

Global Scotland – Edition 10 – February 2022

SNP Foreign Affairs and Defence Newsletter

SNP Steadfastly Supports Ukraine

Relations between Ukraine and Russia continued to deteriorate into the New Year despite intense multilateral negotiations. Little progress has been made as Putin continues his sabre-rattling on Ukraine's borders.

The SNP have been resolute in their support of Ukraine. Writing in 'The Scotsman' alongside Ukrainian MP, Lesia Vasylenko, SNP Defence Spokesperson Stewart McDonald MP made the case for Ukraine joining the NATO Alliance. In Parliament, Foreign Affairs Spokesperson Alyn Smith MP urged the Prime Minister to take effective action and finally implement the Russia Report's recommendations to better protect these islands.

See more [here](#) and [here](#)

Australia Deal Hurts Scottish Farmers

The Tory Government has trumpeted its 'success' at negotiating a trade deal with Australia which threatens to undermine Scotland's crucial farming sector.

Australia is a major exporter of lamb and beef, and there is concern that Australian exports could flood Scottish markets and put farmers out of business.

Stirling MP Alyn Smith echoed the concerns of NFU Scotland in the House of Commons, criticising the lack of government consultation with the sector. He also questioned whether future scrutiny would lead to changes in the deal.

See more [here](#) and [here](#).

Scotland The Good Global Citizen

In a world ravaged by traumatic events, an independent Scotland can be a feel-good story for international society as the world's newest global citizen argues Alyn Smith MP.

Writing in The National, he pointed out the failures of the Global Britain project in crises around the world. In contrast, Scotland is already using what limited powers it has to help others and be a good example. This includes developing a Feminist Foreign Policy, establishing a Peace Institute by the end of 2022, increasing funding for climate justice by 50% amongst others.

Read more [here](#).

Chile Victory Gives Progressives Hope

The victory of Gabriel Boric in Chile's presidential elections gives hope for progressives around the world notes SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP.

In his weekly column for 'The National', he points out how Boric's victory is the latest in a string of successive victories for progressive parties around the world.

He also elaborated on the potential within Scottish - Latin American relations given the historic ties in the region and the large number of people descended from Scots who settled there.

Read more [here](#).

China Spy in Heart of Westminster

MI5 made headlines this month when they took the rare step of warning MPs about Chinese spies. The warning comes after MI5 published a security alert of Christine Lee, who had given donations to politicians and parties to gain influence. Alyn Smith MP warned that this latest scandal demonstrates the need for wholesale scrutiny and reform of electoral laws and political donations.

Read more [here](#).

SNP Call for 6 Nations Fundraiser

As Tonga continues to try and recover from a devastating tsunami, MPs debated how to best provide assistance.

SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith raised his support for a Six Nations rugby fundraiser and called on the UK Government to reverse its cuts on international development funding.

See more [here](#).

UK Delegates to EU-UK PPA Announced

The UK has finally published its list of representatives as part of its delegation to the EU - UK Parliamentary Partnership Assembly.

Alyn Smith MP, SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson, and Philippa Whitford MP, SNP Europe spokesperson have been selected as the SNPs delegates on the UK delegation.

See more [here](#).

Putin's Grand Strategy of Repression & Authoritarianism

The UK Government has published several statements on the Russian-Ukraine crisis whilst in early January, MPs also debated Russia's Grand Strategy.

Throughout the SNP has been active in its support of international law. This includes calling for effective sanctions against Russia in the event of an invasion of Ukraine, expressing sympathy for the Russian people who are the first victims of Putin's regime, and urging the UK Government to develop resilience at home by implementing the the Russia Report's recommendations.

See more [here](#) and [here](#).

Disinformation Threat Not Being Taking Seriously

Disinformation is a threat that isn't being taking seriously enough argues SNP Defence spokesperson, Stewart McDonald MP. To tackle the issue, he has launched a competition for young people to put together a 6 minute video on how disinformation has affected them and their peers.

He also spoke with 'The National' on the issue, noting that "Disinformation has always been a gateway to radicalisation." He suggested that Scotland could host annual 'clean information' summits to address the issue.

See more [here](#) and [here](#).

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