



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Graeme Dey MSP
Convener
Environment, Climate Change and
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Dear Convener,

The European and External Relations Committee's work on the implications of the leave vote in the EU referendum and the Scottish Parliament's EU Strategy

I am writing to update you on the work that the European and External Relations Committee has initiated in relation to the prospect of the UK leaving the European Union, and also to consult with you on how the Scottish Parliament's EU strategy can be adapted in order to respond to these developments.

At its meeting on 30 June 2016, the Committee agreed to undertake some initial work over the summer recess in order to respond quickly to the EU referendum result and consider some of the implications for Scotland. That initial work includes the following—

- External research has been commissioned on the economic impacts of leaving the EU.
- External research has been commissioned to provide an audit of EU areas of EU competence and the implications of a withdrawal from the EU for the devolution settlement.
- External research is being scope on EU citizens in Scotland, including on migration patterns and their contribution to Scotland's economy and society.
- SPICe is preparing briefings on the impact of leaving the EU on different policy areas.

- SPICe is preparing briefings on the ways in which Scotland currently benefits from EU funding and the implications of leaving the EU for Scotland's financial settlement.
- A delegation from the Committee is visiting Brussels on 19th July to hold meetings on a range of issues including the process for leaving the EU; the potential impact on business and employees; and the alternatives to EU membership.
- The Committee will be meeting on 28 July to hold evidence sessions on the impact leaving the EU on the Scottish economy and key sectors. I would very much welcome it if any other MSPs are interested in participating in that meeting.
- The Committee had an informal meeting with the former Minister of State for Europe, the Rt Hon David Lidington.
- Secretary of State for Scotland and the Secretary of State for Leaving the European Union have been invited to give evidence to the Committee.
- The First Minister has been invited to give evidence to the Committee.

I appreciate that individual subject committees will wish to undertake further work in this area following the summer recess and it would be most helpful if you could keep me informed of any work that you agree as part of your work programmes.

I have also been considering how the Parliament's EU strategy can be adapted to respond to the challenges at hand. While the UK and Scotland remain part of the EU, the objectives of the EU strategy remain important and valid. However, I think that there is a need to consider how the role of EU reporters and our annual process of identifying and reporting on EU priorities can be further developed. I would therefore be grateful if you could provide me with your views on how your committee would like to engage on this important issue by the end of the summer recess. This will help the European and External Relations Committee consider how the EU strategy can be further developed to coordinate work on Scotland's future relationship with the European Union and how the role of EU reporters enhanced.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or the clerks to the Committee if you have any questions concerning the work of the European and External Relations Committee or the EU strategy.

Yours sincerely

Joan McAlpine MSP
Convener
European and External Relations Committee