

**The Scottish Parliament
Cross-Party Group on Fair Trade**

**5:30pm, Wednesday 22 May 2013
Room TG20/21, The Scottish Parliament
Annual General Meeting**

Minutes of the meeting (draft)

Attendance:

MSPs:

James Kelly MSP
George Adam MSP
Claudia Beamish MSP
Neil Bibby MSP
Patricia Ferguson MSP
John Mason MSP
Drew Smith MSP

External Organisations/Individuals:

Dario Cepeda (Ecuador European Regional Fairtrade Coordinator)
Juan Diego Stacey (Ecuador Trade Commissioner in the United Kingdom)
Karen Bowman (University of Edinburgh)
Carol Morton (Hadeel)
Andy Mount (Livingston Fair Trade Forum)
Martin Rhodes (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)
Helen Rothwell (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)
Mariana White (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)
Juan Andres Santelices (Fair Business Alliance)

Apologies:

Alison Johnstone MSP
Alison McInnes MSP
Sarah Boyack MSP
Fiona McLeod MSP
Ian Miller (Scotmid)
Helen Reilly (BMA Scotland)
Robin Stewart (SFTF)

Business of the meeting:

1. The meeting was chaired by James Kelly MSP. The minutes of the 2012 AGM were approved.
2. James Kelly MSP gave an overview of the last year's business at the Cross-Party Group and highlighted the achievement of gaining Fair Trade Nation status. George Adam MSP noted that the guest talks over the last year had been enjoyable and informative and the group had begun to cover some challenging issues within the Fair Trade movement.
3. Martin Rhodes noted that four new members had joined the Cross-Party Group in the last year and that the Group complied with all necessary requirements and procedures. George Adam MSP and James Kelly MSP were re-elected as co-convenors of the group, and Martin Rhodes was re-elected as Secretary to the Group.
4. A presentation was given by Juan Diego Stacey, Ecuador Trade Commissioner in the United Kingdom. The presentation spoke of the Ecuadorian Government's initiative to support producers in the informal economy by creating a new part of the national economy called the 'popular and social economy'. Institutions and regulations have been established to help them gain access to markets, and Juan's organisation, Pro Ecuador, is one such institution. They are helping producers to increase sales while retaining their national culture (for example, through the production of panama hats) and being involved throughout the process. Pro Ecuador are keen to increase sales of Ecuadorian Fair Trade products in Scotland, with the UK as a whole currently buying only 1.4% of Ecuadorian Fair Trade products.
5. Questions and discussion on the presentation. There was a lot of interest in the concept of the 'popular and social economy', and Juan Diego Stacey and Dario Cepeda noted that the Ecuadorian Government focuses on buying from producers in this economy as part of its public procurement.
6. It was agreed that the Secretary would circulate meeting schedule for the following year.