

# PRESS RELEASE

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Attn: NEWS DESKS & POLITICAL CORRESPONDENTS

## **SNP SECURES DEBATE ON TORY "CHEAT" COMMENTS**

SNP Euro MP Ian Hudghton MEP today secured a debate in the European parliament on recent comments by Scottish Tory MEP Struan Stevenson in which he branded Scottish fishermen "cheats". Mr Hudghton yesterday wrote a letter to Mr Stevenson asking him to clarify the comments. In response, Mr Stevenson - who conceded that his comments were made in his personal capacity as a Tory MEP and not as Chair of the Fisheries Committee - proposed that the Committee has a full discussion on the matter at a future meeting. Mr Hudghton commented:

"I'm delighted that SNP pressure on this issue will lead to a full and open debate. Struan Stevenson's comments caused deep offence in Scotland's fishing communities at a time when they are experiencing great hardship.

"The debate will give the SNP an opportunity to defend our fishermen from these wild accusations. Struan Stevenson ought to be defending them too - instead of making ignorant speeches aimed at pleasing the Tory party faithful."

### Notes for editors

- Struan Stevenson proposed the debate during the Chairman's announcements in today's European parliament Fisheries Committee meeting in Brussels.
- A copy of Ian Hudghton's letter to Mr Stevenson is available from his Brussels office.