink worth €4bn to the UK, making it a key destination for the Irish food industry. Ireland exports around 55% of its meat exports (valued at around €2bn) and 30% of its dairy (valued at around €1bn) to the UK.
15. In 2016, Teagasc (Ireland's Agriculture and Food Development Authority) published an analysis which suggested that the UK's departure from the EU would lead to a reduction in the value of Irish agri-food exports of anything from €150 million to €800 million per year, depending on post-Brexit trading arrangements.⁷ This highlights the interconnectedness of the UK and Ireland, particularly in the area of agri-food. The higher end of these estimates equates to more than 7% of Ireland's total agri-food exports.⁸ Notwithstanding, IBEC, the group that represents Irish business both domestically and internationally, has suggested that Ireland will continue to be an important market for the UK even when it leaves the EU as businesses tend to sell perishable goods to nearby countries. The Committee also heard in Scotland that there were challenges to selling perishable, fresh food items to countries further away, especially if there were custom checks.
16. Aside from the large amount of trade in agri-food between the BIPA member countries, the UK's decision to leave the EU has also drawn attention to the inter-connection of the sectors in terms of production. On the island of Ireland, certain aspects of processing could be affected by the UK's exit from the EU, in particular meat processing and dairy. Over 1,000 bovines and 10,000 pigs are exported live from Ireland to Northern Ireland

⁵ Food Research Collaboration, *The UK Agri-Food Sector, Brexit and International Trade: Opportunities and Challenges*. Available at: <http://foodresearch.org.uk/2017/01/the-uk-agri-food-sector-brexit-and-international-trade-opportunities-and-challenges/>

⁶ Cardwell and Smith (2017), *The UK agri-food sector, brexit and international trade: opportunities and challenges*. Available at: <http://foodresearch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/FRC-Blog-Final-Michael-Cardwell-and-Fiona-Smith.pdf>

⁷ Teagasc (2016) *Brexit – Potential Implications for the Irish Agri-Food Sector Report*. Available at <https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/publications/2012/BrexitPaperApril13final.pdf>

⁸ *Ibid.*

each week, with around 5,000 lambs imported into Ireland from Northern Ireland each week.⁹

17. In the dairy industry, approximately 75% of the processing capacity in Northern Ireland is now wholly or jointly owned by co-ops from Ireland, with one commentator noting that the figure would increase to almost 100% if United Dairy Farmers were ever to do a deal with Glanbia or Dairy Gold.¹⁰ In 2015, bulk milk imports into Ireland for processing by creameries and pasteurisers amounted to 594 million litres, with nearly all of this coming from Northern Ireland. This imported milk is equivalent to 9% of domestic Irish supplies and 26% of Northern Ireland's annual milk supplies in 2015.¹¹

18. The issue of the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland is discussed in the next section of this Report. However, in this context, standards and customs controls could become very important factors for the competitiveness of such businesses post-Brexit. The Single Market effectively means that goods can move freely within the EU without being subject to tariffs, quotas, duties or customs delays. The possibility of tariffs on transactions after the UK leaves the EU could lead to problems, particularly for trade between Ireland and Northern Ireland. The UK and the EU did not reach agreement in the March 2018 draft Withdrawal Agreement text on customs' arrangements relating to Ireland/Northern Ireland, nor on the free movement of goods (Article 4 of Chapter II) or agriculture and fisheries (Article 5 of Chapter ii).¹² In June 2018 the UK Government published a technical note: temporary customs arrangement "putting forward a proposal for the customs element of the backstop that would apply to customs arrangements between the UK and EU and avoid a hard border between Northern Ireland and Ireland". The note continued that this arrangement would see:

- "The elimination of tariffs, quotas, rules of origin and customs processes including declarations on all UK-EU trade;

⁹ Bord Bia (2016) *Brexit Briefing Document June 2016*. Available at

<http://www.bordbia.ie/corporate/press/Documents/2016/BrexitBriefingInformation.pdf>

¹⁰ Halleron, R. (2016) *Opinion: Northern Ireland's border becomes Brexit frontier*. Available at

<https://www.agriland.ie/farming-news/opinion-irelands-farming-and-food-sectors-must-be-put-on-border-alert/#>

¹¹ Information in this paragraph is sources from National Milk Agency (2016) *Annual Report and Accounts 2015*. Available at <http://nationalmilkagency.ie/uploads/files/annualreports/2015/annualreport2015.pdf>

¹² https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/draft_agreement_coloured.pdf

- The UK outside the scope of the Common Commercial Policy (CCP), except where it is required to enable the temporary customs arrangement to function. This will mean applying the EU’s common external tariff (CET) at the UK’s external border, alongside the Union Customs Code (UCC) and such other parts of the Common Commercial Policy that are required to enable the temporary customs arrangement to function; and
- The UK able to negotiate, sign and ratify free trade agreements (FTAs) with rest of world partners and implement those elements that do not affect the functioning of the temporary customs arrangement”.¹³

At present this ‘backstop’ has not been agreed with the EU and therefore it does not currently form part of the draft Withdrawal Agreement.

19. Accordingly, the shape of trade policy post-Brexit is of interest to the sector in all member jurisdictions: decisions taken during the process of withdrawal may have a direct impact not only on producers, but also, for example, on food prices for consumers and on food quality and safety as products are traded across international boundaries.¹⁴
20. Witnesses identified trade as a key area of concern for the agri-food sector. For all EU member states, including the UK, trade policy is determined by the EU. That means that any external trade deals (i.e. those outside the EU Single Market and Customs Union) to which the UK is a signatory are negotiated by EU officials. Within the UK, trade policy has not, to date, been a devolved issue—although agriculture is a devolved policy area.
21. The Governments and Administrations within the UK have commissioned the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute (FAPRI) to analyse the impact of potential policy scenarios on the farming industry using a model known as FAPRI-UK. A recent study focussed on the implications for Scotland.¹⁵ However, the Committee was told that while there was a Joint Ministerial Council, to take into account the views of and likely impact of decisions on devolved administrations, there was concern in Wales, Northern Ireland

¹³ UK Government, [Technical Note: Temporary Customs Arrangement](#), published 7 June 2018

¹⁴ Michael Cardwell, Professor of Agricultural Law, University of Leeds and Fiona Smith, Professor of International Economic Law, University of Warwick, *The UK Agri-Food Sector, Brexit and International Trade: Opportunities and Challenges*, January 2017, <http://foodresearch.org.uk/2017/01/the-uk-agri-food-sector-brexit-and-international-trade-opportunities-and-challenges/>

¹⁵ https://ahdb.org.uk/documents/Horizon_November2017.pdf

and Scotland, that the negotiation of any new trade deals might only pay lip service to the priorities of the devolved administrations. The Crown Dependencies were generally positive about their engagement with UK Government Departments.

22. One concern raised with the Committee by academics and Ministers in Scotland was food security. Some felt that the UK would be happy to pursue a self-sufficiency approach which would compromise food security in the UK.

23. Another concern raised with us, including by the Scottish Government and the British Meat Processors Association, was that the UK might opt for a “cheap food policy”, favouring imported produce from non-EU countries who have lower animal welfare and quality standards. Witnesses thought that this would be to the detriment of Irish, Welsh and other higher cost farmers in difficult areas. The National Farmers’ Union (NFU) also explained to the Committee that this could make Irish produce less competitive. The Committee heard from academics in Edinburgh that a cheap food policy approach would have negative nutritional effects. However, some witnesses cast doubt on the feasibility of such an approach given the geographical distance between possible trading partners and the UK. Some witnesses, including the NFU, thought that a deal with Uruguay on beef was possible and could be problematic: it would be cheaper produce but still of a good quality. The UK importing such beef could have an impact on what the EU, including Ireland, was willing to trade with the UK.

24. The Committee did not discuss with Minister Eustice animal welfare and environmental standards but the UK Government has stated that it does not intend to lower animal welfare or environmental standards. Secretary of State Michael Gove said:

That’s why it would be foolish for us to lower animal welfare or environmental standards in trade deals, and in so doing undercut our own reputation for quality. We will succeed in the global market place because we are competing at the top of the value chain not trying to win a race to the bottom.¹⁶

¹⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/farming-for-the-next-generation>

25. The National Association of Irish and British Flour Millers drew these two concerns together and argued there was a conflict between cheaper food, high standards and self-sufficiency.

Recommendations

- It is important that the Joint Ministerial Council and other policy co-ordination groups across the UK work constructively together to ensure that agri-food policy is made in the best interests of the whole of the UK.
- The UK Government should prioritise food security over the UK being self-sufficient in food production.
- The UK Government should prioritise high animal welfare and environmental standards when negotiating trade deals.

The border between Ireland and Northern Ireland

26. The border between Ireland and Northern Ireland is one of the most specific issues emanating from the decision of the UK to leave the EU that will directly impact both Ireland and the UK. The border will be the only land border between Europe and the UK and places the island of Ireland within a particular unique circumstance.

27. The Good Friday Agreement is the cornerstone for peace in Northern Ireland and was endorsed by the public on both sides of the border. Prior to the Good Friday Agreement, security installations and checks at the border were a literal sign of division and conflict. Additionally, there has been no customs border since the completion of the EU Single Market in 1992. It should be noted that the 1998 Belfast Agreement includes “Agriculture - animal and plant health” as an area for North-South co-operation.¹⁷

28. In Belfast and Dublin, the Committee heard that at present the agri-food sector operates seamlessly across the border. Raw materials are sourced and sent back and forth across the border, and the supply chain moves back and forth across the border as well during different stages of processing. Some farms physically straddle the border, with land in both Ireland and Northern Ireland. The re-imposition of border controls would impose

¹⁷https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/136652/agreement.pdf

numerous challenges for authorities on both sides of the border with additional costs and time delays which could be extremely onerous and would be unwelcome to producers and businesses. Managing this was a key priority for those who met with the Committee.

29. Furthermore, the Committee heard that the island of Ireland forms one single biogeographic unit, which is very different from Great Britain. This reality will need to be factored into future plans for environmental protection and disease control, especially if the regulatory regimes in Ireland and the UK diverge.

Recommendations

- The Committee recommend that every effort should be made to prevent a physical border being positioned between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. However, in a worst case scenario of a physical border, technology should be availed of and systems should be put in place to allow for as frictionless as possible transit from one side of the border to the other. Contingency plans for this eventuality should be drafted well in advance of any determination.
- Communities and companies currently transiting and trading over the border should be provided with advice and supported in planning for the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union.
- Both the Irish Government and the Northern Ireland Executive, when one is formed, should work in close collaboration to mitigate against the potential risks to the agri-food sector of a physical border.

Labour

30. The Committee heard that the agri-food sector is, particularly at certain times of the year, quite a labour intensive industry. Across Ireland and the UK the agri-food sector requires access to a steady supply of workers. At present, many of those working in the agri-food sectors are migrant workers from both inside and outside the EU.

31. Additionally, there are specific sectors within the agri-food industry where a significant amount of the skilled work is carried out by EU nationals such as abattoir workers. There are concerns within the industry of any negative impact upon this section of workers.

32. The Committee heard evidence that access to labour within the agri-food sector has been an increasing issue of late and that some witnesses before the Committee believed that sourcing labour has become more difficult since the Brexit referendum. For example, in Edinburgh, the Committee heard evidence that some food producers were unable to access the right labour at the right time and this resulted in their harvest being left to rot in the ground.
33. There is some concern that changes to existing immigration regimes, particularly any additional imposition of visa requirements, may further impact the availability of workers for the sector. The 19 March 2018 draft Withdrawal Agreement between the EU and the UK provides greater clarity in terms of citizens' rights in the transition/implementation period, the rights that individuals and their family members would acquire after accumulating five years' continuous lawful residence, and conditions and protections that any national registration system must adhere to.¹⁸ However, some issues, and detail in relation to citizens' rights such as sickness insurance, are still to be agreed.

¹⁸ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/draft_agreement_coloured.pdf

Recommendations

- It is imperative that skilled workers currently working in both jurisdictions retain the right to work and reside after withdrawal.
- Significant Research and Development grants should be offered to farmers to trial new technology to assist in improving productivity and offsetting the reliance on manual labour.
- No barriers should be constructed which hamper European Union students attending university courses across the UK.
- The UK Government should ensure that any necessary labour schemes are in place to ensure that agri-food workers who would otherwise not be able to work in the UK have access to the UK labour market.

Currency

34. An issue linked to labour is currency. The table below sets out the Pound Sterling: Euro exchange rate and how it has changed since February 2015:

| Date¹⁹ | Pound Sterling: Euro²⁰ |
|---|--|
| 13 February 2015 (before UK 2015 General Election and before referendum is formally announced) | 1.3499 |
| 12 February 2016 (Draft renegotiation package published, Prime Minister Cameron has set out plans to Parliament but before European council meeting. No referendum date set yet.) | 1.2857 |
| 13 February 2017 (before Article 50 is triggered) | 1.179 |
| 13 February 2018 | 1.1257 |

Over this three-year period there has been a 16.6% decrease in the value of the Pound Sterling against the Euro.

35. The problems posed by currency fluctuations are emblematic of the uncertainty facing the agri-food sector. In Dublin, the Committee heard about the challenges that currency

¹⁹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-33141819>

²⁰ <https://www.poundsterlinglive.com/eur>

volatility presents for farmers and businesses, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Fluctuations and volatility are putting pressure on all, especially the small operators.

36. The Committee also heard from many people it met across the BIPA jurisdictions that for some EU seasonal migrant workers, the fall in the value of the Pound Sterling was already beginning to make the UK and the Crown Dependencies a less attractive place to come to work. A depreciating Pound Sterling also influences trade and the cost of exports and imports.

37. The Committee heard from the UK Government that there could be a positive impact associated with a depreciating sterling: it could sometimes lead to improved productivity on farms.

Recommendations

- UK farmers and others in the agri-food sector are currently experiencing challenges, including around labour and income, as a result of a depreciation in the Pound Sterling. The UK Government, and devolved administrations in the UK should take steps to provide the agri-food sector with stability and certainty so that the sector can make plans for a sustainable future.
- Governments and administrations in BIPA jurisdictions, especially the UK Government, should work with the sector and its representatives to highlight how it can be more productive when there is currency depreciation.

EU funding and the Common Agricultural Policy

38. For the UK, leaving the EU will also mean withdrawal from the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and its support system (which includes direct subsidies, rural development programmes and emergency market support measures) and regulatory regimes.²¹ The Committee was told that 80% of farm income in Wales comes from EU funding and that

²¹ House of Commons Library (2016) *EU Referendum: Impact on UK Agriculture Policy*. Available at <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7602/CBP-7602.pdf>

35% of farmers returned a loss despite receiving CAP funding, but had there been no CAP funding this would have been closer to 80%.

39. The Committee participated in extensive discussions on all its visits about EU funding and arrangements to replace the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in the UK. The Committee heard that even in the Crown Dependencies, where CAP funding was not received, the UK's CAP replacement would have an impact on the agri-food sector in the Crown Dependencies. Minister Eustice explained that the UK Government had announced "that the amount [it] allocates to farming support - in cash terms - will be protected throughout and beyond this period right up until the end of this Parliament in 2022". The Committee also discussed with Minister Eustice, Michael Gove's (the UK Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) speech at the Oxford Farming Conference in early January 2018 setting out his vision.²² He set out how the Government were planning to implement the move away from CAP:

We will pay the 2019 BPS scheme on the same basis as we do now. I then envisage guaranteeing that BPS payments continue for a transition period in England, which should last a number of years beyond the implementation period, depending on consultation.

40. Mr Gove alluded to a number of possible differences between CAP and its successor. He set out four specific areas for change:

- I. "ensure we develop a coherent policy on food - integrating the needs of agriculture businesses, other enterprises, consumers, public health and the environment".
- II. "give farmers and land managers time and the tools to adapt to the future, so we avoid a precipitate cliff edge but also prepare properly for the changes which are coming".
- III. "develop a new method of providing financial support for farmers which moves away from subsidies for inefficiency to public money for public goods".
- IV. "ensure that we build natural capital thinking into our approach towards all land use and management so we develop a truly sustainable future for the countryside".

²² <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/farming-for-the-next-generation>

Minister Eustice made similar points to the Committee when it met him in London. He made clear that smaller farmers were likely to receive the single farm payment for longer.

41. Between the 27 February and 8 May 2018, the UK Government held a consultation, *Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit*, on future agriculture policy in England.²³ The Government is now analysing responses to that consultation.
42. In the Committee's discussions it also heard about the possible opportunities and challenges for the UK in designing a CAP. For example, the Committee heard from the farming community that it was right to move away from CAP as it had not incentivised change and had prevented restructuring, and it also paid merely for having the land rather than for what the land was used for. Therefore, in designing the CAP replacement there needed to be a focus on how landowners and farmers could be incentivised to be making the most of their land. However conversely the Committee did hear from academics that some EU member states, such as Ireland, had encouraged innovation under CAP.
43. Agriculture is a devolved matter in the UK. The Committee consistently heard that there was anxiety that any new UK agricultural policy might not take account of variations between the different constituent parts of the UK. There was also concern among many that the Committee spoke to that having a different agricultural policy and supporting scheme in each part of the UK would be problematic and potentially damaging to the sector. It was also the case that whatever replaced CAP in the UK would have a significant impact on the agri-food sector in Ireland.
44. The evidence that the Committee heard suggested that there was a preference for an overarching UK-wide CAP replacement, with suitable levels of flexibility to empower the different parts of the UK and their Governments to tailor the system to the specific needs of each country.
45. The Committee also explored more generally the wider issue of EU funding. The Committee heard from academics in Edinburgh that the EU had been important in the staffing of universities, universities' funding, and attracting students to those universities,

²³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-for-food-farming-and-the-environment>

including in the agri-food sector. In terms of funding there was some EU funding for joint work between UK and Irish universities. The academics called for methods to be introduced to allow for continued access to research funding and to enable access to data.

Recommendations

- In any further consultations run by the UK Government on its draft Agriculture Bill it should proactively seek the views of Governments and administrations in all BIPA jurisdictions (including those outside of the UK) as well as relevant stakeholders, such as farming unions, in those jurisdictions.
- The UK Government should work closely with devolved Governments to devise a UK-wide replacement to the Common Agricultural Policy. CAP's replacement should have sufficient flexibility to meet local needs and differences and ensure that devolved Governments retain competence over agriculture policy. Further, given how closely linked the UK and Irish agriculture sectors are, a specific impact assessment of the UK's CAP replacement on the Irish agri-food sector should be undertaken jointly by the UK and Irish Governments.
- As part of the EU negotiations on the UK's future relationship with the EU consideration should be given to whether the UK can still receive any EU funding for research work it undertakes which would either be of benefit to other EU member states, or would be undertaken jointly with an EU member state.

Annex A – list of meetings and witnesses

Belfast, 13 October 2016

Witnesses

- Northern Ireland Meat Exporters Association (NIMEA)
 - Conall Donnelly, CEO, NIMEA
 - Terry Acheson, CEO, Foyle Food Group
 - George Mullan, CEO, ABP Northern Ireland
- Ulster Farmers Union
 - Wesley Aston, CEO, UFU
 - Barclay Bell, President, UFU
- Northern Ireland Environmental Link
 - Patrick Casement, NIEL Chair
 - Sean Kelly, Parliamentary and Development Officer, NIEL
 - Joanne Sherwood, NI Director, RSPB (NIEL member organisation)
 - Craig McGuicken, Chief Executive, NIEL

Members attending

- Senator Denis Landy (Chair)
- Joan Burton TD
- Lord Empey
- David Ford MLA
- Helen Jones MP (Vice Chair)
- Deputy John Le Fondré
- Colin McGrath MLA

Dublin, 14 October 2016

Witnesses

- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine: Paul Savage, Principal Officer
- Representatives of the State Agencies
 - Michael Cantwell, Divisional Manager, Food, Enterprise Ireland
 - Garrett Murray, Manager, Policy, Enterprise Ireland
 - Aidan Cotter, CEO, Bord Bia
 - Pdraig Brennan, Business Analyst, Bord Bia
 - Dr Trevor Donnellan, Research Officer, Teagasc
 - Kevin Hanrahan, Research Officer, Teagasc
- Representatives of Sectoral Organisations
 - Simon McKeever, Chief Executive, Irish Exporters Association
 - Richard Kennedy, Deputy President, Irish Farmers Association
 - Bryan Barry, Acting General Secretary, Irish Farmers Association
 - Rowen Dwyer, Economist, Irish Farmers Association
 - Elaine Farrell, Oireachtas/Retail Executive, Irish Farmers Association

- John Enright, General Secretary, Irish Creamery Milk Supplier Association
- John Comer, President, Irish Creamery Milk Supplier Association
- Edmond Phelan, Beef Chairman, Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association
- John Brooks, Sheep Chairman, Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association

Members attending

- Senator Denis Landy (Chair)
- Joan Burton TD
- Lord Empey
- David Ford MLA
- Helen Jones MP
- Deputy John Le Fondré
- Colin McGrath MLA

Cardiff, 29 November 2016

Witnesses

- Welsh Government
 - Lesley Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs
 - David McNeill, Brexit Team, Government of Wales
- Representatives of farming organisations
 - John Mercer, Director, National Farmers' Union (NFU)
 - John Davies, Deputy President, NFU
 - Nick Fenwick, Head of Policy, Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW)
 - James Evans, Wales Young Farmers Committee
 - Dafydd Jones, Wales Young Farmers Committee
- Welsh academics
 - Dr Jo Hunt, Cardiff University
 - Professor Peter Midmore

Members attending

- David Ford MLA (in the Chair)
- Joan Burton TD
- Rosie Cooper MP
- Lord Empey

London, 17 January 2018

Witnesses

- Representatives of the Crown Dependencies
 - Samuel Gibbs, Head of Office, Government of Jersey London Office

- Richard Lole, Chief Executive, Department for Environment, Food and Agriculture, Isle of Man
- David Corlett, Head of Isle of Man Brussels office
- Chris Morris, Guernsey External Relations team.
- Andrew Clark, Director of Policy, National Farmers' Union
- Sectoral organisations:
 - Nick Allen, Chief Executive, British Meat Processors Association; and
 - Alex Waugh, National Association of British and Irish Flour Millers.
- George Eustice MP, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Members attending

- Helen Jones MP (in the Chair)
- Lord Empey OBE
- Senator Frank Feighan
- Deputy John Le Fondré
- David Ford MLA
- Colin McGrath MLA;
- Baroness O'Cathain OBE
- Martin Vickers MP

Edinburgh, 18 January 2018

Witnesses

- Willie Thomson, farmer, East Lothian
- Jonnie Hall, Director of Policy and Member Services, NFU Scotland
- Academics
 - Professor Geoff Simm, Director, Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Security, University of Edinburgh
 - Dr. Lisa Boden, UK (RCVS) and European veterinary specialist
 - Steven Thomson, Agricultural Economist, Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)
- Scottish Government:
 - Fergus Ewing, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity
 - Michael Russell, The Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe

Members attending

- Colin McGrath MLA; (in the Chair)
- Joan Burton TD;
- Willie Coffey MSP;
- Lord Empey;
- Deputy John Le Fondré;
- Martin Vickers MP.