



EUROPARL



ISSUE 38

26 MAY-18 JULY 2003



IN BRIEF

Ian Hudghton returned to his old school, Langlands Primary in Forfar, recently to answer questions from P6s on Europe and his job as an MEP.

The weekend of Winnie's Highland Fling in Buckie, where Ian joined a large company to toast Madame Ecosse on her lifetime of dedication to the cause of Independence, coincided with a Solar Eclipse which Ian and a crowd of early morning enthusiasts witnessed from the seafront at Lossiemouth.

In June Ian took part in a lively discussion at London Branch SNP who had invited the MEP to speak to the membership about Fisheries policy. The MEP said: "It is highly appropriate to be speaking in London about Scotland's fishing crisis, since it is here that many of our problems arise, through misrepresentation in Europe, which sadly remains a responsibility of the Westminster Government."

EU LEGAL ADVISER BACKS SNP FISHERIES FEARS

In a frank statement to the European Parliament Fisheries Committee, a top European Union lawyer has backed SNP fears over the proposal to designate 'marine biological resource conservation' an exclusive EU competence under the draft constitution recently presented to member state governments by the European Convention.

Responding to questioning from MEPs, the European Parliament's own legal adviser, Matthew Moore, stated that "exclusive competence" means giving a power to the EU "in perpetuity", with "little possibility of changing the situation for perhaps 50 years". Commenting Ian Hudghton MEP said:

"This advice starkly illustrates the danger for Scotland's fishing communities from allowing any part of the

CFP to be entrenched in a constitution, and why the SNP have been seeking deletion of the reference to exclusive EU competence."

"In my view no part of the CFP should be immune from change. On the contrary, the CFP is not working and requires to be either rewritten or scrapped.

"I have written to Ben Bradshaw MP, the UK's new Fisheries Minister, calling on him to ensure that the UK Government give a commitment to delete the CFP reference from the list of proposed exclusive competencies."

"The fact that Scotland will not have a vote in the IGC which will finalise this EU constitution is yet another example of the need for independence, with a voice and vote at the top table."

HUDGHTON SEEKS TOUGHENING OF GM RULES

Ian Hudghton, SNP Member of the European Parliament, has welcomed decisions taken by MEPs in Strasbourg to toughen up labelling and traceability rules on genetically modified food and feed. The new labelling scheme now means that products such as oil and sugar, which under current rules do not have to be labelled, will now be covered. And crucially, the new rules also give Member States the right to adopt measures to prevent GM contamination of conventional and organic crops. Mr Hudghton said:

"This is good news for European consumers who want to know just exactly

what they're buying and eating. Under the old rules some products, although produced from 100% GM raw materials, did not have to be labelled as such. In future all GM food will have to be labelled whether the genetic modification is detectable in the final product or not.

"Of critical importance to Scots meat producers is that mandatory labelling will apply to animal feed, enabling producers to avoid GM and ensure that our meat products can be kept GM free. My preference would be for zero-tolerance of GM in Scotland but these regulations provide a much tougher regime than exists currently."

MEP HAILS SUMMER TOUR SUCCESS

Ian Hudghton MEP has just completed a highly successful programme of mobile surgeries and visits in the Gordon and Banff & Buchan constituencies. With his mobile caravan office, Ian called at 10 towns and villages over a two-day period, enabling constituents to bring issues to his attention and to seek information about the progress of various EU legislative proposals.

During the tour, along with Banff & Buchan MSP Stewart Stevenson, Mr Hudghton met with the Chairman and Secretary of the Scottish White Fish Producers Association to hear their views on the forthcoming long-term Cod recovery plans which are being discussed in Brussels. Commenting after his tour Mr Hudghton said:

“This multi-centre surgery tour was a great success, attracting a high level of interest and providing a means of direct contact between constituents and their MEP. Issues discussed ranged from agriculture and fisheries to environmental concerns and the interests of small businesses.”



Ian Hudghton MEP accompanied by Huntly Cllr Joanna Strathdee visited the impressive facilities at the Faraway Riding and Recreation Centre near Forgue.

ANIMAL TRANSPORT PLANS MUST CATER FOR RURAL & ISLAND SCOTLAND

Commenting on the recent publication of the European Commission's proposals for tighter restrictions on transport of animals for slaughter, Ian Hudghton MEP is demanding that due account be taken of the realities facing Scotland's rural and island livestock producers.

“Scotland produces some of the best, naturally reared, high quality livestock in the world, and it is in producers own interests to ensure that no harm comes to animals while in transit, but in framing new rules, the EU must recognise that remote rural and island areas require to be catered for. Many small scale abattoirs have been forced out of business by EU regulation, meaning that producers often have no alternative but to send their animals to distant facilities.

“During the passage of this new proposal through the European Parliament I will be calling for a sensible compromise in order to enable Scotland's geographic situation to be taken due account of.”

OLIVER AWARD ANNUAL LUNCH

MEP Ian Hudghton was delighted to be invited to give the speech “Toast to the SP” at this year's annual presentation of the Oliver Brown Award to well known radio presenter Iain Anderson. Mr. Anderson in his acceptance speech entertained the large audience with a wide range of humorous and serious anecdotes.

IAN HUDGHTON'S DIARY

5 JULY

SNP National Assembly, Cumbernauld
Aberdeen North SNP Victory Celebrations

7 JULY

Meet with Angus Council reps.

8-9 JULY

Fisheries Committee, Brussels

9 JULY

Meeting with DEFRA officials, London

12 JULY

SNP National Executive Committee, Edinburgh

14-15 JULY

Surgery/Visit Tour of Banff & Buchan and Gordon Constituencies

17 AUGUST

North East Euro Selection meeting, Arbroath

23 AUGUST

Alyth SNP Coffee Morning

25-28 AUGUST

Group meetings, Brussels

1-4 SEPTEMBER

Plenary Session, Strasbourg

5 SEPTEMBER

Meeting & discussion with Breadalbane Academy students, Aberfeldy, with Pete Wishart MP

8-9 SEPTEMBER

Fisheries Committee, Brussels

9-12 SEPTEMBER

EP Fisheries Committee delegation visit to Edinburgh & the West of Scotland

13 SEPTEMBER

SNP National Executive Committee, Edinburgh

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

Website: www.hudghtonmep.com



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

www.hudghtonmep.com