

Perhaps you will remember that last year we sponsored the Junior Debating Competition run by the [English-Speaking Union](#). We selected the motion, "This house believes that an ever closer union offers the best future for the citizens of Europe." The ESU also runs another debating competition, "The Schools' Mace". The final for this will be held in Glasgow and we and our members have been invited to attend. See events below for more information.

The Final for the Junior Debating Competition will take place in June and when we have more information, we will pass it on to you.

After our last email, I was pleased to receive the following feedback from one of our members. I would like to share that with you now.



Referenda in this country, few as they have been, are promoted by governments seeking an endorsement of their policy. There is no provision and no precedent for a national referendum promoted from below. Consequently, there will only be an EU referendum if the Westminster government promotes one and if it does it will have to ask the people to endorse its policy. It's inconceivable that David Cameron could go to the country urging withdrawal – that would split his party, and if he lost, his government would fall. I cannot believe the Tory Party would ever allow him to run that risk. The only circumstances in which he could go to the country with a referendum would be after negotiating some changes to the way Brussels operates and presenting a reformed EU to the British people for acceptance. Rather as Harold Wilson did in 1975.

It's always difficult for political leaders to oppose "asking the people". That's why Ed Miliband can't rule out supporting a referendum in principle. What is important, though, is not whether a referendum takes place but what the parties urge the electorate to vote for. Harold Wilson had to accept that many Labour MPs campaigned against the EU, despite his government's endorsement of it. He won, comfortably. And I'm confident that despite all UKIP's noise the UK will remain a member of the EU.

What we in the European Movement should be campaigning for is not just "staying in". The EU is a moving train. We should be eager participants on the journey. The Scottish Referendum pointed the way to a properly federal UK. The EU needs to move in the same direction, with a common currency, common principal taxation, common citizenship and armed forces, all of which is compatible with appropriate devolution to member states. The EM should be bold enough to say so and a referendum campaign could provide the incentive for more people to listen than ever before.

Dr Malcolm Green

As always, your feedback is welcome and you can email me at [chair@euromovescotland.org.uk](mailto:chair@euromovescotland.org.uk).

## Events

Don't forget to let us know of any interesting EU-related events in your area.

### TTIP Summit, Aberdeen

*Aberdeen's future: Jobs, services and the Transatlantic Trade & Investment Partnership*

*Friday, 20 March 2015 from 09:30 to 11:30*

#### **Skene House Conference Suites, Rosemount, Aberdeen, AB25 1NX**

You are invited to join us at the TTIP Summit to discuss the biggest free trade negotiations in history and their implications for the future of people in Aberdeen and Scotland more broadly.

Dr Ian Duncan MEP, the Conservative group spokesman on energy and fisheries in the European Parliament will be speaking alongside representatives from the business and civil society sectors.

Under discussion are:

- the implications of the deal for jobs, services, wages and prices, with a particular focus on the energy industry;
- if TTIP will open the door to privatisation of the NHS and reduce regulatory standards in areas such as the environment, food and banking. What's myth and what's reality?
- what citizens think about TTIP through new research into public attitudes to the principles underpinning the negotiations and considering future democratic engagement - including the timetable

for the next stage negotiations, how business and civil society can make their voice heard, and what role our Parliaments play in the process.

This event is supported by the UK Office of the European Parliament and organised by the Hansard Society. For more information visit the [Eventbrite page](#).

### 2014-15 Scottish Schools' Mace Final

Wednesday 25th March 2015 at 18:30

#### The Glasgow University Union Debating Chamber

The motion for the Final is :

"This House Believes That (THBT) religions and religious figures are legitimate targets for political cartoonists to satirise."

We have been invited to attend.

The eight schools which have progressed to this stage of the competition are :-

- Bearsden Academy, Glasgow
- Braes High School, Polmont
- High School Of Dundee
- George Heriot's School, Edinburgh
- George Watson's College, Edinburgh
- Madras College, St Andrews
- Mearns Castle High School, Newton Mearns
- St Columba's School, Kilmacolm

In addition to the presentation of The Scottish Schools' Mace to the winning school, the ESU Scottish Schools Quaich will be awarded to the school pupil who offers the Best Contribution In The Floor Debate. Please RSVP as soon as possible by sending an email to [secretary@esuscotland.org.uk](mailto:secretary@esuscotland.org.uk). Please also note that guests are requested to arrive by 18:15 at the latest. For more information visit the [event's webpage](#).

### Swedish Elections; probably the best elections in the world

Thursday April 9th 2015, 6pm

#### Scottish Storytelling Centre, 43-45 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1SR

Speaker: Kristina Lemon from the Swedish Elections Authority

Chair: Lesley Riddoch, broadcaster & writer

The UK is gearing up for a General Election with the probability of a 50-60 per cent turnout and a hung parliament. The last General Election in Sweden, also produced no single party with a working majority. Swedes have used PR since 1909 and coalition government is normal. So is last year's turnout of 85.8% – higher even than Scotland's record breaking referendum. The turnout for the last council elections was 38% in Scotland but 82% in Sweden.

Could Scottish democracy learn from a system like this? Kristina Lemon of the Swedish Election Authority will describe how the Swedish electoral system works.

Please book your place via Eventbrite: <https://nordichorizons-swedishelections.eventbrite.com>.

### Germany, Scotland and the EU

Monday 20th April 2015, 18:15 - 19:30

#### Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation (ECCI), Conference Room

Lecture by **David McAllister** (MEP, Former Prime Minister of Lower Saxony)

Chair: Prof. **Charlie Jeffery** (Senior Vice Principal; Professor of Politics, University of Edinburgh)

David McAllister was elected a member of the European Parliament in 2014. He was the Spitzenkandidat (lead candidate) of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Angela Merkel's party. From 1998 until 2014 McAllister, who has a Scottish father and a German mother, was a member of the parliament of Lower Saxony and led its CDU group from 2003 until 2010. From 2010 until 2013 he served as prime minister of Lower Saxony.

This event is sponsored by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and the Europa Institute.

More information on this [Eventbrite page](#).