

Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

14th Meeting 2022 (Session 6), Thursday 9 June 2022

Cross-Party Group Application

Introduction

1. In accordance with the provisions on Cross-Party Groups (CPGs) set out in section 6 of the Code of Conduct (the Code), proposals for the establishment of CPGs in the Scottish Parliament must be submitted to the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee (the Committee) for its approval.
2. There is one proposed Group for the Committee's consideration.

Proposed CPG on Europe

3. The registration form submitted by the proposed Group is attached at Annexe A to this note.

Consideration by the Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee

4. Paragraph 18 of Section 6 of the Code states "...one of the proposed Group's MSP office bearers (usually the Convener) will be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee to explain the justification for the proposed Group." Katy Clarke MSP has been invited to the meeting to discuss registration of the proposed Group.

Purpose

5. Paragraph 19 Section 6 of the Code states "the Committee will pay particular attention to a proposed Group's purpose. If the Committee considers that a proposed Group is not in the public interest but is intended, for example, to further particular commercial interests, the proposed Group will not be accorded recognition. The Committee will also consider whether the purpose of a proposed Group overlaps the remit of an existing Group. If there is any overlap proposed Groups are asked to provide justification as to why their aims could not effectively be achieved within an existing Group".
6. The stated purpose of the proposed Group is—
 - to provide a forum for discussion and information-sharing about

Scotland and its relations with the rest of Europe, fellow European countries, the European Union and other European organisations.

- To provide MSPs with a source of information and expertise on issues relating to Europe.
- To bring together MSPs and people from Scotland and internationally with an interest in European issues to promote co-operation between Scotland and the rest of Europe.
- To provide a forum for EU citizens' groups in Scotland to inform MSPs about issues of concern to them.

7. The proposed Group considers its remit overlaps with the following CPGs:

- CPG on Germany
- CPG on Poland
- CPG on Colleges and Universities.

Membership

8. Paragraph 8 of Section 6 of the Code requires group membership to include at least five MSPs, with at least one MSP from each of the parties or groups represented on the Parliamentary Bureau. The Committee has previously agreed that there should be a general waiver of this Rule in the current Session and Groups are now required to have five MSPs from the majority of parties represented on the Parliamentary Bureau. The proposed Group meets this requirement.

9. The MSP membership (by party) of the proposed Group is as follows—

- Clare Adamson MSP, Annabelle Ewing MSP, Fiona Hyslop MSP, Michelle Thomson MSP, Jim Fairlie MSP and Alasdair Allan MSP, Scottish National Party
- Katy Clark MSP, Foysol Choudhury MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Scottish Labour Party
- Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Scottish Liberal Democrats
- Mark Ruskell MSP, Scottish Green Party

10. Paragraph 9 of Section 6 of the Code entitles groups to contain members from outwith the Parliament. The proposed group have provided a list of non-MSP member organisations which can be found at Annexe A.

Office Bearers

11. Paragraph 10 of Section 6 of the Code requires one MSP to be Convener of the Group and there to be at least one other MSP office bearer. The proposed Group

meets this requirement: Katy Clark MSP, Convener and Michelle Thomson MSP, Deputy Convener of the proposed Group.

Financial Benefits and Subscription

12. The registration form indicates that there is an anticipated £580 financial benefits related to the group from European Movement in the form of staffing costs to provide secretariat support.

13. The registration form also indicates that members of the proposed Group will not be charged a subscription.

Next Steps

14. At agenda item 2 the Committee is invited to discuss any aspects of the application for recognition of the proposed Cross-Party Group on—

- Europe with Katy Clark MSP

15. At agenda item 4 the Committee will discuss whether to accord recognition to the proposed Group.

Vicky Moyes
Support Manager
Standards, Procedures and Public Appointments Committee
June 2022

Cross-Party Group Registration Form**Annexe A**

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Europe
PURPOSE OF THE GROUP AND PROPOSED DISCUSSION TOPICS <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please state the purpose of the Group.2. Please also provide a brief explanation of the purpose of the Group and why the purpose is in the public interest.3. Please also provide details of any overlaps with the purpose of existing Cross-Party Groups and an explanation of why, regardless of any such overlap, the Group should be established.4. Please also provide an indication of the topics which the Group anticipates discussing in the forthcoming 12 months.

1. To provide a forum for discussion and information-sharing about Scotland and its relations with the rest of Europe, fellow European countries, the European Union and other European organisations.
 - i. To provide MSPs with a source of information and expertise on issues relating to Europe
 - ii. To bring together MSPs and people from Scotland and internationally with an interest in European issues to promote co-operation between Scotland and the rest of Europe.
 - iii. To provide a forum for EU citizens' groups in Scotland to inform MSPs about issues of concern to them.

2. Whilst we are no longer in the European Union our relationship with the EU and the rest of Europe is still important. By providing a forum for discussion and information sharing the Cross-Party Group would provide an opportunity for MSPs to remain informed about what is happening in Europe and how it impacts their constituents.

It also provides an information sharing forum where interested parties and experts can discuss with MSPs about the impact on their sectors and constituents, ensuring that MSPs are fully informed on matters relating to the EU.

EU citizens still form a strong cohort in Scotland and by providing a platform for them to discuss issues specifically to them MSPs are provided with first-hand knowledge about issues that are affecting them.

3. Cross-Party Group on Germany - there will be overlap in the cultural and information sharing due to Germany's role within the EU. However, the Cross-Party Group on Europe will have a focus on Europe as a whole and will have different discussion topics.

Cross-Party Group on Poland - there will be overlap on issues affecting Poles who are living in the UK. However, the Cross-Party Group on Europe will be focusing on the wider issue of EU citizens.

Cross-Party Group on Colleges and Universities - overlap on some potential topics most notably the Erasmus program and links between universities in Scotland and the rest of Europe. We will be looking in greater detail at the relationship between higher education institutions in Scotland and those in Europe and will provide a European context to the discussion about Higher Education.

4. The following topic areas have been discussed as potential future topics.

Ukraine and the impact on Europe

The wellbeing and experience of EU nationals who have stayed in Scotland after leaving the EU.

How the Post-Brexit legislative agenda coming out of Westminster will impact Scotland and devolution.

The promotion of Arts and Culture between Scotland and the rest of Europe. How higher education has been affected since leaving the Erasmus scheme. Keeping up to date with the legislative agenda of the European Union.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Katy Clark (Labour)

Clare Adamson (SNP)

Annabelle Ewing (SNP)

Fiona Hyslop (SNP)

Michelle Thomson

(SNP)

Foyso Choudhury (Labour)

Sarah Boyack (Labour)

Mark Ruskell (Green)

Jim Fairlie (SNP)	
Alex Cole-Hamilton (Scottish Liberal Democrats)	
Alasdair Allan (SNP)	
NON-MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP	
For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.	
Individuals	Michael Russell Hugh McMahon Kirsty Hughes
Organisations	European Movement in Scotland Feniks Colleges Scotland Universities Scotland Citizens Rights Project Ayrshire4EU Edinburgh 4 Europe Fife for Europe
GROUP OFFICE BEARERS	
Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener - beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.	
Convener	Katy Clark MSP
Deputy Convener	Michelle Thomson MSP
Secretary	Elliot Grant-Conlin
Treasurer	
FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS	

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) the Group anticipates receiving from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

£580 from European Movement in form of staffing costs to provide secretariat support.

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of the amount to be charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

N/A

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Katy Clark MSP
Parliamentary address	The Scottish Parliament Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 5941

STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF CONDUCT

I declare that the Cross-Party Group on Europe is constituted and will comply with the terms of Section 6 of the Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament.

Signed	
Date	<u>18/5/22</u>