

Cross-Party Group on Germany

Wednesday 28 February 2024 at 1200

In Scottish Parliament and on Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present

MSPs

Colin Beattie MSP
Angus Robertson MSP
Sarah Boyack MSP
Roz McCall MSP

Invited guests

Markus Hicken - online
Mr Toralf Pilz, - online
Debbie McCall
Archippus Sturrock
Adam Wilson
Michael Sturrock

Non-MSP Group Members

Consul General Christiane Hullmann
Dr Jeannette Rissmann
Maximilian Münch
Dr Paul Leworthy
Sigrid Rieuwerts
Judith Blum
Alexandra Stein
Consul Holger Theissen
Douglas Lyons
Catherine Reeves - online
Dr Andreas Zimmer - online
Sheila Dickson - online

Apologies

Hanna Dede
Annette Gotzkes
Peter Müller-McDougall
Anne Simms
Arne Muus
Anke Hilt
Michelle Thomson MSP
Murdo Fraser MSP
Neil Bibby MSP
Graham Simpson MSP

Jackie Ballie MSP
Clare Adamson MSP

Welcome

CB welcomed the group.

Item 1 – Approval of Previous Minutes

CB asked if there were any objections to the minutes of 13 June 2023. No objections were made. The previous minutes were approved.

Item 2

Consul General Christiane Hullmann was elected as joint Deputy Convener

Item 3

Consul General Christiane Hullmann

- Introduced herself
- Highlighted the overall excellent German-Scottish relations.
- Mentioned the 70th anniversary of the Edinburgh-Munich town twinning and the opening game of the Euro 2024 as opportunities to further strengthen the cooperation.
- Underscored the importance of hydrogen and possible import options as a topic of high interest for Germany vis-à-vis the UK (Scotland)

Item 4 Angus Robertson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture

- Highlighted the Scottish Government is keen to give assurances to German Partners that we want to work together on a range of issues. Including supply, interconnectivity from northern Europe.
- Highlighted that our Scottish Government Offices in Europe and Scotland House in London is key to having excellent bilateral relationships to make sure we are delivering.
- Explained that the Scottish Government wants to put Scotland at the front of the queue for the market for Hydrogen in Europe. For Germany and other countries in Europe.
- Explained that he has discussed with the UK Foreign Secretary the importance on delivering on regulation.

Item 5 Markus Hicken, Director for Energy Diplomacy, Climate and Security, Federal Foreign Office.

- Presented to the CPG on energy security and the infrastructure of the Hydrogen sector in Germany and discussed future demand in Germany and offtakers in Germany.

Item 6 Mr Toralf Pilz, Foreign Policy Advisor, German Association of Energy and Water Industries (bdew)

- Presented on the ramp up of Hydrogen demand from the perspective of German Industry.
- Introduced bdew as a voice in the energy transition in Germany and described the necessity to decarbonise and electrify.
- Provided an overview of the hydrogen grid and the need to import significant hydrogen to Germany,
- Explained the issues surrounding financing of Hydrogen projects.
- Discussed where the hydrogen imports will come from and the importance of being early providers of hydrogen to market.

Item 7 Alexandra Stein, European Hydrogen Envoy at the Scottish Government

- Gave an overview of the Hydrogen sector in Scotland. Highlighting the importance of the certainty of the German market due to the speed and certainty that it is being developed.
- Provided an overview of potential infrastructure to deliver hydrogen into Europe. Presented both new pipeline options and repurposing existing routes.

AOB

None