

CPG on Pakistan Meeting 8th January at 5.30pm Committee Room 4

Present

MSP'S

Michael McMahon Convenor
Willie Rennie, Vice Convenor

Non MSP'S

Deputy Chief Constable Steve Allan, Police Scotland
Ahmet Sarhat Sari, GM Turkish Airlines
Erhan Sezgin, Regional Sales Manager Turkish Airlines
Amer Masood
Masood Malik
Dr Amjad
Hassan Shah Bukhari
Malik Bashir
Mohammed Din
Zahira Hassan
Dr David
Elaine Mullan
Leonard Thomson
Naveed Ghafoor
Abid Raja
Mehbood Ditta
Mehmood Hussain
Sahin Firat
Syed Khan
Mohammed Iqbal
Mohammed Khurseed
Nadeem Ashraf
Mohammed Moshin
Zeeshan Saeed
Bilawal Raja
Tashueef Warrich
Ehtansham Awam
Mohammed Javed

1 Welcome from the Convener

The Convener of the Cross Party Group on Pakistan, Michael McMahon MSP, welcomed those present. He also saw new faces, and hoped that everyone would circulate widely and all contributions would be valued.

2 Apologies

Apologies MSP'S
Murdo Fraser (Vice-convenor)
Siobhan McMahon(Member)

Apologies non MSP'S
Saqulain Javed, Consulate of Pakistan, Glasgow

3 Minutes of the Meeting of 17 April 2013

The Minutes of the Meeting of 17 April 2013 were accepted by all present.

4 The Convenor also gave a summary report of the work being done by the Sub Group on Women for the CPG on Pakistan.

Zahira Hassan who is also a member of the Sub Group on Women thanked the Convenor and the CPG on Pakistan for creating a Sub Group on Women as this has given a platform for women of Pakistani origin living in Scotland to raise their issues.

5 The Convenor also informed the room that in Punjab a formal group has been established by the Punjab Government with the approval of CM "Punjab Scottish Parliamentary Freindship Group" to work alongside the CPG.

6 Presentation by Ahmet Serhat Sari, General Manager, Turkish Airlines, Scotland

The Convener introduced the first speaker, Ahmet Serhat Sari.

Mr Sari spoke and thanked the CPG on Pakistan for all of their support and also thanked the Convenor and Vice Convenor and Secretary to the CPG. Mr Sari stated that Turkish Airlines now flies to Pakistan from Edinburgh via Istanbul and people can travel to Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi from Edinburgh. The airline is also offering haj and umrah flights for the Muslim community from Scotland to fly from Edinburgh via Istanbul. A short video was played by Turkish Airlines.

Questions were taken by Ahmet Sarhat Sari, GM Turkish Airlines and Erhan Sezgin Regional Sales Manager of Turkish Airlines. Questions raised where from pricing and timing and flight frequency.

All present appreciated CPG and Turkish Airlines as this has given the local community a good transport link to Pakistan.

7 The Convener introduced the Second speaker, Deputy Chief Constable Steve Allen, Commonwealth Games, Police Scotland.

The DCC informed the audience of the commonwealth games and policing.

8 AOB

The floor appreciated the work which the CPG has done so far. Leonard Thomson Who is Solicitor and Partner of Sturrock, Armstrong & Thomson is a firm of property and private client solicitors, with two offices right in the heart of Edinburgh mentioned that he is delighted that his firm is now member of the CPG and they are intending to open an office in Pakistan for legal and immigration and in the near future would like to make a presentation to the CPG on this.

9 Michael McMahon MSP thanked attendees and informed that our AGM will be held on 5TH March at Committee Room 2 at 5.30pm and the meeting closed