

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
THE EUROPEAN UNION

EVIDENCE BY THE MINISTER FOR
EUROPE, FOREIGN AND
COMMONWEALTH OFFICE ON
EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE
POLICY SCRUTINY, THE GENERAL
AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS
COUNCIL OF 18–19 MARCH 2003 AND
THE CURRENT STATE OF COMMON
FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY

WITH EVIDENCE

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ORAL EVIDENCE

<i>Dr Denis MacShane MP, Minister for Europe, Mr Paul Johnston, Head, Security and Policy Department, and Mr Dominick Chilcott, Head, Iraq Planning Unit Foreign and Commonwealth Office</i>		
Oral evidence, 27 March 2003		1

NOTE: Pages of the Report are numbered in bold type, pages of evidence are numbered in ordinary type. References in the text of the Report are as follows:

- (Q) refers to a question in oral evidence.
- (p) refers to a page of written evidence.

NINETEENTH REPORT

8 APRIL 2003

By the Select Committee appointed to consider European Union documents and other matters relating to the European Union.

ORDERED TO REPORT

**EVIDENCE BY THE MINISTER FOR EUROPE, FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH
OFFICE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND DEFENCE POLICY SCRUTINY, THE
GENERAL AFFAIRS AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COUNCIL OF 18–19 MARCH 2003
AND THE CURRENT STATE OF COMMON FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY**

1. Our Review of Scrutiny of European Legislation undertook to conduct more regular scrutiny of the Council.¹ In particular we agreed that Sub-Committee C would take ministerial evidence after each General Affairs and External Relations Council. To this end the Minister for Europe was invited to give evidence on the General Affairs and External Relations Council held on 18–19 March.

2. The Committee took this opportunity to obtain information from the Minister on the process of scrutinising European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) and on the state of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) following recent events relating to the war in Iraq.

3. Accordingly, in this Report we make available, for the information of the House, the oral evidence given to us by Dr Denis MacShane MP, Minister for Europe.

4. The key topics in the evidence are:

- ESDP scrutiny procedures QQ 1–15.
- General Affairs and External Relations Council, 18–19 March QQ16–22.
- CFSP QQ23–65.

5. Other specific topics:

- Attitudes in the United States towards Europe Q60.
- A single representative for External Commissioner and High Representative QQ25–27.
- CFSP and the Middle East QQ 28–29, 47.
- Consequences of NATO Article 5 for ESDP QQ 50–58.
- European attitudes to the United States QQ 28–29, 59, 65.
- European military capability QQ43–44.
- Franco-German submission to the Convention on extending QMV to foreign policy QQ33–42.
- Geographical limitations to CFSP QQ 45– 47, 53.
- Humanitarian Aid for Iraq QQ 16–22.
- QMV on foreign policy QQ 60–64.
- Scrutiny procedures for ESDP QQ 1–3.
- Scrutiny of ESDP documents which have been classified QQ 4–14.
- Statement on the General Affairs and External Relations Council Q16.
- The Convention on the Future of Europe and CFSP QQ23–27, 31–40.
- The media and foreign policy QQ 48–49.

¹ 1st Report, Session 2002-03, HL Paper 15 paragraphs 111, 204.

- The timescale for repairing CFSP following divisions over Iraq QQ28–30.

APPENDIX 1

Members of Sub-Committee C (Common Foreign and Security Policy)

Lord Bowness

Lord Harrison

Baroness Hilton of Eggardon

Lord Inge

Lord Jopling (Chairman)

Lord Maclennan of Rogart

Lord Morris of Aberavon

Baroness Park of Monmouth

Lord Powell of Bayswater

Lord Watson of Richmond

Lord Williams of Elvel

Lord Williamson of Horton