



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES

15th Meeting, 2015 (Session 4)

Thursday 1 October 2015

Present:

Claire Baker (Committee Substitute)	Roderick Campbell
Willie Coffey	Adam Ingram
Jamie McGrigor	Christina McKelvie (Convener)
Anne McTaggart	

Apologies were received from Hanzala Malik (Deputy Convener).

The meeting opened at 9.15 am.

1. **Connecting Scotland (in private):** The Committee considered a draft report on strand 2 of the inquiry on how Scottish organisations engage internationally. Various changes were agreed to, and the report was agreed for publication
2. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 5 in private.
3. **Brussels Bulletin:** The Committee considered the latest issue of the Brussels Bulletin and agreed to forward it on to relevant committees for their consideration.
4. **Refugee crisis in the EU:** The Committee took evidence, in a round-table discussion, from—

Aspasia Papadopoulou, Senior Policy Officer, European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE), (via video conference);

Amal Azzudin, Glasgow Girls;

Morag Brown, Business Improvement Manager, Argyll and Bute Council;

Duncan Campsie, Asylum and Refugees Service, Glasgow City Council;

Gonzalo Vargas Llosa, UK representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, (UNHCR);

Derek Mitchell, Chief Officer, Migration, Population and Diversity Team, COSLA;

Professor Alison Phipps, Co-Convener, Glasgow Refugee Asylum and Migration Network (GRAMnet), University of Glasgow;

John Wilkes, Chief Executive, Scottish Refugee Council;

Margaret Woods, Trade Union Organiser, Glasgow Campaign to Welcome Refugees;

Joanna Zawadzka, Manager, Fife Migrants Forum.

5. **EU reform and the EU referendum (in private):** The Committee agreed to consider a list of candidates for the post of adviser, in connection with its forthcoming inquiry, at its next meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.32 am.

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