



# SCOTLAND

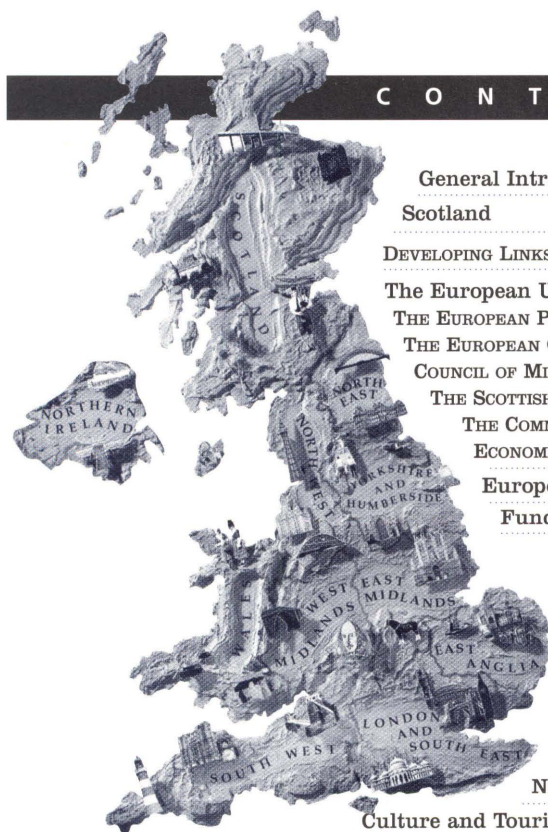
IN THE  
EUROPEAN  
UNION





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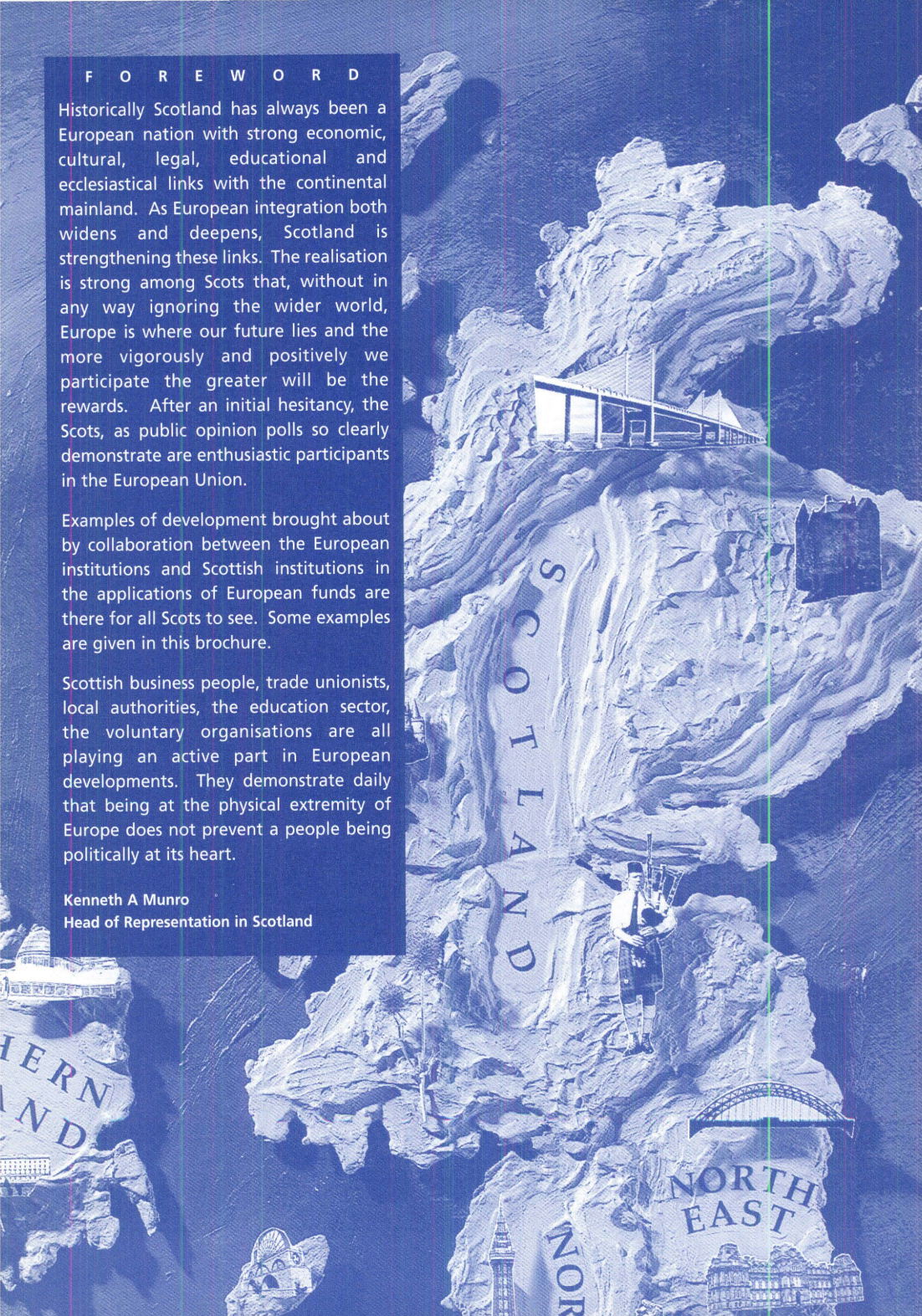
## F O R E W O R D

Historically Scotland has always been a European nation with strong economic, cultural, legal, educational and ecclesiastical links with the continental mainland. As European integration both widens and deepens, Scotland is strengthening these links. The realisation is strong among Scots that, without in any way ignoring the wider world, Europe is where our future lies and the more vigorously and positively we participate the greater will be the rewards. After an initial hesitancy, the Scots, as public opinion polls so clearly demonstrate are enthusiastic participants in the European Union.

Examples of development brought about by collaboration between the European institutions and Scottish institutions in the applications of European funds are there for all Scots to see. Some examples are given in this brochure.

Scottish business people, trade unionists, local authorities, the education sector, the voluntary organisations are all playing an active part in European developments. They demonstrate daily that being at the physical extremity of Europe does not prevent a people being politically at its heart.

**Kenneth A Munro**  
Head of Representation in Scotland



THE EUROPEAN UNION is composed of 15 Member States but it comprises a much greater number of nations and regions whose dynamic diversity is one of the Union's greatest strengths. The current European Union of 15 is clearly very different from the Common

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Market of the original 6. However, its political geography will soon be further changed as negotiations take place over the next few years with Cyprus, Malta and countries in Eastern & Central Europe, the result of which will be a still wider Union. In this radically reshaped Union, the sense of regional identity will be a healthy counter-balance to the decision-making by Ministers which member states Governments will undertake at the level of the Union itself.

An Inter-Governmental Conference starts in 1996. It will reflect on the current state of the Union and progress made since Maastricht. It will put forward adaptations necessary to carry this reshaped Union forward into the twenty-first century.

The removal of internal frontiers in Europe and the arrangements for completing a Single Market in which there is free movement of people, goods, capital and in the provision of services, has increased the extent of cooperation between regions, be it at the level of the regional or local authorities themselves or through companies and business organisations, or through the educational system and in many other diverse ways. These inter-regional links have grown up throughout the Union, some of



# 1 GENERAL INTRODUCTION CONT'D.

them based on Community development programmes such as INTERREG, while others are of a much simpler kind, based often on long-standing twinning agreements with recent trade-related components added.

As the Union adapts to change the desire for greater democracy and openness in the way decisions are made at the European level increases. A recent development has been the establishment of the Committee of the Regions where European Union matters are appraised from a regional perspective by representatives drawn from the regions themselves.

The broad policies of the European Union affect all its citizens and regions both directly and indirectly. These include the creation of the Single Market, the common trade policies, the Common Agricultural Policy, consumer protection rules, environmental improvement, education and training, social policy including health and safety protection and, of special interest to the regions, the establishment of Trans-European networks in transport, energy and telecommunications.

There are, of course, certain policies and programmes with a more definite regional

perspective. These include the Structural Funds, geared to the poorest regions in the Union and those that have been affected by industrial decline. Many regions have suffered from similar changes in key local industries such as steel, coal, textiles, shipbuilding and the defence sector. Policies have, therefore, been drawn up at the European level to address these problems in a similar way in each country. This is one example of the dynamics which the Union is creating at regional level.

It is not necessary to be in the heartland of Europe to be at the forefront of scientific and technological research. The development of European-wide policies in these areas has helped forge a vast network of regional links that have become part of the nervous system of the Union as a whole.



ONE OF SCOTLAND'S earliest introductions to the rest of Europe came with the Romans' invasion and their construction of two walls across its girth to deter its unwelcoming tribes from retaliating. Since then, of course, Scotland's links with Europe have developed along more fruitful and positive lines. Links have been established through studying abroad and welcoming overseas students; through exporting and developing business opportunities with other European businesses; through town twinning and networking; through arts and cultural events such as the Edinburgh Festival; or through visits to Scotland by residents from other parts of Europe.

This brochure provides a brief introduction to the history and background to the development of these links and illustrates how Scotland has both benefited from, and contributed to, the European Union, so that now it can claim to be truly a nation within the United Kingdom, and a Region of Europe.

## Scotland

Covering an area of nearly 80,000 km<sup>2</sup>, Scotland occupies about one-third of the island of Great Britain and is bounded by

England in the South, by the Atlantic Ocean in the West and the North Sea in the East. Scotland is the northernmost part of the United Kingdom and forms the north-western frontier of the EU. The region is at the periphery of the EU but covers the same geographical area as Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg combined, the heartland of the EU, and has a population similar to Denmark, with 5.1 million inhabitants.

Scotland was an independent state until 1707 when the Act of Union with England was signed. Since then, it has been part of the United Kingdom, but it still retains its own distinct culture and traditions, together with many specifically Scottish institutions. It is represented by a Secretary of State for Scotland as a UK government minister and the Scottish Office is responsible for administering a range of policies including education, industry, agriculture, fisheries, and environment.

Scotland has kept a strong national consciousness with a distinct education system, a distinct legal system, a national church (the Church of Scotland which is Presbyterian) and a separate administrative structure.



## DEVELOPING LINKS

Early human settlement in Scotland dates back to the third millennium BC. The Romans made several attempts at invading the region but did not remain. By the middle of the 9th century the separate kingdoms became united into a large Celtic monarchy, under the first King Kenneth MacAlpine. This monarchy lasted until the end of the Macbeth's reign in 1057. Viking raids on the coast of Britain began at the end of the 8th century and during the 10th century, Orkney and Shetland were ruled by Norse earls and subjected to Norway. The Norse legacy to Scotland was long-lasting and some Norse linguistic influence is discernible to the present day.

With Malcolm succeeding Macbeth in 1057, some English influence was introduced. However when King Edward I of England attempted to impose English rule over Scotland in 1296, a revolt broke out which lasted until 1328 when Robert the Bruce was made King Robert I of Scotland. The Anglo-Scottish conflict gave Scotland a basic tendency to seek to maintain its independence and to turn to continental Europe for alliances. The Auld Alliance between Scotland and France was officially signed in 1295 as a Treaty between Philippe le Bel, King of France, and John Balliol, Scottish King. This Franco-Scottish Alliance, whereby the two countries agreed to take joint military action against England if the "auld enemy" attacked either of them, was the basis of Scottish Foreign Policy for almost 300 years. The Treaty was renewed several times and resulted in a number of exchanges. Scotsmen played an important role in the French army and Scottish traders benefited from official privileges up to the second half of the 17th century. By the time of Marie Stuart's reign there were more than five thousand French people established in Edinburgh in an area which is still known as 'Little France'. From a cultural viewpoint, a lot of Scottish words still come from the French including an 'ashet' (assiette), a 'gigot' (piece of lamb) or "dinnae fash yourself" (from 'se facher', to get angry).

Even though the Scottish Reformation led by John Knox ended French influence and Mary Queen of Scots was forced, in 1567, to give up the throne, the cultural links continued. The 'Enlightenment' was a major force which saw the exchange of ideas from thinkers across Europe, including the philosopher David Hume and the economist Adam Smith. The poet Robert Burns later wrote encouragingly of the French Revolution in poems like *The Tree of Liberty*, and a Scot, Thomas Muir, emerged as a leading figure in the French Convention and circulated pamphlets to the Scottish 'Friends' which were active reform societies, mostly craftsmen and members of professions. This cultural exchange with other European countries meant that before the 18th century - and for a long while into it - the natural progression for a Scots lad o'pairs from one of Scotland's four ancient universities would have been to travel directly



from Leith to continue his postgraduate studies in philosophy, theology, medicine or law at Leiden, Geneva, the Sorbonne, Heidelberg or Padua.

Scottish art flourished with the exchange of these ideas, so that the architect and artist Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868-1928) can be classified as being of the same Art Nouveau school as artists from the Bauhaus (Germany), Antonio Gaudi in Spain and the French Art Nouveau artists who included Hector Guimard, Emile Galle, and Toulouse Lautrec.

Trading links were as crucial and flourishing as these cultural and artistic exchanges. Through the ages, trade was maintained with Scandinavian countries and was flourishing in the 15th century when James III married the daughter of a Danish King. In the 17th Century timber was imported from Norway and iron from the Baltic. Scotland exported grain to Norway, coal to Ireland, woollen goods and lead ore to the Low Countries, and fish to France.

## The European Union

The European Union today comprises 15 Member States. It began in 1951 with the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community with six countries (Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands) and in 1957, the same six countries formed the European Economic Community (EEC). In 1973, the Community enlarged, for the first time, with the accession of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom. The accession of the UK to the EC was a highly divisive issue. On 5th June 1975, a referendum was held on staying in the EC, and though Shetland and the Western Isles voted 'no', 58.4% of Scotland said 'Yes'.

### THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European Parliament consists of directly elected MEPs (Members of the European Parliament) and represents the people of the European Union. MEPs are elected by direct suffrage, and exercise powers of democratic control.

There currently are 626 Members of Parliament (MEPs), with 87 members from the UK as a whole, and 8 MEPs representing the people of Scotland.

Dr. Winnie Ewing was recently honoured for being the longest serving MEP, after twenty years of service. She was first nominated to the European Parliament in 1975 and has subsequently represented the Highlands and Islands since the first direct elections in 1979. David Martin, the

|                 |        |                       |
|-----------------|--------|-----------------------|
| Ken Collins     | Labour | Strathclyde East      |
| Winifred Ewing  | SNP    | Highlands and Islands |
| Alex Falconer   | Labour | Mid Scotland and Fife |
| Allan Macartney | SNP    | North East Scotland   |
| David Martin    | Labour | Lothians              |
| Hugh McMahon    | Labour | Strathclyde West      |
| Bill Millar     | Labour | Glasgow               |
| Alex Smith      | Labour | South of Scotland     |



MEP for the Lothians, is now a Vice President of the European Parliament.

The European Parliament differs markedly from its Westminster counterpart. In general, the European Commission (see below) proposes legislation and the Council of Ministers (made up of Member State government ministers) decides or legislates on the basis of proposals brought forward by the European Commission.

However, the European Parliament plays an important role in *influencing* the development of legislation. In particular, it has the right to make amendments to legislation proposed by the Commission and in some cases, the Parliament can delay or even stop legislation being adopted. MEPs can also put written and oral questions to the Council and the Commission.

Thus, MEPs have an important say in a wide range of European laws which have a direct effect on EU citizens. These can cover a diverse range of topics such as social affairs and working environment, food labelling, energy policy and the recognition of education qualifications throughout the EU. Any citizen in Scotland can raise any European issue with the MEP who represents him or her, and any issue can be raised by MEPs, be it the European energy policy or the problem of the impact on small football clubs of high transfer fees for footballers, both of which have figured in their debates in the past.

Since the Treaty on European Union (the Maastricht Treaty) in 1992, the Parliament has gained more powers such as the right to initiate legislation by asking the Commission to submit a proposal, and the right to set up a committee of inquiry to investigate maladministrations in the implementation of Community law. The co-decision procedure was also introduced, whereby the European Parliament has to agree to proposals in a variety of areas, including consumer protection, public health, culture, the environment, before the proposals can become law.

To disseminate information on the European Parliament's affairs, the *EP News* is published weekly by the European Parliament and can be obtained free from the European Parliament office in London.

## THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European Commission consists of a college of 20 Commissioners at its political level, and about 15,000 Commission employees. The Commission proposes new legislation, its right of initiative, implements the decisions (for example by administering the various funds) and supervises the implementation of European law by the Member States. The European Commission is committed to openness and transparency, and ensures that there is debate and consultation on all proposals.

The administrative staff of the European Commission, the Commission

To find out who your local MEP is, you can contact your local library, your local authority offices or the European Parliament Office, 2 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1 9AA.  
Tel: 0171 227 4300



Officials work in 24 departments, known as Directorates General, located mainly in Brussels with some in Luxembourg. Scots have always been well represented in this staff.

The European Commission has an office in Edinburgh which was established in 1975. Its main role is to represent the European Commission in particular, and the European Union in general. Working closely with local government, universities, libraries, chambers of commerce, the staff:

- represent the European Commission and explain its policies;
- communicate information about the European Union to the general public as well as to specialised interest groups; that is, they promote awareness of the impact of EU policies, programmes, etc on the lives and activities of the people in Scotland;
- relay information back to the European Commission on political, economic and social developments in Scotland and report on the views of the people of Scotland on matters such as constitutional change, the future of the EU, the introduction of a single currency, or enlargement of the E.U.

The European Commission's Representation in Scotland disseminates and gathers information through a variety of media. It issues press releases and briefs journalists on the work of the Union; links are established with business, local authorities, the voluntary sector and trade unions. The office maintains an information service and holds a comprehensive set of European documents and a full range of information publications from the Commission.

In addition, the Commission's Representation in Scotland ensures that information is relayed through public libraries (public libraries now hold a great deal of documentation on the EU), and other organisations such as Eurodesk (see 'Educational links') for young people, the European Documentation Centres located in University libraries for students, the Euro-InfoCentres for businesses and Carefours for agriculture and rural affairs, etc.

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## COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

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The Council of Ministers consists of representatives of governments of the Member States and is the European Union's decision-making body. The main role of the Council is to adopt legislation or decisions on European policy on the basis of proposals put forward by the European Commission. The government of each Member State has one seat on the Council. However, votes are weighted according to the size of the country and other factors.

Before taking a decision the Council of Ministers is obliged to consult the European Parliament. It also has to take into account the opinions

The Commission's Representation in Scotland is located at: 9 Alva Street, Edinburgh EH2 4PH, Tel: 0131 225 2058, Fax: 0131 226 4105

of the the Economic and Social Committee, and the Committee of the Regions for certain subjects.

The Council consists of Ministers from Member State Governments and makes the major policy decisions of the Union. Each Member State acts as President of the Council for six months in rotation.

Participants in the meetings change according to the subject under discussion; Agriculture Ministers, for instance, discuss farm prices; Employment and Labour Ministers discuss unemployment problems; and Transport Ministers discuss transport issues.

Proposals coming to the Council of Ministers are first considered by COREPER (the Committee of Permanent Representatives) and their junior officials. The UK delegation to the Permanent Representatives is known as UKREP.

## THE SCOTTISH OFFICE

Located mainly in Edinburgh with offices in London, the Scottish Office is Scotland's Department within the UK Government. The Scottish Office employs more than 8000 civil servants to implement government policy and supervise the spending of the Scottish Office budget. Divided into five departments - Education and Industry; Development; Agriculture, Environment and Fisheries; Home; Health - the Scottish Office is able to initiate policy in accordance with Scotland's priorities and also to refine and modify UK-wide policy to take account of particular Scottish circumstances.

In 1990 the Scottish Secretary promoted the European dimension and a European Coordination Unit was set up to supervise staff-training in languages and in the workings of the European Commission. The Scottish Office also administers the European Structural Funds (see Funding section). The Scottish Office is part of the UK governmental

machinery, represented in Brussels by the UK Permanent Representative (UKREP). Scottish ministers can and often do contribute at relevant meetings of the Council of Ministers and of the Working Groups which prepare the Council business.

## THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Established in 1994, under the terms of the Treaty on European Union, the Committee of the Regions enables the regions of Europe to exercise some

### Members for Scotland

|                  |              |                             |
|------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Daniel Coffey    | SNP          | East Ayrshire Authority     |
| Charles Gray     | Labour       | North Lanarkshire Authority |
| Rosemary McKenna | Labour       | North Lanarkshire Authority |
| Duncan McPherson | Independent  | Highland Authority          |
| Brian Meek       | Conservative | City of Edinburgh Authority |

### Alternate Members for Scotland

|                 |                  |                             |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Keith Geddes    | Labour           | City of Edinburgh Authority |
| Marcus Humphrey | Conservative     | Aberdeenshire Authority     |
| Jean McFadden   | Labour           | City of Glasgow Authority   |
| Peter Peacock   | Independent      | Highland Authority          |
| Clive Sneddon   | Liberal Democrat | Not Elected                 |

influence on EU policy making. The Committee of the Regions (COR) mainly plays an *advisory role*: it is consulted by the Commission and the Council when-ever these two institutions consider it appropriate and it must be consulted on certain issues including social policy and education, culture, public health, trans-European networks, economic and social cohesion. In addition it has the power to express opinions on its own initiative.

The COR consists of 222 representatives from local and regional authorities in Member States. The UK has 24 members (plus 24 alternate members) of which there are five from Scotland (plus five alternate members), all of whom are from Scottish local authorities.

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## ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

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The Economic and Social Committee is an advisory body which consists of 222 representatives from the various economic and social sectors in the Member States, including employers, workers and various specialist interests such as small business and consumers. There are 24 UK members of ECOSOC.

The ECOSOC draws up opinions on all draft legislation referred to it by the Commission. Its main influence is on technical issues where the expertise of its members is often brought to bear. In addition it has the power to express opinions on economic and social questions.

## European Legal Links

The Scottish legal system, which is distinct from that of the rest of the UK, has close historical links with European developments. Scots Law is based on Roman Law. During the Middle Ages, Roman Law was adopted all over Europe, and its later diffusion is due to the influence of the French 'Code Napoleon', based on Roman Law. Scots Law adopted as a guide much of the civil law developed by the jurists of Holland and France and the Scottish legal system is still similar to the Dutch, the German or the French systems. The English legal system, on the other hand, is based on 'common law', ie it consists of rules of law based on common customs and usage and on previous judicial decisions.

Until the middle of the 18th century, Scots law students were often educated in European universities particularly those of France or the Netherlands.

From 1973 to 1988 Lord Mackenzie-Stuart was a judge at the European Court of Justice and its president from 1984 to 1988. In 1991, the European reputation of Scots law received a further boost when David Edward, Professor of European Law at Edinburgh University



was appointed to the bench of the European Court of Justice after serving for two years on the bench of the Court of First Instance of the European Communities. The European Court of Justice ensures that the Treaties, which are the foundation blocks of the European Union, are interpreted correctly and that European laws are observed.

The European Court of Justice and the Court of First Instance are EU institutions whose role is to interpret the European Union's laws and the treaties in the event of disputes. The EU also has the Court of Auditors which is responsible for monitoring and auditing all of the financial activities of the European Union.

## Funding

One of the aims of the European Union is to ensure that there is a reduction in disparities between the different regions of Europe and that equalisation of overall living standards is promoted. Financial assistance is channelled to the less well-off regions of Europe through a series of funds known as the Structural Funds. These consist of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (known as FEOGA) and the Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIGG).

Scotland has received substantial financial assistance from the Structural Funds, £1361.25 million from 1975 to 1993.

The funding available through the ERDF and the ESF is not available directly to businesses: it is distributed to public bodies in Scotland. These include government departments, regional and local authorities, enterprise trusts, local enterprise companies, FE colleges, universities, charities, etc. The funds are allocated across the European Union according to a number of Objectives:

- the structural adjustment and development of the less developed regions (Objective 1);
- the reconversion of regions severely affected by industrial decline (Objective 2);
- to combat long-term unemployment and facilitate the integration of young people into the labour market (Objective 3);
- to assist workers in employment adapt to industrial change and new production systems (Objective 4);
- to speed up the adjustment of agricultural and fisheries structures (Objective 5a);
- to facilitate the general development of rural areas (Objective 5b);



- to provide support for peripheral regions (Objective 6). This only applies to Finland and Sweden.

Funding under Objectives 1, 2, and 5b is targeted on selected regions; however most of Scotland is now eligible for some form of Structural Fund assistance under one or other of these three Objectives. The table shows how much money has currently been allocated.

Support for projects which help to combat long-term unemployment, and to integrate young people into the labour market, under Objective 3, is available throughout Scotland. Examples of projects which have been funded under this Objective include courses providing the varied skills required to set up co-operatives and community businesses; self built housing projects providing construction skills; housing insulation and installation of solar panels by trainees on work placement.

| Area                            | Objective | Years   | £million       |
|---------------------------------|-----------|---------|----------------|
| Highlands & Islands             | 1         | 1994-99 | 242.00         |
| West of Scotland                | 2         | 1994-96 | 515.00         |
| East of Scotland                | 2         | 1994-96 | 228.00         |
| Borders                         | 5b        | 1994-99 | 23.40          |
| Dumfries & Galloway             | 5b        | 1994-99 | 36.90          |
| North & West Grampian           | 5b        | 1994-99 | 30.70          |
| Rural Stirling & Upland Tayside | 5b        | 1994-99 | 19.70          |
| <b>Total</b>                    |           |         | <b>1095.70</b> |

Funding under Objective 5a is also available in all regions of Scotland. Schemes are administered by the Scottish Office Agricultural and Fisheries Department and include grants to improve farm efficiency, marketing grants, funding to modernise fishing vessels, etc.

A small proportion of the total Structural Funds budget has been set aside for European-wide programmes, administered by the European Commission. Known as Community Initiatives, a total of 13.45 billion ECU (approximately £11billion), representing 9% of the Structural Funds budget, has been allocated to these programmes. Community Initiatives which are applicable in Scotland are:

- EMPLOYMENT targeting groups which face specific difficulties in the employment market
- ADAPT Adapting the workforce to industrial change
- RECHAR Assisting areas severely affected by the decline of the coal industry
- RESIDER Assisting areas severely affected by the decline of the steel industry
- KONVER Assisting regions with large a defence industry diversify
- RETEX Assisting textile areas diversify
- SMEs Promoting competitiveness and internationalisation of small business



|        |   |
|--------|---|
| LEADER | Assisting rural areas                                     |
| URBAN  | Integrated development programmes in deprived urban areas |
| PESCA  | Assist areas affected by changes in the fishing industry  |

An illustration of a successful project funded by one of these programmes is the initiative set up and run by the Women's Technology Centre in Stirling to open new skill opportunities in telematics and telecommunications for women. This was funded under NOW, an earlier Community Initiative, for promoting equal opportunities between men and women which is now part of EMPLOYMENT.

There is a whole series of smaller funds outwith the Structural Funds which mainly concentrate on helping organisations across Europe learn about each other in different sectors. Examples of projects funded by this EU money are given throughout this guide. The majority of funding goes to innovative pilot projects involving organisations in more than one European country. Normally the organisations themselves have to find part of the money for the project. Capital projects are not usually funded under these smaller schemes. Further information on the funding process in Scotland is available in *A Guide to the Funding Process Scotland*, available free of charge from the European Commission's office in Edinburgh.

## Strengthening Business

The first moves towards European Union after the second world war, were rooted in the idea of achieving political objectives by economic means. At its base was the objective of rendering war between the nations of western Europe impossible. The first European Community was, therefore, the European Coal and Steel Community which put these 'sinews of war' under supranational control so that no longer could a member state use these resources to make arms to use against its neighbours. When the UK joined the European Communities in 1973 a major reason was to join the Common Market, giving UK business access to the markets on the continent.

In the early 1980s, however, concern was expressed that 30 years after the establishment of the European Community, the EC was far from a 'common market'. The European Commission was asked by the Council to draw up a programme for a Single Market to be completed by the end of 1992, thereby setting a deadline that everyone could work to. The Single Market is based on four freedoms:

- 1 free movement of goods (for example through harmonised technical standards);



- 2 free movement of persons (for example through mutual recognition of professional qualifications);
- 3 free movement of finance;
- 4 freedom to provide services (for example transport services).

The aims of the Single Market legislation are to remove any physical, technical or fiscal barriers which impede its operation.

The implementation of the Single Market has affected Scottish business in many areas. For instance, the food and drink industry has had to follow harmonised rules on packaging and labelling, and legislation which allows road hauliers registered in one Member State to operate transport services within another Member State has altered and rendered more efficient the way in which manufacturing companies distribute their products.

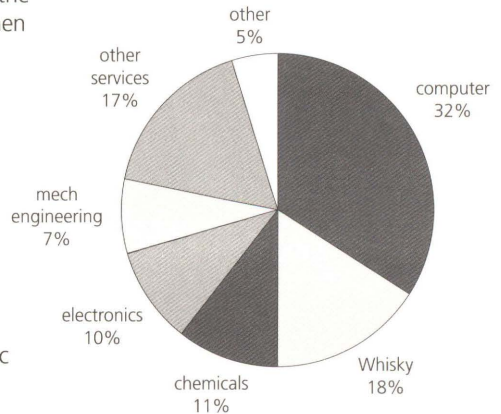
Many sectors of Scottish industry and commerce have been quick to take advantage of the Single Market and in this context, several initiatives were launched to assist companies export or make the most out of the Single Market. Thus, the Food Sprint programme was developed by the then Scottish Development Agency to develop links between European food companies. The programme supported any form of joint venture between companies in the food industry, including links which involved joint distribution and trade representation, joint research and development, product licensing, etc. Much, however, remains still to be done.

Scottish Trade International, an organisation established in 1991 to help Scottish companies internationalise their operations, set up the Public Procurement Programme to ensure that Scottish suppliers would get a fair deal out of the new procedures. These new procedures opened up the whole area of public purchasing to international competition making it easier for Scottish suppliers to bid into Europe and vice versa.

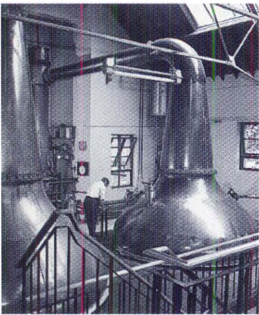
Many small businesses have been encouraged to export to European markets following the launch of the Single Market. Sectors involved include clothing and textiles, food and drink, and manufacturing.

A number of training and assistance projects to small businesses in Scotland have been supported by EU funding. A case in point is the launch of a new computer training and advisory service to small businesses in Dumfries and Galloway, called 'Advance Technology in Galloway'. The scheme was supported by the European Social Fund and

Scotlands Exports 1993/94



is run at the Dumfries and Galloway College. The project aims to deliver computer training to small businesses based in Dumfries and Galloway and to provide an advisory service to employers on the types of computer systems and software best suited to their needs. The scheme was launched in response to the need for specialised advice on computerisation for farming.



*Malt Whisky being distilled, The Scotch Whisky Association*

*Photo: Antony James*

Large Scottish companies are also strong in Europe. For example whisky is now one of Europe's top 10 exports. Even though whisky companies have suffered in recent years mainly due to the recession which has reduced consumer demand for the product, Scotch is still one of Britain's top 5 manufactured export earners. The Scotch Whisky Industry is still the mainstay of the economy in many rural areas of Scotland where it has multiplier effects on other sectors of the economy such as agriculture, paper, transport and tourism. In recent years, several Scottish distillers have been designated as best exporters. Examples include Macallan-Glenlivet plc which was awarded the Queen's Award for Export Achievement in 1993 (established in 1824, the Scottish distillery had increased its export sales by 50% since 1991) and the Inver House Distillers: established in 1964, this company of Scotch whisky increased its overseas exports to 50 overseas countries and was awarded the Queen's Award for Export Achievement in 1992. In 1994 several companies won Queen's Award for Export including Allied Distillers, United Distillers and Justerini & Brooks.

The European Commission has established a number of specialist services to help businesses understand and deal with the European Union. These include:

#### **EUROINFOCENTRE NETWORK**

The EIC network provides information on the EU specially geared towards small businesses, for example public contracts, taxation, potential European partners. There are 211 EICs in Europe, each located in a host organisation. There are two centres in Scotland, one based in Inverness and the other in Glasgow. Both EICs have a number of Euro Access Points, throughout their area. These are linked electronically to the European Information Centres in Glasgow and Inverness and disseminate information at a local level. Euro Access Points include Local Enterprise Companies, councils, and enterprise companies.

#### **BC-NET**

The Business Cooperation Network (BC-Net) aims to help small businesses identify enterprises in other Member States with whom they can cooperate on a regional and transnational basis. The network is a computer-based network linking more than 600 business advisers in the EU. Confidential profiles are created for SMEs wishing to find partners

EuroInfoCentre,  
21 Bothwell Street,  
Glasgow G2 6NL.  
Tel: 0141 221 0999.  
Fax: 0141 221 6539.

European Business Services,  
Business Information  
Source, 20 Bridge Street,  
Inverness IV1 1OR.  
Tel: 01463 702560.  
Fax: 01463 715600

and these are examined by the business advisers to identify potential partners for their own clients. In Scotland, there is a number of organisations running BC-Net.

## Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

The Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) is based on three main elements:

- 1 A single market for farm goods - there is free movement of farm goods from one Member State to another and customs duties or grant subsidies are prohibited.
- 2 Community preference - priority is given to the sale of European Community products; various instruments regulate the flow of imports and exports.
- 3 Financial solidarity - costs are paid from the common budget to which all Member States contribute.

The Common Fisheries Policy is concerned with:

- conserving fish stocks;
- setting fishing zones for each Member State;
- conservation measures to limit fishing in certain areas, for certain types of fish;
- the marketing of fish, for example setting standards regarding the size, quality, packaging of fish;
- international relations, with, for example, Canada and Norway.

Scotland has been affected by the EU agricultural and fisheries policies in several different ways. It has benefited from funds allocated to rural Scotland either through direct funds (ie funds from the European Guidance and Guarantee Fund) and from other forms of funding (for example through the Community Initiatives LEADER or PESCA). Rural areas have also been affected by other EU policies and legislation, such as for example environmental legislation designed to reduce the use of fertilisers.

Faced with declining exports, unstable markets and problems with marketing their product, the raspberry growers' cooperative, the Scottish Soft Fruit Growers, administers the £8 million of EU aid to mechanise harvesting, market the Scottish crops and develop new high-value products such as frozen rasps and pasteurised raspberry essence for flavouring in cooking.

Open in 1992, the North Atlantic fisheries college in Scalloway (Shetland) illustrates how EU funding has been allocated to Scottish

local communities' needs. Funded by the EU, Shetland Islands Council and Shetland Enterprise, the college offers an HND course in fish farming that will be equivalent to the first year of a university degree. It plans to provide modular degrees in fisheries, marine engineering and aquaculture. It will also undertake research projects which will have a direct impact on the area's fishing activities, such as a lobster cultivation and stock enhancement programme, developing a market for sea urchins in Japan and work on cost cutting in salmon farming.

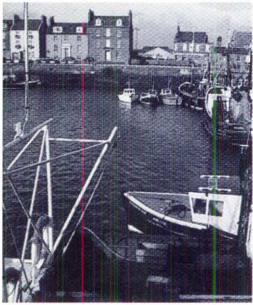
Through the European Commission's restructuring funds, special apprenticeships in sea fishing will soon be provided at Eyemouth which relies on fishing for around half of its jobs and income. The package will also allow the town to extend the harbour (as the port is tidal and has a narrow entrance), to improve the marketing facilities and to introduce a new apprenticeship scheme approved by the Sea Fish Industry Authority.

Information about the EU activities and potential funding is particularly important to rural communities. In 1988, the Carrefour Network was set up by DG X, the Directorate General responsible for information, communication and culture to make EC information more accessible to rural communities. The objectives of the Carrefour Network are to inform rural communities of the EU's policies and funding opportunities, to encourage networking between different rural areas and to feed back information to the EC on the dynamics of rural areas. There are two Scottish Carrefours: one based in Auchincruive and the other in Inverness.

Established in 1992, Business Information Source is the Carrefour for the Highlands and Islands. This Carrefour provides organisations with information about European policy, helps them find European partners so that they can apply for funding from transnational programmes or so that they can have an exchange of experiences. The Carrefour also organises conferences on issues which are of particular interest to the rural communities in the Highlands and Islands. A recent example of this was a seminar entitled 'Women in Rural Areas'. In addition, the Carrefour also participates in special projects. As one example, a student was employed for the summer to compile a directory of local development groups in the Highlands and Islands. The directory will enable the Carrefour to improve the delivery of relevant European information to organisations and also to identify organisations in the area who might be interested in partners searches sent to the Carrefour by other organisations in the EU-wide Carrefour network.

## Educational Links

Education and training have been defined by the European Commission as the 'catalyst of a changing society': *White Paper on Growth, Competitiveness and Employment* (1993). Since then, the emphasis has been



*Fishing Boats in  
Arbroath, Tayside  
Regional Council*



placed on combating unemployment by training young people and retraining staff who have been made redundant, making businesses more competitive, and adapting to new technologies and new social needs.

Although the EU countries have different education and training systems, certain patterns or trends are common to Scotland and several other EU countries. Examples include:

- the decentralisation of administrative and financial arrangements for management at institutional level;
- efforts to extend the period of schooling. For example in Scotland, compulsory education starts at 5 years old and ends at 16, whereas in Austria and Portugal, education is compulsory between the age of 6 and 15;
- efforts to expand pre-school education;
- the introduction or re-introduction of more formal assessment procedures;
- attempts to improve the status of vocational qualifications. Germany, for example offers a variety of part-time vocational training in schools and on-the-job, whilst Scotland has substantially extended its range of vocational training qualifications.

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## EURODESK

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Set up in 1990, Eurodesk provides easily understandable EU information for the education and training sector; that is to professionals working face to face with young people and adults in the fields of education (teachers, lecturers, youth workers, etc) and to young people. The Eurodesk services include enquiry answering, outlines of EU programmes relating to education, training and youth, a monthly newsletter *The Eurodesk Update*, an alerting service as well as the production of Special Issues (eg on culture and arts, special needs, careers / guidance), training and a schools service. The service, available on subscription to schools, FE colleges, etc, covers:

- policies and programmes affecting education, training and youth;
- materials for the introduction of the European dimension;
- information on the EU and how it works.

Eurodesk is based in Edinburgh within the Scottish Community Education Council. The Edinburgh office is the head of the Eurodesk network which has expanded rapidly over the last year and with European Commission funding, there will be linked Eurodesks in every Member State. All of these Eurodesks will soon be supplied with information from the main office in Edinburgh and will be given e-mail access to a central multimedia database. The software for the project is also of Scottish origin, having been developed by a young, small, software company.



## BROADENING HORIZONS

The majority of European support for education is directed at encouraging links between educational institutions in different Member States.

A number of Scottish universities have taken part in exchange and student mobility programmes such as the European funded ERASMUS / SOCRATES Programme. Dundee University, for instance, is a partner for the academic year 1995-96 in ten ERASMUS International Cooperation Programmes for Exchanges that involve students studying away from their home university. In a typical year, about 50 students go abroad and a slightly larger number of students come from abroad to study at Dundee University. Students tend to spend nine months abroad from September / October to June / July. Law students can spend up to a year in their third year in a University in Belgium, France and the Netherlands where teaching and examining may be in English.

Scottish firms are also participating in educational trips to other Member States and in exchanges. In Grangemouth, the pharmaceuticals company, Zeneca recently sent eight trainees to Milan to visit their Milan factory as well as other companies such as the Alfa Romeo car plant. The trip gave the trainees an insight into different work practices and proved an excellent team building exercise.

## Networking

Encouraging and establishing links between cities, towns, villages, and regions in Europe is part of European Union policy.

In order to encourage cooperation and exchange of experience at EU level, the European Commission requires that many EU-funded projects to be transnational. Projects must involve a number of partners from different Member States. An active network can thus be established so that partners are ready to apply for EU-funded transnational projects. In addition, networking helps open up contacts for the benefit of local companies to develop European markets. Networks can assist in an exchange of good practice and experience between organisations and may have a positive social and cultural impact.

## TOWN-TWINNING

Networking is not entirely new. Social and cultural exchanges were first achieved through town twinning schemes established after the second World War.

In Scotland, two twinning initiatives were judged to have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to European integration and friendship



between the peoples of Europe and were awarded 'Les Etoiles d'or du Jumelage' in 1993: Cumnock and Doon Valley were involved in an initiative with Hechingen (Germany), Joue Les Tours (France) and Santa Maria da Feira (Portugal), and Dunfermline was linked with Lograno (Spain), Vichy (France) and Wilhelmshaven (Germany). The partnership among Dunfermline and Lograno, Vichy and Wilhelmshaven started up in 1989, primarily in the field of economic cooperation.

School and college twinning often follow town-twinning arrangements. For example a number of schools and communities in Tayside have made twinning arrangements with schools and communities in Charente (France) and links have been forged between primary schools in Perth and schools in Cognac.

## NETWORKS

Whereas twinning is an arrangement at a local level between two cities, towns or villages, networks involve more than two partners.

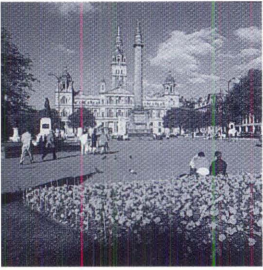
Networks operate on a variety of scales. European networks can be supported by the Structural Funds which fund pilot schemes to encourage the exchange of experience and development cooperation between regions. Networks have also been encouraged between EU Member States and non-member countries. For example, the Med-campus programme aims to foster inter-university cooperation with Mediterranean non-member countries. Other initiatives are geared towards encouraging networking at a local level, notably between small businesses. Thus, the Europartenariat scheme encourages cross-border business links between SMEs through meetings between businesses. Companies from the host region have to register in advance and details of the form of cooperation they want are published in a catalogue sent to those from other regions who are interested in attending. In 1993, the Europartenariat took place in Glasgow when some 334 Scottish firms were among the 1200 companies from 55 countries who took part.

## EUROCITIES

Eurocities is a good illustration of how a network can be developed throughout the EU. Eurocities is an association of over 60 European Metropolitan cities with at least 250,000 inhabitants. The organisation aims to increase the transfer of knowledge and experience among cities throughout the EU, to influence the European agenda to ensure that the views of major cities are taken into account in policy development, and to help European cities from outside the Union (especially from Central and Eastern Europe) to integrate themselves in the EU. In Scotland, the cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh are members of the Eurocities network.

Glasgow City Council is running two exchange of experience projects through the Eurocities network:





Glasgow, Scottish

Tourist Board

Photo: Paul Tompkins

1 The women's labour market integration project aims to address the issue of women's segregation in the workforce through improving employment practices such as recruitment, retention, development and training (the network also involves Leipzig, Munich, Lisbon and Leeds);

2 A local social policy project, run with partners from the Greek municipalities of Nikes, Drapetsone and Keratsini and the Danish municipality of Horsens, which aims to investigate alternative methods for organisations for municipal health and social services, to establish health and welfare links with the community, to plan and evaluate health and welfare programmes and also to inform the public on health and welfare issues.

## Culture and Tourism

*'The cultural health of Europe requires two conditions: that the culture of each country be unique and that the different cultures recognise the relation between them'* (T S Eliot)

The European Commission's first communication on European Community action in the cultural sector dates back to 1977. Little progress was made before the 1980s, until the publication in 1982 of a communication entitled 'A stronger Community action in the cultural sector' which introduced training grants and conservation projects for cultural heritage. The role played by the EU in cultural fields has been recognised, notably in Article 128 of the Treaty on European Union in 1992. Action by the EU is aimed at encouraging cooperation between Member States and supporting action in such areas as conservation of cultural heritage.

Future EU culture policy will aim to disseminate the Member States' culture, to support network activities to boost artistic creation, to support symbolic cultural projects, to develop opportunities linked to new technologies and to study the impact of the cultural dimension in the socio-economic sector.

Three priority areas for European support have now been established:

- 1 preserving Europe's cultural heritage and promoting reading and books;
- 2 creating an environment conducive to cultural growth and the development of artistic activities, eg through transnational exchange of information on innovative projects;
- 3 ensuring that the influence of European culture is felt throughout the world, eg through cooperation with Central and Eastern European countries.

The conservation and restoration project of the Theatre Royal in





Dumfries undertaken in 1994 is an illustration of how EU funding has been beneficial to Scottish heritage. Built in 1790 in Georgian style, the theatre has been a listed building since 1961. By the 1990s, however, its facade and stage area were suffering from serious structural problems and the stage roof, the exterior walls, the plastering and wooden decorations needed urgent consolidation. The Theatre Royal was awarded a grant under the annual Architectural Heritage scheme in 1994.

The European Union provides support for culture through a number of mechanisms. Perhaps one of the most well known is the designation each year of a 'European City of Culture', a scheme which dates back to 1983. Cultural actions were perceived as an important means of achieving the process of 'creating an ever-closer union among the peoples in Europe'. In 1990, Glasgow was awarded the title of 'European City of Culture' and was the first city to undertake a full 12-month programme of activities and an all-encompassing definition of culture, ranging from design, music or visual arts to religion, sport or architecture. Compared with other European Cities of Culture, Glasgow attracted the largest attendance and enjoyed the greatest growth in terms of tourist markets (especially foreign tourist markets). Other positive impacts included:

- a better image throughout the UK and the EU; Glasgow moved to the third top town destination in overseas tourism markets;
- a high social impact; a survey of residents showed that 61% thought that the Glasgow 90 Programme 'made the City a more pleasant place to live in'.

Cultural activities are particularly important to Scotland. Every year in August, Edinburgh hosts a number of festivals which attract visitors from all over the EU. These include the International Festival, the Festival Fringe, and the Film and Book Festivals. In 1992, for instance, the International Festival attracted a total audience of over 470,000 to 200 events whilst the Festival Fringe's 2,000 events attracted a total audience of almost 600,000.

The audio-visual industry has recently been promoting Scotland all over the EU and internationally. A recent study carried out by the Scottish Film Council showed that a third of independent film producers in Scotland were involved in co-production activity, the majority with international partners. The attraction of working internationally is demonstrated by the success of events such as the Sharing Stories conference on international co-production, held in Scotland each year. This field has expanded substantially over recent years in part through the the support of the MEDIA programme of the EU.

MEDIA, the European programme for the support of the audio-visual industry has supported a number of projects including:



- LUMIERE, the Scottish Film Archive's restoration with Dutch and Italian archives of the film record of expeditions by Scotswoman Isobel Hutchinson and her family to Greenland in the 1930s.
- A French Scottish co-production, *Gothick Roots*.



Miami City Ballet's  
*'The Nutcracker'*,  
Edinburgh Festival  
Society

Photo: Sean Hudson/  
Keith Brame

There has been European support for film festivals and for Scottish cinemas to exhibit European work. The Glasgow Film Fund, with its notable early success *Shallow Grave*, was established with European funding. The European Social Fund has enabled trainees at Edinburgh Video Training Co to participate in exchanges with their counterparts in other European countries, while the Scottish Film and Television School at Napier University has received EU pilot project funding for an experimental European film training project.

Tourism is now a significant sector in the Scottish economy with more than 150,000 employed in tourism related industries (hotels, restaurants, leisure services,). In 1993, residents from other parts of the European Union took approximately 750,000 trips to Scotland and spent £242 million in Scotland. Almost two thirds of EU visitors come from Germany, the Irish Republic and France and they typically come on holiday (64%) rather than for business or to visit friends. EU visitors are mainly attracted by the monuments, churches and castles (80% of the overseas tourists visited castles during their trip to Scotland as opposed to 15% of the British tourists) and by outdoor activities such as hiking, walking, rambling and orienteering.

As tourism needs to be further developed and tourist attractions enhanced, EU programmes have funded a number of developments. For instance, the LEADER programme, aimed at strengthening the rural community and diversifying the local economy, was used in Dumfries and Galloway to finance a 'tourist accommodation improvement grant scheme' - a scheme aimed at improving the accommodation and facilities offered by bed and breakfasts, small guest houses, campsites etc. In Moray, Badenoch and Strathspey, funding from the LEADER II programme is being used to market the public angling facilities at Strathspey and to develop the Cycling weekend event at Carrbridge. European money has also been used to support some of Scotland's larger projects such as the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall and the Wallace Monument in Stirling.

## Environment

Environmental issues have become increasingly important in European terms over the last few years. Pollution does not recognise political boundaries. Action at a European level (or even, on occasion, at a wider international level) is therefore required. The European Environmental Policy has led to more than 200 pieces of legislation relating to the

control of emissions from chemicals, control of pollution from transport, standards for air and water quality, etc. In 1992, the Fifth Environmental Action Programme set out key objectives on areas such as climatic changes (by, for example, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions), air quality, nature conservation, management of drinking water, urban environment and waste management and coastal areas.

EU legislation concerning environmental issues is implemented in Scotland by the Scottish Office. For instance, the Scottish Office made regulations which implement the European Community Drinking Water Directive, and the quality of the waters in Scotland's rivers and lochs is inspected by the River Purification Board according to the requirements of the European Community Directives. Directives on air quality, air pollution from industry, vehicle emissions and fuel standards have also been enforced and regular checks on air emissions from the most complex industries are carried out in Scotland by Her Majesty's Industrial Pollution Inspectorate.

The LIFE programme, the Pilot and Demonstration Programme for Environmental Initiatives, has enabled several environmental projects to be undertaken in Scotland. For instance, in 1993, the Trotternish Ridde land management study was run by Highland Regional Council: the study covered the current and past land uses for stocking sheep, seasonal use of grazing, meteorological data, rabbit population and the problem of managing erosion.

Fife has been particularly successful under the LIFE programme. The 1992 LIFE Programme part-funded the Reed Bed Project at Valleyfield Ash Lagoons in West Fife: this project involved building a pilot plant to test both domestic and commercial sewage using a new sewage treatment system called the Root Zone method, first developed in Germany. In 1994, another scheme known as the PIE (Partnership in Eco-Management and Audit) combined the piloting of the Eco-Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) with the transfer of experience involving authorities in Denmark and Ireland.

## Innovation

Scotland has a long and impressive tradition of research and innovation, and these qualities have long been recognised as important elements of European policy. They are key building blocks to ensuring that Europe is competitive on the world markets. The EU now allocates substantial resources to the promotion of collaborative research and development. The EU research and innovation policy aims to complement national research efforts through funding projects which are more effectively dealt with at a European rather than national level. The objective is to enable European industry to compete in certain strategic areas, such as telematics and industrial and materials technologies, with international competitors.

The Fourth Framework Programme is the current EU research policy through which funds are channelled to specific objectives and priorities under four main areas: research and technological development programmes (this includes 16 subject areas such as information technologies, environment, marine, biotechnology, transport, etc), cooperation with third countries and international organisations, dissemination and exploitation of results, stimulation of training and mobility for researchers.

Each European funded research project involves a partnership of organisations from academia and industry, across national boundaries. The results from any research undertaken must be exploited and disseminated across the European Union. In order to disseminate and exploit the results of research, the European Commission has established a network of twenty-seven Relay Centres, now called the Innovation Relay Centre Network, which offers a variety of services ranging from contact networks, to specialist training and exploitation advice. The network includes over 50 centres throughout Europe.

In Scotland, the Innovation Relay Centre is run by a consortium of organisations including the EuroInfoCentre in Glasgow, Business Information Source for the Highlands & Islands, Grampian Enterprise for the North West, Forthright Innovation for Central and Eastern Scotland and Targeting Technology in the West. The services that the Innovation Relay Centre provides include partner searches for funding opportunities, information and advice on exploitation of technology, intellectual property rights etc, information on European and national RDT funding opportunities. The network also runs EuroAlert, an e-mail and conferencing information service on European research and technology development and organises seminars and conferences.

All of the Scottish Universities have developed strong European links through collaborating on European funded projects, and these are seen as essential not only for funding, but for encouraging and stimulating academic debate and the development of new scientific and technical innovations.

One illustration of an innovative EU research and development project is the development of computer systems classification in which Stirling University took part. The aim was to standardise various systems and enable compatibility. The project involved partners from Scotland, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Portugal.

Based in Stirling University Innovation Park, Forthright Innovation has been developed with the support of the local authorities, Forth Valley Enterprise and the University of Stirling as well as financial support secured from the European Regional Development Fund and the STRIDE Programme. Forthright Innovation provides companies with advice and support in the

development and production of a new product or new technique. For example, Forthright Innovations gives businesses access to information relating to product development plans, the management of intellectual property, sourcing key technical personnel, and provides access to expert technical knowledge through technology audits and technical market research.

Osprey, the revolutionary wave power device which was designed by an Inverness company, Applied Research and Technology, was supported by £435,000 from the European Commission wave power fund in December 1993. The collaborative venture involved the support of Scottish Hydro-Electric, British Steel, AEA Technology of Dounreay as well as the Cegelec company in England and France. Osprey (Ocean Swell-Powered Renewable Energy), is intended to be strung around the north and west coasts of Scotland to turn wave power into electricity.

Information and communication technologies are rapidly transforming the world's economically advanced societies and in order to create a global information society, the governments of the G7 group of industrialised countries organised a Conference in Brussels at the beginning of 1995. The objective was to forge an international collaboration to deliver a smooth transition to the Information Society. The 'Information Society' is a relatively new term which refers to the social and organisational changes linked to new information and communications technology (IT). As changes due to IT are substantial, the EU is seen as a catalyst, coordinator, technical consultant and promoter of public awareness on Information Society issues.

The EU first began supporting research and development of the new information and communications technologies at the beginning of the 1980s. Then in 1993 the "Delors White Paper" was produced covering Growth, Competitiveness and Employment.

Priority has now been given to a number of areas:

1. Developing a regulatory and legal framework
2. Stimulating applications of information and communication technologies
3. Monitoring and analysing the social and cultural impacts of the Information Society

In order to monitor the social impacts of the Information Society, the European Commission established an Information Society Forum made up of users, social partners and other groups involved in its development and a High Level Group of Experts to deal with the social aspects. Scots and Scottish organisations are already becoming involved in the various information society initiatives.



## Social Europe

The foundations of the European Communities, and then the European Union, have always been economic issues. However the social implications of economic policy whilst not being explicit, have always been of concern. The need for a social dimension is firmly rooted in the doctrine of the free market and the need, in order to create a level playing field, to equalise the conditions of competition. Quite simply the dangers to free and fair competition from social dumping are just too great to allow a completely go as you please in matters of health and safety and other aspects of social protection.

As part of the move towards a Single Market a whole range of legislative measures were implemented including improving health and safety for workers and ensuring the free movement of workers. The last year in the run-up to full implementation of the Single Market, 1992, was designated 'European Year of Health and Safety' and throughout the year several campaigns were run to disseminate information to companies. The Health and Safety Executive for Scotland West Area organised many initiatives, notably seminars run for the construction industry, organised in conjunction with Scotbuilt Exhibition and safety awareness initiatives for local companies. Today, links are maintained with the EU. For instance, the National Interest Groups which give a lead on health and safety standards in the food and drink industries represent the Scotland West HSE in a number of EU standards-making committees.

When the Treaty on European Union, (the Maastricht Treaty) came into force Social Policy became more significant with the adoption of the Social Chapter. Whilst the UK government negotiated an opt-out for this section, there is still a considerable body of European policy, legislation and funding which is of benefit to the Scottish people, so that they are not totally deprived of the benefits of social legislation.

EU social policy now aims to:

- promote employment;
- promote labour mobility;
- promote equal pay and opportunities;
- promote improved living and working conditions;
- encourage higher standards in health and safety;
- encourage training and a better quality of life.

Recent developments in EU social legislation have concerned a wide variety of areas including racism and xenophobia, social exclusion (poverty), social security schemes, equal opportunities and equal pay, protection for young people at work, protection of pregnant workers at work, childcare, etc.

The European Commission's new Social Action Programme (1995-1997),

in which all the member states, including the UK, are participating, details the specific measures the Commission intends to carry out in the field of social policy. These measures cover eleven categories including:

- employment; for example there will be support for exchange of experience in the field of collective bargaining;
- education and training; for example policies to promote lifelong learning will be introduced;
- free movement; new ways of recognising the prior learning of workers will be investigated;
- high labour standards;
- equal opportunities; through studies on the reconciliation of professional and family life;
- social protection; for example action to combat social exclusion;
- public health;
- international dimension;
- social dialogue; such as a forum of disability organisations;
- social policy analysis;
- research;
- transposing legislation.

In Scotland, a number of programmes have been developed to ensure that the benefits of EU social policy are realised. For instance, the European Commission adopted a Recommendation on Childcare in 1992, stressing the need for childcare services to 'be available in all areas and regions of the Member States, both in urban and rural areas'. Children in Scotland in collaboration with Rural Forum launched several initiatives which aimed to develop childcare services in rural areas. The Portree Nursery on the Isle of Skye is a case in point. The centre provides full-time and part-time care, pre-primary and playgroup sessions for children. Funded under the Leader Programme, the centre is seen as having contributed to the economic development of the area. It has created a total of five jobs and facilitated the employment of nineteen parents.



*Isle of Skye, Scottish  
Tourist Board  
Photo: Paul Tompkins*

The establishment of Opportunities 2000 and the launch of the Training 2000 initiative at the beginning of the 1990s also corresponded with the EU's Equal Opportunities Policy. Training 2000 aims to change traditional attitudes, encourage flexible working practices such as job sharing, and support training schemes for women (eg by providing special training packages for women returners or women starting up their own business). Several Scottish organisations were singled out for their good practice under the Training 2000 scheme. These included:

- the Strathclyde Fire Brigade's equal opportunities in recruitment scheme (internal awareness training was undertaken for all personnel to prepare the workforce for women fire fighters);

- the ScotRail's Women's Outdoor Development Programme (to help them recognise their own abilities);
- the Women Onto Work Limited's Women Returners Courses (run by the Edinburgh District Council, the courses combined a package of confidence building and job-seeking skills with work placements).

A package of measures to help fishermen cope with job losses and cut-backs was recently funded through the EU fisheries budget. Thus, the UK was able to use EU funds to part-finance national early retirement schemes, to pay compensation to fishermen who lost their jobs when their boats were taken out of use and compensate fishermen for unemployment due to bad weather.

Scottish social organisations also take part in European-wide networks. The Scottish Council for Single Homeless and Shelter (Edinburgh), for instance, are members of the European Federation of National Organisations working with the Homeless.

The EU has also made direct contributions to assist Scotland in times of need, for example through approving humanitarian aid of £400,000 to help the victims of the Paisley and Central Scotland floods in December 1994. The package of aid from the EU disaster fund was approved by the European Commission following severe flooding to bring immediate relief to pensioners, families and individuals whose lives and homes were shattered by the floods.

## Expanding Europe

At present, the European Union comprises 15 Member States: it began in 1952 with the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community with six countries (Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands) and in 1957, the same six countries formed the European Economic Community (EEC). In 1973, the Community enlarged with the accession of Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom. In 1981, Greece became a member of the Community, followed by Spain and Portugal in 1986. Then, in 1995, Austria, Finland and Sweden became members, while Norway for a second time decided against membership after a national referendum.

Cyprus and Malta are likely to be the next new members of the European Union and, with the collapse of the Soviet bloc, countries from Central and Eastern Europe look set to join the EU in the relatively near future. These include: Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia, Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. Agreements have already been established with these countries setting out a process - free trade in industrial goods and the liberalisation of services



across the borders - which will result in their accession to the EU. Turkey has also applied for membership.

Scotland continues to deepen its links with the existing Union and widen them with potential new members.

Highlands & Islands Enterprise organised a seminar in June 1995 on partnership with Central and Eastern Europe. The seminar aimed to identify potential opportunities for Scottish small businesses in Central and Eastern Europe, notably the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Russia. The marketing requirements, communication links, opportunities for the service and the retail and distribution industries were some of the topics covered. Also organised by Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Southern Finland Enterprise '95 aimed to encourage international cooperation between Finland and selected areas of Western Europe. About 100 Finnish enterprises which were interested in collaborating with other European partners were identified. The intention was to match these firms with visiting Scottish companies.

A considerable number of Scottish companies export to Central and Eastern Europe. Examples include Reekie Manufacturing Ltd, a Forfar-based company maker of agricultural machinery and oil-field equipment, which exports to Bulgaria and Canongate-technology, a subsidiary of Scottish & Newcastle, which sells process measurement and control systems to the Czech Republic.

Several research and technology projects have been run between Stirling University and non-member countries. For example, a technology transfer project was run in Slovakia to train people in setting up their own business.

Staff from the Scottish Agricultural College in Edinburgh, along with partners in Ireland and Denmark, are involved in a TACIS (Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States) funded project, setting up a training centre for farmers' instructors in Russia. The project received 3 MECU (approximately £2.4 million). The first phase of the programme of training was a course for over twenty teachers from agricultural colleges and institutes in Russia. Further programmes should develop relevant teaching materials and focus on the need for agricultural marketing to help Russian farmers improve their performance. Key features of the project are study visits to Scotland, Ireland and Denmark and the use of case studies in Moscow.

## Scottish Europeans

As this guide has shown, Scotland and Europe are clearly interlinked. Europe, and its central focus of Brussels, is the working base for many Scots and Scottish organisations. There are Scots throughout the Brussels



institutions, ranging from permanent EC officials to medium-term national experts on secondment from UK local authorities and agencies. "Jock Tamson's Bairns", published by Scottish Enterprise, is a comprehensive directory of Scots and those with strong Scottish connections, working in Brussels and Luxembourg. It includes both those within the institutions and Scots working in private companies.

Many Scottish organisations and companies require a presence in Brussels, either through their own office or through shared facilities such as Scotland Europa.

Scotland Europa was set up as a subsidiary of Scottish Enterprise in 1992. It was designed to offer a representative centre for Scotland in Brussels and now works as an umbrella organisation promoting Scottish interests in the EU. Eight separate and independent Scottish organisations share the premises and cooperate to avoid duplication. These include:

- COSLA (the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) whose role is to raise the profile of Scottish local government in the EU, represent the Scottish local authorities in all European matters and bodies and provide COSLA and member authorities with EU information;
- the East of Scotland European Consortium (a grouping of local authorities in East and Central Scotland);
- the Highlands & Islands European Office / Grampian EU Office representing the area's Islands and Regional Councils as well as Highlands & Islands Enterprise;
- Scottish Enterprise;
- a number of other private and public sector members, including law firms.

Scotland Europa provides Scottish organisations with intelligence about EU policy initiatives and programmes and assistance in making contacts with the many representative offices based in Brussels. It carries specific enquiries on request and helps with lobbying the Commission, the Council, etc. It also organises visits and programmes for individuals or groups, and members can hire conference facilities.

The main reason for this presence in Brussels is the openness and receptiveness of the European Commission to representations, and its accessibility to those who have a point of view to express, and who can make a positive contribution to the formulation of EU policy and the drafting of legislation.



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December 1995

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Designed by: Brandenburger Design, London

Printed by: Cliffe Enterprise

Published by: The Representation of the European  
Commission in Scotland

Author: Hall Aitken Associates, Glasgow

# SCOTLAND



**European Commission** Representation in Scotland  
9 Alva Street, Edinburgh EH2 4PH  
Tel: 0131 225 2058, Fax: 0131 226 4105