

EUROPARL



THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER OF SNP EURO-MP

IAN HUDGHTON

19 NOV 2001 – 6 JAN 2002

ISSUE 28

E-DAY IN EUROPE

1st January 2002 was E-Day in Europe, the day when, in twelve Member States of the EU, millions of Europeans started spending in Euros. Only the UK, Denmark and Sweden are not directly involved in the historic changeover to a single currency.

However, as Ian Hudghton MEP points out, for many Scots, Euro notes and coins will soon become very familiar too.

“Anyone who travels or works in Europe will soon become as familiar with Euros as they are just now with Sterling and the other ‘old’ currencies, such as francs or pesetas. Many Scots fly south to soak up the Mediterranean sun, or head off to the Alps for a skiing holiday. From now on they will use Euros.

“Returning to Scotland, a number of options are open to them for dealing with the spare Euros left in their pockets. They will either be able to change them back to Sterling as usual, or store them for their next trip – remembering of course that the currency will be able to be used in ANY of the twelve countries of the Eurozone. Alternatively, and this is the biggest change, they will be able to spend them in many High Street stores in this country which are installing Euro-friendly cash registers. For the sake of Scotland’s vital tourist industry, the Scottish Executive should be doing more to encourage this trend”

For more detailed information on the Euro, visit www.europa.eu.int/euro.

ESPANA 2002

Spain took on the Presidency of the European Union on 1 January, holding the reins until the end of June 2002. The priorities of the Spanish Presidency have been laid out by Spanish Government Ministers and include the continued fight to root out terrorism, ongoing preparations for EU enlargement and the successful introduction of the Euro.

Also on its agenda is the intriguingly named “More Europe”. In a nutshell, this means Europe playing a more significant role in world affairs by giving the EU the “weight and the place it deserves in international relations”.

Within the European Free Alliance Group, the SNP has many colleagues from Spain. Throughout the Spanish Presidency of 2002, the SNP, along with its nationalist colleagues from the Basque Country, Galicia, Catalonia and Andalucia, will continue to argue for Scottish Independence and greater powers for those regions and nations of Europe which seek more autonomy by peaceful and democratic means. EFA MEPs declare that a successful EU will be one which is responsive to all the nations and peoples of Europe, and which respects the many and varied cultures, languages and traditions of this continent.



ROSYTH FERRY PROJECT WINS EU BACKING

SNP MEPs Ian Hudghton and Neil MacCormick, were prominent members of a deputation who met the European Commissioner for Transport Loyola de Palacio, pictured above centre.

The pre-Christmas meeting was part of an intense lobbying effort which succeeded in winning European Commission approval for a £12 million Freight Facilities Grant for Rosyth, enabling a direct ferry link between Scotland and mainland Europe to commence from May 2002.

Welcoming the development Ian Hudghton said:

“This is an exciting prospect for Scottish tourism and freight transport, which will eliminate the lengthy road journeys presently being undertaken to ferry ports south of the Border. Zeebrugge is well placed for access to the European transport networks and I look forward to the successful launch of the service in May.”



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



EUROPEAN COMMISSION MUST REGAIN CONFIDENCE OF FISHERMEN

Whilst welcoming the December Council of Ministers decision to reverse the prawn quota cuts proposed by the European Commission, SNP MEP Ian Hudghton delivered a frank end of year challenge to the European Commission Director General for Fisheries, Steffen Smidt.

During a spirited exchange of views at the European Parliament Fisheries Committee, Mr Hudghton maintained:

"It is time the Commission woke up to its responsibilities. No-one is disagreeing that strict measures must be enforced to ensure the long term recovery of crucial fish stocks. But the Commission's initial proposals for 2002 not only went beyond scientific evidence, but also distanced the Commission even further from fishermen."

"There must be confidence in the validity of the scientific basis of the system. How can the Commission expect the fishing industry to have confidence in the management of fisheries from Brussels, when the measures it seeks to impose have no scientific basis? It is crazy to expect fishermen to accept swingeing cuts in quotas, which would endanger the livelihood of many, and the very survival of fisheries dependent communities, when such proposals go beyond scientific advice."

"Fishermen's support for fisheries regulations could improve by involving fishermen's organisations and other interested parties in the decision-making process. Involving fishermen in devising and enforcing the regulations would make regulations more acceptable, but only if the Commission really listens and allows more than mere consultation."

"Regional management, or zonal management as I prefer to call it, is the only way forward for Europe's depleted fishing industries. But it will only work if the Commission is actually willing to decentralise and allow real decisions to be taken closer to those who are affected by them."

"The Commission must commit itself to effective zonal management, where the views of the fishing industry, scientists and other interested parties are all taken onboard and then, and only then, are measures tailored to suit a particular sea region."

Ian Hudghton

Scottish National Party
Member of the European Parliament

DUNDEE

8 Old Glamis Road,
Dundee DD3 8HP
Parliamentary Assistant - Kate Young
eMail: kyoung@mep.sol.co.uk

Tel: 01382 903206/623200

Fax: 01382 903205

ABERDEEN

70 Rosemount Place,
Aberdeen AB25 2XJ.

Tel: 01224 623150

Fax: 01224 623160

eMail: ihudghton@europarl.eu.int

Web: www.snp.org

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



IN BRIEF

Primary Schools Hayshead, Arbroath, Greenbrae, Bridge of Don and Canongate, St. Andrews were the latest in Ian Hudghton's round of question and answer sessions during the class projects on Europe.

Members of Shetland Oceans Alliance staged a successful seminar on fisheries policy reform which Ian Hudghton attended in Brussels at the end of 2001.

The January 2002 plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg will be dominated by a round of elections for the Presidency and Vice-Presidencies of the Parliament and all of its Committees.

Due to the demise of Atlantic Telecom please note the new telephone and fax numbers at Ian Hudghton's Dundee office.

IAN HUDGHTON'S DIARY

Best wishes to all Euro-parl readers for the New Year 2002

7-10 JANUARY 2002

Group meetings, Brussels

12 JANUARY

SNP National Executive Cttee, Edinburgh

14-17 JANUARY

EP Plenary session, Strasbourg

21-24 JANUARY

EP Committees, Brussels

25 JANUARY

Dundee SNP Burns Supper

27 JANUARY

SNP North East Regional Association Executive mtg.

28-31 JANUARY

Group meetings, Brussels

1 FEBRUARY

Aberdeen SNP Burns Supper

2 FEBRUARY

Peterhead SNP Burns Supper, Longhaven

4-7 FEBRUARY

EP Plenary Session, Strasbourg

9 FEBRUARY

SNP National Executive Cttee, Edinburgh

11-15 FEBRUARY

Constituency Week

18-21 FEBRUARY

EP Committees, Brussels

24 FEBRUARY

SNP North East Regional Association mtg.

25-26 FEBRUARY

EP Committees, Brussels

27-28 FEBRUARY

EP Plenary, Brussels