

Dear Friend,

A big "thank-you" to all those people who turned up to help at the stall at the Europe Day celebrations on May 8th. It was nice to meet some of our recent members as well as the students from the European Society at Edinburgh University. We were lucky to have sunny weather in the morning but the day quickly got colder with a strong wind. We had several people come to visit us on our stall, including a few euro-sceptics. Whether we persuaded them to change their minds is another matter.



Some of our members helping out on the stall

Love to meet some of you at the Pub Quiz on Friday 29th, even if you don't join the team. See below for more details.)

At 8:20 this morning I was in the Edinburgh studios of the BBC Scotland ready for my interview on "Good Morning Scotland". I was asked to comment on behalf of the European Movement in Scotland on the CBI President's speech saying how urgent and important it was for business to speak up for continued membership of the EU. You can read more about that [here](#) and the related warnings from airbus [here](#).

Perhaps some of you heard it, but for those who didn't, these are the main points I made:

- The EU constitutes the biggest single market in the world with over 500 million consumers.
- The economy of the EU is 7 times that of the UK.
- Just under half of the UK's exports go to the EU.
- 330,000 Scottish jobs are directly dependent upon those exports and one seventh of those are directly dependent upon our membership of the EU.
- There are no realistic alternatives to our membership. It is inconceivable that we would join the European Economic Area. We would > have to comply with all EU requirements. Norway, for example, must pay 90% of what it would pay to be a member and has no say in the creation of these laws. The Swiss took 9 years to come to an agreement which is very limited and this experiment is unlikely to be repeated.
- Businesses need to be clear. We will either be in or completely out.
- Even with minimal or no changes, we should stay in and we expect more and more businesses to say so.

After the election, the efforts to persuade sceptics of the benefits of our EU membership will have to be stepped up and we will hopefully be having some news on that very soon. As always, your feedback is welcome and you can email me at chair@euromovescotland.org.uk.

Derek Hammersley
Chairman

Events

There are a few late notices of upcoming events that may be of interest. Do let us know as soon as possible.

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/>

Urgent deadline European Pub Quiz

Friday 29 May 2015

Canon's Gait, Royal Mile, Edinburgh EH8 8DQ

Doors open 18.30, Quiz starts 19:30

Entrance is free with a free buffet at 18:30.

If you would like to be part of a team, please contact me by replying to this email.

New Meet Your MEP, Ian Duncan (Conservative)

Friday 5 June, 12:00 - 14:30

European Parliament Information Office in Edinburgh, 4th Floor, The Tun, 4 Jackson's Entry, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8PJ

Ian Duncan will discuss Energy Union and the other work he is currently involved in at the European Parliament.

His presentation will be followed by a Q&A session.

Free to attend, but please click [here](#) to register on Eventbrite.

New Swedish Elections; probably the best elections in the world

Tuesday June 9th 2015, 6pm

Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

The recent UK General Election had a 'high' turnout of 66%. The last General Election in Sweden 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.

How do the Swedes do it? Could Scottish democracy learn from a system like this?

Speaker: Kristina Lemon from the Swedish Elections Authority

Chair: Lesley Riddoch, broadcaster & writer & Nordic Horizons Director

Organised by Nordic Horizons

Please book this free event via [Eventbrite](#).