

PARTICIPATION IN EXTERNAL BODIES: EUROPEAN BODIES

1. In previous Sessions, the Scottish Parliament has nominated members to two European bodies: the Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe (CoE) and the European Committee of the Regions. Further details are set out in the Annexe below.
2. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe is an entirely separate body from, and not part of, the European Union infrastructure. The Council of Europe was established after the second world war and prior to the establishment of the European Union.
3. The Scottish Parliament is able to nominate one full member and an alternate member. In previous sessions, the full member has tended to come from the party of Government and the alternate member from the main opposition party. Members of the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee may be an appropriate fit. Sessions of the Congress are six-monthly and generally held in Strasbourg. There are three committees - the Monitoring Committee, the Current Affairs Committee and the Governance Committee. Each committee meets up to twice a year for a day at a time, at various locations.
4. At last week's meeting, the Bureau agreed that nominations should be made for membership of the two bodies and that officials would liaise with committee clerks to identify nominees for discussion at a future meeting.
5. Discussions between Business Team Clerks and Clerks to the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee indicate that the following Members have expressed an interest—

	Committee Regions Group	Of Contact	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
Sarah Boyack	Interested		-
Alasdair Allan	Interested		Interested
Maurice Golden	Interested		Interested
Jenni Minto	Interested		Interested

6. On the basis of the information above, the Bureau is invited to nominate—
 - Alasdair Allan as a full Member and Sarah Boyack as an alternate Member of the Committee of Regions Contact Group
 - Jenni Minto as a full Member and Maurice Golden as alternate Member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe