

Global Scotland – Edition 13 – June 2022

SNP Foreign Affairs and Defence Newsletter

Scotland Celebrates Europe

The 9th May marked the anniversary of Europe Day which marks the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration. The Declaration was a crucial stepping point towards the creation of the first predecessor of the EU, the European Coal and Steel Community established in 1951. SNP politicians used the day to highlight the many benefits Scotland would have as the EU's newest member.

Posting on Twitter, SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP and Europe Spokesperson Dr Philippa Whitford produced a list of 10 reasons why Scotland should be in the EU, such as solidarity with likeminded states, freedom of movement, workers rights amongst others. Scotland Celebrates Europe

See more [here](#).

UK Defence Actions Don't Match Words

The UK's words on defence don't match its actions argues SNP Defence Spokesperson Stewart McDonald MP.

Speaking at Defence Questions in Westminster, the Glasgow South MP raised the matter of the upcoming NATO strategic concept and enquired as to what the UK would consider a successful concept.

He added that cutting the armed forces by 10,000 personnel and reducing the army to its smallest size since the War of the Spanish Succession in 1701 is simply not credible and urged the Minister to revisit that decision.

See more [here](#).

SNP All for NATO Membership

The strong likelihood of Finland and Sweden joining NATO is "good background music" for the SNP.

The SNP Defence spokesperson Stewart McDonald MP made it clear in interviews with the BBC and The National that Scotland would look to join on similar terms as the likes of Norway and Denmark with Scotland not being a "permanent host" for nuclear weapons.

He added: "There is absolutely no connection between nuclear weapon possession and Nato membership... Scotland could obviously get rid of its nuclear weapons and join Nato."

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

An Internationalist Nationalism

SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP discussed Scotland's Foreign and Defence policy at the successful Aberdeen Independence Movement's (AIM) conference. The conference was the first large-scale independence gathering since the Covid-19 pandemic began.

Alyn took the opportunity to outline his work at Westminster alongside Stewart McDonald MP on foreign affairs and defence issues at Westminster. This included the work of Project No Surprises, the development of a Good Neighbour Doctrine, and the DtrebleC strategy of doing, critiquing, calling and commitment.

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

Finns Meet with SNP MPs

A delegation of Finnish journalists met with SNP MPs to discuss Scottish politics and prevalent topics.

Alyn Smith MP, Steven Bonnar MP and Douglas Chapman MP took questions on a range of issues including membership of NATO and EU. They also discussed the subject of Scottish independence and the practicalities of it.

See more [here](#).

FCDO Failings Over Nazanin

The House of Commons debated the astonishing revelations that Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe was forced to sign a false confession before she was allowed to leave Iran. SNP Foreign Affairs spokesperson Alyn Smith MP spoke in the debate asking for clarity over what the FCDO did or did not know beforehand but did not receive a clear answer.

See more [here](#).

Scotland Welcomes Ukrainian MP

Ukrainian MP Kira Rudik was welcomed to Scotland at the end of May by Glasgow South MP and member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Stewart McDonald. The leader of the liberal Holos party met with politicians, NGOs, universities and the Scottish media over the two-day visit.

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

Scotland Should Emulate Nordic Success in Defence

Scotland has long admired Nordic social policy but it should not hesitate to emulate their successful approach to Defence argues Stewart McDonald MP. The SNP Defence spokesperson wrote in an article for Reform Scotland that the success of Nordic social policies lies hand-in-hand with their successful whole-of-society approach to defence, security, and national resilience. He added that it is crucial Scotland does not stand still as the world changes around us and it is more important than ever to be engage in Euro-Atlantic security

See more [here](#).

Scotland Stands for Peace in Northern Ireland

Tensions have ratcheted up in recent weeks as the UK Government threatens to unilaterally rip up the Northern Ireland Protocol.

The SNP stand foursquare behind peace on the island of Ireland and for international law, a position they have made clear on numerous occasions in parliament. Meanwhile in May, SNP MPs including Alyn Smith and Stewart McDonald met with Irish TD Neale Richmond for a briefing on matter from the Republic of Ireland's perspective.

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

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