The European Parliament & Scotland

James TEMPLE-SMITHSON, European Parliament Head of Edinburgh Office
The European Parliament in the Member States

The European Parliament operates an ‘Information Office’ in the national capitals of all 27 EU Member States.

Since 1999, it has also operated a smaller 'branch' office in the larger Member States, opening offices in Barcelona, Edinburgh, Marseilles, Milan, Munich & Wrocław (2011).

The European Parliament Office in Scotland aims to help increase awareness of the Parliament and the impact of its activities in Scotland, as well as highlighting the work of the six Scottish Members of the European Parliament (MEPs).
How is Scotland Governed?

- Community Councils
- 32 Local Councils
  (+/- 1250 Councillors)
- 129 MSPs
- 59 MPs (52)
- 6 MEPs
EU competences in Scotland: who does what?

**Reserved**
- Budget
- Consumer Protection
- Customs
- External Trade
- Foreign & Security Policy
- Taxation

**Reserved With Devolved Interest**
- Audiovisual & Media
- Competition
- Development
- Economic & Monetary Affairs
- Enlargement
- Energy
- Employment
- External Relations
- Food Safety
- Humanitarian Aid
- Information
- Society
- Institutional Affairs
- Internal Market
- Transport

**Devolved**
- Agriculture
- Culture
- Education, Training & Youth
- Enterprise
- Environment
- Fight Against Fraud
- Freedom & Security
- Health
- Human Rights
- Justice
- Social Matters
- Transport
Key figures of the European Union

Martin Schultz
President of the European Parliament

Jose Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission

Herman Van Rompuy
President of the European Council

Catherine Ashton
High Representative

Ireland
Presidency of the Council of the European Union
European Parliament elections: 22 May 2014 (the world’s largest transnational election)

- 28 member states
- 24 official languages
- 491 million inhabitants
- 375 million eligible voters
- 36 million first-time voters
- 751 MEPs
European Parliament – Role & Powers

**Legislative power**
Most EU laws are adopted jointly by the European Parliament and the Council of the EU

**Budgetary power**
Parliament decides the EU annual budget together with the Council

**Parliamentary control**
Parliament supervises other EU institutions and can pass a vote of no-confidence in the European Commission

**Enlargement decisions**
Parliament‘s assent is required for the accession of any new Member States
# Scottish MEPs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party/Group</th>
<th>Seats</th>
<th>Party/Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European People's Party (EPP)</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>David MARTIN, Catherine STIHLER</strong></td>
<td>190</td>
<td>13 (LAB)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&amp;D)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>George LYON</strong></td>
<td>85</td>
<td>12 (LD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ian HUDGHTON, Alyn SMITH</strong></td>
<td>59</td>
<td>5 (SNP/PC/G)</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Greens / EFA</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Struan STEVENSON</strong></td>
<td>53</td>
<td>26 (Con)</td>
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<td>European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR)</td>
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<td><strong>Independence &amp; Democracy (IND/DEM)</strong></td>
<td>36</td>
<td>11 (UKIP)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>European United Left / Nordic Green Left (GUE / NGL)</strong></td>
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<td>1 (SF)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non attached</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5 (BNP, DUP +2)</td>
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Scottish MEPs: Committees

Ian Hudghton MEP: Regional Policy, Fisheries
George Lyon MEP: Agriculture
David Martin MEP: International Trade, Constitutional Affairs
Alyn Smith MEP: Agriculture, Energy
Struan Stevenson MEP: Fisheries
Catherine Stihler MEP: Internal Market & Consumer Protection
The role of an MEP

Scrutiny of legislation: committee chair, co-ordinator and \textit{rapporteur}

Scrutiny of the Commission and other institutions

Approval of the EU budget and scrutiny of accounts

“Own initiative” Reports and Opinions

Approval of international agreements and EU enlargement

Promoting human rights (Sakharov Prize) etc

Taking up constituency matters
Routes to Engagement

- European Parliament & MEPs
  - Legislation/amendments
  - Studies
  - Hearings
  - Seminars in Scotland
  - Election Manifestos
  - Intergroups

- European Commission
  - Consultations
  - Expert groups

- Council of Ministers: (HMG, SG)

- Other EU bodies: Committee of the Regions; ECOSOC;
Routes to Engagement (civic)

- Petitions
- ECI
- Letters
- Ombudsman
EU Careers

- EPSO
- Contractual Agents
- MEPs
- Political Groups
- Internships