

EUROPARL



THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER OF SNP EURO-MP
IAN HUDGHTON

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ISSUE 32



During a recent mobile surgery tour Ian Hudghton MEP, accompanied by Alasdair Allan and Cllr. Stuart Pratt, is pictured above speaking with an Oldmeldrum resident where concerns have been raised in relation to traffic and transport issues in the area.



Above are North Tayside MSP John Swinney and MP Pete Wishart with MEP Ian Hudghton visiting stallholders at the annual Kirriemuir Show. The trio took the opportunity to hear farmers' concerns in relation to the Mid Term Review of the European Common Agricultural Policy.



PPC Maureen Watt and Ian Hudghton MEP jointly opened the refurbished Aberdeen South SNP Office at Menzies Road. CA Convener John Ogg presided, praising the hard work of and donations by members.

HUDGHTON TALKS INDEPENDENCE

Ian Hudghton MEP participated in a seminar at Dundee University where a variety of panellists compared the experience to date of Devolution with the opportunities offered by UK Federalism or Scottish Independence.

Putting the case for Independence, the SNP MEP said:

"What does Independence mean? Defenders of the UK Union imply that Independence means cutting off all ties with the rest of the world. Simply not true. The SNP envisage Scotland as an equal partner with the other normal nations of the world. We didn't cut ourselves off when we were independent three hundred years ago, and we wouldn't do it now. We want Scotland to have its own distinctive voice on the world stage.

If independence doesn't count in an increasingly interdependent world, why are so many nations seeking more autonomy across the world? Why are the nations seeking entry to the EU not looking to form UK-style unions with their neighbours? Many of the accession countries became part of the USSR post-1945 but continued to recognise national boundaries, cultures and so on until regaining independence. There is no evidence of them wanting to give up that independence now!

Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have not joined forces when seeking EU membership but have chosen to apply individually even though jointly their populations added together only total seven and a half million. Existing smaller EU members Finland and Sweden, who "divorced" in the 1800s could re-unite to become a larger unit too – why haven't they chosen to do so in this increasingly interdependent world? – because they know from experience that in the EU and other international bodies it is independent Governments who have influence where it counts, and only independent Governments who vote in the EU Council of Ministers.

Independence doesn't mean slamming the door on the rest of the world as the Unionists would have you believe. It's about allowing Scotland to be a full participant in Europe and the world, just like all the independent nations across our continent and beyond."

SNP WELCOMES GMO VOTE

Ian Hudghton MEP has welcomed the outcome of votes in the European Parliament on the traceability and labelling of GM contents in food. Amendments supported by the SNP's group were backed by a majority of MEPs, requiring producers to label ALL foods which contain genetically modified material, and ensure that a "zero tolerance" approach to GMOs is adopted. The result was greeted with delight by the SNP MEPs and SNP MSPs in Edinburgh who have been vociferous in their calls to bring a halt to field scale trials of GM crops in Scotland.

FRENCH PRISON VISIT BY SNP

Ian Hudghton MEP accompanied Stewart Stevenson MSP (pictured below) on a recent fact-finding visit to Bapaume Prison near Lille as part of the ongoing campaign to resist closure of Peterhead Prison, and to research alternatives to the threat of Privatisation being proposed by the Lab/Lib Scottish Executive.



SNP CALL TO REOPEN DEEP SEA FISH DEBATE

SNP Euro-MP Ian Hudghton has called on the Danish Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Mrs Fischer-Boel, currently President of the Council of Ministers, to press for a rethink on the deal that was recently struck in relation to deep sea fisheries. At the European Parliament's Fisheries Committee in Brussels, Mr Hudghton stressed:

"The so-called compromise deal was arrived at after great pressure from the Spanish Presidency, on the basis of scant scientific evidence, without any real consultation and negotiation, and the Scots fishing industry was kept in the dark. This flies in the face of the EU's commitment to involve stakeholders more. I therefore urge the Danish Presidency to reopen this debate."



Senior School Prize Winners at Blairgowrie High are pictured above with Head Teacher Bill Kirkpatrick and Ian Hudghton MEP who presented the prizes.



Irene McGugan MSP pictured with Ian Hudghton MEP and Party Leader John Swinney MSP at the SNP Parliamentary Office in Dundee.

IRENE MCGUGAN ADOPTION

In May Irene McGugan MSP was formally adopted as SNP prospective candidate for the Dundee West Constituency at next year's Scottish Parliamentary elections.

Supporting speakers were Jim Halliday, Ian Hudghton and Mike Russell MSP.

"Dundee West is one of the most winnable seats in Scotland for the SNP. Irene McGugan's record as a spokesperson in the Scottish Parliament, her service to constituents, and political base already in the city, ideally place her to take the SNP to victory" said Ian Hudghton.



Ian Hudghton MEP performed the official opening ceremony of the newly refurbished and extended primary school at Aberlemno. The event marked another milestone in Angus Council's ongoing programme of directly delivered modernisation and new building of schools. Above with the MEP, pupils and Head Teacher are Mike Weir MP and Cllrs Brian Milne and Sheena Welsh, who are Convener and Vice-Convener of Education.



During a combined campaigning and surgery tour Ian Hudghton MEP visited Keith, where Moray Cllr. Pearl Paul arranged a visit to the newly established Keith Business Centre, which was constructed partly using European funding. Cllr. Paul is pictured above with the MEP, a local farmer who visited the mobile surgery and Gordon PPC Alasdair Allan.

IAN HUDGHTON'S DIARY

3-4 JUNE

Visit to French Prison Service with Stewart Stevenson MSP

5-7 JUNE

Group Meetings, Brussels

8 JUNE

SNP National Executive, Edinburgh

10-13 JUNE

EP Plenary Session, Strasbourg

15 JUNE

SNP North East Reg. Meeting, Dundee

16 JUNE

SNP Central Reg. Meeting, Polmont

17 JUNE

North East Fisheries Development Partnership meeting, Aberdeen

18-21 JUNE

Committee meetings, Brussels

24-26 JUNE

G/EFA Group meetings, Brussels

26 JUNE

Blairgowrie High School Prize-Giving

28 JUNE

Governance Seminar, Dundee University

29 JUNE

Portsoy Boat Festival

1-4 JULY

EP Plenary Session, Strasbourg

6 JULY

HMS Montrose Freedom of Angus Ceremony, Montrose

8-11 JULY

Committee meetings, Brussels

13 JULY

SNP National Executive, Edinburgh

Kirriemuir Show

16-18 JULY

Committee meetings, Brussels

19 JULY - 25 AUGUST

EP Summer Recess/Variou Constituency Activities

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