



Germans for Scottish Independence

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c/o Marco Görlach, Hohe Straße 6, 07381 Pößneck, Germany

Scottish Independence Convention
Saturday, 14th January 2017
Radisson Blu Hotel
Glasgow

Address to the convention

Dear friends,

our group, founded in January 2013 as a virtual union of individuals, was exposed to verbal attacks from British Nationalists from day one. These attacks never involved any sensible arguments, which we would always have been happy to respond to, as the better choice can only ever be established through a fair discussion. Instead the attacks consisted of provocation and insults. Most of the time the issue was what is on our passports. Not only is that in most cases not the United Kingdom, but to add insult to injury Germany. Whether this was down to the history of Germany or its hegemony in Europe, we will not rise to provocation or be scared into silence. This is because on both sides of the North Sea we do not speak for governments and states. We do not speak for corporate groups. We speak as ordinary human beings. We speak for common sense and progress.

Even then we supported the progressive nature of the Independence Movement to the best of our ability. Whether as peace activists, environment protectionists, trade unionists, Marxists or as entrepreneurs and the socially engaged we saw the necessity for an independent Scotland. Even in a worst case outcome Independence will always be a step in the right direction. Let us think here of the ambitious goals as regards energy transition, the closure of the British nuclear weapons base in Faslane, moving away from the privatisation of the Health Service, the welfare state and national infrastructure, protection of free education and much more.

Then came the referendum on the UK's membership of the European Union and this changed everything. Brexit makes a Scottish issue into a European issue. Many in Scotland have already begun to feel the first consequences of Brexit. And while the Independence Movement is not agreed on a future EU membership for Scotland, the first consequence of Brexit is an existential threat to EU citizens in Scotland. This legitimises our commitment as a group.

In 2014, especially outside Scotland, we merely expressed our opinion. Now we are getting directly involved.

Alyn Smyth MEP said in his emotional speech to the European Parliament in June 2016 "Scotland did not let you down, I beg you do not let Scotland down now."

We will not let Scotland down. Moreover we will not let our friends, families and business partners in Scotland down.

"Brexit means Brexit" we hear from London. "There will be no deals" is the answer from the EU leadership. But we are the grass roots and our group is, like the whole Independence Movement, cross-party and cross-border. It is independent, solidly united and colorful. This is what we want to demonstrate in The Hague. This spirit should take over the streets of Europe. Let us be the Europe which politicians only talk about. A Europe beyond hate, racism and militarism. A Europe beyond corporate groups and banks. We are the Europe of peace. We are the Europe of freedom. We are the Europe of solidarity.

Dear friends, the *Germans for Scottish Independence* see themselves as part of the Scottish Independence Movement and will become more involved in the future – for example on April 22nd 2017 when the first notable demonstration on the European mainland is planned. This event will be a milestone on the road to independence. From now on Scottish independence will not just be called for on Scotland's streets. From now on we want to make it clear that in Europe the time is ripe to turn the wheel of history a wee bit forward. Let us leave the past to the snipers and disruptors. We see the future in a more socially just, a more ecologically sustainable and a more peaceful Scotland as an independent country in the European Union. We have great hopes in positive impulses from Scotland which will help everybody in Europe.

In this spirit we wish the Convention every success and look forward to working together closely in the future.

Best regards, Germans for Scottish Independence.