

## Newsletter

### January-February 2020

#### WELCOME – BREXIT SPECIAL

EPS was privileged to visit the European Parliament as a guest of Green Party MEP Molly Scott Cato three days before Brexit.

Policy Officer John Bynorth had the opportunity hear Ms Molly Scott Cato's views on Brexit and environment policy and was given a guided tour of the building, including the gigantic debating chamber which houses 751 MEPs – and until January 31<sup>st</sup> – the UK's 73 representatives.

The visit was also a poignant occasion. Ms Scott Cato's fascinating views about the future shape of the UK and how the country can retain its European ties can be read below.

We also have a report on a Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) seminar in Glasgow. The organisation is in its 40<sup>th</sup> year and has significant support from local authorities across Scotland.



### “I FEEL COMPLETELY HEARTBROKEN ABOUT THIS DECISION”

ON January 28<sup>th</sup> – three days before she packed her bags and left the European Parliament for good – UK MEP Molly Scott Cato warned of the damage that she felt Brexit would cause the UK's interests.



The Green Party politician offered her candid opinions on the country's prospects outside of the 27-member bloc.

Environmental Protection Scotland had been invited to Brussels to discuss Brexit with Ms Scott Cato at the EU Parliament. We also received a briefing about the work of the parliament and tour of the building, including the parliamentary chamber the day before MEPs rubber-stamped Britain's exit with a special debate and vote.

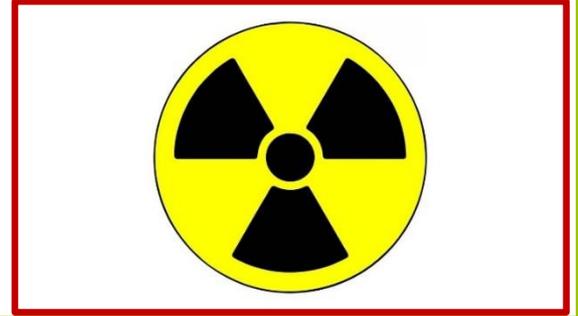
Ms Scott Cato put on record how she felt about leaving the EU, six years after her election to the parliament. She said: “I feel completely heartbroken by this decision. Loads of people are saying ‘oh well, never mind’ about Brexit. I don't agree. It's a bloody disastrous decision!”

The South West of England MEP conceded that she ‘not ready to leave’ Brussels along with the 72 UK politicians who made up the British contingent, including three from Scotland, on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. Read the full article [here](#)

### “A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT COULD LEAD TO THE EVACUATION OF CENTRAL SCOTLAND, GLASGOW OR EDINBURGH AND PERMANENT RELOCATION OF CITIZENS”

AN anti-nuclear campaigner has warned of the dangers of an accident at the Hunterston B power station in North Ayrshire and called for Potassium Iodide tablets to be given out to local residents. Dr Ian Fairlie, an independent consultant on radioactivity, said an incident similar in scale to that which occurred at the Fukushima reactor in Japan would lead to people living in Glasgow or Edinburgh and the central belt facing possible permanent relocation from their homes.

He criticised emergency planners and governments for the failure to make Potassium Iodide tablets, which prevent the thyroid glands from absorbing radioactive iodide, freely available for people in central Scotland. Read the full report [here](#)



## EPS MEMEBERS DISCOUNT



EPS is supporting the Air Quality Forum, which takes place in Central London, on Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup>.

With poor air quality comes one of the greatest environmental challenges facing the UK, the event will provide practical guidance for planning and implementing targeted solutions to improve air quality through an interdisciplinary approach. It will explore targeted, practical measures that can be introduced to improve air pollution and explore how to develop a long term strategy for your area. Attendees will discover the latest thinking and trials underway to improve air quality through an interdisciplinary approach, as you hear insight on introducing clean air zones, accurately monitoring air quality and overcoming the challenges that local authorities face to plan for, and deliver, air quality improvements.

The benefits of attendance are:

Hear from the latest case studies and initiatives underway to improve air quality – including a focus on the role of public health

- Understand how health, transport and planning teams can work together to have a coordinated response and introduce practical solutions with limited resources in the most cost effective way
- Find out how to deliver the infrastructure needed to support a growing number of electric and low carbon vehicles
- Take away the latest knowledge on effectively monitoring air quality
- Hear from local authorities on their progress with implementing air quality solutions and what challenges they face
- Discover how clean air zones are being implemented across the UK and how to overcome the challenges faced with their introduction. Practical guidance for planning and implementing targeted solutions to improve air quality through an interdisciplinary approach

Use our discount code, **395EPS**, to **SAVE 10%** to book a place via this link <https://bit.ly/397E2mA>

## AGM REPORT

The EPS AGM took place on Monday January 20<sup>th</sup> at De Quincy's lounge in Glasgow.

Chair Nigel Kerr outlined the charity's achievements during the 2018/19 financial year, including EPS's successful coordination of Clean Air Day. Roslyn McIntosh (Land Quality EAG Chair) and Dr Stuart Sneddon (Air Quality EAG Chair) and Policy Officer John Bynorth (on behalf of the Scottish Noise Advisory Group) summarised the work of the expert advisory groups and their objectives over the coming year.

Professor George Morris, our newest trustee, gave a fascinating presentation about the links between environment and health, the concepts of "place" and the "triple win" set against the context of the physical environment and global environmental change. He also talked about the potential of the Place Standard Tool (PST) as a means to develop and achieve the 'triple win' in the above areas.

## EXPERT ADVISORY GROUPS

## AIR QUALITY

The group will meet on Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm to elect a new chair. The meeting will take place at the offices of Ricardo at 18 Blythswood Square, Glasgow, G2 4BG.

## NOISE

The next meeting of the noise group is scheduled to discuss plans for an event to highlight the noise impacts of Short-Term Operating Reserve (STORR) plants. The group is in the process of finalising the date for the meeting.

## LAND

There are no meetings presently scheduled. However, the group is pressing ahead with plans for a conference to launch the Land Contamination and Development Guide. It is expected to be held in Edinburgh towards the end of April. Further details will be provided to members in due course.

## LIVE CONSULTATIONS

Transport Scotland's consultation on the LEZ regulations and guidance runs until **February 24<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://consult.gov.scot/transport-scotland/low-emission-zones/>.

The City of Edinburgh Council has launched a consultation on its 10-year strategy that sets out proposals to transform the way people, goods and services travel around the city. It runs until **March 27<sup>th</sup>**.

<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/sfc/city-mobility-plan/>

A call for ideas on the National Planning Framework 4 runs until **March 31<sup>st</sup>**.

<https://www.transformingplanning.scot/national-planning-framework/get-involved/>

## IN THE PRESS & ON TV

On December 19<sup>th</sup> 2019, The Herald asked '[What next for Abellio after ScotRail stripped of trains contract?](#)' In the article, EPS suggested that the public's faith needed to be restored in the rail network and that repeated delays to services led people to lose confidence in public transport and would make them more likely to use their private vehicles.

To mark the first anniversary of the city's LEZ, Ruth Suter of the 'Glasgow Times' ran a positive article on the 'real change' it has made to efforts to improve air quality and to encourage active travel.

Click here to read the [piece](#).

The West Lothian Courier, in an article headlined '[warning over pollution levels](#)' drew attention to Friends of the Earth Scotland's (FOES) annual air pollution survey. The piece focussed primarily on PM10 and NO2 readings in Linlithgow and Broxburn.

In response, EPS Policy Officer John Bynorth urged people to be cautious about how the FOES figures are used. He added that Scotland generally had good air quality, but that people could help improve air quality and their own health by swapping private vehicles for public transport and/or walk and cycle.

John also was also interviewed by the 'Glasgow Standard' for a video and website report about research compiled by researchers from the universities of Edinburgh and Oxford and based on data provided by the Met Office. The report, above, suggested that Scotland was likely to face an increased number of dry, hot summers between now and 2050. Read the story [here](#).

### Climate crisis: Scotland set to experience soaring summer temperatures

2 min read  
1 hour ago Alexander Small



## NEXT MONTH – PROFESSOR JON FAIRBURN INTERVIEW

WE interview Professor Jon Fairburn, Professor of Sustainable Development at Staffordshire University. It was held over from this month due to the article about EPS's trip to the European Parliament.

There will also be a report from this month's Brownfield Scotland conference in Edinburgh. Articles for consideration in the Newsletter should be emailed to [admin@ep-scotland.org.uk](mailto:admin@ep-scotland.org.uk) and marked with the word 'NEWSLETTER' in the subject header.

The next issue will be issued to members in early March.

EPS is the continuation of an eminent line of charities going back to the days of the National Society for Clean Air and more recently Environmental Protection UK. Our objectives include the support and development of the work of Scotland's environmental regulators and scientists based on sound science, objectivity and best practice. We seek to work towards a cleaner, quieter, healthier sustainable Scotland.

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