

CATALONIA BACKGROUND INFORMATION [SERIES E / 2013 / 13.1 / EN]

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SCOTLAND'S WHITE PAPER FOR INDEPENDENCE: SUMMARY

On Tuesday 26th November the Scottish Government published its paper on independence, entitled *Scotland's Future: Your Guide to an Independent Scotland*¹. This note summarises the sections of the paper most relevant to Catalonia.

Summary of relevant sections

1. EU Membership

Scotland proposes an 18-month interim period between the date of the referendum and its declaration of independence, in order to allow for the negotiation of Scottish EU membership. The legal argument on which Scotland plans to base its strategy for gaining membership of the EU is as follows:

- Art. 49 TEU, which normally deals with EU enlargement, is not appropriate for Scotland because it is already a member since 1973 as part of the UK.
- The general provisions of Art. 48 TEU, which allows for a Treaty amendment to be agreed upon by common accord of the Member States, is a more appropriate route to secure Scottish membership of the EU.
- This move will be based on the principle of *continuity of effect*, particularly with respect to the terms and conditions of the UK's current opt-outs, namely: the Rebate (which as an expected net contributor to the EU budget, Scotland hopes to retain); the Eurozone (Scotland does not want to adopt the Euro, but keep Pound Sterling); Justice and Home Affairs (Scotland wishes to retain current flexibility to opt-out of JHA measures); and the Schengen Zone (Scotland does not wish to be a part of the Schengen Zone but does want to retain the Common Travel Area [CTA] with the UK).

A separate 111-page document entitled *Scotland in the European Union*², released alongside the White Paper, sets out these arguments in more detail.

¹ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0043/00439021.pdf>

2. Foreign Policy

Scotland proposes a network of 70-90 embassies/consulates/missions at an estimated cost of £90-120million, although it is willing to co-locate foreign missions with embassies of other states. This will allow it to achieve the following objectives:

- Scotland would differentiate its foreign policy from the UK's primarily through a closer engagement with the EU and other multi-lateral organisations, compared to the more Eurosceptic view and bi-lateral focused foreign policy held by Westminster.
- A second point of contrast would be the adoption of a more co-operative and rules-based foreign policy in preference to Westminster's attempts to project power globally.
- Scotland will actively participate in the EU's CSDP, CFSP and EEAS, as well as join the UN and NATO, because they ensure effective defence and security cooperation.
- Scotland will also join the Council of Europe, OSCE, OECD, WTO and the Commonwealth and will seek a close relationship with the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- On international development, Scotland will deliver international aid at the 0.7% of GDP target and hopes to achieve 1% of GDP.
- Ensuring gender equality and increasing debt relief will form the cornerstones of an independent and impartial development policy

3. Defence

Scotland's defence needs will be met with a £2.5 billion defence budget, and by inheriting a share of existing UK defence assets. Its priorities are summarised as follows:

- Westminster's defence policies have left a gap in relation to maritime protection and reconnaissance while developing and renewing an unnecessary nuclear arsenal.
- This nuclear arsenal will be removed as a priority.
- A regular and reserve armed force will be established and the defence estate inherited from the UK will be reconfigured.

² <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/11/5894>

- The role of the proposed Scottish defence forces will include: protection of land/sea/air borders; protection of Scotland's national interest and economic well-being; upholding international norms (international peace and security, human rights, democratic governance etc.).
- Scotland favours joint procurement with the UK and will observe the EU Defence Procurement Directive.

Scotland will place a strong emphasis on collective defence through NATO, as one of a number of international defence partnerships:

- Scotland will be a member of the EU, NATO and OSCE.
- Scotland's contribution to NATO is based on Scotland's focus on maritime security. Failure to accept Scotland as a NATO member will leave a gap in NATO security in North-West Europe.
- Scotland will also build bilateral defence and security relationships with a range of key partners outside Europe and on a range of security issues. These countries will provide potential markets for Scotland's defence industries.