

PRESS RELEASE

Attn: NEWS DESKS, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENTS, SPORTS DESKS

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RECOGNISES TARTAN ARMY

The SNP group in the European Parliament this week celebrated a spectacular victory on behalf of Scottish football and the Tartan Army. The Nationalist MEP's successfully tabled three amendments to a legislative report on violence in international football - ensuring that Scottish fans escape being shown the red card should fans from one of the other UK teams misbehave during international competitions. As the original report stood, Scotland's special status in having our own football team though not yet being independent, would not have been recognised. Crucially, the fans of the four national sides would all have been treated as UK supporters and liable for the behaviour of other team's supporters.

Commenting after the result, a delighted Ian Hudghton MEP said:

"The Tartan Army can celebrate a famous Scottish victory in receiving special recognition from the very heart of Europe. The SNP has scored a spectacular goal in getting Scotland's independent status in international football recognised by the EU. We were overwhelmed by the level of support our amendments received, with only a handful of MEP's voting against.

"The European Parliament result officially ensures that the Tartan Army's reputation can remain intact: Scotland's fans will be judged on the merit of their own behaviour – not on the behaviour of anyone else. They have proved themselves to be wonderful ambassadors for Scotland over the years and their impeccable reputation has led to them receiving "Fair Play" awards on numerous occasions. It is therefore fitting that the European Parliament has given the Tartan Army the thumbs up they deserve."

