

**CABINET SECRETARY FOR CULTURE, TOURISM AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
VISIT TO AUSTRIA – EUROPA FORUM WACHAU  
9-11 JUNE 2017**

<b>BRIEFING NOTE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>TIME</b>
	<b>Programme</b>	
	<b>Logistics</b>	
	<b>Key contacts</b>	
<b>FRIDAY 9 JUNE</b>		
<b>1</b>	Meeting with [REDACTED], Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy in Vienna	<b>19:00</b>
<b>SATURDAY 10 JUNE</b>		
<b>2</b>	Plenary Session	<b>10:30</b>
<b>3</b>	Lunch at Ministerial Table and Brush-by meetings	<b>12:30</b>
<b>4</b>	Working Groups	<b>14:00</b>
<b>5</b>	Dinner at traditional Austrian Restaurant	<b>19:30</b>
<b>SUNDAY 11 JUNE</b>		
<b>6</b>	Memorial Mass	<b>09:00</b>
<b>7</b>	Plenary Session and Speech	<b>10:30</b>
<b>8</b>	Meeting with Austrian Vice-Chancellor	<b>13:00</b>
<b>9</b>	Meeting with Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs	<b>TBC</b>
<b>BACKGROUND BRIEFING</b>		<b>PAGE</b>
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## PROGRAMME

Friday 9 June 2017

Time	Activity	Venue	Notes
14:00	Officials meet you at Edinburgh Airport		Bottom of escalator before security
15:05	Jet2 LS851 from Edinburgh to Vienna		Duration: 02:45 h
18:50	Arrival in Vienna		
19:00 – 20:00	Meeting and dinner with [REDACTED], DHM in the British Embassy	Vienna Airport	
20:00	Transfer by Embassy car to your hotel and check-in [REDACTED]		Duration: ~ 60 min

Saturday 10 June 2017

Time	Activity	Venue	Notes
09:45	Transfer to the conference venue		Duration: ~ 20 min
10:10	Arrival at Göttweig Abbey		
10:20	Welcome and Official Photo	Göttweig Abbey	
10:30 – 12:30	Plenary session	Göttweig Abbey	
12:30 – 13:45	Lunch hosted by Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs  During or immediately after lunch: Brush-by meetings with <u>Dr Beate Merk</u> , Bavarian State Minister for European Affairs, and <u>Mr Johannes Hahn</u> , Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations.	Göttweig Abbey	You will be seated at Mr Kurz's table.
14:00 – 16:30	Working groups	Göttweig Abbey	
	Possible interviews or brush-by meetings	TBC	
19:30 – 21:30	Dinner at traditional Austrian restaurant.	Heurigen Knoll, Dürnstein	

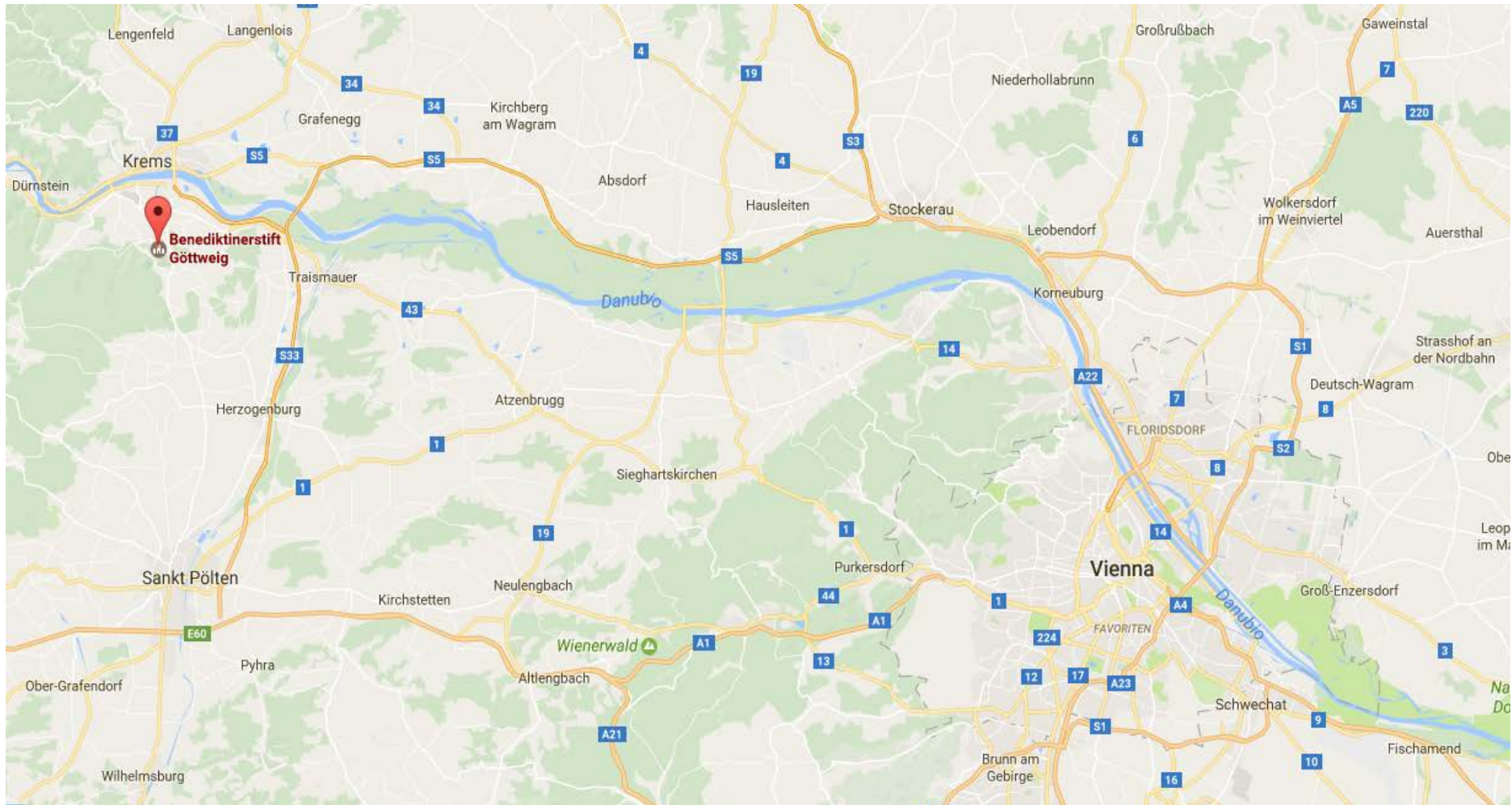
<b>21:30</b>	Transfer to your hotel		Duration: ~ 20 min
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**Sunday 11 June 2017**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Notes</b>
	Breakfast and check-out		
<b>08:30</b>	Transfer by car provided by Europa Forum		Duration: ~ 20 min
<b>09:00 - 10:00</b>	Memorial Mass to remember Alois Mock	Göttweig Abbey	
<b>10:15</b>	Welcome and Official Photos at the Abbey	Göttweig Abbey	
<b>10:30 – 13:00</b>	Plenary session and speeches	Göttweig Abbey	
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	Lunch and meeting with Dr Wolfgang Brandstetter, Deputy PM and Minister of Justice	Göttweig Abbey	
<b>14:00 (TBC)</b>	Meeting with Ms Ekaterina Zaharieva, Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs	<b>TBC</b>	
<b>14:45</b>	Transfer to the airport by Embassy car		Duration: 01:15 h
<b>16:00</b>	Arrival at Vienna International Airport		
<b>17:30</b>	Brussels Airlines SN6006 from Vienna to Brussels International		Duration: 01:45 h
<b>19:15</b>	Arrival in Brussels		Connect in airport: 02:00 h
<b>21:15</b>	Brussels Airlines SN2065 from Brussels to Edinburgh		Duration: 01:45 h
<b>22:00</b>	Arrival in Edinburgh. A car will be waiting for you.		

## LOGISTICS – CONFERENCE VENUE:

Benediktinerstift Göttweig  
Stift Göttweig 1, Austria



OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

**[REDACTED]**

[REDACTED]

## BRIEFING NOTE 1

## Meeting and dinner with [REDACTED], Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy Vienna

9 JUNE 2017, 19:00 – 20:00

<b>Key Messages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [REDACTED]</li> <li>• Learn more about Austria's political situation (legislative elections have been brought forward to October 2017).</li> <li>• Thank the Embassy for its assistance in arranging the visit.</li> <li>• Learn more about the Embassy's priorities and activities in Austria, including around UN and OSCE.</li> <li>• The Scottish Government greatly values its engagement with other European countries and welcomes opportunities to develop business and trade links with Austria.</li> </ul>
<b>Who</b>	<p>[REDACTED], Deputy Head of Mission, British Embassy Vienna</p> <p>Please note: The Ambassador, HE Leigh Turner, is not available. He had offered to meet you earlier in the afternoon but this proved logistically impossible.</p>
<b>What</b>	<p>Meeting and dinner</p> <p><b>Please note: [REDACTED] will attend the conference on Sunday too</b></p>
<b>Why</b>	To discuss your programme, engage with the British Embassy before the conference and learn more about Austria's political situation.
<b>Where</b>	Vienna airport
<b>Social Media</b>	@UKinAustria
<b>Official Support</b>	[REDACTED], Head of European Engagement [REDACTED], European Engagement
<b>Attached documents</b>	Annex A: Core Brief Annex B: Biography

**CORE BRIEF****ANNEX A****Discussion Points**

- [REDACTED]
- Discuss your programme and thank Embassy for its support.
- Learn about the Embassy's priorities and current affairs.
- Mr Tierney will be attending the conference on Sunday, when your speech is scheduled to take place.

**British Embassy in Austria**

The UK diplomatic presence in Austria consists of three missions - the British Embassy, the UK Mission to the United Nations and the UK Delegation to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). The missions are co-located in Vienna.

Vienna is part of the UKTI's Central European Network and works in partnership with embassies in neighbouring countries to report on issues of common interest. The network covers ten countries with a market value of \$1trillion.

HE Leigh Turner has been Ambassador to Austria and UK Perm Rep to the UN and other International Organisations in Vienna since 2016.

**Austria-Scotland links**

- The 2017 Edinburgh International Festival will mark Rudolf Bing, an Austrian Jew who escaped the Nazis to settle in the UK in the 1930s. He was the founding director of the EIF in 1947.
- T&I – Scottish exports to Austria totaled £100m in 2015. Austrian exports to the UK represent 1.2% of the country's GDP.
- According to the 2011 census, there are 826 Austrians living in Scotland. Many of them are employed in Scottish universities.

**Key recent and upcoming Ministerial engagement with Austria**

- In August 2017, the Austrian Ambassador to the UK, Dr Martin Eichtinger, will host a pre-concert lunch and attend a performance of My Musical Life by Austrian pianist and poet Alfred Brendel at the Kings Theatre as part of the Edinburgh International Festival. You will be invited to attend.
- In November 2016, Dr Allan visited Vienna and met with Dr Michael Linhart, Secretary-General of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- In August 2016, you met with the Austrian Ambassador to the UK, HE Martin Eichtinger, in London.



**BIOGRAPHY**

**ANNEX B**

[REDACTED]

**BRIEFING NOTE 2****Saturday Plenary Session****10 JUNE 2017, 10:30 – 12:30**

<b>Key Messages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scottish Government is committed to deepening its relations with its European partners in spite of Brexit.</li> <li>• In June 2016, Scotland voted to remain in the EU and we welcome this outcome.</li> <li>• The people of Scotland must have a choice and the chance to decide their future in a democratic way once the terms of the Brexit deal are known.</li> <li>• We believe in the future of the European Union. Membership of it is our goal. Europe needs to change, but we believe in working from within to effect that change.</li> <li>• EU nationals remain welcome in Scotland. Their contribution to our economy, society and culture is greatly valued.</li> </ul>
<b>Who</b>	A full list of speakers is provided at Annex B
<b>What</b>	<p>Saturday plenary session.</p> <p>German-English translation will be made available via headphone sets.</p>
<b>Why</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Where</b>	Göttweig Abbey, 3511 Stift Göttweig (Austria)
<b>Social Media</b>	@MFA_Austria #EFWachau
<b>Official Support</b>	[REDACTED], Head of European Relations [REDACTED], European Engagement
<b>Attached documents</b>	Annex A: Europa Forum Wachau and Göttweig Abbey Annex B: Speaking Order and Key Biographical Notes

**EUROPA FORUM WACHAU****ANNEX A****We understand that no other delegation from the UK will attend the Forum.**

The Europa-Forum Wachau is an annual conference held at the Göttweig Abbey, in Lower Austria. It was first held in 1995, the year of Austria's accession to the European Union. The conference is organised by Austria's Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs in conjunction with the Government of Lower Austria, the district where the event is held. The Forum is also closely linked to the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy, a think-tank carrying out research and providing expertise in the field of European and international affairs.

The Hungarian-born journalist Paul Lendvai has been moderating the discussions since the first Forum in 1995.

The event aims to provide a platform for discussions on European Affairs, with a view to reduce the distance between European institutions and European citizens. Particular attention is paid to topics revolving around security, regional cooperation, economic growth and cultural development.

Over the years, many prominent European politicians have attended the conference, making it one of the most respected forums in central Europe.

As the current Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Sebastian Kurz, is the leader of the centre-right ÖVP party, [REDACTED]. Several ÖVP representatives will be speaking or simply attending the Forum. The Government of Lower Austria is currently controlled by an ÖVP majority as well.

**The venue: Göttweig Abbey**

Situated on top of the 449-meter high Göttweig hill, the abbey is also known as the Austrian Montecassino. It was built at the beginning of the XI century by the Blessed Altmann, a founder of monasteries and bishop of Passau who is still venerated as a saint, although not officially canonised. The foundation charter, dated 9 September 1083, is still preserved in the abbey archives. In 1094 the abbey became a Benedictine monastery.

The abbey boasts a library comprising 130,000 books as well as a collection of religious engravings, coins, antiquities and musical manuscripts that survived World War II almost without loss.

It is located in the Dunkelsteiner Forest, south of the city of Krems, on the eastern edge of the world-famous Danube valley called the Wachau. The architectural elegance of its ancient monasteries, castles and villages combined with the cultivation of high-quality wines makes the Wachau one of the most prominent tourist destinations of Lower Austria.

In 2001, together with the Wachau, Göttweig was placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

**SPEAKING ORDER AND KEY BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

**ANNEX B**

**Ms Barbara Schwarz – President of the Europa Forum Wachau and Minister for Education, Social and Family Affairs in the Government of Lower Austria**



Since 2013 State Councilor for Social Affairs, Education and Family  
2011 – 2013 Minister for Social Affairs, Family, Labor and EU Affairs  
2004 – 2011 Mayor of Dürnstein  
2003 – 2004 Deputy Mayor of Dürnstein  
1995 – 2003 Councilor in the municipality of Dürnstein

President Europa Forum Wachau

**Ms Johanna Mikl-Leitner - Governor of Lower Austria**



Since Apr 2017: Governor of Lower Austria  
2016 – 2017: Vice-Governor of Lower Austria  
2011 – 2016: Minister of the Interior  
2010 – 2011: Vice-President, Assembly of European Regions  
2003 – 2011: Regional Minister for Labour and Social Affairs

@vpnoeat

**Mr Sebastian Kurz – Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs**



Since 2013: Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs

2011 – 2013: State Secretary for Integration

@SebastianKurz @MFA\_Austria

**Mr Johannes Hahn – Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations**



Since 2014: European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations;  
2010 – 2014: European Commissioner for Regional Policy;  
2007 – 2010: Austrian Minister for Science and Research  
2003 – 2007: Member of the Vienna Regional Government

@JHahnEU

**Mr Pavlo Klimkin – Ukrainian Minister for Foreign Affairs**



Since 2014: Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine  
2012 - 2014 Ambassador of Ukraine to Germany  
2010 - 2011 Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine  
2004 - 2008 Minister-Counselor, Embassy of Ukraine to the UK

**@PavloKlimkin @MFA\_Ukraine**

**Mr Karl-Heinz Lambertz - First Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions**



Since 2016: Senator of the German-speaking community of Belgium  
Since 2015: First-Vice President of the Committee of the Regions  
Since 2010: President of the Association of European Border Regions  
2014 – 2016: President of the Parliament of the German-speaking community of Belgium  
2004 – 2014 Minister-President of the German-speaking community of Belgium, Minister of Local Authorities.

**@EU\_CoR**

**Dr Beate Merk – Bavarian State Minister for European Affairs**



Since 2013: Bavarian State Minister for European Affairs  
2003 – 2013 Bavarian State Minister for Justice  
1995 – 2003 Lord Mayor of the city of Neu-Ulm

**Mr Ivica Dacic – Serbian First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs**



Since 2014: First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs  
2012 – 2014 Prime Minister and Minister of Interior  
2008 – 2012 First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior  
2000 – 2001 Minister of Information in the transitional Government of the Republic of Serbia  
1992 - 2004 Delegate in the Chamber of Citizens of the Federal Assembly of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

**@SerbianGov**

## BRIEFING NOTE 3

## Lunch at the Ministerial table

10 JUNE 2017, 12:30 – 13:45

<b>Key Messages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scottish Government is committed to deepening its relations with its European partners in spite of Brexit.</li> <li>• In June 2016, Scotland voted to remain in the EU and we welcome this outcome.</li> <li>• The people of Scotland must have a choice and the chance to decide their future in a democratic way once the terms of the Brexit deal are known.</li> <li>• We believe in the future of the European Union. Membership of it is our goal. Europe needs to change, but we believe in working from within to effect that change.</li> <li>• EU nationals remain welcome in Scotland. Their contribution to our economy, society and culture is greatly valued.</li> </ul>
<b>Who</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Sebastian Kurz, Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs</li> </ul> <p>Please see previous briefing note for more info on other speakers.</p>
<b>What</b>	<p><b>Lunch</b> offered by the Austrian Ministry for Foreign Affairs. You will be seated at the Ministerial table.</p> <p><b>Brush-by meetings</b> with Ms <u>Beate Merk</u>, Bavarian Minister for EU Affairs, and Mr <u>Johannes Hahn</u>, Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy &amp; Enlargement Negotiations, are expected to take place during or immediately after lunch. Please see Annex B and C for more details.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
<b>Why</b>	To engage with Mr Kurz and other Austrian and European speakers.
<b>Where</b>	Göttweig Abbey, 3511 Stift Göttweig (Austria)
<b>Social Media</b>	@SebastianKurz @MFA_Austria #EFWachau
<b>Official Support</b>	[REDACTED] Head of European Relations [REDACTED] European Engagement
<b>Attached documents</b>	Annex A: Biography Annex B: Brush-by with Ms Beate Merk, Bavarian Minister for EU Affairs Annex C: Brush-by with Mr Johannes Hahn, EU Commissioner

**BIOGRAPHY**

**ANNEX A**

**MR SEBASTIAN KURZ – Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria**



Sebastian Kurz was born in 1986 in Vienna.

Since 2003, he has been involved in the Young Austrian People's Party (ÖVP).

In 2007, he became Chairman of the Viennese branch of the Young Austrian People's Party and was elected as Federal Chairman two years later. Furthermore, he acted as member of the Vienna City Council until his appointment as State Secretary for Integration in April 2011.

In December 2013, he was sworn in as Austrian Federal Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs.

In 2014, Sebastian Kurz was Chairman of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Is currently acting as Chairman-in-Office of OSCE during the Austrian Chairmanship in 2017.

In May 2017, he was nominated new leader of the centre-right ÖVP.

**Please see previous briefing note for other speakers' biographies.**

## BRUSH-BY WITH MS BEATE MERK

## ANNEX B

[REDACTED]

### Key Lines

- Scotland has a strong relationship with Bavaria and is committed to continuing to develop our cultural, economic and political links.
- The Joint Declaration of Economic Cooperation signed in March 2017 will allow Scotland and Bavaria to further their economic, trade and research links.
- The Scottish Government values the contribution of the German community (30,000 in Scotland) and the important role it plays in enriching Scotland socially, culturally & economically.
- Citizens of Germany and other EU countries living in Scotland remain welcome here. The SG will work to protect all of Scotland's interests and the people who make Scotland their home.

### **State Minister for European Affairs and Regional Relations in the Bavarian State Chancellery**

Dr Beate Merk (born 1957) has been Minister of State for European Affairs and Regional Relations since 10 October 2013.



The promoted lawyer was eight-year mayor of the city of Neu-Ulm. From 2008 to 2013 she was Minister of Justice.

Dr Merk belongs to the CSU of Bavaria, sister party to the CDU

### **Berlin Innovation & Investment Hub**

- The Berlin Hub is intended to provide a platform for business, academia and government to access trade and investment opportunities and collaborate on common challenges, innovation and R&D; for VisitScotland to further develop Germany's status as no 2 for visitors to Scotland after the US and a strong business/conference market; to enhance Scotland's profile and reputation; and build networks, relationships and inter-Governmental working which will benefit Scotland. Germany has been selected because a) it is consistently in Scotland's top five export destinations - £1.8bn in 2015, b) it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest inward investor to Scotland, c) it accounts for the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest number of visitors to Scotland and that is predicted to grow over the coming years and d) It is at the heart of the EU with significant opportunities for enhanced collaborative working with Scotland in areas such as manufacturing.
- We envisage that the hub will bring together staff from Scottish Government, VisitScotland and SDI. However, staff numbers and precise resource requirements, including the specific location in Berlin, will be determined as soon as possible.

[REDACTED]

### **Scotland-Germany relations**

- Germany is Scotland's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest European export market with £1.8bn exported in 2015 (11% increase 2012-14). Electrical and instrument engineering, chemicals and mineral products, rubber and plastics, business services and finance were the top exports.



- In 2015, German companies were responsible for 17,060 jobs in Scotland with a turnover of £4,493 million.

### **German Elections**

[REDACTED]

### **Strengthening Networks**

- In 2013 Germany remained the second most important source market worldwide for Scotland both in terms of visits and spend after the United States. A total of 306,000 German visitors came to Scotland in 2013 with a total expenditure of £173m. The total number of nights spent in Scotland by German visitors increased by 6.5% (after a decrease of 13.5% in 2012).

[REDACTED]

**BRUSH-BY WITH MR JOHANNES HAHN****ANNEX C****Key lines**

- The Scottish Government is committed to deepening its relations with its European partners in spite of Brexit.
- We believe in the future of the European Union. Membership of it and four fundamental freedoms are our goal.
- Welcome the Commission White Paper on the Future of the EU (please see Note 15)
- In June 2016, Scotland voted to remain in the EU and we welcome this outcome.
- The people of Scotland must have a choice and the chance to decide their future in a democratic way once the terms of the Brexit deal are known.
- EU nationals remain welcome in Scotland. Their contribution to our culture, economy and society is greatly valued.

[REDACTED]

**Mr Johannes Hahn – Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations**

Since 2014: European Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations;  
 2010 – 2014: European Commissioner for Regional Policy;  
 2007 – 2010: Austrian Minister for Science and Research  
 2003 – 2007: Member of the Vienna Regional Government

**Role of the European Commission in the Article 50 Negotiations**

The European Commission will act as the Union negotiator on behalf of the EU 27. It will report back to leaders and to the Council and will keep the European Parliament “closely and regularly informed”.

Michel Barnier, the chief negotiator, has appointed a team known as the ‘Article 50 task force’ to coordinate the Commission’s work on all strategic, operational, legal and financial issues related to the negotiations. Sabine Weyand, who was appointed as Michel Barnier’s deputy, brings considerable experience of trade policy and negotiations. The European Council’s overarching Guidelines on the UK’s withdrawal from the EU were agreed on 29 April at a special Brexit Summit. The Commission presented the EU27 with a set of more detailed negotiating directives on 3 May 2017. These directives, outlining the priorities for the first phase of the negotiations, were adopted by the Council on 22 May 2017. They revolve around:

- safeguarding the status and rights of citizens – EU27 citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU27 – and their families;
- reaching an agreement on the principles of the financial settlement of the UK’s obligations as an EU member;
- providing for the new external borders of the EU, including the protection of the Good Friday Agreement, and finding imaginative solutions in order to avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland.

Michel Barnier Chief EU Negotiator, has proposed that the negotiations should begin on 19 June.

**Key recent ministerial engagement with the European Commission**

- 09 May 2017 – You attended the Europe Day Event organised by the European Commission Representation in Edinburgh.
- Mar 2017 – You delivered a speech at the University of Edinburgh to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Treaty of Rome. The event was organised by the Edinburgh Europa Institute in conjunction with European Commission Office in Edinburgh.
- March 2017 – Mr Russell met UK Commissioner Sir Julian King.
- Feb 2017 – The First Minister met with Ms Jackie Minor, Head of the European Commission Representation to the UK.
- Dec 2016 – You wrote to Michel Barnier to announce the publication of Scotland's Place in Europe. Mr Barnier replied on 30 Jan 2017.
- Jun 2016 – The First Minister met President Juncker in Brussels.

**BRIEFING NOTE 4**

**Working Groups**

**10 JUNE 2017, 14:00 – 16:30**

***MORE BACKGROUND INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED. YOU ARE INVITED TO ADVISE ON WHICH WORKING GROUP YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING (PLEASE SEE NOTE ATTACHED SEPARATELY)***

<b><i>Key Messages</i></b>	
<b><i>Who</i></b>	
<b><i>What</i></b>	
<b><i>Why</i></b>	
<b><i>Where</i></b>	
<b><i>Official Support</i></b>	[REDACTED] Head of European Relations [REDACTED] European Engagement
<b><i>Attached documents</i></b>	

**BRIEFING NOTE 5****Dinner in traditional Austrian restaurant****10 JUNE 2017, 19:30**

<b>Key Messages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Scottish Government is committed to deepening its relations with its European partners in spite of Brexit.</li> <li>• In June 2016, Scotland voted to remain in the EU and we welcome this outcome.</li> <li>• The people of Scotland must have a choice and the chance to decide their future in a democratic way once the terms of the Brexit deal are known.</li> <li>• We believe in the future of the European Union. Membership of it is our goal. Europe needs to change, but we believe in working from within to effect that change.</li> <li>• EU nationals remain welcome in Scotland and their contribution to our economy, culture and society is greatly valued.</li> </ul>
<b>Who</b>	<p>Organisers have not provided a full attendee list. However, we understand that most panellists involved in the afternoon's working groups are expected to attend. Accordingly, guests will mainly have a business and academic background. In addition, we have been advised that the following people will participate in the dinner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [REDACTED]</li> </ul>
<b>What</b>	<p>Dinner and engagement with European stakeholders</p> <p><u>Dress code: Business Attire</u></p>
<b>Where</b>	<p>Heuriger Knoll Unterloiben 7, 3601 Dürnstein (Austria)</p>
<b>Official Support</b>	<p>[REDACTED] Head of European Relations [REDACTED] European Engagement</p>
<b>Attached documents</b>	<p>Annex A: Core Brief Annex B: Biographies</p>

**CORE BRIEF****ANNEX A**

**You have been invited to attend a dinner offered by the Government of Lower Austria. It will be held in a traditional Austrian restaurant in Dürnstein (more details below).**

Organisers have not shared a copy of the attendee list with us. However, we understand that most speakers involved in the Saturday afternoon's working groups will take part in the dinner. Accordingly, guests will mainly have a business and academic background. In addition, we have been advised that the following people will be attending (more info at Annex B):

[REDACTED]

### **Heuriger – Traditional Austrian Restaurant**

The dinner will take place in a Heuriger, a traditional Austrian restaurant. Heuriger is the abbreviation of "*heuriger Wein*" (this year's wine) in Austrian and Bavarian German. Originally, it was a simple open-air tavern on the premises of winemakers, where people would bring along food and drink the new wine. Nowadays, the taverns are often situated at a distance of the vineyards and offer both food and drinks.

The region around the town of Dürnstein (please see below) hosts a large number of Heuriger.

### **City of Dürnstein – Key information**

Dürnstein is a small town on the Danube river in the Krems-Land district, in the Austrian state of Lower Austria. It is one of the most-visited tourist destinations in the Wachau region and also a well-known wine growing area.

Dürnstein is famous for being the place where Richard the Lionheart was held captive in 1192 by Leopold V, Duke of Austria after their dispute during the Third Crusade. Richard had offended Leopold the Virtuous by casting down his standard from the walls at the Battle of Acre, and the duke suspected that King Richard ordered the murder of his cousin Conrad of Montferrat in Jerusalem. Pope Celestine III excommunicated Leopold for capturing a fellow crusader. The duke finally gave the custody of the king to Emperor Henry VI, who imprisoned Richard at Trifels Castle.

### **Emperor Maximilian Prize 2017**

The First Minister has been selected to receive this year's Emperor-Maximilian-Prize, awarded by the Land of Tyrol and the City of Innsbruck to celebrate outstanding contributions in the field of regional and local politics in Europe.

The prize winner is chosen by an international jury comprising, among others, a delegate of the Committee of the Regions (Mr Karl-Heinz Lambertz) and a representative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (Mrs Gudrun Mosler-Törnström).

[REDACTED]

## BIOGRAPHIES

## ANNEX B

### **MS BARBARA SCHWARZ**

**President of the Europa Forum Wachau and State Council for Social Affairs,  
Education and Family**



Since 2013 State Councilor for Social Affairs, Education and Family  
2011 – 2013 Minister for Social Affairs, Family, Labor and EU Affairs  
2004 – 2011 Mayor of Dürnstein  
2003 – 2004 Deputy Mayor of Dürnstein  
1995 – 2003 Councilor in the municipality of Dürnstein

President of the Europa Forum Wachau

Ms Schwarz is a member of Ministers Kurz's ÖVP.

### **Lower Austria**

It is one of Austria's nine autonomous Lander. The capital of Lower Austria is Sankt Pölten, the most recently designated capital town in Austria. It shares a border with the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Lower Austria has the largest area and the second largest population (after Vienna) of the nine Lander. In total, there are 573 municipalities within Lower Austria.

The Austrian Constitution stipulates legislative competences to the regions. These comprise building legislation, regional planning, coordination and administration of events, basic traffic law, hunting law, nature protection, local security police and sports. In addition, regional jurisdiction comprises budgetary law and a control function over the regional government and administration.

The Government of Lower Austria is currently controlled by an ÖVP majority.



**MRS GUDRUN MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM @CoECongress**

**PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE**



Member of the Congress of Local and regional Authorities since 2009 and head of the Austrian Delegation since 2010, Mrs Gudrun Mosler-Törnström was elected as President of the Congress in October 2016 after serving as First Vice-President.

From 2010 to 2012 she was Vice President of the Monitoring Committee and from 2012 to 2014 she was the head of the Socialist group in the Congress.

Since 1999, Mrs Gudrun Mosler-Törnström has been a member of the regional Parliament in Salzburg (Austria) and since 2004 she has been Vice-President of the regional Parliament.

She holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Stockholm. She speaks German, Swedish and English

**CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES**

It is an Assembly representing the local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe's 47 member States. It held its first session in 1957 but assumed its current format in 1975.

The Congress is made up of two chambers: the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions. It has 648 members (324 full and 324 substitute members), all elected for four years. They represent over 200,000 authorities.

Members are either directly elected and hold an electoral mandate in a local/regional authority or are politically answerable to a directly elected assembly. Representatives and substitutes are grouped into national delegations and political groups.

**The main roles and aims of the Congress are:**

- promoting territorial democracy;
- observing local and regional elections;
- monitoring the application of the European Charter of Local Self-Government
- encouraging devolution and regionalisation processes
- enhancing transfrontier co-operation between cities and regions.

**You met Mrs Gudrun Mosler-Törnström in Edinburgh in October 2016, immediately before she was elected as President of the Congress. At that stage, she was First Vice-President. She was in Scotland to attend the COSLA Annual Conference in Crieff (Perthshire).**

**HE MS CAROLA VAN RIJNSOEVER**

**@CvanRijnsoever**

**Permanent Representatives of the Netherlands to the EU Political and Security Committee**



Before becoming Perm Rep in 2013, she worked as Head of the Political Affairs section in the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs (2009-2013).

Between 2005 and 2009 she served as Deputy Head of the Economic Section in the Dutch Embassy in Berlin. Between 2001 and 2005, she was Senior Advisor on the Enlargement of the European Union within the Dutch Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

She also worked in the Dutch Embassy in Moscow.

She has a Master in Economics from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

**EU Political and Security Committee**

It is responsible for the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defence Policy. It:

- monitors the international situation;
- recommends strategic approaches and policy options to the Council;
- provides guidance to the Military Committee, the Politico-Military Group and the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management;
- ensures political control and strategic direction of crisis management operations.

The PSC is composed of member states' ambassadors based in Brussels and is chaired by the representatives from the European External Action Service. It meets twice a week, and more often if necessary.

**MR KARL-HEINZ LAMBERTZ**  
**First Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions**

**@EU\_Cor**



Since 2016: Senator of the German-speaking community of Belgium

Since 2015: First-Vice President of the Committee of the Regions

Since 2010: President of the Association of European Border Regions

2014 – 2016: President of the Parliament of the German-speaking community of Belgium

2004 – 2014 Minister-President of the German-speaking community of Belgium, Minister of Local Authorities

### **The Committee of the Regions**

Created in 1994, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) is the European Union's assembly of regional and local representatives. It is composed of 350 members – regional presidents, mayors or elected representatives of regions and cities – from the 28 EU countries.

Members must be democratically elected and/or hold a political mandate in their home country. Through the CoR, EU local and regional authorities can have a say on the development of EU laws that impact regions and cities.

Since its establishment more than 20 years ago, the CoR has been working to bring citizens closer to the European Union. The role of the CoR was recognised and strengthened by the Lisbon Treaty in 2009.

CoR members live and work in the regions or cities they come from and are therefore in touch with their electorate's concerns. They speak for their voters at the very heart of the EU decision-making and legislative process and also keep them abreast of EU developments, by hosting meetings and conferences of the CoR in their regions or cities.

**[REDACTED]**

**BRIEFING NOTE 6****Memorial Mass to remember Alois Mock, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs.****11 JUNE 2017, 09:00 – 10:00**

<b><i>What</i></b>	<p>Memorial Mass to remember the late Alois Mock, Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs between 1987 and 1995.</p> <p>He died on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 aged 82.</p> <p>He played a crucial role in leading Austria into the European Union (1995). He also gained wide attention in the summer of 1989 when he joined his Hungarian counterpart to cut the Iron Curtain that divided the two countries. Mr Mock was an ÖVP leader.</p> <p>In the Eighties, he was one of the most popular Austrian politicians.</p>
<b><i>Why</i></b>	To remember Alois Mock who died only a few days ago.
<b><i>Who</i></b>	Organisers have not shared a full attendee list. We understand that most key-note speakers are expected to attend.
<b><i>Where</i></b>	Göttweig Abbey
<b><i>Official Support</i></b>	[REDACTED] Head of European Relations [REDACTED] European Engagement
<b><i>Attached documents</i></b>	Annex A: Biography

**BIOGRAPHY****ANNEX A**

**Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs: 1987 – 1995**

**Vice-Chancellor of Austria: 1987 – 1989**

**Party: ÖVP**

Born in Lower Austria in 1934, he studied law at the University of Vienna and later international law in Bologna and Brussels.

Between 1961 and 1966, he worked as Advisor to Austrian Chancellor Josef Klaus on European Economic Community and EFTA policy. In 1966, he became Klaus' Cabinet Secretary. In 1969, aged 35, he became the youngest Education Minister in Austrian history.

From 1978 to 1987 he was chairman of the ÖVP parliamentary party and from 1979 he was also federal party chairman.

He held the position of foreign minister from 1987 to 1995, leading Austria into the European Union. He became one of Austria's most popular politicians.

In November 1989 Mock was one of the founders of the Central European cooperative called Pentagonale, which later grew from 5 countries to the 18 of the CEI (Central European Initiative). In 1999 he retired from Parliament due to his Parkinson's disease. At the time of his death Mock was a Member of the Advisory Board of the Global Panel Foundation, an NGO that works behind the scenes in crisis areas around the world.

### **The Iron Curtain**



Mr. Mock gained wide attention in the summer of 1989 when he joined his Hungarian counterpart, Gyula Horn, near the town of Sopron on the Austrian-Hungarian border. Together they took heavy pincers to cut open wire strung between concrete posts in that part of the Iron Curtain to demonstrate good neighborly relations between the West and the Soviet bloc.

The gesture was captured in photos that made front pages across the world. It also underscored how the centuries-old ties between Austria and Hungary had proved stronger than the iron bonds of Stalinism.

After that, Hungary opened its border with Austria to allow tens of thousands of East Germans to escape their hard-line Communist homeland for West Germany.

**BRIEFING NOTE 7****Plenary session and key note speech****11 JUNE 2017, 10:30 – 13:00**

<b>Key Messages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EU has delivered much. Membership of it is our goal. EU needs to change to adapt to a myriad of challenges, but we believe in working from within to effect that change.</li> <li>• In June 2016, Scotland voted to remain in the EU and we welcome this outcome.</li> <li>• The people of Scotland must have a choice and the chance to decide their future in a democratic way once the terms of the Brexit deal are known.</li> <li>• The Scottish Government is committed to deepening its relations with its European partners in spite of Brexit</li> </ul>
<b>Who</b>	Speaking order and key bios at Annex A
<b>What</b>	<p><b>Key-note speech</b> addressing the conference plenary.</p> <p>You will be speaking from a <b>podium</b> and there will be a <b>lectern</b>.</p> <p>There will be a total of five talks, you will be the <b>third speaker</b>. Your talk is expected to last around 15 minutes.</p> <p>Each speaker will be introduced by Paul Lendvai, the conference moderator. There will be <b>no Q&amp;A</b>. German-English <b>translation</b> will be made available via headphone sets.</p> <p>Speeches will be preceded by a brief discussion on the result of the Saturday's working groups. Rapporteurs will describe the conclusions of their respective panels.</p>
<b>Where</b>	Göttweig Abbey, 3511 Stift Göttweig (Austria)
<b>Social Media</b>	#EFWachau @MFA_Austria
<b>Official Support</b>	[REDACTED] Head of European Relations [REDACTED] European Engagement
<b>Attached documents</b>	Annex A: Speaking order and key biographical notes

**SPEAKING ORDER AND KEY BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

**ANNEX A**

**Ms Johanna Miki-Leitner - Governor of Lower Austria**

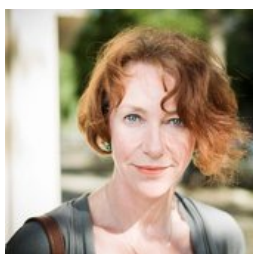


Since Apr 2017: Governor of Lower Austria  
2016 – 2017: Vice-Governor of Lower Austria  
2011 – 2016: Minister of the Interior  
2010 – 2011: Vice-President, Assembly of European Regions  
2003 – 2011: Regional Minister for Labour and Social Affairs

**@vpnoeat**

**Ms Ulrike Guérot - Danube University Krems**

**@ulrikeguerot**



Since Apr 2016: Head of the Department for European Policy and Study of Democracy, Danube University Krems.

Sep 2014: Founded European Democracy Lab (EDL), which is attached to the European School of Governance, Berlin.

Apr 2013: Publishes paper titled “*Manifesto for a European Republic*”.

2007 – 2013: Director of the Berlin office of the European Council on Foreign Relations.

1995 – 1996: Director of Communication, Association for the Monetary Union of Europe.

----- [CABINET SECRETARY FIONA HYSLOP] -----

**Ms Ekaterina Zaharieva – Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs**



Since May 2017: Minister for Foreign Affairs  
2015 – 2017: Minister of Justice  
2013 – 2014: Minister of Regional Development and Public Works  
2013 – 2015: Chief of Staff to the President of the Bulgarian Republic

**@MFABulgaria**

**Dr Wolfgang Brandstetter – Austrian Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Justice**



Since May 2017: Vice-Chancellor of the Republic of Austria

Since 2013: Federal Minister of Justice

Since 2007 Head of Institute, Vienna University of Economics and Business

1998 – 2007 Professor of Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure at the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology, University of Vienna

**MODERATOR**

**Mr Paul Lendvai - Journalist**



Born 1929 in Budapest to Jewish parents. He moved to Austria in the 1950s and has since become an Austrian citizen.

He is Co-Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the *Europäische Rundschau*, the Vienna based international quarterly on East-West relations. He is also host of regular monthly discussions on Austrian TV about developments in Europe and writes a weekly column for the Vienna daily *Der Standard*.



## BRIEFING NOTE 8

**Meeting with Dr Wolfgang Brandstetter – Austrian Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Justice****11 JUNE 2017, 13:00 – 14:00 (OVER LUNCH)**

<b>Key Messages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [REDACTED]</li> <li>• Keen to deepen Austria-Scotland links.</li> <li>• The Scottish Government is committed to deepening its relations with its European partners in spite of Brexit.</li> <li>• In June 2016, Scotland voted to remain in the EU and we welcome this outcome.</li> <li>• The people of Scotland must have a choice and the chance to decide their future in a democratic way once the terms of the Brexit deal are known.</li> <li>• Scotland's aim is to be an EU Member thus guaranteeing membership of the Single Market and the associated four freedoms.</li> <li>• EU nationals remain welcome in Scotland. Their contribution to our economy, society and culture are greatly valued.</li> </ul>
<b>Who</b>	Wolfgang Brandstetter – Austrian Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Justice <b>[REDACTED] DHM in the British Embassy will sit in this meeting too.</b>
<b>What</b>	Courtesy meeting. [REDACTED]
<b>Where</b>	Göttweig Abbey, 3511 Stift Göttweig (Austria)
<b>Official Support</b>	[REDACTED] Head of European Relations [REDACTED] European Engagement
<b>Attached documents</b>	Annex A: Core Brief Annex B: Biography

**CORE BRIEF****ANNEX A**

[REDACTED]

**Top lines on Brexit and Justice**

- Over the past 40 years EU law has become woven into the fabric of UK and Scots Law. Acts passed by the Scottish Parliament must comply with EU Law. The UK currently 'opts-in' to EU justice measures which are assessed as being of clear benefit.
- Brexit will impact directly on Scotland's independent justice system, justice agencies and access to justice. Justice matters, including civil, criminal and family law, are largely devolved.
- Since the outcome of the referendum, we have urged UKG to work with us so we can provide clarity and certainty on co-operation measures between the UK and other EU member states, as these have a direct impact on Scotland's independent justice system. There have been regular meetings at senior official level but no willingness from UKG to engage in meaningful collaboration on strategic priorities, contingency planning or the detailed impacts of Brexit on the justice system.
- The jurisdiction of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) is welcomed by the Scottish Government and is respected and valued by Scotland's justice agencies and legal professionals. EU Law and the role of the CJEU provide vital protections and clarity to the people of Scotland, in areas such as employment law, consumer protection and discrimination.
- The Scottish Government strongly believe that people and business should continue to have access to the jurisdiction of the CJEU and the protections it provides.

[REDACTED]

**Austria-Scotland links**

- Scottish exports to Austria totaled £100 million in 2015.
- The 70<sup>th</sup> EIF will mark Rudolf Bing, an Austrian Jew who escaped the Nazis to settle in the UK in the 1930s. He was the first director of the EIF.

**Austrian Community in Scotland**

- According to the 2011 census, there are 826 Austrians living in Scotland. Many of the work in Scottish universities and research agencies.

**Key upcoming and recent Ministerial engagement with Austria**

- In August 2017, the Austrian Ambassador to the UK, Dr Martin Eichinger, will host a pre-concert lunch and attend a performance of My Musical Life by Austrian pianist and poet Alfred Brendel at the Kings Theatre as part of the Edinburgh International Festival. You will be invited to attend.
- November 2016, Dr Allan visited Vienna and met with Dr Michael Linhart, Secretary-General of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- August 2016, you met with the Austrian Ambassador to the UK, HE Martin Eichinger, in London

**BIOGRAPHY**

**ANNEX B**

**DR WOLFGANG BRANDSTETTER –Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Justice**



**Date of Birth:** 07 October 1957

**Place of Birth:** Haag, Austria

Married, 3 children

**Professional and Political Career:**

- Since May 2017 Vice-Chancellor of the Republic of Austria
- Since 2013 Federal Minister of Justice
- Since 2007 Head of Institute of Austrian and European Criminal Business Law, Vienna University of Economics and Business
- 1998 – 2007 Professor for Criminal Law and Law of Criminal Procedure at the Institute of Criminal Law and Criminology, University of Vienna
- 1984 – 1998 Teaching Assignment at the University of Vienna
- 1993 – 2013 Defence Lawyer

**Dr Brandstetter is a member of Kurz's ÖVP.**

## BRIEFING NOTE 9

## Meeting with Ms Ekaterina Zaharieva – Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria

11 JUNE 2017, TIME TBC

<b>Key Messages</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• [REDACTED]</li> <li>• The Scottish Government is committed to deepening its relations with its European partners in spite of Brexit.</li> <li>• In June 2016, Scotland voted to remain in the EU and we welcome this outcome.</li> <li>• The people of Scotland must have a choice and the chance to decide their future in a democratic way once the terms of the Brexit deal are known.</li> <li>• Scotland's aim is to be an EU Member thus guaranteeing membership of the Single Market and the associated four freedoms.</li> <li>• EU nationals remain welcome in Scotland. Their contribution to our society, culture and economy is greatly valued.</li> </ul>
<b>Who</b>	Ms Ekaterina Zaharieva – Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria
<b>What</b>	Courtesy meeting  [REDACTED]
<b>Why</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Where</b>	Göttweig Abbey
<b>Social Media</b>	@MFABulgaria
<b>Official Support</b>	[REDACTED] Head of European Relations [REDACTED] European Engagement
<b>Attached documents</b>	Annex A: Core Brief Annex B: Biography Annex C: Bulgaria and the EU Annex D: Bulgaria – Country Profile

**CORE BRIEF**

**ANNEX A**

**Bulgaria will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union between January and June 2018, a crucial phase of the Brexit negotiations. It will be the first time that Bulgaria has held the Presidency since its accession to the EU in 2007.**

**In 2017 Bulgaria celebrates the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its accession to the EU.**

[REDACTED]

**Cultural Links with Bulgaria**

- The city of Plovdiv in Bulgaria will European Capital of Culture for 2019. Dundee has expressed an interest in bidding to become European Capital of Culture in 2023.
- Bulgaria is a member of the UNESCO Creative Cities network with Sophia – City of Film. Scotland has three Creative Cities: Edinburgh – City of Literature; Glasgow – City of Music; Dundee – City of Design.
- The Titanic Orchestra, by one of Bulgaria’s leading playwrights Hristo Boytchev, featured at the 2015 Edinburgh Fringe Festival and saw John Hannah return to the Scottish stage for the first time in 25 years to play Harry Houdini in this comedy of illusion.
- Scottish band the Red Hot Chilli Pipers opened the 20th annual Salon of Arts at the Sofia National Palace of Culture in May 2015.

[REDACTED]

**Recent Ministerial engagement with Bulgaria**

- February 2017 – Dr Allan attended a business event to celebrate 10 years of EU membership for Bulgaria and Romania. At this event the Minister met with Tanya Koicheva, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Bulgarian Embassy in London.
- November 2016 – You and the First Minister met the Bulgarian Ambassador, HE Mr Konstantin Stefanov Dimitrov, at Ambassador’s lunch hosted by Slovakian Ambassador in London.

**BIOGRAPHY**

**ANNEX B**

**MS EKATERINA ZAHARIEVA – Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria**



**Born:** 1975, Pazardjik (Bulgaria)

**Education:** MA in Law from University of Plovdiv "*Paisii Hilendarski*".

Specialized at the National School of Administration in Paris, the European Commission for Democracy through Law (the Venice Commission) of the Council of Europe, the Institute of Public Administration in Dublin, Ireland.

**Professional experience:**

- Since May 2017: Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria
- Since March 2017: Member of Parliament from Political Party GERB
- 2015 – 2017: Minister of Justice
- 2013 – 2014: Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Regional Development and Public Works
- 2013 – 2015: Chief of Staff to the President of the Republic of Bulgaria
- 2012 – 2013: General Secretary of Administration of President Rossen Plevneliev
- 2009 – 2013: Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works
- 2003 – 2009: Legal Advisor and Director of the Legal Directorate in the Ministry of Environment and Waters
- 2001 – 2003: Attorney-at-law practice

## BULGARIA AND THE EU

## ANNEX C

[REDACTED]

**Former Bulgarian President Rossen Plevneliev** described the UK vote to leave the European Union as a bad day for Europe. *"I deeply regret the Brexit result, that nationalists and populists triumph in the streets of Europe"*. Plevneliev, in further messages on Twitter, said that Brexit was a clear sign of the unlearnt lessons of the past, a country isolating itself from Europe and closing off its island (24 June 2016).

**Former Bulgarian Prime Minister Boiko Borissov** said that the EU must now show that it can go on without the UK. He also said that there should be no talks about special status *"because that would break the union"* (28 June 2016).

**Chair of the Bulgarian Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, Gemma Grozdanova**, said that Brexit *"will be a problem for Britain itself, because of the effect not only on the EU, but the effect on their country too. You know that in Scotland there was a referendum (on independence), and Northern Ireland too will have the opportunity to launch this topic"* (24 June 2016).

**Former Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Daniel Mitov** said, *"we regret the British people's decision, but we must respect their will and be cautious because almost half of them voted to remain in the EU"* (28 June 2016).

**Bulgarian member of the European Parliament Andrey Kovachev**, asked in a media interview whether other countries would follow the UK's example, said that Britain would emerge as bad example not to be followed because of what was expected to happen to its currency and economy (28 June 2016).

[REDACTED]



**BULGARIA - COUNTRY PROFILE**

**ANNEX D**

**Full name:** Republic of Bulgaria

**Population:** 7.4 million (2015)

**Capital:** Sofia

**Main exports:** fuels, manufactured goods, machinery and transport equipment

**GNI per capita:** US \$ 17,880 (2015)

**National Day:** 3 March (1888)

**Government:**

President: Rumen Radev (since January 2017)

Prime Minister: Boyko Borissov, since July 2009 (re-elected May 2017)

Minister for Foreign Affairs: Ms Ekaterina Zaharieva (since May 2017)

Minister for Culture: Mr Boil Banov (since May 2017)

**Parliament:**

Unicameral - National Assembly: 240 seats

**EU membership:** since 2007

**Number of MEPs:** 17

**Presidency of the Council of the EU:** Holds the presidency in January-June 2018

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

AUSTRIA AND THE EU

NOTE 10

[REDACTED]

**Hans Schelling, Minister of Finance**, said that Northern Ireland and Scotland would not fully leave the EU and that "*Great Britain will become little Britain*" (11/07/2016).

**Sebastian Kurz, Minister of Foreign Affairs**, released a statement a few minutes after the Art. 50 letter was officially delivered. He said: "*The EU must not become smaller and weaker after Britain's exit. We need a policy change. [...] Brexit has shown that the fears and anxieties of the citizens need to be taken seriously. We therefore need to strengthen subsidiarity [...] Approx. 25,000 Austrians are living in Britain at the moment. They deserve the fastest possible clarification of their legal status. This will be an important subject in the negotiations right from the beginning*" (29/03/2017)

**Austrian President Alexander Van der Bellen** addressed MEPs and gave a passionate speech in support of the EU. During his speech he said: "*The European idea is great. It is unique. It is worth all the effort*" (14/02/2017).

[REDACTED]

## PRIORITIES FOR EU REFORM

The Austrian Government, and particularly MFA Sebastian Kurz, have repeatedly urged the EU to take Brexit as an opportunity to launch a strong and effective programme of reforms. The Austrian priorities are:

- Strengthening cooperation around Foreign, Security and Defence policies;
- Securing external borders;
- Revising European refugee policies, particularly resettlement programmes;
- Making better use of the subsidiarity principle, leaving it to single Member States to regulate areas that are better handled at a national level;
- Reducing red tape;
- Reducing the number of European Commissioners and appointing them on a rotational basis.

Overall, Austria believes the EU should be stronger and more united on major international issues such as defence and migration but should withdraw from smaller policy areas, allowing for national or even regional solutions.

In 2015, Austria received almost 90,000 applications for asylum, the highest per capita number of refugees in Europe and the third-highest in absolute terms. The number of asylum applications more than halved in 2016 but the Austrian Government continues to consider it too high.

Accordingly, Austria has asked to change the rules governing Europe's passport-free Schengen zone so that border controls, originally introduced at the height of the 2015 migrant crisis, can be kept in place indefinitely. Interior Minister Wolfgang Sobotka stated that *“as long as the European Union is not in a position to protect its external borders, Austria will rely on national measures”* (26/04/2017).

Vienna is also seeking an exemption or postponement of the EU refugee distribution program. The European Commission, however, has rejected the Austrian request and the country is now expected to accept 2,000 migrants currently hosted by Greece and Italy.

## T&amp;I CORE BRIEF ON AUSTRIA

## NOTE 11

AUSTRIA CORE T&I BRIEF		
	Key Fact	Supporting Information
Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>8.59m</b> (May 2017) Growth rate: <b>+0.29%</b> (2016).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ageing population - shortage of skilled workers.</li> </ul>
Governance & Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief of State: <b>Alexander Van Der Bellen</b> (Since January 2017)</li> <li>• Head of Government: Chancellor <b>Christian Kern</b> (Since May 2016)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Federal republic.</li> <li>• Multi-party system that is dominated by Social Democratic Party of Austria (SPÖ), the Austrian People's Party (ÖVP) and the Freedom Party of Austria (FPÖ).</li> <li>• Strong regional government through the Länder.</li> <li>• <b>83,871 sq. km.</b></li> </ul>
Air Routes and Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Daily flights.</li> <li>• Austrian nationals made <b>19,715</b> visits to Scotland in 2016 spending <b>£13.21m.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct flights from Jet2, British Airways and EasyJet.</li> </ul>
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GDP PPP</b> <b>£319.43bn / €369.65bn</b> (2016 est.)</li> <li>• Growth rate: <b>1.4%</b> (2016 est.)</li> <li>• 2016 unemployment rate: <b>6.1%</b> (est.)</li> <li>• Budget deficit <b>-1.4%</b> of GDP (2016)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>14<sup>th</sup></b> richest country in the world in terms of GDP per capita, has a well-developed social market economy, and a high standard of living.</li> <li>• According to the <b>2016-17</b> Global Competitiveness Report, Austria is the <b>19<sup>th</sup> most competitive country in the World.</b></li> <li>• Austria's economic output is <b>29%</b> above the EU average. Austria is ranked <b>10<sup>th</sup></b> in the EU with respect to its GDP/capita.</li> <li>• Austria can be seen as a door into the Central Europe market (Vienna is marketing itself as such).</li> </ul>
Scottish Links	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No</b> GlobalScots.</li> <li>• <b>370</b> Austrian students studied in Scotland academic year 15/16.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Burns night in Vienna - <b>Robert Burns Society</b> based in Vienna.</li> <li>• Sports &amp; cultural events organised by the <b>Vienna Highlanders.</b></li> <li>• Close links exist between Scots and Austrian German language.</li> </ul>
Scottish (direct) exports to Austria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>£100m</b> in 2015</li> <li>• <b>£225m</b> in 2014</li> <li>• <b>£115m</b> in 2013</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total international exports Scotland to Austria in 2015 – <b>0.4%</b> of total international exports.</li> <li>• Top 3 industries are: <b>Mining and quarrying</b> – value unavailable. <b>Other Services</b> - <b>£10m.</b> <b>Coke, refined petroleum products, chemicals and chemical products</b> - <b>£10m</b></li> </ul>
FDI from Austria to UK/Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are <b>15</b> Austrian enterprises, with <b>45</b> local units (shops, offices, etc), in Scotland, which employ <b>550</b> and have a combined turnover of <b>£94m.</b></li> </ul>	

<b>Austrian Companies in Scotland</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trodat UK, Austria HQ'd</b>, has operations in Paisley employing <b>49 FTE</b>. A World leader in self-inking stamps.</li> <li>• <b>Andritz Hydro Hammerfest (UK) Ltd</b>, HQ in Graz, has operations in Glasgow employing <b>15 FTE</b>. A global supplier of electro-mechanical systems and services for hydropower plants and a leader in the world market for hydraulic power.</li> <li>• <b>Egger UK LTD</b>, Austria HQ'd, has operations in Auchinleck, employing <b>117 FTE</b> providing advanced design and structural flooring systems.</li> <li>• <b>Schoeller-Bleckmann Darron</b> has had a site in Aberdeen for <b>20+</b> years, providing manufacturing and repair services for an extensive range of drilling products utilised in the Oil &amp; Gas sector.</li> <li>• <b>Swietelsky Construction Ltd</b>, HQ'd in Linz, has operations in Glasgow providing specialist engineering services focusing on railway plant operation and maintenance in support of Network Rail and other rail industry customers. The company also operates a JV in Blantyre with Babcock Rail Ltd, <b>FSP Ltd</b>, providing retail property consulting.</li> </ul>
<b>Recent Trade activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SDI assisted 22</b> Scottish businesses to market in <b>2014/15</b>, <b>37</b> in <b>2013/14</b> and <b>47</b> in <b>2012/13</b>.</li> <li>• According to SDI's 2015 Emerging Europe Comparison map, the number of <b>UKTI Overseas Market Introduction Service (OMIS)</b> cases received in relation to Austria was <b>191</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Recent economic news</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Focus Economics:</b> After ending 2016 on a positive note, the Austrian economy performed even better in the first quarter of this year. <b>GDP growth accelerated in Q1</b> to an over <b>5-year high</b>, mainly on the back of robust domestic demand, with the external sector also performing well thanks to stronger economic activity in the Eurozone. The positive <b>trend is expected to continue throughout the year. (2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017)</b></li> <li>• The Austrian market is of low-priority to <b>SDI</b> owing to the scale of opportunity for Scottish business in market, an expanded European presence will however continue to explore opportunities from the new <b>Berlin hub</b> opening <b>late 2017</b>.</li> </ul>

**AUSTRIA – CULTURAL LINKS****NOTE 12****Governmental Priorities:**

- 13 May 2016: For five days in February, 58 artists, activists, urban planners, and policymakers from 28 different countries came together in Salzburg, Austria for the program: *Beyond Green: The Arts as Catalyst for Sustainability* to promote social, economic, and environmental sustainability through the arts and cultural innovation.

**Historical Links**

- In 2005, a concert was held in Edinburgh's Signet Library to celebrate Austria's National Day – in a year which marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the State Treaty when Austria regained its sovereignty. The evening which celebrated Scottish/Austrian links was attended by the then Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport and featured a special concert of Scottish songs composed by Austrian Joseph Haydn for Scottish musician George Thomson in 1799.

**2017**

- **Austrian Ambassador to the UK**, Dr Martin Eichinger, will host a pre-concert lunch and attend a performance of *My Musical Life* by Austrian pianist and poet Alfred Brendel at the Kings Theatre as part of the **Edinburgh International Festival**.
- The **2017, the Edinburgh International Festival will mark Rudolf Bing**, an Austrian Jew who escaped the Nazis to settle in the UK in the 1930s. As the founding director of the Edinburgh International Festival in 1947, his belief in the power of culture to make connections and build bridges between people of all nations was a hugely powerful symbol of hope and reconciliation. The 2017 International Festival will mark Rudolf Bing's extraordinary vision, both through events which reflect his original programme in 1947 and through a celebration of the ideals of internationalism and welcome which continue to resonate to this day.
- The Austrian Embassy and Austrian Cultural Forum in London have contacted SG officials to seek advice on possible venues in Edinburgh for a photographic exhibition featuring pictures by **Austrian Jew photographer Erich Lessing**. We have contacted a number of venues and galleries. The University of Edinburgh confirmed they might have capacity to host the exhibition, which is likely to be held in summer/autumn 2017.

**2016**

- **Live Music Now (LMN)** Scotland has been working to strengthen its European network, including through the European Music Council and the European Federation of National Youth Orchestras. LMN Scotland was invited to attend the annual network meeting of the German and Austrian branches of the organisation which ran over 4-7 November in Augsburg (near Munich). The meeting featured international collaboration as a main agenda item.

**Edinburgh International Festival**

- Austrian principal clarinettist Andreas Ottensamer joined forces with the Hungarian Kelemen Quartet to perform Mozart and Brahms quintets at the Queen's Hall on 16 August.

- Austrian baritone Florian Boesch joined with Scottish pianist Malcolm Martineau to perform Schubert's Dis schone Mullerin at the Queens Hall on 25 August.

## 2015

- At this year's **Edinburgh International Festival**, celebrated Austrian pianist Rudolf Buchbinder performed Beethoven's 32 piano sonatas across nine concerts, at Edinburgh's Playfair Library Hall.
- Two Austrian produced films were shown at this year's **Edinburgh International Film Festival**; *Therapy for a Vampire* and *Rough Road Ahead*.

## 2014

- Minetti, the Austrian author Thomas Bernhard's play about an ageing actor ran at the Royal Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh in August 2014 as part of the **Edinburgh International Festival**. The production was collaboration between the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, London, and The Juilliard School, New York.

## AUSTRIA – COUNTRY PROFILE

NOTE 13

**Full name:** Republic of Austria

**Population:** 8.6 million (2015)

**Capital:** Vienna

**Area:** 32,386 sq. mi.

**Main exports:** machinery, vehicles, pharmaceutical, plastic

**GNI per capita:** US \$ 47,260 (2015)

**National Day:** 26 October (1955)

### **Government:**

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

Federal President: Dr Alexander Van der Bellen (January 2017)

Federal Chancellor: Mr Christian Kern (May 2016)

Minister for Foreign Affairs: Mr Sebastian Kurz (December 2013)

Minister for Culture: Mr Thomas Drozda (May 2016)

### **Parliament:**

National Council: 183 seats

Federal Council: 61 seats

With regard to most issues, the Federal Council only possesses a dilatory right of veto which can be overridden by the National Council.

**EU membership:** since 1995

**Number of MEPs:** 18

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

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**TOP LINES ON BREXIT AND INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM**

**NOTE 14**

The next two years are hugely important in determining what kind of country Scotland will become; the people of Scotland should have a final choice on our future

- Both the EU and the UK have said the deal on the terms of the UK leaving the EU and Single Market will be completed by October 2018.
- The Scottish Parliament has passed a motion agreeing a mandate for a second referendum on independence for Scotland to be held between the autumn of 2018 and the spring of 2019, once the terms of the Brexit deal are known
- The First Minister has made a formal approach to the UK Government with regard to taking forward the Section 30 process and will outline further steps to progress the mandate given by the Scottish Parliament should this approach be rejected by the UK Government.

The UK Government did not meet its commitment to reach a UK wide agreement before Article 50 was triggered

- In December 2016, the Scottish Government offered a compromise plan so that, within the UK, Scotland could stay in the Single Market, even if it came out of the EU. The UK Government has rejected these compromise proposals.
- It is disappointing that the Prime Minister triggered Article 50 without any meaningful consultation with the Scottish Government or consideration of the compromise proposals presented in 'Scotland's Place in Europe.'
- As the terms of reference of the Joint Ministerial Committee on EU Negotiations make clear, all four UK Governments should have oversight of the negotiations to ensure, as far as possible, that agreed outcomes are secured.
- To date, the Scottish Government considers that the UK Government has not kept to the terms of reference of the Joint Ministerial Committee on EU Negotiations that was established in the aftermath of the EU referendum.

The Scottish Government's long-standing policy and commitment has been to membership of the European Union

- There was a 62 % vote for Remain in the EU referendum in Scotland.
- Before the EU referendum, HM Treasury said Brexit would make the UK "permanently poorer". The UK Government's stance on Brexit presents a highly significant threat to jobs and prosperity in Scotland.
- The Scottish Government will continue to do all it can to protect Scotland's interests in Europe during the UK's negotiations to leave the European Union.

**EU COMMISSION WHITE PAPER ON THE FUTURE OF THE EU****NOTE 15**

On 1 March 2017, the European Commission published its White Paper on the Future of the EU. This followed the adoption of three papers in the European Parliament plenary session on 16 February on what direction it would like the EU to take. The Commission White Paper outlines five scenarios for the future of the European Union. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker addressed the European Parliament during the opening debate of the plenary session, and outlined the scenarios in the Paper, entitled “carrying on,” “nothing but the single market,” “those who want more do more,” “doing less more efficiently,” and “doing much more together.”

**This is a summary of the principle points of the debate and of the White Paper.**

**European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker:**

The starting point for the White Paper is: it’s time we make clear what EU can and cannot do. In this White Paper we set out 5 scenarios. They are all under discussion, and we must look at where they would lead, individually.

1. **“Carrying on as before.”** We have come a long way and can keep going in this direction, where the EU looks to regulate less and have more focus.
2. **“Nothing but the Single Market.”** If more and more Member States want to reduce the Commission to a mere moderator, this would be the only solution, though it is not preferred by the Commission. The EU is more than just markets, goods and money, but it is a possibility.
3. **“Those who want more do more.”** This scenario would see some ‘leading’ Member States move EU policies forward. New measures would be installed and not all Members need to sign up to these. The aim would be to have incremental adherence to new policies. This is the coalition for the willing, and should allow the EU to move forward.
4. **“Doing less more efficiently.”** This is the “less is more” approach. We could decide to do more in a smaller number of areas, where our EU measures would have real added value, where people rightly expect more of us.
5. **“Doing much more together.”** Member States could share more power and resources and share policies. This would ensure that the EU become a world leader in areas such as climate protection, sustainable development, defence, further contributions. Putting the EU forward on the world front.

The European Commission will not voice its support for one or the other option. We have no absolute preference for the exclusion of except option 2, and we in any case are not alone in shaping the future of the EU. It is up to your national parliaments, governments and civil society, and to the citizens, to decide what is to happen to the future of the EU.

**Summary of EC White Paper****Purpose**

The White Paper is the European Commission’s contribution to the debate on the future of the European Union.

Launches a process of further debate amongst the European Parliament, national Parliaments, local and regional authorities and civil society in the months ahead.

### **Introduction**

Outlines the history of European integration from its origins in vision of a peaceful, shared future to an enlarged and strengthened union, with 70 years of lasting peace and 500m citizens living in freedom in one of the world's most prosperous economies.

Outlines the benefits that the EU has achieved for its citizens, its current challenges and its capacity to evolve in the face of such challenges.

Highlights need for long-term strategy built on common perspective and shared conviction that by coming together, each of us will be better off.

### **Drivers of Europe's future**

This section outlines that while Europe has many strengths, it faces a number of challenges in the years ahead.

These challenges include: falling share of the world population, reduction in share of global GDP, increasing global threats (from cyber-attacks to more traditional forms of aggression), threats to trade and multilateralism, legacy of the economic crisis, future of social Europe, ageing population, new ways of working and digitisation, decarbonisation, security and migration and trust in and legitimacy of the EU and responding to 24/7 news cycle.

[REDACTED]

## European Commission's White Paper on the Future of Europe: Reflection papers on key issues

NOTE 15A

### Summary

The European Commission published a White Paper on 1 March 2017 outlining five scenarios for the future of the European Union: 'carrying on', 'nothing but the single market', 'those who want to do more', 'doing less more efficiently' and 'doing much more together'.

Following the launch of this discussion on the Future of Europe - which was timed to coincide with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Treaty of Rome - the Commission has begun to publish a series of reflection papers. These are intended to inform and enrich the debate by focussing on major issues which will affect the future shape of the EU:

- **the social dimension of Europe by 2025 (published on 26/4/17)**
- **harnessing globalisation (published on 10/5/17)**
- **deepening the Economic and Monetary Union (published on 31/5/17)**
- **the future of Europe's defence (published on 7/6/17); and**
- **the future of EU finances (not yet published)**

The Commission envisages wide-ranging consultation on the future of Europe over the next 18 months so that a plan can be presented to the people of Europe in time for the European Parliament elections in June 2019.

### Detail

#### 1. The social dimension of Europe by 2025

The reflection paper considers what kind of social dimension do we want for Europe in the future and what actions should be taken at the European level to achieve this. The paper sets out three possible future options:

- **Limiting the social dimension to free movement:** Under this option, the Union would keep rules to promote cross-border movements of people in place, such as rules on social security rights of mobile citizens, on posting of workers, on cross-border health care and the recognition of diplomas. However, there would no longer be EU minimum standards on, for instance, health and safety for workers, working and rest time, or maternity and paternity leave. Europe would no longer foster opportunities for Member States to exchange best practices in the fields of education, health, culture and sports, and social and regional reconversion programmes in the Member States that are co-funded by EU money would have to be discontinued or funded nationally.
- **Those who want to do more in the social field do more:** different groups of countries could decide to do more together in the social field. These could be the countries sharing the euro as a single currency, in order to preserve the strength and stability of the euro area and to avoid abrupt adjustments in the living standards of its citizens, or any other possible configuration of participating countries that could focus on other issues.

- **The EU27 deepen the social dimension of Europe together:** while the centre of gravity for action in the social field should and would remain with national and local authorities, the EU would explore ways to further support Member State action, making full use of all instruments in its toolbox. Legislation would not only set minimum standards but, in selected areas, could fully harmonise citizens' rights across the EU, with the aim of focusing on social convergence in social outcomes.

## 2. Harnessing globalisation

The reflection paper considers the benefits and challenges of globalisation to EU businesses and citizens and how these can be harnessed in the future, specifically:

- **On the external front,** the paper focuses on the need to shape a truly sustainable global order, based on shared rules and a common agenda. The EU has always stood for a strong and effective 'multilateral' global rulebook and should continue to develop it in a way that addresses new challenges and ensures effective enforcement. For example, the EU could push for new rules to create a level-playing field by addressing harmful and unfair behaviour like tax evasion, government subsidies or social dumping. Effective trade defence instruments and a multilateral investment court could also help the EU act decisively against countries or companies that engage in unfair practices.
- **On the domestic front,** the paper suggests tools to protect and empower citizens through robust social policies and providing the necessary education and training support throughout their lives. Progressive tax policies, investing in innovation and strong welfare policies could all help redistribute wealth more fairly. Meanwhile, use of EU structural funds to assist vulnerable regions and to help displaced workers find another job can help mitigate negative impacts.

## 3. Deepening the Economic and Monetary Union

The reflection paper proposes future action in three main areas:

- **Completing a genuine Financial Union:** the Commission argues that an integrated and well-functioning financial system is essential for an effective and stable Economic and Monetary Union and that a consensus needs to be found on the way forward. This includes moving ahead with elements that are already on the table and agreeing on additional steps to take between now and 2025. This will involve completing the Banking Union and making progress on reducing and sharing risks in the banking sector, with measures to make European banks even more resilient. In order to provide more diverse and innovative financing opportunities for the real economy, including through capital markets, delivering on Capital Markets Union is also paramount.
- **Achieving a more integrated Economic and Fiscal Union:** the recent Five Presidents' Report on this issue recognised the convergence towards more resilient economic and social structures in Member States as an essential element for a successful Economic and Monetary Union in the long run. Member States could strengthen already existing elements, such as the European Semester of economic policy coordination or the link of financial support from the EU budget to structural reforms. But Member States could also decide to improve the capacity of

macroeconomic stabilisation of the euro area. The paper outlines several different options for this, which the Commission will look into.

- **Anchoring democratic accountability and strengthening euro area institutions:** for the Economic and Monetary Union to be stronger, the Commission argues that Member States must accept to share more responsibilities and decisions on euro area matters, within a common legal framework. This could be through the EU Treaties and its institutions, an intergovernmental approach or, as is the case today, a mix of both. Further political integration could involve a rethinking of the balance between the Commission and the Eurogroup and could justify the appointment of a full-time permanent Eurogroup chair, as well as unifying the euro area's external representation. The idea of a euro area Treasury – possibly with a euro area budget – as well as a European Monetary Fund are also discussed in the public debate, and could be considered at a later stage of the deepening of Economic and Monetary Union, within the EU framework.

#### 4. The future of Europe's defence

The reflection paper sets out three possible scenarios for the future of EU defence:

- **Security and Defence Cooperation scenario:** EU countries would still decide on the need for security and defence cooperation on a voluntary and case-by-case basis, while the EU would continue to complement national efforts. Defence cooperation would be strengthened, but the EU's participation in the most demanding operations would remain limited. The new European Defence Fund would help develop some new joint capabilities but EU countries would still oversee the bulk of defence capabilities' development and procurement. EU/NATO cooperation would retain today's format and structure.
- **Shared Security and Defence scenario:** Under this more ambitious scenario EU countries would pool together certain financial and operational assets to increase solidarity in defence. The EU would also become more engaged in Europe's protection within and beyond its borders. It would take on a greater role in areas like cyber, border protection or the fight against terrorism, and strengthen the defence and security dimension of internal EU policies like energy, health, customs or space. This would be matched by a political will to act, as well as decision-making fit for a rapidly changing context. The EU and NATO would also increase mutual cooperation and coordinate across a full spectrum of issues.
- **Common Defence and Security scenario:** The most ambitious scenario foresees the progressive framing of a common Union defence policy, leading to common defence based on Article 42 of the EU Treaty which allows a group of like-minded Member States to take European defence to the next level. Under this scenario, EU countries would undertake greater commitments to each other's security, making Europe's protection a shared responsibility of the EU and NATO. The EU would be able to run high-end security and defence operations, underpinned by a certain level of integration of Member States' defence forces. The EU would support joint defence programmes with the European Defence Fund, as well as set up a dedicated European Defence Research Agency. This would also foster the creation of a genuine European defence market, able to protect its key strategic activities from external takeovers.

## MASS MIGRATION INTO THE EUROPEAN UNION

NOTE 16

**Key Facts and figures**

- So far in 2017, 71,933 people have arrived in Europe by sea. By the end of 2016, 362,753 people had arrived in Europe by sea – this means that 2016 saw fewer than half the arrivals compared with 2015 (1,015,078).
- Movement by land has slowed markedly following border closures and restrictions.
- Arrivals to Greece (173, 447 in 2016) fell sharply after the EU agreement with Turkey in March 2016, whereas arrivals to Italy (181,436 in 2016) have been increasing, with a sharp spike in late August 2016 when around 10,000 were rescued at sea over 3 days, after a spell of settled weather encouraged many attempted crossings.
- Criminal gangs charge exorbitant sums for places in unsafe vessels. There were 5,022 drownings, in 2016, an increase compared with 2015 (3735 for year). There are 1,778 dead or missing so far in 2017. This reflects the riskier nature of the voyage from North Africa and the increasingly dangerous methods employed by people-smugglers there – flimsier boats with just enough fuel to reach international waters, where migrants have to trust the hope of being picked up.
- EU's Dublin rules require arrivals to register and to claim asylum in their first country of arrival. But many seek to travel on to N and W European countries before claiming asylum.

**EU actions and reactions and UK participation**

- The **EU Agenda on Migration** (June 2015) covers: relocation/resettlement; returns; cooperation with countries of origin and transit and action against people smugglers. UK participation is limited.
- An **Action Plan against Migrant Smuggling** accompanies the EU Agenda. UK participates in actions under this Plan, with Royal Navy assets in the Mediterranean and intelligence sharing. NATO participates in the Aegean, and in July agreed to establish a new operation to collaborate with the EU's operation in the central Mediterranean.
- The EU has created arrangements for **relocation** of 160,000 arrivals in Greece and Italy to other parts of the EU, with national quotas. 18,418 persons have been relocated to date. The number of persons relocated so far in 2017 is almost as many as in the whole of 2016. UK has not opted in, but has provided financial support for migrants in Greek camps.
- The EU also has a **resettlement** target of 22,504 persons in need of international protection. So far 16,163 have been resettled (as at May 2017).
- UK has set up its own national scheme to resettle 20,000 from Syrian refugee camps over 5 years.
- The **EU agreement with Turkey** provides for returning those who land in Greece or are intercepted at sea, with 1-for-1 resettlement of one Syrian from a Turkish camp in return for each Syrian irregular migrant returned.
- Turkey hosts the largest refugee population in the world (over 3 million refugees) and the agreement led to a significant reduction of the numbers of refugees arriving in Greece from Turkey.
- The EU are funding the "EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey" which provides €3 billion to address needs of refugees and host communities with humanitarian and development assistance in 2016 and 2017.

- 70 fatalities and missing persons have been recorded in the Aegean Sea since the EU-Turkey Statement (as at March 2017). This represents a substantial fall from the around 1,100 people who died over the same period in 2015-2016.
- **Daily crossings** from Turkey to the Greek islands went down from 10,000 persons in a single day in October 2015 to 43 a day in March 2017. Overall, arrivals had dropped by 98% in March 2017.
- Frontier tensions within the EU have caused problems for the **Schengen free travel zone** and the EU have changed the Schengen rules to allow longer periods of border closure. Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Austria, and Norway have all temporarily reintroduced border controls in the context of 'exceptional circumstances putting the overall functioning of the Schengen area at risk'.

### Top Lines

- **We strongly support a controlled and managed migration system and it is essential that we work with our European neighbours** on a shared approach to the challenges and opportunities that migration creates.
- **We have a moral obligation to offer a place of safety to desperate people fleeing conflict and persecution.** It is hugely disappointing that the UK Government has chosen not to partake fully in the EU's collective efforts, although we recognise the significant financial contribution it has made and its support for EU and for NATO marine operations.

### Additional lines - Working with Europe

- **There is much in EU actions that the Scottish Government can support:** such as the focus on taking action to save lives in the Mediterranean; action against criminal people-smuggling; the recognition that migration to Europe is a complex global issue with its roots in third countries; and the understanding that European cooperation – not isolation – is key.
- **We welcome UK support for humanitarian actions in Greece and in the wider Mediterranean, but urge the Prime Minister to reconsider her position and participate in EU-led relocation in respect of the many individuals in need of protection who have already made the hazardous journey to Europe.** In turn Scotland stands ready to welcome a proportionate share of those who desperately need our help.

### **Checklist of key UKG positions and actions:**

- UK strongly supports **collective EU action** but itself participates only on a selective basis
- UK does not take part in the EU's collective **relocation** scheme for irregular migrants who have already reached Europe.
- The UK is committed to **resettlement** of 20,000 refugees over 5 years from camps around Syria under an independent arrangement with UNHCR, not as part of the EU target.
- UK does not opt in to EU **return** arrangements with most third countries, preferring bilateral agreements.
- UK has played an active role in discussions with **African countries** of origin and transit to establish an action plan – essentially a deal linking development aid to increased efforts to manage migration towards the EU and to facilitate returns.
- UK is active in naval efforts to deter **irregular migration across the Mediterranean** which are combined with search and rescue activity.



**Lines to Take:**

- Our view remains that Scotland is in a stronger position to deliver the ambition of achieving smart, sustainable and inclusive growth as part of the EU family, rather than being outside of it.
- Following the UK vote to leave the EU, we published "*Scotland's Place in Europe*", a set of proposals which sought to maintain Scotland's place in the European Single Market, even if the remainder of the UK chose to leave.

**Background**

1. Europe 2020 is the EU's strategy for delivering smart, sustainable and inclusive growth over the period to 2020. It aligns closely with the Scottish Government's core Purpose of focusing government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth. The strategy sets out five key targets for the EU to achieve by the end of the decade. These relate to employment; research and innovation; climate change and energy sustainability; education; and fighting poverty and improving social inclusion.

2. EU Member States produce annual reports on their structural reform programmes and the progress they are making in delivering the Europe 2020 ambitions through their National Reform Programmes (NRPs). As part of this process, the Scottish Government has contributed to the development of the UK Government's NRP for 2017. However, in order to highlight the unique characteristics of Scotland and the distinct approach to the Europe 2020 ambitions that the Scottish Government is taking forward, we have once again produced a Scotland-specific NRP. The seventh Scottish National Reform Programme was published on 28 April 2017. See: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00517212.pdf>

**2017 Scottish NRP - Overview of Scottish Economy**

3. The Scottish economy remained resilient in 2016, in the face of ongoing external challenges and heightened levels of uncertainty following the EU referendum in June 2016. Scotland's economy grew 0.4% in 2016, and at the end of the year Scotland's GDP per head was 1.8% above its pre-recession level. Scotland's labour market has also remained resilient with latest data for December to February 2017 showing that the unemployment rate fell below that of the UK to 4.5% and Scotland's youth and female employment rates continued to outperform the UK average.

4. However, challenges facing the oil and gas industry and its supply chain from the low oil price continued in 2016, which alongside further slowing in the construction sector, and weakness in global growth, continued to weigh on growth in the Scottish economy.

5. The UK vote to leave the EU and the prospect of commencing exit negotiations in 2017 has been a source of significant uncertainty to the UK and Scottish economy. The fall in the value of Sterling has been the most visible impact on the economy to date, helping to boost export orders whilst contributing to the reintroduction of inflationary pressures.

6. Survey evidence signalled that business and consumer sentiment were impacted by the changing economic and political climate following the EU referendum. Whilst business optimism rebounded at the end of 2016, consumer sentiment remained negative in the second half of the year.

7. The economic outlook for Scotland is positive, however it is weaker on the back of the EU referendum with expectations that uncertainty and rising inflation will weigh on business and consumer activity. The Scottish Government forecast growth of 1% for Scotland in 2016-17 and 1.3% in 2017-18.

## Performance against Europe 2020 Headline Targets

### 7.1 Employment target

- Seventy five per cent of the EU population aged 20-64 should be employed.

#### Current Scottish Performance

Table 1 sets out Scotland's current performance against the Europe 2020 employment target:

**Table 1 - Current Scottish Performance Against Employment Indicators**

Indicator	Current Level	Change Over Year	Reference Period
Employment rate (population aged 20-64)	75.5%	0.1% decrease pt	2016
Female employment rate (population aged 20-64)	71.3%	0.8% decrease pt	2016
Male employment rate (population aged 20-64)	80.0%	0.6% pt increase	2016

Key points:

- Scotland's 20-64 overall employment rate is above the Europe 2020 target of 75%.
- There has been a 0.8% point decrease in the female employment rate for those aged 20-64 in Scotland.

### 7.2 Research and Innovation target

- To raise the combined public and private levels in research to three per cent of GDP.

#### Current Scottish Performance

Scotland's entrepreneurship, innovation and R&D performance is measured through a range of indicators, with Table 3 outlining current performance on key indicators.

**Table 2 - Current Scottish Performance against Entrepreneurship, Innovation and R&D Indicators**

Indicator	Current Level	Change Over Year	Reference Period
The total number of VAT/PAYE registered private sector enterprises in Scotland per 10,000 adults	390 businesses per 10,000 adults	Above the rate of 382 in the previous year	2016
Gross expenditure on research and development as a share of	1.46% of Scottish GDP (0.274% pts above the	Unchanged on the previous year	2015

GDP	baseline year of 2006)		
Weighted, inflation-adjusted index of the Scottish Funding Council's Knowledge Transfer Metrics	0.3% above the baseline year of 2007-08	7.9% below the previous year	2014-15
Proportion of innovation active businesses in Scotland	50.4%	7.1% pts above previous reference period (2010-12)	2012-14

Table 2 shows that:

- The 2016 registered business stock rate of 390 businesses per 10,000 adults represents an increase from the 2015 rate of 382 businesses per 10,000 adults. Note that the 2016 rate is the highest rate recorded since the start of the series in 2005.
- In 2015, Scotland's Gross Expenditure on R&D as a share of GDP was 1.46% (as it was in 2014) - however spend in 2015 was well above the 2006 baseline level.
- The knowledge exchange index is estimated to have fallen by 7.9 per cent between 2013-14 and 2014-15, driven by a decline in income from venturing. Since 2007-08 the index has remained relatively stable, with the current level at just 0.3% above the baseline year. However, fluctuations over time suggest that we should not read too much into one year's change in the index as some of the components can be quite volatile.
- The proportion of innovation active businesses in 2012-14 was 7.1 percentage points above the previous reference period (2010-12).

### 7.3 Climate Change and Energy Sustainability targets

- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent compared to 1990 levels (or by 30 per cent if conditions are right);
- Increasing the share of renewable energy sources in final energy consumption to 20 per cent; and
- A 20 per cent increase in energy efficiency

#### Current Scottish Performance

The Scottish Government has established a range of targets which are focused on driving Scotland's transition to a low carbon economy. Scotland's current performance against these targets is presented in Table 3.

**Table 3 - Current Scottish Performance Against Transition to a Low Carbon Economy Indicators**

Indicator	Target	Current Level	Change Over Year	Reference Period
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Reduce emissions by at least 42% by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050, compared to a 1990 base year	45.8% reduction from 1990 to 2014, after taking account of trading in the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)	12.5% decrease in emissions, after taking account of trading in the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS)	2014
Indigenous Renewable Energy Sources	Generate the equivalent of 100% of gross electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2020	59.4%	9.5% pts increase	2015
Heat Demand	11% of Scotland's heat demand from renewables by 2020	3.8%	1.1% pts increase	2014
Energy Efficiency	Reduce final energy end-use consumption by 12% by 2020 (against a 2005-2007 baseline)	15.2% lower than baseline	3.0% pts decrease in consumption	2014

Table 3 illustrates that Scotland is performing well against each of its low carbon targets. As Table 3 shows, Scotland has exceeded its own 42 per cent greenhouse gas emissions reduction target six years early; Scotland has now exceeded its interim target to produce 50 per cent of its gross electricity consumption from renewable sources; final energy end-use consumption is decreasing; and the share of Scotland's heat demand from renewables is increasing.

In January 2017, the Scottish Government set out proposals in a draft Climate Change Plan for meeting greenhouse gas emission reduction targets out to 2032 that represent a 66% reduction below 1990 levels. It also published a full statement of its ambitious long-term vision of energy supply and use in Scotland, aligned with greenhouse gas emissions reduction, in a draft Energy Strategy.

#### **7.4 Education targets**

Improving education levels, in particular by:

- Reducing the rate of early school leavers to 10 per cent from the current 15 per cent; and

- Increasing the share of the population aged 30-34 having completed tertiary or equivalent education to at least 40 per cent by 2020.

### Current Scottish Performance

Current Scottish performance against the headline EU targets and the relevant National Indicators to education is presented in Table 4.

**Table 4 - Current Scottish Performance Against Education Indicators**

Indicator	Current Level	Change Over Year	Reference Period
Proportion of 18-24 population who are early leavers from education and training	10.6%	1.4% pts decrease	2015
Share of the population aged 30-34 having completed tertiary education	58.2%	1.8% pts increase	2015
The proportion of young people in learning, training or work	92.0% of school leavers were in positive follow-up destinations	0.5% pts increase	2015-16
The proportion of graduates in positive destinations six months after graduating <sup>1</sup>	67.2%	0.4% pts decrease	2014-15
The proportion of working age adults that have low or no educational qualifications (SCQF Level 4 qualifications or below)	11.9%	0.7% pts increase in proportion of adults with low or no educational qualifications	2016

As indicated in Table 4, the share of the population aged 30-34 having completed tertiary education increased over the year and well exceeds the European Commission's target of 40 per cent; and the proportion of early school leavers decreased over the year to 2015 and is close to the Commission's target of 10 per cent.

### 7.5 Tackling poverty and increasing social inclusion target

- The number of Europeans living below the national poverty line should be reduced by 25 per cent, lifting over 20 million people out of poverty.

### Current Scottish Performance

Progress in Scotland in this area is measured through the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework, which includes measures relevant to poverty and social inclusion. Scotland's current performance is presented in Table 5.

**Table 5 - Current Scottish Performance Against Poverty and Social Inclusion Indicators**

Indicator	Current Level	Change Over Year	Reference Period
Solidarity target: <i>"Increase the proportion of income earned by the three lowest income deciles as a group by 2017"</i>	115	Increased from 111.6	2014-15
Reduce the proportion of individuals living in poverty - this is measured in terms of the percentage of people living in relative poverty (below 60 per cent of UK median income before housing costs)	15.0% of the population in relative poverty	1% pts increase	2014-15
Reduce children's deprivation National Indicator - this is measured in terms of percentage of children in combined material deprivation (based on a suite of questions in the Family Resources Survey) and low income (below 70 per cent of UK median income)	10% of children in combined material deprivation	3% pts decrease	2014-15

As indicated in Table 5, the share of income earned by the lowest four income deciles and the proportion of the population in relative poverty has remained broadly unchanged in recent years, while the share of children living in combined material deprivation decreased over the year to 2014-15.

**EXPORTS STATISTICS SCOTLAND 2015****NOTE 18****Key Findings**

- Scotland's international exports (excluding oil and gas) increased by £1 billion (3.6%) from £27.7 billion in 2014 to £28.7 billion in 2015.
- International exports to countries within the European Union (EU) were estimated at £12.3 billion, which is 43% of total international exports. This is an increase of £520 million from the previous year (4.4%). The increase was driven by a rise in the export of petroleum and chemical products.
- Within the EU, the Netherlands (£2.3 billion) was again, the largest market, followed by France (£1.8 billion) and Germany (£1.8 billion).
- International exports to non-EU countries were estimated at £16.4 billion, which is 57% of total international exports. This is an increase of £485 million from the previous year (3.0%).
- Scottish exports to the rest of the UK in 2015 (excluding oil and gas) are estimated at £49.8 billion, an increase of £2.1 billion (4.4%) over the year. This increase was driven by an increase in the export of utilities (electricity, gas, water etc). The rest of the UK continues to be Scotland's largest market for exports as the figure is £21.1 billion higher than the estimated total for international exports.
- Service sector exports from Scotland are of greater importance to the rest of the UK than internationally as more than half (55%) of the rest of the UK exports are services compared to 38% of international exports.
- Total international and rest of the UK exports in 2015 (excluding oil and gas) are estimated at £78.6 billion, up £3.1 billion (4.1%) in the year. Exports to the rest of the UK accounted for 63% of this total, EU exports accounted for 16% and non-EU exports 21%.
- The USA continues to be Scotland's top trading partner (£4.6 billion). The top 5 international export markets (USA, Netherlands, France, German and Norway) accounted for £11.7 billion (41%) of international exports from Scotland.

**Overview of EU Exports**

Over the year exports to the EU increased by £520 million (4.4%) from £11.8 billion in 2014 to £12.3 billion in 2015. This increase was driven by a £750 million (11.9%) increase in EU exports from the manufacturing sector, increasing from £6.7 billion in 2014 to £7.5 billion in 2015. The bulk of this was exports from the manufacture of refined petroleum and chemical products sector, up £540 million (30.2%) in the year. EU exports from the manufacturing sector accounted for 61% of total EU exports.

However exports to the EU from the service sector, which accounted for around a third of total EU exports, declined in 2015 by £165 million (4.1%). This was driven by a decline in EU exports of administrative and support service activities, down £105 million (24.1%) from £440 million in 2014 to £335 million in 2015.

The 5 sectors with the largest nominal value of EU exports in 2015 were:

- Manufacture of refined petroleum and chemical products (£2.3 billion – a 30.2% increase since 2014)
- Manufacture of food products and beverages (£1.8 billion – a 1.0% increase since 2014)
- Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles (£1.1 billion – a 0.6% increase since 2014)
- Professional, scientific and technical activities (£980 million – an 8.0% decrease since 2014)
- Manufacture of machinery and equipment (£625 million – a 3.3% increase since 2014)

These sectors accounted for 56% of the total international exports to EU countries in 2015.



EDINBURGH FESTIVALS 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

NOTE 19

## Toplines

- A **total of £2 million** will be invested in Edinburgh's Festivals in 2017/18 through the continuation of the Scottish Government's Expo fund with £1.8 million for festivals, including the Made in Scotland programme, plus £200k direct to Festivals Edinburgh.
- **An additional £300K of Expo funding** was provided to support Programme for Government investment to mark Edinburgh's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a festival city in 2017.
- Since 2008 the Scottish Government Expo fund has provided the members of Festivals Edinburgh, with **over £19m** in funding [£19,280,401 up to 2017/18] and has allowed the Edinburgh Festivals to create a legacy of important new work.

## Scottish Government Expo

- The Edinburgh Festival Expo Fund continues to provide an important opportunity build innovation across the festivals, to maximise the opportunities that Edinburgh's Festivals provide for the international promotion of Scottish artists of the highest quality and raise the international profile and exposure of the creativity of Scotland through ambitious projects involving Scottish artists and thinkers at Edinburgh's Festivals.
- Collectively, the projects funded in 2017/18 form a programme of high quality creative initiatives across all art forms. A number of the projects recommended demonstrate an expanded impact of Expo investment through Scotland wide touring and international partnerships.
- The Scottish Government Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund recognises the exceptional creative talent that exists in Scotland and gives it an international platform on which to excel. It is available to all 11 festivals to support the development of Scottish-based

## Edinburgh's Festivals are Scotland's world-leading cultural brands

- The Edinburgh Festivals play a key role in fostering Scotland as a nation where people are confident to express their creativity, and a nation that is confident in participating on the world stage.
- The Edinburgh Festivals act as **economic powerhouses** generating over a quarter of a billion pounds worth of additional tourism revenue for the Scottish economy (**£313m**) each year, according to the Edinburgh Festivals 2015 Impact Study.
- The Edinburgh Festivals attract **audiences of more than 4.5 million** annually putting them on a par with the FIFA World Cup, both being second to the Olympic Games.
- The Edinburgh Festivals, whilst distinctly Scottish, support our international outlook by offering highly prized platforms and showcases for performing companies and artists, thinkers and scientists from around the world. They also provide cultural platforms and forums for national and international debate