



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

## Research and Information Service

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NIAR 126-13

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# European Commission Legislative and Non-Legislative Proposals 2013 Q1

This paper provides spreadsheets detailing European Commission legislative and non-legislative proposals 2013 Q1.

**Table 1: European Commission Legislative Proposals 2013 Q1**

**NIAR 126-2013**

Strategic Initiatives (Legislative)	Title	Estimated date of Adoption	Current stage of progress	Type of Initiative	Description	Perceived Relevance to Northern Ireland	Current Prioritisation	Indicative date of when Committee can become involved	Any Identified Subsidiarity Issues?	NI Executive Priority/Objective
	Decision on Public Employment Services (PES) and the functioning of the European labour market.	4th Quarter 2013	No information has been found regarding the proposal including a search of Prelex and the Register of Commission Documents which suggests that work is still underway.	Package of reforms, so may involve multiple regulations. Ordinary Legislative Procedure (COD)	PES are the authorities that connect jobseekers with employers. This decision is intended to set up a formal European network of PES and articulate its mandate on the development and implementation of a European Labour Mobility Action Plan for modernisation and strengthening of PES to make all transitions on labour markets pay.	There is currently limited information on this proposal. However, it is stated in the CWP that it will "Help improve the performance of public employment services and networking between national employment agencies". This could encourage labour market mobility across the EU, creating employment opportunities for NI residents.	Medium (although this may change following the publication of further road maps detailing other strands of the initiative).	This proposal has just been announced. In addition, the European Council has committed to deliver this initiative in 2013 and as such the Committee may wish to ask the Department if it is aware of the proposal and any information on what it involves.	No identified issues at this stage. However this may be subject to change.	<b>Competitiveness and Employment:</b> Increase the skills profile of the working population; Increase level of engagement with Europe.
	European platform to fight undeclared work.	3rd Quarter 2013	Proposal only recently announced, as such it is a pre-Green Paper stage. Initial research carried out in 2010 by Regioplan (A Research body) for the European Commission.	COD	Initiative intended to establish a European platform between labour inspectorates and other enforcement bodies. It aims for a more coherent approach by covering all the key areas influenced by undeclared work and supporting a more effective fight against undeclared work by way of improving cooperation, sharing best practice and identifying common principles.	Cracking down on undeclared work could have a number of impacts, including in dealing with benefit fraud and potentially increasing tax revenues. It may also help in areas such as illegal immigration.	Low to medium (this may be subject to change as a result of the lack of detail currently available on the proposal).	This appears to be at an early stage of development so the Committee may wish to ask the Department if it is aware of any actions taken by the EU Commission in regards to it.	No identified issues at this stage. However this may be subject to change.	<b>Competitiveness and Employment:</b> Increase level of engagement with Europe.
	Proposal for a revision of exclusions concerning seafaring workers contained in a number of Directives (such as TUPE, Posting of Workers and Collective Redundancies).	1st Quarter 2013	8 Directives are potentially affected by these amendments. There are both ongoing and forthcoming public consultations on the need to revise the Directives.	COD	The proposal aims to provide seafarers with the same or equivalent level of employment rights as on-shore workers. The amendments will aim to ensure an equivalent level of protection to that benefited by on-shore workers, while taking into account the particular circumstances and the economic environment of the seafaring sector.	Northern Ireland has a relatively small seafaring sector (in comparison to on-shore based activities). However, any changes within this sector could have a large impact on such a small NI industry such as the increased costs of regulation.	Low to medium (However, this may change as the consultations are carried out and identify the potential impact).	The estimated adoption date is relatively soon which implies the proposal is well developed. The Committee may wish to ask the Department if it has been consulted on the proposed changes.	No road map has been produced on the proposal. However, in a roadmap for a similar piece of legislation it states that 'Action at EU level is necessary in order to propose amendments to pre-existing EU legislation'.	Not Applicable
	Initiative ensuring improved enforceability of Regulation 1612/1968 of the Council on freedom of movement for workers within the Union.	1st Quarter 2013	Public consultation completed.	COD	Aimed to improve a Council Regulation on freedom of movement for workers within the Union. It will remove existing barriers to mobility of EU workers by enhancing the enforcement of rights conferred by EU law and providing information and legal support to migrants facing discrimination based on nationality.	This may have some impact on NI including the land border shared with the Republic of Ireland and the movement of workers across it.	Low	The initiative has yet to be adopted, with no documents found on PRELEX. The estimated adoption date is relatively soon which implies the proposal is well developed. The Committee may wish to ask the Department if it has been consulted on the proposed changes.	The Roadmap document does not identify any Subsidiarity issues.	Not Applicable.
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**Table 2: European Commission Non-Legislative Proposals 2013 Q1**

Strategic Initiatives (non-legislative)	Title	Estimated date of Adoption	Current stage of progress	Type of Initiative	Description	Perceived Relevance to Northern Ireland	Prioritisation	Indicative date of when Committee can become involved	Any Identified Subsidiarity Issues?	NI Executive Priority/Objective
	Review of the Technology Transfer Block Exemption Regulations and its Guidelines.	February 2013	Review began December 2011. Questionnaire sent to stakeholders, deadline date 03/02/2012.	Review	Technology transfer agreements concern the licensing of technology. Such agreements will usually improve economic efficiency and be pro-competitive as they can reduce duplication of research and development, strengthen the incentive for the initial research and development, spur incremental innovation, facilitate diffusion and generate product market competition. The objective of the Review is to update the current rules, promoting licensing of intellectual property rights while safeguarding the consumer's right to a competitive market.	Whilst there is no roadmap for this proposal, based on the limited information available it could have an impact on spin-off companies developed by NI's universities to commercialise their research. This could also impact on NI businesses. However, it is hard to state to what extent as a result of limited information.	Medium (may be subject to change).	Review ongoing.	No identified issues at this stage. However this may be subject to change.	<b>Innovation and Technology:</b> Nurture the development and exploitation of new technologies, ideas and ways of working in out companies, universities, the research base and elsewhere in the public sector.
	Internationalisation of Higher Education	1st Quarter 2013	A search of pre-lex and the Register of Commission Documents found no published documents. It has yet to be adopted.	Communication	A growing number of higher education institutions enrol students from non-eu countries, exchange students, staff and knowledge and engage in international academic and research cooperation. The Commission will issue a Communication dealing with the internationalisation strategy of the EU higher education sector. In an increasingly interdependent world, a strategic way of addressing global challenges for the EU is through HE partnerships which can generate research and teaching capacity and empower universities as agents of knowledge transfer.	The income generated by international students is becoming increasingly more important as a source of revenue for Universities and plays a role in other areas such as research and development. This is an important sector for NI, with the Department encouraging the universities in their collaboration across international borders.	Low - the communication will only impact on third level institutions. However, the extent of this impact will depend on the recommendations of the Communication.	The Communication appears to be still in development.	The Roadmap document does not identify any Subsidiarity issues.	<b>Competitiveness and Employment:</b> Increase the skills profile of the working population.
Strategic Initiatives (non-legislative)	Title	Estimated date of Adoption	Current stage of progress	Type of Initiative	Description	Perceived Relevance to Northern Ireland	Prioritisation	Indicative date of when Committee can become involved	Any Identified Subsidiarity Issues?	NI Executive Priority/Objective

	Communication on regulated professions.	4th Quarter 2013	No documents found following a search which implies it is still at an early stage of development.	Communication	Communication to take stock of recent developments in MS in the area of regulated professions and to devise a methodology for facilitating the mutual evaluation exercise foreseen in the proposal modernising the Professional Qualifications Directive. Focuses on entry restrictions. Experts in Member States will be consulted through the national coordinators for the recognition of qualifications.	The Communication addresses barriers to mobility of professions across Europe (such as variance in the level of qualification needed to practice in a specific country). This may have some impact in Northern Ireland, but the scope of this is not yet known.	Low - Medium (may be subject to change).	The Communication appears to be still in development.	The Roadmap document does not identify any Subsidiarity issues.	Not Applicable
	Community framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation.	December 2013	Consultation completed on 24 February 2012.	Review	This framework is directed at Member States and aims to facilitate their use of State aid for research, development and innovation. The current RDI Framework expires by the end of 2013. The objective of the revision is to examine whether the current framework should be maintained or modified. It will in particular be examined whether modifications are appropriate in order to ensure that the State Aid rules or RDI fully contribute to the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy.	State aid made available to Universities (as defined in the Regulation as Research Organisations) is included within this review. As such, any modifications proposed to the framework may impact in NI.	Low to medium (as it is not yet known what the proposed modifications are, or even if any will be suggested, this prioritisation may be prone to change).	The review is currently ongoing. The Committee may wish to ask the Department if it has been contacted as part of the review, and if so what its response was.	No identified issues at this stage. However this may be subject to change.	<b>Competitiveness and Employment:</b> Maximising the drawdown of Horizon 2020 funds for NI by promoting increased participation in EU Research, Technology and Innovation programmes by NI universities and further education colleges - please note, this may only impact indirectly.
	A Youth on the Move Card initiative to support youth mobility.	1st Quarter 2013	Consultation closed 3 June 2011.	Previously listed as a soft law. As a soft law initiative it will be either a guideline, declaration or opinion.	The YoM card aims to support the increase of mobile young people in Europe, for labour, learning or volunteering purposes, by providing them with the information, support and discounts they need when coming into another country. It would not replace but build on existing cards and services which already provide young people with benefits in various fields (travel, culture, goods, accomodation, etc.).	Would allow NI's young people certain benefits when traveling within Europe in areas such as travel and accomodation and would act in additional to mechanisms already in place across Europe.	Low	The public consultation closed in June 2011 although following a review of Prelex and similar EU databases no further data could be identified. The Committee may wish to ask the Department if it had any input into the consultation since then.	No Subsidiarity issues identified - No roadmap and no information identified in House of Lords scrutiny documents.	<b>Competitiveness and Employment:</b> Promote participation by students and staff in the Erasmus programme and other lifelong learning programmes; increase level of engagement with Europe.
	Proposal for Council Recommendations on a Quality Framework for Traineeships.	June 2013	Staff Working Document produced April 2012; 2nd Phase Consultation with social partners published December 2012.	Recommendations	The main objectives of the proposal initiative are: 1. to increase the quality of traineeships; and 2. to increase the quantity of good high quality traineeships, including cross-border ones.	Whilst only Recommendations, any outcome from the report could have future implications on the development of traineeships in Europe and Northern Ireland.	Medium (may be subject to change).	The consultation is currently being considered by the EU Commission, however, it may suspend its work if the social partners decide to negotiate on the Framework themselves.	No identified issues at this stage. However this may be subject to change.	<b>Competitiveness and Employment:</b> Increase the skill profile of the working population.
<b>Strategic Initiatives (non-legislative)</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Estimated date of Adoption</b>	<b>Current stage of progress</b>	<b>Type of Initiative</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Perceived Relevance to Northern Ireland</b>	<b>Prioritisation</b>	<b>Indicative date of when Committee can become involved</b>	<b>Any Identified Subsidiarity Issues?</b>	<b>NI Executive Priority/Objective</b>

	Commission Staff Working Paper: The Evaluation and Reporting Strategy for the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme.	March 2013	No documents found following a search which implies it is still in development.	Working Paper	Document intended to provide additional guidance on the way programme evaluation and reporting will be implemented under the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme. This includes additional information on the overall evaluation planning for the different activity lines and on the use of indicators to monitor the progress of Horizon 2020 towards its main objectives.	Horizon 2020 is a major flagship programme of the EU for 2014-2020. Whilst the Working Paper is yet to be published it could have implications for organisations that participate in Horizon 2020.	Medium-High	This is a Working Paper and its publication date is relatively close as such any Committee involvement would be limited. The Committee may wish to ask the Department if it has had any input into the development of the document.	No identified issues at this stage. However this may be subject to change.	<b>Competitiveness and Employment:</b> Maximising the drawdown of Horizon 2020 funds for NI by promoting increased participation in EU Research, Technology and Innovation programmes by NI universities and further education colleges.
	Horizon 2020 rules for submission of proposals, ethics, review, evaluation, selection and award procedures.	3rd quarter 2013	No documents found following a search which implies it is still in development.	Rules	The document will set out the rules for the submission and evaluation of proposals and the related selection and award procedures. It will be applicable to all DGs and funding bodies implementing Horizon 2020. The aim will be to ensure a coherent approach across Horizon 2020, while providing the necessary options and flexibility in recognition of the specificities of different parts of the programme.	Horizon 2020 is a major flagship programme of the EU for the 2014-2020 period. Whilst the Working Paper is yet to be published it could have implications for organisations that participate in Horizon 2020.	Medium - High	This appears to be at an early stage of development so the Committee may wish to ask the Department if it is aware of any actions taken by the EU Commission in regards it.	No identified issues at this stage. However this may be subject to change.	<b>Competitiveness and Employment:</b> Maximising the drawdown of Horizon 2020 funds for NI by promoting increased participation in EU Research, Technology and Innovation programmes by NI universities and further education colleges.
	Implementation and management of the Horizon 2020 Participants Guarantee Fund (PGF).	November 2013	No documents found following a search which implies it is still in development.	Proposal	The Horizon 2020 programme includes a proposal for a single set of Rules for Participation and Dissemination, that provides that a participant guarantee fund shall cover the risk associated with non-recovery of sums due to the Union under actions financed in the programme. The proposed Commission decision is necessary for defining th detailed modalities for managing the PGF.	Horizon 2020 is a major flagship programme of the EU for the 2014-2020 period. Whilst the Working Paper is yet to be published it could have implications for organisations that participate in Horizon 2020.	Medium to High	This appears to be at an early stage of development so the Committee may wish to ask the Department if it is aware of any actions taken by the EU Commission in regards to it.	No identified issues at this stage. However this may be subject to change.	<b>Competitiveness and Employment:</b> Maximising the drawdown of Horizon 2020 funds for NI by promoting increased participation in EU Research, Technology and Innovation programmes by NI universities and further education colleges.
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