

# SCOTLAND IN THE EU: GOOD FOR SCOTLAND, GOOD FOR EUROPE

Supportive voices from Brussels  
for Independent Scotland's EU future

*A project by Yes for EU  
and Europe for Scotland  
Spring 2025*





# What is the “Scotland in the EU” project about?

2025 is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the post-war **Schuman Declaration** which ultimately led to today's **European Union**. It was - and still is - essentially a **peace project** aiming to create a more united Europe, and thus avoid repetition of the devastation of two World Wars. 9<sup>th</sup> May – the date the Declaration was signed – is **celebrated as ‘Europe Day’ every year across the countries of the EU**.

To mark this anniversary in spring 2025, campaigners from Scotland and EU countries are collaborating to promote **a better future for Scotland as an independent country in the European Union**. To that end, in this project we are gathering views first-hand about Scotland from **senior EU figures in Brussels**, and then sharing these at **public events in Scotland** to inform discussion and debate about our potential EU future.

The project is taking place in the context of a strong grassroots pro-EU and pro-independence movement in Scotland, as well as major developments in the EU itself. In the 2016 Brexit referendum **Scotland voted by a majority of 62% to Remain**, but devolved nations' votes were deemed irrelevant to the overall UK result so Scotland was forced out of the EU due to the Leave majority in England. Now, polls show that Scots' support for a return to the EU is even stronger, at around 70% or above, and that **support for independence would increase to a substantial majority if it were to lead to EU membership**. But myths and misinformation spread by Brexiters and Eurosceptics mean that some Scots are still doubtful as to the feasibility of Scotland's EU accession, fearing barriers and negative attitudes from EU countries.

This project seeks to demonstrate that such fears are unfounded, and that we can be confident an application from independent Scotland to join the EU will be welcomed, as it will be **good for Scotland – and good for Europe too**.

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**Europe for Scotland** is a pan-European body which collects and shares expressions of support and solidarity for Scotland post-Brexit. Nina Jetter & Andrea Pisauro of EfS are joint leads with Yes for EU in this project. [europeforscotland.com](http://europeforscotland.com)

**Yes for EU** is a grassroots group campaigning for independence and EU membership for Scotland, via a wide range of campaign activities. Elise Tallaron, Sam Page, David Spacey of Yes for EU are joint leads with EfS in this project. [yesforeu.scot](http://yesforeu.scot)



Heather Anderson & Alyn Smith are former Scots MEPs. Heather is now a councillor in the city of Dundee. Alyn urged colleagues in the European Parliament to 'leave a light on' for Scotland.



## Who is taking part in the "Scotland in the EU" project?

The **Coppieters Foundation** is a partner in the project, providing support financially and also with practical help on the ground. [ideasforeurope.eu](http://ideasforeurope.eu)



**IndyPodcasters** Marlene Halliday & Fiona McGregor made video recordings of the Brussels meeting and interviews, to share online and at the 9<sup>th</sup> May event. [scottishindypod.scot](http://scottishindypod.scot)

MEPs from Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain & Sweden met the delegation in the European Parliament and were unanimous in welcoming Scotland's future EU accession.



# Scotland in the EU: Good for Scotland?



Scotland is still the **most pro-EU nation in the UK**. Polls consistently show **70%+ of Scots want to be back in the EU**, believing that Scotland would fare better in terms of **trade, the economy, our voice in the world, the NHS and the gap between rich and poor**, if we were part of the EU rather than the UK.

Almost every town and city in Scotland has **at least one active 'Yes' group**, i.e. pro-independence group. About 150 of these grassroots groups are affiliated to the national umbrella organisation **Believe in Scotland**, and most, including Yes for EU, are **committed to EU membership** upon gaining independence. A key driver of Scots' support for a return to the EU is the **desire to restore Erasmus+ opportunities for young people**.





# *Scotland in the EU: Good for Europe?*

Scotland's return would **reinforce the EU's democratic principles**. With long-established civic institutions and **values of social justice**, as well as 47 years' EU experience during UK membership, **Scotland will readily meet EU accession standards**. With freedom of movement, its highly-educated workforce would **revitalise academic and cultural exchanges and collaborations**.



Scotland's vast **renewable energy resources** could play a key role in the EU's green transition. Its re-entry into the single market would **boost trade**. Geopolitically, Scotland's accession would help **challenge the growth of the far-right in Europe** and Putin's plan to weaken the EU.



Scotland's return is an **opportunity to strengthen Europe's economy, democracy, and cohesion**.

## (1) the Brussels delegation

For the first stage of the “Scotland in the EU” project, a delegation from Scotland travelled to Brussels in April 2025 to meet with MEPs in the European Parliament. The group comprised members of Europe for Scotland (Efs) and Yes for EU, as well as former Scots MEPs Heather Anderson and Alyn Smith, and a media team. Each EU MEP had signed a pledge of support for Scotland:

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I wish to express my solidarity with all Scottish citizens who were deprived of a vote in the EU election by Brexit.

I pledge to work in the European Parliament to ensure that any application from Scotland to rejoin the EU is welcomed with a spirit of friendship and solidarity.

I support the Scottish people’s democratic will to be part of the EU, and believe they can help us build a better Europe.



What did the MEPs say about Scotland’s future return to the EU?

“having that cultural exchange is something that we’re really missing now” Charlotte Bechert, on behalf of Nela Riehl, German MEP

“Yes, of course Scotland would be an asset to the EU.... and I think it’s a question of democracy”  
Vicent Marzà, Valencian MEP

“A very important European voice is missing here in parliament and we still keep the seats free... Scotland could join in a fasttrack procedure”  
Thomas Waitz, Austrian MEP

## (2) public meeting in Edinburgh on 9<sup>th</sup> May, Europe Day

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the project – sharing the full story of the supportive voices from Brussels, and the warm welcome that awaits Scotland in the EU.





*The 'Scotland in the EU' events are sowing the seeds of positive Scotland-EU relationships, and are prompting numerous interesting suggestions for nurturing these in future, for example:*



- In Scotland, Yes for EU and Europe for Scotland will share the 'supportive voices' from Brussels widely in future events and social media, **assuring the Scottish public that there are no barriers to Scotland joining the EU once independent - EU countries will welcome Scotland**
- In the EU, some of the MEPs involved in this project will be attending crucial meetings, for example on the Trade & Cooperation Agreement - they will **ensure that Scotland's voice is heard in Europe**
- In the Scottish Parliament elections in May 2026 a pro-independence / pro-EU majority will be essential for securing progress towards Scottish independence and thus EU membership. Parties currently committed to joining the EU are the SNP and Scottish Greens; they can be encouraged to **include the aim of EU membership in their manifestos**
- A number of MEPs are keen to visit Scotland and talk about their support, in public events, media interviews, and meetings with politicians; this will **create a visible record of EU support and interest for Scotland**

*Next steps?*

*..... do YOU have ideas for next steps in this project?*

# Find out more

Many organisations and websites provide information on Scotland-EU relationships - political, economic, cultural. Here are some links as a starting-point:

YouGov poll: The aim to join EU boosts support for independence  
[yougov.co.uk/politics/articles/50536-scottish-independence-10-years-on](https://yougov.co.uk/politics/articles/50536-scottish-independence-10-years-on)

Kirsty Hughes' blog: Scotland and the EU [kirstyhughes.substack.com](https://kirstyhughes.substack.com)

Report by Yes for EU: An EU Association Agreement for Scotland [tinyurl.com/58w26ju6](https://tinyurl.com/58w26ju6)

Videos of Yes for EU webinars [tinyurl.com/48w3nbjx](https://tinyurl.com/48w3nbjx)

Believe in Scotland – national grassroots campaign for independence [believeinscotland.org](https://believeinscotland.org)

Europe for Scotland and Yes for EU are very grateful to the following for their support in making the 'Scotland in the EU' project possible:



The Scottish Independence Foundation [sif.scot](https://sif.scot)



The Coppieters Foundation [ideasforeurope.eu](https://ideasforeurope.eu)



Scottish Independence Podcasts [scottishindypod.scot](https://scottishindypod.scot)



Stewart Bremner [stewartbremnerprints.com](https://stewartbremnerprints.com)

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