



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Published 24 May 2018
SP Paper 333
5th Report, 2018 (Session 5)

Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee

**Comataidh Turasachd, Eòrpach agus Dàimhean Taobh a-
muigh**

Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee: Annual Report 2017-18



Published in Scotland by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.

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Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee

To consider and report on the following (and any additional matter added under Rule 6.1.5A)—

- (a) proposals for European Union legislation;
 - (b) the implementation of European Communities and European Union legislation;
 - (c) any European Communities or European Union issue;
 - (d) the development and implementation of the Scottish Administration's links with countries and territories outside Scotland, the European Union (and its institutions) and other international organisations; and
 - (e) co-ordination of the international activities of the Scottish Administration.
- (f) culture and tourism matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Relations



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Scottish National Party



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Scottish Conservative
and Unionist Party



Ross Greer
Scottish Green Party



Richard Lochhead
Scottish National Party



Stuart McMillan
Scottish National Party



Tavish Scott
Scottish Liberal
Democrats



Alexander Stewart
Scottish Conservative
and Unionist Party

Introduction

1. This report covers the work of the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee (CTEERC) for the Parliamentary year from 12 May 2017 to 11 May 2018.
2. During the reporting period the Committee met 32 times.
 - 3 held wholly in public
 - 1 held wholly in private
 - 28 held partly in private
 - The Committee sought to include the consideration of equalities issues in all aspects of its work in the reporting period.



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Membership changes

3. Previous Members of the Committee during the reporting year:

- Lewis MacDonald (Scottish Labour), Deputy Convener (from 7 May 2016 to 9 January 2018) (replaced by Claire Baker)ⁱ.



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ⁱ After the end of the reporting period, but before this report was published, Rachael Hamilton MSP and Jackson Carlaw MSP were replaced by Jamie Greene MSP and Alexander Stewart MSP.

The Committee's work in Session 5

4. The majority of the Committee's work in session 5 has focussed on the implications of withdrawing from the EU for Scotland. In this reporting year, the Committee has continued to pursue the following themes:
 - Scotland's future trade relationship with the EU: membership of the single market, a bilateral relationship, World Trade Organization rules,
 - intergovernmental relations and the Scottish Government's role in negotiations the impact of withdrawal from the EU for the Scottish Budget;
 - Scotland's future relations with the EU and its Member States;
 - the domestic process of withdrawing from the EU.

Article 50 inquiry into the negotiations on the UK's withdrawal from the EU

5. At the end of March 2017, the UK triggered the withdrawal process under Article 50 of the Treaty on European Union. Under this process, the United Kingdom will leave the European Union by the end of March 2019. In June 2017, the Committee launched a new inquiry to monitor and scrutinise the Article 50 withdrawal negotiations and their implications for Scotland.
6. The Committee held an evidence session with the European Union Committee of the Regions Conference of Presidents in June 2017. The Conference of Presidents includes the President and 1st Vice-President of the Committee of the Regions and Members from each of the political groupings represented in the Committee of the Regions. The Committee and the Conference of Presidents discussed the implications of Brexit for Scotland. The Conference of Presidents drew on this meeting for a report that they submitted to Mr Michel Barnier on Brexit.
7. On 22 September 2017, the Committee travelled to Brussels for a meeting with Mr Michel Barnier, the Chief Negotiator, Taskforce on Article 50 negotiations with the UK. Mr Barnier updated the Committee on the negotiations and stressed the importance of the negotiations being completed by October 2018. He outlined the core principles underpinning the EU's position, and emphasised that it was not a typical negotiation as it was about managing divergence between the UK and the EU and the unpicking of a relationship that had been developed over forty years. He also highlighted the options available to the UK for its future relationship with the EU.



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8. In its meeting with Mr Barnier, the Committee highlighted the inquiry work that it had conducted over the previous fifteen months on the implications of exiting the EU for Scotland and provided him with copies of the Committee's reports. The Committee members raised a range of issues with Mr Barnier including the outcome of the referendum in Scotland with 62% voting to remain in the European Union. They asked Mr Barnier a series of questions on progress in the negotiations, the position being taken by the UK Government, the potential for transitional arrangements, time-sensitive exports, the rights of EU citizens in the UK and UK citizens in the EU, and the continuing protection of Geographical Indications.
9. In the autumn of 2017, the Committee held a series of evidence sessions on progress in the Article 50 negotiations. This included evidence on the border on the island of Ireland; on EU citizens rights; and on the Article 50 process. The Committee also took evidence from the Scottish Government Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe and the Secretary of State for Scotland. The evidence gathered was the subject of a Chamber debate in early January 2018, following the European Council meeting at which it was agreed that the second phase of negotiations could begin.
10. The Committee continued to take evidence in 2018 on the Article 50 negotiations, including an evidence session with the Minister for UK Negotiations on Scotland's Place in Europe, an evidence session on trade and an evidence session with the Secretary of State for Scotland and the Undersecretary of State for Exiting the European Union.
11. The Committee also undertook a fact-finding visit to Belfast and Dublin to consider the specific issues relating to the border on the island of Ireland. The British-Irish Chambers of Commerce hosted a meeting for the Committee with representatives from key economic sectors at which future trading relationships, the impact on existing supply chains and networks, and the necessary infrastructure for ports and borders was discussed. The Committee also heard from the UK Ambassador to Ireland, representatives from the Scottish Government Hub in Ireland, Irish Government officials, and academic experts in Northern Ireland. The key element of the visit was a meeting with the Houses of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on EU Affairs at which there was an in-depth discussion on the implications of Brexit.



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Erasmus+ inquiry

12. In early 2018, the Committee conducted an inquiry into Erasmus+, which is an EU programme that aims to promote and modernise education, training, youth work and sport across Europe. This inquiry demonstrated the range of youth work organisations, volunteer groups, teachers, colleges and universities which participate in the programme and have found that it has helped to raise attainment and the aspirations of young people throughout Scotland. The Committee heard evidence about college students, for example, who had never been abroad learning cookery in France, construction in Spain and hairdressing in Portugal.
13. The inquiry also showed that Erasmus+ is the main source of funding in Scotland for professional development for language teachers and that without access to the programme the opportunity to train and network with other schools, colleges and universities across the EU will be lost.
14. In its [report on Erasmus+](#), the Committee agreed on the basis of evidence heard, that it was "...imperative that the UK seeks to negotiate programme country status for the next programming period of the Erasmus+ programme" and called on the UK Government to commit itself in the framework agreement it concludes with EU to its continued right of participation in Erasmus+ as a programme country beyond 2020.
15. The Committee also agreed that if "the UK Government is not willing or able to negotiate the UK's continued participation in Erasmus+ as a programme country, the Committee urges the Scottish Government to explore whether it would be possible to use existing institutional structures, to support Scotland's continued participation as a programme country beyond 2020."
16. The Committee held a launch for the report to which those who had given evidence were invited and a debate in the Chamber on Erasmus+ was held on 16 May 2018, just outside this parliamentary year.



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Immigration inquiry

17. The Committee built on its earlier work on [EU Migration and EU Citizens' Rights](#) by initiating an inquiry to explore how the UK's immigration policy can best respond to Scotland's demographic and skills needs. The objective of the inquiry was to seek evidence from organisations and individuals in Scotland on how immigration policy can be developed to reflect and respond to Scotland's demographic and skills needs drawing on the policy options identified by Dr Eve Hepburn in her report to the Committee on [Options for Differentiating the UK's Immigration system](#).
18. The Committee launched a call for evidence and took evidence from the Minister for International Development and Europe on the Scottish Government's position on immigration on 9 November 2017. The Committee intends to continue to monitor developments in relation to immigration policy and how Scotland's specific demographic and labour market needs are taken into account. The Home Office has asked the Migration Advisory Committee to report on "the impact on the UK labour market of the UK's exit from the European Union and how the UK's immigration system should be aligned with a modern industrial strategy" by September 2018 and the Committee will revisit the inquiry at this time.

Screen Sector inquiry

19. The Committee launched a major inquiry into the Scotland's screen sector in the autumn of 2017 with a call for evidence. The aim of the inquiry was to consider how the Screen [Sector Leadership Group](#)'s report recommendations on strengthening and developing the Scottish screen sector can be implemented.
20. The Committee undertook a series of fact-finding visits as part of the inquiry in early 2018. It visited Northern Ireland Screen and an independent production company based in Belfast. It also visited the BBC Scotland Headquarters in Pacific Quay, Glasgow; Film City Glasgow; and the Ward Park Studios in Cumbernauld where *Outlander* is filmed.



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21. The Committee started taking oral evidence in late January. The evidence that it heard convinced it that the proposals for a Screen Unit did not respond to the needs of the sector and in early May it published an interim report recommending the establishment of a standalone screen agency for Scotland.
22. The Committee will publish its final report on the Screen Sector inquiry before summer recess. The final report will draw on all the evidence heard during the course of the inquiry and build on the recommendations of the interim report.

Creative Scotland – Regular Funding 2018-21 Inquiry

23. Following the concerns expressed by arts organisations about the results of Creative Scotland’s regular funding round, the Committee took evidence from the Chief Executive and the former Interim Chair of Creative Scotland. It then issued a

call for views on the regular funding process and sustainable funding for arts and creative organisations in Scotland. The Committee received over 50 responses to the call for views and will consider the evidence received.

Culture

24. In May 2017 the Committee took evidence on the Scottish Collections, hearing from National Galleries Scotland, National Museums Scotland, National Library of Scotland, National Record of Scotland and Scottish Library and Information Council.

BBC

25. The Committee held its annual evidence session with the BBC on its Annual Report and Accounts in October 2017. The Committee scrutinised spend by the BBC and how it sought to support the screen sector in Scotland and portray Scotland and its people in its productions. The Committee also questioned the BBC representatives on plans for the new Scottish Channel.

Tourism

26. The Committee held a roundtable on 18 May 2017 with representatives of the tourism sector on the key challenges and opportunities facing the sector.

International Development

27. On 15 June 2017, the Committee also held a roundtable on the Scottish Government's international development strategy, taking evidence from a range of international development organisations on the programmes and projects that they delivered with funding from the Scottish Government.

Scottish Government's Draft Budget 2018-19

28. The Committee took evidence prior to the publications of the Scottish Government's draft budget 2018-19 on international development and on Historic Environment Scotland. Following the publication of the budget it took evidence from Creative Scotland and the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs. Following the evidence session, the Committee agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs to raise concerns about National Lottery funding and the geographical distribution of arts funding.

Scottish Government Reports

29. The Committee continued to monitor a number of EU funding streams and initiatives by considering bi-annual reports produced by the Scottish Government, including:
- Horizon 2020
 - The Scottish Government's 1+ 2 Languages Policy
 - The Scottish Government's transposition of EU Directives
 - European and Structural Investment Funds in Scotland.

Public Engagement

30. As part of the Erasmus+ inquiry, the Committee visited the Jack Kane Community Centre in Edinburgh to see first-hand how the programme is being used to fund projects in Scotland. The Committee kept in touch with the members of the Jack Kane centre as the inquiry progressed and invited some of the participants in the Erasmus+ programme to attend the Committee's debate on 16 May 2018 so they could see how this engagement had contributed to the Committee's inquiry.

