

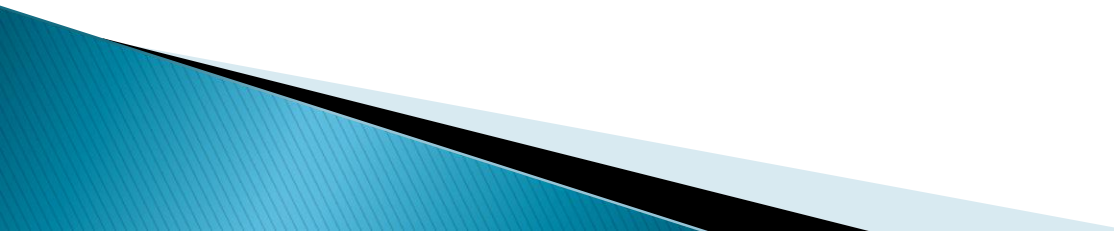
An Overview of EU Change

Dr Gerry Mulligan

**Director of the Office of the Northern Ireland Executive in
Brussels**



2014 – A year of Change in the EU

- ▶ Elections to European Parliament
 - ▶ New Head of European Council
 - ▶ New Commission President with 27 MS nominated Commissioners
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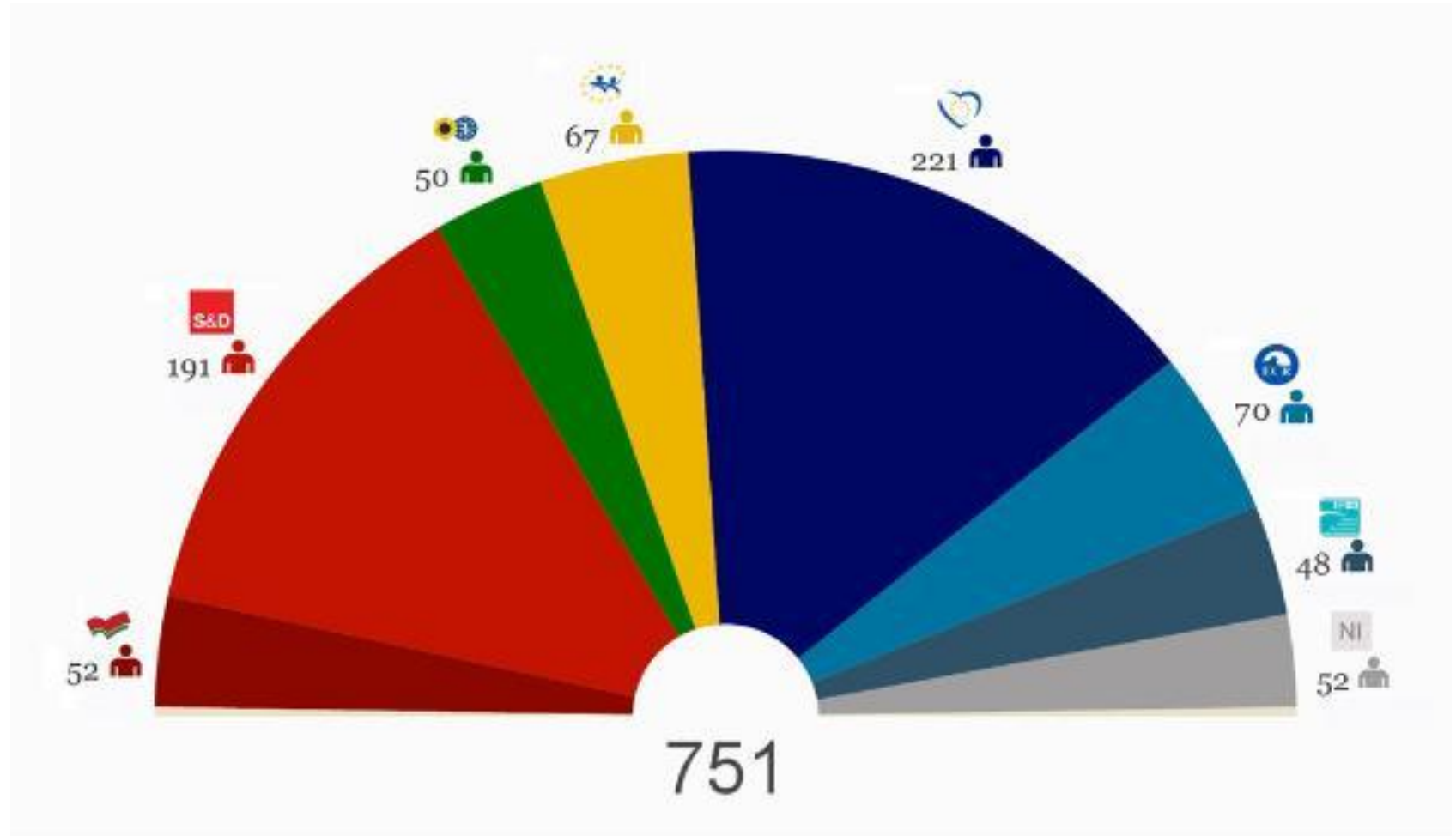
MAY ELECTIONS 2014

European Parliament: MEPs per country

751 MEPs will be elected in May 2014



EP – Political Groupings



NORTHERN IRELAND MEPs 2014

Diane Dodds
DUP
Sits as Independent in Parliament



Jim Nicholson
Ulster Unionist Party
Sits with ECR Group



Martina Anderson
Sinn Fein
Sits with GUE/NGL

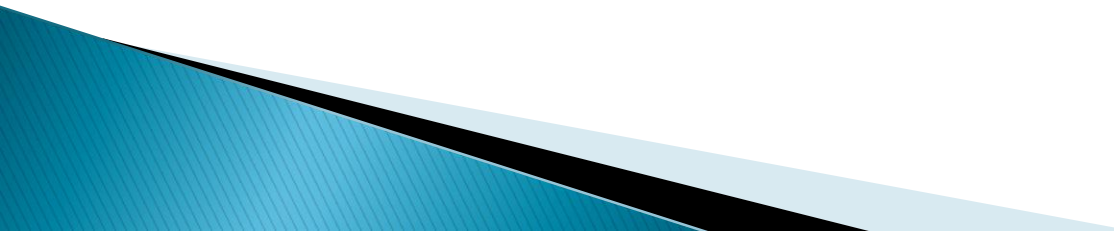


NEW RULES – Election of Commission President

Under the new rules of the Lisbon Treaty, EU government leaders, who will propose a candidate for the post of the future **Commission President**, must take into account the elections to the European Parliament.



Spitzenkandidaten ...a new process

- ▶ Parliament felt they had the right to propose candidates and each group except the ECR did just that
 - ▶ Some Member States fought against this – most notably the UK and insisted it was the sole decision of the European Council
 - ▶ In the end the Council agreed on Jean-Claude Junker with the UK and Hungary voting against
 - ▶ Mr Junker was the candidate of the EPP who won the most seats in the election
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NEW PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION (5 year term)

Jean-Claude Juncker

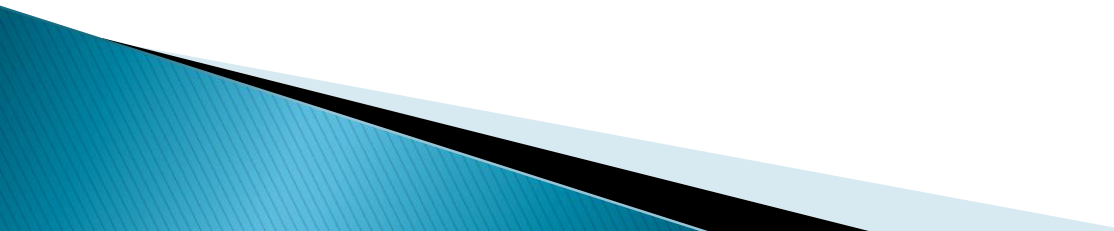
Confirmed by Parliament with 422 votes to 170 against in July 2014



Three Year Plan

- ▶ **Jean-Claude Juncker** stated that he will prepare a **3 year program** in which the EU will successfully gather €**300bn** in investments & create jobs
- ▶ He intends on introducing:
 - *Minimum wage in all member states*
 - *Reduce red-tape for SME's*
 - *Ensure Europe's energy security*

Commission Candidates

- Process of **negotiation** with Member States then began on who they would nominate as their Commissioner and what portfolios Juncker would allocate them
 - September and October will see Parliament Committees **question** each of the 27 candidates
 - The whole of his Commission will be subject to a **confirmatory vote** by the Parliament at the end of October
 - Due to take up post with his entire Commission on 1st November 2014
- 

President of the European Council

- ▶ Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk chosen by European Council to replace Herman Van Rompuy for a once renewable 2 and a half year term
- ▶ Due to take up post on 1st November 2014 alongside the new Juncker Commission



The Juncker Commission 2014–19

- ▶ High Representative for Foreign Affairs
 - Federica Mogherini (Italy)



UK
Lord Hill
Economic



IRELAND
Phil Hogan
AGRI/ENVI



SMALL & MEDIUM BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

How the EU will assist...



Jean-Claude Juncker

- ▶ *“SMEs are the backbone of our economy creating more than 85% of new jobs in Europe”*
- ▶ We must make use of public funds at **Union level** to stimulate private investment
- ▶ It is crucial that we have smarter investment, more focus, less regulation and more flexibility
- ▶ The growth of jobs will only return if we create the **right regulatory environment**

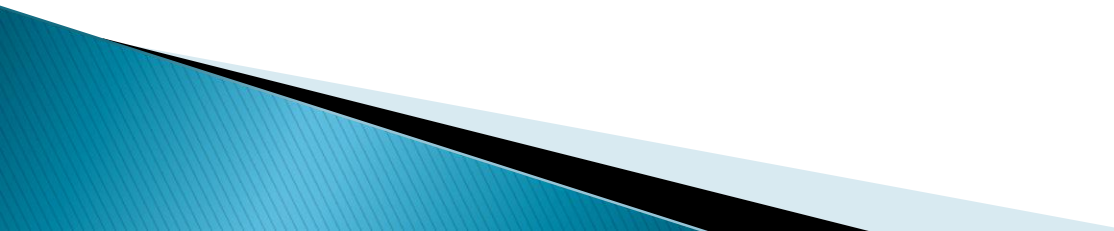
The Importance of SMEs in our Economy

- ▶ **300,000** SMEs in Ireland & Northern Ireland employing **1.4 million**
- ▶ Represents **70%** of our total work force
- ▶ SMEs represent **99.9 %** of all enterprises in Northern Ireland

Support for SMEs in the EU?

There is more than **20 million** SMEs in the EU that represent **99%** of businesses

The European Commission aims to promote entrepreneurship and improve the business environment for SMEs to allow them to realise their full potential in today's global economy





European Sustainable Competitiveness programme 2007-2013

- ▶ Promoted investment in **research & technological development** and encourage enterprise and entrepreneurship
- ▶ The programme drew its funding from the **European Regional Development Fund** and the total programme value for Northern Ireland was approximately **£470m**
- ▶ Around **55%** of these funds were designated to Invest Northern Ireland programmes

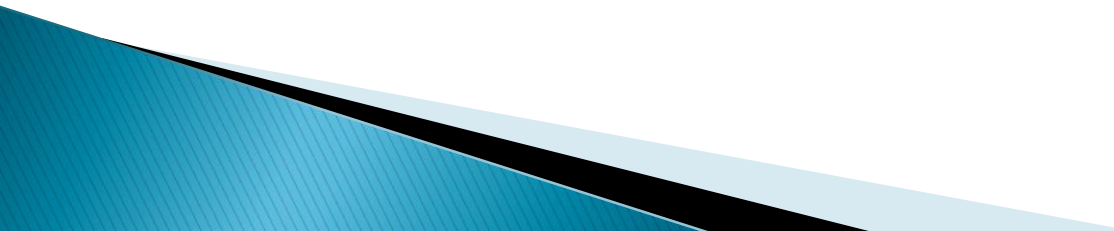
Gateways to Growth Project

Main objective:

- provide support for European SMEs interested in expanding their business on the **Japanese** or **Korean market** with one-week business missions assisting EU companies to export to Korea & Japan

- ▶ **70%** of SME's surveyed as part of the **Gateways to Growth Programme** have a better attitude to doing business on a cross border basis, according to figures published earlier this year in February by **Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce**
 - ▶ **68%** of participants reported an **increase in turnover** in the last six months while **78%** reported **an increased confidence** in their ability to export.
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The assistance schemes have been divided into the following four categories:

- 1) Thematic Funding Opportunities
 - 2) Structural Funds
 - 3) Financial Instruments
 - 4) Support for the Internationalisation for SMEs
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The SME Instrument

SEAMLESS BUSINESS INNOVATION SUPPORT FROM IDEA TO MARKET...



...YOUR HIGHWAY TO DELIVER INNOVATION ON THE MARKET!

Apply at any time!

6 months

12-24 months

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED

PROOF OF CONCEPT

- ✓ Prove Technical and Commercial Viability
- ✓ Explore IP Regime
- ✓ Design Study
- ✓ Develop Pilot Application
- ✓ Risk Assessment

DEMONSTRATION OF COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL via

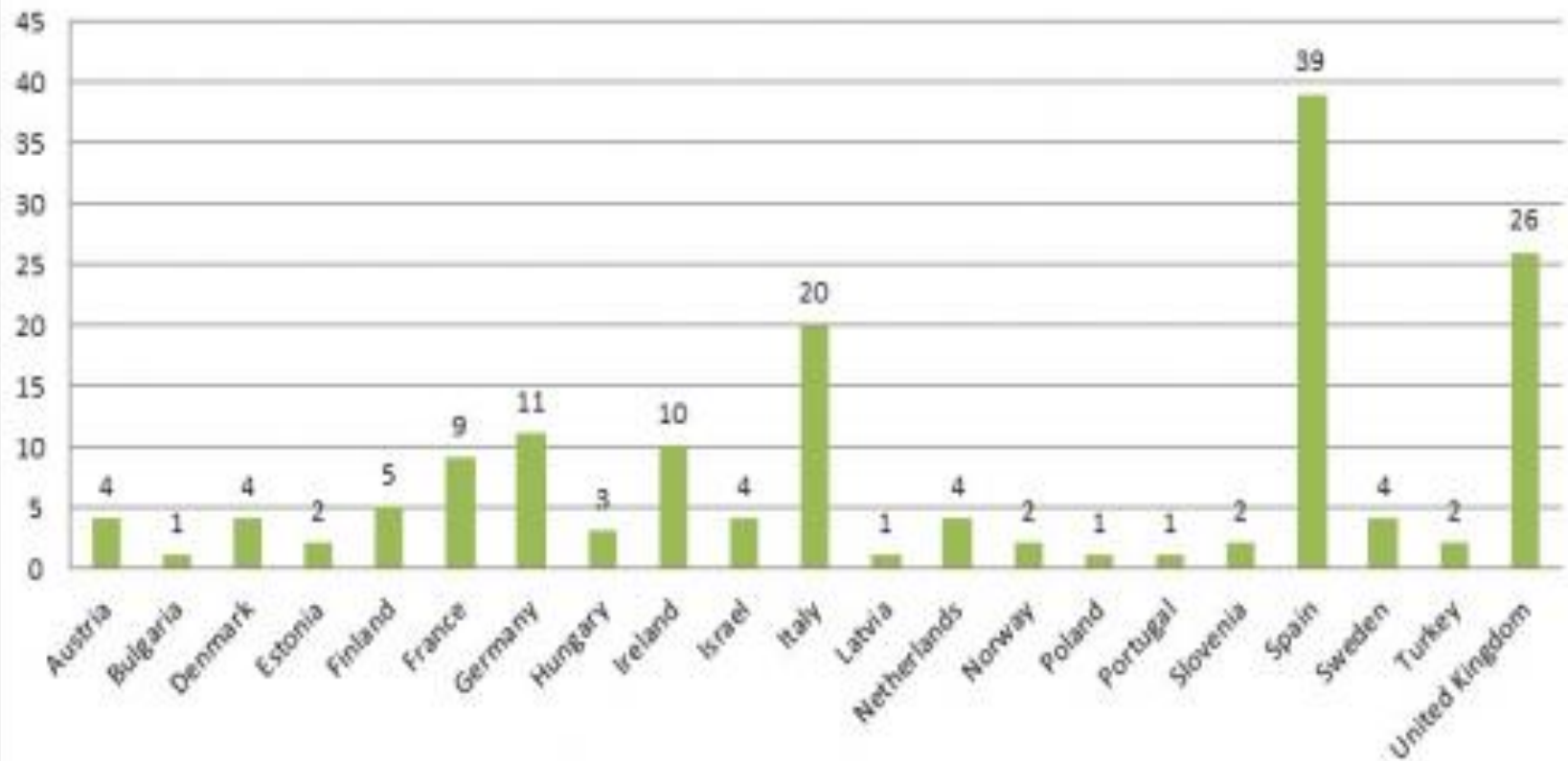
- ✓ Prototyping
- ✓ Testing
- ✓ Piloting
- ✓ Miniaturization
- ✓ Scaling-up
- ✓ Application Development

GO-TO-MARKET

- ✓ EU Quality Label (Promotion & Networking with Financiers/Clients)
- ✓ Investment Readiness Training
- ✓ SME window in the EU Financial Facilities (debt & equity backed by EIB/EIF)
- ✓ Link to Public Procurement Networks

HORIZON 2020

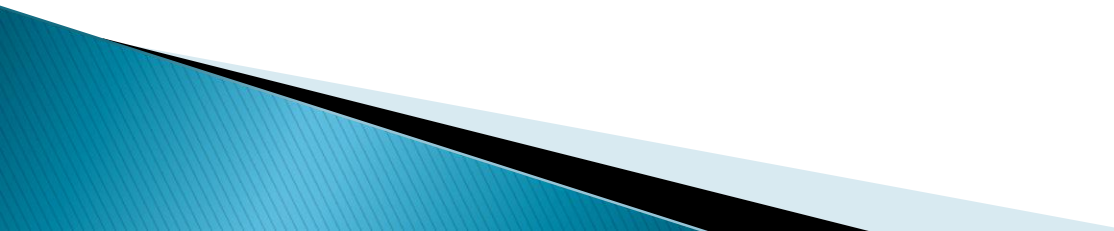
Horizon 2020's SME Instrument
Phase 1 - June 2014
Number of projects pre-selected for funding



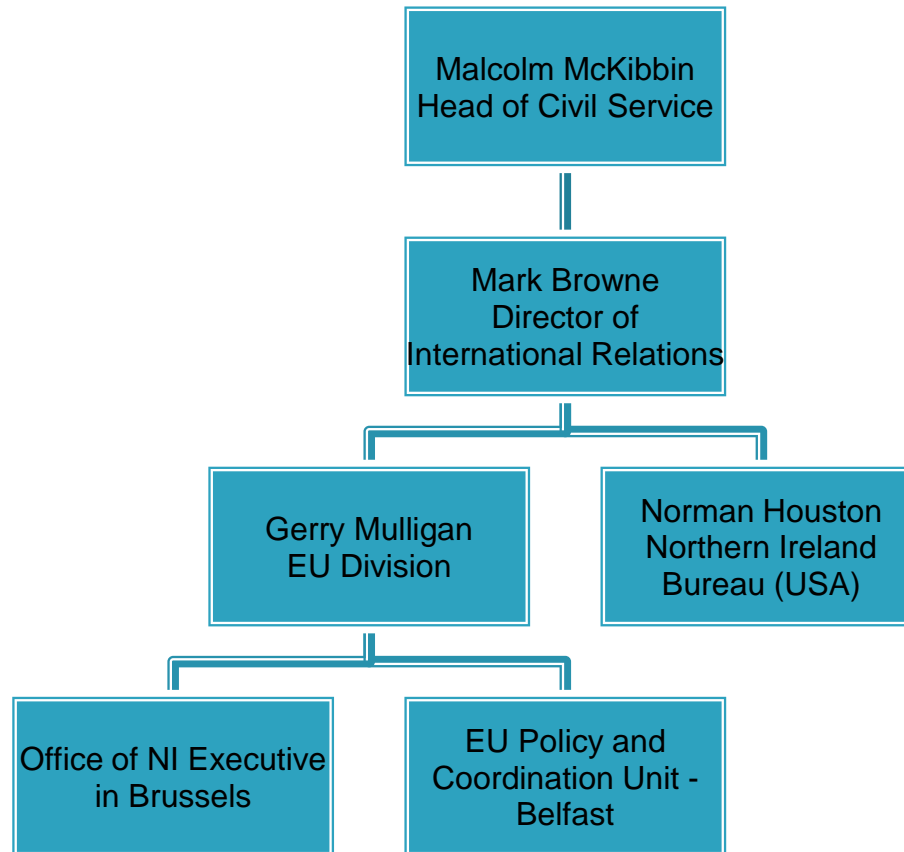
Where to find help locally?



Office of the NI Executive in Brussels (ONIEB)

- ▶ To support Northern Ireland's engagement with the EU
 - ▶ To ensure that Northern Ireland has the opportunity to engage in policymaking with the EU Institutions
 - ▶ To raise the positive profile of Northern Ireland.
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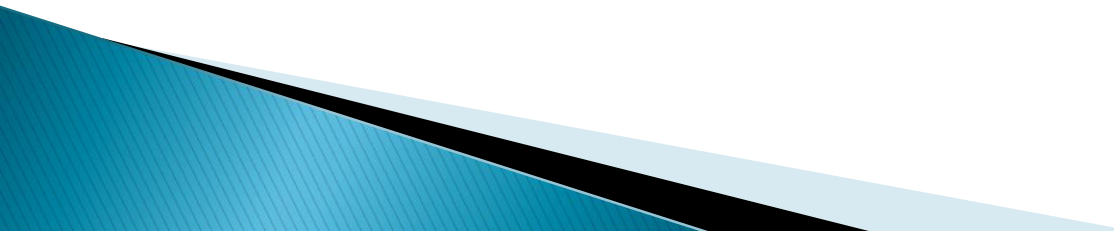
EU Division in OFMDFM







NIABT – 2014 Brussels Programme Priorities and Perspectives

- ▶ Learn about the Work of NI representatives
 - ▶ Gain Understanding of Emerging EU Priorities
 - ▶ Hear different perspectives on implications eg
 - Member states
 - MEPs
 - Commission
 - Regional Offices
 - Business representatives
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QUESTIONS ?