

**ANNEX B
BRIEFING FOR THE FIRST MINISTER**

**MEETING WITH HE ADRIAN O’NEILL – IRISH AMBASSADOR TO THE UK
Wednesday 14 November 2018, 14:00**

<p>Key message</p>	<p><u>ASK</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keen to learn more about the Irish Government’s thinking around Brexit, the current status of the negotiations and the impact on British-Irish relations. Enquire about the Ambassador’s priorities and ideas for Scottish-Irish collaboration. We want the European Commission to keep an office in Edinburgh. Grateful for any support the Ambassador may be able to offer. <p><u>OFFER</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recent visits to Ireland by Minister McKee and Minister Forbes demonstrate our determination to build on existing ties and identify new areas for cooperation. Provide an update on our position on Brexit and offer reassurances that the SG fully supports the Good Friday Agreement and an invisible border in Ireland. Opportunity to reflect on your participation at the British-Irish Council. Congratulations on the re-election of President Higgins. You sent him a congratulatory letter. Commend the work the Irish Consul General is doing in Scotland and thank him for his support throughout the Brexit negotiations.
<p>Why</p>	<p>This is your first meeting with the new Irish Ambassador, who took up post in September 2017.</p>
<p>Who</p>	<p>Mr Adrian O’Neill – Irish Ambassador to the UK</p>  <p>Mr O’Neill joined the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs in October 1983 following his graduation from Trinity College Dublin. He spent time in the diplomatic service in both Madrid and Washington DC. He also served as Secretary General to President Mary McAleese, and President Michael D. Higgins from 2010 to 2014.</p> <p>The Ambassador will be accompanied by Mr Mark Hanniffy, Irish Consul General in Edinburgh.</p>
<p>Supporting official</p>	<p>[Redacted] Head of Policy Development</p>
<p>Attached documents</p>	<p>Annex A: Core brief and key lines Annex B: [Redacted] Annex C: Country Brief</p>

**CORE BRIEF AND KEY
LINES**

ANNEX A

HE O'Neil's visit overview

Following this bilateral, the Ambassador will meet with Jackson Carlow MSP. Ambassador O'Neil will then deliver the annual Arbuthnott Lecture at the University of Edinburgh, which Cabinet Secretary Hyslop will be attending, followed by a dinner at the Old College.

On Thursday 15 November, the Ambassador will meet with Neil Findlay MSP and will have a courtesy call with the Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament.

Key Links with Ireland

- Scotland and Ireland share a longstanding history, strengthened by trade and cultural links. Irish citizens are one of the largest diasporas in Scotland.
- We have a GlobalScot based in Ireland, Mr Raymond Buchan.
- Scotland's 6th largest export market overall with £1.02 billion exported in 2016. Ireland ranks 2nd place (behind France) in Scotland's top markets for food exports (2015).
- There are 80 Irish enterprises operating across 195 sites in Scotland. These companies employ 4,300 people, contributing a turnover to the Scottish economy of £1.472 m.
- Collaboration with Ireland in attracting EU funding is of key interest to Scotland, including H2020 and Transnational Co-operation Programmes. To date, Scotland and Ireland have worked together to secure EU funding for 19 joint projects with a joint value of £23.5 million.

Key Recent Ministerial Engagements with Ireland

- 7-9 September – Mr Russell attended the annual British-Irish Association conference in Cambridge.
- 26 September – Mr Wheelhouse attended SSE Seminar on renewables as part of Trade Mission led by Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Business Enterprise and Innovation.
- 27 September – Bilateral meeting between Mr Mackay, Mr McKee and Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Business Enterprise and Innovation.
- 28 September – Mr Russell met with Steering Committee of British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly.
- 28 September – Simon Harris TD, Minister of Health visit to Golden Jubilee Hospital & bilateral with Ms Freeman.
- 17-19 October – Mr McKee's visit to Dublin and Donegal.
- 18-19 October – Ms Forbes' visit to Dublin.

Upcoming Ministerial engagements with Ireland

- 16 November – Cabinet Secretary Mackay will meet with Mr Michael D'Arcy TD, Minister of State at the Department of Finance and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, on the occasion of the latter's visit to Scotland.

HE O'Neil's visit in August 2018

The Ambassador paid his first official visit to Scotland in August 2018. He hosted a reception at the Irish Consulate General to celebrate Scottish-Irish cultural connections and the Irish contribution to the Edinburgh International Festival programme. Minister Macpherson attended the reception on behalf of the SG. No bilaterals were organised on the occasion of this short visit.

- [Redacted]

Lines on the Scottish position on the Irish border

- [Redacted]

- The Scottish Government fully supports the Good Friday Agreement in all its parts, and the maintenance of an invisible border on the island of Ireland. We will do nothing to stand in the way of Northern Ireland achieving a special relationship with the EU, if that is what is required.
- Scottish Government has been arguing consistently for two years now that, if the UK Government is determined to leave the EU single market, there should be the possibility of a differentiated approach that allows Scotland to remain in the single market. This was and is independent from any NI backstop.
- If the outcome is differentiation for Northern Ireland, the case for Scotland having a similar arrangement – to avoid being placed at a severe economic disadvantage – becomes even stronger.
- Consequently the Scottish Government believes that the UK Government should reconsider the proposals we put forward in 2016 which provided a credible plan for Scotland to have a future relationship with the EU which met our particular needs. Such flexibility by the UK Government across the whole of the UK would also ensure that the democratic wishes of the people of Scotland, who are EU citizens, and voted overwhelmingly to remain within the EU in 2016 could be taken into account in the UK's future relationship with Europe.

Head of State – President Michael D Higgins

Prime Minister: Taoiseach Leo Varadkar

Government – Taoiseach Leo Varadkar assumed office on 14 June 2017. He leads a Fine Gael minority government, with support from a small number of Independent TDs

Foreign Minister – Simon Coveney

Europe Minister – Helen McEntee

Ambassador to UK – Adrian O'Neill (since September 2017)

UK Ambassador – Robin Barnett (since Summer 2016)

Consul General – Mark Hanniffy (since May 2016), Vice-Consul Lisa Marie Joyce (since May 2018)

Residents in UK (+ residents in Scotland) – 395,000 (22,952: Scotland's Census, 2011)

Internal country politics (Political makeup of government)

The national parliament of the Republic of Ireland is known as the Oireachtas. Fine Gael lead a minority government and are a pro-European liberal-conservative party. Fianna Fáil members provide 'confidence and supply'. The opposition is composed mainly of Sinn Féin and the Labour Party with a number of Independent members and smaller parties.

Hot Topics/Current Developments

- Michael D Higgins has been re-elected as Irish president after receiving 56% of the country's election vote. Businessman Peter Casey came second with 23.1%, while none of the other four candidates polled more than 10%.
- Minister for Communications, Denis Naughten TD, resigned from his Ministerial post on 11 October 2018. Naughten's resignation followed over a week of steadily mounting pressure surrounding several (hitherto undeclared) meetings he had with the Head of a company bidding for the contract to implement the Government's National Broadband Plan roll out. It was revealed that these meetings were not attended by officials from Naughten's department, and no minutes were taken.
- 2019 Budget unveiled on 9 October 2018. Key points include; an increase in minimum wage to €9.80, increase in social welfare payments by €5 a week, an increase of €1.05 billion of health funding, a promise to increase social housing by 10,000 in 2019 and a protected fund of €710 million to protect against Brexit's effects on Ireland.
- The Taoiseach travelled to Brussels on 4 October to meet with Donald Tusk, Michel Barnier and Chair of the European Parliament's Brexit Steering Group, Guy Verhofstadt.
- The Repeal of the Eighth Amendment is now law, after President Higgins signed the Bill into law on 17/09/18.
- Ireland is one of the leading countries in Human Development Index, as published week commencing 17 September.
- Bloomberg have reported that Ireland may be asked to drop its opposition to wide-ranging corporate tax reform in return for EU backing on Brexit. Solidarity doesn't come for free, according to a European official, suggesting at least some nations expect a price to be extracted for the bloc's commitments to Ireland in the Brexit process.

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	First Minister
Type of engagement	Bilateral meeting
Date	14 November 2018
Who	HE Adrian O'Neill (AO) Irish Ambassador to UK Mark Hanniffy, Irish Consul General in Edinburgh
Key Points	<p>[Redacted]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FM reiterated the SG's position that it should not be a binary choice between the draft proposal and no deal [Redacted] • The FM asked whether the EU27 will agree to the draft proposal. AO stated there is a great deal of confidence in in Mr Barnier [Redacted] • AO asked about the JMC and if there has been progress on frameworks; the FM said there was some progress but focus has been on no deal preparations. • There was a discussion about a potential visit by the Taoiseach around the time of the Six Nations (9 February 2019). FM said her officials would be happy to help facilitate once the Taoiseach outlines what he wants.
Comments	The Ambassador was very pleased to have secured a meeting with the First Minister. He commented on the improving relations between Scotland and Ireland and said he was committed to developing links further.
Attending Official	[Redacted] Head of Policy Development, International Futures
Copy List	First Minister Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development DG Constitution & External Affairs Karen Watt Frank Strang Ian Mitchell Russell Bain [Redacted] Liz Lloyd Katy Bowman Ewan Crawford Comms ICC

ANNEX E

MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR OF LATVIA, BAIBA BRAZE

Friday 23 November, 09:10-09:30

Key Messages	<p><u>ASK</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current and upcoming priorities for the Latvian Embassy• Ask for Latvia's support in maintaining a European Commission office in Edinburgh and stress the value of our engagement with the EU.• Ask for Latvian reactions to the Brexit deal and the latest developments.• What opportunities are there to promote St Andrews Day in Latvia or among Latvian communities.• Scotland is at the forefront of the Fair Saturday movement. Could this be something that Latvia is interested in? <p><u>OFFER</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Offer your congratulations on the 100th anniversary of Latvia's independence (officially celebrated on 18 November)• Continued engagement with the Scottish Government and the Latvian Embassy and Consulates.• Supporting the development of relations and collaboration with Latvia and the Baltics in line with the Scottish Government's Nordic Baltic Policy Statement.• Reinforce the Scottish Government's commitment to inform EU Nationals about their rights and take account of concerns in discussions with UK Government.
Who	Ms Baiba Braze – Ambassador of Latvia to the UK
What	An introductory meeting with the Ambassador following the Minister's attendance at the Latvia 100 years in cartoons exhibition, as the Ambassador was unable to attend on the day. We have not formally engaged with Latvian Ambassador at Ministerial level since Dr Allan met Ms Braze in September 2017 in Riga.
Where	Hopetoun House South Queensferry Edinburgh, EH30 9RW
Social media	Ambassador of Latvia @BaibaBraze Latvian Embassy UK @LVembassyUK
Supporting Official	David Fleetwood Frank Strang
Attached documents	Annex A: Core Brief Annex B: Biography Annex C: Latvia Country Profile

MS BAIBA BRAŽE – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Latvia to the UK



Born: 4 December 1966 in Riga, Latvia

Education: 2002 – Masters in Communication science, University of Latvia

1995 - Political science, University of Latvia

1990- Law, University of Latvia

Languages: Latvian (native), English, Russian, Dutch, French (conversational), Thai (basic)

Career

Ms Braze has been Ambassador of Latvia to the UK since 2016, and has also been the Non-residing Ambassador to the Republic of Indonesia since 2015.

Previous experience:

2016 – 2016 Director General, Communications Directorate

2011 – 2016 Director General, Directorate of Security Policy and International Organisations

2008 – 2008 Ambassador at Large, Third Political Directorate

2003 – 2008 Permanent Representative, Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPWC)

2003 – 2008 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Netherlands

1999 – 2003 Director of the First Political Department (Europe)

1998 – 1999 Foreign Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister

1998 – 1998 Counsellor of the Task Force for Preparation of EU Accession Negotiations

1996 – 1998 First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Latvia to the United Nations

Head of State- President Raimonds Vejonis (since July 2015)

Prime Minister- Prime Minister Maris Kucinskis (since February 2016)

Government – Coalition formed by Unity, the Union of Greens and Farmers and the National Alliance (Caretaker government)

Foreign Minister – Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs

Ambassador to UK – H.E. Ms Baiba Braže

UK Ambassador to Latvia – HE Keith Shannon

Residents in UK/Scotland -117,000 UK, (ONS) 4,475 Scotland, (2011 Census)

Internal country politics

- The 2018 Parliamentary elections took place on 6 October 2018. The pro-Russia Harmony party won the most votes with 19% and will hold 24 seats in the 100-seat parliament. The pro-EU For Development party took 12% and two populist parties, the KPV LV and the New Conservatives winning 27% between them and 15 and 16 seats respectively.
- A quarter of Latvia's population is ethnic Russian which forms a base of support for Harmony party, who emerged with the most votes in the 2011 and 2014 elections but failed to join ruling coalitions. Harmony only severed official ties to Putin's United Russia party last year.
- Harmony may be able to form a government if it joins forces with the populist parties. However, in the past, parties have formed pacts to keep Harmony out of government. A coalition will need a simple majority of 51 of 100 seats to govern.
- The current ruling coalition of Union of Greens and Farmers, the National Alliance and Unity together received 29.2%, meaning they would have to find at least one other coalition member to form a majority government.

Key Links with Scotland

- There were 255 Latvian students enrolled in higher-education institutions in Scotland for 2015/6.
- The Glasgow Baltic Research Unit (GBRU) at the University of Glasgow was established in January 2003, building on a longstanding tradition of Baltic research at the University of Glasgow. With the aim to study Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and their links to the surrounding region and the wider Europe, and is part funded by the Latvian Government.
- Air Baltic, Latvia's national airline began flying direct to Scotland from May 2017.

Latvian Economy

- **GDP €52.151 billion (PPP, 2017)**
- **GDP per capita £20,010 (2015 est.)**
- **Unemployment rate 9.6% (2016 est.)**
- World's **110th** largest economy, **32nd** biggest European economy by Sovereign states.
- A small, open economy with exports contributing nearly a **third** of GDP. Due to its geographical location, **transit services** are highly-developed; along with **timber** and **wood-processing, agriculture** and **food products**, and **manufacturing of machinery and electronics** industries.
- [Redacted]
- There is no published information on Latvian owned enterprises operating in Scotland owing to the number operating locally and economic output falling below IDBR tracking measures.

Hot Topics/Current Developments

- Following Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt's comments at the Conservative Party Conference, likening the EU to the Soviet Union, Baiba Braze, the Latvian ambassador to the UK, said the comparison was misguided as the Soviets "*killed, deported, exiled and imprisoned hundreds of thousands of Latvia's inhabitants after the illegal occupation in 1940, and ruined lives of three generations, while the EU has brought prosperity, equality, growth, respect*". The comments also drew a response from Estonian Ambassador to the UK Tiina Intelmann, Swedish Ambassador to UK Torbjorn Sohlstrom, and several former senior UK diplomats.

- Foreign Minister Edgars Rinkēvičs has said Latvia must increase its spending on defence in the face of the continued threat from Russia, dismissing suggestions that he was responding to pressure from Donald Trump, and told the FT that he would campaign in October elections on the platform of lifting defence spending to 2.5 per cent of gross domestic product by 2024. Mr Rinkevics said *“It is not to satisfy somebody. It is in our national interests due to the geopolitical situation. We don’t expect any improvement in the geopolitical situation in the next five years,”* Latvia and Lithuania doubled their defence spending in the past four years to come closer to NATO’s 2 per cent spending target.

Priorities for Brexit negotiations

- In the context of a declaration on the future relationship between the EU and the UK, Latvia will advocate a document reflecting the need for a close cooperation between the EU and the UK on matters highly important to Latvia: trade, economic cooperation, home affairs and justice, as well as defence, security and foreign affairs, with due respect for the integrity of the EU Single Market (the free movement of goods, services, capital, and people) and the autonomy of EU decision-making.

Recent and upcoming engagement – Ministerial

- **October 2018**, Mr Macpherson attended an exhibition of Latvia’s 100 years in Cartoons as part of the centenary celebrations.
- **Sept 2017**, Dr Allan attended the Riga Conference in Latvia and met with the UK Ambassador, Undersecretary of State for European Affairs, Latvian Investment and Development Agency, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, the Ambassador of Latvia Sven Mikser Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- **9 May 2017**, Ms Hyslop met with the Latvian Ambassador to the UK, Baiba Braže.
- **1 Sept 2017**, Dr Allan attended and spoke at the unveiling of the artwork of Zigi Sapietis exhibition on Friday.
- **4 Nov 2016**, Ms Hyslop and the Ambassador opened the Latvian Consular office in Glasgow.

**BRIEFING NOTE FOR MS FIONA HYSLOP
CABINET SECRETARY FOR CULTURE, TOURISM AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**Meeting with HE Michael Zimmermann, Austrian Ambassador to the UK
Wednesday 7 November 2018, 15:30 – 16:00**

<p>Key Messages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scottish Government welcomes opportunities to develop new links with Austria and strengthen the existing ones. • Austrian nationals remain welcome in Scotland. Their contribution is greatly valued and we want them to stay. SG will create an advice and support service for those 235,000 EU citizens resident in Scotland. This will seek to offer information on the new settled status. • <i>Scotland's Place in Europe: Our Way Forward</i> sets out our position on Brexit. The UK Government must now rule out a “no deal” outcome as well as a “blindfold” Brexit and commit to staying inside the European Single Market and Customs Union. <p>Ask</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested in the Ambassador’s assessment of the Austrian Presidency of the EU as it draws to a close. • Helpful to learn more on the Austrian Government’s thoughts around the ongoing Brexit process. • HE Zimmermann served as Director of the Austrian Cultural Institute in London (1999-2004). We would welcome a stronger Austrian presence at the Edinburgh Festivals. <p>Offer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interested in a follow-up event on “Voting at 16” after the successful conference held in Edinburgh in June 2018. • Our Berlin Hub oversees central Europe, affording a platform for more frequent engagement with Austria. Offer to put the Embassy and the Austrian Government in touch with the Hub. • Congratulations on the centenary of the founding of the Republic of Austria (1918) and on the Austrian National Day (26 October).
<p>Who</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HE Michael Zimmermann, Austrian Ambassador to the UK • Mrs Katharina Kastner, Deputy Ambassador of Austria to the UK
<p>What</p>	<p>You will meet the Ambassador together with the First Minister on the occasion of HE Michael Zimmermann’s first official visit to Scotland.</p>
<p>Where</p>	<p>First Minister’s Office, Scottish Parliament</p>
<p>When</p>	<p>Wednesday 7 November 2018, 15:30 – 16:00</p>
<p>Supporting Officials</p>	<p>[Redacted]</p>
<p>Attached documents</p>	<p>Annex A: Core brief Annex B: Biographies Annex C: Programme of the Ambassador’s visit Annex D: Austria and the EU Annex E: Austria – Country Profile</p>

HE Zimmermann is visiting Scotland for the first time since taking up post in August 2018. His predecessor, Martin Eichinger, left London in March 2018 to become Minister in the Government of Lower Austria.

HE Zimmermann will have a bilateral with Minister Macpherson immediately after your meeting. He will also attend FMQ the day after (more info at Annex C).

Key links with Austria

- According to the 2011 census, there are 826 Austrians permanently living in Scotland.
- Mr Christoph Crepaz has been Honorary Consul of Austria since June 2018.
- There were 1940 Austrian students enrolled in Scottish universities in 2016/2017.
- Scottish exports to Austria were worth £85 million in 2016 (down from £95 million in 2015).
- Austria and Scotland are among the very few European countries that have lowered the voting age to 16 (see below).
- The newly-opened Trade and Investment Hub in Berlin oversees central Europe, particularly German-speaking countries. It provides a platform for more frequent and intense engagement with Austria.
- Rudolf Bing, an Austrian Jew who escaped the Nazis to settle in the UK in the 1930s, was the first director of the Edinburgh International Festival. The First Minister unveiled a plaque at the Usher Hall in August 2017 to commemorate Sir Bing.

Voting at 16 Conference – June 2018

- The SG and the Austrian Embassy co-hosted an event in Edinburgh in June 2018 to encourage discussions on the effects of lowering the voting age on young people's participation in democratic processes.
- The event consisted of a panel discussion between an Austrian expert and a Scotland-based lecturer as well as a panel jointly organised by the Scottish Youth Parliament and BJV (Austrian equivalent of SYP).
- Mr Fitzpatrick and Ms Todd opened the event together with Ms Monika Zach, Political Counsellor at the Austrian Embassy.
- The event was aligned to the Year of Young People.

Key Recent Ministerial Engagement with Austria

- Jun 2018 – Mr Fitzpatrick and Ms Todd spoke at the “Voting at 16” event organised in conjunction with the Austrian Embassy.
- Jun 2018 – You attended the official opening of the Austrian Honorary Consulate in Edinburgh and had a bilateral with Ms Katharina Kastner, Deputy Ambassador of Austria to the UK.
- Aug 2017 – The FM unveiled a plaque at the Usher Hall in honour of Rudolf Bing, an Austrian Jew who escaped the Nazis to settle in the UK in the 1930s. He was one of the founding directors of the EIF. Former Ambassador Martin Eichinger attended.
- Aug 2017 – You met Martin Eichinger in Edinburgh during the EIF and attended a performance by Austrian pianist and poet Alfred Brandel.

- Jun 2017 – You attended the Europa Forum Wachau in Lower Austria and met, among others, former Austrian Deputy Chancellor Wolfgang Brandstetter. The conference is annually organised by the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Government of Lower Austria.

BIOGRAPHIES

ANNEX B

HE MICHAEL ZIMMERMANN – Austrian Ambassador to the UK



Key work experience:

Since Aug 2018	Austrian Ambassador to the UK
2014 – 2018	DG for Management, Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs
2009 – 2014	Austrian Ambassador to Hungary
2004 – 2005	Chief of Cabinet of the Foreign Minister
1999 – 2004	Director, Austrian Cultural Institute in London

MRS KATHARINA KASTNER – Deputy Ambassador of Austria to the UK

You had a bilateral meeting with Mrs Kastner before the official opening of the Austrian Consulate in Edinburgh.



Education:

BA in Politics, French and Italian – Wien University
MA in European Politics and Administrative Sciences – College of Europe (Bruges)
MA in Public Administration – Ecole nationale d'Administration

Key work experience:

Since Aug 2017
2016 –2017
2014 – 2016
2012 –2014
2008 – 2011

DHM, Austrian Embassy in London
Joint Head of Western Balkans Dept, UK FCO
Strategic and Planning Unit, Austrian MFA
EU Foreign Affairs Council Team, Austrian MFA
First Secretary, Austrian Embassy in Paris

**PROGRAMME OF THE AMBASSADOR'S
VISIT**

ANNEX C

Wednesday, 7 November 2018	
10:22	Arrival Edinburgh (BA1442)
11:30	Meeting with Jackson Carlaw, Scottish Conservatives, Deputy Leader Venue: Parliament
12:30-13:00	Meeting with Claire Baker, Scottish Labour spokesperson for Culture and external affairs Venue: tbc
13:30-15:00	Lunch with Honorary Consul Christoph Crepaz Venue: tbc
15:30-16:00	Meeting with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Cabinet Secretary Fiona Hyslop Venue: Parliament
16:15-16:45	Meeting with Ben Macpherson, Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development Venue: Parliament
18.00-20.00	EU Presidency Reception Venue: Parliament Hall

Thursday, 8 November 2018	
09:00-10:00	Presentation EU Presidency Priorities at <i>Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee</i> Venue: Parliament
10:15-11:00 (tbc)	tbc - Coffee with EU Career Consuls Venue: tbc
11:00	Coffee with Glenn Campell, BBC Scotland Venue: tbc
11.45-12.45	First Minister's Questions
afternoon	Trip to St. Andrews (train) University of St Andrews, College Gate, St Andrews, KY16 9AJ
	Speech held by the Ambassador, followed by discussion "Facts and mindsets in the heart of Europe"
18:00	Departure to Edinburgh Airport
19:50	Departure from Edinburgh Airport 19:50 EDI - 21:30 LGW (BA)

Brexit

Austria's priorities in relation to Brexit mainly revolve around economic issues. Austria is an important tourism destination for UK citizens, who rank fourth in terms of total nights spent in the country. There is concern about the effect of the ongoing sterling devaluation. Also, Austrian exports to the UK represent 1.2% of the GDP.

The Austrian Government has consistently used conciliatory tones during the negotiations. Nonetheless, Austrian Ministers have repeatedly call for unity among the EU-27 and stressed that Brexit will necessarily result in the UK being worse-off.

On 15 October 2018, **Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz** said Britain and the EU have "*no alternative*" to finding a Brexit divorce deal. He also commented that the EU "*will do everything possible to avoid a hard Brexit*". A much softer position than that expressed – for instance – by the French Government, which has repeatedly stated that a no deal would be better than a bad deal not only for the UK but also for the EU.

[Redacted]

In July 2018, anticipating the current discussions, Austrian Chancellor Sebastian Kurz suggested extending Brexit negotiations to stop Britain leaving the EU without a divorce deal.

Presidency of the Council of the EU

Austria is the current holder of the EU Presidency (the third time, after 1998 and 2006). It is the last full presidency before the March 2019 European elections. The motto of the Presidency is "*A Europe that protects*". Priorities include:

- Reinforcing the principle of subsidiarity. Austria believes the EU should be stronger and more united on major international issues but withdraw from more local policy concerns, allowing for national or even regional solutions.
- Security and illegal migration. Austria intends to shift the focus away from resettlement programmes and towards preventing further waves of arrivals. To this end, it proposes strengthening Frontex as well as cooperation projects with third countries.
- Digitalisation. Investing in digital economy to stimulate growth, modernise public administrations and cut red tape.
- Stability in the Western Balkans. Austria intends to work towards strengthening Western Balkans' economy and security. The Austrian Government is generally supportive of EU enlargement in the Western Balkans given the country's strong links with the region. However, a survey carried out by Eurobarometer earlier in 2018 showed that the Austrian public opinion is the most opposed in Europe to further enlargement.

Programme for Government – December 2017 – EU Highlights

Despite the FPÖ's historical ambivalence towards the European Union, the coalition "*commits to Europe*" but will act to "*steer the EU back in the right direction towards its fundamental ideas*". Although the new government wants more Swiss-style "*direct democracy*", the FPÖ has agreed to coalition partner ÖVP's demands to rule out a British-style referendum on Austria's EU membership.

AUSTRIA – COUNTRY PROFILE

ANNEX E

Government:

The Republic of Austria is a federal state made up of nine autonomous Lander.

Federal President: Dr Alexander Van der Bellen (since Jan 2017)

Federal Chancellor: Mr Sebastian Kurz (since Dec 2017)

Minister for Foreign Affairs: Ms Karin Kneissl (since Dec 2017)

EU membership: since 1995 **Number of MEPs:** 18

Presidency of the Council of the EU: Holds the presidency in July-December 2018

Political developments in Austria

Legislative elections were held in Austria on 15 October 2017. Austria had been governed by a socialist-led grand coalition since 2013. The coalition of SPÖ (Social-Democrats) and ÖVP (Conservatives) under PM Christian Kern had long been riven by strife.

In May 2017, Reinhold Mitterlehner, Vice-Chancellor and then ÖVP leader, resigned from both roles due to internal opposition and in-fighting among the party's ministers. In an highly anticipated move, Minister of Foreign Affairs Sebastian Kurz was nominated new ÖVP leader. Immediately after its nomination, Kurz called for a snap election, effectively collapsing the government.

The ÖVP emerged as the largest party in the National Council, winning 62 of the 183 seats. The SPÖ finished second with 52 seats, slightly ahead of the far-right Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ), which received 51 seats.

On 16 December, the new ÖVP-FPÖ government was officially presented at a press conference. The ÖVP has 8 cabinet posts, the FPÖ 6. The latter, however, has secured strategic Ministries such as Interior and Foreign Affairs.

Migration

Austria had 85,500 first-time asylum applications in 2015, the third-highest number in Europe that year. The rise in arrivals has resulted in a vigorous political debate accompanied by the rise of far-right FPÖ.

Chancellor Kurz believes the EU should not waste time and energy on negotiating a system of quotas that, while favoured by Merkel and Macron, has repeatedly been rejected by Member States like Poland and Hungary. The focus should instead be on preventing arrivals and boosting EU Border and Coast Guard Agency Frontex's capacity.

On migration, Austria has moved closer to Italy, forming a so-called "*axis of the willing*". The Austrian Government sent to other EU countries a set of proposed reforms which would make it impossible to claim asylum on European soil. Requests should be submitted before entering the EU.

The Austrian Government announced at the end of October 2018 that it will not sign a UN migration pact (the Global Compact for Migration) that is set to be adopted in December to boost cooperation and address the world's growing number of migrants. The Government underlined concerns around "*the importance of defending Austria's national sovereignty*". The US and Hungary have rejected the pact as well.

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister (or Senior official)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Minister (FM) • Cabinet Secretary CTEA, Ms Fiona Hyslop (FH)
Type of engagement	Bilateral meeting
Date	7 November 2018
Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austrian Ambassador, HE Michael Zimmermann (MZ) • Austrian Deputy Ambassador, Ms Katharina Kastner (KK)
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MZ explained that his visit to Edinburgh was connected to the celebrations for the Austrian presidency of the Council of the EU. He noted that Brexit was only one of the many challenging issues that the Austrian presidency had to deal with. • MZ congratulated the FM on her speech at RSA. FM underlined that the Scottish Government (SG) had been consistent in its position since June 2016. Scotland voted to remain in the EU and support for EU membership has grown even further since the referendum. Short of full membership, continuing participation in the Single Market and Customs Union would represent the least worst scenario. We want to stay as close to the European family as possible. • MZ said that Austria sees itself as the President of a EU Council that comprises 28 States. Austria has nothing against the UK and hopes a good deal will be clung. In a way, however, Brexit has helped the EU recoup unity and has drawn the EU-27 closer. • There was a discussion about Northern Ireland and the border. FM said that the SG supports the Good Friday Agreement and wants a deal on the border to be reached. However, if a differentiated position for Northern Ireland only is agreed, Scotland would find itself in a disadvantaged position. • MZ stressed that, once the dust of Brexit has settled, there may be new opportunities for bilateral cooperation, particularly around trade. Both FM and FH said new links would be welcome and they are even more crucial as Scotland is forced to leave the EU. FH underlined that the opening of the SG Hub in Berlin has created opportunities for closer collaboration and policy exchange between Scotland and Austria. MZ expressed interest in leading a trade mission to Scotland on the occasion of one of his next visits. • FH and FM said that SG would like the European Commission Office in Edinburgh to remain open after Brexit. [Redacted] • MZ thanked FH for attending the re-opening of the Austrian Consulate in Edinburgh in June 2018 and underlined the importance of maintaining strong bilateral ties on culture, education and research. FH said the SG would welcome more opportunities for cultural and artistic engagement. The “voting at 16” event was a good example of collaboration between the two governments.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KK thanked the SG for its commitment to supporting EU nationals living in Scotland and the decision to extend the guarantee of free tuition for EU undergraduate students. FH said that the SG is also creating an advice and support service for EU nationals who are applying for settled status.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact the Embassy and follow up on idea of Austrian trade visit to Scotland.
Attending Official	[Redacted], European Engagement
Copy List	First Minister Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Minister Europe, Migration and International Development Karen Watt Frank Strang [Redacted] Liz Lloyd Katy Bowman Comms CTEA Comms FM [Redacted]

**BRIEFING FOR MS FIONA HYSLOP
CABINET SECRETARY FOR CULTURE, TOURISM AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

MEETING WITH MR FABIO MONACO, CONSUL GENERAL OF ITALY

**Thursday 15 November 2018, 14:30 – 15:00
Scottish Parliament**

<p>Key Messages</p>	<p>Ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the Consul General about his priorities and ideas as to how Scottish-Italian links can be strengthened. • Mr Monaco will also act as Director of the Italian Cultural Institute. We would welcome a strong Italian participation in the Edinburgh Festivals. • We understand the Italian Ambassador will be visiting Scotland in early 2019. Offer assistance, via your officials, with setting up meetings with Scottish Ministers. <p>Offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG officials are liaising with the UK Embassy in Rome to identify opportunities to host one of the Pontignano Cycles events in Scotland (see Annex A). Officials will keep the Consulate updated. • Offer an overview of what your Ministerial portfolio comprises and your recent engagements with Italy. • The SG is committed to deepening its relations with Italy in spite of the challenges arising from Brexit. • Italian nationals remain welcome in Scotland. Their contribution to our economy, culture and society is greatly appreciated. In the new Programme for Government, we have committed to creating an advice and support service for EU nationals resident in Scotland. • The SG welcomes opportunities to develop cultural, diplomatic and commercial links with Italy.
<p>Who</p>	<p>Mr Fabio Monaco Italian Consul General for Scotland and Northern Ireland</p>
<p>What</p>	<p>Introductory meeting</p>
<p>Where</p>	<p>Ms Hyslop's office, Scottish Parliament</p>
<p>Official Support</p>	<p>[Redacted]</p>
<p>Attached documents</p>	<p>Annex A: Core Brief Annex B: Biography Annex C: Italy and the EU (including position on Brexit) Annex D: Country Profile (including recent political developments)</p>

Consul General Monaco arrived in Edinburgh in August 2018. His predecessor, Mr Carlo Perrotta, left Scotland to become Italian Ambassador to Zimbabwe.

The Consul General is also serving as Director of the Italian Cultural Institute.

Before being appointed as Consul General, Mr Monaco served as Head of Unit in the Department for Italians Abroad and Migration Policies, supervising the Italian Consular network.

Italian Cuisine Week – 19-21 November 2018

Consul General Monaco invited you and Minister Macpherson to attend a series of events aimed at celebrating Italian cuisine and food excellences. They will take place in Edinburgh and Glasgow between Monday the 19th and Wednesday the 21st of November 2018. You and the Minister declined on diary grounds.

Pontignano Cycles

- The UK Embassy in Italy and the Italian Embassy in the UK are organising a number of mini-conferences collaterally connected to the annual Pontignano conference.
- These events, which aim to strengthen and multiply connections between the British and the Italian civil society, have so far been held in Rome and London only.
- SG officials are liaising with the UK Embassy to see whether one of the next events, possibly in early 2019, could be held in Scotland. Embassy officials have so far been supportive of the idea but a final decision has not yet been made.
- We would welcome the Italian Consulate's and Italian Embassy's support and endorsement.

Key links with Italy

- A recent Italian voter census estimated that there are 70,000 to 100,000 people in Scotland of Italian descent or Italian nationals, which is up to 1.9% of the Scottish population.
- Italy is the fourth most common non-British nationality in Scotland.
- There were 1,830 Italian students enrolled in Scottish Universities in 2016/2017.
- City twinnings: Edinburgh-Florence; Glasgow-Turin
- Italy is the 12th largest export destination for Scottish products. Exports to Italy totalled £715 million in 2016 (up from £625 million in 2015).
- Leonardo-Selex, subsidiary of Finmeccanica, is the largest of about 40 Italian companies doing business in Scotland. It employs almost 2000 people, the majority of whom are highly skilled, at its Edinburgh site. The company operates in the field of defence electronics.
- SDI has recently created a new post in Italy, co-located with DIT in Milan as part of the EU expansion project. The SDI official in Milan reports to the Paris-based Regional Manager.

Mr Monaco's engagement with the Scottish Government to date

- 28 Aug – Courtesy meeting with Minister Macpherson
- 11 Sep – Introductory meeting with Ms Karen Watt, Director for External Affairs

- 20 Sep – Attendance at your briefing session for the Consular Corps on the PfG
- 04 Oct – Minister Macpherson’s attendance at reception hosted by the Consul General

National Manufacturing Institute Scotland (NMIS)

- Following meetings in Scotland during Ambassador Trombetta’s first official visit (May 2018), Scottish Government Officials and the Italian Trade Agency are exploring collaborative links around the NMIS.
- A number of Italian universities have been consulted and have shown interest in being involved in possible partnerships.
- NMIS will be based in Renfrewshire, with the University of Strathclyde announced as the anchor university. The Scottish Government will invest £48 million in NMIS, with £8 million from the University of Strathclyde. The centre will represent an industry-led international centre of manufacturing expertise.

Venice Biennale 2018 – Scottish Project

- Scotland is represented as a collateral event, ‘The Happenstance’, at the ongoing Venice Architecture Biennale. It will run until the end of this month.
- ‘The Happenstance’ project presents examples of creativity in Scotland’s built environment and illustrate ways in which the public has benefited. It also shows the value that Scotland places upon the ideas of our children and young people to an international audience.
- In June alone, ‘The Happenstance’ received over 13,000 visitors of all ages, of whom over 3,000 have been directly involved in events, workshops, screenings and colloquia.

Your recent engagements with Italy

- June 2018 – You met with former Italian Consul General Carlo Perrotta for a farewell meeting.
- June 2018 – You attended a reception at the University of Edinburgh to celebrate the Italian National Day and Scottish-Italian projects in Malawi.
- May 2018 – You attended a concert and reception at the Stockbridge Church to celebrate Ambassador Trombetta’s first official visit to Scotland.

BIOGRAPHY

ANNEX B

MR FABIO MONACO ITALIAN CONSUL GENERAL FOR SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND



Born in 1977, he has a degree in Public Law. He speaks English and Spanish.

Key Professional Experience:

- Since Aug 2018 Consul General of Italy for Scotland and Northern Ireland
- 2015 – 2018 Head of Unit, Dept. for Italians Abroad and Migration
- 2013 – 2015 Ministerial Councillor, Dept. for Italians Abroad and Migration
- 2006 – 2012 Litigation Service Officer, Council of State (legal- administrative consultative body that ensures the legality of public administration in Italy)
- 2003 – 2005 Administrative Officer, Council of State

Reactions to Brexit

Italy has consistently adopted a *“friendly and constructive approach”* (in the words of former Italian PM Gentiloni) to the UK’s departure. Italian Ministers have repeatedly underlined that there is no need for punishment or destructive negotiations. The UK remains a reliable ally for Italy on issues such as security and defence.

Given the surge to power of Eurosceptic and far-right parties, the new Government is mildly sympathetic towards Brexit. A number of Ministers and undersecretaries have openly come out in favour of the UK’s departure in the wider context of the Italian Government’s deteriorating relations with the EU. Narratives revolving around the importance of taking back control of borders, budget and laws are clearly palatable to the current Eurosceptic Government.

League leader and Interior Minister Matteo Salvini described Brexit as *“a breath of fresh air”*. The party’s Economics Chief Claudio Borghi added that *“punishment or anything of that kind would be sheer stupidity. We export more to the UK than we import back and we certainly don’t want to hurt our own client.”* (06/03/2018). The UK is Italy’s fourth-largest export market.

On 29/07/2018 Matteo Salvini said that the *“EU is not negotiating Brexit in good faith”* and that he hopes *“negotiations end well for the UK to serve as an example of the people coming out on top of the EU”*. Salvini became the first prominent European government Minister to break ranks and depart from the bloc’s united front over the Brexit negotiations.

Notwithstanding its sympathetic stances and pledge to help the UK secure a good deal, the Italian Government has its red lines and priorities:

- Citizens’ rights. There are approx. 700,000 Italians in the UK, which was also the preferred destination for Italian students. There is also a strong British presence in Italy.
- Maintaining the integrity of the single market. Italy wants a guarantee that goods and services could continue to circulate freely.
- Geographical Indicators (GIs). GIs matter to Italy, which dominates the EU GI registration system with over 800 of the 1,400 EU-wide GI protections. GI-related production now accounts for 22% of Italy’s agricultural exports, worth €14.8 bn in 2016, of which €8.4 bn was generated for export.

Tensions with the EU

- Italy was the only Member State to register a decrease in favourability of the EU over the 12 months that followed the UK’s Brexit referendum.
- On 23 October 2018, the European Commission unprecedentedly rejected Italy’s 2019 budget due to which was defined as an *“unprecedented breach”* of the fiscal pact. The Italian government has been given three weeks to submit a new proposal.
- The new Government’s uncompromising stances on migration have resulted in heated exchanges with the EU, accused of leaving Italy alone in facing the economic and social costs of irregular migration.

- On 28 August, Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini and Hungarian PM Orbán launched an anti-migration manifesto aiming at next year's European parliament elections. *"There are currently two camps in Europe and one is headed by Macron [...] "He is at the head of the political forces supporting immigration. On the other hand, we want to stop illegal immigration."* Orbán said at a press conference.

Full name: Italian Republic

Population: 60.5 million (ISTAT, 2011)

Capital: Rome

Area: 301,338 sq km (116,346 sq miles)

Main exports: Machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, clothing & fashion, food & wine

GNI per capita: US \$35,620 (World Bank, 2013)

National Day: 2 June (1946)

British Ambassador to Italy: HE Jill Morris CMG (since July 2016)

Italian Ambassador to the UK: HE Raffaele Trombetta (since February 2018)

Government

President of the Italian Republic: Mr Sergio Mattarella (since Feb 2015)

Prime Minister: Mr Giuseppe Conte (since Jun 2018)

Minister for Foreign Affairs: Mr Enzo Moavero Milanesi (since Jun 2018)

Minister for Culture: Mr Alberto Bonisoli (since Jun 2018)

EU membership: founder of ECSC

Number of MEPs: 73

Presidency of the Council of the EU: Last held the presidency Jul-Dec 2014.

Recent political developments in Italy

After an election campaign dominated by migration and an underperforming economy, the Italian elections held on the 4th of March 2018 produced a **hung parliament** with no party or coalition capable of reaching the 40% threshold required to govern outright.

Populist 5-Star Movement (5SM) emerged as the largest party with around 32% of the vote. The centre-right coalition – comprising Berlusconi's Forza Italia, the League and Fratelli d'Italia (Brothers of Italy) – garnered a combined total of 37%.

The Democratic Party (PD) fell below 20% with former PM Matteo Renzi suffering his second heavy defeat after the failed constitutional referendum of December 2016. He has since resigned from his role as party secretary.

After more than two months of inconclusive talks, the League's decision to break its alliance with its centre-right partners and enter into negotiations with the 5SM led to a first attempt at forming a new government. However, concerned by the possible impact on the shaky Italian economy, President Mattarella refused to endorse the proposed Economy Minister, Mr Paolo Savona – a well-known Euro-sceptic who labelled the Euro as a "*German cage*". 5SM and Northern League rebuffed calls to put forward an alternative candidate. Talks were however restored a few days later after the two parties moved Mr Savona to the Ministry for European Affairs, unlocking the stalemate and leading to the formation of a new Government.

Having both vetoed each other for the PM role, League leader Matteo Salvini and 5SM's Luigi di Maio settled for the role of Deputy PMs. However, they are deeply involved in deciding the Government lines. PM Giuseppe Conte, a law expert with no previous political experience, is a compromise candidate who functions as joining link between two parties that have entered a marriage of convenience that is unlikely to last for a full term.

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Minister	Ms. Fiona Hyslop (FH) Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs
Type of engagement	Bilateral meeting
Date	15 November 2018
Who	Mr. Fabio Monaco (FM) Consul General of Italy to Scotland and Northern Ireland
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FH welcomed FM to his new role as Consul General to Scotland and Northern Ireland. FM explained he was still settling in and expressed his gratitude for the meeting and admiration for the Scottish Parliament building.• FH asked about the Italian government's reaction to the Brexit draft withdrawal text. FM stated his government is following developments with interest and highlighted unease among Italian citizens residing in the UK about their future legal status. FH agreed there is much uncertainty but expressed the Scottish Government's desire that EU citizens remain post-Brexit.• [Redacted]• FH asked about FM's priorities as Consul General. FM said he wants to improve consular services for the 20,000 Italian residents living here. FH queried this figure and stated we understand there are between 70,000 to 100,000 Italian citizens.• FH enquired FM if there had been a rise in Italian passport applications following the EU referendum. FM explained there is no generation limit on who can apply for Italian passports.• FM said he is also in charge of the Italian institute of culture and is keen to bring a cultural offering to the festivals. FH praised Italian performers and their depth of talent. FH said Italy has more performers at the Fringe Festival than any other country. FH suggested they could make more of that by branding their input accordingly. She suggested speaking to the festival director. FM agreed and said he would do so.• FH enquired if FM had explored Scotland. FM expressed a desire to visit the North. FH offered some suggestions on locations to visit.• FH expressed sympathy for the recent floods in Italy in which people lost their lives.• FH said she'd hoped to get to Venice for the Biennale art exhibition. FH explained Scotland is represented at the Biennale festival with the staging of the Happenstance project which is based on the concept of people and place with a particular focus on young people. She offered to send the CG a briefing about it. She said the Venetians really liked it.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FH expressed a desire to visit Italy soon but explained the constraints of being a minority government can make travel away from parliament difficult. • FH updated FM on the Scottish Government's Innovation and Investment Hubs and said that ministers are supporting them through visits. • FH asked to be updated about specific opportunities for visits to Italy.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the CG with briefing on the Happenstance. • Check citizens' rights figures and clarify with Consul General.
Comments	The Consul General was very pleased to have secured a meeting with Cabinet Secretary Hyslop. He was receptive towards Ms. Hyslop's suggestions of enhancing cultural links between the two countries.
Attending Official	[Redacted]
Copy List	Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Minister for International Development and Europe Karen Watt Frank Strang Ian Mitchell Russell Bain [Redacted] Katy Bowman CommsCTEA

BRIEFING NOTE 1

Brush-by with Ms Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris and Chair of C40 Cities Saturday 17 November, 11:00

Key Messages	<p>Ask:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The First Minister and Cabinet Secretary Cunningham will be attending the COP24 conference in Katowice later this month. We would welcome the opportunity to set up a full bilateral in the margins of the conference if Ms Hidalgo is attending too. <p>Offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are opening an Innovation & Investment Hub in Paris (Rue d'Anjou) which will be officially launched in early 2019. We would be delighted if Ms Hidalgo could attend the event.• We are interested in deeper collaboration between Scotland and the city of Paris around climate change, culture, innovation.• Glasgow hosted the inaugural European Champions. We would be happy to share this expertise ahead of Paris hosting the Summer Olympics in 2024 and games of the Rugby World Cup in 2023.• We are very aware of the importance of sub-state action against climate change and we are interested in learning from Paris' low-carbon agenda.• Scotland remains open for business in spite of the damaging effects stemming from a Brexit we didn't vote for.• We are committed to strengthening our cultural, economic and social links with France and Paris. The opening of our Innovation & Investment Hub in Rue d'Anjou will afford a platform for more frequent and meaningful engagement.• We aim to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2032 and create low emissions zones in our four major cities by 2020.• Our low carbon transition is well underway with emissions almost halved since 1990.• The Scottish Government values its relationship with France and welcomes opportunities to build on the existing ties.
Where	Salle des Autorités, Sorbonne University
Social Media	@Anne_Hidalgo @Paris @C40Cities
Official Support	– Private Secretary Head of Innovation & Investment Hub Paris – European Engagement [Redacted]
Attached documents	Annex A: Core Brief Annex B: Biography Annex C: Climate Change

Ms Hidalgo had accepted to meet with the First Minister on the occasion of the latter's visit to Paris in August 2018 to speak at the MEDEF (French equivalent of CBI) conference. The visit and meeting were subsequently cancelled (Mr Russell spoke at the conference on behalf of the FM).

Innovation and Investment Hub Paris

The Paris Hub is becoming operational in mid-November 2018 and officials are considering options for an official launch in early 2019. Ms Lucy Sterne has been recruited as Head of Office while [Redacted] will serve as Deputy Head (see below).

The Hub will be located in Rue d'Anjou, where SDI has its offices and at short distance from the British Embassy. The purpose of the Hub is to promote Scotland's interests in France, including to:

- Build on existing trade and Investment activity to boost Scotland's trade with France, increase inward investment to Scotland, and deliver impact in terms of jobs and growth in the Scottish economy;
- Support innovation-focussed collaboration and entrepreneurial exchange between Scotland and France, including between business and academia;
- Promote Scotland's interests in key international organisations based in Paris such as OECD and UNESCO;
- Build on Scotland's reputation as a destination of choice to work, study and visit.

Ms Lucy Sterne

Lucy Sterne joined the Scottish Government in August 2018 and is the Head of our new Hub in Paris. Lucy came from the Department for Work and Pensions in London, where she was Head of legal strategy and reform in the personal independence payments team. She has extensive Government experience, having worked in HM Treasury and on secondment to the New Zealand Treasury.

[Redacted].

SDI – Paris Office

SDI's Paris office acts as a regional hub for Southern Europe. It houses a team of 9 members focusing both on trade and inward investment. SDI work with partners such as the Department for International Trade (DIT), the GlobalScot network and local industry partners to help develop trade links between Scotland and France.

Priority sectors in France are: Food&Drink, Energy and Renewable Energy, Life and Chemical Sciences (LCS) and Technology and Advanced Manufacturing (TAE).

In January 2018, the SDI Paris office moved from the district of Nanterre into central Paris. As part of the doubling of SDI's resources in Europe, 3 new roles have been created in Paris, with an additional 4 trade specialists in Spain, Belgium & Italy reporting to the Paris-based Regional Manager.

Paris and Brexit

- According to Ernst and Young's Financial Services Brexit Tracker (which comprises statements released by 222 leading financial services groups in Britain since the 2016 EU referendum), Paris is emerging as the favourite relocation destination in the EU when it comes to trading.
- Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, HSBC and asset manager BlackRock have already announced plans to expand in the city.
- As part of its plans to attract new businesses, Paris City Council launched the "Choose Paris" initiative, establishing an information office for companies considering leaving London.
- The European Banking Authority will also relocate in Paris in March 2019.

Govtech Summit

- Govtech summit was held in Paris this week on Monday 12th November. Organised by PUBLIC (London based company which offered tech starts ups the combination of insight, networks and capital to help them on transform public services), and supported by French President Emmanuel Macron, Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo and the European Commission, the GovTech Summit gathered together public services, businesses and other stakeholders to explore how new technologies can improve public services and democratic practices. Justin Trudeau, Canadian Prime Minister, gave his support via an opening speech at the event.
- Scottish Government, Scottish Development International and CivTech colleagues were all represented. **CivTech**, which is part of the Scottish Government's digital directorate brings together public sector expertise and private sector creativity to transform the way Scotland delivers public services. Alexandra Holt, Head of CivTech was on the panel for one of the sessions on the day "*innovation from within: the role of government intrapreneurs*".
- The GovTech summit was one of three events held as part of **Paris's first Digital week**. It has brought together major thinkers, innovators, decision-makers and investors to participate in a global discussion on current and future digital issues. The other two events were the Paris Peace Forum and The Internet of Trust forum (covering internet governance issues).

Connection: Mayor Events

- France hosted the Ryder Cup (Sept 2018) and will host Summer Olympics (2024) and Rugby World Cup (2023).

Recent Ministerial Visits to Paris

- 16 Oct 2018 – Mr McKee met with the SDI Paris team before meeting a number of investors as well as UK Ambassador Llewellyn. He also visited Station F, the biggest start-up incubator in the world.
- 28 Aug 2018 – Mr Russel attended the MEDEF (French equivalent of CBI) conference in Paris, meeting its president and a number of French companies which have existing investments in Scotland. The Cabinet Secretary had a brush-by with French PM Edouard Philippe.
- 25 May 2018 – Ms Somerville visited Paris for the European Higher Education Area conference.
- 18 May 2018 – The Lord Advocate met with HMA Ambassador to France in Paris.
- 16 Mar 2018 – You spoke at the EIF launch in Paris, held at the Théâtre des Bouffes du Nord. You also met the UK Ambassador Llewellyn and Ms Nathalie Loiseau, French Minister for European Affairs.

Ms Anne Hidalgo – Mayor of Paris and President of the C40 Cities



Born in Cadiz (Spain) in 1959. Married, three children. She holds a Master's degree in labour law from the Labour and Social Security Institute of Paris.

The first woman to be elected Mayor of Paris, she took office in April 2014. Her agenda is focused on social inclusion, solidarity, citizen participation, sustainable development and innovation.

A former labour inspector, she has occupied several positions in national and international organisations before becoming First Deputy Mayor of Paris (2001-14), in charge of gender equality and later in charge of urban planning and architecture.

Since October 2013, she has acted as Co-president of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and, since June 2014, President of the French speaking cities international organisation (Association Internationale des Maires Francophones (AIMF)).

After co-hosting the Climate Summit for Local Leaders in December 2015 with Michael Bloomberg, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change, she became Chair of the C40, the leading network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change. In November 2016, she accepted the Foreign Policy's Green Diplomat of the Year Award on behalf of the organisation.

Ms Hidalgo has already confirmed she plans to stand for re-election as Mayor in municipal elections in 2020.

Key lines on climate change

- Our low carbon transition is well underway with emissions almost halved since 1990.
- We want to go further and increase ambition. Our new Climate Change Bill (introduced to Scottish Parliament 23 May 2018 as a direct response to the Paris Agreement), will mean we will be carbon neutral by 2050.
- Scotland recognises the importance of states, regions and cities in the fight against climate change. We are active members of the Under 2 Coalition, which brings together ambitious states and regions to meet the aims of the Paris Agreement.
- Cities - On climate issues, Scotland's cities are active in promoting and developing their capabilities in the low carbon economy.
- Transport - we aim to phase out the need for new petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2032 and create low emissions zones in our four major cities by 2020.

If discussion goes into any detail Ms Hidalgo may focus on Transport issues. Paris is regarded as a urban leader on Low Emissions Zones – with Paris' Environmental Zone having evolved over a number of years with increasing bans and restrictions on HGVs, vans and older cars.

C40 Cities

- It is a network of the world's megacities committed to addressing climate change. C40 supports cities to collaborate effectively, share knowledge and drive meaningful, measurable and sustainable action on climate change.
- Working across multiple sectors and issues, C40 convenes networks that provide a range of services in support of cities' climate change efforts. C40 currently has 17 networks that cover the mitigation, adaptation and sustainability topics of highest priority to C40 cities and with the potential for the greatest climate impact.
- Ms Hidalgo has served as chair of the C40 group since 2016. The Chairmanship is a rotating position. She will be standing down in 2019.

Scottish Ministers' attendance at COP 24

- COP24 will be held in Katowice (Poland) between 3 and 14 December 2018.
- The First Minister will attend on 03 – 04 December, subject to parliamentary business.
- Cabinet Secretary Cunningham will attend on 09 – 11 December (with possibility of extension). 10 December will be dedicated to action by Cities.

BRIEFING NOTE 2

Meeting with Mr Pascal Lamy, Former Director of the WTO Saturday 17 November 2018, 11:30 – 12:00

Key Messages	<p>Ask</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity to gauge his thinking on the latest Brexit developments.• Interesting to hear from Mr Lamy's insights into the role that component parts of member states with devolved or federal architectures (Canadian provinces, US states) can play at the WTO and any lessons from their participation that Scotland should be aware of. <p>Offer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closer collaboration with the Jacques Delors Institute. We would be happy to participate in events organised by the institute or host an event together either in Edinburgh, Brussels or Paris.• We are opening a Hub in Rue d'Anjou. It will allow for closer cooperation with Paris-based organisations.• There is no majority in the House of Commons for the current Brexit deal and there is no majority for no deal. The Scottish Government is proposing a plan that would replace the chaos at Westminster and fill the vacuum.• [Redacted]• Participation in European research programmes gives Scottish universities and other organisations access not only to EU funding but also to collaborative networks, expertise, facilities and data that add immense value to their work.• Around a quarter of all full-time research staff at Scottish universities are EU citizens.
Who	Pascal Lamy, Former Director of the WTO You met with Mr Lamy during your attendance at the <i>Journées des Bruxelles</i> conference in November 2014 and again in 2015 at a Friends of Europe roundtable.
Where	Salle des Autorités, Sorbonne University
Social Media	@DelorsInstitute @wto
Official Support	[Redacted]
Attached documents	Annex A: Core Brief Annex B: Biography Annex C: WTO and SG – Core Brief Annex D: Latest on WTO and Brexit Annex E: Brexit and Universities

Jacques Delors Institute (also known as “Notre Europe”)

- It is an independent think tank based in Paris. Founded in 1996 by Jacques Delors at the end of his presidency of the European Commission, it aims to "*think a united Europe*". It produces analyses and proposals targeting European decision-makers in order to contribute to a debate on the European Union.
- Pascal Lamy was President between 2004-2005 and is currently President Emeritus. Mr Enrico Letta is the Institute's current President.

European Climate Foundation

- Founded in 2008, the European Climate Foundation is an international organisation and major philanthropic initiative that aims to help Europe foster the development of a low-carbon society and play an even stronger international leadership role in mitigating climate change.
- The ECF works with NGOs, think tanks, industry and academia to develop and promote cost-effective solutions as Europe move towards the decarbonisation of its energy system.
- The ECF has offices in Paris, London, Brussels, Berlin, Warsaw and The Hague.
- Mr Lamy is in the Supervisory Board of the Foundation.

Pascal Lamy on Brexit

- He has been a persistent critic of Brexit, particularly a hard Brexit, saying that defaulting to WTO rules would have negative effects on both sides of the channel. He has underlined that even a comprehensive trade deal would involve costs because trade between the UK and EU will have to face bigger barriers.
- In July 2018, he said that the Brexit negotiations are not "*between the UK and the EU 27; it's a negotiation within the UK between forces that for the moment cannot agree on a solution*".
- He likened the Brexit process to "*removing an egg from an omelette*" or "*a Premier League side wanting to be relegated [...] The internal market is the top league. The WTO is the bottom*".
- Giving evidence to House of Commons Select Committee for Exiting the European Union in February 2018, he said that most countries would be reluctant to begin negotiations on a trade agreement before understanding the deal the UK has secured with the EU.
- Mr Lamy had previously said that the UK would probably not be able to reach a final trade deal with the EU for possibly five or six years, and that Britain would probably have to ask to extend its two-year "implementation period".

Lamy Report on EU Research and Innovation

- Pascal Lamy chaired a group of 12 experts from across Europe tasked by the European Commission with formulating strategic recommendations to maximise the EU's investment in research and innovation in the future.
- The report published in July 2017, put forward a series of recommendations including: Prioritising research and innovation in EU and national budgets, mobilising and involving citizens, aligning EU and national R&I investment.

- Much of the narrative in the Lamy report resonates closely with existing Scottish Government priorities and actions, for example as laid out in Scotland's Economic Strategy and the Scotland Can Do Innovation Action Plan.

BIOGRAPHY

ANNEX B

MR PASCAL LAMY – Former Director of WTO



Born in Paris in 1947, he studied at Sciences PO. Shortly after graduating, he joined the French civil service, serving as an adviser to then Finance Minister Jacques Delors and Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy.

He covered a number of senior positions within the French Government in the Treasury, Economics and Industrial Structures Department.

When Delors became President of the European Commission in 1984, he took Lamy with him to serve as chef de cabinet, position which he retained until the end of Delors' term in 1994.

Returning to the European Commission in 1999, Lamy was appointed European Commissioner for Trade by President Romano Prodi. Lamy served to the expiry of the commission's term in 2004.

Between 2005 and 2013, he was Director General of WTO.

He currently sits in the board of directors of a number of different organisations, including the Jacques Delors Institute and the European Climate Foundation.

Mr Lamy received an honorary degree from Edinburgh University in 2012 and met with then FM Alex Salmond to discuss trade and the global economy during this visit.

WTO AND SG – CORE BRIEF

ANNEX C

[Redacted]

Background/purpose

The primary purpose of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is to open trade for the benefit of all through the negotiation and the enforcement of trade liberalisation agreements for the mutual benefit of all members. The WTO is the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations (164 members representing 98 per cent of world trade) and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably and freely as possible.

The WTO acts as a forum for negotiating trade agreements, it settles trade disputes between its members and it supports the needs of developing countries. The WTO agreements cover goods, services and intellectual property. These agreements are renegotiated from time to time and new agreements can be added to the package.

All major decisions are made by the WTO's member governments: either by ministers (who usually meet at least every two years) or by their ambassadors or delegates (who meet regularly in Geneva). Five fundamental principles form the foundation of the multilateral trading system .

The policies that are enforced by the WTO are outlined in the four annexes of the Charter. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT 1994) relates to the trading of goods, agriculture, textiles and clothing. The General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) governs the trading of services and access to service markets of members, such as construction, distribution, education, finance, transport, tourism and telecommunications.

It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Current SG engagement/relationship

There is no direct Scottish Government relationship with the WTO but there are already measures underway to increase influence and engagement through the UK Government in order to ensure devolved interests are represented in negotiations with the WTO post Brexit. The UK Mission to the UN and Other International Organisations, based in Geneva, has responsibility for the UK's relationship with over 35 international organisations, agencies and offices in Geneva, including the WTO.

Impact of Brexit

The UK is a member of the WTO in its own right, and it currently meets all the obligations of WTO membership as a member of the EU. When the UK leaves the EU it will regain its independent seat at the WTO but will need to update the terms of its WTO membership. The UK Government's trade white paper says that, as part of the UK's commitment to the rules-based global system and the benefits it brings, the UK will take specific steps as it leave the EU to ensure the UK remains part of the WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA - estimated as worth over £1.3 trillion per annum).

Scope to engage under current constitutional arrangements

There is still a great deal of uncertainty regarding the UK's future trade relationship with the EU and, consequently, what the relationship with other third countries (which will be subject to WTO agreements) will be. As a result of the policy-specific importance of links with the WTO, trade colleagues in the Scottish Government are leading on increasing their engagement and involvement under current constitutional arrangements.

Dependencies (other organisations, key political issues, perceived barriers)

EU – The UK will no longer be subject to EU-third country trade deals. Future trade deals with other countries will be heavily dependent on the future relationship between the UK and EU.

The IMF and the WTO are international organizations with about 150 members in common. While the IMF's central focus is on the international monetary and financial system, and the WTO's is on the international trading system, both work together to ensure a sound system for global trade and payments. The work of the IMF and the WTO is complementary: a robust international financial system is needed to support international trade, while smooth trade helps reduce the risk of payments imbalances and financial crises. The two institutions work together to ensure a strong system of international trade and payments that is open to all countries.

WTO bodies – CODEX, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), International Plant Protection Committee (IPPC)

LATEST ON WTO AND BREXIT

ANNEX D

During a meeting in Geneva on the 12th of November 2018, a group of more than 20 countries (including the US, Brazil and China) objected to EU plans for splitting up sensitive import quotas with Britain after Brexit, in the latest sign of how big trading powers are stepping up their demands about how the UK's departure should be handled.

Objections concerned proposals put forward by Brussels and London over how to split up the tariff-rate quotas, which define the volume of sensitive goods such as meat and cheeses that other World Trade Organization members can export to Europe. London and Brussels came up with a joint plan last year that involved splitting up current EU quotas based on consumption patterns, meaning that the UK would take a larger quota for products such as New Zealand lamb, where it traditionally accounts for much of the EU demand.

Several countries warned the plans would be unfair on their companies and farmers. The tariff-rate quotas set the amounts of goods that can be imported at low or zero tariffs, rather than at full WTO rates that can exceed 100 per cent.

The issue is highly important for Brussels and London, since the talks will affect how much competition UK and EU farmers face. Failure to find a solution at the WTO could also lead to legal challenges.

Asked about the Brexit difficulties at the WTO, Cecilia Malmstrom, the EU's Trade Commissioner, said a Brexit deal between the EU and UK, with the transition period that comes with it, would give more time "*to solve these issues*".

The EU is set to hold talks with specific countries next week in an effort to address the concerns.

Top Lines

- We are proud that Scotland is a destination of choice for students and academics from elsewhere in the UK, EU nations and all over the world.
- We share the aim of the UK Government to agree a strategic science and innovation accord with the EU which supports participation in future EU framework programmes in recognition of the benefits they bring for research and innovation in Scotland, the UK and in the rest of the EU.
- We also welcome the HMT guarantees to safeguard current and future UK participation in the current Horizon 2020 programme in the case of a “no deal” scenario. However, we do not believe this will be enough to prevent a negative impact of Brexit on Scotland’s universities and other participating organisations and call upon the UK Government to fill the known gaps in the existing contingency plans including around funding, free movement of researchers, goods, data.
- As set out in Scotland’s Place in Europe, we still firmly believe that the best way to guarantee EU funding and preventing reputational damage to Scotland is by maintaining our existing relationship with the EU.
- The Home Office has been overestimating for years the number of international students who overstay their visas. It is extremely concerning that the UK Government’s increasingly restrictive immigration policy on international students has been based on inaccurate data. We should be seeking to attract international students to our universities, not deter them.
- We will continue to discuss any issues raised by universities, colleges, their staff and students on the impact of Brexit – with the aim of championing them and protecting Scotland’s interests.

We are seeking to ensure that Scotland continues to secure international research funding

- We share the aim of the UK Government to agree a strategic science and innovation accord with the EU which supports participation in future EU framework programmes in recognition of the benefits they bring for research and innovation in Scotland, the UK and in the rest of the EU. The agreement should include flexibility to cover devolved administrations interests.
- There is no clarity in the UK White Paper on how they would assess "appropriate financial contributions" to facilitate UK participation in the Framework Programme. Important for Scotland to contribute to Treasury and BEIS discussions on value for money including both the substantial tangible and more intangible benefits from Horizon Europe.
- We support the aim of ensuring ongoing UK influence through the proposed S&I accord with the EU with the Commission through establishment of formal and informal channels for regular dialogue between regulators, researchers and experts. This should cover both UK Government and the Devolved Administrations interests.
- Any agreement with the EU on science and innovation will need to reflect the priorities and strengths across the whole of the UK, including in Scotland. We fully expect the UKG to engage early and effectively with us on that.
- We also expect to be fully involved in the development of any international bilateral and multilateral partnerships with countries around the world that the UK Government may be developing on behalf of the UK research community.
- The UKG has a big challenge in agreeing the UK’s association with the future framework programme while planning to end Freedom of Movement. Retaining full membership of the EU is the best way of maintaining researcher mobility with the EU, essential to maintaining excellent science performance and impact.
- Scotland is an active and valued member of Horizon 2020. Since the programme launched in 2014, **over €533 million** of funding has been secured by Scottish organisations;
- In Scotland, universities and research institutes are the main recipients of Horizon 2020 funding. The latest figures (to July 2018) show that they secured almost 78% (**almost €417 million**) of all the funding awarded to Scottish organisations;

- The reliance of Scottish universities on EU funding for their research income greatly differs per institution and ranges from 0% to almost 25%. The average is around 10%;
- Horizon 2020 is particularly important to Scotland as we achieve “a higher level of income per capita (€55 per capita compared with a UK average of €40) than all of the other nations [in the UK]” according to Technopolis’s 2016 report for the Royal Society.
- Scotland as part of the UK remains part of the European Union and so continues to be eligible to participate in EU funding programmes such as **Horizon 2020** until Brexit. A signed Withdrawal Agreement would extend this eligibility until the end of 2020.
- The current uncertainty around finalising the Withdrawal Agreement is hugely damaging to Scotland’s interests in Horizon 2020 and is already inflicting reputational and real damage. UK participation in projects including as a lead coordinator has reduced since 2016.
- We welcome the HMT guarantees to support current and future UK participation in the current Horizon 2020 programme in case of a no deal scenario. However, we do not believe this will be enough to prevent the negative effects of Brexit on Scotland’s universities and other participating organisations.
- There is insufficient clarity in the UK’s Technical Notice and Q&A document on Horizon 2020 to allow stakeholders to fully prepare for a no deal scenario including potential delays to payments and funding gaps.
- We call upon the UK Government to fill the known gaps in the existing contingency plans including around free movement of researchers, goods, data.
- We will continue to engage with the UK Government to seek to ensure that Scotland’s views regarding access to EU funding and programmes are reflected in any contingency planning and negotiations.

We are keen for EU nationals to continue to study or work at universities in Scotland and have been actively encouraging them to do so

- We have now confirmed that eligible EU students already studying here, starting a degree in the autumn this year or next year [2019] will continue to be eligible to receive free tuition.
- There has been no change so far to the right of EU nationals to reside in the UK. Scotland as part of the UK remains part of the EU, and EU nationals working and studying in Scotland continue to be able to exercise their rights under EU Freedom of Movement until Brexit.
- We welcome the agreement in principle between the UK and EU on the 19 March 2018 that has given more clarity on the rights of EU citizens living here.
- However, this agreement is far from the legal certainty we have been calling for and we will continue to press the UK Government to confirm its immigration policy both during and after a potential transition period.
- **We will continue to discuss with universities and students the impact of Brexit** and how we can all ensure Scotland’s universities remain attractive, competitive and diverse.

We are working to help universities likely to be affected by Brexit and UK immigration policies

- Scotland has long been an attractive destination for international students from within and beyond the EU, but UK student visa policies and the threat of Brexit send a negative message to students considering Scotland for their studies. The impact of this is of huge concern to us.
- EC-funded posts form around 6% of all full-time research staff at Scottish HEIs and around 27% of all full time research staff are EU citizens. The current uncertainty on a future immigration policy including the status of EU researchers working at Scottish universities is unhelpful, and a significant risk to the research excellence of our universities.
- We will continue to push for an immigration system that meets Scotland’s needs.

We continue to seek assurance from UK Govt around Erasmus+ in the longer term

- Participation in the Erasmus+ Programme is incredibly valuable to Scotland, supporting our aims to promote Scotland as a learning nation.
- **1,600 Scots** go abroad to European countries with Erasmus every year.

- Numbers of Scottish students taking up opportunities for outward mobility through Erasmus are going up. They have increased by 50% over the last seven years.
- The opportunity for student exchange within Europe enriches the learning experience, enhances graduate employability and promotes greater understanding and respect of different people and cultures.
- **2017 was the most popular year for Erasmus+ in the UK so far.** The UK's budget for the 2018 call has increased significantly to almost €170 million.
- UKG has confirmed 4 July 2017 that it will underwrite grant agreements led by UK organisations for Erasmus+ signed while the UK is still an EU Member State, even if payments continue beyond the point of the UK's EU exit date (March 2019).
- We welcome the White Paper's assertion that the UKG would seek to keep the UK involved with Erasmus+ and its successor programmes moving forward. No other scheme can replicate the value that Erasmus brings to Scotland, and as such we disagree with any thinking that seeks to lessen our relationship with the programme.
- We feel that the UKG's position on Erasmus does not accurately reflect the gamut of benefits it brings to Scotland: qualitative data suggests the programme is transformative on many levels, from individual experiences to adult education to primary school language teaching.
- The Commission has proposed doubling the budget for Erasmus for 2020-27 to €30 billion, tripling the number of participants and improving access for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- The UK would currently fall under the heading of 'other third countries', who can participate in the programme after 2020 provided that there is an agreement between the EU and the third country that ensures there is a fair balance in contributions and benefits, lays down the conditions of participation including the financial contribution, and does not confer any decisional power on the programme to the third country. This is not preferable to full participation, as we risk falling behind future developments due to the accompanying loss of influence
- Scotland's **preference is to continue full participation in Erasmus+** for its broad educational, cultural and economic benefits, for both Scottish students, volunteers and staff and for Europeans coming to learn or work in Scotland.
- We encourage the UK Government to make clear its intention to negotiate for continued access to Erasmus post-Brexit, and to clarify its position around its proposed 'UK-EU youth mobility scheme'.

SUGGESTED SPEAKING POINTS FOR MEETINGS WITH MEPs AND OTHER EU STAKEHOLDERS ON BREXIT

- The Scottish Government, in line with the overwhelming vote for Remain in Scotland, supports continued EU membership. Remaining in the EU continues to be our strong preference.
- However, if that is not possible, we are seeking the closest possible future relationship with the EU. Since December 2016 we have been proposing a compromise plan to keep Scotland and the UK in the European Single Market and Customs Union in order to limit the economic and social damage of Brexit as much as possible. That continues to be our position and we believe it is now a stronger political possibility than at any time in the last two years.
- In our view, many of the economic proposals in the Prime Minister's Chequers Plan and White Paper are impractical and the EU has made clear it is never likely to accept them as they undermine the integrity of the single market. Our proposals for a future relationship whereby the UK stays in the Single Market and Customs Union are – we believe – much more credible, pragmatic and in line with one of the future relationship models that has been offered by the EU.
- The deal which has been agreed between the EU and the UK will unfortunately not work for Scotland. It will see us lose our rights as EU citizens to live and work freely across the European Union. It will ignore our distinct needs on inward migration. And it will leave our nation economically and socially poorer.
- The Political Declaration on the future relationship suggests a severely diminished future relationship. It fails to provide much needed certainty on future trading arrangements for goods and services, on future mobility arrangements and on future cooperation measures on security, justice and law enforcement. The uncertainty of this 'blindfold' Brexit is unacceptable.
- When MPs vote on the Withdrawal Agreement in Westminster, it is vitally important that they come together in a common-sense coalition to minimise the potential damage of Brexit and ensure a better future for everyone in Scotland and the UK. The First Minister has made clear that MPs from her party are unlikely to be able to support a bad deal or a 'blindfold deal' – where we don't really know what the future relationship will look like – when they vote. And anyone who suggests that the only choice we have is between a bad deal or no deal is wrong. There are other options and we should explore them.
- For example, if it becomes a choice between extending Article 50 – or risking a no deal or blindfold Brexit – then clearly we need to extend Article 50 so that the UK Government can return to the negotiating table to secure a better deal. We would hope that this is something the EU could support – at least until the end of June 2019 when the next European Parliament has been elected.

- There is also growing support across the UK to hold a so called 'People's Vote' on the final deal. The Scottish Government is in favour of another referendum which includes the choice to remain in the EU, as we have committed to explore every option available to us to retain our EU membership and mitigate the damage of Brexit.
- There has been some speculation about the Scottish Government's position in relation to the UK-EU customs backstop and the proposed arrangements for Northern Ireland. Let me be clear that the Scottish Government fully and unconditionally supports the Good Friday Agreement and the maintenance of an invisible border in Ireland. We will do nothing to stand in the way of Northern Ireland achieving a special relationship with the EU, if that is what is required.
- But that should not preclude us from exploring the kind of relationship that other parts of the UK – including Scotland – could have with the EU. Indeed, we previously set out proposals for a differentiated approach whereby Scotland could remain within the European Economic Area, even if the UK Government is determined to pursue a more distant relationship with the EU.
- Of course, our overwhelming preference would be for the whole of the UK to remain in the EU and, failing that, within the single market and customs union and that is what we will continue to argue for.

BRIEFING NOTE FOR MEETINGS WITH HELGA TRUPEL MEP, VICE-CHAIR, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT CULTURE COMMITTEE

Your meeting with Helga Trupel MEP provide an opportunity for you to set out the Scottish Government's position in relation to Brexit and our strong commitment to continued cultural cooperation with EU partners. It also allows the opportunity for you to probe how discussions on the next Creative Europe programme (2021-27) have been progressing and stress our interest in participation.

Lines to take

Brexit and Culture:

- The Scottish culture sector received at least £59 million in **funding from the EU** over 2007-16, supporting around 650 projects. This provides vital finance for the sector, but at least as important is the cultural collaboration and professional development that the EU's funding programmes support.
- Scottish organisations are keen and prominent participants in the **Creative Europe programme**. It supports their links with their peers from other European countries, bringing a different perspective to their work and allowing them to share their expertise to support the health of the European culture sector as a whole. It can also have a very practical impact, supporting companies to base their operations in Scotland.
- **Freedom of movement** within the EU enriches Scotland's culture. Artists from around the EU are able to bring their work to Scotland and EU citizens can travel freely to Scotland to experience our unique culture and world leading festivals. Scotland's cultural and creative industries companies are able to recruit the talent and skills that they need from as wide a pool as possible.
- **Unrestricted access to a market of 500 million people** is vital to the continued development of Scotland's creative industries sector. The EU's regulatory landscape underpins this, supporting businesses to work across Europe, accessing new markets and increasing their impact.
- The **Digital Single Market Strategy** is a vital package of measures that will support the EU's creative industries to take full advantage of the opportunities that digital technology provides. It is a matter of regret that the UK Government's decision to leave the EU may limit the benefits that Scottish companies see through the DSM Strategy.
- European **cultural collaboration** is central to Scotland's open and international cultural outlook. EU membership supports this through freedom of movement, its funding programmes and initiatives such as the European Capitals of Culture programme, a title which Dundee hoped to hold in 2023.

Creative Europe Programme 2014-2020:

- The current Creative Europe Programme is valued immensely by stakeholders in the Scottish culture sector and is consistently one of the key issues that is raised regarding Scotland's relationship with the EU.
- Scottish organisations have had a great deal of success in Creative Europe to date and their appetite for the programme is only increasing.
- Creative Europe provides valuable finance for the Scottish culture sector, but at least as important are the transnational links and networks that the funding facilitates, which support the sector's development and encourage cultural innovation.
- The recent report undertaken by the Creative Europe Desk UK on the impact of Creative Europe in the UK highlighted the importance of the non-financial impacts of Creative Europe.

Proposed Creative Europe Programme 2021-2027

- An increase in the overall Creative Europe budget is welcome and will increase the ability of the programme to continue to deliver its positive impacts.
- The Scottish Government wants to see continued participation within the Creative Europe programme post-EU exit.
- The links that Creative Europe facilitates support the development of the Scottish culture sector – a sector that is intrinsically international in its outlook.
- The indication by the UK Government in its White Paper on the future relationship between the UK and the EU that it would be open to negotiating future participation in the Creative Europe programme is a welcome step in the right direction.
- The Scottish Government will continue to press the UK Government for continued participation in Creative Europe post-EU exit.

Background brief on Creative Europe Programme 2014-2020

- The Creative Europe Programme is the EU's principle funding programme in support of the culture and creative industries sectors. It was established in 2014 with a budget over 2014-20 of €1.46 billion. It is formed of three sub-programmes:
 - The **MEDIA** sub-programme is the largest sub-programme with 56% of the budget and supports the screen sector through a number of funding streams covering production, training, distribution and other aspects of the industry.
 - The **Culture** sub-programme has 31% of the Creative Europe budget primarily and supports cultural collaboration and networking across borders.
 - The **Cross-Sector** sub programme takes up the remainder of the budget and mainly supports stand-alone initiatives, including the European Capital of Culture programme.
- Since the Creative Europe programme began operating in 2014, Scottish organisations have had significant success. Across all funding streams of Creative Europe, Scottish organisations have participated in over 100 separate projects involving almost hundreds of partners from many different countries. Those projects have a total value of almost €16.6 million. [**To note:** this is not the sum received by Scottish organisations, rather it is the value of projects involving Scottish partners. Given that many projects are multi-partner and that contributions to individual partner organisations are not made public, it is not possible to say how much funding has come directly to Scotland.]
- In July, this years' announcement of funding under the Cooperation Projects stream of Creative Europe's Culture sub-programme, 7 Scottish organisations were successful in securing funding, 4 as lead project partners. This was the most successful round of funding under the Cooperation Projects stream to date for Scottish organisations and it was significantly more involvement than would be expected in proportionate terms.

Background on Proposals for Creative Europe 2021-2027

- The European Commission's proposals for Creative Europe under the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework introduce a number of changes. **To note:** at this stage this is simply a proposal from the Commission. It is likely to change as it proceeds through the EU policy making process.
- The budget will increase from €1.46 billion to €1.85 billion, a 27% increase. This would be split between the three sub programmes as follows:
 - MEDIA: €1.081 billion
 - Culture: €609 million
 - Cross-sector: €160 million
- Support for artist mobility, focused on the international mobility of individual artists, whereas the current programme mainly supports organisations rather than individuals.
- Initiatives targeted at particular groups within the culture sector to address particular development needs. Examples of potential areas in which there could be interventions include: music; books and publishing; fashion; cultural tourism; and architecture.
- Finally, and most directly relevant to EU exit considerations, the proposal contains text on the participation of third countries within the programme that would appear to indicate an openness to negotiating ongoing participation by the UK. This does not take into account other issues that could affect the UK's ability to participate in Creative Europe post EU-exit,

such as migration or regulatory issues, however it does suggest flexibility on the part of the EU.

Brexit and culture

- The UK Government White paper on the future UK-EU relationship indicates that the UK Government is open to negotiating future participation in EU funding programmes where there is 'mutual benefit'. The current draft Political Declaration on the future relationship says: *"...the Parties will establish general principles, terms and conditions for the UK's participation in Union programmes [subject to conditions] in areas such as science and innovation, youth, culture and education....."*
- In relation to Creative Europe, this indicates that the UK Government would be open to negotiating ongoing participation, so long as an agreement could be reached on financial contributions and an agreement on ongoing participation fitted with other UK negotiation priorities.
- There are still a number of potential barriers to agreement being reached on continuing UK participation in the programme. There may be no agreement on what would constitute an appropriate contribution by the UK to secure participation. The EU may require a degree of freedom of movement that the UK will not accept, or regulatory issues, particularly around broadcasting, could impact on the ability to reach agreement. Successfully negotiating continuing participation in Creative Europe is therefore by no means guaranteed.

Additional Background Brief on Culture & EU

EU funding

- Creative Scotland, Historic Environment Scotland and Museums Galleries Scotland commissioned work in early 2017 to analyse the extent of EU funding received by the Scottish culture and historic environment sectors over the period 2007-16 (covering the previous EU funding period, 2007-13, and the first two years of the current one.) This work suggests that **a minimum of £59 million, supporting around 650 projects** was received by Scottish organisations from EU sources over this period. **To note:** the sum of the figures in this table are greater than the figure stated above as there is a degree of crossover between projects funded in the different subject areas outlined in the table.

Programme ¹	Culture & Creative Industries	Historic Environment	Museums and Galleries
Structural funds	8,734,143	26,985,539	3,248,054
Interreg	2,820,736	3,950,196	172,614
Creative Europe	8,274,639	667,012	169,970
Erasmus	2,817,851	1,054,954	222,724
Europe for Citizens	20,331	0	0
Horizon 2020	395,334	4,164,238	1,954,812
Total	£23,063,034	£36,821,939	£5,768,174

- While the EU's funding programmes provide important finance for the cultural and creative sectors, at least as important is the cultural collaboration and exchange that they encourage and facilitate.
- The EU provides a framework for cultural collaboration and exchange. Freedom of movement underpins this and the EU's funding programmes, in particular Creative Europe, actively promote and facilitate cultural organisations to work in international partnerships, learning from their peers and sharing knowledge and experience to enrich Europe's culture as a whole.
- EU funding can also have a multiplier effect, leveraging funding from other sources.

Freedom of movement

Festivals

- The Edinburgh Festivals generate over £313 million annually for Scotland's economy and attract more than 4.5 million attendances. They collectively feature over 25,000 performers each year, from 70 countries. EU membership, and in particular freedom of movement, is fundamental to this.

¹ **To note:** the titles used here are those of the programmes in the most recent funding round, 2014-20. In previous funding rounds programmes addressing the same needs often had different titles or have been combined under one heading.

- Freedom of movement minimises barriers to EU citizens attending the festivals and supports artists to bring their work to Edinburgh. Artists from the EU27 form the single largest group of non-UK performers at the Edinburgh Festivals.
- We know that the UK's current visa system already puts in place significant cost and administrative barriers to non-EU artists bringing their work to the festivals. Expanding those barriers to artists from the rest of the EU could have a devastating impact, on both the economic and the cultural impact of the festivals.
- The Edinburgh Festivals are intrinsically outward-looking and internationally-focused. They showcase Scotland on the international stage and they also bring the world to Scotland. They facilitate cultural exchange and collaboration and show Scotland around the world as the dynamic, open and international nation that it is.

Creative industries

- The Scottish creative industries workforce includes around 7,000 non-UK EU nationals, representing 5.3% of the total creative industries' workforce.²
- DCMS estimate that 6.1% of the UK creative industries' workforce is made up of non-UK EU nationals, with the proportion significantly higher in certain sectors of the creative industries.³

National performing companies

- The following table provides a breakdown of the numbers of non-UK EU nationals that Scotland's national performing companies employ as performers:

	UK nationals	EU nationals	Others	% of EU nationals
Scottish Chamber Orchestra	22	7	5	21%
RSNO	58	7	6	10%
Scottish Ballet	17	14	6	38%
Scottish Opera	145	6	1	4%
Total	242	34	18	12%

- The National Theatre of Scotland employ no EU nationals themselves as performers, however they do work with companies that employ EU nationals.
- The national performing companies have noted an increasing trend of resident artists seeking work outside of the UK. The RSNO have reported that two musicians have pulled out of contracts and that they are seeing an increasing trend of resident musicians seeking auditions in the US or EU27.

Customs, trade and regulation

Scottish creative industries exports

² Annual Population Survey (Jan-Dec 2017)

³ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/546262/DCMS_Sectors_Economic_Estimates_-_Employment.pdf

- The following table provides estimates from OCEA of the volume of Scottish creative industries exports between 2002-15, dividing figures between exports to the EU and the rest of the world.

International Exports from the Creative Industries (including digital) sector, (£ million), 2002 to 2015

Destination	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
EU	390	350	290	280	260	295	385	420
Non-EU	355	350	515	480	590	445	500	520
Total	745	700	805	760	855	745	885	935

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
445	350	385	425	395	365
440	540	565	570	665	740
885	890	955	1,000	1,060	1,105

UK Creative industries' exports⁴

- Creative industries exports accounted for 9% of the UK total, worth £19.8 billion in 2014.
- Exports of IT, software and computer services were the largest element of creative industries exports, accounting for 44.6% of the total.
- The EU received the largest element on UK creative industries services exports, 42.5% of the total.
- The EU's regulatory framework supports this trade, providing certainty for companies through measures such as strong intellectual property protections.
- EU membership supports the UK's role as a European hub for the creative industries, acting as a gateway to the continent.

Touring companies

- Touring companies have reported that even before the EU referendum, the costs of touring were going up due to increased costs of transport and security. While this is not a direct impact of Brexit, increased administrative and cost burdens caused by future customs regulations will play into what is already an increasingly difficult situation.

Digital Single Market

- The European Commission estimates that a fully-functioning Digital Single Market could add €415 billion to the EU's GDP. The UK Government estimates that they could add 0.9% to UK GDP. Given the strength of UK and Scottish companies in digital services, the benefit of this economic growth could be proportionately greater than population share might indicate.

Broadcasting and screen

⁴ <https://www.creativeindustriesfederation.com/sites/default/files/2017-05/Brexit%20Report%20web.pdf>

- The **Audiovisual Media Services Directive** includes measures to promote **European productions**, including quotas for European content in both the linear output of broadcasters and online catalogues. Such measures support Scottish producers to sell their content into the EU single market.
- The UK Government itself (DCMS) **has estimated that 15% of multi-channel broadcasting jobs in the UK rely on the Audiovisual Media Services Directive**. The provisions of the AVMSD support many international broadcasters to base their EU operations in the UK and these jobs are at threat should the AVMSD cease to apply post-Brexit. Of around 1200 Ofcom licensees, about half of these broadcast to other member states rather than within the UK. The European Audiovisual Observatory estimates that around one quarter of the EU's broadcasting industry is based in the UK.
- In the first two years of Creative Europe's existence – 2014-15 – **25% of the TV Programming budget** – to support the development of new TV productions – went to UK productions.
- **€6 million each year has supported the export of British film to elsewhere in Europe**. Scottish films which have benefitted from this include '71, Filth, God Help the Girl, Macbeth, Sunset Song, Under the Skin, What We Did on Our Holiday, Florence Foster Jenkins, Slow West and Starred Up.
- A report by the consultancy Oxera, on behalf of the BFI's Screen Sector Task Force in January 2017 **suggested that loss of labour market flexibility and the resulting migration and skills impacts** were the primary concern for the screen sector in relation to Brexit. This has the potential to have both long and short term impacts. For example, international productions filming in the UK may find it more difficult to fill temporary employment gaps with EU citizens. Long term the loss of freedom of movement could erode the available pool of staff and talent in the UK, particularly in relation to areas that require highly skilled roles, such as post-production, VFX (visual effects) animation and video games.

Copyright

- The EU's copyright regulations provide a framework for the creative industries to protect and realise the value of their intellectual property. These rules support companies to work across borders, expanding their markets and developing new business. The European Commission estimates that 3% of jobs in the EU (over 7 million) are in copyright-intensive sectors.
- [Redacted].

European capitals of culture

- The European Capitals of Culture Programme has cultural, reputational, regeneration and economic benefits.

- Research has shown that when Liverpool held the European Capital of Culture title in 2008, visitors to the city increased by 34% to 9.7 million (an additional 2 million visitors) and an additional £753.8 million was generated in the city's economy. Furthermore, 85% of residents in Liverpool agreed that the city was a better place to live before than after it held the title.⁵
- Dundee were one of three UK cities which had planned to submit bids to hold the title in 2023, the others being Milton Keynes and Leeds.

⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2010/mar/11/liverpool-profited-from-being-culture-capital>

BIOGRAPHIES

Helga Trüpel – MEP – Greens – Germany

Vice-Chair of Committee on Culture and Education

Member of Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China

Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance – 50 members of which 2 Scottish SNP MEPs, Alyn Smith and Ian Hudghton and four other UK MEPs - The Greens/EFA group consists of two distinct European political parties – the European Green Party (EGP) and the European Free Alliance (EFA). The EFA consists of parties representing stateless nations, regionalist and minority political interests. The Alliance has generally limited its membership to progressive parties. These European parties are joined by MEPs from non-aligned national parties, which have included the Dutch Europe Transparent (2004–2009) and the Swedish Pirate Party (2009–2014).

INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE:

- European Solidarity Corps, copyright (specifically creators' rights), multi-annual financial framework, trade, access to culture, international culture relations, youth, fundamental rights, human rights, civil society inclusion.

TO NOTE:

Elected at the 2004, 2009 and 2014 European Elections as MEP.

- Vice-Chair of the Culture and Education Committee of the European Parliament since 2004.

- Will not stand at the 2019 European Elections – retiring.

BIOGRAPHY:

Helga Trüpel is a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) from Germany since 2004.

From 1991 to 1995 she has been minister for Culture and the Integration of Immigrants in the City State of Bremen.

Helga Trüpel studied German, Religious Studies and Psychology at the University of Bremen. In 1988 she completed her PhD in German Literature.

From 1987 to 1991 and again from 1995-2004 she was an elected member of the City Council of the City State of Bremen. In 1991 she joined the state government as minister for Culture and the integration of immigrants.

In 2004, 2009 and 2014 she was elected Member of the European Parliament joined the political group The Greens/EFA. Since 2004 she is a vice-president of the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education (CULT) and a substitute member of the Committee on Budgets. Between 2004 and 2014 Helga Trüpel worked as the spokesperson for budgetary affairs of her political group. Helga Trüpel has been a member of the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with the People's Republic of China.

Danuta Maria Huebner (Hübner) – MEP – EPP – Polish



Group of the European People's Party

Party: Platforma Obywatelska

Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs
Member of Conference of Committee Chairs
Member of Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs
Delegation for relations with the United States

Political posts:

- **2003-2004** : Minister for European Affairs in the Polish Government
- **2001-2003** : Head of the Office of the Committee on European Affairs and Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **2000-2001** : Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva
- **1998-2001** : Economics adviser to the Polish President
- **1998-2000** : Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva
- **1997-1998** : Head of the Polish President's Office

Offices held in the EU institutions

- **2014- ...** : Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs
- **2009-2014** : Member of the European Parliament, Chair of the Committee on Regional Development
- **2004-2009** : Member of the European Commission with responsibility for regional policy
- **05/2009-11/2009** : Member of the European Commission with responsibility for trade

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) - 215 members, no UK members - The Group of the European People's Party (PPE or EPP) is the largest political group in the European Parliament. It has a centre-right political orientation. The group is one of the three oldest groups, dating its origin back to September 1952. It was founded as an explicitly Christian Democrat group.

Reaction to the Referendum Result – Press conference on 27 June: The Constitutional Affairs Committee has under its competence the institution consequences of MS withdrawal. Difficult times, we have prepared for referendum, and wait to see what will happen. It will be painful, we are trying to make our policies move forward but this has halted us. We want swift implementation, it was assured to us, moral and legal obligation. Our focus is protecting citizens, we look the UK citizens in EU, and EU citizens in UK. Difficult to judge how open EU will be to UK from now on, we will go by rules regarding UK MEPs. On Sept 3rd met with Gary Paterson, President of Young European Movement of Glasgow, stating the EU will fight for Scotland.

TO NOTE:

- [Redacted]
- Fiona Hyslop has met Ms Hübner four times in the past 2 years, the last time was on 22 May 2018.
- Continual interest and engagement with Scotland and Scottish Government. Advisory Board Member of Scottish Centre for European Relations, a Scottish EU Think Tank in Brussels.
-
- [Redacted]
- On BBC on 21 Sept 2017, stated that UK can stay within or outside Single Market, but cannot try to pick it apart.
- Is key member of Brexit Steering Group of the European Parliament
- Particularly high interest in citizens' rights and fundamental freedoms related to Brexit. Expresses deep regret and sympathy for the Scottish position.

Philippe LAMBERTS, Co-LEADER OF GREENS/EUROPEAN FREE ALLIANCE GROUP IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



Group of the Greens-European Free Alliance

Co-President of Greens Group

Member of Conference of Presidents

Member of Committee Economic and Monetary Affairs

Biography

Philippe LAMBERTS was born in 1963 in Brussels, Belgium. He studied Engineering in applied mathematics, at the Catholic University of Louvain. From 1987 to 2009, he worked at IBM in a variety of positions, predominantly managing business with industrial and retail clients. He was elected in June 2009 for a first term in the European Parliament.

His political career within the Belgian green party (Ecolo) started in 1991. He served 12 years (1995-2006) as a local city councilor in Anderlecht and also as an adviser on foreign and defense policy to the Vice-Prime Minister Isabelle Durant during the first participation of the Greens in the Belgian federal government (1999-2003). In 1999, he became a member of the Council of the European Federation of Green Parties as a representative of Ecolo. He was then elected to the executive Committee in 2003 before becoming co-chair of what meanwhile had become the European Green Party (EGP). His second mandate there will end in November 2012.

In the EGP, Philippe Lamberts has led the work on devising the Green New Deal as the response of the European Greens to the multi-faceted global crisis.

In the European Parliament, Philippe focuses his work on the two committees he is member of. In the economic and monetary affairs committee (ECON) he predominantly deals with macro-economic, economic governance and banking issues. In the committee for industry, research and energy (ITRE) he acts primarily as the Greens' spokesperson on research and innovation issues and has a strong interest in industrial and SME policies. He is also member of the Parliament's delegation for the relations with China, a country which he sees as a crucial partner in meeting the global challenges of the 21st century.

Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance – 50 members of which 2 Scottish SNP MEPs, Alyn Smith and Ian Hudghton and four other UK MEPs - The Greens/EFA group consists of two distinct European political parties – the European Green Party (EGP) and the European Free Alliance (EFA). The EFA consists of parties representing stateless nations, regionalist and minority political interests. The Alliance has generally limited its membership to progressive parties. These European parties are joined by MEPs from non-aligned national parties, which have included the Dutch Europe Transparent (2004–2009) and the Swedish Pirate Party (2009–2014). The group is predicted to gain seats in the 2019 European Elections.

Reaction to the Referendum Result – tweeted – “We will not let Scotland down. Promised today by standing ovations to Alyn Smith”

[Redacted]

ALYN SMITH – MEP – SNP – GREENS – Scottish



Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance

Constituency: Scotland (Glasgow)

Member of Foreign Affairs Committee

Substitute Member of Agriculture and Rural Development Committee

Born in Glasgow in 1973, Alyn grew up in Scotland and Saudi Arabia, returning to Scotland in 1986. He studied Law and European Law at Leeds University and spent an Erasmus year studying at Heidelberg in Germany. He graduated from Nottingham Law School in 1996. Alyn also gained a Master's degree in European Studies from the College of Europe in Warsaw. After a year teaching English in India and working with Scotland Europa in Brussels, Alyn moved to London where he qualified as a lawyer with commercial law firm Clifford Chance.

In 2000 Alyn moved back to Scotland working first for a legal firm in Edinburgh and from 2002 for Richard Lochhead MSP then the SNP Group at Holyrood as an adviser on European, Justice and Business policies.

Alyn was elected to the European Parliament for the first time in 2004 and has been re-elected twice in the SNP victories in the 2009 and 2014 elections.

He is Honorary President of the Young Scots for Independence as well as a member of the SNP's National Executive Committee.

In Parliament, he is a full member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and a substitute member of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee. He is a full member of both the Delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula, and the Delegation for relations with Iraq.

Alyn is a Director of LGBT Youth Scotland, a charity in Scotland campaigning against homophobia. The post is voluntary and unpaid. He is also the Honorary Vice President of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Scotland's animal welfare charity. The post is voluntary and unpaid.

[Redacted]

Declan Kelleher - Biography



Declan Kelleher has been Permanent Representative of Ireland to the European Union in Brussels since September 2013. Prior to his current appointment he was Ambassador of Ireland to the People's Republic of China.

From 2000 to 2004, he was Representative of Ireland to the EU Political and Security Committee in Brussels, and chaired that Committee during Ireland's 2004 Presidency of the European Union. His previous overseas postings were to the Embassy of Ireland in Washington DC where he was First Secretary for Press and Political/Congressional Affairs; and he served also at the Mission of Ireland to the UN in New York.

He has served in a number of posts at the HQ of the Department of Foreign Affairs, including on Anglo/Irish and Northern Ireland matters; and on foreign policy and EU questions.

Prior to entering the Government service, he worked in the private sector as an economic/financial analyst.

NOTE OF CABINET SECRETARY CTEA VISIT TO BRUSSELS (28 & 29 November 2018)

Overview

1. Ms Hyslop visited Brussels on 28 & 29 November 2018 where she engaged with a number of stakeholders on the Scottish Government's recent published analysis of the Withdrawal Agreement & Political Declaration (**WA & PD**), agreed by the UK Government and EU. This included Commissioner King, the Permanent Representatives to the EU for the UK and for Ireland and with several MEPs. In addition, the Cabinet Secretary also discussed matters concerning the new Creative Europe Programme and Copyright with Helga Trüpel MEP, Vice-Chair of the European Parliament Culture Committee.
2. Ms Hyslop conducted several media interviews with Brussels based media on the same subject, namely with Reuters EU, Le Soir, Euractiv, Politico and EuroNews.
3. Ms Hyslop also hosted the Scotland House Brussels annual St Andrew's Day Concert and Reception, attended by approx. 150 EU stakeholders from the European Commission, Council and Parliament; think-tanks; Member States and Regional Offices

Ministerial speeches

4. The Cabinet Secretary gave the introductory remarks at the opening of the annual Scotland House Brussels St Andrew's Day Concert. The event featured a performance of traditional Scottish music by the group "Kilda" and was followed by a networking reception.

Bilateral meetings

5. Meeting with Commissioner Julian King
6. Meetings with MEPs Danuta Hubner, Helga Trüpel, Phillippe Lamberts and Alyn Smith.

Conclusion and key outcomes

7. In terms of output the visit allowed Ms Hyslop to:
 - demonstrate the Scottish Government's commitment to continued cultural and diplomatic engagement in Europe;
 - set out the Scottish Government's position on Brexit to the Brussels-based media and EU stakeholders;
 - engage with MEPs involved in the Brexit process in order to understand their latest assessment and to provide an update on the Scottish Government's position.

GOVERNMENT AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT MEETINGS

- Professor Danuta Hubner, Polish MEP, Chair of the European Parliament Constitutional Affairs Committee.
- Ms Helga Trüpel MEP, German MEP, Vice-Chair of the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education
- Mr Phillippe Lamberts MEP and Mr Alyn Smith MEP, Belgian MEP and Scottish MEP
- Sir Tim Barrow, UK Representative to the EU
- Ambassador Declan Kelleher, Permanent Representative of Ireland to the EU

MEDIA

- Interviews with Reuters EU, Le Soir, Euractiv, Politico and EuroNews

OTHER ENGAGEMENTS

- Scotland House Brussels annual St Andrew's Day Concert & Reception