

EUROPARL



THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER OF SNP EURO-MP
IAN HUDGHTON

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MEP IN STORNOWAY VISIT

SNP MEP Ian Hudghton recently made a two-day fact-finding visit to Stornoway, including speaking to a meeting of the Western Isles SNP Constituency Association, pictured above.

The MEP visited the Comhairle Eilean Siar Convener who, along with fellow Councillors and officials, gave a briefing on a wide range of issues of key concern to the Western Isles including transportation, renewable energy developments and telecommunications strategy.

Meetings were also held with representatives of the local crofting industry who are suffering badly from the effects of closure of the local abattoir, and the fishing industry who have been particularly hard hit by the new testing regime for ASP in scallops.

Media visits included a live interview with Ian X McIver at the local Isles FM Radio Station, and the Stornoway Gazette.

Pictured below with Ian Hudghton and Lewis & Harris SNP Branch Convener Donnie Maclean is Johann Campbell, Garrabost Post Office who outlined the many challenges facing rural sub-post offices.



"WITH INDEPENDENCE SCOTLAND CAN FLOURISH IN EUROPE" - HUDGHTON

Commenting on the recent publication of a survey on national and European identities, SNP Euro-MP Ian Hudghton expressed disappointment that the survey was seemingly unable to take account of Scottish feelings. The survey, published by the European Commission, found that 71% of UK citizens "see themselves only as British"; however, this cannot be reconciled with other recent surveys which show that increasing numbers of Scots feel no British identity! Mr Hudghton commented:

"The idea that over 70% of people see themselves as being only British simply does not apply to Scotland - the Commission presumably interviewed a tiny number of Scots, and did not count their views separately. The most recent survey in Scotland found that 37% of Scots feel no British identity at all, and over two-thirds feel more Scottish than British. Whilst the Commission's survey is perhaps a small example of Scotland's views not being heard in Europe, it is entirely symbolic of Scotland's voicelessness in the EU.

"The survey also shows that people in small independent countries are far more comfortable with a joint national and European identity than those in the UK as a whole. The SNP are comfortable with this view for Scotland too, and look forward to Scotland playing a full and constructive role in the EU.

Only with Independence can Scotland flourish in Europe - and only with Independence can our voice be properly heard."



Ian Hudghton MEP (pictured above with participants) was guest speaker at this year's commemoration ceremony to Alexander III at Pettycur, Fife near the spot where he died in 1286. The tragic and very sudden death of Alexander III at the age of 45 robbed Scotland of a king who had brought peace and prosperity to his country. During his years on the throne, Scotland made peace with her neighbours and did so without compromising her all-important independence.

SUPPORT FOR FISH PROCESSORS

Scots fish processors representative Robert Milne led a deputation from Aberdeen visiting the European Parliament in Brussels to lobby Scots MEPs on behalf of the industry.

Following a constructive meeting Ian Hudghton MEP again pledged his full support to the industry which employs many thousands of people, often in areas which are heavily dependent on fishing related business.

The meeting coincided with a visit by Aberdeen City Cllr. Kevin Stewart who took the opportunity while holidaying in Brussels to lend his support to the fish processing industry and to join with Ian Hudghton in talks with officials on behalf of constituents in Aberdeen.





75 Years of the Scots Independent

To celebrate its 75th Anniversary the Scots Independent newspaper commissioned a special edition CD by top Scots folk duo Gaberlunzie.

To mark the anniversary Ian Hudghton MEP donated a CD to each of his European Free Alliance MEP colleagues and staff at the Parliament in Brussels.

Above picture shows Group staff members Eluned Haf, *front left*, of Plaid Cymru, and the SNP's own Neil Fergusson, *right*, being presented with their CDs by Margery and Ken Fee who were undertaking a study visit to the Parliament.

School/University Visits

Recent invitations accepted by Ian Hudghton MEP included several question and answer sessions in the North East. S5 Modern Studies students at Mackie Academy, Stonehaven, Business & Politics students from Robert Gordon's University, and Aberdeen University Student Nationalists Association all grilled the MEP on a wide range of current European and domestic political issues.

Ian Hudghton

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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 and the work of the SNP Euro-MP.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RECOGNISES TARTAN ARMY

The SNP group in the European Parliament in April celebrated a spectacular victory on behalf of Scottish football and the Tartan Army.

Nationalist MEPs Ian Hudghton and Neil MacCormick successfully tabled three amendments to a legislative report on violence in international football - ensuring that Scottish fans escape being shown the red card should fans from one of the other UK teams misbehave during international competitions.

As the original report stood, Scotland's special status in having our own football team though not yet being independent, would not have been recognised. Crucially, the fans of the four national sides would all have been treated as UK supporters and liable for the behaviour of other team's supporters. Commenting after the result, a delighted Ian Hudghton MEP said:

"The Tartan Army can celebrate a famous Scottish victory in receiving special recognition from the very heart of Europe. The SNP has scored a spectacular goal in getting Scotland's independent status in international football recognised by the EU. We were overwhelmed by the level of support our amendments received, with only a handful of MEPs voting against.

"The European Parliament result officially ensures that the Tartan Army's reputation can remain intact: Scotland's fans will be judged on the merit of their own behaviour - not on the behaviour of anyone else. They have proved themselves to be wonderful ambassadors for Scotland over the years and their impeccable reputation has led to them receiving "Fair Play" awards on numerous occasions. It is therefore fitting that the European Parliament has given the Tartan Army the thumbs up they deserve."



A local partnership project team at Peterhead invited Ian Hudghton MEP to perform the Sod-Cutting ceremony at the site of a new engineering training facility which was part-funded by the European Structural Funds. Local SNP Cllrs. Stuart Pratt and Denis McHugh are included in the picture above.

IAN HUDGHTON'S DIARY

19 APRIL

Dundee City Council Reception for Maggie's Centre Fundraisers

20 APRIL

Fishing 2002 Exhibition, Glasgow with Richard Lochhead MSP

22 APRIL

Gordon C.A. SNP Selection meeting, Huntly

23 -25 APRIL

EP Plenary Session, Brussels

23 APRIL

Briefing meeting with Scottish Quality Salmon reps, in Brussels

Scotland House reception for Scottish attendees at Annual European Seafood Expo, Brussels

24 APRIL

Visit Annual Seafood Europe Expo, Brussels

Fisheries Cttee MEPs meeting with Commissioner Fischler

26 APRIL-9 MAY

Fisheries Cttee delegation study visit to East Coast Canadian fishing areas

10 MAY

Dundee West C.A. SNP Adoption mtg. Irene McGugan MSP

11 MAY

National Executive mtg. SNP, Edinburgh

13-16 MAY

EP Plenary Session, Strasbourg

17 MAY

Aberlemno Primary School Extension Opening, Angus

20 MAY

European Parliament Scottish Office Opening, Edinburgh

20-23 MAY

Budget and Fisheries Cttee Meetings, Brussels

24 MAY

Falkirk Wheel Opening Ceremony

28 MAY

Aberdeen City Council Event to mark the Scottish Parliament visit.