

PARTICIPATION IN EXTERNAL BODIES: EUROPEAN BODIES

1. The Scottish Parliament is able to nominate one full member and an alternate member of both the Committee of Regions Contact Group and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.
2. 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 (CEEAC) Committee are best placed to fulfil these roles. Initial nominations to these bodies were agreed by the Bureau on 7 February 2023.
3. Following changes to the membership of the CEEAC Committee, the Bureau is invited to consider nomination of new members of these bodies. The CEEAC has discussed the nomination of members and the Bureau is invited to consider nominating—
 - Ben Macpherson to replace Jenni Minto as a full member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
 - Neil Bibby to replace Sarah Boyack as an alternate member of the Committee of Regions Contact Group.
4. The nominations would produce the following Memberships:

	Committee Of Regions Contact Group	Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
Neil Bibby	Alternate Member	-
Alasdair Allan	Full Member	-
Maurice Golden	-	Alternate Member
Ben Macpherson	-	Full Member

5. The Bureau may wish to be aware that, in relation to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, each proposing body is asked to consider gender balance in making nominations. This is in line with the requirement that in each category of membership the UK delegation overall should be at least 30% women. There is, therefore, a possibility that the Parliament could be invited to reconsider its nominations.

Decision

6. The Bureau is invited to nominate Ben Macpherson as a full member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and Neil Bibby as an alternate Member of the Committee of Regions Contact Group.