

New Cross-Party Group on Europe comes into being at Holyrood

EMiS central to seeing new CPG constituted

People in the photos are from left to right; Jo Goodburn EMiS, Neil Bibby MSP (Labour), Yi-Pei Chou Turvey MSP (Lib Dem), Eva Bolander EMiS, Alex Kerr MSP (SNP), David Green MSP (Lib Dem), Katie Hagmann MSP (SNP).

Alex Kerr, an SNP MSP, has been elected Convener of the newly constituted Cross-Party Group on Europe (CPG Europe) at Holyrood.

The European Movement in Scotland views the CPG as an essential mechanism for keeping alive the debate around the place of Scotland and the UK in Europe.

EMiS Vice Chair Jo Goodburn says:

"Holyrood is the heartbeat of Scottish politics and polls consistently demonstrate that Scottish voters are overwhelmingly pro-EU. We may be out of the EU, but it remains our biggest trading partner, its members are our closest allies, and Europe is central to the life of every Scot. The CPGE is the country's democratic forum for discussion about all the things that tie Scotland to Europe."

The new CPGE has three MSP Vice Conveners: Yi-Pei Chou Turvey for the Liberal Democrats, Neil Bibby from Labour, and Heather Anderson of the SNP. In addition, LibDem David Green, Patrick Harvey of the Scottish Greens, Liam Kerr for the Conservatives and the SNP's Keith Brown will serve as members of the CPG.

Membership of Holyrood Cross-Party Committees

is not restricted to MSPs. Members of the public and representatives of civil society can be members. The aim is to bring non-politicians into the political process, create better public policy and hear views from across Scotland's regions and economy. If you have a suggestion for membership please e-mail Eva Bolander with a maximum 200 words on the individual/s you suggest (eva.bolander@europeanmovement.co.uk).

Members of the committee decide what subjects to discuss at CPG meetings. Subjects being considered for discussion include Scotland's connections to Europe, human rights, advanced manufacturing, defence - Europe and Scotland's position, modern language teaching, political polling and UK/EU negotiations. The committee will publish its meeting dates and subjects shortly.

The European Movement in Scotland will again act as the Secretariat to the CPG, with EMiS Vice Chair Jo Goodburn and National Organiser Eva Bolander sharing the role. EMiS Treasurer Bill Roger will be responsible for any financial matters.



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New Scottish brooms in Brussels and Dublin

The Scottish Government has recently appointed new chiefs to its offices in Brussels and Dublin.

Hazel Cameron has been appointed Head of the Scottish Government Office to the European Union. An Edinburgh University law graduate, Hazel previously held senior roles at the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, including co-ordinating Prime Ministerial engagement in the EU, and secondment to the EU External Action Service.

Coinciding with Ireland's Presidency of the Council of Europe, Martin McDermott became Head of the Scottish Government Office in Dublin. A Glasgow University law graduate, Martin has had a two-decade career with the Scottish Government. Prior to being posted to Dublin, he represented Scotland in China, advancing trade, cultural and policy interests.

NextGen – the future in its hands

EMiS vice-chairs, Jo Goodburn and Fiona Wishlade have been at the forefront of encouraging and offering practical help to university European societies. Engaging future leaders in the Europe debate is essential to keeping alive the ideals of the EU's founding figures and to refreshing pro-EU groups like EMiS.

Over the past year, talks have been had with societies at Edinburgh, St Andrews, Glasgow, Strathclyde and Glasgow Caledonian. At the start of this year, EMiS was the lead organiser of the debate at Glasgow University, which saw the motion: "That Scotland should rejoin the European Movement," win by acclamation.

Glasgow for Europe has been leading on "NextGen – Glasgow for Europe," a recruitment drive for the European societies at the University of Glasgow and Glasgow Caledonian University. The literature created to promote the European societies will be prominent during each institution's Freshers' Weeks.



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EMiS backs European Local Links Glasgow gathering

European Local Links (ELL) is a UK-wide network of local councillors, twinning associations and educationists that engages with European counterparts, many of which have long-standing partnerships with UK cities and towns. Glasgow City Council is hosting this year's ELL conference, on 8th and 9th October.

EMiS is contributing to the travel costs of town twinning groups from around Scotland. An EMiS speaker will join speakers from Glasgow City Council and the European Movement UK in welcoming delegates.

ELL says its mission is:

“To promote European awareness and economic, educational, sporting and cultural links at local and community level between the UK and European counterparts, especially for young people.”

Since its formation, ELL has held successful conferences in Bath, Leeds and London as well as regular quarterly online exchanges with local authorities, including Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow and Manchester.

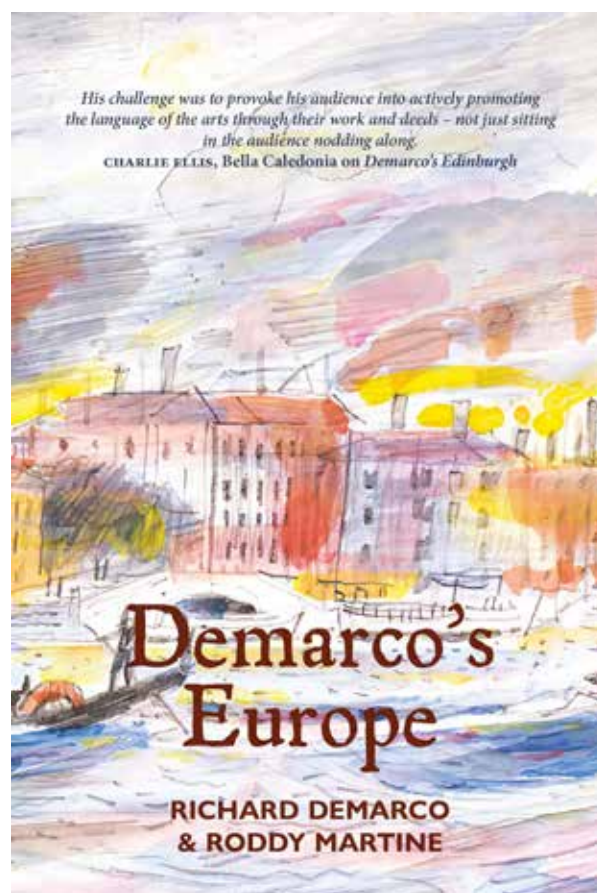
ELL's focus is on practical outcomes. Its 2026 Glasgow meeting will focus on prospects for EU-UK cooperation in culture, media and citizens' engagement and associated local commercial opportunities as part of the UK Government's EU Reset: it will also discuss the €9 billion Agora EU programme (2028-2034).

Demarco's Europe

The 2025/26 Scottish European of the Year, 96-year-old Richard Demarco, launched his latest book at the Edinburgh Festival.

Written with his old friend the journalist Roddy Martine, Demarco's Europe surveys his eight decades of helping shape Scotland's cultural landscape, looks at the cultural contribution of Scotland to the world beyond its shores and how the world has impacted Scotland. It is also a celebration of the founding principles of the Edinburgh Festival and a cry to keep them burnished.

Demarco's Europe is published by Luath Press at £12.99. Visit www.luath.co.uk



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A big push for Erasmus+ all hands to the pump

Many would agree that the Erasmus+ programme is one of the best policies every to come from the European Union and many deeply felt its loss when the “Hard Brexit” hit. But now it’s back and we’re working at many levels to encourage a big take up in Scotland.

We’re running a social media campaign, have briefed media and written to all of Scotland’s MEPs and MPs, urging them to promote the programme in their constituencies.

Many organisations are unaware that they are eligible for Erasmus+.

Community groups, youth organisations, sports clubs, arts and cultural bodies and charities, schools and vocational training providers can all access opportunities that strengthen skills, build international connections and bring new ideas back to their communities.

Scotland has a long and successful history of participation in Erasmus+, and many organisations have benefited from partnerships and exchanges that have improved educational outcomes, increased opportunities for young people (within and outside higher education) and strengthened local communities. For individuals who win a place on the programme the experience is almost always wholly positive.

Please urge any groups – public and private sector employers, third sector organisations, charities, sports clubs - you are involved with to look at Erasmus+.



- **British Council – this is the National Agency for Erasmus+ in the UK. This site has information on deadlines for different activities and links to webinars on how to get involved: www.britishcouncil.org/erasmusplus**
- **Looking for inspiration? Here are examples of Erasmus+ projects in 2014-21: fundedbyerasmus.co.uk/**

Dela the social media champion helping EMiS punch above its weight

Dela Olukoju came to EMiS as an intern on the Strathclyde University Masters programme in Diplomacy and International Security.



Dela wrote a report on how EMiS could improve its social media presence, particularly with young people. We were so impressed that we hired Dela in a part-time role to lead for EMiS on social media. She started in early August and already our presence is stronger. We’ll be reporting on numbers shortly.

You can follow EMiS at:



Follow us:

@euromovescotland on Facebook, Bluesky & LinkedIn, @euromoveScot on Instagram, TikTok & X



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Scottish European of the Year and Honorary Life Members

It will soon be time to nominate candidates for the election Scottish European of the Year. We'll send out a formal notice calling for nominations in a few weeks. In the interim please put on your thinking cap.

Candidates can come from any walk of life. The only criteria are that proposers can demonstrate in a few hundred words why an individual deserves to be voted Scottish European of the Year. Previous nominees who did not win can be nominated again.

Voting for Honorary Life Membership of EMiS is restricted to members of the Executive Committee. However, any member can nominate an individual, whether they are members of EMiS or otherwise. Just drop an e-mail, marked CONFIDENTIAL, to the secretary (secretary@euromovescotland.org.uk) outlining in no more than 250 words why this person should be voted an Hon Life Member.

Glasgow's Euro café: every last Saturday of the month

Don't forget that Glasgow for Europe (GfE) holds an informal social gathering on each last Saturday of the month at The Social Hub, Candleriggs, Glasgow, from 3pm to 5pm.

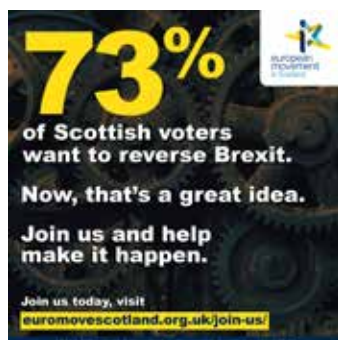
The Social Hub is one of Glasgow's coolest and liveliest venues, attracting people of all ages and backgrounds. Come along for a chat. No need to book. Just turn up. You'll find GfE towards the rear of the ground floor bar.

New EU Ambassador to the UK

The EU has appointed Mr Jukka Salovaara to the post of Ambassador to the UK, in succession to Ambassador Pedro Serrano. Mr Salovaara is a Finn and as a career diplomat has served his country at the UN and as an under-secretary for European Affairs, among other posts.

EMiS social media membership drive

EMiS has created a social media member recruitment campaign that is currently being rolled out across Scotland. You can see examples of the creative treatment below. The idea is to promote the idea that Scotland "got it right" in 2016 and use famous Scottish literary figures and their quotes to attract attention, trigger an emotional response and so encourage viewers to respond to the call to action to join EMiS.



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Dunfermline's new Eurovision walk

A second Dunfermline Eurowalk was launched on 16 August. The Moira Shearer Eurovision Walk marks the 100th anniversary celebration of the birth of Moira Shearer. Once a world-famous ballerina, Shearer was born in Dunfermline in 1926. In 1972, she was a host of the Eurovision Song Contest in Edinburgh, so giving rise to the walks' title.

Moira Shearer King was the child of a civil engineer, Harold King. The family left Fife for Africa when Moira was around five years of age, returning to Scotland on the outbreak of WW2, though Moira continued to study and perform ballet.

Shearer achieved international stardom in 1948 with her first film role playing Victoria Page in *The Red Shoes*. In 1950, Shearer married the Scottish journalist and broadcaster Ludovic Kennedy. Kennedy later wrote that on seeing her for the first time in *The Red Shoes* he instantly fell in love.

The Eurovision Walk was devised by Rosemary Richey from Fife College, who also created the Kirkcaldy Eurowalk. Rosemary is seen below introducing the Dunfermline Eurowalk walk in Dunfermline. She led 27 people on the inaugural walk.

Moira Shearer's spectacular family house was a key stop on the trail. Then it would around central Dunfermline, viewing buildings and areas connected with the ballerina.

The new Eurovision Walk complements the existing Dunfermline Eurowalk, while enlarging the historical canvas and deepening public knowledge of the city's links with Europe.

A Fife4Europe stand at the start of the walk enabled many to join its mailing list, including two active members from EMUK from Birmingham.

The Spanish owners of the "Spanish Nook" café on the walk posted their delight at being shown as a European/Scottish collaboration on the Fife4Europe Facebook on the evening of the new walk's launch. Also mentioned was the annual St Margaret pilgrimage in the town each June. In the last few years this has been enthusiastically attended by Hungarian diplomats.

A lavishly illustrated, 42-page description of the walk is on the Eurowalk website at eurowalks.scot/moira-shearer-eurovision-walk/

