

JAMIE HEPBURN MSP

Serving Central Scotland

Scottish Parliamentary Newsletter from Jamie Hepburn MSP.
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Jamie would like to wish his constituents the very best for the festive season. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Parliamentary Debate on the Scottish Government's European Union

The Parliament debated Scotland's European Union Priorities on Thursday, the 8th of November. Jamie took part in the debate and made some points about how Scotland can attain greater influence in the European Union. Some of what he said is below:

"I know that my colleagues in the Government will not mind when I say that although I support that measure [a Scottish minister on the fisheries council], I believe that it is only a half measure, albeit a welcome one. As long as we remain suspended in the halfway house of devolution, half measures might sometimes be all that we can take. Any logical analysis of the situation will lead to the realisation that Scotland's position in the EU would be better served by its being an independent, full member state."

"In July 2006, Margot Wallström, the vice-president of the European Commission, said that big states do not have the same clout in the EU that they once had. Power now resides with small members such as Luxembourg, Malta and Cyprus and with medium-sized members such as Ireland, Denmark and Finland. John Park suggested that Scotland punches above its weight in the EU, but the real issue is that all the countries that I have just listed have greater weight in the EU than we do. I look forward to the day when Scotland joins those states as a member of the EU."



Jamie is pictured visiting Mr and Mrs Clark of Carfin, a couple who have benefited from the Scottish Government Central Heating programme, which recently had £7million additional funding invested by the Government. If you are over 60 and think you may benefit from this programme which helps install heating for those homeowners without it then call 0800-316-1653.



Jamie Hepburn MSP

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The "West Lothian Question"

Jamie recently lodged a motion on a solution to the "West Lothian question" of how Scotland should be represented at Westminster. The motion reads:

That the Parliament notes that the Conservative Party is actively considering campaigning for the creation of an English Grand Committee, while there are others who support the creation of a federal structure for the United Kingdom; further notes that these two schemes are often floated as answers to the West Lothian Question; recognises that, even if either scheme was instituted, it would leave Scotland powerless to affect change in certain areas such as the renewal of Trident, which was opposed by a majority of Scottish members of the Westminster Parliament as well as of members of the Scottish Parliament but would still go ahead even in the context of an English Grand Committee or a federal UK, and believes that there is only one sensible answer to the West Lothian Question and that is independence for Scotland.