

EUROPARL



THE REGULAR NEWSLETTER OF SNP EURO-MP

IAN HUDGHTON

1 JAN – 28 FEB 2003

ISSUE 35

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT BOOST FOR EU FISHERIES COMPENSATION PACKAGE

SNP Euro MP Ian Hudghton was instrumental in securing a vote in the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament calling for the EU to allocate 150 million euros of extra funding to compensate Scotland's fishing communities. MEPs supported a crucial amendment tabled by Mr Hudghton which ensures that the money would be over and above that already allocated by the states involved. The European Parliament move came just days after UK Fisheries Minister Elliot Morley stated that he would not go "cap in hand" to Europe for additional funding. Mr Hudghton said:

"I welcome this vote which is the first stage in securing vital EU funds to compensate our coastal communities. MEPs of all political persuasions from around Europe agreed that the EU created the current crisis - and that the EU should therefore help compensate our communities.

"Both the Scottish and UK governments have been shamed on this issue. Ross Finnie is too afraid to ask for the money for fear of upsetting his London Labour masters. Likewise, Elliot Morley is scared of upsetting his superiors in Downing Street.

"Politicians from around Europe seem to be fighting for Scotland's industry harder than the hapless duo of Finnie and Morley. It's time that Scotland had a government which is able and willing to stand up for Scotland's rights."



SNP TEAM FLY THE FLAG FOR BROUGHTY FERRY BEACH

SNP members are joining forces in the European and Scottish Parliaments and in Dundee City Council to call for the Scottish Executive to recognise Broughty Ferry Beach as a designated bathing beach. Ian Hudghton MEP, Shona Robison MSP and local Councillor Ken Guild planted a symbolic European flag on the beach recently while urging the Scottish Executive to have the beach designated under the European Directive. Explaining the background, MEP Ian Hudghton said:

"The countries of the EU have seen the potential of designating sea and fresh water bathing beaches, with many thousands of sites designated since the 1976 Directive came into force. And it's not just the sun-kissed shores of Greece, Spain and Italy. Denmark has over 1,000. Even land-locked Austria has 267 fresh water designations! Why has Scotland only a total of 60? - because the Scottish Executive have dragged their heels over this issue for far too long!"

MEP and MSP in FALKIRK VISITS

MSP Michael Matheson and MEP Ian Hudghton visited Bantaskin Primary School, speaking with senior pupils about their respective Parliaments. The Parliamentarians later paid a visit to the new Transbus plant where senior executives gave an interesting insight into the business of bus manufacture for their clients worldwide. At Falkirk Council HQ, Councillors presented an update on current economic development strategy, and other issues affecting the area.

HUDGHTON ISSUES CAP WARNING

SNP Euro MP Ian Hudghton has issued a stark warning to Scotland's rural communities to prepare themselves for the effects of the midterm review of the European Common Agricultural Policy. Speaking at the AGM of Sidlaw branch of the SNP Mr. Hudghton reported to members on his work in the European Parliament and in particular the recent sell-out of Scottish fishing by the UK and Scottish Ministers.

"The same Ministers who voted for the destruction of Scotland's coastal and island communities will be in charge of representing our interests at the Agriculture Council of Ministers. Although MEPs will fight hard for Scotland's rural interests, it is important to recognise that, like fisheries, European agriculture policy is ultimately decided upon by Ministers in the Council behind closed doors."

"The Scottish Minister can only attend if given a permit by Westminster. This is what we are up against and it is simply not good enough!"



P6s at Dunnikier Primary, Kirkcaldy thoroughly tested MEP Ian Hudghton recently in a Question & Answer session. The pupils invited Mr. Hudghton along after viewing his video as part of their EU studies project.



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





STUDENTS TO VISIT BRUSSELS

Students from Dundee College and University (above with leader Michelle Semple) along with students from Angus College, Arbroath are to visit the European Parliament in Brussels during March. The visit will be sponsored by Ian Hudghton MEP, who will lead a discussion session with the Group in the Parliament.



Alyth Branch SNP held their AGM recently, at which Ian Hudghton MEP presided over the election of office bearers pictured above. Cllr. Ian Miller outlined key campaign issues for the May 1st Local Authority elections.

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.



IN BRIEF

SNP MEP Ian Hudghton met with a large group of religious leaders from Scotland, organised by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland Rev. Dr. Finlay Macdonald, who were visiting the European Parliament in Brussels. The group included representatives of Scotland's Catholic, Muslim, Jewish, Free Kirk, Episcopal, Hindu and Sikh communities.

The world of the internet was the subject of a visit recently to Electric Scotland Ltd. in Grangemouth, when Company M.D. Alastair McIntyre demonstrated the power of the worldwide web to MEP Ian Hudghton. Electric Scotland's website is dedicated to providing information about Scotland's culture and history, and also hosts the website of the Scots Independent Newspaper.

www.electricscotland.com
www.scotsindependent.org

Scotland House in Brussels hosted their first video conference of 2003 on aquaculture. Local Councils provided links in Shetland, Inverness, Lochgilphead and Stornoway to allow an exchange of views between MEPs, including Ian Hudghton, and representatives of this industry which is of vital economic importance in many parts of Scotland.

Laurencekirk was the venue for a very well attended meeting of Mearns Probus Club in February at which Ian Hudghton MEP showed his video "Why a European Parliament?" and took part in a lively question session on subjects including the Euro currency, the fishing crisis, the prospects for Scottish agriculture and the general problem of "red tape" affecting local businesses.

Shadow Transport Minister Kenny MacAskill MSP joined Ian Hudghton MEP and Dundee based MSPs Shona Robison and Irene McGugan on a visit to Dundee Airport. Talks with management centred on the potential for development of additional services such as a direct link to a mainland European hub. The existing services to London City and Manchester continue to cater for business travellers as well as visitors to Tay-side, including golfers heading for Carnoustie and St. Andrews.

IAN HUDGHTON'S DIARY

26 FEBRUARY
Alyth SNP Branch AGM

27 FEBRUARY
Speak to students Dundee College
Campaigning, Dundee

28 FEBRUARY
Campaigning, Dundee

Mtg Electric Scotland,
Grangemouth

1 MARCH
Adoption meeting Brian Adam
MSP
Aberdeen

3-6 MARCH
Meet with Angus Council
Group meetings, Brussels

6 MARCH
BBC Public Meeting, Aberdeen

7-8 MARCH
SNP Campaign Conference, Balloch

10-13 MARCH
EP Plenary Session, Strasbourg

14-15 MARCH
Campaigning/ constituency work

17-19 MARCH
Fish./Agric. Committees, Brussels

20 MARCH
Campaigning, Gordon constituency

21 MARCH
Speyside High, Aberlour - Q & A
Session with S3-4 students

22 MARCH
SNP Peterhead Branch 40th Anniversary Event, Peterhead

23 MARCH
N. Tayside SNP CA AGM,
Dunkeld

24-25 MARCH
Budgets Committee, Brussels

26-27 MARCH
Plenary Session, Brussels

27 MARCH
Angus College and Dundee College students visit Brussels