

HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

49th Report of Session 2002-03

Correspondence with Ministers

Ordered to be printed 18 November 2003 and published 19 December 2003

London : The Stationery Office Limited
£price

HL Paper 196

The European Union Committee

The European Union Committee is appointed by the House of Lords “to consider European Union documents and other matters relating to the European Union”. The Committee has seven Sub-Committees which are:

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Internal Market (Sub-Committee B)
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Development Policy (Sub-Committee C)
Agriculture and Environment (Sub-Committee D)
Law and Institutions (Sub-Committee E)
Home Affairs (Sub-Committee F)
Social and Consumer Affairs (Sub-Committee G) (established in December 2003)

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Some recent reports from the Committee are listed inside the back cover.

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Contacts for the European Union Committee

Contact details for individual Sub-Committees are given on the website.

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Correspondence with Ministers

1. As part of our scrutiny of the European Union and of documents deposited, our Sub-Committees prepare letters to Ministers to express views on documents under scrutiny and on other matters of policy. The procedure of sending a letter may be adopted for a number of reasons, including that the timetable of the Council of Ministers precludes the Committee making a report, or that the points at issue do not warrant a full report, or to follow-up a previous report.
2. We publish occasional volumes of such correspondence, including ministerial replies and other material where appropriate.¹ This volume covers the period from July 2002 to March 2003 and includes the text of letters sent² and received together with any supporting material. For the first time, this volume includes not only an index of contents but also a list of documents by Council document number where one is given.

¹ The previous volume of *Correspondence with Ministers* was published as the 27th Report, 2001-2002 (HL Paper 146).

² All letters are signed and sent by the Chairman of the Select Committee, regardless of which Sub-Committee has prepared them.