

# EUROPARL



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

1 MAR-14 APR 2003

ISSUE 36

## SUTHERLAND CONSULTATION

SNP Euro MP Ian Hudghton accompanied Rob Gibson in North West Sutherland on a series of visits to Lochinver and Kinlochbervie. The main purpose was to encourage local fishing industry representatives to have their say in the SNP's consultation on a survival strategy for fishing dependent communities. Commenting Ian Hudghton said:

"The comments Rob Gibson and I heard were invaluable in the process of formulating a strategy for all of Scotland, whose fisheries interests have been so badly betrayed by UK governments in European negotiations."

At Kinlochbervie the local crofting community graphically illustrated the plight of this industry, especially in the light of unfavourable treatment arising from the current Less Favoured Areas scheme.

## MEP GOES ONLINE

Ian Hudghton MEP has launched a new information service in the form of a website, designed and maintained by Grangemouth-based Electric Scotland Ltd.

The site is intended to be informative and easy to navigate, with pages including the latest news of the SNP MEP's activities in Europe and around Scotland, as well as a selection of parliamentary speeches and press releases.

This latest edition of Europarl, along with back issues, can be viewed in full colour at:-

[www.hudghtonmep.com](http://www.hudghtonmep.com)



## NEW RESEARCH FUND FOR HIV/AIDS, TB AND MALARIA FIGHT

Ian Hudghton MEP and EFA Group colleague Jill Evans MEP of Plaid Cymru, the Party of Wales, joined forces at a Press Briefing in London to highlight a proposal for a new research project aimed at speeding up the development of new clinical methods in the fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis in developing countries. The MEPs are drafting Opinions for the European Parliament's Budgets and Women's Rights Committees respectively.

As part of the EU's sixth framework programme, the development programme brings together all 15 Member States and Norway and sets up a research and development programme entitled "The European and Developing countries Clinical Trials Programme" (EDCTP).

The five-year budget for the programme is some 600 million euros, with one third coming from the EU, one third from national research programmes and the final portion from the private sector. The programme is to be administered by a partnership board, which should reflect a balanced participation of experts from Member States, and from the developing countries involved in the EDCTP.

Ian Hudghton MEP, speaking in the Strasbourg debate on the subject, stressed that research activities linked directly to the development of new products and the improvement of existing products against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis should be suited to the specific requirements of developing countries, i.e. that they are effective, easy to use and as affordable as possible.

## SURVIVAL STRATEGY FOR FISHING COMMUNITIES

The SNP launched its widely consulted strategy for the survival of Scotland's fisheries dependent communities in Glasgow at the Fishing 2003 Exhibition.

Party Leader John Swinney, Fisheries Spokesperson Richard Lochhead and Euro MP Ian Hudghton jointly outlined the SNP commitment to our coastal and island communities, in contrast with the UK Unionist Parties' dismal record, especially in European fisheries policy negotiations.

## SCOTTISH GAMEKEEPERS IN EU STUDY VISIT

Representatives of the Scottish Gamekeepers Association paid their first official visit to the EU institutions in Brussels, to familiarise themselves at first hand with the workings of the European Commission, the Parliament and the Council of Ministers, and to make their own views known to key decision-makers.

A range of European Directives have in recent years had a major effect on Scotland's countryside. Directives on habitats, water framework and protection of birds and other wildlife species have had a significant effect on those who live and work in rural industries.

The delegation met with key officials of various departments of the European Commission, visited Scotland House, and also lobbied Scots MEPs including Ian Hudghton. The group, pictured left to right with the SNP MEP, are Alex Hogg, Davy Thomson and Bert Burnett.





During a recent visit to Ellon with Dr. Alasdair Allan and Cllr. Alan Cameron, Ian Hudghton MEP took the opportunity to hear of local concerns about the designation and controls arising from the EU's Nitrates Directive. Much of the area around Ellon and the Ythan Estuary is designated as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.



Spring Day in Europe, an EU-wide initiative to encourage young people to have their say about the future of Europe, was endorsed by Speyside High School in Aberlour, which Ian Hudghton MEP visited and debated EU issues with S3 and S4 classes. The lively series of discussions included the war in Iraq, the Euro currency, and the interests of Speyside distillers and farmers.

## SHEEP FARMERS' FEARS

David Thompson recently arranged with Ian Hudghton MEP to visit local farmers and representatives of the auction mart at Dingwall (pictured below), who highlighted the impractical nature of EU proposals for double-tagging of sheep. While accepting that there is a need for traceability, the local farming industry makes the point that in Scotland, SAMU (Sheep Animal Movements Unit) provides a practical solution already which ought to satisfy the European Commission's requirements. Commenting, Ian Hudghton said:

"I have already written to Ministers on this subject and will continue to press for a strong line to be taken on Scotland's behalf. The recent fisheries disaster, where the UK Minister went to Brussels and voted against Scotland's interests, must not be repeated in the forthcoming decisions on sheep identification and review of the Common Agriculture Policy."



**Peterhead's SNP Branch** celebrated the 40th anniversary of its founding in style with a dinner at the town's Palace Hotel.

Guest speakers were Alex Salmond MP, Stewart Stevenson MSP, Ian Hudghton MEP, former East Aberdeenshire MP Douglas Henderson and founder member Bob Ritchie.

Ian Hudghton MEP (below), paid tribute to the branch's role in the successful Euro Election of 1994 which saw the late Dr Allan Macartney elected in the North-East, and at the 1998 by-election where the SNP held the Euro seat with a massive majority.



## IAN HUDGHTON'S DIARY

3-5 APRIL

Campaign visits with David Thompson in the Black Isle and Beaully, and Rob Gibson in North West Sutherland.

7 APRIL

Campaigning West Aberdeenshire & Kincardine with Ian Angus

8 APRIL

Campaigning Dundee East with Shona Robison

9 APRIL

Campaigning Aberdeen North and South with Brian Adam and Maureen Watt

10 APRIL

Fishing 2003 Exhibition, Glasgow

11 APRIL

Campaigning Newtongrange

15 APRIL

Campaigning Dundee West with Irene McGugan

16 APRIL

Campaigning Aberdeen

17 APRIL

Campaigning Montrose and Arbroath

18 APRIL

Campaigning in Buckie

19 APRIL

Campaigning Inverness East, Nairn & Lochaber with Fergus Ewing

21-23 APRIL

Fisheries Committee mtgs Brussels

24 -26 APRIL

Campaigning/constituency work

28-30 APRIL

Agriculture & Budgets Committee mtgs, Brussels

1 MAY

Scottish Parliament & Council Elections

6-8 MAY

Group meetings, Brussels  
Seafood Europe Expo, Brussels

9 MAY

Aberdeen Schools Europe Day Competition Prize-Giving

10 MAY

SNP National Executive Committee, Edinburgh

12-15 MAY

Plenary Session, Strasbourg

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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.

