

House of Commons

Foreign Affairs Committee

Formal Minutes

Session 2015–16

The Foreign Affairs Committee

The Foreign Affairs Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and its associated public bodies.

Current membership

Crispin Blunt (*Conservative, Reigate*) (Chair)
Mr John Baron (*Conservative, Basildon and Billericay*)
Ann Clwyd (*Labour, Cynon Valley*)
Mike Gapes (*Labour-Co-operative, Ilford South*)
Stephen Gethins (*Scottish National Party, North East Fife*)
Mr Mark Hendrick (*Labour-Co-operative, Preston*)
Adam Holloway (*Conservative, Gravesham*)
Daniel Kawczynski (*Conservative, Shrewsbury and Atcham*)
Yasmin Qureshi (*Labour, Bolton South East*)
Andrew Rosindell (*Conservative, Romford*)
Nadhim Zahawi (*Conservative, Stratford-on-Avon*)

Powers

The Committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152. These are available on the internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the internet at <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/foreign-affairs-committee/>. A list of Reports of the Committee in the present Parliament is at the back of this volume.

The Reports of the Committee, the formal minutes relating to that report, oral evidence taken and some or all written evidence are available in a printed volume. Additional written evidence may be published on the internet only.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Kenneth Fox (Clerk), Nick Beech (Second Clerk), Kate Owen (Third Clerk), Zoe Oliver-Watts (Senior Committee Specialist), Dr Ariella Huff (Committee Specialist), Nicholas Wade (Committee Specialist), Clare Genis (Senior Committee Assistant), Su Panchanathan (Committee Assistant) and Estelle Currie (Media Officer).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Commons, 14 Tothill Street, London SW1H (NB. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 6263; the Committee's e-mail address is fac@parliament.uk).

Proceedings of the Committee

Tuesday 14 July 2015

MORNING SITTING

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair¹

Mr John Baron
Ann Clwyd
Mike Gapes
Stephen Gethins

Mr Mark Hendrick
Adam Holloway
Daniel Kawczynski
Andrew Rosindell

1. Declaration of interests

Members declared their interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992:

Mike Gapes:

Officer of the All Party Parliamentary Group on the United Nations

Stephen Gethins:

Officer of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Serbia and the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

2. Confidentiality of private proceedings

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Resources available to the Committee

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Committee working methods

Ordered, That the public be admitted during the examination of witnesses unless the Committee orders otherwise.

Resolved, That witnesses who submit written evidence to the Committee are authorised to publish it on their own account in accordance with Standing Order No.135, subject always to the discretion of the Chair or where the Committee orders otherwise.

Resolved, That Committee staff should be permitted to brief witnesses on likely lines of questioning by the Committee in advance of oral evidence sessions.

Resolved, That the Committee will not normally investigate individual cases.

5. Day and time of meeting

Ordered, That the Committee meet normally on Tuesdays at 2.30pm when the House is sitting.

¹ Elected by the House (Standing Order No. 122B) 17 June 2015, see Votes and Proceedings 18 June 2015

6. Future programme

Resolved, That the work programme for 2015-16 should include inquiries into: Libya—the UK’s responsibilities and its policy since the intervention in 2011; European Union—costs and benefits of membership, with a focus on the implications for UK foreign policy and the UK’s international standing; ISIS/ISIL/Da’esh—the threat to the UK’s interests and how to deal with it; UK engagement with political Islam; UK-Russia strategic relationship, including policy on Ukraine.

7. Visit to Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Resolved, That the Committee visit the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the afternoon of 14 July, for a briefing on the operation of the Department.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 14 July at 2.30 pm]

Tuesday 14 July 2015

AFTERNOON SITTING

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Ann Clwyd
Mike Gapes
Stephen Gethins
Daniel Kawczynski

Yasmin Qureshi
Andrew Rosindell
Nadhim Zahawi

1. Scrutiny of arms export controls

Ordered, That the Chair write to the respective Chairs of the Defence, International Development and Business, Innovation and Skills Committees on the collective scrutiny of arms export controls.

2. CFSP/CDSP Conference of National Parliament Chairs in Luxembourg on 5/6 September 2015

Ordered, That the Chair have leave to attend the CFSP/CDSP Conference of National Parliament Chairs in Luxembourg on 5/6 September 2015 in a representative capacity, and that the Chair seek the approval of the Chair of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

3. Norfolk Island

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 21 July at 9.30 am]

Tuesday 14 July

The Chair, Daniel Kawczynski, Mike Gapes, Stephen Gethins, Adam Holloway, Yasmin Qureshi, Nadhim Zahawi and Committee staff visited the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in accordance with the Committee's decision of 14 July.

Tuesday 21 July 2015

(Morning)

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron	Daniel Kawczynski
Ann Clwyd	Yasmin Qureshi
Mike Gapes	Andrew Rosindell
Stephen Gethins	Nadhim Zahawi

1. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 21 July at 2.30 pm]

Tuesday 21 July 2015

(Afternoon)

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron	Daniel Kawczynski
Ann Clwyd	Yasmin Qureshi
Mike Gapes	Andrew Rosindell
Stephen Gethins	Nadhim Zahawi
Mr Mark Hendrick	

1. Declarations of interest

Ann Clwyd, Stephen Gethins, Mr Mark Hendrick, Yasmin Qureshi, Andrew Rosindell and Nadhim Zahawi declared interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992:

Ann Clwyd:

Member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Rights.
Chair of the British-Iraq All-Party Parliamentary Group
Chair of the Cambodia All-Party Parliamentary Group.

Stephen Gethins:

Visiting Namibia in August 2015 to undertake remunerated employment.

Mark Hendrick:

Member of GMB union

Member of Unite union

Member of USDAW union

Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary China Group

Member of the Indonesia All-Party Parliamentary Group

Member of the United Kingdom-United Arab Emirates All-Party Parliamentary Group

Member of the Romania All-Party Parliamentary Group

Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Vietnam

Member of the Britain-Palestine All-Party Parliamentary Group

Member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Japan

Member of the British-Taiwanese All-Party Parliamentary Group

Member of the Cambodia All-Party Parliamentary Group

Member of the British-Bulgaria All-Party Parliamentary Group

Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Association of South East Asian Nations

Member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the European Union

Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Singapore

Treasurer of the All-Party Parliamentary British-German Group

Yasmin Qureshi

Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Commemorating Srebrenica

Co-Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

Officer for the All-Party Parliamentary Kashmir Group

Andrew Rosindell

Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Australia & New Zealand

Chairman of the British-Canada All-Party Parliamentary Group

Chairman of the All-Party British-Swiss Parliamentary Group

Chairman of the British-Pacific Islands All-Party Parliamentary Group

Chairman of the British-Central American All-Party Parliamentary Group

Chairman of the British-Liechtenstein All-Party Parliamentary Group

Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Channel Islands Group

Chairman of the United Kingdom-Isle of Man (Manx) All-Party Parliamentary Group

Chairman of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories All-Party Parliamentary Group

Chairman of the British-Montserrat All-Party Parliamentary Group

Chairman of the Pitcairn Islands All-Party Parliamentary Group

Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary British-Mauritius Group

Governor of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy

Assembly Member of the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly

Executive Committee Member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

Executive Committee Member Inter-Parliamentary Union (British Group)

Chairman of the Conservative Friends of Gibraltar

Chairman of the Conservative Friends of Australia & New Zealand

Trustee of the Friends of the British Overseas Territories

Nadhim Zahawi

Member of the All-Party Parliamentary China Group

Member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the Kurdistan Region in Iraq

Member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Ukraine

Member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on European Union-US Trade & Investment
Member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Syria
Secretary of the British-Iraq All-Party Parliamentary Group

2. Access for Members' staff to Committee meetings

Resolved, That nominated Members' staff may attend deliberative sessions of Committee meetings.

3. Countries of specialism

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into: Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options.

5. Costs and benefits of EU membership for the UK's role in the world

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into: Costs and benefits of EU membership for the UK's role in the world.

6. Iraq Inquiry

Ordered, That the letter from Sir John Chilcot to the Chair dated 20 July be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

7. Main Estimates 2015-16

Ordered, That Memoranda from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and from UK Trade and Investment on the Main Estimate 2015-16 be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

8. Parliamentary Intelligence Forum

Ordered, That the Chair have leave to attend the Parliamentary Intelligence Forum hosted by US Congress in Washington in October 2015 in a representative capacity, and that the Chair seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

9. Foreign policy developments: July 2015

Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, Secretary of State, and Sir Simon Gass, Director, Political, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 8 September at 2.30 pm

Saturday 5 September to Sunday 6 September

The Chair and a Committee Specialist visited Luxembourg to attend the CFSP/CDSP Conference of National Parliament Chairs in accordance with the Committee's decision of 14 July.

Tuesday 8 September 2015

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Ann Clwyd	Daniel Kawczynski
Mike Gapes	Yasmin Qureshi
Stephen Gethins	Andrew Rosindell
Mr Mark Hendrick	Nadhim Zahawi

1. Specialist Advisers

Resolved, That Dr Robin Niblett, Professor Toby Dodge and Professor Anand Menon be appointed as Specialist Advisers to assist the Committee in all aspects of its work.

Declarations of Interest by Dr Toby Dodge:

London School of Economics and Political Science:

Director of the Middle East Centre at LSE from September 2013 to present. The Middle East Centre is funded by two endowments, one from the Aman Charitable Trust and one from the Emirates Foundation for Philanthropy.

Kuwait Professor and Director of the Kuwait Programme on Development, Governance and Globalisation in the Gulf States at LSE from October 2014 to present: The Kuwait Professor and the Kuwait Programme on Development, Governance and Globalisation in the Gulf States is funded by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science.

International Institute for Strategic Studies:

Senior Consulting Fellow for the Middle East at the International Institute for Strategic Studies since October 2003.

United States Government:

March and April 2007 and March and April 2008: Adviser to General David Petraeus, Commander Multinational Forces Iraq, and Ambassador Ryan Crocker, US Ambassador to Iraq.

Declarations of interest by Professor Anand Menon:

Funding from the Economic and Social Research Council. Current head of the ESRC 'UK in a Changing Europe' initiative.

Declarations of interest by Dr Robin Niblett:

Director of the Royal Institute of International Affairs

Non-Executive Director of Fidelity European Values Investment Trust since 2009

Occasional paid speaking engagements for multinational companies organized by Chartwell Worldwide Speakers Bureau (3 or 4 a year)

Associate of Gatehouse Advisory Partners

Non-remunerated interests:

Member of the Scientific (Academic) Board of El Real Instituto Elcano (Spain's main foreign policy think tank) in Madrid;

Director of Königswinter (which brings senior UK and German MPs, officials and experts together twice a year);
Member of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on Europe.

2. The fight against ISIL: the UK's role

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into The fight against ISIL: the UK's role.

3. Iraq Inquiry

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the Iraq Inquiry be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Letter from Sir John Chilcot to the Chair dated 5 August

Letter from Sir John Chilcot to the Chair dated 8 September.

4. British Virgin Islands

Resolved, That the Committee raise no objection to the draft Virgin Islands Constitution (Amendment) Order 2015.

5. Norfolk Island

The Committee considered this matter.

6. Shaker Aamer

The Committee considered this matter.

7. UK policy on Syria

Patrick Cockburn, Middle East correspondent, The Independent; James Harkin, freelance reporter; Professor Raymond Hinnebusch, Professor of International Relations and Middle East Politics and Director of the Centre for Syrian Studies, University of St. Andrews, Professor Eugene Rogan, Director, Middle East Centre, St Antony's College, University of Oxford, Julien Barnes-Dacey, Senior Policy Fellow, Middle East and North Africa programme, European Council on Foreign Relations; Professor Michael Clarke, Director, Royal United Services Institute, Rt Hon. Dominic Grieve QC MP, former Attorney-General, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 9 September at 2.30 pm

Wednesday 9 September 2015

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Ann Clwyd
Mike Gapes

Adam Holloway
Daniel Kawczynski

Stephen Gethins
Mr Mark Hendrick

Yasmin Qureshi
Nadhim Zahawi

1. Foreign policy developments: September 2015

Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, Secretary of State, Sir Simon Gass, Director General, Political, and Sir Simon McDonald, Permanent Under-Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 15 September at 2.30 pm

Tuesday 15 September 2015

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Ann Clwyd
Mike Gapes
Stephen Gethins
Mr Mark Hendrick

Daniel Kawczynski
Yasmin Qureshi
Andrew Rosindell
Nadhim Zahawi

1. Diego Garcia

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The fight against ISIL: the UK's role

The Committee considered this matter.

3. UK policy on Syria

Resolved, That the Committee meet concurrently with the Defence Committee on 8 October to take oral evidence.

4. Foreign policy developments: July 2015

Ordered, That the letter dated 25 August from the FCO following up points arising from the oral evidence session with the Foreign Secretary on 21 July, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. FCO management issues

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Letter dated 27 July from the FCO, providing quarterly management information (January to July 2015)

Letter dated 29 July from the FCO, following up points arising from the Committee's visit to the FCO on 14 July.

6. Manama Dialogue

Ordered, That the Chair have leave to attend the Manama Dialogue in Bahrain from 30 October to 1 November 2015 in a representative capacity, and that the Chair seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

7. Declaration of interest

Nadhim Zahawi declared an interest, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992:

Chief Strategy Officer, Gulf Keystone Petroleum

8. FCO budget and capacity

Sir Simon McDonald, Permanent Under Secretary, Deborah Bronnert, Chief Operating Officer, and Iain Walker, Finance Director, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 8 October at 2.25 pm.]

Thursday 8 October 2015

[The Committee met concurrently with the Defence Committee]

Members present:

Mr John Baron
Crispin Blunt
Mike Gapes
Stephen Gethins

Mr Mark Hendrick
Daniel Kawczynski
Andrew Rosindell

The following members of the Defence Committee were also present (Standing Order 137A):

Members present:

Richard Benyon
Douglas Chapman
James Gray
Dr Julian Lewis
Johnny Mercer

Mrs Madeleine Moon
Jim Shannon
Bob Stewart
John Spellar

Crispin Blunt was called to the Chair (Standing Order No. 137A (1)(d)).

1. UK policy on Syria

Lt General Sir Simon Mayall, former Senior Defence Adviser for Middle East, Ministry of Defence, Elizabeth Quintana, Director, Military Sciences Department, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), Professor Marc Weller, Professor of International Law and International Constitutional Studies, University of Cambridge; Sarah Lain, Research Fellow, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), Professor Anoush Ehteshami, Professor of International Relations, Durham University; Ammar Waqqaf, British Syrian Society, Dr Rim Turkmani, Senior

Research Fellow, London School of Economics and Political Science; Rami Abdurrahman, Director, Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 13 October at 2.30 pm.

Tuesday 13 October 2015

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron	Adam Holloway
Ann Clwyd	Daniel Kawczynski
Mike Gapes	Yasmin Qureshi
Stephen Gethins	Andrew Rosindell
Mr Mark Hendrick	Nadhim Zahawi

1. The fight against ISIL: the UK's role

Resolved, That the Committee visit Tehran, Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Cairo, Amman, Beirut, Erbil, Baghdad and Ankara in November 2015 in connection with the inquiry and that the Chair seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

2. Egypt

Resolved, That the letter from the Foreign Secretary dated 18 September, on Egypt, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

Professor George Joffé, visiting Professor of Geography, Kings College London, Alison Pargeter, analyst and writer specialising in North Africa and the Middle East, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 20 October at 10 am.

Tuesday 20 October

(Morning)

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron	Adam Holloway
Stephen Gethins	Andrew Rosindell
Mr Mark Hendrick	Nadhim Zahawi

1. Costs and benefits of EU membership for the UK's role in the world

Charles Grant, Director, Centre for European Reform and Stephen Booth, Co-Director, Open Europe, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 20 October at
2:30 pm.]

Tuesday 20 October

(Afternoon)

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron
Stephen Gethins
Daniel Kawczynski

Yasmin Qureshi
Nadhim Zahawi

1. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the inquiry be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

LIB0001 Mr Nasir Ghalib
LIB0002 Libyan Constitutional Union
LIB0003 Associate Professor Adrian Gallagher
LIB0004 Professor Wyn Rees
LIB0005 Wolfgang Puzstai
LIB0006 Dr Victoria Honeyman
LIB0007 Living Earth Foundation
LIB0008 Mr Joseph Walker-Cousins
LIB0009 European Council on Foreign Relations
LIB0010 British Council
LIB0011 Campaign Against Arms Trade
LIB0012 FCO
LIB0013 FCO
LIB0014 Mr Roger Nunn
LIB0015 Adam Smith International

2. Costs and benefits of EU membership for the UK's role in the world

Ordered, That the following written evidence related to the inquiry be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

EUM0001 Brightwake Ltd
EUM0002 Dr Andrew Glencross
EUM0003 Roland Brunner
EUM0004 Duplicate submission
EUM0005 Duplicate submission

EUM0006	Duplicate submission
EUM0007	Duplicate submission
EUM0008	Dr Stephen Lee-Kelland
EUM0009	Dr Wyn Rees
EUM0010	Mr Nick Witney
EUM0011	Dr Dermot Hodson
EUM0012	Professor Richard Rose
EUM0013	Dr David Blagden
EUM0014	Professor Karen E Smith
EUM0015	Global Europe Centre
EUM0016	University of Leicester
EUM0017	Dr Gavin Sullivan
EUM0018	CBI
EUM0019	Dr Tim Oliver
EUM0020	Duplicate submission
EUM0021	British Standards Institution
EUM0022	TheCityUK
EUM0023	Centre for European Reform
EUM0024	Foreign and Commonwealth Office

3. Scrutiny of EU developments

Ordered, that Mr John Baron act as EU Reporter to monitor EU-related foreign policy matters.

4. Invitation to UK-German Bilateral Dialogue 2015

Ordered, that Mike Gapes have leave to attend the UK-German Bilateral Dialogue in Berlin on 30 November 2015 in a representative capacity, and that the Chair seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

5. The budget of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Draft Report (*The FCO and the 2015 Spending Review*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the First Report of the Committee, HC 467.

6. Council of Arab Ambassadors

Resolved, That the Committee visit the Council of Arab Ambassadors on Thursday 19 November.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 27 October at 2:30 pm.

Monday 26 to Thursday 29 October

The Chair visited Washington to attend the Parliamentary Intelligence Forum in accordance with the Committee's decision of 21 July

Tuesday 27 October

Members present:
Mr John Baron, in the Chair

Ann Clwyd	Daniel Kawczynski
Mike Gapes	Yasmin Qureshi
Stephen Gethins	Andrew Rosindell
Mr Mark Hendrick	Nadhim Zahawi
Adam Holloway	

1. Chair

Resolved, That at this day's sitting, Mr John Baron take the Chair of the Committee.

2. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

Sir Dominic Asquith KCMG, former British Ambassador to Libya 2011-12 and Chair of the Libyan British Business Council gave oral evidence.

Ordered, That the public withdraw.

Resolved, That the Committee now take evidence in private.

Sir Dominic Asquith gave further oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 29 October at 2:30 pm.]

Thursday 29 October

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron	Stephen Gethins
Ann Clwyd	Daniel Kawczynski
Mike Gapes	Andrew Rosindell

1. The extension of offensive British military operations in Syria

Draft report (*The extension of offensive British military operations to Syria*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Second Report of the Committee, HC 457.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 3 November at 2:30 pm.]

Friday 30 October to Sunday 1 November
The Chair visited Bahrain to attend the Manama Dialogue in accordance with the
Committee's decision of 15 September

Tuesday 3 November

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

John Baron	Daniel Kawczynski
Ann Clwyd	Adam Holloway
Mike Gapes	Andrew Rosindell
Stephen Gethins	Yasmin Qureshi
Mark Hendrick	Nadhim Zahawi

1. Scrutiny of arms export controls

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Costs and benefits of EU membership for the UK's role in the world

Graham Avery, Senior Adviser, European Policy Centre (EU Commission, 1973-2006), Professor Patrick Minford, Cardiff University and Dr Stephen Woolcock, London School of Economics and Political Science gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 10 November at
2:30 pm.]

Tuesday 10 November 2015

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron	Adam Holloway
Mike Gapes	Daniel Kawczynski
Stephen Gethins	Nadhim Zahawi
Mr Mark Hendrick	

1. The fight against ISIL: the UK's role

Resolved, That Mr Skandar Keynes, a member of the Chair's staff, accompany the Committee on its visit to Lebanon.

2. UK relations with Russia

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the UK's relations with Russia.

3. Scrutiny of FCO human rights policy

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 17 November at 2.00 pm.]

Tuesday 17 November 2015

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron

Mike Gapes

Mr Mark Hendrick

Daniel Kawczynski

Yasmin Qureshi

Nadhim Zahawi

1. Helsinki Policy Forum

Ordered, That the Chair have leave to visit Berlin to attend the Helsinki Policy Forum on 7 December, and that the Chair seek approval of the Chair of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

2. UK-German Bilateral Dialogue 2015

Ordered, That Dr Ariella Huff, Committee Specialist, attend the dialogue in Berlin on 30 November 2015, and that the Chair seek approval of the Chair of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

3. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

Resolved, that Joseph Walker-Cousins be appointed as a Special Adviser to the Committee for its inquiry into Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options.

Declarations of Interest by Mr Walker-Cousins

Director, Middle East Business Development and Libya Country Manager, KBR UK Ltd

Member, Libyan British Business Council

Staff Officer, MENA Region, British Army Reserve

Independent Adviser to the English Court (commissioned for the court through Mischon de Reya)

4. The fight against ISIL: the UK's role

Resolved, That Professor Toby Dodge, Specialist Adviser to the Committee, accompany the Committee on its visit to Iraq.

[Adjourned till Thursday 26 November at 8.55 am.]

Thursday 19 November

Crispin Blunt, Mr John Baron, Ann Clwyd, Stephen Gethins, Adam Holloway, Daniel Kawczynski, Andrew Rosindell and Nadhim Zahawi visited the Lanesborough Park Hotel for lunch with the Council of Arab Ambassadors in accordance with the Committee's decision of 20 October.

Saturday 21 November to Friday 27 November

Crispin Blunt, Mr John Baron, Stephen Gethins and Daniel Kawczynski and the Clerk of the Committee visited Tehran, Abu Dhabi and Riyadh; Nadhim Zahawi, Adam Holloway, the Senior Committee Specialist and Mr Toby Dodge, Specialist Adviser to the Committee, visited Baghdad, Erbil and Ankara; and Mike Gapes, Yasmin Qureshi, and the Second Clerk of the Committee visited Cairo, Amman and Beirut in accordance with the Committee's decision of 13 October; Mr Skandar Keynes joined the Committee in Beirut in accordance with the Committee's decision of 10 November.

Thursday 26 November 2015

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Stephen Gethins

Daniel Kawczynski

1. UK policy on Syria

Resolved, That the Prime Minister's response to the Committee's Second Report be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 1 December at 11.30 am]

Sunday 29 November to Monday 30 November

A Committee Specialist visited Berlin to attend the Anglo-German Security Dialogue on 30 November in accordance with the Committee's decision of 17 November

Tuesday 1 December 2015

(Morning)

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron

Stephen Gethins

Daniel Kawczynski

Yasmin Qureshi

Andrew Rosindell

Nadhim Zahawi

1. UK policy on Syria

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till this day at 2.30 pm.]

(Afternoon)

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron	Daniel Kawczynski
Stephen Gethins	Yasmin Qureshi
Mr Mark Hendrick	Andrew Rosindell
Adam Holloway	Nadhim Zahawi

1. UK policy on Syria

Motion made and Question put, That the Prime Minister has not adequately addressed concerns contained in the Committee's Second Report of Session 2015-16, in his response provided on 26 November.—*(Mr John Baron)*.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 4

Noes, 3

Mr John Baron
Stephen Gethins
Yasmin Qureshi
Andrew Rosindell

Adam Holloway
Daniel Kawczynski
Nadhim Zahawi

Resolved, That the Prime Minister has not adequately addressed concerns contained in the Committee's Second Report of Session 2015-16, in his response provided on 26 November.

Resolved, That the Committee raise no objection to the FCO Departmental Minute concerning the gifting of support to the Syrian moderate armed opposition, laid before Parliament on 17 November 2015.

2. European Commission 2016 Work Programme

Resolved, That the Committee write to the Chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee about the European Commission 2016 Work Programme.

3. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

The Rt Hon Lord Hague of Richmond and the Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 8 December at 2.30 pm.]

The Chair visited Berlin to attend the Helsinki Policy Forum on 7 December in accordance with the Committee's decision of 17 November.

Tuesday 8 December 2015

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron	Yasmin Qureshi
Mark Hendrick	Andrew Rosindell
Adam Holloway	Nadhim Zahawi
Daniel Kawczynski	

1. Costs and benefits of EU membership for UK's role in the world

Resolved, That the Committee visit EU institutions in Brussels in connection with the inquiry.

Dr Scott James, Senior Lecturer in Political Economy, King's College London; Professor Iain Begg, Professorial Research Fellow at the European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science; Dr Angus Armstrong, Director of Macroeconomics, National Institute of Economic and Social Research and Professor Sir Alan Dashwood QC, Emeritus Professor of European Law, Cambridge University; Professor Panos Koutrakos, Jean Monnet Professor of European Law, City University London gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Friday 10 December at 10.30 am.]

Friday 11 December 2015

Members Present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron	Andrew Rosindell
Stephen Gethins	

1. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

The Rt Hon Tony Blair gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 15 December at 10.00 am.]

Tuesday 15 December 2015

MORNING SITTING

Members Present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron
Stephen Gethins
Mark Hendrick

Daniel Kawczynski
Nadhim Zahawi

1. Costs and benefits of EU membership for UK's role in the world

Rt Hon Baroness Cathy Ashton, former High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 15 December at 2.30 pm.]

AFTERNOON SITTING

Members Present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron
Stephen Gethins
Mark Hendrick

Daniel Kawczynski
Andrew Rosindell

1. The UK's relations with Russia

Resolved, That the Committee visit Russia in March 2016 in connection with the inquiry and that the Chair seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

2. The fight against ISIL: the UK's role

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the inquiry into The fight against ISIL: the UK's role be reported to the House for publication:

ISI0005 – Foreign and Commonwealth Office

ISI0006 – Southern Front, Free Syrian Army

ISI0007 – Tony Blair Faith Foundation

ISI0008 – Rethink Rebuild Society

ISI0009 – National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces

ISI0011 – Syria Civil Society Alliance

ISI0012 – Tom Keatinge, Director of the Centre for Financial Crime & Security Studies,
Royal United Services Institute

ISI0013 – Dawlaty

ISI0014 – Community Security Trust

ISI0015 – British Council
ISI0016 – Syria Civil Defence (The White Helmets)
ISI0017 – Syrian Emergency Task Force
ISI0018 – Averroes
ISI0020 – Dr Sajjan Gohel (International Security Director, Asia-Pacific Foundation)
ISI0021 – Syria NGO Alliance
ISI0022 – Syria Solidarity Movement UK
ISI0023 – Quilliam
ISI0026 – Mr Gary Kent (Director, APPG on Kurdistan Region in Iraq)
ISI0027 – Karwan Jamal Tahir

3. FCO Departmental Minute

Resolved, That the Committee raise no objection to the Minute laid by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office before Parliament on 25 November 2015, proposing to gift equipment to the Somali national army.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 5 January 2016 at 5.30 pm.]

Tuesday 5 January 2016

Members Present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Ann Clwyd	Yasmin Qureshi
Stephen Gethins	Andrew Rosindell
Mark Hendrick	Nadhim Zahawi
Daniel Kawczynski	

1. The UK's relations with Russia

Resolved, that Sarah Lain be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in the inquiry into the UK's relations with Russia.

2. The fight against ISIL: the UK's role

Ordered, That a Sub-Committee be appointed to consider the financing of ISIL, and that all members of the Committee be appointed to the Sub-Committee.

Ordered, That Mr John Baron be Chair of the Sub-Committee.

3. Committee scrutiny of FCO human rights policy

Resolved, that the Committee inquire into the FCO's administration and funding of its human rights work overseas.

4. Scrutiny of arms export controls

The Committee considered this matter.

5. FCO quarterly management bulletin

Ordered, That the letter dated 4 November from the FCO, providing quarterly management information (August to October 2015) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

6. Shaker Aamer

Ordered, That the letter dated 28 December 2015 from the Foreign Secretary regarding Shaker Aamer be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

7. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Letter from Rt Hon Tony Blair to the Chairman dated December 2015
Transcripts of calls between Mr Blair and Colonel Gaddafi in 2011, supplied by Mr Blair.

8. Costs and benefits of EU membership for UK's role in the world

Resolved, That Mr Andrew Hollingsworth, a member of the Chair's staff, accompany the Committee on its visit to Brussels.

9. Munich Security Conference

Ordered, That the Chair have leave to attend the Munich Security Conference from 12-14 February 2015 in a representative capacity, and that the Chair seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 12 January at 2.30 pm.]

Tuesday 12 January 2016

Members Present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mark Hendrick

Daniel Kawczynski

Yasmin Qureshi

Andrew Rosindell

Nadhim Zahawi

1. The fight against ISIL: the UK's role

Mr Zahawi drew attention to his interests as declared in the Register of Financial Interests and as someone who was born in Iraq.

Lina Khatib, Senior Research Associate, Arab Reform Initiative, Chris Phillips, Associate Fellow, Chatham House, Neil Quilliam, Acting Head, Middle East and North Africa Programme, Chatham House, and Michael Stephens, Research Fellow for Middle East Studies, Royal United Services Institute, gave oral evidence.

In the absence of the Chair, Mark Hendrick was called to the chair.

Lina Khatib, Senior Research Associate, Arab Reform Initiative, Chris Phillips, Associate Fellow, Chatham House, Neil Quilliam, Acting Head, Middle East and North Africa Programme, Chatham House, and Michael Stephens, Research Fellow for Middle East Studies, Royal United Services Institute, gave further oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Thursday 14 January at 10.00 am.]

Thursday 14 January 2016

[In the offices of the European External Action Service, Brussels]

Members Present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron
Stephen Gethins

Daniel Kawczynski
Andrew Rosindell

1. Costs and benefits of EU membership for UK's role in the world

Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 19 January at 10.00 am.]

Tuesday 19 January 2016

MORNING SITTING

Members Present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron
Mark Hendrick

Daniel Kawczynski
Yasmin Qureshi

1. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

The Rt Hon. Dr Liam Fox MP and the Rt Hon. Lord Hague of Richmond gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till 2.30 pm this day.]

AFTERNOON SITTING

Members Present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron
Ann Clwyd
Mark Hendrick
Adam Holloway

Yasmin Qureshi
Andrew Rosindell
Nadhim Zahawi

1. Scrutiny of arms export controls

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

Lord Richards of Herstmonceux and the Rt Hon. Sir Alan Duncan MP gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 26 January at 2.30 pm.]

Tuesday 26 January 2016

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron
Ann Clwyd
Stephen Gethins
Mark Hendrick

Adam Holloway
Daniel Kawczynski
Andrew Rosindell
Nadhim Zahawi

1. The UK's relations with Russia

The Committee considered this matter.

2. European Parliament forum, Brussels, 23 February

Ordered, That Daniel Kawczynski and Stephen Gethins, accompanied by the Second Clerk, have leave to attend the forum being hosted by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament on 23 February, to be addressed by Federica Mogherini, the NATO Secretary-General, and Martin Kobler, UN Envoy to Libya, and that the Chair seek approval of the Chair of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

3. The fight against ISIL: the UK's role

Mr Zahawi drew attention to his interests as declared in the Register of Financial Interests.

Daniel Levy, Head of Middle East and North Africa Programme, European Council on Foreign Relations, and Lord Williams of Baglan, Distinguished Visiting Fellow, Chatham House, gave oral evidence.

Gareth Stansfield, Senior Associate Fellow, Royal United Services Institute, Zeynep Kaya, Fellow, London School of Economics, and Güney Yıldız, Turkish and Kurdish Affairs Analyst, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 2 February at 2.30 pm.]

Tuesday 2 February 2016

Members Present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron
Ann Clwyd

Stephen Gethins
Andrew Rosindell

1. FCO departmental minute

Resolved, That the Committee raise no objection to the FCO Departmental Minute concerning the gifting of support to the Lebanese armed forces, laid before Parliament on 12 January 2016.

2. ISIL financing

Ordered, that oral evidence taken that day before the Sub-committee on ISIL financing be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 9 February at 10.00 am.]

Tuesday 9 February 2016

MORNING SITTING

Members Present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron
Stephen Gethins

Daniel Kawczynski
Yasmin Qureshi

1. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

Resolved, That the Committee visit Egypt and Tunisia in March 2016 in connection with this inquiry, the planned inquiry into Political Islam, and the inquiry into the fight against ISIL: the UK's role, and that the Chair seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

2. The FCO and the 2015 Spending Review

Draft Special Report (*The FCO and the 2015 Spending Review: Government Response to the Committee's First Report of Session 2015-16*), proposed by the Chair, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

Resolved, That the Report be the First Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chair make the Report to the House.

3. The fight against ISIL: the UK's role

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to *The fight against ISIL: the UK's role* be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

ISI 0028 – BICOM

ISI 0029 – Lina Khatib

ISI 0030 – Dr Andrew Watt

ISI 0031 – Guney Yildiz

4. European Parliament forum, Brussels, 23 February

Resolved, That Mr Skandar Keynes, a member of the Chair's staff, may accompany Daniel Kawczynski and Stephen Gethins and the Second Clerk to the forum being hosted by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament on 23 February, to be addressed by Federica Mogherini, the NATO Secretary-General, and Martin Kobler, UN Envoy to Libya.

5. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

Chris Stephen, journalist, Patrick Porter, Professor of Strategic Studies, University of Exeter, and Malcolm Chalmers, Deputy Director-General, Royal United Services Institute, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till 2.30 this day.]

AFTERNOON SITTING

Members Present:

Mr John Baron

Daniel Kawczynski

Ann Clwyd
Mr Mark Hendrick
Adam Holloway

Yasmin Qureshi
Andrew Rosindell
Nadhim Zahawi

Resolved, That, at this day's sitting, Mr John Baron take the Chair of the Committee.—
(*Daniel Kawczynski.*)

1. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

Jonathan Powell, UK Special Envoy to Libya, gave oral evidence.

Tobias Ellwood MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Peter Millett, HM Ambassador, Libya, and Sally Axworthy, former Joint Head North Africa Department, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 10 February at 2.30 pm.]

Wednesday 10 February 2016

The Business, Innovation and Skills, Defence, Foreign Affairs and International Development Committees met concurrently, pursuant to Standing Order No. 137A.

Foreign Affairs Committee members present:

Crispin Blunt
Ann Clwyd

Adam Holloway

1. Informal Chair

Motion made, That Stephen Doughty do take the Chair.—(*Ann Clwyd.*)

Motion made, That Chris White do take the Chair.—(*Crispin Blunt.*)

Question put, That Stephen Doughty do take the Chair.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 4

Ann Clwyd
Stephen Doughty
John Spellar
Mr Iain Wright

Noes, 6

Crispin Blunt
Mrs Helen Grant
Dr Julian Lewis
Amanda Milling
Stephen Twigg
Chris White

Question accordingly negatived.

Question put, That Chris White do take the Chair.

The Committee divided.

Ayes, 7

Crispin Blunt
Mrs Helen Grant
Dr Julian Lewis
Amanda Milling
Stephen Twigg
Chris White
Mr Iain Wright

Noes, 3

Ann Clwyd
Stephen Doughty
John Spellar

Question accordingly agreed to.

Resolved, That Chris White do take the Chair of the Committees. (Standing Order No. 137A(1)(d)).

2. Objectives and future programme

The Committees considered this matter.

3. Committees on Arms Export Controls administrative arrangements

The Committees considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committees meet on Wednesday afternoons at 2.30 pm.

Ordered, That the public be admitted during the examination of witnesses unless the Committees order otherwise.

Ordered, That uncorrected transcripts of oral evidence heard by the Committees shall be placed on the internet, unless the Committees order otherwise.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 23 February at 2.30 pm.]

12 to 14 February

The Chair attended the Munich Security Conference in accordance with the Committee's decision of 5 January.

Tuesday 23 February

Stephen Gethins and Daniel Kawczynski, accompanied by the Second Clerk and Mr Skandar Keynes visited the European Parliament in Brussels in accordance with the Committee's decisions of 26 January and 9 February.

Tuesday 23 February 2016

Members Present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Ann Clwyd	Andrew Rosindell
Mr Mark Hendrick	Nadhim Zahawi
Yasmin Qureshi	

1. Costs and benefits of EU membership for the UK's role in the world

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to *Costs and benefits of EU membership for the UK's role in the world* be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

EUM 0026 Robin Porter, University of Bristol
EUM 0028 David Campbell Bannerman MEP
EUM 0029 HM Government of Gibraltar
EUM 0030 Dr Heather Grabbe, European University Institute
EUM 0031 The Crown Dependencies
EUM 0032 Dr Richard Lang
EUM 0033 Falkland Islands Government

The Committee considered this matter.

2. The FCO's administration and funding of its human rights work overseas

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to *The FCO's administration and funding of its human rights work overseas* be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

HUM 0002 Vince Ma
HUM 0003 Dr Katherine Brickell
HUM 0004 Human Dignity Trust
HUM 0005 Community Security Trust
HUM 0006 Human Rights Watch

HUM 0007 www.FrontlineDefenders.org
HUM 0008 Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy
HUM 0009 Kaleidoscope Trust
HUM 00010 Americans for Human Rights and Democracy in Bahrain
HUM 00011 Free Tibet and Tibet Watch
HUM 00012 United Nations Association-UK
HUM 00013 Reprieve
HUM 00014 Stonewall
HUM 00015 Save the Children
HUM 00016 Traidcraft
HUM 00017 Protection Approaches
HUM 00018 Christian Solidarity Worldwide
HUM 00019 Foreign and Commonwealth Office
HUM 00022 UNICEF UK
HUM 00023 Womankind Worldwide (part of the submission)
HUM 00025 Amnesty International UK

David Mepham, UK Director, Human Rights Watch, gave oral evidence by videolink.

Kate Allen, Director of Amnesty International UK, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 24 February at 2.45 pm.]

Wednesday 24 February 2016

Members Present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron	Yasmin Qureshi
Ann Clwyd	Andrew Rosindell
Mr Adam Holloway	Nadhim Zahawi
Daniel Kawczynski	

1. The FCO's administration and funding of its human rights work overseas

The Rt Hon Baroness Anelay, Minister of State, Rob Fenn, Head, Human Rights and Democracy department, and Paul Williams, Director of Multilateral Policy, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 1 March at 2.30 pm.]

Tuesday 1 March 2016

Members Present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron	Yasmin Qureshi
Stephen Gethins	Andrew Rosindell
Adam Holloway	Nadhim Zahawi
Daniel Kawczynski	

1. The FCO's administration and funding of its human rights work overseas

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Political Islam

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into Political Islam.

Ordered, That Mr Julian Weinberg be appointed a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee with the inquiry.

Resolved, That Mr Julian Weinberg accompany the Committee to Egypt and Tunisia in connection with the inquiry.

3. FCO departmental minute

Resolved, That the Committee raise no objection to the FCO Departmental Minute concerning the gifting of support to the Jordanian Public Security Department, laid before Parliament on 2 February 2016.

4. FCO Supplementary Estimate 2015-16

Ordered, That the memorandum on the Supplementary Estimate supplied by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. CFSP/CDSP Interparliamentary Conference, The Hague, 6 to 8 April

Ordered, That the Chair and Committee Specialist have leave to attend the CFSP/CDSP Interparliamentary Conference in The Hague from 6 to 8 April, and that the Chair seek approval of the Chair of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

6. Working methods

Resolved, That the Committee visit the Centre for Public Scrutiny to hold an informal private meeting to discuss working methods and future programme, and for training on questioning techniques.

7. Costs and benefits of EU membership for the UK's role in the world

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 2 March at 2.30 pm]

Wednesday 2 March 2016

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron
Stephen Gethins

Nadhim Zahawi

1. ISIL financing

Ordered, That oral evidence taken that day before the sub-Committee on ISIL financing be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to ISIL financing, submitted to the ISIL financing sub-Committee, be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

SIF 0001 – Luay al Khateeb

SIF 0002 – Rt Hon. Sir Alan Duncan MP

Adjourned till Tuesday 15 March at 2.30 pm.

Sunday 6 March – Friday 11 March

The Chair, Stephen Gethins, Adam Holloway, Daniel Kawczynski and Yasmin Qureshi, accompanied by the Second Clerk of the Committee, the Committee Specialist and Mr Julian Weinberg (Specialist Adviser) visited Cairo and Tunis in accordance with the Committee's decisions of 9 February and 1 March.

Tuesday 15 March 2016

Members Present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron
Stephen Gethins
Adam Holloway
Daniel Kawczynski

Yasmin Qureshi
Andrew Rosindell
Nadhim Zahawi

1. The UK's role in the war against ISIL following the Cessation of Hostilities in Syria in February 2016

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to *The UK's role in the war against ISIL following the Cessation of Hostilities in Syria in February 2016* be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

ISI 0032 Dr Zeynep Kaya

ISI 0033 Mr Ron Sandee

ISI 0034 The Foreign and Commonwealth Office

2. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 22 March at 2.30 pm]

Tuesday 22 March 2016

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Ann Clwyd

Daniel Kawczynski

Mike Gapes

Yasmin Qureshi

Stephen Gethins

Andrew Rosindell

Mark Hendrick

Nadhim Zahawi

Adam Holloway

1. The UK's role in the war against ISIL following the Cessation of Hostilities in Syria in February 2016

Draft Report (*The UK's role in the war against ISIL following the Cessation of Hostilities in Syria in February 2016*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Third Report of the Committee, HC 683.

2. The FCO's administration and funding of its human rights work overseas

Draft Report (*The FCO's administration and funding of its human rights work overseas*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Fourth Report of the Committee, HC 860.

3. 9th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership meeting, Ulaanbaatar, 21 to 23 April 2016

Ordered, That Mark Hendrick have leave to attend the 9th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership meeting in Ulaanbaatar, from 21 to 23 April 2016, and that the Chair seek approval of the Chair of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with the visit.

4. FCO Supplementary Estimate 2015-16

Ordered, That the letter of 21 March 2016 from the Director of Finance at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, relating to the FCO Supplementary Estimate for 2015-16, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 23 March at 2.30 pm

Wednesday 23 March 2016

The Business, Innovation and Skills, Defence, Foreign Affairs and International Development Committees met concurrently, pursuant to Standing Order No. 137A.

Foreign Affairs Committee members present:

Crispin Blunt
Ann Clwyd

Stephen Gethins
Daniel Kawczynski

The Committees deliberated in accordance with Standing Order No. 137A(1)(b).

Chris White was called to the Chair in accordance with Standing Order No. 137A(1)(d).

1. The use of UK-manufactured arms in Yemen

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Save the Children.

2. Quorum of the Committees

The Committees considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Chair write to the Leader of the House and the Chair of the Liaison Committee.

3. The work of the Committees

The Committees considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committees inquire into the Arms Trade Treaty.

Resolved, That the Committees inquire into UK Defence Export Promotion.

4. Specialist adviser

The Committees considered this matter.

5. Twitter

The Committees considered this matter.

6. Correspondence from the FCO and BIS

The Committees considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committees visit the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills.

7. The use of UK-manufactured arms in Yemen

Roy Isbister, Team Leader, Small Arms and Transfer Controls, Saferworld, Tim Holmes, Regional Director, Middle East and Commonwealth of Independent States, Oxfam, David Mepham, UK Director, Human Rights Watch, and Oliver Sprague, Programme Director, Military Security and Police, Amnesty International, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 12 April at 2.30 pm]

Wednesday 6 April – Friday 8 April

The Chair and the Committee Specialist visited The Hague to attend the CFSP/CDSP Interparliamentary Conference, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 1 March.

Tuesday 12 April 2016

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

John Baron
Ann Clwyd

Adam Holloway
Daniel Kawczynski

Mike Gapes
Stephen Gethins

Yasmin Qureshi
Nadhim Zahawi

1. The UK's relations with Russia

Ordered, That the memorandum from the Russian Embassy be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

2. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

Ordered, That the letter from the Foreign Secretary dated 27 March and the Chair's reply be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Costs and benefits of EU membership for the UK's role in the world

The Committee considered this matter.

The Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind QC, the Rt Hon Liam Fox MP, the Rt Hon Alex Salmond MP, and the Rt Hon Gisela Stuart MP gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 13 April at 2.30 pm]

Wednesday 13 April 2016

The Business, Innovation and Skills, Defence, Foreign Affairs and International Development Committees met concurrently, pursuant to Standing Order No. 137A.

Foreign Affairs Committee members present:

Crispin Blunt

Mike Gapes

The Committees deliberated in accordance with Standing Order No. 137A(1)(b).

Chris White was called to the Chair in accordance with Standing Order No. 137A(1)(d).

1. The use of UK-manufactured arms in Yemen

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Oxfam

ADS Group

UK Working Group on Arms

University of Leicester

Campaign Against the Arms Trade

Dr Anna Stavrianakis

Transparency International UK

Southwest Initiative for the Study of Middle East Conflicts

Jamila Hanan

Dietrich Klose

Mrs and Dr Julie and Jim Maxon
Colchester Creek
Article 36
Mwatana Organization for Human Rights
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

2. The Arms Trade Treaty

The Committees considered this matter.

3. UK Defence Export Promotion

The Committees considered this matter.

4. Summer Defence Conference hosted by the French Parliament, 4-6 September

Resolved, That the Chair and Clerk have leave to visit Paris in September to attend the 14th Summer Defence Conference in a representative capacity.

5. The use of UK-manufactured arms in Yemen

Professor Philippe Sands QC, Matrix Chambers, gave oral evidence.

Paul Everitt, Chief Executive Officer, ADS Group, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 19 April at 2.30 pm.]

Tuesday 19 April 2016

MORNING MEETING

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

John Baron	Adam Holloway
Ann Clwyd	Daniel Kawczynski
Mike Gapes	Yasmin Qureshi
Stephen Gethins	Andrew Rosindell
Mark Hendrick	Nadhim Zahawi

1. The UK's relations with Russia

Ordered, That the memorandum from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

2. Costs and benefits of EU membership for the UK's role in the world

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till this day at 2.30 pm]

AFTERNOON MEETING

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

John Baron	Adam Holloway
Ann Clwyd	Daniel Kawczynski
Mike Gapes	Yasmin Qureshi
Stephen Gethins	Andrew Rosindell
Mark Hendrick	Nadhim Zahawi

1. Costs and benefits of EU membership for the UK's role in the world

Draft Report (*Implications of the referendum on EU membership for the UK's role in the world*), proposed by the Chair, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published with the Fourth Report of the Committee, HC 545.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 26 April at 2.30 pm]

Wednesday 20 – Saturday 23 April

Mr Mark Hendrick visited Ulaanbaatar to attend the 9th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership meeting in accordance with the Committee's decision of 22 March.

Tuesday 26 April

The Chair, Ann Clwyd, Mike Gapes, Stephen Gethins, Mark Hendrick, Yasmin Qureshi and Andrew Rosindell visited the Centre for Public Scrutiny to discuss working methods and future programme, and for training on questioning techniques, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 1 March.

Tuesday 26 April 2016

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

John Baron

Ann Clwyd

Mike Gapes

Mark Hendrick

Adam Holloway

Daniel Kawczynski

Yasmin Qureshi

Andrew Rosindell

Nadhim Zahawi

1. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Political Islam

The Committee considered this matter.

3. FCO Supplementary Estimate 2015-16

Ordered, That the letter of 13 April 2016 from the Rt Hon David Lidington MP, Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, following up matters raised during debate in the House on 1 March, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. ISIL financing

Ordered, That oral evidence taken that day before the sub-Committee on ISIL financing be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to ISIL financing, submitted to the sub-Committee on ISIL financing, be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

SIF 0003 Embassy of Qatar

SIF 0004 Air Vice-Marshal Stringer, Ministry of Defence

SIF 0005 Foreign and Commonwealth Office

5. 9th Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership meeting, Ulaanbaatar, 21 to 23 April 2016

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Wednesday 27 April at 2.15 pm

Wednesday 27 April 2016

The Business, Innovation and Skills, Defence, Foreign Affairs and International Development Committees met concurrently, pursuant to Standing Order No. 137A.

Foreign Affairs Committee members present:

Crispin Blunt

Ann Clwyd

The Committees deliberated in accordance with Standing Order No. 137A(1)(b).

Chris White was called to the Chair in accordance with Standing Order No. 137A(1)(d).

1. The use of UK-manufactured arms in Yemen

Ordered, That the following written evidence be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Human Rights Watch
Sir Simon Mayall

2. Future programme

The Committees considered this matter.

Resolved, That the Committees visit Saudi Arabia in connection with their inquiry into the use of UK-manufactured arms in Yemen, and that the Chair seek the approval of the Liaison Committee for expenditure in connection with this visit.

3. The use of UK-manufactured arms in Yemen

Lt Gen (ret'd) Sir Simon Mayall KBE CB, former Senior Defence Adviser, Middle East, Ministry of Defence, Dr Anna Stavrianakis, Senior Lecturer in International Relations, University of Sussex, and Michael Stephens, Research Fellow for Middle East Studies, RUSI, gave oral evidence.

Philip Dunne MP, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, Ministry of Defence, Tobias Ellwood, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Rt Hon Anna Soubry MP, Minister for Small Business, Industry and Enterprise, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and Rt Hon Desmond Swayne TD MP, Minister of State, Department for International Development, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 3 May at 2.15 pm]

Tuesday 3 May 2016

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mike Gapes

Mark Hendrick

Adam Holloway

Daniel Kawczynski

Yasmin Qureshi

Nadhim Zahawi

1. The UK's relations with Russia

The Committee considered this matter.

Resolved, That Sarah Lain, Specialist Adviser for the inquiry, accompany the Committee to Russia in connection with the inquiry.

2. Libya: Examination of intervention and collapse and the UK's future policy options

Ordered, That the letter of 25 April 2016 from the Prime Minister, in relation to the inquiry, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. The UK's relations with Russia

Dr Derek Averre, Senior Lecturer in Russian Foreign and Security Policy, University of Birmingham, and Dr Andrew Monaghan, Senior Research Fellow, Chatham House, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 10 May at 2.15 pm

Tuesday 10 May 2016

Members present:

Crispin Blunt, in the Chair

Mr John Baron

Ann Clwyd

Mike Gapes

Stephen Gethins

Adam Holloway

Daniel Kawczynski

Yasmin Qureshi

Andrew Rosindell

Nadhim Zahawi

1. The UK's relations with Russia

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Political Islam

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to the inquiry be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

ISL0001 Dr John Esposito

ISL0003 Professor Noha Mellor

ISL0005 Dr Courtney Freer

ISL0013 Dr Matthew Nelson

ISL0026 Mohamed Soudan

ISL0035 Mokhtar Awad

ISL0037 Dr Maria Holt

ISL0039 Alison Pargeter

ISL0040 Alastair Crooke

ISL0041 Sondos Asem

Dr Omar Ashour, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, Dr Courtney Freer, Middle East Centre, London School of Economics, and Ziya Meral, Resident Fellow, Centre for Historical Analysis and Conflict Research, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 24 May at 10.00 am