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S T A T U T O R Y   I N S T R U M E N T S

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**2000 No. 738**

**EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

**The European Communities (Designation) Order 2000**

*Made - - - - - 15th March 2000*

*Laid before Parliament 16th March 2000*

*Coming into force - - 6th April 2000*

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the 15th day of March 2000

Present,

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

Her Majesty, in exercise of the powers conferred on Her by section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972<sup>(a)</sup> is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:

**Citation and commencement**

1. This Order may be cited as the European Communities (Designation) Order 2000 and shall come into force on 6th April 2000.

**Designation of Ministers or government departments**

2.—(1) For the purposes of section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972, the Ministers or government departments specified in column (1) of the Schedule to this Order are designated in relation to the matters specified in column (2) of that Schedule.

(2) Where more than one Minister or government department is designated by this Order in relation to any matter, any of them may make regulations and, if regulations are made by more than one, they may do so jointly.

(3) Regulations made by a Northern Ireland department in pursuance of this Order, that are not made jointly with a Minister, shall form part of the law of Northern Ireland and not of any other part of the United Kingdom.

*A. K. Galloway*  
Clerk of the Privy Council

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<sup>(a)</sup> 1972 c. 68.

**SCHEDULE  
DESIGNATION**

Article

(1) <i>Ministers or Departments</i>	(2) <i>Matters in relation to which Ministers or Departments are designated</i>
The Secretary of State	Measures relating to natural gas and oil.
The Secretary of State	Measures relating to employment rights and duties.
Any Northern Ireland department	All of the preceding matters in this column.
The Secretary of State	Measures relating to electronic signatures.
The Lord Chancellor	Measures relating to the practice of the profession of lawyer.
The Secretary of State	Measures relating to the legal protection of biotechnological inventions.

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Order)*

This is a further Order in the series designating authorities which may exercise the power to make regulations conferred by section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 and specifying the matters in relation to which that power may be exercised.

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