

Building a New Scotland: An independent Scotland in the EU

BUILDING A NEW
SCOTLAND



Why EU membership matters

Joining the European Union (EU) as an independent nation offers Scotland the chance to re-enter the world's largest single market and regain the benefits of EU membership. Read [An independent Scotland in the EU](#) for more information.

In Scotland we have a choice: remain part of the Westminster political system which continues to distance itself from other European countries, or become an independent nation where we regain the benefits of EU membership and work together with EU member states, as well as the UK, on our big challenges and strengths.

Here's why EU membership is important to you:

As a Scottish citizen, and an EU citizen, you would have the right to live, visit, study and work freely in any EU member state, without burdensome paperwork.

You would have the right to equal access to healthcare if you fall sick or have an accident while travelling in the EU. You would also be able to use your driving licence throughout the EU.

You would have more job choices, with your professional qualifications being recognised throughout the EU. You would also have the right to establish your business in any EU member state.

Your rights would be protected by EU law, benefiting from guaranteed minimum working conditions and protected social security rights. And you would be able to boost your career opportunities and improve your language skills through access to the Erasmus+ programme.

Thanks to being part of the world's largest single market, you would enjoy more product choice at the supermarket for the best prices. You would continue to be able to move freely between Scotland, the rest of the UK and Ireland with no new passport or immigration checks through the Common Travel Area. You would also continue to have the right to live, work, and access services, including housing, education and healthcare in the UK and Ireland under the Common Travel Area.

Here's why EU membership is important to your business

As an EU member state, we would be part of the world's largest single market with almost 450 million consumers compared to the UK's 67 million. Scottish businesses would be able to sell to more customers and trade freely with more businesses. Checks on goods between Scotland and the EU would be removed and measures would be put in place to smooth checks required as a result of Brexit on goods moving to and from England and Wales.

EU membership would make trading cheaper, quicker and would be an important factor in attracting foreign direct investment to Scotland. Scotland would be able to draw people from across the EU to work in our businesses, study at our universities and contribute to our public services.

People living in Scotland would be able to offer their services throughout the EU and Scotland would have the opportunity to influence future EU regulations and standards in ways that reflect the interests of Scottish businesses. Online selling would be easier and safer, with better protection for businesses.

Scotland would have the same opportunities as other member states to access EU funding such as support for agriculture, infrastructure, regional economic development, and guaranteed participation in programmes such as Horizon Europe, which supports research and innovation.

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