



## NEWS RELEASE

**Use: Immediate**  
**28/05/08**

### **CROFTING FOUNDATION WELCOMES EU PARLIAMENT SHEEP REPORT**

The Scottish Crofting Foundation (SCF) has welcomed the adoption by the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee of the Aylward Report on the EU sheep industry. The report, by Irish MEP Liam Aylward, calls for action by the European Commission to reverse the decline in sheep numbers and proposes a range of measures to boost the sector, including environmental payments for sheep retention; specific support for native and traditional breeds; a task force to work on the viability, competitiveness and profitability of the industry; regulations on country of origin labelling; and abandonment of the "ill thought out, illogical and unworkable scheme" to introduce electronic tagging.

SCF Chairman Neil MacLeod said, "It is indeed heartening that this sensible, practical, down-to-earth report has been accepted unanimously by the powerful EU Agriculture Committee. The mid-term 'health check' on the Common Agricultural Policy offers the opportunity to translate Liam Aylward's recommendations into actions which could offer a lifeline to sheep producers in Scotland's hills and islands."

END

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#### **Notes to editors**

Pictures can be found at: <http://www.croftingfoundation.co.uk/index.php/home>