

The Scottish Parliament

Cross Party Group on Fair Trade

Convenor: Colin Smyth MSP

Vice Convenor: Gordon Lindhurst MSP

Draft minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17 January 2017 6:00pm

Committee Room 4 (The Clerk Maxwell Room), Scottish Parliament

1. Colin Smyth MSP was in the Chair.

In attendance: Gordon Lindhurst MSP, Rona Mackay MSP, Willie Coffey MSP, Martin Rhodes (Scottish Fair Trade Forum), Angela Oakley (Scottish Fair Trade Forum), Angus Coull (Bala Sport), Rachel Farey (City of Edinburgh Fair Trade Steering Group), Rosie Rutherford (Dumfries Fair Trade Group), Andy Mount (Livingston Fair Trade Group), Carol Morton (Hadeel), Shirley Brown (City of Edinburgh Fair Trade Steering Group), Ian Miller (Scotmid), Douglas MacGregor (Silver Stag of Scotland), Sara Brand (Silver Stag of Scotland), Ruth Gettinby (Bearsden and Milngavie Fairtrade Towns Group), Anne Walsh (Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Fairtrade Forum), Karena Jarvie (Perth and Kinross Fair Trade Group), Gwenneth Williamson (Queensferry Fair Trade Group), Frances Gallagher (Justice and Peace Scotland), Danny Sweeney (Justice and Peace Scotland), Sarah Burns (Hadeel), James Johnstone (JTS) and Juan Andres Santelices (Fair Business Alliance).

Apologies: Jackie Baillie MSP, Dave Potts (Melrose and District Fair Trade Group), Charles Sim (East Ayrshire Fair Trade Group).

2. The draft minutes from the meeting held to reconvene the Cross Party Group on Fair Trade on 4 October 2016 were noted and one amendment made to the draft (the inclusion of Carol Morton of Hadeel as in attendance).
3. New members of the Group since the meeting of 4 October: Willie Coffey MSP, Rona Mackay MSP, Melrose and District Fair Trade Group, Queensferry Fair Trade Group, Bala Sport, Perth and Kinross Fair Trade Group, Silver Stag of Scotland.
4. Correspondence: an email had been received from a representative of the East Dunbartonshire Fair Trade Group asking about progress on Electronics Watch. The CPG had previously agreed to actions to investigate the possibility of the Scottish Government supporting the Electronics Watch initiative that monitors human rights and working standards in the electronics industry. As the Scottish Parliament elections had taken place and subsequently a new Convenor of the CPG elected and a new Minister appointed, the meeting agreed that Convenor would progress the previously agreed action points and report back to the CPG.
5. There was a discussion on the Fair Trade 'market' in Scotland with four guest speakers looking at the challenges and opportunities facing Fair Trade businesses in Scotland. The speakers were:
James Johnstone, JTS (JTS, based in Paisley, is a fair trade organisation set up to facilitate the import and distribution of fairly traded products to the UK);

Juan Andres Santelices, Fair Business Alliance (Fair Business Alliance Ltd aims to create new opportunities and improve the livelihoods of farmers and producers in Latin America by enabling them to become part of a fair and ethical supply chain); Sarah Burns, Hadeel (Hadeel is an Edinburgh Fair Trade shop which aims to provide a sustainable source of income for craftspeople working with social enterprises in Palestine);

Rachel Farey, One World Shop (One World Shop is a Fair Trade retail business based in Edinburgh).

The discussion covered support for small businesses, certification models and schemes, trade barriers and the effects of 'brexit', and difficulties in marketing of products due to resources. It was noted that the SFTF were currently in discussions with the Scottish Government regarding funding including a stream of work concerned with supporting Fair Trade businesses in Scotland.

6. Dates of next meetings of 1 March and 17 May (both at 6pm) were noted. It was noted that it was hoped to have a Fair Trade producer to speak at the March meeting and it was agreed to have a discussion about certification schemes at the May meeting.