



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

15th Meeting, 2013 (Session 4)

Thursday 19 September 2013

Present:

Clare Adamson  
Willie Coffey  
Jamie McGrigor

Roderick Campbell  
Hanzala Malik (Deputy Convener)  
Christina McKelvie (Convener)

Apologies were received from Helen Eadie.

The meeting opened at 9.00 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 8 in private.
2. **Scottish Government's Action Plan on European Engagement and the UK Government's Balance of Competences review:** The Committee took evidence from—

Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, Karen Watt, Director of External Affairs, and Colin Imrie, Head of Europe and UK relations, Scottish Government.
3. **Foreign languages learning in primary schools inquiry:** The Committee considered a response to its report from the Scottish Government. The Committee agreed to forward the Scottish Government's response to those who have engaged in this inquiry, consider regular updates from the Scottish Government on language policy at future meetings, forward correspondence from the British Deaf Association to the Scottish Government for comment and to write to COSLA regarding EU funding available for language learning.
4. **Scottish Government's Country Plan for China and International Framework inquiry:** The Committee considered a response to its report from the Scottish Government and agreed to monitor various areas of the response and seek various clarifications in the next update.

5. **Brussels Bulletin:** The Committee considered the latest issue of the Brussels Bulletin and agreed to forward it to relevant committees for their consideration.
6. **Draft Budget Scrutiny 2014-15:** The Committee agreed to focus its scrutiny of the Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2014-15 on an evidence session with a Scottish Government minister.
7. **Inquiry into the aspects of the Scottish Government's White Paper on Independence relating to the European Union:** The Committee agreed to appoint an adviser in connection with its forthcoming inquiry, to seek the necessary approval of the Parliamentary Bureau and agreed the specification/job description for the adviser.
8. **Anti-trafficking (in private):** The Committee considered follow-up to its evidence session of 12 September 2013 with the EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator. The Committee agreed to return to consideration of the issues of human trafficking once the European Commission's report on the transposition of this Directive has been published in April 2015, to write to the Scottish Government for further information on various issues and to seek further information from the EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator in early 2014 on funding.

The meeting closed at 10.44 am.

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