



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **SCF – the Scottish Crofting Federation**

The SCF is now legally recognised as the Scottish Crofting Federation, a change agreed by its members at the 2009 AGM and celebrated at a reception in Inverness on 18th November.

Neil MacLeod, chair of the SCF, set the background to the name change, a move brought about by the call to use a name that reflected the structure and mandate of the organisation more accurately. He pointed out that a federation is a number of independent bodies that come together under a common cause and central administration "SCF areas have their own constitutions and need to be able to reflect their own circumstances whilst coming together under the common cause of fighting to safeguard and promote the rights, livelihoods and culture of crofters and their communities. Federation is also a more internationally recognised name for a representative body, fitting for the SCF – being the UK's largest association of small-scale food producers"

Patrick Krause, the SCF's chief executive, gave a presentation on the organisation's vision for crofting. Based on the SCF submission for the crofting reform process, the vision focuses on five key areas – protected heritable tenure; viability; new entrants; protection of the arable in-bye and defined boundaries. He pointed out that emphasis is being placed on regulatory matters such as absenteeism and neglect when these are effects rather than causes. He posed the question "Would there be so much neglected croft land if the market were providing good returns for production and the public were paying fairly for provision of non-market goods?" Former president of the Scottish Crofters Union (SCU), Alistair MacIver, set the context of the name-change with a reflection on the history of crofters' representation from the area-based unions which came together as the Federation of Crofters Unions, which became the Scottish Crofters Union, which became the foundation and which has once again become a federation, the Scottish Crofting Federation.

He concluded that it is the responsibility of every individual, crofter or not, to contribute to the well-being of rural Highlands and Islands and that if crofters are to have a voice in Scottish, UK, European and world policy making they have to stand together by joining the SCF– the only member-led organisation dedicated to promoting crofting.

END

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### **Notes to editors**

- The SCU emerged from the Federation of Crofters Unions in November 1985.
- The Scottish Crofting Federation is now the largest association of small-scale food producers in the UK.
- Pictures can be found at: <http://www.crofting.org>