

CULTURE, TOURISM, EUROPE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS INQUIRY

SUBMISSION FROM SCOTTISH CONTEMPORARY ART NETWORK

Engaging with the European Union

• What principles should inform the focus of the Scottish Government's external affairs policy with regard to the European Union?

In October 2018, Scottish Contemporary Art Network (SCAN) together with Federation of Scottish Theatres published extensive research into the impact of Brexit on the arts sector¹.

It shows that 14% of respondents had EU nationality, a significant proportion. This report showed the widespread concern and lack of certainty around how artists and those working with the arts sector saw life after Brexit. We will be refreshing this survey in late July 2019 to check on how this continued uncertainty is affecting the sector.

This is relevant with regards external affairs with the EU. We would like to see the Scottish Government's external affairs policy put culture at its heart. Many of our members work with the EU on an everyday basis, whether that is importing/exporting artworks, organising or participating in residencies and exchanges, or arranging for artists to visit and vice versa. These working links could be more fully recognised in the context of the Scottish Government's external affairs policy.

Specifically, the contemporary visual art sector in Scotland is widely recognised abroad as vibrant and high quality. This should be celebrated and promoted through any external affairs policy with regard to the EU, and we would hope that post-Brexit the Scottish Government would continue to show how culture and contemporary visual arts can powerfully cross boundaries, both political and geographical.

Here we reference the submission from Culture Counts, of which SCAN is a member:

'The Scottish Government should continue to provide investment support to the cultural sector to continue to participate in European cooperation projects; enabling the industry to continue to develop contacts in Europe, develop audiences for work, learn and improve practice and to showcase Scotland.'

Scotland's Cultural Sector has benefited from participation in:

- *European Regional Development Fund*

- *European Social Fund*
- *European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development*
- *European Maritime and Fisheries Fund*
- *Interreg*
- *Creative Europe*
- *Education / Training / Youth (Lifelong Learning, Youth in Action and Erasmus +)*
- *Europe for Citizens (Remembrance projects, Town Twinning)*
- *Research and Development (FP7 – 7th Framework)*
- *Horizon 2020 (incl ERC)*

From 2007 to 2016 Scotland received a minimum of £23million in EU Funding which was distributed across over 380 projects²

Engagement with the rest of the world

- **What principles should inform the Scottish Government's international engagement? For example, should economic priorities be the key priority or cultural / 'soft power' priorities?**

Again, SCAN seconds the statement made by Culture Counts in their submission, that *cultural and economic priorities and soft power priorities are intertwined*.

Contemporary visual art is a very mobile sector; Scottish contemporary art organisations in Scotland contribute a significant amount of both cultural and economic exchange beyond our borders, whether through international residencies or exchanges or in the shipping of exhibits and artworks from across the world, and vice versa. The art market is highly globalised and Scottish artists sell their work through galleries overseas. Scottish contemporary commercial galleries do the vast majority of their business with museums and private collectors via art fairs overseas and in rUK. Scottish and Scotland-based artists enjoy global acclaim. For example, there are currently two Scottish-trained and based artists showing at the Venice Biennale (Charlotte Prodger in the Scottish Pavilion and Cathy Wilkes in the British Pavilion), drawing the eyes of the powerful international art world to Scotland and work being generated here.

It would be good to see a future external affairs policy that could open up further routes to market for contemporary visual art being produced in Scotland.

1. <https://sca-net.org/downloads/5bc70fe60b746-scanfullreporttheimpactofbrexitontheartssectorinScotland11.10.18.pdf>

2 http://www.creativescotland.com/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/41753/EUFundstoScotlandCS-FINAL.pdf