



OFFICIAL REPORT
AITHISG OIFIGEIL

European and External Relations Committee

Thursday 16 June 2016

Session 5



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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CONTENTS

	Col.
INTERESTS	1
CONVENER	2
DEPUTY CONVENER	3
DECISION ON TAKING BUSINESS IN PRIVATE	4

EUROPEAN AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
1st Meeting 2016, Session 5

CONVENER

*Joan McAlpine (South Scotland) (SNP)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Lab)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- *Jackson Carlaw (Eastwood) (Con)
- *Bruce Crawford (Stirling) (SNP)
- *Ross Greer (West Scotland) (Green)
- *Rachael Hamilton (South Scotland) (Con)
- *Richard Lochhead (Moray) (SNP)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Katy Orr

LOCATION

The Mary Fairfax Somerville Room (CR2)

Scottish Parliament

Convener

European and External Relations Committee

Thursday 16 June 2016

[Bruce Crawford opened the meeting at 10:00]

Interests

Bruce Crawford (Stirling) (SNP): Good morning, colleagues, and welcome to the European and External Relations Committee's first meeting in session 5 of our Parliament. I remind everyone to switch off mobile phones or at least put them in a state in which we cannot hear them.

My briefing says that I am the oldest member of the committee, so it falls to me to chair the first two agenda items. Does anyone want to make a point of order to challenge that?

Jackson Carlaw (Eastwood) (Con): Would you like us to do that?

Bruce Crawford: I would love it, although the point would not be successful.

Richard Lochhead (Moray) (SNP): I accept that you are the oldest member.

Bruce Crawford: Agenda item 1 is a declaration of interests.

I have no interests to declare.

Rachael Hamilton (South Scotland) (Con): I have a registrable interest in a hotel in the Borders, which is declared in my entry in the register of members' interests.

Richard Lochhead: I have no registered interests.

Lewis Macdonald (North East Scotland) (Lab): I have no interests to declare.

Joan McAlpine (South Scotland) (SNP): I have a registered interest—I write a weekly column for the *Daily Record*. I also have an interest that is relevant to the committee in that I am a member of the George Wyllie Foundation, which I am not remunerated for. The foundation promotes the artist's work.

Ross Greer (West Scotland) (Green): I have no registered interests, but a potential interest is that I am a member of the Scottish Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

Jackson Carlaw: I have no registered interests to declare.

10:01

Bruce Crawford: The committee's next task, under agenda item 2, is to choose a convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish National Party are eligible for nomination as convener, and I understand that Joan McAlpine is the party's nominee for the post. Do we agree to choose her as our convener?

Joan McAlpine was chosen as convener.

Bruce Crawford: That is agreed around the table. I congratulate Joan McAlpine on her appointment and I look forward to working with her in that role. I will now vacate the chair for her.

Richard Lochhead: Well chaired.

Deputy Convener

10:02

The Convener (Joan McAlpine): I thank Bruce Crawford for his chairing of the meeting.

The committee's next task is to choose a deputy convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish Labour Party are eligible for nomination as deputy convener, and Lewis Macdonald is the party's nominee for the post. Do we agree that he will be deputy convener?

Lewis Macdonald was chosen as deputy convener.

The Convener: I congratulate Lewis Macdonald.

Decision on Taking Business in Private

10:02

The Convener: The next item is a decision on whether to take agenda item 5 in private. Are we agreed?

Members *indicated agreement.*

10:03

Meeting continued in private until 10:33.

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Published in Edinburgh by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

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