

# PRESS RELEASE

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## HUDGHTON SEEKS AID FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

Ian Hudghton MEP (Scottish National Party) has written to the President of the European Commission, Romano Prodi and to Pat Cox MEP, President of the European Parliament, asking them to indicate what assistance the European Union plans to devote to aid the parts of eastern Europe deluged by this week's floods. In Scotland too, which has not escaped this summer's freak weather, many people have been profoundly shocked by news reports from popular tourist destinations like Prague and Salzburg, prompting the MEP to see what plans the EU has to help out the areas hit by flooding.

In his letter to the President of the European Parliament, Mr Hudghton writes:

"I know you will have shared my sorrow and shock as reports of the severe flooding in parts of Eastern Europe have emerged. As you are aware, while some of the areas hit are already in the European Union, such as Saxony in Germany, many of the worst affected areas are in the candidate countries of the Czech Republic and Silesia. I also take this opportunity to point out that Scotland has not escaped unscathed and that, while our flooding has been much less widespread than that of eastern Europe, many communities still face considerable costs to restore essential road and rail networks damaged earlier this month.

It is being estimated that total clean-up costs will amount to millions of euros across the board and I do believe that the European Union has an obligation to provide as much assistance as we possibly can, both in physical and financial terms, to aid the flood-stricken regions.

I have written to Commissioner Prodi asking him what steps the Commission has taken or is planning to take to alleviate the plight of European citizens, resulting from the horrendous effects of this summer's torrential rainfall. I would be obliged if you could confirm that the Parliament will make time to debate the tragic circumstances which have unfolded this week and that you will seek the Parliament's backing for the necessary aid to be made available to the areas worst hit."

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