



Committee Of Inquiry On Crofting
1st COMMITTEE MEETING
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PAPER 1/1

THE CHANGING CONTEXT FOR CROFTING
- AN INITIAL ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION

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The Changing Context for Crofting

Some initial thoughts to start a
round-table discussion

Big Changes in the World

This list is from Anthony Giddens:

- Globalisation and deregulation
- From Government to Governance
- Emergence of the Knowledge Economy
- Rise of individualism and 'postmaterialist' concerns
- Dysfunctions of the welfare state
- Emergence of new risks, eg. climate change
- CAP Reform and WTO (not on Giddens' list!)

Economic

- Global revolution of finance, competition, skill and technology.
- Flexible specialisation and innovation
- Global capital and local capital
 - *How to respond to globalisation?*
 - EU Lisbon Strategy: global competitiveness
 - City Regions v balanced development
 - OECD's "New Rural Paradigm": places not sectors; investments not subsidies.
 - Arkleton's Dynamics of Rural Areas project identified success factors in rural economic development.
 - Smart, Successful Highlands and Islands strategy.

Social

- Rapid social and demographic changes
 - Revolution of women's life-chances
 - Decline of stable, nuclear family
 - Ageing society, and growing multi-culturalism
 - Risks of social exclusion
 - Changing social welfare regimes
 - Public sector reforms and welfare to work
 - Britain and the 'Third Way'.
- *How can a strong welfare state reach and support remote communities?*
- *How will social and demographic change affect crofting? And vice versa?*

Political

- From Government to Governance
 - Public-private-voluntary partnerships
 - New role for the state as coordinator and enabler
 - Tangled hierarchies, flexible alliances and networks
 - Double-shift of power, down to communities and up to supra-national levels?
 - More participatory democracy alongside representative institutions?
 - Neo-endogenous structures: bottom-up supported by top
 - 'Generative' capacity-building: creating 'power to'...
 - Community land ownership
- *How will political changes affect crofting?*

Agricultural Policy

- 2007-2013: support decoupled from production. Voluntary modulation? WTO agreement?
- 2008 CAP Health-check: fine-tuning only.
- Major reforms expected from 2013
 - Declining levels of support, especially Pillar 1, and dismantling of protectionism (tariffs, export subsidies)
 - Phasing out of single farm payments?
 - More funding for agri-environmental schemes
 - Perhaps more funding for territorial rural development?
 - Possible national co-financing? (Pillar 2 already co-financed)
 - Opportunities for local food, organic food, renewable energy etc.

Discussion

- This set of bullet-points is intended merely to start a discussion, and to set us thinking from the outset about the future.
 - Reflections on these?
 - What other important changes have been left out?
 - Lateral thoughts....?
- We can return to the issues in detail later