

ACTION PLAN ON EUROPEAN ENGAGEMENT





INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Scottish Government is to create a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish through increasing sustainable economic growth. This provides the direction for our international engagement, focused on achieving the three objectives set out in our International Framework: increasing population growth, bringing a sharper economic growth focus to the promotion of Scotland abroad, and presenting Scotland as a distinctive, independent minded, responsible nation.

The EU provides Scotland with access to the world's largest trading market – the Single Market of almost half a billion consumers. It is our most important export market, with £9.5 billion¹ of our exports destined for the EU in 2007. Funds from the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund have long supported projects in Scotland; designed to ensure that all of our diverse regions and communities can benefit from European opportunities. For the period 2000-2006 Scotland received an allocation of €1.7 billion. While our share of EU funds is now decreasing they are still important to our economy, the €820 million allocated to Scotland for 2007 - 2013 is playing a key role in our economic recovery programme as the Scottish Government front loads spending to stimulate economic activity.

The Scottish Government has a key role to play in enhancing Scotland's profile in Europe, placing Scotland at the heart of European activity from where we can benefit fully from the opportunities available. We must strengthen Scotland's presence in the European Union so that our interests are heard on the issues that impact both our citizens and our economic growth. Not only must we ensure that Scotland fully grasp the opportunities that the EU presents but we should also ensure that Scotland plays a full part in shaping EU policies of the future in areas in which we can lead the field, such as marine renewable energy and creating a sustainable fisheries industry.

Ultimately these ambitions can only be fulfilled when Scotland has full standing as an independent Member State of the EU – a separate and distinctive voice at the negotiating table giving due weight to Scottish interests. However even within the constraints of the current constitutional arrangements there is significant work that we as the Government of Scotland, working with the wide spectrum of Scotland's stakeholders and representatives in Europe, can do to advance Scotland's interests in Europe.

Our efforts and activity in the European arena must be properly focused to maximise the impact we make. There are three categories of work in which we should engage. Firstly, we must continue to track key EU legislation and developments that will impact Scotland so that we can react positively to the benefits and defensively to the threats that these pose; Secondly, we must strategically consider the areas in which Scotland has a particular interest and unique experiences which mean that, by taking a lead role we can shape developments to the benefit of both Scotland and our European partners. Finally we must be proactive in our engagement with Europe: raising Scotland's profile by participating in the development of EU policy making, through, for example, responding directly to Commission consultations, building links with key MEPs and participating in Council meetings.

Developing these three strands of work is the basis of our engagement with the Europe Union, a platform from which we can raise Scotland's profile and take full advantage of the opportunities Europe offers while demonstrating that Scotland is a responsible nation with a high degree of experience, expertise and creativity to contribute to the shaping of an EU that is ready to rise to the challenges of our times.

Michael Russell MSP
Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution

¹ <http://openscotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/919/0078459.pdf>



AN INDEPENDENT SCOTLAND IN EUROPE

The fundamental aim of the Scottish Government is to re-establish Scotland as an independent country. As set out in “Choosing Scotland’s Future – A National Conversation”², full membership of the EU is a key feature of the independent Scotland that we seek.

Scotland is subject to the EU’s laws and regulations, and we are accountable for ensuring these are implemented and complied with in our areas of devolved responsibility. However, we are currently recognised only as one of many ‘regions’ of the EU, and must rely on the UK Government to represent our interests. While the Scottish Government is determined to strengthen its direct links with the EU where it can – and will seek to maximise opportunities arising under the current constitutional settlement – we are seriously limited in our ability to freely represent Scotland’s interests while having to work within the strict constraints that arise because EU affairs are considered part of foreign policy, and therefore reserved to the UK Government. At the Council of Ministers, for example, Scottish Ministers can only attend as part of the UK delegation, and only after seeking the permission of the UK Government.

The subordinate role that Scotland is forced to play in Europe is a clear example of why the current constitutional arrangements in the UK simply do not work. An independent Scotland would have the same status and normal rights of representation as all other Member States. We would have a voice – and a vote – at the negotiating table.

Of course, Scotland would continue to be bound by the laws of the EU, but on a level playing field with other Member States. As an independent Member State, we would be able to ensure that vital Scottish interests are properly represented through the full participation of Scotland in the Council of Ministers. We would still be responsible for implementing EU legislation in Scots law, but that legislation would have been developed through a process in which Scotland had a full and direct say.

² <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/08/13103747/0>



TRACKING AND INFLUENCING EU LEGISLATION AND POLICIES

The impact of EU law is clear. It is EU legislation that has led to the free movement of people, goods, services and capital across the Single Market, secured many of the social policies we enjoy, and has often led the way in protecting our environment. Of course, there are also elements of EU law and policy which are not viewed as positively – proposals that do not take account of the specific circumstances in each Member State, or apply the subsidiarity principle. Because these issues affect all our lives, it is imperative that Scotland seeks to influence the development of EU laws and policies.

Keeping track of the development of EU initiatives that will eventually apply to Scotland continues to represent the bulk of the Scottish Government's work in Brussels. We consider how developments affect Scotland's interests and whether we need to take action to defend these interests, or to promote positive developments which add value to work being carried out in Scotland.

The range of policy and legislative proposals which we are tracking at any given time will naturally vary depending on the European agenda. By tracking and identifying issues of importance to Scotland, the Scottish Government will be well placed to consider the benefits and threats that such developments imply for Scotland.

The Scottish Government will track EU legislative and policy proposals and engage early on with those that will have greatest impact on Scotland's interests. Scottish stakeholders' views on these proposals will be considered and we will work with the UK Government to try to persuade them to represent Scottish interests in the UK's negotiating lines. We will also engage directly with the EU institutions to ensure that Scotland's views are communicated directly where that adds value. Scottish Ministers seek to attend Councils, build links with MEPs and Commissioners and respond to Commission consultations that are of particular importance to Scotland such as, in recent times, EU budget review, urban mobility and cohesion policy.

Our work in influencing EU negotiations should reflect key interests across Scotland. Therefore, we value feedback from stakeholders and partners in the consideration of EU legislation and initiatives on the horizon which will impact on Scotland. The Scottish Government will regularly publish a summary of our key interests in EU negotiations together with recent and future engagement activity in those areas on which we will be focussing particularly. This EU Review and Forward Look is attached as an annex and will be updated on a six monthly basis in order to reflect progress and developments in negotiations.

Handling Scotland's EU obligations

Involvement in the shaping of EU laws is only one aspect of the Scottish Government's role; working with the Scottish Parliament, we must also implement EU legislation in Scots law. We have an obligation to make sure that EU law is implemented correctly and will work to ensure that Scotland is seen as a competent, trusted partner which leads the field in implementing EU law effectively, while ensuring the right outcomes for Scotland and keeping the burdens on those affected in Scotland to a minimum.

Our EU Obligations guidance booklet (<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/International-Relations/Europe/Transpositions/Infractions/ProceduralReform>) provides, for the first time, a transparent, effective, Scottish-specific system for handling EU obligations. We are committed to working closely with the sectors and stakeholders affected by the law so that all aspects of implementation can be fully understood and considered.



PLAYING A LEADING ROLE IN EUROPE

Scotland can learn a great deal from its European partners. However, Scotland also has a great deal to offer. The Scottish Government has ambitions for Scotland to play a much more significant role in Europe than merely influencing legislative proposals and policies driven by others. Despite the constraints arising from Scotland's current sub-ordinate status in the EU, we want Scotland to take a leading role in shaping Europe's future.

The benefits of this are clear. Where Scotland has particular interests or potential, taking the initiative to drive forward work at EU level will allow us to shape thinking and lead policy development. Scotland will benefit from EU policy designed to meet Scotland's needs and from the creation of new opportunities to fulfil our potential. Equally, our European partners will benefit from well designed policy that incorporates Scottish expertise. Scotland will demonstrate that it is an engaged, constructive and creative partner in the European Union.

Of course, we must be realistic - our resources are finite, and in order to be truly effective we must focus our efforts on trying to lead the way in a small number of areas. These are areas where Scotland's interests, expertise and potential converge with a recognition at EU level of the importance of the issue at stake. The Scottish Government will focus on four areas in which Scotland can play a significant role in Europe:

- Energy and Climate Change
- Marine Environment
- Research and Creativity
- Justice and Home Affairs



Energy and Climate Change

We believe the low carbon economy is a major economic opportunity for Scotland. We will work to secure Scotland's place as a leader in international energy policy. Given Scotland's expertise in low carbon technologies and our vast renewable energy potential, including around a quarter of Europe's tidal and offshore wind capacity, Scotland has an immense amount to offer in this field – both in terms of capacity and cutting-edge thinking in the fight against climate change.

Scotland is acting as a model of best practice on tackling climate change and strongly supports the EU in influencing the international community to deliver ambitious action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The [Climate Change \(Scotland\) Act 2009](#) and Delivery Plan aim to deliver at least 42% cuts in emissions by 2020 and at least 80% cuts by 2050 and around 40% of our emissions are covered by the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. The Scottish Government is also committed to assessing the carbon impact of its spending from 2010-11, putting Scotland at the forefront of developments to integrate carbon assessment into the key budget process of government.

The Scottish Government is undertaking a number of initiatives which will help to maintain Scotland's position as a leader in low carbon technology.

The recently established Scottish European Green Energy Centre (SEGEC) places Scotland at the forefront of research development and deployment of low carbon energy technologies across Europe. Scottish researchers in universities, research institutes and commercial sectors are already recognised as world leaders in low carbon energy research.

Over the next three years, the SEGEC will create constructive partnerships in areas of key European interest – marine energy, carbon capture and storage (CCS), off shore wind and grids – to drive research, encourage adoption, act as a centre of expertise and influence policy. The SEGEC aims to act as a catalyst for the deployment of green energy and research, encouraging and supporting industry to put research into practise so that Scotland, and Europe, can fully benefit from these advances.

A key objective for the Scottish Government in this area is the creation of a North Sea Grid, to allow the export of renewable energy to continental Europe. We have effectively made the case for this within the EU, and in November 2008 it was included as a priority in the European Commission's energy security strategy. Building on links with the Commission, the Scottish Government was invited to become part of the European Grid Working Group in early 2009 and officials will take full advantage of participating in meetings to influence and shape discussions. We are also working in partnership with Ireland and Northern Ireland on a pioneering feasibility study into offshore renewables and grid potential. The Irish-Scottish Links on Energy Study (ISLES) project is supported by EU Interreg IV funding.

We want to see Scotland playing a leading role in the development of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology to allow us to continue to utilise fossil fuels while reducing the level of harmful emissions being released into the atmosphere. The Scottish Government will continue to take an active role in European considerations of carbon capture and storage by participating in meetings of the European Commission's Sustainable Fossil Fuels Working Group on CCS, the Berlin Forum.

The EU Energy Programme for Recovery, formally adopted by the European Parliament on 6 May 2009, presents Scotland with further opportunities to develop our position as a leader in clean and renewable energy. The programme sees €3.98 billion in EU funding allocated to EU Member States and Scottish projects eligible for funding include a carbon capture and storage project and an offshore wind farm. The Scottish Government will work closely with partners to develop these projects in order that they can fully benefit from this EU funding.



Marine Environment

Scotland is a key maritime nation in Europe, with 10% of Europe's coastline, 20% of Europe's seas and is the largest producer of farmed salmon in the EU. Scotland is responsible for landing 66% of the total UK volume of fish and for 80% of UK aquaculture production.

The Scottish Government's goal is to manage Scotland's seas for prosperity and environmental sustainability. To achieve this, the Scottish Government takes a strong interest in EU marine policy, is currently transposing the EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive, continues to strive to influence the Integrated Maritime Policy, and is well placed to shape such discussions. Our experience in working closely with industry has already led to innovative initiatives, such as the pioneering Conservation Credits Scheme to promote responsible fishing behaviour. This scheme was adopted by the EU in November 2008, and demonstrates to the EU our ability to work with partners to create a long-term sustainable maritime industry.

The creation of Marine Scotland in April 2009, integrating core marine functions involving scientific research, compliance monitoring, policy and the management of Scotland's seas, has strengthened the focus and coordination of our work, including at EU level. Important areas of this work include reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, strengthening the framework for aquaculture and marine spatial planning.

The Scottish Government does not believe that the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) best serves Scotland's interests, as it has secured sustainability for neither Scotland's fish stocks nor its fishing communities. Decision-making for Scotland's fisheries should be returned to Scotland and we will remain fully involved in the debate on the future of the CFP, pressing for an EU fisheries policy that will bring most benefits for Scotland, including support to fishing communities and safeguarding our historic fishing rights.

In April 2009 the Commission published its Green Paper on CFP Reform. The Scottish Government has set up an independent inquiry body, the Inquiry into Future Fisheries Management (IFFM), to develop alternative models of fisheries management. The Scottish Government will also consult with stakeholders through the Scottish Fisheries Council and a number of stakeholder workshops. These activities will inform its response to the Green Paper and form the basis of our engagement with the EU institutions as we play a full and influential role in the process of agreeing the new CFP by 2013.

The Commission also published a Communication in April 2009 designed to give fresh impetus to the Strategy for the Sustainable Development of European Aquaculture, which aims to boost the sector's competitiveness, ensure sustainability and improve governance. This initiative complements the work of the Scottish Government, which in May 2009 launched the Renewed Strategic Framework for Scottish Aquaculture, which aims to strengthen the Scottish aquaculture sector.

Marine spatial planning plays an important role in the Integrated Maritime Policy for the EU. It is increasingly recognised that effective planning of maritime spaces is fundamental to the delivery of ecosystem management and part of ensuring that future development is rational and integrated and encourages investment while protecting fragile eco-systems.

The Scottish Government is engaged in a range of activity that delivers the European agenda. The Marine (Scotland) Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament in April 2009, and will deliver marine planning and marine protected areas, which we believe will be essential tools to deliver Good Environmental Status, as required under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. In addition, Marine Scotland will act as a delivery vehicle that will provide integrated policy development and focused delivery.



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The Scottish Government will continue to work closely with partners and industry through bodies such as the Scottish Fisheries Council, to put Scottish interests at the heart of EU negotiations. Scottish Ministers frequently attend Fisheries Councils, meet with Commissioners responsible for marine matters, respond to Commission consultations and are building links with MEPs, while Scottish officials sit on working groups and expert panels focused on issues of key interest to Scotland.



Research and creativity

We will work to consolidate Scotland's position as a world leader in research and creativity, and develop its international reputation as a centre of excellence in science, technology and innovation.

The current Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technical Development (FP7) runs until 2013. The programme has a total budget of over €50 billion designed to respond to Europe's needs in terms of jobs and competitiveness, and to maintain leadership in the global knowledge economy, by funding research grants across Europe and beyond.

Scotland should seek both to play a key role in the development of European expertise and attract significant funding from FP7. Furthermore, work has already begun within the Commission to determine what FP8, which will run from 2014, will look like. It is likely that there will be a renewed focus on international research opportunities, and potential focus on climate change and energy research. The debate on the make-up of FP8 provides Scotland with a clear opportunity to demonstrate international leadership in the research fields in which it excels, such as in energy, information technology and biotechnology, and to create the best possible circumstances in which to enable Scottish researchers to participate in leading cross-border European projects and networks.

We will also engage with the development of the European Research Area (ERA), the legislative and policy framework designed to promote the competitiveness of the European research sector in the global marketplace. Initiatives on issues such as improving researcher careers and facilitating the development of large scale research infrastructures present possible cross-border added value to the development of Scotland's own research and development capacity. Continued engagement will be necessary to ensure that EU negotiations take account of Scottish interests, and to ensure that relevant stakeholders in Scotland are made aware of European developments in good time. Scottish Government officials will continue to monitor the progress of policy and legislative discussions at Council working groups. We will look for opportunities to raise the profile of the wider research and creative industries sectors by raising awareness within Scotland of EU consultations and other processes for feeding views into the Commission and other institutions.

We will continue to work with organisations such as Scotland Europa, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to encourage the participation of institutions and companies in projects that offer genuine benefits to Scottish research, such as the European Institute of Technology, and we will look for opportunities to promote the participation of Scottish institutions and companies in structures and networks including expert advisory committees, working groups and European agencies.

Our ambition is that Scotland is recognised as one of the world's most creative nations, one that attracts, develops and retains talent, where arts and the creative industries are supported and their economic contribution fully captured. We are working in partnership with Ireland and Northern Ireland in the Creative Industries Programme funded by Interreg IVA Programme. This aims to support strategic cross border interventions to contribute to a vibrant, integrated and sustainable sector. We will continue to work with other Member States and learn from their good practice. We will continue to monitor the work being done by the Open Method of Coordination (OMC) Expert Group on maximising the potential of cultural and creative industries in particular that of SMEs.

The Year of Homecoming, with its theme of Great Minds and Innovators, coincides with the 2009 European Year of Creativity and Innovation. This presents an opportunity for Scotland to host and participate in events on themes covering science and technology, the creative industries, and culture and the arts which place Scotland's past and present expertise in these fields in a wider international context. The Scottish Government is in discussion with a number of European partners with a view to hosting events in Scotland and in Brussels to showcase examples of excellence to an international audience while making a positive contribution to ongoing European policy debates on research, creativity and innovation.



Justice and Home Affairs (JHA)

The Scottish Government is committed to helping local communities to flourish, becoming stronger, safer places to live, offering improved opportunities and a better quality of life for citizens. The EU has an important role to play in supporting the existence of such communities by promoting consistent high standards of justice, including modern civil and criminal laws and the right institutions for dealing with disputes and offences.

Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) policy initiatives and legislation at the European level have a real, direct and increasing impact on Scotland's citizens and its organisations. This impact is experienced in a variety of different ways. For example, for ordinary citizens it may result from dealing with sensitive cross-border child abductions or from pursuing legal redress against individuals or businesses in another EU Member State. For our police forces and courts, it may arise from the sharing of criminal records or dealing with the mutual recognition and enforcement of legal judgements, including, through the European Arrest Warrant, a much more efficient mechanism to facilitate extradition requests throughout the EU. The implications for Scotland of EU legislation in this important area, particularly how it impacts on our distinct and separate legal system, therefore need to be carefully considered and taken into account before decisions are taken. That is why securing recognition of Scottish interests in JHA matters at both UK and EU levels remains a high priority for the Scottish Government.

In particular, we have taken part in negotiations regarding a number of recent EU JHA initiatives. For example, the proposal concerning the European Civil Judicial Network where we were successful in ensuring that the revised Council Decision took account of Scotland's distinct separate legal jurisdiction and also e-justice, which aims to use technology to promote wider access to justice for EU citizens. We will continue to do so for initiatives that could have a significant impact in Scotland.

We aim to continue to send a Scottish Minister or Law Officer to all JHA Council meetings as part of the UK delegation and to secure the involvement of the Scottish Ministers, officials and stakeholders as necessary in the formulation of the UK negotiating line in JHA issues.

We also aim to increase our focus on engagement with the European Parliament in general, and individual MEPs with a significant interest in JHA matters in particular. This is especially given the forthcoming extension of the European Parliament's co-decision-making powers in relation to both civil and criminal law under the Lisbon Treaty should it come into force. We will also be working to ensure that the UK takes account of our interests when making future decisions about whether to opt-in to existing EU criminal law measures as part of the Treaty's transitional arrangements.

Finally, the forthcoming Stockholm Programme will determine JHA policy for 2010-2014. We are therefore engaging with both the Commission and the Swedish Presidency and will take part in the forthcoming Council negotiations to finalise the programme. This is to ensure that it reflects our desire that:

- the EU should concentrate on areas where it can provide genuine added value such as addressing serious cross border problems;
- any identified need for new EU legislation is evidence-based and subject to robust impact assessment;
- the focus is on mutual recognition rather than the harmonisation of substantive laws through a one size fits all approach given that there is room for respect for the EU's separate legal traditions; and
- there should be a greater formal recognition of the contribution which so called "soft" measures can make such as exchanging best practice.



RAISING SCOTLAND'S PROFILE IN EUROPE

UK Relations

The United Kingdom is currently the Member State through which Scotland participates in the EU. The UK Government retains responsibility for European affairs but, under the terms of the Concordat on Co-ordination of European Policy, should involve the Scottish Government in developing the UK position on EU issues which affect devolved interests. The limitation of these arrangements is that we are unable to represent Scotland's interests directly in the decision-making Council of Ministers without the consent of UK Ministers or through the UK Government. The only real solution to this problem is for Scotland to become an independent Member State of the EU in its own right. In the meantime, the Scottish Government will continue to work closely with the UK Government in all areas of EU policy interest to Scotland.

We are therefore committed to maintaining an active and constructive relationship with the UK Government on EU matters, and we expect the UK Government to do likewise. The Scottish Government will seek to play an active role in developing the UK negotiating position, sharing our ideas, resources and experience with Whitehall counterparts so that Scotland's interests are taken into account.

We will take an active part in the Joint Ministerial Committee (Europe) and seek to improve its procedures so that it fulfils its role as an effective forum for dispute resolution and for devolved administrations to raise issues with UK Ministers. We will also continue to raise our concerns about the "double hat" responsibilities that Whitehall departments fulfil in respect of representing English policy views while also being responsible for co-ordinating the UK negotiating line.

The Scottish Government will work closely with the governments of Wales and Northern Ireland to ensure that the role of the devolved administrations in European affairs is fully recognised. We will also look for opportunities where we can work with our Welsh and Northern Irish counterparts on specific EU issues on which we have similar interests.

Relations with EU Institutions

Council of Ministers

The UK Government is charged with representing the whole of the UK in Council meetings. However, the Scottish Government can still be involved. Scottish Ministers will seek to attend Council meetings where issues of interest to Scotland will be discussed and will press to take the lead in representing the UK where we have the lion's share of UK interest (for example in fisheries negotiations). Officials in the Scottish Government's EU Office in Brussels will continue to build on our strong relationship with the UK Permanent Representation to the EU (UKRep) and we will also, from an early stage, engage with the countries preparing to take up the six-month EU Presidency, to establish their priorities, and to promote Scotland's interests. On an on-going basis we will identify other member states with similar policy interests and build relations with those countries in order to strengthen our position in EU discussions.

European Commission

As the key initiator of EU policies – many of which will have a direct impact on Scotland – a strong, honest and constructive relationship with the European Commission ensures that the views and interests of Scotland are known and taken into account at the earliest possible stage of policy development. Scottish Ministers will continue to meet with EU Commissioners and other Commission representatives both in Brussels and in Scotland where they can witness first hand the unique challenges that often face Scotland. We are committed to responding to Commission consultations both through the UK response and, where it adds value, with a separate Scottish response.



European Parliament

The European Parliament has an important, and with the possible entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, an ever increasing part to play in EU policy-making, representing the voice of the people of Europe. We will ensure that Scottish MEPs are briefed on the Scottish Government's position, so that they can promote Scottish views across the European Parliament. We will also seek to build relationships with other MEPs in key positions. The Scottish Government envisages a deeper engagement with this Parliament due to the impact the Lisbon Treaty will have on the powers available to it in areas of importance to Scotland such as Justice, renewable energy and fisheries.

Relations with the Scottish Parliament

The Scottish Parliament is an important partner in achieving Scottish objectives in Europe. The European and External Relations Committee takes the lead in focusing the Parliament on the EU issues of greatest interest, while subject committees also consider EU policies falling within their remits. We will continue to work closely with the European and External Relations Committee on European affairs, and work to encourage subject committees to be active in areas of interest. Scottish Ministers will provide information and give evidence to committee meetings on the Scottish Government's European activities as appropriate.

KEY ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS

The Scottish Government realises the challenges involved in developing a stronger voice for Scotland in Europe. However, Scotland has an engaged and proactive array of stakeholders with a keen interest in EU affairs - many of whom already have a significant presence and influence in Europe and all of whom have an important contribution to make. When we approach Europe in a co-ordinated manner, focusing on Scotland's main interests, the impact of strong, consistent and targeted messages goes a long way to strengthening Scotland's voice and promoting Scotland as a credible, influential player across Europe.

The Scottish Government firmly believes that Scotland has experience and ideas to share with the rest of Europe, and that Europe offers us opportunities to learn and develop. The range of partners we work with is broad, reflecting the wide range of Scotland's stakeholders. Local authorities, for example, have extensive experience in influencing and implementing EU legislation and an important role to play in representing local concerns. The third sector has a fundamental role in strengthening our nation's ability to ensure that the EU delivers legislation and policies that improve Scots' quality of life. And, of course, Scottish businesses and industry, key players in stimulating our nation's sustainable economic growth, are often on the front line of both lobbying the EU and implementing European legislation in Scotland.

A co-ordinated, inclusive approach will not replace stakeholders' individual activity in Europe or restrict it in any way. Rather it will allow us to identify shared interests and ambitions and work together to achieve the best results for Scotland. While the Scottish Government clearly has a key role to play in driving forward this approach, for "Team Scotland" to be most successful, it will not be limited to, or necessarily driven by Government activity, but a genuinely collaborative approach, open to all of Scotland's stakeholders.

The Scottish Government will encourage Scotland's wide range of stakeholders to work more closely with us on specific issues, where we can be more effective by sharing expertise and resources. We will continue to provide opportunities to bring together interested parties to discuss European interests, for example through the European Elected Members Information, Liaison and Exchange group (EMILE) and the Brussels-based 'Scotland In Europe' quarterly meetings. We will use these and other opportunities as they arise to provide information on the Scottish Government's position on EU issues to Scotland's representatives in Europe, such as MSPs and Councillors in European networks.



SCOTLAND IN EUROPE

BILATERAL WORK WITH EUROPEAN PARTNERS

The Scottish Government's engagement in Europe is not limited to action within the formal EU institutions. Building closer relations with individual European partners provide excellent opportunities to learn from our neighbours, and to highlight Scotland as the aspiring, tolerant, outwardly-focused country it is. We will seek opportunities to promote Scotland across Europe as an ideal location in which to live, learn, work and visit.

We are keen to share our knowledge, culture and experience with our European partners through policy co-operation, the exchange of best practice, diplomatic links and promotional work. For example, Scotland is fully involved in taking forward the Bologna Process of creating comparable and compatible systems of higher education across Europe. Prior to the Bologna Ministerial Conference in April 2009, a review was carried out which gave a traffic light rating against each of the agreed priorities of the process. Scotland, which has the main elements of the Bologna Process in place, was the only country out of 46 to have a full green scorecard for 2009.

We will also look to learn from our partners and particularly look to draw on the experiences of other countries with similar opportunities and challenges. We will seek to work with partners from across the length and breadth of Europe where there is scope to benefit from collaborative work. Furthering our links with European consulates in Scotland and representatives based elsewhere in the rest of the UK will mean that we have strong domestic relationships that help to underpin these relationships.

"Team Scotland", many of whom have long been involved in bilateral projects and exchanges, will have a key role to play in building relationships with European partners to exchange knowledge, best practice and experience, and the Scottish Government will continue to encourage and support that work by providing advice, contacts and messages on what Scotland has to offer.



MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Scottish Government is committed to transparency and openness in our European engagement. This Action Plan is a working document and updates on our interests and activities in Europe will be provided on a six-monthly basis in the EU Review and Forward Look, which will be annexed to this Action Plan.

The Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution will provide the European and External Relations Committee of the Scottish Parliament with an annual report on the progress made in delivering the Action Plan on European Engagement in the Autumn of each year.

The report will assess the impact of the Action Plan, and will explore and illustrate how it has contributed to the Scottish Government's purpose and strategic objectives.

It will take time to fully assess the extent to which the activities identified in the Action Plan have contributed to the Scottish Government's strategic objectives. The annual report will primarily demonstrate the intermediate impact of the Action Plan, and reflect on any lessons that may further improve effectiveness. We will solicit the views of stakeholders in formulating this annual report.



MORE INFORMATION

You will find more information about the following organisations and their work by visiting the websites listed below:

Scottish Government European Policy – <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/International-Relations/Europe>

Scottish Government EU Office Brussels -

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/International-Relations/Europe/Scotland-in-Brussels>

Scottish Government EU Energy Policy - <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Business-Industry/Energy/Energy-In-Europe>.

Scottish Government European and International Law –

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/legal/17844>

Marine Scotland - <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/Directorates/Wealthier-and-Fairer/marine-scotland>

European Commission – <http://www.ec.europa.eu>

European Commission Representation in Scotland -

http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/about_us/office_in_scotland/index_en.htm

European Commission Representation in UK - <http://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/index.htm>

European Parliament - <http://www.europarl.org.uk/index.htm>

European Parliament Office in Scotland - <http://www.europarl.org.uk/office/ScotlandOfficeMain.htm>

European Parliament UK Office - <http://www.europarl.org.uk/office/TheOfficeMain.htm>

European Council of Ministers -

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_fo/showPage.asp?id=1&mode=g&lang=en

Foreign and Commonwealth Office - <http://www.fco.gov.uk>

UK Permanent Representation to the European Union (UKRep) - <http://www.ukrep.be/>

Scottish Parliament European and External Relations Committee -

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/s3/committees/europe/index.htm>

Scottish Development International – <http://www.scottishdevelopmentinternational.com>

Scottish Enterprise - <http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/>

Highlands and Islands Enterprise - <http://www.hie.co.uk/>

Scotland Europa - <http://www.scotlandeuropa.com/>

Convention of Scottish Local Authorities - <http://www.cosla.gov.uk/>

HIPP Ltd – <http://www.hipp.org.uk/index.asp>

ESEP Ltd - <http://www.esep.co.uk/>

VisitScotland – <http://www.VisitScotland.com>

Global Friends of Scotland – <http://friendsofscotland.gov.uk>

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) - <http://www.sepa.org.uk/>



CBI Scotland - <http://www.cbi.org.uk>

Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC) – <http://www.stuc.org.uk>

Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) - <http://www.scdi.org.uk/>

Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) – <http://www.scvo.org.uk/scvo>

British Council in Scotland – <http://www.britishcouncil.org/scotland>

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SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT EU REVIEW AND FORWARD LOOK

AUGUST 2009

This annex to the *“Action Plan on European Engagement”* sets out recent and future EU engagement activity in the four policy areas in which the Scottish Government aims to play a distinctive role. It also includes a ‘Forward Look’ of the key aspects of the Swedish Presidency on which the Scottish Government will focus. These appendices will be updated and published on the Scottish Government website shortly after the beginning of each six month Presidency period.

The first appendix (Appendix I) highlights activity during the first six months of the calendar year in the areas identified in the Action Plan of Energy and Climate Change; Marine Environment; Research and Creativity; and Justice and Home Affairs. The second appendix (Appendix II) sets out the focus of the Swedish Presidency and the key areas for the Scottish Government.

It should be noted that the annex does not cover every item of legislation or policy currently being considered by the EU that is of interest to Scotland, but aims to highlight those which the Scottish Government has identified as key. In addition to the legislation mentioned in the appendices there will be legislative proposals in other areas such as transport and environment where we will engage directly with the EU and work closely with stakeholders and UK Government colleagues as required.

