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SNP MEP Ian Hudghton has written to Shetland Islands Council Convener Sandy Cluness on behalf of constituents in Foula, who have expressed concern about the relocation of their ferry service to mainland Shetland.

"I have been contacted by constituents in Foula, who are deeply concerned about the future of their ferry service, which the Inter Island Ferries Board is undertaking a consultation upon." said Mr Hudghton.

"The preservation of a Foula based ferry service seems to me to be an essential contributor to the maintenance of a viable community on the island, and I seek an assurance that the SIC will not relocate the ferry and crew to mainland Shetland against the wishes of Foula residents."

KEY COMMITTEE PLACES FOR SNP

Ian Hudghton MEP has secured membership of 3 of the European Parliament's 20 committees. He will continue to serve on the Fisheries Committee, and has been appointed Co-ordinator for the Greens/EFA Group and in that role will have an input to the Committee's agenda planning and allocation of Reports.

Ian will also be a member of the Internal Market & Consumer Protection and Economic & Monetary Affairs Committees.

ABERDEEN OFFICE CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please note a change of address of my Aberdeen Office. Jointly with Brian Adam MSP, I have moved to larger premises. Contact details are on page 2.

HUDGHTON TO LEAD PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Euro-MPs from the European Free Alliance (EFA) Parliamentary Group (pictured below) have elected the Scottish National Party's Ian Hudghton MEP as group leader. Mr Hudghton succeeds the Flemish Euro-MP Nelly Maes as President of the EFA Group, which draws together political parties from the stateless nations of Europe. In the European Parliament, European Free Alliance MEPs have re-established a common group with Greens from across Europe. The grouping, fourth largest in the European Parliament, totals 42 MEPs. Mr Hudghton, who will also be Vice President of the Greens/EFA Parliamentary Group, commented:

"It is an honour to be elected by colleagues to this position and I'm proud to accept this new role. Fighting for the interests of those countries which are not yet not fully represented at the European level is much enhanced by being part of a sizeable group in the European Parliament. I thank my fellow MEPs for their support and assure them I look forward to working with them to further the cause of Europe's stateless nations in the years to come. We have a huge task ahead of us over the five years of this Parliament. There will be crucial debates to be had about the Common Fisheries Policy, reform of European funding programmes, reform of the European institutions and further enlargement of the EU.

It's vital that those small countries like Scotland, (whose interests have been so consistently let down over the years by successive UK governments) have their voices heard. I am confident that this new role, in partnership within a larger parliamentary group, can only help further the campaign for Scottish Independence."

Vice Presidents of the Group will be Bernat Joan i Marí (Esquerra Republicana de Catalunya) and Jill Evans (Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales).





Local SNP parliamentarians Ian Hudghton MEP, John Swinney MSP and Mike Weir MP attended the annual Kirriemuir Agricultural Show. As well as supporting the local SNP information and fundraising stall, they toured the show and met with agriculture industry representatives.

MEP WARNS OF EUROPEAN CITY GUIDE SCAM

Ian Hudghton MEP has warned business against a publication known as the "European City Guide."

Businesses receive unsolicited order forms which, if signed, threaten to cost companies hundreds of pounds. This scam has been operating for a number of years, and a new wave of application forms have recently been sent, including to Mr. Hudghton's own office in Dundee.

"My advice to anyone who is contacted by the European City Guide is not to sign anything. The tiny print at the foot of this "offer" ties subscribers to two years of worthless advertising at a cost of over £1200. From past experience I know that advertisers receive a torrent of threatening letters seeking payment. I have again raised my concerns with Trading Standards Officers and with the European Commission."

HUDGHTON CHALLENGES NEW COMMISSION PRESIDENT OVER FISHERIES

SNP Euro MP Ian Hudghton has challenged the new President of the European Commission directly over the EU's failed management of Scotland's fishing industry. José Manuel Barroso - who has stood down as Portuguese Prime Minister - was tackled in a head-to-head meeting with SNP group MEPs in a meeting at the European Parliament in Brussels. Mr Barroso acknowledged the importance of the EU's traditional fishing fleets but failed to give any assurances over a major rethink in fisheries management policy. Speaking after the meeting, Mr Hudghton said:

"Mr. Barroso acknowledged that the EU's management of fisheries has been a failure. He also acknowledged the need to maintain our traditional fishing fleets and the importance of these to coastal communities. However, he seemed perfectly happy for the existing CFP to continue - at the very time when Scotland's fishing industry is on its knees.

"Scotland's fishermen need much more than warm words if their industry is to survive. Respect for traditional fleets is meaningless if these fleets are unable to ply their trade, are unable to catch fish and are increasingly sent to the scrap yard. What our fishing dependent communities need is Scottish control over Scotland's fishing resources."

IAN HUDGHTON

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IAN HUDGHTON'S DIARY

15 JUNE

Topping out ceremony, Carnoustie coastal protection scheme.

16 JUNE

Guest speaker, Nairn CAB AGM

17 JUNE

Campaigning, Buckie by election

21-24 JUNE

Group meetings, Brussels

26 JUNE

SNP National Council, Stirling

27 JUNE

Chairing Dundee West SNP selection Meeting

28 JUNE

Q & A session, Fyvie Primary School

29-30 JUNE

Group Meetings, Brussels

1 JULY

Official opening, Outreach Centre, Angus College, Arbroath

SNP regional Meeting, Aberdeen

2 JULY

Portsoy Boat Festival event

5-9 JULY

Group Meetings, Brussels

10 JULY

SNP National Executive, Edinburgh

12-16 JULY

Group Meetings, Brussels

17 JULY

Kirriemuir Agricultural Show

19-23 JULY

EP Plenary session, Strasbourg

26- 30 JULY

Committee Meetings, Brussels

30 JULY

Forfar Food Festival, Glamis

1 AUGUST

Turriff Agricultural Show



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