



# EUROPARL



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Elgin based newspaper *The Northern Scot* despatched correspondent Leanne Carter, pictured above in the Hemicycle, to shadow Ian Hudghton MEP as part of preparations for a major feature on the European Parliament. The itinerary included a plenary session in Strasbourg, and return via the House of Commons in London to an event organised by SNP and Plaid Cymru Members to celebrate the Enlargement of the European Union.



*Crudie Primary School, Near Turriff* was one of the latest in a series of visits by Ian Hudghton MEP to take part in P5-7 class project on the European Union.

## EUROPE DAY

Letham Hall, Angus

Sunday 23 May 2.30 pm

Thought Provoking Presentations by

RON GREER

RICHARD LOCHHEAD  
MSP

IAN HUDGHTON MEP

Compare Scotland's position in Europe and the world with our nearest neighbours, whose independence guarantees a place at the EU Top Table.

## SNP HIGHLIGHTS SCOTTISH INTEREST TO EU

Ian Hudghton MEP recently arranged for Shadow First Minister Mr John Swinney MSP, and a delegation of senior SNP parliamentarians, to meet the Irish Presidency of the EU in Strasbourg, to make the case for protecting the fishing industry as part of discussions on finalising the pending European Constitution.

The Scottish National Party leader met with Irish Minister of State for Europe Mr Dick Roche TD at the European Parliament along with SNP European colleagues, Ian



Hudghton MEP and Professor Neil MacCormick MEP, and SNP Foreign Affairs spokesman Angus Robertson MP. Mr Roche is currently leading the process seeking agreement on the draft European Union Constitution on behalf of the Irish Government, which currently holds the European Union Presidency. Speaking after meeting Mr Roche, John Swinney said:

“The SNP has taken the case for protecting the Scottish fishing industry as a key national interest direct to the Presidency of the EU. We have repeated our concerns about the treatment of the fishing industry, and the need to secure the removal of exclusive competence over fisheries from the draft EU Constitution.

“Ireland’s government is working hard to finalise the draft European constitution in the weeks ahead. Minister Roche, who is leading the discussions for the Irish Presidency and who met with us today, accepted the seriousness of the arguments we are putting forward. He recognised the need to ensure the Constitution could be widely supported and acknowledged the depth of concern over fisheries that exists in Scotland. He said that he hoped to factor in as many of the points we raised today as possible in the final negotiations on the Constitution.”

Commenting, SNP European Group leader Ian Hudghton MEP said: “This was an excellent meeting and it is clear that the Irish government is keen to do everything to secure a referendum-proof European Constitution. Ireland is demonstrating how effective a small country can be in key EU developments by its leadership on reforming the Union. It is a real step forward to have a government that understands Scotland’s problems and is doing everything in its powers to address those issues.

“The key now is for the UK government to respond to the current debate on fisheries and to act in Scotland’s interests during ongoing negotiations. We have made clear the SNP will only support the European Constitution in a referendum if the proposed exclusive competence on fisheries is removed.”

## EFA SEMINAR IN ABERDEEN

In conjunction with the SNP Conference in Aberdeen, the European Free Alliance staged a lunch-time meeting to inform delegates of developments in the enlarging EU. Guest speakers were Ireland’s Environment and Local Government Minister Pat the Cope Gallagher TD, and Georgian politician Sviad Mukbaniani. The panel included SNP MEPs Ian Hudghton and Neil MacCormick and Foreign Affairs Spokesperson MP Angus Robertson



# HUDGHTON SIGNS THE PLEDGE!

At the April plenary session of the European Parliament in Strasbourg SNP MEP Ian Hudghton re-affirmed his support for the cross party Campaign for Parliament Reform. A member of the campaign group since its formation, Mr Hudghton signed up to a 3 part pledge card which calls for an end to the ridiculous and expensive monthly commute between Brussels and Strasbourg. The pledge also seeks to improve accountability through a new and clear code of conduct for MEPs, and the establishment of a more transparent expenses regime.



Commenting Mr. Hudghton said: "In practice most of our work is now done in Brussels and yet we are compelled to uproot and travel to Strasbourg once a month for plenary sessions of Parliament. The enormous cost and inconvenience of this cannot be justified in the light of the many pressures on public finances. Unfortunately a decision to leave Strasbourg can only be taken by member state governments, and I therefore call upon Tony Blair to raise this at the forthcoming IGC."



Inverallochy Hall in Banff & Buchan was the venue for a highly successful Daffodil Tea, organised by the local branch of the SNP. Member of the Scottish Parliament Stewart Stevenson and MP Alex Salmond were joined by Ian Hudghton MEP at the event. Local residents took the opportunity to quiz the MEP about the ongoing problems with the CFP.

## MEP IN ST ANDREWS PARLIAMENT HALL DEBATE

Following a well attended and lively 4-party European Question Time debate hosted by St Andrews University, Ian Hudghton



MEP enjoyed a tour of the historic venue, Parliament Hall, where local historian Kenneth Fraser explained that one of the chairs on display is believed to be that used by the President of the Scottish Parliament when it met in the Hall in 1645. A former staff member of the St. Andrews University Library, Mr. Fraser was also able to give a fascinating insight to the collection of portraits on display.

## IAN HUDGHTON

Scottish National Party Member of the European Parliament

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## IAN HUDGHTON'S DIARY

- 19-21 APRIL  
EP Plenary Session, Strasbourg
- 21 APRIL  
EU Enlargement Event, House of Commons, London
- 22 APRIL  
Public meeting, Pitlochry
- 23 APRIL  
Visit Beechwood School, Aberdeen
- 23-24 APRIL  
SNP Conference, Aberdeen
- 26-27 APRIL  
Committee meetings, Brussels
- 28 APRIL  
Visit Meldrum Academy, Old Meldrum
- 29 APRIL  
Meet University of Highlands & Islands students, Brussels
- 30 APRIL  
EU Enlargement Commemoration, Dundee University
- 2 MAY  
Angus SNP selection meeting, Arbroath
- 3-6 MAY  
EP Plenary session, Strasbourg
- 6 MAY  
SNP meeting, Montrose
- 7 MAY  
Award Presentation, Angus College Arbroath
- Visit Milltimber Primary School, Aberdeen
- Europe Day Prize Presentation, Summerhill Centre, Aberdeen
- 8 MAY  
SNP National Executive, Edinburgh
- 10 MAY  
Fisheries Conference, Ullapool
- Cross Party Debate, Ullapool



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