



European Movement in Scotland Newsletter April 2017

Dear members and friends of EMiS,

Article 50 has been triggered and day by day it is becoming clearer, even to the inept UK Government driving the Brexit bus, what a terrible situation we are in. The EU - Commission, Council and Parliament - will have the upper hand in deciding the terms of the deal the UK gets. The Union has shown great consistency and unity in its preparations and its priority will be to protect and promote the EU27. There will be no cherry-picking to suit Brexiteer fantasies, there will be no sectoral sweetheart deals for cars or pharmaceuticals, there will be no discussion of post-Brexit trade at all until the EU deems that sufficient progress has been made on the UK settling its outstanding liabilities to the Union from which it has benefited so greatly. Not punishment, just the realistic consequences of the Brexit decision.

Judge Ian Forrester, the Scottish judge at the European Court of Justice, speaking at Edinburgh University's Europa Institute this month, set out very plainly the massive parliamentary, regulatory and administrative disruption that taking into the UK legal systems some 90,000 pieces of EU legislation will cause for years to come. Professor Craig Parsons, speaking at our own event at the Scottish Parliament to mark the 60th Anniversary of the EU's foundation, emphasised the benefits that the UK is throwing away in turning its back on the world's most successful, wealthiest and most integrated single market.

Meantime the Scottish Parliament's decision to request a second Independence Referendum, its attempts to seek a differentiated outcome to allow Scotland to remain in the Single Market having been rejected by the Prime Minister, has been met with a rebuff from the UK Government. Professor Anton Muscatelli, Principal of Glasgow University, presented compelling evidence, at a Policy Scotland event last month, of the considerable damage to the Scottish economy that leaving the Single Market will cause. The impacts will be on trade, investment, and, as we are already seeing, the relocation of companies who need to operate within the EU. In particular, Scotland will suffer from loss of immigration - we will not have the workers, skills or tax payers we need to thrive as a society.

While it looks dark for those of us who care about our common European future, we are more determined than ever to continue to make the case for the relevance of the EU and not give up in building the sort of society we want for Scotland. Over 90% of Scotland's voters in the latest Social Attitudes Survey said they wanted to stay in the Single Market. We are not powerless - 2000 of us, from all parties and none, marched to the Scottish Parliament on that glorious sunny Saturday on 25 March to say We Are European! We don't have to accept outcomes we don't want - keep speaking out, come to meetings, share pro-EU thoughts with friends, family and social media.

And let's keep celebrating the EU. Europe Day is on 9 May. Put an EU flag in your window or Facebook page, burst into the Ode to Joy or greet your colleagues in a European language. Alternatively, come along to the annual Europe Quiz or Street Fair - see below for details.

Vanessa Glynn
Chair

Scotland Marches for Europe

Well done to the Young European Movement Edinburgh for organising a fantastic march and rally to celebrate 60 years of European peace, democracy and prosperity and to show that we stand up for the EU. It was great to see so many EMiS members and friends there and to sign up lots more. We'll be rallying again over the summer!



EMiS Events

Breakfast not Brexit

Saturday 22 April 2017, 10.15-11.15am

Join us for another in our series of Breakfast not Brexit meetings. In the run up to the crucial French Presidential elections, we will be welcoming Professor Helen Drake, to lead our discussion. Helen is Professor of French and European Studies at the University of Loughbrough. She is also the Chair of the UK's leading academic association for European studies, UACES. There will also be chance to chat about latest Brexit developments. Free to attend. Breakfast/brunch/coffee available for purchase from Cafe. Very limited places now remain. Reply to this email if you would like to attend.

The Filmhouse Cafe, 88 Lothian Road, Edinburgh, EH3 9BZ

Europe Day Street Fair

Tuesday 9 May 2017, 11.00am-3.00pm

EMiS will be taking part, along with the European Commission Office in Scotland and representatives of EU nations, in this celebration of our European diversity. Do drop by to find out more about your favourite European countries or discover something new. Free, no booking required.

Castle Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3AH

European Pub Quiz

Thursday 11 May 2017, doors open 6.30pm

The immensely popular EP annual quiz, supported by EMiS, will be taking place again to mark Europe Day. Free to take part and buffet provided. Max 5 people per team. Book quickly to ensure your place - you must register by 4 May at latest. There will be prizes and glory!

Email epedinburgh@ep.europa.eu to register and for info.

Canon's Gait, 232 Canongate, Edinburgh, EH8 8DQ

Other Events

Negotiating Brexit

Tuesday 25 April 2017, 12.30-5.00 pm

What will be UK's future relationship with the EU? What effect will it have on the economy? What effect will it have on the constituent nations of the UK and on the Republic of Ireland?

Register on eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/negotiating-brexit-tickets-32649005053>

University of Glasgow.

Brexit: What next for the UK and Scotland?

Wednesday 31 May 2017, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

A chance to learn more about the issues at stake and what the options are. There will be short presentations by specialists on Europe, followed by an open discussion. This is part of a series of talks around Scotland organised by the Centre on Constitutional Change to inform the debate and allow citizens to engage in it.

Register on eventbrite. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/brexit-what-next-for-the-uk-and-scotland-tickets-33618944167>

University of the Highlands and Islands, Inverness

Notices

You will, I am sure, have noticed that we have updated our look. We have a new, modern logo featuring the EU star and the Saltire in a fresh, striking design. EMIIS is hugely grateful to design company The Round Room who have given their time and expertise pro bono to support our cause. We will be rolling out the new look across all our media from now on.

Don't forget to keep us updated with any changes to your contact details and address.