

Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee  
Tuesday 23 June 2026  
1<sup>st</sup> Meeting, 2026 (Session 7)

## Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee – Membership of External Bodies

1. As set out in the session 6 Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee's (CEEAC) Legacy Report, and referred to in Paper 5 - Overview of Committee remit, the Scottish Parliament has been represented on a number of external bodies, which fall within the remit of the Committee. These are the:
  - [Interparliamentary Forum](#)
  - [UK/EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly](#) (PPA)
  - [Congress of Local and Regional Authorities](#) (CLRAE) of the Council of Europe
  - [Committee of the Regions \(CoR\)-UK Contact Group](#)
2. The Committee will be invited to consider its ongoing involvement in, and representation on, the Interparliamentary Forum, the UK/EU Parliamentary Partnership Assembly and the Committee of the Regions-UK Contact Group in the autumn.
3. No decisions are needed from the Committee at this stage for these three bodies. The exception in the above list is for membership of CLRAE.

### CLRAE

4. CLRAE is an institution of the Council of Europe, responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in its 46 member states and assessing the application of the European Charter of Local Self-government. As the voice of Europe's municipalities and regions, it works to foster consultation and political dialogue between national governments and local and regional authorities, through cooperation with the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers. The Council of Europe is separate from the institutions of the European Union.
5. In session 6, the CEEAC committee chose two of its members, from different parties, and not the Convener and Deputy Convener (who were then representatives on other bodies), to represent the Scottish Parliament in CLRAE: the full member was Keith Brown MSP and the alternate member was Alexander Stewart MSP.
6. It is anticipated that the Scottish Parliament will be invited in the autumn to nominate representatives for a new mandate for CLRAE, for meetings due to take place from March 2027 onwards. Before this mandate formally begins, there is one remaining meeting of the Congress, which will take place on 27-29 October 2026.

7. Members will note that the Session 6 representative, Keith Brown MSP, is again a member of the new Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee for Session 7.

## **Action**

8. The Committee is invited to discuss its representation on CLRAE. One option is to agree that:
  - Keith Brown MSP remains the Scottish Parliament's representative for the October 2026 meeting of the CLRAE, to ensure a continued presence from the Scottish Parliament on this body, and
  - The Committee has a further discussion in the autumn on the renewed mandate for the CLRAE meetings from March 2027 onwards, and its representation on the other bodies for Session 7.

**Clerks to the Committee**  
**June 2026**