

# PRESS RELEASE

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Attn: NEWS DESKS & POLITICAL CORRESPONDENTS

## **SNP SUPPORT FOR SCOTTISH AND EUROPEAN IDENTITY**

### **"WITH INDEPENDENCE SCOTLAND CAN FLOURISH IN EUROPE" - HUDGHTON**

Commenting today on the publication of a survey on national and European identities, SNP Euro-MP Ian Hudghton MEP expressed disappointment that the survey was seemingly unable to take account of Scottish feelings. The survey, published by the European Commission, found that 71% of UK citizens "see themselves only as British"; however, this cannot be reconciled with other recent surveys which show that increasing numbers of Scots feel no British identity.

Mr Hudghton commented:

"The idea that over 70% of people see themselves as being only British simply does not apply to Scotland - the Commission presumably interviewed a tiny number of Scots. The most recent survey in Scotland found that 37% of Scots feel no British identity at all, and over two-thirds feel more Scottish than British. Whilst the Commission's survey is perhaps a small example of Scotland's views not being heard in Europe, it is entirely symbolic of Scotland's voicelessness in the EU.

"The survey also shows that people in small independent countries are far more comfortable with a joint national and European identity than those in the UK as a whole. The SNP are comfortable with this view for Scotland too, and look forward to Scotland playing a full and constructive role in the EU. Only with Independence can Scotland flourish in Europe - and only with Independence can our voice be properly heard."

## Notes to editors

- The Commission findings are published in an information note on the Eurobarometer 56 survey.
- The survey shows that only 26% of people in the UK feel some sort of joint national and European identity. This compares with 41% in Ireland and 58% in Denmark.
- The most recent British Social Attitudes Survey shows that 37% of people in Scotland regard themselves as "Scottish, not British" and a further 31% regard themselves as "more Scottish than British". Only 21% feel "equally Scottish and British".