

Parliamentary Bureau – Correspondence from Europe External Affairs and Culture Committee

Introduction

1. At its meeting on 15 September 2026, the Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee considered appointments to a number of external bodies and subsequently wrote to the Presiding Officer setting out recommendations for consideration by the Bureau.
2. The Committee's letter is attached at Annexe A.

UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA)

3. The Committee has recommended the nomination of:
 - Patrick Harvie (convener) and Senga Beresford (deputy convener) as observers on the PPA; and
 - Colin Beattie and Jenny Young as alternate observers.
4. The Committee seeks approval of its nominations. A motion is not required.

Committee of the Regions UK Contact Group

5. The Scottish Parliament has participated in the Committee of the Regions UK Contact Group since Session 6.
6. The Committee has recommended the nomination of:
 - Pauline Stafford as the Parliament's full member on the CoR UK Contact Group; and
 - David Green as alternate member.
7. Should the Bureau agree these nominations, a motion is required.
8. The Committee's letter also refers to representation on the Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (CLRAE) and the Interparliamentary Forum. The Committee has indicated that no further action is required in relation to either body and these matters are included for information only.

Decision

9. The Bureau is invited to:
 - Approve the nominations of Patrick Harvie and Senga Beresford as observers to the UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly and Colin Beattie and Jenny Young as alternate observers.
 - Agree to lodge a motion for the nomination of Pauline Stafford as the Parliament's full member of the Committee of the Regions-UK Contact Group, and David Green as the Parliament's alternate member. A draft motion is provided below.

Draft Parliamentary Bureau motion:

Membership of the Committee of the Regions UK Contact Group – That the Parliament agrees to appoint Pauline Stafford as a full member and David Green as an alternate member of the Committee of the Regions UK Contact Group.

Parliamentary Business Team
September 2026

Annexe A – Letter from Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Presiding Officer
Chair – Parliamentary Bureau

16 September 2026

Dear Presiding Officer,

Representation on External Bodies

On 15 September the Europe, External Affairs and Culture (EEAC) Committee considered representation on the external bodies on which its predecessor Committee had been involved.

These are:

- The UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA)
- The Committee of the Regions-UK Contact Group
- The Council of Europe Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (CLRAE)
- The Interparliamentary Forum

Approval is required by the Parliamentary Bureau of the Committee's recommendation for two observers (and two alternates) to the UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly, and for one member (and one alternate) for the Committee of the Regions-UK Contact Group.

UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA)¹

The EEAC Committee agreed with the [recommendation in its predecessor Committee's Legacy Report](#), that its Convener and Deputy Convener continue to be the delegates to the PPA. It also agreed to nominate two alternates, and that these should also be members of the EEAC Committee. As the Convener and Deputy

Convener are from the Scottish Greens and Reform UK, the Committee agreed to nominate alternates from the Scottish National Party and Scottish Labour.

¹ The **UK-EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly (PPA)** is part of the governance structure established after the UK's exit from the EU under the terms of the 2021 EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). The PPA is composed of a delegation of Members of the UK Parliament and a delegation of Members of the European Parliament (35 in each). It serves as a forum for parliamentarians to exchange views on the implementation and operation of the TCA. Devolved legislatures each nominate two Members as observers.

I would therefore ask that the Parliamentary Bureau consider for approval the EEAC Committee recommendation:

- that the Convener (Patrick Harvie) and Deputy Convener (Senga Beresford) be observers on the PPA, and
- that Colin Beattie and Jenny Young be alternates.

We don't believe that a parliamentary motion is required in this instance.

Committee of the Regions-UK Contact group²

The EEAC Committee agreed that the Scottish Parliament should continue to participate in this body and agreed to recommend that Pauline Stafford be the full member of the CoR-UK Contact Group, and David Green be the alternate member.

I would therefore ask that the Parliamentary Bureau consider for approval the EEAC Committee recommendation that:

- Pauline Stafford be the full member on the CoR-UK Contact Group and
- David Green be the alternate member.

We understand that this decision would then require to be put to the Parliament for agreement by parliamentary motion.

Council of Europe CLRAE

As the Parliamentary Bureau is aware, in June 2026, the Committee frontloaded consideration of who to nominate as representatives on the Council of Europe CLRAE, in order to meet a July deadline for nominations to the UK delegation, ahead of an October meeting. The Bureau and Parliament subsequently agreed to these nominations in June (Keith Brown as full member and Jenny Young as alternate).

At that time the EEAC Committee agreed to return to the wider representation on all of the external bodies after summer recess. At its meeting on Tuesday, the Committee agreed that Keith Brown and Jenny Young should continue to be its nominees for the Council of Europe CLRAE body beyond the October 2026 meeting, so for the remainder of the CLRAE 2026-31 term. **As this has already been agreed to, nothing further requires to be done, and this is for information only.**

² The **Committee of the Regions-UK Contact group** was set up by the Committee of the Regions Bureau in 2020. Its renewed mandate for 2025-30 sets out that it aims to act as a forum for continuing dialogue and political partnership between the EU and UK local and regional authorities, to provide local and regional authorities with the opportunity to discuss issues arising from the UK's withdrawal from the EU, and to give them a means to discuss EU legislation affecting them after the UK's departure from the EU.

Interparliamentary Forum

The Committee also agreed with the recommendation of its predecessor Committee that it continue to participate in the Interparliamentary Forum³ and that its Convener and Deputy Convener should attend, given that membership from other parliaments and assemblies will consist of committee chairs. **No action is required by the Bureau on this matter, and this is for information only.**

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Harvie MSP
Convener