

# minutes

**Meeting:** Cross Party Group on Scotch Whisky  
**Location:** TG20/21, Scottish Parliament  
**Date Held:** Wednesday 1 February 2012  
**Present:** MSPs: Claudia Beamish, Annabelle Ewing, Murdo Fraser, Hugh Henry, John Park, Dennis Robertson, Mary Scanlon, Paul Wheelhouse.

**Other attendees:** Andrew Barker, Yvonne Crombie, Campbell Evans (SWA), Douglas Meikle (SWA), Beatrice Morrice (SWA), Devin Scobie (Caledonia Consulting), Siobhan Paterson (SWA), Rosemary Gallagher (SWA)

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John Park, Chair of the meeting, welcomed attendees.

## 1 Minutes

The group agreed the minutes from September 7 2011.

## 2 State of the industry

Campbell Evans provided an overview of the Scotch Whisky market. He highlighted that 2011 was heading for a record year and that exports were up across the world including Europe. However, sales within the UK fell by 5% in the first 10 months of 2011. He also stated that the EU/Indian summit in February may signal progress towards an announcement with regard to reducing India's tariffs on Scotch Whisky.

## 3 Alcohol misuse

A presentation on the Fife Alcohol Partnership Project and the work that the Scotch Whisky industry is doing to tackle alcohol misuse in Scotland was given by Douglas Meikle, SWA Alcohol Policy Manager, and Andrew Barker, Deputy Chief Constable at Fife Constabulary. The Fife project is coming to an end and evaluation of its effectiveness is currently being undertaken by an independent body. The report will be published in May and will be circulated to the group.

The group agreed to examine the report at a future CPG meeting.

## 4 Future work programme

The group agreed to the proposed workplan and highlighted that the environment, tourism and legal protection of Scotch Whisky against fakes should be discussed at meetings soon.

## 5 Treasury submission

Campbell Evans provided an oral summary of the SWA's submission to HM Treasury in advance of the Budget on 21 March 2012. The submission highlighted that by 2015, the duty on Scotch Whisky will have risen by 60% due to the escalator introduced in 2008. The SWA proposed duty equivalence across all drinks would be a fairer, more transparent method that would also increase annual revenue receipts to Government by £1 billion.

## Action

SWA to provide figures for sales in Scotland

Slides will be circulated to the group

## **6 Any other business**

Siobhan Paterson, SWA Public Affairs Manager, reminded members of the SWA's first CPG reception at the Scottish Parliament in the Garden Lobby on Wednesday 7 February 2012 at 18.00. Members were encouraged to attend to support the SWA's report highlighting jobs across the industry. Some industry members featured in the report's case studies would attend the reception.

Rosemary Gallagher, SWA Communications Manager, provided details of the SWA's Centenary celebrations taking place throughout 2012. Members of the CPG will be kept informed of the range of events and activities being arranged.

The CPG on China has invited the SWA to give a tasting of Scotch Whisky on 28 March.

The SWA agreed to ask the CPG for suggestions for a proposed Festival of Politics event in August 2012. The SWA will pull together ideas and put together a proposal before the deadline of 17 February.

## **7 Future meeting**

The next meeting takes place on Wednesday 25 April 2012 at 17.30 in TG 20-21. An additional meeting will be arranged for June. The date will be circulated to members soon.

SWA to submit proposal for the Festival of Politics.