

European and External Relations Committee

The EU referendum and its implications for Scotland

Written submission from Jim Cockram, Copernicus Technology Ltd

I have been pondering this topic for some time and so far have I have come up with little more than subjective comments.

Clearly not being in the EU as far as the EU market part will make life more difficult for us all to do business with EU members, including accounts, VAT, import and export tariffs, rules and of course the CE markings! But overall this can all be overcome as long as we get good trade deals as part of the BREXIT negotiations.

My one fear of BREXIT wasn't this, it was more the question of Scottish Independence again coming to the fore. As if the business market isn't unstable enough, that we need to scare potential investors, importers, exporters off, then the possibility that not only are we (Scotland) separated from the EU (the largest economic entity in the World) but we then separate from the 5th biggest economy in the World!!!

What seems strange as we unravel the BREXIT faff, is that SNP are looking for independence from the UK. Scotland does more business within the UK then it does with Europe and so it beggars belief that the arguments put forwards from the SNP to stay in the EU are completely forgotten when pushing for another once in a lifetime Independence Referendum, from those thinking more about the subject with their hearts then their business heads. And with no reflection on the effects this will have on Scottish business. And even with oil prices at their high, the maths did not really work that well.

Yes it would be 'nice' to be independent and why not, but really are we not better as part of the UK and the economic stability that affords us all.

The Scottish Government needs to put figures together to allow us all to see the business model. From the BBC news article from 2014

The most recent Scottish government figures¹, not including oil and gas, show Scotland sold £50.5bn in goods and services to the rest of the UK in 2013. The rest of the UK sold £62.7bn in goods and services to Scotland. That's a lot more than trade with the rest of the world, to which Scotland sold £21.3bn in goods and services, while importing £21.6bn from abroad.

As far as BREXIT, nothing more to say. We are where we are so lets get on with it and make it work, AND don't make it worse by then leaving the UK.

¹ <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0044/00442854.pdf>