

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE: 20 DECEMBER 2002

MEP JOINS COD CRUSADERS IN LAST DITCH PLEA

SNP Member of the European Parliament's Fisheries Committee, Ian Hudghton, has delivered a last ditch plea to Ross Finnie MSP from Cod Crusaders Carol MacDonald, Morag Ritchie and Caroline Bruce.

The MEP, who has been in regular contact with the community campaigners from Brussels where he is awaiting the outcome of the talks, spoke by phone to Carol MacDonald this afternoon, and took delivery of the attached fax message which he hand delivered to the UK delegation who are still locked in the marathon talks in the Belgian city.

The message reads:

URGENT MESSAGE FROM THE COD CRUSADERS

To: Ross Finnie MSP

20 December 2002

Dear Mr Finnie

We sympathise with you at this moment. We understand that you are trying your best, but your best is simply not good enough.

Please try harder as we face, imminently, a war within our communities.

Signed

The Cod Crusaders
(Carol MacDonald, Morag Ritchie, Caroline Bruce)

ENDS-