

Hoping you all managed to enjoy the lovely weather over the Easter break.



In this email I'm making an appeal for **help with manning the stall on Europe Day**. Of course, as I'm sure we all know, Europe Day is usually May 9th, but as we cannot obtain the stalls on a Saturday, the day has been moved forward to Friday May 8th and the celebrations will take place in Castle Street, Edinburgh.

This year over 10 member states are represented and we will be joined by such bodies as the Prince's Trust, RSPB, The Scottish European Education Trust and Young Scot, etc.

On stage this year there will be music and dance acts provided by: Latvia, Poland, Romania, the Prince's Trust and Scottish Opera. There are more details to follow nearer the time.

The stalls should be ready by 11am and as with in the previous years all should be over by 3pm. I would like to set up a rota of volunteers as in previous years. If you can help for an hour or more, please get in contact by emailing info@euromovescotland.org.uk and let me know if you have a preferred time.

Europe Day is traditionally the date of our European Pub Quiz, but because of the elections it has been postponed until the end of the month. See below for details.

As always, your feedback is welcome and you can email me at chair@euromovescotland.org.uk.

Derek Hammersley
Chairman

Events

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

SCF Event: Competition policy in the next Parliament

Thursday 23 April 2015, 6pm (registration from 5.30pm)

Maclay Murray & Spens LLP, Quartermile One, 15 Lauriston Place, Edinburgh EH3 9EP

We are giving this event a special mention as Lord Wallace of Tankerness is on the panel. Many of you will recognise him as one of our patrons.

The May 2015 Westminster election promises to be the hardest to predict in many years. The state of the Scottish economy and its competitiveness will be a central issue and one to which future competition policy and regulation is key. We are therefore delighted to have representatives from the four parties currently representing Scottish seats at Westminster to tell us how their respective parties will tackle issues of competition and regulation in the next Parliament.

The panel members include:

- Willie Bain MP, Labour MP for Glasgow North East
- Lord Wallace of Tankerness, Liberal Democrat member of the House of Lords and Advocate General for Scotland
- Gavin Brown MSP, Conservative MSP for Lothian
- Mike Weir MP, SNP MP for Angus

A question and answer session will give attendees the opportunity to ask questions of the panel, and will be followed by refreshments.

Please use the following Eventbrite link to register for the event: <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/scf-event-competition-policy-in-the-next-parliament-tickets-16378183588>

Responsible Investment - Lessons from Denmark

Monday, May 18, 2015 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

City Chambers, 253 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

The ethics of our financial services industry are under scrutiny as never before. Few of us want our pensions or investments to damage the environment, or support the production of weapons that hurt civilians, or even encourage smoking.

Zaiga Strautmane, Head of ESG (Environment, Social Justice and Governance) at UniPension will explain how her firm addresses such challenges and more generally how the pensions industry operates in Denmark for example around regulation and transparency.

It is planned that a UK-based speaker from the pensions industry will also provide a local perspective and response. A Q&A session will follow and the event will be followed by drinks in Hemma, Swedish bar, on Holyrood Road: <http://www.bodabar.com/hemma/>

Organised and hosted by Independent Edinburgh Councillor, Jim Orr
Chaired by Sarah Smart, independent financial adviser

Places are free. Please book via Eventbrite: <http://responsibleinvestmentdenmark.eventbrite.com>

Is small still beautiful in Norway?

Wednesday, May 27, 2015 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

City Chambers, 253 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ

This event is organised by Nordic Horizons and chaired by Lesley Riddoch, writer and broadcaster. Norway has 428 kommuner (councils). The average size of a kommune is just 12,000 people. In Scotland the average council serves a whopping 178,000 people. How do these tiny Norwegian kommuner function and avoid bureaucracy and uneven standards? Whatever the answer it seems they are doing something right. Turnout at elections is 64% - almost twice that of Scotland. And 1 in 81 Norwegians stands in council elections compared to 1 in 2071 Scots.

The new Norwegian Government has proposed mergers which would bring the average kommune size closer to 15 or 20 thousand people. Even this modest increase in size is causing local opposition. So is small still beautiful in Norway?

Professor John Bryden is a Scot who currently lives near Oslo. He is Research Professor at the Norwegian Agricultural Economics Research Institute and Professor of Human Geography Emeritus at Aberdeen University. He is the lead editor of a new book comparing the modern history of Scotland and Norway, *Northern Neighbours*, by Edinburgh University Press.

The event will be followed by drinks in Hemma, Swedish bar, on Holyrood Road:

<http://www.bodabar.com/hemma/>

European Pub Quiz

29 May 2015

Canon's Gait, Royal Mile, Edinburgh (tbc)

Save the date! Our annual Pub Quiz is fast approaching. More details to follow, but if you would like to be part of a team, please contact me by replying to this email.