

From the Chair: David Clarke

Deal reached in principle at UK-EU summit



At the UK-EU summit in Brussels on 20th November, the UK reached deals in principle with the EU on youth mobility, food exports, carbon emissions and migration. 100,000 young people will come from the EU, with the same number being admitted from the UK into Europe.

I welcomed the progress made at the summit:

It's good for Scottish jobs, good for Scotland's young people, good for Scotland's food exporters and good for Scotland's farmers.

The summit also opens the door to more talks, and it means that EU membership is firmly back at the top of UK politics. There will be a great deal for EMiS members to do to build the case for ever-closer ties.

At time of writing, the deal remained to be finalised, as the EU sought parity in the fees EU students would pay to attend British universities. However, it is likely the UK will make an acceptable offer on student fees, particularly if it can use the student access issue to lever a deal for the UK on the EU's upcoming Industrial Accelerator Act (IAA).

The IAA aims to revitalise the EU's manufacturing sector. A key plank of the Act is using EU public procurement rules and country of origin regulations to direct public spending to EU-made goods. Also known as Made in Europe, the programme would exclude the UK, unless it can negotiate preferred nation status.

The EU is the UK's biggest export market, sending 41% of all exports there. The IAA is a big threat if Britain is excluded, but a big opportunity to expand its export market if an access deal is reached.

The Office for Budget Responsibility says its 2026 assessment that the UK economy would be 4% less buoyant has proven true. Its most recent case, based on a range of studies, says that the UK has foregone income of £120bn a year in today's money.

We now have, in every part of the UK, governments that are pro-Europe. The administrations in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast are firmly for the EU and Prime Minister Andy Burnham has liberated Labour at Westminster from the chains that bound it to Brexit.

In Edinburgh, the SNP and Scottish Greens have never wavered from the cause. The Scottish Liberal Democrats have a distinguished history of championing Europeanism

Burnham has now released Scotland's Labour MPs and MSPs from his party's omerta over Europe. There are, we know, staunch Conservatives enthusiastic for Europe. Maybe soon they too will publicly embrace our return to the EU?

Published by Bill Rodger, European Movement in Scotland. c/o Orbit Communications, 42 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh EH2 4HQ.

These are difficult times in the world. All around we see threats, division, instability and uncertainty. Ten years ago, the UK's debate about membership revolved around sovereignty, immigration and economics.

Immigration remains a contentious issue, but the case for sovereignty and economics put by the Leave side has been proven hollow. Never since the 1930s has Europe had greater need for political, territorial, economic and social stability and harmony.

Our cause – the cause of taking the country back into the EU – now extends far wider than economic and political integration. It is now a cause aware that authoritarianism, racial superiority, militarism and distain for liberal democracy threaten Europe again.

Andy Burham's positive moves on Europe were never more welcome or more important.

Events around the UK's place in Europe are moving at great speed. In Scotland, Labour leader Michael Marra unequivocally said the UK should return to the EU. In a speech at Edinburgh University on10th November, he called on Andy Burnham to have a return to the EU in Labour's next election manifesto. Labour looks increasingly to be fully back into the European fold. EMiS has been in touch with Mr Marra to let him know we greatly welcome Scottish Labour's new position on Europe and to invite him to become involved with us.

Michael Marra's policy shift coincided with an EMiS initiative that saw a group of Scottish journalists visit the European Parliament (EP). The primary aim of the visit was to renew relations between the EP press office and Scottish media, so the Scots have very well-informed and wholly impartial sources at the EP. As the UK grows closer to the UK, having top level contacts in Brussels will be invaluable to journalists.

Press coverage was not the primary purpose of the visit, but within 24 hours this is what we saw on the pages of a famous Scottish paper, The Daily Record.


PAGE 12 MORE AT DAILYRECORD.CO.UK DAILY RECORD Wednesday, November 11, 2026

SCOTTISH LABOUR IN REJOIN PLEA

DOORS OPEN FOR BRUSSELS RETURN

ON THE RECORD

Marra: We will work to get UK back into EU

BY CHRIS McCALL

ANDY Burnham is pushing at an open door when it comes to repairing the relationship between the UK and the EU.

"Brexiteers know they'd lose a second referendum by a mile" CHRIS McCALL

It feels as if the tide is starting to turn in favour of Britain being a part of European Union once again

BY CHRIS McCALL DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

13:28

I want to thank you to all of you who have voluntarily given your time to our cause in 2026, and to express our heartfelt appreciation to our membership. It is your commitment to the cause of peace and security in Europe that drives EMiS.

May I also thank our national organiser, Eva Bolander, our social media lead, Dela Olokoju, and Linsey Wilson, who has lifted our graphic presentation to new heights.

My best wishes to you all. Have a happy and healthy Christmas break and the happiest and healthiest 2027.

euromovescotland.org.uk

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EMiS calls for SM and CU membership in statement on UK/EU summit

"The European Movement in Scotland (EMiS) says Prime Minister Andy Burnham can put a rocket under the UK economy at the UK/EU summit to be held in Brussels on 20th November. EMiS argues that bold British leadership can foster greater global political and financial stability by signalling the UK's ambition to rejoin the European single market and customs union," read EMiS press release, issued in the week before the summit.

EMiS also produced an in-depth position paper on what it saw as the priorities for the UK government at the summit. The paper was researched and written by Executive Committee member by Fiona Wishlade, Emeritus Professor, European Policies Research Centre, University of Strathclyde, with contributions from EMiS members.

The full paper is available at: euromovescotland.org.uk/the-european-movement-in-scotlands-position-paper-on-the-november-2026-eu-uk-summit/



Scottish European of the Year – Nominations sought.

Nominations for the Scottish European of the Year are now open. Nominees can come from any walk of life. The only qualification is that you believe they or it (organisations can be nominated, as well as individuals) have made a significant contribution to furthering the values and interests of Europeanism.

To make a nomination please submit a note of no more than 200 words on who you/what you're nominating and why you have made the nomination.

Nominations can be submitted up to 10th December. Voting, by-e-mail will take place early in January.

Only EMiS members can make a nomination and vote.

Please send nominations to: martinroche55@gmail.com and caitlin@virtuallysparkling.co.uk

Reports from SNP and Greens conferences

The EMiS stand at the SNP conference at Aberdeen saw a non-stop stream of visitors. Almost all conference delegates expressed very firm support for Scotland being in the EU. A few would prefer to see Scotland in the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). Most EMiS members are likely to agree that EFTA membership would be welcome, if joining the EU was not possible, or as a stepping stone to full EU membership.



First Minister John Swinney uses EMiS' saltire stickers to cast his vote on the Brexitometer that was a kay feature of our stand at the SNP conference.

Our most important visitor was of course First Minister John Swinney. He was welcomed by Bill Rodger, Eva Bolander and Martin Roche. Mr Swinney brought with him a huge press pack of journalists, photographers and TV camera crews. He posed for a picture with Eva and answered the questions on our Brexitometer.

The stand also had visits from Scottish Government Ministers, including Ivan McKee, Neil Grey and Hannah Mary Goodlad.

The Scottish Greens picked the Highland capital of Inverness for its 2026 annual conference. The party was in positive mood, having won fifteen seats at Holyrood, in May. It is the Scottish Greens highest ever tally of MSPs and includes its first two non-list seats.

Manning the EMiS stand at the event were David Roulston and Eva Bolander. MORE

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European Local Links

In October, Glasgow hosted this year's conference of European Local Links (ELL), an organisation that focusses on international collaboration at community level. EMiS was one of the event sponsors. Rosemary Watt and EMiS and Glasgow for Europe member, was a core member of the organising team, bringing to bear her many years of senior level experience of the Arts and culture in the city.

The two-day event brought together representatives from across the UK and Europe to explore how cross-border partnerships can benefit culture, education, and the economy.

Attendees include councillors, parliamentarians, twinning associations, and educationalists, alongside representatives from the Scottish Government, EMiS, the European Movement UK, the European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, Council of European Municipalities and Regions, the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and the British-German Association.

Your donation to the Citizens Rights Project would be most welcome and is much needed

writes Mark Lazarowicz

For many people, Brexit may feel like history. But for thousands of EU citizens and their families, its consequences are still part of everyday life.

undred words why an individual deserves to be voted Scottish European of the Year. Previous nominees who did not win ca

Ten years on, we are still helping people secure their immigration status under the EU Settlement Scheme. Many of those who were unable to apply in time have faced barriers such as ill health, homelessness, domestic abuse, isolation, limited English, digital exclusion, or fear of engaging with authorities.

Please help. Your donation to our crowdfunder will make a big difference to our work and to those we help. Follow the link below. Thank you very much.

www.gofundme.com/f/ten-years-after-brexit-eu-migrants-still-need-support

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EMiS President on BBC TV

European Movement in Scotland president, David Martin, appeared for EMiS on BBC Scotland's Sunday Show on 4th October. He was interviewed alongside Senga Beresford, a Reform MSP. David was, as usual, well-informed, credible, calm, measured and authoritative.

The link below takes you to the edition of The Sunday Show on BBC iPlayer. The link was working when tested, though subsequently the programme may have been replaced with later editions.

www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0032nbm/the-sunday-show-series-6-04102026

Orr and Roche keeping Europe in the public eye

In September, Various leading Scottish newspapers carried letters from Executive Committee member Alex Orr. Letters to editors remains one of the most potent tools in our campaigning armoury.

PRIME Minister Andy Burnham is right to reopen the debate about Britain's relationship with the EU.

His acknowledgement that Brexit has done "more harm than good", and that options should range from the status quo to potentially going "all the way" and rejoining, is a welcome dose of political reality.

This matters particularly in Scotland, which voted decisively to remain.

Indeed, recent polling has suggested Labour could pay a heavy electoral price in Scotland if it continues to rule out EU membership.

Nobody is suggesting Britain can rejoin tomorrow. But refusing even to consider it, regardless of changing circumstances, makes little sense.

We should honestly examine the options and decide where Britain's long-term interests lie.

For Scottish Labour, the political consequences of ducking that debate could be considerable.

Alex Orr
Edinburgh

Building bridges

Canada's opportunity to become the EU's first associate member clearly opens the door for the UK to do the same.

The EU's proposal should be a wake-up call for Westminster, and Andy Burnham should pick up the phone and call European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Whatever people's views on Brexit or full EU membership, there is a strong case for exploring a pragmatic new relationship that brings the UK closer to its largest neighbouring market.

Canada and the EU are looking at deeper cooperation across trade, technology, defence, energy, critical minerals and economic security. The UK should be asking what a similar relationship could deliver for us.

Associate membership is not yet an established EU status, and the details still need to be developed. That is precisely why the UK should engage now rather than watch from the sidelines.

Canada is looking to build bridges with Europe. The UK should do the same.

Alex Orr
Edinburgh

Writing in The National, Martin Roche discussed the EU offer to Canada of associate membership



Martin Roche wrote about "Made in Europe" in The Herald on 4th October


Opinion

The EU has a bold new plan for industry. Britain should be worried

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