

The Scottish Parliament

Cross Party Group on Fair Trade

Convenor: Colin Smyth MSP

Vice Convenor: Gordon Lindhurst MSP

Tuesday 4 October 2016, 6pm
TG20/21, Scottish Parliament

In attendance: James Kelly MSP, Gordon Lindhurst MSP, Neil Bibby MSP, Colin Smyth MSP, Rosie Rutherford (Dumfries Fair Trade Group), Colleen Tait (SFTF), Andy Mount (Linlithgow Fair Trade Group), Martin Rhodes (SFTF), Finlay Carson MSP, Alexander Burnett MSP.

1. Apologies were noted from Martin Meteyard, Charles Sim (East Ayrshire Fair Trade Group), Angela Oakley (East Dunbartonshire Fair Trade Group) Jackie Baillie MSP, Angus MacDonald MSP, Shirley Brown (Edinburgh Fair Trade Group), Richard McCready (Co-operative Party) Alex Cole-Hamilton MSP, Alison Johnstone MSP, Claudia Beamish MSP.
2. Election of office bearers: James Kelly MSP took the chair in order to open the meeting. He paid tribute to the previous Convenor of the Cross Party Group, Patricia Ferguson. Colin Smyth MSP was proposed as Convenor by James Kelly MSP and seconded by Gordon Lindhurst MSP. No other nominations were made and Colin Smyth was duly elected. Martin Rhodes was proposed as Secretary by James Kelly MSP and seconded by Neil Bibby MSP. No other nominations were made and Martin Rhodes was duly elected. Gordon Lindhurst MSP was proposed as Vice Convenor by Colin Smyth MSP and seconded by James Kelly MSP. No other nominations were made and Gordon Lindhurst MSP was duly elected. It was agreed not to move to elect a Treasurer until after item 4.
3. Agreement on regularity of meetings – it was agreed to have 3 meetings annually.
4. Membership subscription – It was agreed that there would be no membership subscription. It was also agreed that there was no need to elect a Treasurer as the Group would hold no funds.
5. Report on Fair Trade in Scotland (Martin Rhodes, Director of Scottish Fair Trade Forum). There was a report on the progress of Fair Trade Nation Reassessment. It was reported that the Forum had sent a report to the Assessment Panel and that the Panel had met. It is expected that the process will conclude in early 2017. The report outlines progress since the declaration of Fair Trade Nation status in February 2013. The interest of other nations and regions, such as Sweden, Northern Ireland and the Netherlands in Fair Trade Nation or Region status was noted.
6. MSPs and Fair Trade in Scotland: resources and information for MSPs on Fair Trade in Parliament and in their constituency (Colleen Tait, Community Engagement Officer, Scottish Fair Trade Forum): A report was given on the potential links between MSPs and Fair Trade Groups and campaigners in their area. There was an outline given of the current #InMyFairTradeNation campaign.

7. Suggestions for subjects for future meetings: the Fair Trade 'market' in Scotland and certification schemes were suggested as future topics for meetings. An event for Fairtrade Fortnight 2017 was agreed.