

Power quiz answers

1. Who Can Join a Scottish parliament Cross Party Group, like the Cross Party Group on Climate Change? The answer is MSPs, organisations and members of the public. Calire Shelly of Christian Aid in Scotland currently sits on this as individual. CPGs are specialist groups which bring together members of Scottish civic society on an issue of concern. This is different to the CPGs in the UK parliament which are only open to MPs
2. An early day motion is a quasi petition device that MPs use to signal their concern in the House of Commons for certain issues to the rest of their colleagues. The magic number for making the Government sit up and take notice is 100 because it means they might have a rebellion on their hands. Some of you may have helped sign our EDMs
3. The rate of back bench rebellion by Labour MPs was 20 per cent of the voting divisions. That means on some divisions that there is a one in five chance that they will decide not to vote with the Government. That means there is room for us to influence the course of a vote
4. How many MEP constituencies are there in the UK? There are 12 regions for the European Parliament covering large areas. Scotland is one of them for example. 73 is the number of Scottish MSPs. 785 is the total number of MEPs in the EP from all the countries. This compares to 646 MPs in the UK parliament. Currently there are 78 UK MEPs of which there are seven Scottish MEPs. After the next European elections there will be 72 as a result of Accession.
5. MEPs do not sit in national delegations in the Parliament, but in multinational political groups. The centre-right European People's Party (EPP) and European Democrats, which includes British Conservatives, is the largest political group. British Labour MEPs belong to the Party of European Socialists, the second biggest group. The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE), where the largest national contingent is from the UK, is third biggest, closely followed by the Green / European Free Alliance which has brought together Green MEPs from 13 countries, including Britain's two Green members, and nationalist parties, including Plaid Cymru and SNP members.
6. MEPs can do all of these things
7. . Who is the Convenor of the Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Committee of the Scottish Parliament? The answer is Patrick Harvie – Glasgow/Scottish Green. The remit of the Committee is to consider and report on matters relating to transport, infrastructure and climate change falling within the remit of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth. MSPs who belong to this Committee will be particularly worth targeting on climate change and the Scottish climate change bill
8. Satu Hassi is a Finnish MEP who is vice chair of the Environment Committee in the European Parliament and a rapporteur on climate-related issues. The Hassi report will be voted on by the Environment Committee in October, the plenary will consider it in December. Last

year EU leaders agreed to cut CO2 emissions by a fifth by 2020 in a bid to tackle climate change. Ms Hassi believes that the proposals put forward by the Commission are not ambitious enough. Her draft report effectively says that they fall short of what is needed in order to keep global warming below the 2°C limit. Reductions of 30% compared with 1990 level would be in the range given by the UN's climate change panel. But the Commission proposes 30% reduction only as a part of an international agreement, and doing part of this via offsetting. Hassi's report recommends that the starting point for the EU should be 30 per cent target by 2020. She would like industrialised countries to aim for targets of 80% reductions by the middle of the century. Hassi's report shows there is a difference of opinion in the EP and therefore room for us to lobby and influence debate .