



## NEWS RELEASE

**Use: Immediate**

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### **CROFTERS ALARM AT PROSPECT OF ELECTRONIC TAGGING**

The Scottish Crofting Foundation (SCF), the only member-led organisation dedicated to promoting crofting, expressed its disappointment at the outcome of a European meeting on electronic tagging of sheep (EID).

SCF Chairman Neil MacLeod said "we have fought long and hard to reverse this unworkable proposal but even though the UK government, with other member states, was against it, unfortunately there was not enough support to overturn it. This could be disastrous for small-scale sheep production and for the industry in general."

The meeting of Agricultural Ministers took place in Brussels yesterday and discussed the proposal to introduce electronic tagging and individual identification of sheep. The UK sheep industry is wholly against this.

SCF Parliamentary Spokesman Norman Leask said "electronic tagging is not appropriate to the scale of crofting and individual tagging adds an enormous amount of unnecessary work. There seems to be some scope left open for flexibility in implementation in member states so we are calling on the UK government to use any exemption or derogation possible to lessen the harm this will cause."

END

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#### **Notes to editors**

- The Scottish Crofting Foundation is the largest association of small-scale food producers in the UK.
- Pictures can be found at: <http://www.croftingfoundation.co.uk/index.php/home>