EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

2nd Meeting, 2016 (Session 5)

Thursday 30 June 2016

Present:

Jackson Carlaw
Ash Denham
Rachael Hamilton
Lewis Macdonald (Deputy Convener)
Tavish Scott

Bruce Crawford
Ross Greer
Richard Lochhead
Joan McAlpine (Convener)

The meeting opened at 9.00 am.

1. **Declaration of interests:** Ash Denham and Tavish Scott had no relevant interests to declare.

2. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 4 in private.

3. **Implications of the EU referendum for Scotland:** The Committee took evidence from—

   Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, and Karen Watt, Director for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs, Scottish Government;

   Professor Sir David Edward, Chair of the Europa Institute, University of Edinburgh, and Former Judge of the European Court of Justice;

   Professor Sionaidh Douglas-Scott, Anniversary Chair in Law, co-director, Centre for Law and Society in a Global Context, Queen Mary School of Law, University of London;

   Dr Kirsty Hughes, Associate Fellow, Friends of Europe, Brussels;
4. **Implications of the EU referendum for Scotland:** The Committee agreed to undertake the following areas of work in relation to the EU referendum and its implications for Scotland:

- Hold an additional Committee meeting in July to take further evidence on the implications of the EU referendum for Scotland;
- Invite the Secretary of State for Scotland to give evidence to the Committee on the implications of the EU referendum for Scotland and invite the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster to give evidence to the Committee on the process for negotiating the UK’s departure from the EU;
- Invite the First Minster to update to the committee on the ongoing work of the Scottish Government in this area;
- Delegate responsibility to the Convener to finalise witnesses and the programme for visits;
- Delegate responsibility to the Convener for arranging for the SPCB to pay, under Rule 12.4.3, any expenses of witnesses;
- Seek the necessary approvals from the Convener's Group and the Parliamentary Bureau for foreign travel;
- Arrange fact-finding visits to London and Brussels to discuss the implications of the EU referendum for Scotland;
- Embark on a programme of public engagement to better understand the views of people in Scotland on the implications of leaving the EU;
- Commission research with the objective of providing greater clarity on a number of issues and making the information publicly available;
- Seek the approval of the Parliamentary Bureau to appoint two expert advisers to support the Committee’s work in this area;
- Refresh the Scottish Parliament's EU strategy to reflect the changes in circumstance following the referendum.

The meeting closed at 11.38 am.

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