

# **European Union (Information, etc.) Bill [HL]**

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## CONTENTS

- 1 Provision of information and statistics relating to the European Union in public buildings and on the internet
- 2 The flag of the European Union
- 3 Twinning arrangements between towns in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the European Union
- 4 Definition
- 5 Extent, commencement and short title

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Make provision for information to be available in various public places relating to the activities and organisation of the European Union; to make provision for the flying of the flag of the European Union on various government and public buildings; to provide information to further the establishment of twinning arrangements between towns in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the European Union in accordance with the European Union’s town twinning support scheme; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

**1 Provision of information and statistics relating to the European Union in public buildings and on the internet**

- (1) Information and statistics relating to the European Union shall be provided free of charge in public buildings.
- (2) Information and statistics relating to the European Union shall be provided free of charge on the internet. 5
- (3) In subsections (1) and (2) “information and statistics” means information and statistics on—
  - (a) the purpose, scope and effect of the European Union’s activities,
  - (b) the organisation of the European Union, its infrastructure and institutions, 10
  - (c) decisions taken by the European Union and the principle of subsidiarity, and
  - (d) details on the Treaty of Lisbon 2009.
- (4) In subsection (1) “information and statistics” shall be provided in— 15
  - (a) written form, and
  - (b) electronic form.

## **2 The flag of the European Union**

The flag of the European Union may be flown on government and public buildings alongside the union flag.

## **3 Twinning arrangements between towns in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the European Union**

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(1) Information on the European Union’s town twinning support scheme shall be made available both in public buildings and on the internet.

(2) In subsection (1) “information” means information on –

(a) forms of support (including financial) provided by the European Union to facilitate town twinning schemes,

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(b) the scope and benefits of town twinning schemes, and

(c) the procedures involved in applying to the European Union for support for town twinning schemes.

## **4 Definition**

In this Act –

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“government buildings” means any buildings wholly or mainly occupied by members of the UK Civil Service;

“public buildings” means –

(a) public libraries, and

(b) borough, town, city and county council administrative buildings.

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## **5 Extent, commencement and short title**

(1) This Act extends to England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

(2) Sections 1 to 4 come into force at the end of the period of six months beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.

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(3) This section comes into force on the day on which this Act is passed.

(4) This Act may be cited as the European Union (Information, etc.) Act 2016.

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## B I L L

To make provision for information to be available in various public places relating to the activities and organisation of the European Union; to make provision for the flying of the flag of the European Union on various government and public buildings; to provide information to further the establishment of twinning arrangements between towns in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the European Union in accordance with the European Union's town twinning support scheme; and for connected purposes.

*Lord Dykes*

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