

# EUROPARL



THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER OF SNP EURO-MP  
**IAN HUDGHTON**

23 OCTOBER–31 DECEMBER 2000 ISSUE 22



*Pictured above are (l. to r.) Richard Lochhead MSP, Ian Hudghton MEP, John Swinney MSP/MP, Irene McGugan MSP, Shona Robison MSP, and Brian Adam MSP*

## Dundee Office Officially Opened

SNP Leader John Swinney recently officially opened the Joint Parliamentary Office of the SNP in North East Scotland.

As with the Aberdeen Office, the Dundee facility is a joint venture between Ian Hudghton MEP and the four North East Members of the Scottish Parliament, Shona Robison, Irene McGugan, Richard Lochhead and Brian Adam. Welcoming the large gathering at the Opening Ceremony Ian Hudghton commented:

“Scottish National Party representatives have a reputation for providing quality services to constituents. This partnership between Scottish and European Parliamentarians will enable constituents in Dundee and throughout Tayside to access their MEP and MSPs more easily.”

A wide range of European information materials are freely available from the Office.

### EUROPARL

This newsletter is available free of charge. If you would like to add any names to the circulation list please contact the Dundee Office, details overleaf. Complimentary 2001 calendars are enclosed with this issue. Additional copies are available from Dundee.



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

## FISHING QUOTA CRISIS MEP CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION

In a recent emergency sitting of the Fisheries Committee in the European Parliament, Scottish National Party Euro-MP Ian Hudghton expressed his dismay at the quota cuts hammering Scotland's fishing industry. Mr Hudghton commented:

“I am dismayed at the failure of our representatives in the Council of Ministers to satisfy the interests of Scotland's fishing industry and to stand up for Scotland's fragile fisheries-dependent communities. Conservation policy will not succeed unless fishermen see an advantage in their compliance with quota restrictions. Our fishermen are complaining that they are being asked to accept cuts that go beyond those recommended by the scientists, and yet the Council allowed an increase the sand eel quota – the very fishery that is a vital food supply for Scottish white fish stocks, the quotas for which have been slashed, allegedly for the sake of conservation and stock recovery. Even more bizarre was the Council decision to increase the tonnage of Whiting allowed as a by-catch in Industrial fishery.”

“I have written to Commissioner Fischler, demanding an explanation for the sand eel and by-catch quotas, which will further disadvantage Scots fishermen and processors.”

“We are told that the Scottish Fisheries Minister attended the Council meeting, but we have yet to hear a convincing explanation from her to justify the decisions made.”

“The likely downturn in activity will cause serious problems for many people whose livelihood depends on fishing and processing, and I am calling for a Government commitment to provide funding for measures to alleviate the social and economic impact on families and communities.”

“It is ironic that all other Member States are capable of matching Euro-funding for compensation for closed fishing grounds and for decommissioning, whilst the UK Government is happy to stand idly by and watch our fishermen suffer. Instead of helping Scotland's beleaguered fishing industry, the UK Government continues to deny our fishermen access to support on a par with their competitors. This must change, now!”

*Ian Hudghton MEP is pictured below at Fraserburgh Harbour.*





*Pictured above are guest speakers at the Gordon C.A. St. Andrews Evening in Huntly recently. (l. to r.) Local PPC Rhona Kemp, Ian Hudghton MEP, Alex Neil MSP and Brian Adam MSP*

## SNP Leader Visits Brussels

John Swinney recently visited the European Commission and Parliament in Brussels as part of a fact finding mission. Accompanied by Moray PPC Angus Robertson, and later joined by Depute Leader Roseanna Cunningham MSP, PPC Shirley-Ann Somerville and Winnie Ewing MSP, the SNP contingent participated in a summit meeting of European Free Alliance Political Parties. Shown below are MEPs Neil MacCormick and Ian Hudghton with John at a Press Conference in the Parliament's Press Centre.



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This newsletter is published by Ian Hudghton and distributed free of charge to keep constituents in touch with developments in the European Parliament.



## IN BRIEF

**Sweden** takes over the Presidency of the EU on 1 January, steering the work of the Council of Ministers for the first six months of 2001. EU enlargement is the top priority for the Swedish Presidency, following the reforms agreed in Nice to enable more countries to join from the end of 2002. Alongside enlargement, the Swedish government has highlighted employment and the environment as other key areas in which it will seek to make progress.

**The Agriculture Council** has adopted an EU import system for bananas, which is aimed at ending a trade dispute with the USA. The system is transparent and simple, compatible with World Trade Organisation rules, and provides a viable alternative to one based on historical links, according to Commissioner Franz Fischler.

**Around 500,000 farmers** in the EU should benefit from a scheme to cut red tape, proposed by the Commission in December. It would enable farmers who receive small amounts of direct aid to apply once when they enter the scheme, rather than making a separate claim for each type of premium each year.

MEP Ian Hudghton welcomed the proposal, which would make form-filling a one-off event for small farmers and would operate initially as a pilot scheme during 2002–2005. The change would also minimise administration for the national authorities that oversee the payments, but without watering down the stringent controls applied to the use of taxpayers' money.

**Grants totalling 4.6m euro (£2.8m) for 47 projects to tackle violence against women and children have been approved by the European Commission.** Supported by the Daphne programme, they deal with problems such as human trafficking, sexual exploitation, forms of domestic violence and abuse, and violence in schools and against migrants and minority groups. "The EU's role is to help create networks that promote best practice and exchange information", commented Ian Hudghton MEP. "Violence could also be reduced by raising public awareness of its causes and consequences."

## IAN HUDGHTON'S DIARY

5 JANUARY, 2001

Briefing meeting with Food Standards Agency, Aberdeen

8 JANUARY

Employment and Social Affairs Committee, Brussels

9-11 JANUARY

G/European Free Alliance Group Meetings, Brussels

12 JANUARY

Cross-Party European Public Debate, Dundee College

13 JANUARY

SNP National Executive Committee, Edinburgh

15-18 JANUARY

EP Plenary Session, Strasbourg

20 JANUARY

SNP Womens Forum AGM and Seminar, Perth

22 JANUARY

Aberdeen City Council Fisheries Summit

22-23 JANUARY

Fisheries Committee, Brussels

23-24 JANUARY

Employment & Social Affairs Committee, Brussels

26 JANUARY

PESCA Conference, Inverness

Self Government College mtg., Stirling

27 JANUARY

Bharatiya Ashram Lunch mtg., Dundee

Dundee SNP Burns Supper

31 JANUARY—1 FEBRUARY

EP Plenary Session, Brussels

2 FEBRUARY

European Studies discussion - St. Margarets School, Aberdeen

5-6 FEBRUARY

Fisheries Committee, Brussels

6-8 FEBRUARY

Group meetings, Brussels