

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP

Cross-Party Group on France

DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)

26th June 2013

DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

19th June 2014

GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures.

Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.

26th June 2013 –

Attendees:

MSP – 3

Non-MSP – 7

Initial meeting

13th May 2014 –

Attendees :

MSP – 5

Non-MSP - 6

Presentation by Vincent Guérin, Director of the Institut français d'Ecosse (IFE) and co-founder of the Budding Chefs programme

- Delegation from Aquitaine region

Vincent Guérin reported the meeting between Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Training, Youth and Women's Employment and a delegation of 7 people from France (region Aquitaine) on a trainee programme, especially regarding the food and drink industry. The main goal of the project is to send youngsters abroad (trainees but also unemployed people, students, etc...) to experience something different.

- Festival

The IFE is back as a venue for 3 years, during the Fringe festival.

The Fringe is a fantastic platform to showcase French art and French talents on an international scale and to meet an international audience.

Being able to host big events and bring talents (artists, production) to a part of the world to another part of the world is a wonderful opportunity.

The IFE hosts 8 shows a day during the Fringe, showing French performers and performances in English. It is a great opportunity for French talents. Last year was an amazing year, shows performed at the IFE got shortlisted for a couple of awards.

There is no cost for the IFE.

- Budding chefs

The Budding Chefs project is the main project of the IFE to foster the link between France and Scotland regarding the food and drink industry.

There is a real interest in Scotland and in France for food and drink. That's why Vincent Guérin decided to create a small project in 2010, with only £3,000 of funding

He set up with Chef Fred Berkmillier the Budding Chefs programme which offers 16 young French chefs and waiters the opportunity to visit Scotland, experience the Scottish larder, meet Scottish producers and get the experience of running the kitchen of a pop-up restaurant.

Presentation by Pierre-Alain Coffinier.

The Consul general of France presented the three major agreements signed between France & Scotland in 2013:

Education; Marine energies; Culture

September 2015 and Vincent Guérin will stay longer as well.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Please provide names of all MSP members of the Group. Note that only names need to be provided, no party designation or other information is required.

Christian Allard
Alex Johnstone
Cameron Buchanan
John Finnie
Malcolm Chisholm
Maureen Watt
Nigel Don
Richard Baker
Rob Gibson

NON-MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals

Adele Mortier
Sheena Cleland
Niall McDonald
Dr. John Riley
Lewis Ritchie
Christine Jones

Organisations

The Institut français d'Ecosse
French Consulate General in Edinburgh

GROUP OFFICE BEARERS

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

Convener	Christian Allard MSP
Deputy Convener	Alex Johnstone MSP
Secretary	Adele Mortier
Treasurer	Christine Jones

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) received from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

Details of material support should include the name of the individual providing support, the value of this support over the year, an estimate of the time spent providing this support and the name of the organisation that this individual is employed by / affiliated to in providing this support.

Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

None

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

None

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Christian Allard
Parliamentary address	M3.16, Scottish Parliament
Telephone number	013134 85764