

PRESS RELEASE AND PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

Embargo – 6.00 am Monday 4 November 2002

**DUNDEE to BRUSSELS – 4 HOURS!**

No stranger to early morning departures, SNP MEP Ian Hudghton has jumped at the chance of using the new Eastern Airways flights to Manchester. He's a passenger on the very first flight out of Dundee - departing Monday 4 November at 6.30 am. After a quick turnaround at Manchester, he boards the 9.00 am flight to Brussels, reaching his destination at 11.20 am (Central European Time). Total travelling time, Dundee to Brussels – four hours.

Mr Hudghton who until now, has routed his journeys to work through Edinburgh, says the best thing about flying out from Dundee is avoiding the traffic-congested roads around Edinburgh airport and the battle for a parking spot. The MEP, already a regular user of the Dundee/London City air link for onward travel to Strasbourg, says:

“The Manchester link is a real boon for business travellers from Tayside and Fife who, like me, regularly travel to European destinations. Although time-wise, going from Dundee or from Edinburgh can work out about the same, it's great not to have the nerve-jangling drive across the Forth when congestion, roadworks or bad weather so often snarl up the traffic.”

Welcoming the new services from Dundee, Councillor Ken Guild, Economic Development spokesperson for the SNP Group on the City Council said:

“Ian and I wish Eastern Airways and Dundee Airport every success in this new venture. This is a positive step in helping open up Dundee, Tayside and Fife to mainland Europe. Of course, the SNP sees no reason why Dundee shouldn't have its own direct flights to continental Europe and will continue to push for an expansion of Scotland's air network.”

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