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## SCOTLAND'S EU CHARM OFFENSIVE

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Politico (20 April 2021)

Lili Bayer

Scottish politicians aren't just engaged in a frantic contest for votes back home — they're also waging a long-term battle to win friends in Brussels.

Edinburgh's quest to gain influence in the EU receives much less attention than the campaign for next month's Scottish parliament election. But politicians across party lines see those efforts as vital as the country adjusts to Brexit and faces the question once again of whether to seek independence.

Scottish politicians and officials are behind two main drives to lobby their EU counterparts. One, backed by the Scottish government, seeks to reassure the EU that Scotland — which voted against Brexit — wants to maintain close and friendly ties to the bloc.

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