We Are European

What will we do:

1. The Students’ Association will commit to preserving a strong European identity for the benefit of the students it represents.
2. The Students’ Association will campaign for a workable continuation of the Erasmus+ scheme for students.
3. The Students’ Association will campaign to protect research funding and opportunities such as the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme.
4. The Students’ Association should lobby the UK Government to ensure we have an immigration system that works to allow for European staff and students to contribute to our University community.
5. The Students’ Association will support the University’s efforts and initiatives to remain a close relationship with Europe, including supporting the UNA Europa Alliance and Students’ Association President 19/20 as the Edinburgh representative on the Student Board for the 1EUROPE project.
6. As part of the Students’ Association’s annual Europe Week at the end of March, the Students’ Association will proudly fly and display the European Flag across its venues, as well as at other appropriate times throughout the year.

Background to this:

1. On 31st January 2020, the United Kingdom left the European Union.
2. Edinburgh University Students’ Association endorsed a Remain vote in the EU Referendum at a Student Council meeting in March 2016.
3. Students and young people overwhelmingly voted Remain in the 2016 EU Referendum and have consistently voted for pro-EU and pro-second referendum parties in the two successive elections following the referendum.
4. The University of Edinburgh currently participates in European research programmes that enable access to a pooled financial resource that are essential to collaboration, whilst also incentivising it. We will lose access to these resources and our exposure to networks and contacts across Europe, eroding collaboration opportunities in a post-Brexit environment.
5. Universities are key to ensuring we have a successful post-Brexit UK economy and diverse, multicultural and international society. Universities may not be able to depend on the support from the government to ensure that they can thrive.

Beliefs and Motivating Actions:

1. Remaining in the European Union would have been the option for the future of the United Kingdom and for the interests of students and young people.
2. The events of recent years have represented a profound detachment from what we collectively regard as the United Kingdom’s righteous future within a free and prosperous European Union.
3. Whilst it is extremely regrettable that we have now left the European Union, the Students’ Association should now be focusing on ensuring we preserve as many student-facing rights and benefits as possible.

Submitted by Association Executive in March 2020.