The Board of the Austro-British Society (ABS) is once again delighted to invite Members and Guests to a Panel Discussion on the burning Question

What does the Future hold for Scotland?

With
Melanie Sully
and
Colin Munro

Moderated by our Vice–President **Alexander Christiani**, these two eminent experts on UK politics, **Melanie Sully** and **Colin Munro**, will focus this time on Scotland, particularly Independence and the Brexit implications.

In 2016 62 per cent of Scots were against Brexit in the Referendum. In 2021 **Nicola Sturgeon**, First Minister, was the most popular UK politician during the pandemic.

The Scottish election result in 2011 showed 72/57 for Independence. But the Westminster Parliament blocks. Now is not the time, they say. First Minister Sturgeon has suddenly resigned; SNP is in turmoil with its support down. The SNP is expected to lose a by election in Glasgow to Labour in October, and to lose seats to Labour at the general election in 2024.

But support for Independence is not down! It is stagnating around 50%, 5% up on 2014. The long-term trend is pro-independence as young people join the register—Rock solid support among the under 50s. Meanwhile, the cost of living, the health service and defeating the Conservatives at the general election are top priorities for a majority of Scottish voters. Support for independence is not confined to the SNP and Green parties.

Scotland is diverging from England socially, culturally, and politically. Could this change? Perhaps if the UK were transformed into a genuine federation and relations with the EU are sorted out. Sixty per cent (UK) want to rejoin the European Union—70 per cent in Scotland.

Monday, 4 September 2023
18:00h

Café Ministerium

Georg Coch-Platz 4/Stubenring 6
1010 Wien.

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After the Discussion and Question and Answer Session
a delicious Flying Dinner and Drinks will be served!

Please register latest by **31 August 2023** via the Registration Link on the accompanying email.
First come, first served.

By attending this event, you expressly agree to the publication of photographs, film and sound recordings taken in the course of that function.