

# PRESS RELEASE

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Attn: News desks & Fish correspondents

## **PROCESSORS MUST HAVE PROPER ACCESS TO STRUCTURAL FUNDS**

Commenting today at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, SNP Euro-MP, Ian Hudghton, welcomed the initiative of German MEP Brigitte Langenhagen on drafting a report on the Fish Processing Industry. Mr. Hudghton went on to stress the need for a greater attention to be paid to processors in the allocation of structural funds and the implementation of EU legislation:

“I am very happy that this report is giving us the opportunity to highlight the specific needs of the processing sector. The sector is all too often neglected when it comes to assessing the impact of CFP management measures, and other EU legislation, particularly in the environmental field.

“I have therefore tabled amendments which call on the European Commission to fully recognise that in fisheries dependent communities every job at sea represents four to five jobs onshore. Specifically, processors must have full access to structural funds given that the industry is adversely affected by management measures, including real-time closures, recovery plans and decommissioning.

“And when it comes to other EU legislation, the Wastewater Directive is a prime example of where the needs and concerns of the Processing Industry have not been adequately assessed, resulting in negative economic and social consequences. However, in this regard, I have also highlighted innovation in the sector, such as the recent establishment of a water recycling system by a Producer in Peterhead. I have tabled an amendment which requests that the European Commission provides necessary financial and scientific support to the Processing Industry to encourage and facilitate processors to set up water recycling systems in order to cut effluent discharge and reduce long-term water usage and costs.

## Processors must have Proper Access to Structural Funds ctd

“Finally I have called on the European Commission to ensure that the processing sector be fully considered in the current proposals for reforming the CFP, and that the industry be integrated into the decision-making of the CFP with processors appropriately represented in the proposed Regional Advisory or Management Committees under a system of zonal management.”

- Ends.