

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 2

Establishing the Congressional Commission on the European Union, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 5, 2011

Mr. ISSA submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Establishing the Congressional Commission on the European
Union, and for other purposes.

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring),*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This resolution may be cited as the “Congressional
5 Commission on the European Union Resolution”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION**
2 **ON THE EUROPEAN UNION.**

3 There is established in the legislative branch the Con-
4 gressional Commission on the European Union (hereafter
5 in this resolution referred to as the “Commission”).

6 **SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMISSION.**

7 (a) SELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—

8 The Commission shall be composed of 18 members as fol-
9 lows:

10 (1) Nine Members of the House of Representa-
11 tives who shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
12 House of Representatives, of whom 5 shall be se-
13 lected from the majority party, after consultation
14 with the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Af-
15 fairs, and 4 shall be selected from the minority
16 party, after consultation with the minority leader of
17 the House and the ranking minority member of the
18 Committee on Foreign Affairs. For purposes of this
19 paragraph, a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to
20 the Congress shall be considered a Member of the
21 House of Representatives.

22 (2) Nine Members of the Senate who shall be
23 appointed by the President pro tempore of the Sen-
24 ate, of whom 5 shall be selected from the majority
25 party of the Senate, after consultation with the ma-
26 jority leader and the Chairman of the Committee on

1 Foreign Affairs, and 4 shall be selected from the mi-
2 nority party, after consultation with the minority
3 leader of the Senate and the ranking minority mem-
4 ber of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

5 (b) CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN.—

6 (1) ODD-NUMBERED CONGRESS.—At the begin-
7 ning of each odd-numbered Congress—

8 (A) the President pro tempore of the Sen-
9 ate, on the recommendation of the majority
10 leader, shall designate one of the Senate Mem-
11 bers of the Commission to serve as Chairman of
12 the Commission during that Congress; and

13 (B) the Speaker of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives shall designate one of the House
15 Members of the Commission to serve as Vice
16 Chairman of the Commission during that Con-
17 gress.

18 (2) EVEN-NUMBERED CONGRESS.—At the be-
19 ginning of each even-numbered Congress—

20 (A) the Speaker of the House of Rep-
21 resentatives shall designate one of the House
22 Members of the Commission to serve as Chair-
23 man of the Commission during that Congress;
24 and

1 (B) the President pro tempore of the Sen-
2 ate, on the recommendation of the majority
3 leader, shall designate one of the Senate Mem-
4 bers of the Commission to serve as Vice Chair-
5 man of the Commission during that Congress.

6 **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

7 (a) **ACTIVITIES.**—The Commission shall work with
8 the European Parliament of the European Union and the
9 European Commission on a frequent and regular basis in
10 order to—

11 (1) enable Members, officers, and employees of
12 Congress to provide expert advice to members and
13 staff of the European Parliament of the European
14 Union and the European Commission, and to permit
15 members and staff of such entities to obtain the
16 services of the Congressional Budget Office, the
17 Congressional Research Service, and the Govern-
18 ment Accountability Office through requests trans-
19 mitted to the Commission;

20 (2) enable members and staff of the European
21 Parliament of the European Union and the Euro-
22 pean Commission visiting Congress and its support
23 agencies to learn about their corresponding oper-
24 ations first-hand; and

1 (3) provide information and recommendations
2 to committees of the House of Representatives and
3 Senate regarding legislation, regulatory standards,
4 and activities being proposed by the European Par-
5 liament and European Commission.

6 (b) STUDIES.—In order to carry out the activities de-
7 scribed in subsection (a), the Commission shall conduct
8 on an annual basis (or more frequently if necessary) a
9 study on the impact on United States interests of legisla-
10 tion recently passed by the European Parliament and reg-
11 ulations issued by the European Commission. The Com-
12 mission shall conduct on an annual basis a study on the
13 impact on the European Union of legislation recently
14 passed by Congress and regulations issued by the execu-
15 tive branch. The studies required under this subsection
16 shall also assess the following:

17 (1) The potential benefit to the European Par-
18 liament and European Commission of expert advice
19 from Members, staff, and committees of Congress in
20 areas including, but not limited to, regulatory re-
21 form, trade, defense, monetary policy, homeland se-
22 curity, human rights, science and technology, gov-
23 ernment oversight, education, agriculture, and
24 health.

1 (2) The potential benefit to Congress of expert
2 advice from members, staff, and committees of the
3 European Union and European Commission in areas
4 including, but not limited to, regulatory reform,
5 trade, defense, monetary policy, homeland security,
6 human rights, science and technology, government
7 oversight, education, agriculture, and health.

8 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the es-
9 tablishment of the Commission and annually thereafter,
10 the Commission shall submit to Congress a report on the
11 following:

12 (1) The results of the studies conducted pursu-
13 ant to subsection (b).

14 (2) In accordance with the results of such stud-
15 ies, a review of the activities of the Commission in
16 the immediately preceding year and a proposal for
17 the activities of the Commission in the subsequent
18 year, as described in subsection (a).

19 (d) OFFICIAL MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION.—The
20 Commission may hold hearings or meetings at the discre-
21 tion of the Chairman on matters of mutual interest to
22 Congress and the European Parliament and European
23 Commission.

1 (e) ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS.—The Chairman of
2 the Commission or any member designated by the Chair-
3 man may administer oaths to any witness.

4 **SEC. 5. PARTICIPATION OF CERTAIN LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**
5 **EMPLOYEES.**

6 At the request of the Commission, the head of any
7 office or committee of the House of Representatives or the
8 Senate, or the Congressional Budget Office, the Congres-
9 sional Research Service, and the Government Account-
10 ability Office may assist the work of the Commission by
11 authorizing personnel of such office, committee, or agency,
12 as the case may be, to participate in activities of the Com-
13 mission.

14 **SEC. 6. FUNDING FOR COMMISSION.**

15 (a) FUNDING; DISBURSEMENTS.—

16 (1) SOURCE OF FUNDING.—There are author-
17 ized to be appropriated for each fiscal year such
18 sums as may be necessary to enable the Commission
19 to carry out its duties and functions, to be derived—

20 (A) in the case of a fiscal year which ends
21 during a Congress during which the Chairman
22 of the Commission is a Member of the House
23 of Representatives, from the applicable accounts
24 of the House of Representatives; and

1 (B) in the case of a fiscal year which ends
2 during a Congress during which the Chairman
3 of the Commission is a Member of the Senate,
4 from the contingent fund of the Senate.

5 (2) DISBURSEMENTS.—Funds provided to the
6 Commission shall be disbursed on vouchers approved
7 jointly by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

8 (b) OFFICIAL RECEPTION AND REPRESENTATIONAL
9 EXPENSES.—Not to exceed \$15,000 of the funds provided
10 to the Commission for any fiscal year may be used for
11 official reception and representational expenses during
12 such fiscal year.

13 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF FOREIGN TRAVEL FOR OFFI-
14 CIAL PURPOSES.—Foreign travel for official purposes by
15 Commission members and staff may be authorized by ei-
16 ther the Chairman or the Vice Chairman, subject to the
17 Rules of the House of Representatives (other than in the
18 case of travel by a Member of the Commission who is a
19 Member of the Senate).

20 (d) USE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES.—For purposes
21 of this section, the Commission shall be deemed to be a
22 standing committee of Congress and shall be entitled to
23 use funds in accordance with section 502(b) of the Mutual
24 Security Act of 1954 (22 U.S.C. 1754(b)).

25 (e) OFFICE FACILITIES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Funds may be provided for
2 the lease of office space at or near the headquarters
3 of the European Parliament and European Commis-
4 sion in Brussels, Belgium.

5 (2) LIMITATIONS ON FUNDING FOR OFFICE
6 SPACE.—Funds for the lease of office space are sub-
7 ject to approval by the Chairman and Vice Chair-
8 man of the Commission, in consultation with the
9 Speaker of the House of Representatives and Presi-
10 dent pro tempore of the Senate.

11 **SEC. 7. COMMISSION STAFF.**

12 (a) STAFF.—

13 (1) STAFF DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall
14 have a staff director, who shall be appointed by the
15 Chairman of the Commission and whose pay shall be
16 fixed by the Chairman of the Commission.

17 (2) OTHER STAFF.—The Chairman of the Com-
18 mission shall appoint and fix the pay of other per-
19 sonnel of the Commission, subject to the approval of
20 at least 2 of the following Members of the Commis-
21 sion:

22 (A) The Vice Chairman.

23 (B) The senior Member from the minority
24 party of the House of Representatives.

1 (C) The senior Member from the minority
2 party of the Senate.

3 (b) TREATMENT OF EMPLOYEES AS HOUSE EMPLOY-
4 EES.—For purposes of pay and other employment bene-
5 fits, rights, and privileges, and for all other purposes, in-
6 cluding the applicability of the Rules of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives, each employee of the Commission shall be
8 considered an employee of the House of Representatives.

9 **SEC. 8. PRINTING AND BINDING COSTS.**

10 For purposes of costs relating to printing and bind-
11 ing, including the costs of personnel detailed from the
12 Government Printing Office, the Commission shall be
13 deemed to be a standing committee of Congress.

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