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SNP HIGHLIGHT ROSYTH-RIGA POTENTIAL IN "SEA MOTORWAYS"
PROPOSALS

Ian Hudghton, SNP MEP, says the findings of a transport report being discussed in the Strasbourg Parliament today are welcome news for the ferry terminal at Rosyth. Commenting on the Commission's White Paper "European Transport Policy for 2010: Time to Decide", the Scots MEP said the Commission believes that sea transport is currently under-utilised and is encouraging major expansion in this sector. This, the MEP says is great news for the Fife port.

Summarising the White Paper, Mr Hudghton said:

"The report recognises that parts of the European transport network are severely congested and the detrimental knock-on effect this has on the environment and on public health. Transport hotspots also inhibit the ease with which goods and people can be moved round the continent – an underlying principle of the EU. The report concludes that our roads are congested while some of our seaways are ripe for expansion.

"It proposes that "high-capacity north-south and east-west corridors" be developed and expanded to cater for the eastern expansion of the European utilising modern sea-ports as transport network hubs serving busy "sea motorways." Rosyth fits the bill already. Gone are the days when, to get to continental Europe Scots added to England's congestion due to the need to drive south to the Channel ports. The Rosyth-Zeebrugge route has proved its worth already and has won positive feedback from those (including myself) who have used it to travel to mainland Europe.

"The Commission's report is the blueprint for transport planning 21st century style. What we need is for our Scottish Parliamentarians to gear up for these changes and to start working positively to expand the Fife port's role in the enlarged European Union. This report gives Rosyth a green light to become one of Europe's major transport hubs."

Bruce Crawford, SNP MSP for Mid-Scotland and Fife and a long-time campaigner for the Rosyth link, backing Mr Hudghton's comments added,

"Just look at the map of Europe and you'll see how beautifully placed Rosyth is for access to the Baltic, via the North Sea and the Skagerrak to the ports of Latvia and Estonia, with all points to Scandinavia and Poland in between. The "Rosyth to Riga Sea Motorway" has a certain ring to it! With Europe expanding eastwards and the report MEP's are discussing today, Rosyth's future looks very bright indeed."

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