

CROSS-PARTY GROUPS IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

ANNUAL RETURN FORM

1. GROUP NAME *Code of Conduct 6.2.4*

Groups that have been accorded recognition will be permitted to use the title *Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament*.

Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on **Germany**

2. DATE GROUP APPROVED

17 January 2012

3. DATE ANNUAL REPORT

27th November 2012

4. GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

For each group meeting or other activity please provide the date, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and attendance figures (MSP and non-MSP).

13/03/12 Delegation Visit – 8 Members of the German Parliament.

Discussion topics included Euro Zone issues – Currency problems, regulations and economic monitoring. Also discussion on Independence arguments for and against and any potential outcomes in relation to the Euro Zone

Attendees: Colin Beattie MSP, Maureen Watt MSP, Gordon MacDonald MSP, John Pentland MSP, David McLetchie MSP, Colin Keir MSP, Wolfgang Mossinger German Consul General, German MPs- MP Stephan Mayer (CDU/CSU), MP Garrelt Duin (SPD), MP Katja Dörner (BÜNDNIS 90/DIE GRÜNEN), MP. Dr. Wolfgang Götzer (CDU/CSU), MP Johannes Kahrs (SPD), MP Dr. Daniel Volk (FDP), MP Dr. Lukrezia Jochimsen (DIE LINKE.)

18/04/12 2nd Meeting – Setting Agenda for CPG Work

Discussion topics - Forthcoming events and delegation visits. Also how to promote German language teaching/learning and tourist information and creating economic ties. Discussion of current Government engagement with Germany within its devolved powers.

Attendees: Colin Beattie MSP, Wolfgang Mössinger German Consul General, Maureen Watt MSP, Gordon MacDonald MSP, Colin Keir MSP, Petra Wend Principal QMU, Louise Gardiner, Max Scharbert, James Trolland.

30/05/12 3rd Meeting – Updates and Response regarding Languages

Discussion topics – Forthcoming visit of Prime Minister of Lower Saxony delegation and Q&A. Further discussion of German Language taught in schools, study abroad programmes, funding issues and modules standard. Response from National Trust and Historic Scotland. Response from Scottish Government regarding German Plan. Presentation to Wolfgang Mossinger for service in getting the CPG going and as a formal mark of appreciation upon his leaving.

Attendees: Colin Beattie MSP, Wolfgang Mössinger, Gordon MacDonald MSP, Colin Keir MSP, Maureen Watt MSP, James Trolland, Stefan Buettner

07/06/12 Delegation Visit – Prime Minister of Lower Saxony

Discussion topics – Green energy, Independence, regional governance, Q&A with press.

Attendees: David McAllister, Prime Minister Lower Saxony, Wolfgang Mössinger, Consul General, Dr Holger Spreen, Head of Private Office of Mr McAllister, Oliver Wagner, Deputy Spokesperson of the Regional Government Lower Saxony, Wolfgang Römisch, Director Europe and International Cooperation Lower Saxony State Chancery, Claudia Crawford, Director London Office of Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, Dr. Gunter Dunkel, Honorary Consul for the UK and CEO of Nord/LB (Northern German Landesbank) , Prof. Dr. Leonhard Ganzer, Technical University of Clausthal-Zellerfeld, Prof. Dr. -Ing. Hans-Peter Beck, Energy-Research Center Lower Saxony, Prof. Dr. Martin Sauter, University of Göttingen, Dr. Stephan Barth - Managing Director, ForWind - Center for Wind Energy Research, Dr. Gernot Kalkoffen, Exxon Mobil, Holger Temmen, CEO KCA Deutag (Oil Exploration Company Bad Bentheim and Aberdeen)(only Aberdeen), Prof. Dr.-Ing. Wolfgang Nebel, CEO OFFIS (Institute for Information Technology, Oldenburg) TBC, Annika Schulze, dapd (German News Agency), Jörg Sarbach, Fotographer, dapd, Dr. Sarah Tacke, NDR (Northern German State Broadcaster), Michael Nicolay, BILD Hannover (National Tabloid BILD), Marco Seng, Nordwest-Zeitung (Regional Newspaper Oldenburg), Dirk Banse, NDR Hörfunk (Northern German State Radio), Marco Hadem, dpa (German Press Agency), Jochen Lübke, Fotographer, dpa, Peter Müller, Der Spiegel, Angus Robertson MP, Colin Beattie MSP, Maureen Watt MSP, Gordon MacDonald MSP, Colin Keir MSP, Kenneth Gibson MSP, Rod Campbell MSP, David McLetchie MSP and Drew Smith MSP

23/10/12 4th Meeting – Presentation from NUS reg Language Learning and Study Abroad

Discussion Topic – NUS presentation to discuss difficulties in getting Scottish students to participate in foreign language learning and study abroad. Welcome new German Consul General Verena Graf von Rodern. Agreement to draft document for local authorities.

Attendees: Colin Beattie MSP, Gordon Macdonald MSP, Colin Keir MSP, Maureen Watt MSP, Jamie McGrigor MSP, Consul General Verena Graf von Roedern, Swiss Honorary Consul Peter Muller-McDougall, Austrian Honorary Consul John Clifford, Petra Wend, Louise Gardiner, Max Scharbert, Barbara Kualbach, James Trolland

27/11/12 5th Meeting – Local Authority Document and AGM

Discussion topic – Review of concerns from previous meeting.

AGM: Defining membership to be submitted following the meeting

Voting for Convener, Vice Conveners, Secretary

Convener: Colin Beattie MSP

Vice Convener: John Pentland MSP

Vice Convener: Jamie McGrigor MSP

Vice Convener: Consul General Verena Graf von Rodern

Further Discussion – Local Government plan. Areas of focus lines Economic, Culture/Tourism, Education, Key opportunities of engagement and key contacts. E-doc production

Attendees: Colin Beattie MSP, Gordon Macdonald MSP, John Pentland MSP , Jamie McGrigor MSP, German Consul General Verena Graf von Roedern, David Torrance MSP, Goethe Institut – Lilo Börgmann, Annette Gotzkes, Austrian Honorary Consul John Clifford, Consul Heinrich Schnettger, Stefan Buettner

5. GROUP MEMBERS Code of Conduct 6.4, Rules 2, 3, 5, 6 & 8

When listing members, who are MSPs, only the MSPs name need be given. For members from outwith the Parliament, the name of the member and any employer they represent must be given.

MSPs	Non-MSPs Individuals
Colin Beattie	Verena Graffin von Rodern
John Pentland	Petra Wend
Jamie McGrigor	Louise Gardiner
Colin Keir	Max Scharbert
Gordon MacDonald	James Torlland
David McLetchie	Stefan Buettner
Lewis Macdonald	Organisations
David Torrance	Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Scotland
Maureen Watt	Consulate General of Austria Edinburgh
	Consulate General of Switzerland
	Goethe-Institut

6. GROUP OFFICERS Code of Conduct 6.4, Rule 4

Please amend titles as necessary e.g. to indicate joint office holders, or preferred titles.

Convener	Colin Beattie MSP
Vice-Convener	John Pentland MSP Verena Graffin von Roedern Jamie McGrigor MSP
Secretary	Alyson Adam
Treasurer	

7. FINANCIAL OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED *Code of Conduct 6.3.1 & 6.3.6, 6.4 Rule 10*

The group must register any financial or other material benefit received by the group from whatever source, where the value of the financial sum or benefit from any single source exceeds £500 in any one calendar year. This includes donations, sponsorship, subscriptions, hospitality, gifts, visits, provision of services or accommodation or staff assistance. The value of use of Parliamentary facilities need not be registered.

The details requiring to be registered include a brief description of the benefit, the approximate monetary value, the date on which it was received and the source from which it came. Where a consultancy organisation provides benefits, the client on whose behalf these are provided should be named.

Date	Amount	Description

8. GROUP SUBSCRIPTION *Code of Conduct 6.4, Rule 9*

Where a group charges or proposes to charge a subscription, this must be reasonable and the same for all members. The amount of the subscription should be registered and the purposes for which it is intended to use the subscription.

Amount per group member per year	
Date subscription applied	

9. GROUP STAFF AS PARLIAMENTARY PASS HOLDERS

If a group makes use of staff issued with a Parliamentary pass, any paid activity undertaken by those staff where the employer benefits from the pass holder's access to the Parliament must be registered. There is no need to state the amount of remuneration. The requirement relates both to staff employed directly by the group and to staff employed by an outside organisation to provide assistance to the group.

Staff name	Alyson Adam
Title of post	Parliamentary Assistant to Colin Beattie MSP
Name and address of employer organisation	Scottish Parliament M3.05 Holyrood Road Edinburgh EH99 1SP
Type of employer organisation	MSP

10. GROUP CONTACT *Code of Conduct 6.3.4, 6.3.5 and 6.5.1 – 6.5.4*

Please give the full details of an elected official of the group who is an MSP who will be the contact for registration matters for the group. Initially this must be the Member who signs the declaration on compliance with the rules on behalf of the group. If a group subsequently changes the designated contact, the office of the Standards Clerk must be informed within 7 days of the change.

Name	Colin Beattie
Parliamentary address	M3.05
Telephone number	86374
Constituency Office telephone number	0131 454 0204