

EUROPARL



THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER OF SNP EURO-MP
IAN HUDGHTON

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Ferry Safety Assurance Sought

Speaking in a debate in Strasbourg following the tragic events surrounding the sinking of a Greek ferry boat, MEP Ian Hudghton said:

“We are fortunate in Scotland not to have suffered the spate of tragedies to hit the Greek people. However we are only too aware that the waters to the north and west of Scotland, which serve our island communities have some of the most hazardous currents and severe weather conditions in European waters.”

“The tragedies in the southern waters of Europe have been a tragic lesson, that safety simply cannot be taken for granted.”

“I am therefore looking for assurances from the Commission that, in the tendering for life-line ferry services, safety is given the highest priority. In the cut-throat world of tendering, companies can be pushed into cost savings to win bids. In the process, it can be all too easy for safety measures to be sacrificed. This is simply not acceptable to the Northern and Western Isles of Scotland nor the North Sea crossing which I hope can be established from Rosyth to mainland Europe.”



Pictured above are Dundee City Councillor David Beattie and Ian Hudghton MEP viewing the work of Kingspark School pupils at an Exhibition in the Caird Hall, Dundee. The City's Education Dept. had organised the three day event to highlight the wide range of achievement and initiatives being undertaken in Dundee schools. Commenting, the MEP said:

“The impressive displays mounted by staff and pupils, both primary and secondary, show the vast amount of time and extra effort being put into educational projects throughout Dundee. The city can be justly proud of its young people.”



Europarl is published by Ian Hudghton MEP and the G/EFA Group in the European Parliament



Ian Hudghton MEP was guest speaker at the Adoption meeting of Dr Ian McKee as PPC for Edinburgh Central constituency. Ian is pictured above with Ian McKee and some of the large gathering at the SNP Club in Edinburgh celebrating Dr. McKee's Adoption.

Hudghton Welcomes Equality Directive

SNP MEP Ian Hudghton, speaking at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, welcomed the approval given to a report on Equal Treatment in Employment.

The MEP supported the aim of the Directive to end discrimination in the workplace.

“The unfair treatment of workers on grounds of race, religious belief, disability, age or sexual orientation can, in no way, be justified in a modern and socially just Europe.”

“The SNP is pleased to support this legislation, which is in line with our Party's policies of ending discrimination in all its guises and of positively backing measures to ensure equality of treatment for all citizens.”

“Moreover, the SNP sees this legislation as a means to fulfil the underlying objectives of the European Union in recognising that equality in the field of employment helps combat social exclusion and assists the EU's aims of permitting the free movement of its citizens.”

Representatives of the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled head of state and religious leader, visited the European Parliament in Strasbourg recently, to seek support for their campaign for Independence. Picture shows Ian Hudghton MEP being presented with a handmade scroll showing his name in Tibetan script



Shetland Seminar in Brussels

Representatives of SHOAL, the Shetland Oceans Alliance, brought their proposals for review of the CFP to Brussels. At a well attended seminar in Scotland House the Group outlined the key issues of concern to the Shetland fishing industry. Speaking at the seminar MEP Ian Hudgton said: "I fully support the retention of the 6 and 12 mile limits and the retention of the Shetland Box. Zonal management has my full support and that of my Party, as recently affirmed at our Conference in Inverness. For Shetland and for Scotland as a whole it is essential that full political support is given by our Ministers at the all important Council meetings. I will continue to play my part in highlighting Scotland's vital fishing interests."



At the SNP Conference in Inverness, Ian Hudgton chaired a highly successful fringe meeting staged jointly by the Scottish Fishermen's Federation and the Worldwide Fund for Nature. The organisations outlined the results of a joint initiative, proposing a system of Zonal Management within the Common Fisheries Policy.

Highlands Represented at Euromontana Conference

A recent conference in Brussels involving representatives from Europe's mountainous regions included a debate at the European Parliament building. Ian Hudgton MEP met with delegates from Highland Council, SNH and the Crofters Commission to hear at first hand the concerns which are particular to Scottish mountain and island areas.

Twinning Cutbacks Fear

SNP MEP Ian Hudgton has voiced fears that EU funding for community twinning ventures is under threat. The twinning budget in the current year was exhausted by September, due to the success and popularity of twinning.

"In the budget vote in Strasbourg this week, I will be seeking support to maintain the level of funding for twinning in the 2001 EU budget."



Ian Hudgton MEP recently chaired a joint meeting of the London Branches of the SNP and Plaid Cymru, pictured above. Held in the European Commission's office near Westminster, principal speaker was Geoffrey Martin, Head of the UK Office of the Commission. SNP Branch Convener Joe Taylor hailed the evening a great success in which a wide-ranging and informative debate on European issues had been held. Also attending was John Green, PPC for West Aberdeenshire and Kincardine, at whose Adoption at Durris Ian was guest speaker.

MEP in School Project Link Ups

Pictured below are P7 pupils of Newmachar where the MEP was quizzed on European issues as part of a citizenship project. The MEP also recently answered by e-mail a series of questions from P7 pupils at Macduff.



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IAN HUDGTON'S DIARY

23-27 OCTOBER

Plenary session Strasbourg

28 OCTOBER

SNP Highlands & Islands Association AGM & Debate, Fort William

Adoption meeting for Malcolm Fleming PPC Galloway & Upper Nithsdale CA, Newton Stewart

30 OCTOBER

European Elected Members Liaison meeting, Edinburgh

RSPB Fisheries Seminar, Edinburgh

2 NOVEMBER

BBC Official Opening Beechgrove, Aberdeen

Northfield Academy S5 Citizenship Forum, Aberdeen

Council by-election, Aberdeen

3 NOVEMBER

Adoption meeting for Stewart Hossie PPC Dundee East CA, Dundee

4 NOVEMBER

Scottish Self-Government College meeting, Stirling

Falkirk West CA campaigning

Adoption meeting for Mike Weir PPC Angus CA, Letham

6-10 NOVEMBER

Committee and Group meetings, Brussels
Meetings with John Swinney MSP, MP and Roseanna Cunningham MSP, MP in Brussels

11 NOVEMBER

SNP National Executive Committee

Falkirk West CA campaigning

13-17 NOVEMBER

EP Plenary Session, Strasbourg

20-23 NOVEMBER

Committee mtgs. Brussels