

The Scottish Parliament

Cross-Party Group on Fair Trade

5:30pm, Wednesday 6 February 2013
Room TG20/21, The Scottish Parliament

Minutes of the meeting (draft)

Attendance:

MSPs:

James Kelly MSP
George Adam MSP
Claudia Beamish MSP
Neil Bibby MSP
Sarah Boyack MSP
Fiona McLeod MSP

External Organisations/Individuals:

Heather Baird (Equal Exchange)
Karen Bowman (University of Edinburgh)
Shirley Brown (Traidcraft)
Liz Cooper (University of Edinburgh)
Max Crema (University of Edinburgh Student Association)
Trish Edington (Scotmid)
Rachel Farey (One World Shop)
Jane Forster (Balerno Fair Trade Group)
Senga Gall (Equal Exchange)
Hisashi Kuboyama (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)
Martin Meteyard (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)
Carol Morton (Hadeel)
Andy Mount (Livingston Fair Trade Forum)
Deirdre Muldowney (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)
Martin Rhodes (Scottish Fair Trade Forum)
Jenny Simons (Scottish Government)

Apologies:

Patricia Ferguson MSP
Alison Johnston MSP
Alison McInnes MSP
Drew Smith MSP

Ian Miller (Scotmid)
Helen Reilly (BMA Scotland)
Robin Stewart (SFTF)

Business of the meeting:

1. The meeting was chaired by James Kelly MSP.
2. Martin Rhodes provided updated information on Scotland's bid to become a Fair Trade Nation.
3. A presentation was given by Heather Baird and Senga Gall of Equal Exchange on 'Mainstreaming of Fairtrade: how does it feel from a 100% Fair Trade company perspective'. The presentation pointed out problems caused by mainstreaming of Fair Trade and its changing standards. It warned that these problems are undermining the values of Fair Trade.
4. Questions and discussion on the presentation. Positive and negative aspects of mainstreaming of Fair Trade were discussed, and also concerns were expressed in terms of how to maintain the values and standards of Fair Trade as well as how to make the voice of producers heard.
5. Before closing the meeting, Martin Rhodes announced his intention to utilise the Group as a venue to discuss more challenging issues. James Kelly MSP welcomed it, confirming that the Group should take issues such as mainstreaming further and that it should invite new people and introduce new ideas.
6. A video of Chino Enriquez, Fair Trade honey producer from Apicoop in Chile, whose honey is used in Equal Exchange's Ulmo Blossom Honey, was played.
7. It was agreed to hold the next meeting on Wednesday 6 March.
8. The meeting ended at 6:35pm.