Scotland

A Region of the European Union
The term “European Union” stemming from Maastricht is preferred in this text. However, whenever funding programmes or policies/laws stemming from the original EEC or ECSC treaties are referred to the term “European Community” is used.
There is nothing new about the links which Scotland has with the mainland of Europe. Ever since the Middle Ages, it has been the custom for Scots, after completing their university studies at home, to further their education at the great European learning centres of, for example, Leyden or Paris or Heidelberg. 1995 sees the 700th anniversary of the first mention of that great treaty of friendship and mutual support - la vielle alliance, the auld alliance between Scotland and France, two countries whose links have been renewed through the European Union.

The economic, the social, the cultural and the educational links between Scotland and mainland Europe are now stronger than ever, and the latest Scottish Council (Development and Industry) survey of Scottish manufacturing exports shows that the overall share of these manufactured goods sent to the countries of the European Union is almost 60 per cent of Scotland's total export figure. The value of these exports to the other 11 Member States amounts to well over £5.6 billion, with Germany and France being respectively the first and second largest individual markets for Scottish goods, closely followed by the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, Belgium and Denmark.

At the same time, air links between Scotland and the mainland have grown significantly and have contributed to making Scotland feel even more “at home” in Europe than it once did. This feeling of “one-ness” has been enhanced with the issue of a document by Scottish Enterprise entitled “Jock Tamson’s Bairns”, a publication which gives the names and contact points of a network listing of Scots and those with strong Scottish connections in Brussels and Luxembourg.

There can be no doubt that the European Union has been good for Scotland (as Scotland has been good for the European Union). Without membership of the Community, Scotland would have found it much more difficult to carry out the far-reaching programme of industrial change and improvement forced on the country as the result of the need to adjust and to adapt to meet the challenges of the run-down - sometimes severe - of the country’s traditional industries like coal and steel.
Thus, a comprehensive overview shows that today by far the largest exporting sector in Scotland is electrical and instrument engineering (43% of the total), followed by food, drink and tobacco (including whisky) - (22%), chemicals (9%), mechanical engineering (7%), and textiles (6%). There has been nothing less than a sea change in Scottish industry in general and in its exports to Europe over the last two decades.

The purpose of this document is to give an outline of the details of the way in which the European Union has been, and will continue to be, of benefit to Scotland as a whole. It will examine matters like the Structural Funds, Education, Agriculture and Fisheries, the Environment, and Social Policy.

THE STRUCTURAL FUNDS - HOW SCOTLAND BENEFITS

The aim of the use of the European Union's Structural Funds is to tackle the disparities which exist in economic prosperity between one region and another and to ensure that people from all economic sectors and in every geographical area share in the benefits of Community membership.

Partnership plays a major role in the operation of these funds. Participants include the Commission, national government, local government, development agencies, the voluntary sector, and bodies representing other interests.

Financial assistance from all three parts of the Structural Funds - the Social Fund, the Regional Development Fund, and the Guidance Section of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund - is concentrated on five complementary objectives.

Objective 1

This covers those regions whose development is lagging behind. In Scotland the Highlands and Islands Enterprise area comes into this category and over the next six years this part of the country should receive £240 million.
Objective 2

This covers industrial areas and regions which are in decline. This applies to most of the central belt of Scotland and under this Objective that part of Scotland should receive £400 million over the next three years (this is almost one-fifth of the overall UK allocation during the period).

Objective 3

The aim of this Objective is to counter the problems of long-term unemployment and to integrate young people into the job market. The whole of Scotland comes under this category.

Objective 4

The aim of Objective 4 is to facilitate workers' adaptation both to industrial changes and to changes in the methods of production systems. Once again, the whole of Scotland is included in this category.

Under Objectives 3 and 4 (and excluding Objective 1) the allocation for the UK as a whole (no figure for Scotland is yet available) is over £2532 million.

Objective 5a

The aim of this Objective is to adjust agricultural structures and this applies to the whole of Scotland.

Objective 5b

This Objective seeks to develop rural areas. The following parts of Scotland will benefit: Borders Region; Dumfries and Galloway Region; Central Region (the upland part of Stirling District); Tayside (the upland parts of Angus and of Perth and Kinross Districts) and Grampian (part of the Region's fishing ports at Banff and Buchan and Moray, and the upland rural areas in the districts of Kincardine and Deeside, Gordon, and Moray). From 1994-99 the UK allocation for Objective 5b is £600 million.
Historically, the Regional Development Fund has contributed £768 million to Scotland between 1975 and 1988 and between 1988 and 1993 all of the Structural Funds provided over £593m. In addition the European Investment Bank has given loans of £2,746 million to Scotland.

The funding went to business development initiatives, to environmental improvements, to the creation and enhancement of industrial and commercial sites and premises, to the provision of employment and vocational training, to transport and communications, to tourism developments and to water and waste projects.

European Regional Development Funding of £234 million between 1988 and 1992 in Strathclyde has assisted the financing of a wide range of predominantly infrastructure projects to stimulate economic developments. This was in the form of 50% grants against eligible project costs.

The actual projects were classified under seven action programmes, as follows:

Enterprise, Innovation and Investment, which concentrated on business development initiatives. More than 80 such projects were supported in Strathclyde and these comprised a variety of business support and consultancy initiatives to promote growth and to encourage the stimulation of new schemes to provide capital funding (via grants and loans) to small businesses.

Environmental Improvements - these addressed a wide range of projects and included improvements to the image of industrial sites and business parks (these improvements to aid the attraction of inward investment), road/rail corridor improvement schemes for major commercial routes, and improvements to areas of tourist attraction.

Industrial Sites and Premises - this was concerned with the provision of industrial premises and business centres; a prime example of work done here has been the establishment of the Strathclyde Business Park in Lanarkshire, which is now home to Mercury Telecommunications' headquarters, and a number of other growth companies.
Employment and Vocational Training assisted a number of initiatives targeted at areas of vocational training, such as the extension to Cambuslang College.

Transport and Communications - this was concerned with both road and rail links within Strathclyde Region and beyond; key projects included the M80 Stepps by-pass, the St James’ Interchange on the M8 near Glasgow Airport, the rail line extensions to Airdrie, Cumbernauld and Paisley and the new railway stations involved.

Tourism Development addressed initiatives to enhance the tourist infrastructure ranging from £multi-million centres to small-scale interpretation schemes.

Underground Services and Waste Disposal assisted several major infrastructure projects to ensure that the region had a high quality of water supply and sewerage services - an example of the work assisted here was the Muirdykes Treatment Works.

Other beneficiaries of this type of funding on a pan-Scotland basis are: the Glasgow Concert Hall; the SECC; the Drumchapel Learning Centre; the Kirkintillock Relief Road; the Glasgow north electric railway lines; the Greenock Sea Outfall; the Lanarkshire long distance walkways; the Dundee Inner Ring Road; the Edinburgh City by-pass; the Megget Dam and Reservoir; the Alloa Business Centre near Stirling; the Bobbin Mill Heritage and Visitor Centre at Gatehouse of Fleet; the reclamation of coalfield sites in Fife, the Monklands Water and Ice Centre at Coatbridge; the harbour improvements at Kinlochbervie and at Lochinver; the Kylesku bridge; and ferries in the Highlands and Islands.

In Strathclyde, a total of £55.5 million of European Social Fund monies has, between 1989 and 1993, supported a wide range of vocational training initiatives. Among these were training schemes for the unemployed. Over 24,000 people were thus trained, with over 12,000 of these gaining jobs as a result and almost 2000 progressing to further education.
An example of a specific project funded under this programme has been the Management Technology Training Grant developed by Strathclyde Business Development. This scheme has provided grant support to small and medium-sized businesses to part-cover costs of employees’ new technology training for the purpose of maintaining or of stabilising a company. Between 1988 and 1992 some 350 companies received financial aid of this kind to support and to train 2000 employees.

Additionally, the Entrepreneurship Programme developed by East Kilbride District Council and the Lanarkshire Development Agency targeted senior company executives to form management teams to set up and run high-growth companies. In the two years up to 1993, 27 such new companies had been established with over 100 employees and with an annual turnover of £8.3 million. The forecast for next year is a turnover of over £30 million and employment of 450 people.

Specific Community initiatives have helped areas in Scotland which suffered from the decline and closure of old industries. These were RETEX (for textile areas), KONVER (for defence industry areas), RECHAR (for former coal areas), RESIDER (for former steel areas), and RENAVAL (for former shipbuilding areas). In addition, LEADER seeks to demonstrate the importance of direct support for local community-based initiatives in the development of rural areas and in this context some £4.5 million went to such areas.

One example of the benefits of the RECHAR programme has been to assist in the economic conversion of the Cumnock and Sanquhar coal-mining community and to help develop the conditions for sustainable development there by means of the creation of new job opportunities. The EC approved a budget of £2.47 million European Regional Development Fund money and £0.5 million European Social Fund support for this RECHAR programme. Five sub-programmes were devised within which projects were implemented to ensure that the RECHAR objectives could be achieved.

The environment sub-programme related to the objective of improving the environmental quality of areas seriously damaged by coal-mining activities. The enhancement of many coal-mining areas - including Cumnock Town Centre, New Cumnock, Sanquhar, Muirkirk, Auchinleck and Patna - received ERDF support.
The Social and Economic Infrastructure sub-programme aimed to renovate and modernise social and economic infrastructure in coal-mining villages. Community resource centres in Kirkconnel, Tarbolton, and Mossblown received support in this way.

The Provision of Premises sub-programme aimed to reconverst and modernise disused coal-mining buildings and their surroundings for business developments and to construct new industrial premises. New advance factories in Cumnock and Auchinleck and workshops in Lugar received funding in this way. Business development schemes in the Cumnock and Doon Valley area received support.

The RENAVAL programme in Strathclyde involved ERDF funds of £16.5 million for 65 projects under the following three sub-programmes: Assistance to Industry; Environment and Tourism; and Business Development.

The first-named programme assisted projects focusing on the recycling of derelict land, the provision of workshops and the improvement of the quality and appearance of sites for industrial use. A total of 25 projects received £9.3 million under this sub-programme and included preparatory works for future development at Pacific Quay in Govan by the Glasgow Development Agency and at Greenock Waterfront.

The Environment and Tourism programme assisted projects which recycled derelict or disused industrial areas, particularly those associated with shipbuilding and sites along the River Clyde. Some 30 projects received grant funding of £6.3 million This sub-programme has included environmental works as part of Clydeport’s rationalisation of port facilities as well as tourism-related projects such as the James Watt Museum upgrading, and a walkway and cyclepath project in Greenock.

Business Development assisted projects which promoted the formation of new companies. A total of 10 projects received grant funding of £0.9 million under this heading. These included business support schemes in quality management and marketing as well as technology transfer and supplier development programmes.
Additional to all this was the fact that in 1993 the voluntary sector in Scotland received £18 million in direct funding for projects ranging from vocational training to environmental improvements, and from rural regeneration to support for small businesses.

In this context, Scotland responded imaginatively to new funding opportunities offered under the Human Resources Initiatives.

FARMING AND FISHING

Farming

Farming is a major industry in Scotland. Gross output here is now over £2 billion annually and about 50,000 people are directly employed in agriculture, with a further 90,000 engaged in industries closely related to it.

The European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) is divided into two sections. The Guarantee Section (by far the larger of the two) finances expenditure on the common organisation of the agricultural markets, primarily by means of intervention measures aimed at stabilising internal markets and at providing export rebates to bridge the gap between Community and world prices. The Guidance Fund is concerned with the adjustment of agricultural structures and of the development of rural areas. This Section aims to: strengthen and reorganise the structure of agriculture (including the marketing and processing of agricultural products); ensure the conversion/diversification of agricultural production; foster alternative activities for farmers; and develop the social fabric of rural areas. In Scotland the Agriculture and Fisheries Department of the Scottish Office is responsible for administering the range of measures under the CAP.

In the context of the latter, the Union has approved an operational programme and has awarded £3.25 million to 17 Scottish capital investments designed to improve the conditions under which agricultural produce is processed and marketed.

The categories of the companies which have benefited are: potatoes; red meat; pig meat, milk and milk products; horticulture; cereal; oilseed; and livestock marts.
A crucially important part of agriculture in Scotland is hill farming, which occupies some 90% of the total of Scotland’s agricultural land and involves about 16,500 farmers and crofters. This sector is classified by Brussels as being a “less favoured area” and as a result special grants - Hill Livestock Compensatory Amounts (HCLAs) - are made to farmers in these parts of Scotland. These grants go some way towards the alleviation of the consequences of climate and the northern latitude. They go towards items like fencing, re-seeding and drainage improvements.

The National Farmers Union of Scotland is in no doubt that Scotland has done better than any other part of the UK in this context and the whole process has encouraged farmers and crofters in these less favoured areas to diversify into additional areas of work.

In all of this, the CAP is a coal face which the agriculture and agriculture-related industries in Scotland mine assiduously.

The main aims of the CAP are to ensure regular food supplies, to maintain the balance between urban and rural areas, to utilise natural resources, and to safeguard the environment.

Two rural Carrefours have been established in Scotland - one in Dumfries and one in Inverness. The main tasks of these schemes are: to inform farmers and others about the CAP and other EC policies and measures available for the promotion of agricultural and rural developments; to contribute to the development of the regions by encouraging informed discussion; and to promote useful exchanges of experiences.
Fishing

The purpose of the European Union's Common Fisheries Policy is to maintain a balance between the conservation of stocks so that they are there for future generations, the allowing of consumer access to a vital source of nutrition, and the provision of a decent livelihood for fishermen. This is not an easy task but it is nonetheless one which the Community has a responsibility to address.

The instrument for achieving this is the TACs (total allowable catches) for each conservation species. The TACs are allocated on a non-discriminatory basis to existing fishermen.

Funding is also made available for the modernisation of fishing vessels and for fish farming. It is given, too, to fish processing and marketing-activities beyond those of simply bringing the catch home and sending it onwards to market.
THE ENVIRONMENT

We are all, even if only in terms of enlightened self-interest, environmentalists now. Pollution, after all, knows no national or international boundaries.

The Maastricht Treaty binds Member States of the Union to preserving, protecting and improving the quality of the environment and a Community programme of policy and action in relation to the environment and sustainable development has been adopted.

What, however, is meant by the adjective “sustainable”?

Sustainable development was defined in the Bruntland Report as being “development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Future generations, after all, have the same right as we do to clean air, clear water, and green forests. In other words, what the Maastricht Treaty means for the environment is that the promotion of “sustainable and non-inflationary” growth should become one of the guiding aims of the European Union, and that Europe’s environmental policy should be preventive. The Treaty goes further and requires that environmental protection be integrated into other European policies.

Dirtier rivers, smokier air, and car-clogged cities must not be the price of an economically faster growing Europe with open frontiers. What is needed is a harmonised approach if different national environmental standards (or, indeed, the lack of such standards) are not to be used as barriers to free trade or distortions of the conditions of fair competition.

The environment covers many subjects - air, water, excessive noise, chemicals, nuclear products, nature conservation, the protection of natural resources, waste management, and the promotion of “clean” technologies are all on today’s agenda.

The LIFE programme funds demonstration projects, awareness campaigns and other actions in the following five areas:
1. promotion of new clean technologies in such areas as surface treatments, textiles, tanneries, the paper industry and the agri-food industry.

2. protection of habitats and of nature.

3. administrative structures and environmental services.

4. education, training and information.

5. actions outside Community territory.

In Scotland, the LIFE programme has already awarded Community funds to Fife for wetland reed bed treatment, to the Scottish Wildlife Trust for a raised active lowland bogs project, and to Heriot Watt University for its role in being one of six partners in Eurocrude, a European crude oil identification system.

In addition, four areas in Scotland - Loch Lomond, Breadalbane, the Central Southern Uplands, and the Western Southern Uplands - are to share in a multimillion pound Community programme which has as its purpose the promotion of environmentally sensitive farming. The intention is that farmers in these areas will be encouraged to introduce, maintain, and improve farming practices which are compatible with protecting the environment and with preserving traditional countryside features. The scheme provides for the reduction or the ending of the use of fertilisers and pesticides, matching the density of livestock to viable land, converting arable land into pasture, and maintaining hedges and walls. The regions to which this investment is being directed are termed Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs).
Although the UK did not sign that part of the Maastricht Treaty which bound the other 11 Member States to a social chapter of fundamental workers’ rights, many of the features of the Social Policy and Social Action Programme of the Community, which pre-date Maastricht, and are not, therefore, part of the UK opt out, are relevant to Scotland.

A Green Paper entitled “European Social Policy Options for the Union” has been prepared. At the heart of the Paper is the premise that “the next phase in the development of European Social Policy cannot be based on the idea that social progress must go into retreat in order for economic competitiveness to recover. On the contrary, the Community is fully committed to ensuring that economic and social progress go hand in hand.”

The questions which are posed are: what sort of society do we want to see in Europe? What actions and policies do we need at European level to achieve this?

However, the need for a social dimension is by no means based solely on liberal idealism. It is also 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 danger to free and fair competition from social dumping are just too great to allow a complete go as you please in matters of health and safety and other aspects of social protection.

The social dialogue promoted at Maastricht introduces the idea of concluding collective agreements between trade unions and employers’ organisations across the divide of the individual Member States. This followed an initiative taken by representatives from the two sides of industry who asked member states governments to write into the Maastricht Treaty their right to conclude collective agreements. By any token, this was a major step.
An example of the pioneering use of Community Funds can be found at Ferguslie Park in Paisley where, as part of an overall strategy for the area, a multifunction community centre has been established under the EC’s Urban Regeneration Programme. The aim is both to train and maintain a population in the area and the scheme involves housing, economic development and training. The programme is being used not only to breathe new life into Ferguslie Park but because it will be carefully monitored and assessed, to see if it can be a model for similar areas throughout the Union.

**CULTURE**

The European Union’s cultural policy has a dual purpose: to help the wide variety of national and regional cultural traditions to flourish; and, despite their differences, to reinforce the sense that European citizens share a common cultural heritage and common values.

Kaleidoscope is a scheme which provides financial assistance for a variety of artistic and cultural events which have a European dimension.

A number of pilot projects have been funded under MEDIA 92 (Measures to Encourage the Development of the Audio-visual Industry), a programme for stimulating the European film and television industries. In the strictly Scottish context (and under the “MEDIA 92” heading) Scotland’s first MEDIA antenna, the aim of which is to assist Scotland’s independent film and TV professionals to access an EC development programme has been established. Margaret O’Connor, who runs it, states that the main aim of MEDIA 92 is to make some sense of Europe as a Single Market so that film and television programmes can be made for the European area. The potential is there for producers to be reaching for much bigger audiences and to be working with much bigger budgets.

Funds are available for the conservation and promotion of the Community’s architectural heritage. Examples of this include preservation projects at New Lanark and the restoration of Carlton Terrace in Glasgow.
An annual prize of some £15,000 is awarded to the author of a literary work which has made a significant contribution to contemporary European literature. An annual prize of some £7,000 is also made to a translator for an outstanding translation of a major work of contemporary European literature.

EDUCATION

Education has never known any boundaries.

The European Commission has in place several schemes in the fields of education and training, and Scotland has participated with enthusiasm in Comett, Lingua, Petra, Force, Erasmus and Youth for Europe.

Erasmus offers financial support to universities to encourage them to develop exchange programmes with their counterparts in the other Member States. Grants are available too for teaching and administrative staff who wish to visit universities in other Member States in order to discuss co-operation and to participate in teaching programmes. Grants are also awarded to students who wish to undertake a 12-month recognised period of study.

Last year 1700 students from Scotland took advantage of Erasmus, while 1900 students from continental Europe came here. All Scottish universities participate in the scheme.

Universities and research institutes in Scotland received £23 million between 1987 and 1991 for research funding. Unived Technologies, a company set up by Edinburgh University to capitalise on its research experience, last year gained a five-fold increase in contracts it won from the European Community, taking the total value from £1.7 million to £8.6 million - outstripping any other UK university in the process. All in all, Scottish institutions are ideally placed to participate in, and to benefit from, the fourth Research Framework Programme which runs from this year until 1998 and should be allocated a budget of some £10 billion.
The Scottish Further Education College at Jordanhill in Glasgow operates Pickup Scotland Europe. The aim of this project is to lead and to support opportunities and initiatives to assist further education colleges and other providers of training in the fulfilment of their Europe-related objectives. Pickup Scotland Europe works in close association with Scottish Enterprise.

Eurodesk Scotland in Edinburgh is a two-way contact point between Brussels and Scottish authorities and agencies involved in education and training. Eurodesk gives information and advice about European developments and policies, and is a vehicle for enabling Scottish thinking to reach the European decision-makers machinery.

EUROINFOCENTRES

Prior to the establishment of the Single European Market the Commission set up a Task Force for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) as it perceived that these firms would have special needs in relation to participation in the Single European Market.

One of the initiatives of the Task Force was the EuroInfoCentre Project under which a network of over 200 offices has been established to provide SMEs, and larger companies, with information about the legislation, policies, programmes and business opportunities presented by the Commission and the European Union.

Two EuroInfoCentres operate in Scotland, one in Glasgow and one in Inverness.

The EICs all operate under the sponsorship of a “host structure”. In Scotland this is Scottish Enterprise for the Glasgow EIC and Highland Regional Council for the Inverness EIC.

Both EICs in Scotland are constituted as Companies Limited by Guarantee and therefore are required to generate a proportion of their income through the sale of services and information products.
Both EICs in Scotland have subnetworks of Access Points based in the Local Enterprise Companies or other business support organisations. These networks provide a local delivery mechanism for EuroInfoCentre Services.

TOWARDS A EUROPEAN UNION

The European Communities have gone through a long period of transition before their evolution into the European Union.

At the end of 1992 they completed the formation of the Internal Market. After a great deal of agonising, the Member states ratified the Treaty of Maastricht, only the second time they had amended the Union's constitution in over 35 years.

It is now in the process of enlarging itself for the fourth time and taking in new members - Austria and the Nordic countries and new applications to join are already on the table. A free trade area agreement has been signed with EFTA, making virtually the whole of western Europe a free trade zone.

The Community in its role as trade authority has played a major role in negotiating the new GATT agreement which should liberalise and increase trade and lead to the creation of new jobs and opportunities.

New relationships are being forged with the countries of eastern and central Europe; these countries have made clear their wish to join the Union, not only for the economic benefits this will bring but also for the political guarantees it will entail.

For Scotland the opportunities are immense. The Westminster by-pass leading to Brussels is crowded with Scots going there to lobby, keep themselves abreast of events, form their alliances, do their deals and generally act with their customary vigour to make this great venture a success.

Less than a decade ago one could have been forgiven for thinking that the idea of a community of the regions was a Scottish monopoly, one in which only the Scots were interested. Now,
however, Catalans, Lombardians, Languedocians, Westphalians, Yorkshiremen, and East Anglians speak in terms of a Europe of the Regions. The Committee of the Regions is now a fully established institution, and it is not only Scotland, as a nation within the UK, but Wales and Northern Ireland and the regions of England which participate in this Committee. The European Union is an established fact and Scots look forward to the inter-governmental conference in 1996 to chart further political advance and to monetary union before the end of this millennium.

How Europe’s constitutional and political geography will develop is impossible to foresee with precision. That Scotland and the Scots, will, however, play a prominent and active part in forming it is beyond doubt.

While other parts of the UK agonise, all the evidence tells us that the Scots move forward with confidence and enthusiasm for the European Union of which they see themselves as fully participating citizens - not just for the economic benefits membership brings, considerable as they are, but for the political advantages flowing from this development of “an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe”.
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