

21 March 2012

MAJOR EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS PROGRAMME 2012-13: UPDATE

Executive summary

1. This Paper seeks the SPCB's views on an additional major event to the 2012-13 Major Events and Exhibitions Programme (MEEP). The SPCB approved the MEEP for 2012-13 at its meeting on Wednesday 21 December 2011 agreeing that no additional major events should be added to the programme until December 2012.
2. The European and External Relations Committee has requested the use of the Debating Chamber for a major event – the EU Horizon 2020 programme for Research & Development - on Friday 25 May 2012. The date has been selected to ensure that the view of the Scottish Parliament is fed into the early stage negotiations on the future of this proposal which would have a significant impact on Scotland.

Issues and Options

3. Although all Committees were consulted in the development of the Major Events and Exhibitions Programme 2012-13 work programmes and priorities for Committees can change. If the SPCB approves this additional major event, the Events and Exhibitions Team recommend that a note is sent to all committee clerks reminding them of the process of securing a major event as part of the annual Major Events and Exhibitions Programme.

The SPCB is asked to consider this and agree, if the event is approved, that the Events and Exhibitions Team writes to all committee clerks as noted above.

4. The proposal for a successor to the EU's 7th Framework Programme (FP7), which supports research & innovation, is a declared priority of the Committee. The new programme has been named Horizon 2020 which is the financial instrument designed to implement the EU's Innovation Union. It will combine all research and innovation funding currently provided through EU funds. The Horizon 2020 proposals are now being discussed by the co-legislators, the Council (representing the Members States) and the European Parliament.
5. At its meeting of Tuesday 10 January 2012, the Committee agreed an approach paper for the continuation of its investigations into Horizon 2020 and its implications for Scotland. The discussions confirmed the importance of securing the widest possible input into the Committee's deliberations. To that end it is proposed to replace the three witness panel sessions proposed in the paper with a day-long conference on the issue. **Annex A** from the Convener sets out further information on attendees and the format for the event.

6. Given the programme of major events and exhibitions and the SPCB's agreement that no additional major events should be added to the Programme until December 2012, the Committee were offered alternatives – either reschedule their event to the autumn term when it can be accommodated or re-formatted so it can make use of alternative venues within the Parliament. As the event cannot be rescheduled as output from it will feed directly into the deliberations of the European Parliament and given the significance of the event to the Committee's work plan and Scotland we would recommend that on this occasion the event is added to the Major Events and Exhibitions Programme 2012-13.

The SPCB is asked to consider this and to agree that on this occasion the European and External Relations Committee's event Horizon 2020 is added to the Major Events and Exhibitions Programme 2012-13.

7. To minimise the impact upon the staffing resources of the Parliament, the Committee intend to collaborate with Scotland Europa and the Scottish Government. To reduce the impact directly on the Events and Exhibitions Team and others supporting major events much of the work will be undertaken by the clerking team of the European and External Relations Committee.

The SPCB is asked to note this and agree that the clerking team of the European and External Relations Committee support the Events and Exhibitions Team and other teams to deliver a successful one-day Conference.

Resource Implications

8. Given the number of major events and exhibitions already approved for the 2012-13 Programme, as mentioned above much of the work will be undertaken by the clerking team. The resources of Broadcasting and the Official Report would be used to produce a record of the plenary sessions which would in essence become the report of the Committee. Both departments are aware of the proposed event and have participated in early discussions.

Governance issues

9. An Equality Impact Assessment will be carried out on this proposal if the SPCB approve this event as part of the MEEP 2012-13.

Publication Scheme

10. This Paper should not be published until the details of the event, including the participation of the speakers, have been confirmed and made public.

Next steps

11. Once the SPCB has made its decision, the Events and Exhibitions Team will work with the Committee and take forward all the necessary planning and organisation of the event; and will also write to all committee clerks reminding

them of the process of securing a major event as part of the annual Major Events and Exhibitions Programme.

Decision

12. The SPCB is asked to consider this paper and to agree that the event is added to the MEEP 2012-13 with the opening and closing plenaries in the Debating Chamber chaired by the Presiding Officers; and that the Events and Exhibitions Team write to all committee clerks reminding them of the process of securing a major event as part of the annual Major Events and Exhibitions Programme.

EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS TEAM

March 2012

Background

1. The Horizon 2020 programme will be the single biggest investment in research, development and innovation made by the EU in the next decade. The predecessor programme was worth £300m to Scotland.
2. The event would be the culmination of the Committee's inquiry into the issue and as such represents core business. The output will be a summary report drawing the views of a broad range of stakeholders, which would feed into the preparation of the Scottish Government's position as well as represent a significant contribution to the EU negotiations, which are on-going and will conclude by the end of 2012.
3. Early investigation by the Committee revealed that stakeholders were experiencing two significant issues with regards to Scotland's engagement with the Horizon 2020 programme: (i) a general lack of awareness about the key players and the stages in the process; and (ii) an absence of opportunities to meet and to network with each other and with policy drafters.
4. The Committee took the view that a sensible way to address these issues, whilst engaging with the largest number of stakeholders and also contributing directly to the negotiations was to stage a high-level conference, as soon as practicable. The May date was selected to allow the output to feed directly into the deliberations of the European Parliament, as well as the Scottish Government and European Commission.

Format for event

5. It is proposed to invite around 100 Scottish stakeholders drawn from the academic, business and SME communities, as well as key players from Brussels and London.
6. The chamber would be used to stage four key note addresses from senior representatives of the European Commission, the European Parliament, the UK and Scottish Government. The speeches would be streamed live on the Parliament's website, and the websites of the European Commission and Parliament (1000 – 1200).
7. A series of breakout sessions would take place in the committee rooms (1215 – 1315 and 1415 – 1515), with a short report back session again using the Chamber to conclude the event (1530 -1630).
8. To maximise the networking opportunities it is proposed to stage a small reception after the event in the Garden Lobby.

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CONVENER, EUROPEAN & EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

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