

Dear Friend,

EMiS is a member organisation – we are built from the bottom up! As the pace of debate about the European referendum builds, so our members are increasingly asking how they can help with the campaign. The most important thing we think is to get your voices heard.



With this in mind, we are always pleased to hear from you – it can be whatever you want: something in the discussion that irks you; a point you want to make; or perhaps just recalling a moment when you felt the our membership of the European Union enriched your lives. (We are happy to publish anonymously if you don't want your name included.)

This week's contribution comes from Kusha and Dirk Bolt, who wrote to us as a result of the invitation to our meeting next week. They are unable to attend but outlined why they think membership of the EU is crucial to the UK. I have copied their email below.

*Delighted to hear that EMiS is cooperating with other pro-European organisations to campaign in the referendum. This has our full support.*

*The position of EMiS might be that:*

- *EMiS casts the net as widely as possible in gaining support for the view that the answer to the question asked in the referendum is a wholehearted 'Yes'*
- *In its discussions with pro-European national organisations, EMiS identifies why it is that from the viewpoint of Scotland the Yes vote is very important.*

*In marshalling arguments for the Yes vote, EMiS might support the many economic reasons for staying in the EU with much needed social arguments. These might include the following:*

- *People*

*The view that Europe is 'foreign' is false. Britain is a part of Europe not only the geo-political and economic sense, but as a family of people. Yes, there have been wars, but the history of the UK itself is full of wars.*

- *Culture*

*The UK is part of the European cultural family. The English language is a Frisian-Saxon language with influences from Scandinavia, France, Italy and Greece. British literature, music, painting, sculpture, architecture, ethics, laws, religious traditions, philosophy and sciences, cooking and education are European in their sources and development. The UK cannot set itself apart from these sources without denying its culture the sources of its inspiration.*

- *History*

*Historically, including the significant historical development of the last half century, Britain is an integral part of Europe. The UK has played a key role in this development; the EU is very much a British co-creation. The argument that EU is Franco-German dominated not only overlooks the contribution of other European member states, but denies the UK its rightful role of being a major EU player. As the UK's role of playing a role in world affairs unavoidably diminishes it should increase, not decrease, its role in the EU.*

*EMiS might also argue that the real long term issues that face the UK are the two E's: Europe and the Environment. Only in the context of EU action will the UK be able to help reduce the disastrous effects of climate change and other results of irresponsible use of natural resources. The global environment is one area where it is crystal clear that the UK cannot act on its own.*

*At the personal level, we believe that the Prime Minister errs in exchanging his role as a British Statesman representing One Nation, for a role of being representative and advocate of a minority view within a minority party. EMiS might encourage him and his ministers to shed the use EU forums as platforms for gaining credit within the right wing of the currently ruling party; this is not the statesmanship that is needed in a referendum that potentially endangers the well being of the nation.*

*We are further of the opinion that, irrespective of the outcome of the referendum, the constituent countries of the UK should have a say on the next steps to be taken and that, should it come to a withdrawal from the EU or to becoming a second grade EU member state, Scotland should hold a second referendum. Concerning EMiS, we think that it is fair that it makes it clear that this is a view held by at least a part of its members.*

*In summary, we consider the member countries of the UK are, like married persons, part of two families; that of the UK and, through it, the EU. We think that is the task of the Prime Minister to respect and honour both families, and to avoid conflicts of interest. As in a marriage, he should not create economic and social upheaval that affects either of the families. Instead, he might focus on harmony between them and on strengthening their relationship. If EMiS could help achieve this, it would deserve a place in history!*

We think Dirk and Kusha have raised some interesting points which we look forward to discussing on Wednesday. **And if you haven't registered yet, why not do it now!** (See below.)

We would also like to thank all our supporters who have donated money towards the campaign. You will all be thanked personally in due course. It is very encouraging to see your enthusiasm for the cause.

If you would like to join or donate, go along to our website at <http://www.euromovescotland.org.uk/membership.htm> to find out how to do this.

With reference to our website, I hope you've had the time to take a look at it recently. We are frequently updating it and we have a new section with links to other pro-EU websites which have some interesting reading. You'll find them under the news section. If you can suggest more, let us know.

Hopefully you will have noticed that we have had several letters in the newspapers and Alex Orr represented us on BBC's "The Big Questions." Your chairman was on holiday, so thank you Alex for that. If you didn't see them, the links are on our website at <http://www.euromovescotland.org.uk/media.htm>.

Some time ago, now retired vice-chair Ian Traill went along to the seminar Emerging Challenges for Scotland's European Agenda at the European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde Glasgow. It was given by Dr Brian McVey, Director of Strategy, Scottish Enterprise. (See below for another upcoming seminar.)

He produced a report for us on the seminar which is copied below:

*Speaking on the day Scottish Enterprise (SE) launched its new 3-year Business Plan for 2015-18, Brian's presentation focused on how SE's changing priorities – especially the “four i's” – Internationalisation, Innovation, Investment and Inclusion, were playing into a revised agenda of strengthening connections and relationships with the EU institutions, Funding Programmes and links with other EU Regions where specific partnerships could be developed.*

*In addition to his role as Director of Strategy, Brian is also responsible, within SE's HQ in Glasgow, for Scotland Europa, SE's interface with the EU in Brussels – he is well placed therefore to speak on the importance of the EU to Economic Development in Scotland. SE's new Business Plan envisages annual income/expenditure of around £320 million of which around £10 million rising to £18 million over the 3 years, will be derived directly from EU sources – an important element of the total funding stream which is further augmented by “intangibles” – ie benefits resulting from networking and collaboration on projects such as participation in the EU's Vanguard Initiative which links regions wishing to engage in “Smart Specialisation” across Europe.*

*The new Business Plan is entitled “Building Scotland's International Competitiveness” and around £50 million of the annual spend will focus on encouraging more companies (especially SME's) into export markets and enhancing internationalization skills. The EU represents around 40% of Scotland's total exports but Brian highlighted that some 60% of total exports are generated by as few as 100 companies ( dominated by the whisky industry) therefore efforts are needed to strengthen and broaden the export base.*

SE also encourages businesses and public sector organisations to engage with the EU funding process and has recently launched a EU Funding Portal to provide information and assistance - <http://www.funding-portal.eu>.

Enterprise Europe Scotland can also provide assistance, especially in relation to the Innovation Funding Programme Horizon 2020 and European Business Opportunities - <http://www.enterprise-europe-scotland.com/sct/>

As a Scottish Government agency, SE is strictly prohibited from taking political sides. However it is clear that continued membership of the EU is fundamental to economic development in Scotland going forward and Brian concluded that SE now has a strong commitment to maximize the benefits available.

## Events

Let us know of any events in your area as soon as possible.

### Members' Meeting

Wednesday 24th June 2015, 7pm

#### English-Speaking Union, 23 Atholl Crescent

All members and supporters of the European Movement in Scotland are invited.

The meeting is

- to update members on current developments in setting up co-operative ventures with other pro-European organisations to campaign in the referendum,
- to update members on what steps the European Movement in Scotland is taking to position itself to fight the referendum,
- to seek feedback on how you would like to see the European Movement position itself in respect of the Referendum .

Please come along, make your voice heard, and contribute to the formulation of strategy by your Executive Committee.

Refreshments will be provided, including a glass of wine or soft drinks and a few nibbles. We are hoping for an informative and lively discussion.

**RSVP:** It would help with catering if you would let us know if you intend to come by sending an email to [Treasurer@euromovescotland.org.uk](mailto:Treasurer@euromovescotland.org.uk).

**\*NEW\*** - Capacity and performance variation for EU Structural Funds in Bulgaria and Romania. Going beyond the administrative capacity nexus?

Wednesday 24 June, 12.00 – 13.00pm

(followed by a buffet lunch at 13:00)

**European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde, (Graham Hills Building, main (south east) entrance, 9th floor), 40 George Street, Glasgow**

The presentation will be made by Neculai-Cristian Surubaru, a visiting PhD Researcher at the European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde.

**RSVP:** Alyson Ross, 0141 548 4907, [alyson.ross@strath.ac.uk](mailto:alyson.ross@strath.ac.uk)

**\*NEW\*** - **Freudenstadt Weekend**

Friday afternoon 3 July to Sunday lunch 5 July

**Zollernblick Hotel in the Black Forest**

Member Professor Chris Harvie, Prof of British Studies at Tuebingen asked us to announce the following event.

The Freudenstadt weekend runs annually in early July with Edinburgh Politics (Paddy Bort) and Tuebingen British Studies (Prof Harvie - from whom further details can be obtained.)

For 25 years lefties from the SPD, Labour Party, SNP, Greens/Gruenen, Plaid Cymru, LibDems, FDP - even the occasional Liberal Tory like Wales's David Melding - have met at the Zollernblick Hotel in the Black Forest to discuss regional culture and politics.

This year there will be a concentration on Federalism and/or Confederalism in Europe and Britain, and its role in re-industrialising for a low-carbon Europe.

Given the European background to the present crisis, Eberhard Bort of Edinburgh Uni Politics, and I as Prof of British Studies at Uni Tuebingen invite the interested to travel across and join in. One long-driven project gets fulfilled on 6 September when the Borders Railway reopens. Not FDS's supertrams. But getting there! The Green-Red coalition in the Stuttgart Parliament has also been pretty successful, and as Freudies have always believed that re-creating a proper manufacturing industry is fundamental to saving the British Isles as a functioning partnership. We have much to teach as well as learn.

**Cost** for full board € 135, to hear David Walker, Lord Dafydd Wigley, John Osmond, Jaume Gelaubert (Mallorca), Patricia Conlan (Uni Galway) and Richard and Christine Thayer (Strasbourg), etc.

Anyone interested can contact Chris on 018962 2794, 07825 680879 or [christopher.harvie@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:christopher.harvie@uni-tuebingen.de)

Chris Harvie.