
**STUC Briefing in advance of the debate
on the TICC' s report on Ferry Services in Scotland**

Wednesday 10 September 2008

- STUC welcomes this report and the work done by the TICC to engage with the communities and workforces for whom the ferry services are so important - we share the view that the ferry services are essential to economic growth and to social inclusion.
- STUC is glad to see the Parliament discussing these important issues. We have worked with TICC members, will continue to do so and will be happy to have further discussions with MSPs and communities as the Government review gets underway.
- The TICC report represents a useful contribution to the forthcoming Government review of ferry services – the STUC and its affiliated trade unions will contribute to this review.
- The TICC is correct to stress that Scotland's ferry services are run by a number of different operators – the STUC is keen to see all operators genuinely engage with their trade unions. Poor working conditions and inappropriate use of migrant labour potentially puts workers and ferry users at risk and does not provide effectively for the future of the industry in terms of workforce planning, jobs and training.
- The report contains a number of useful short term action points and we would urge the inclusion of the trade unions in the discussions on improving integration and on any changes to working practices (points 42 and 64). The workforce experience is invaluable, as is reinforced by the Committee's comments on the professionalism of the crews (104). Ferry services can and should provide long-term, secure job opportunities, training and staff development. The Committee

Report suggests a number of ways in which services could be expanded and these should lead to greater employment opportunities. Changes in working practices should not mean staff cuts.

- The STUC agrees that the longer term questions including funding and contractual arrangements, require further serious examination. We remain of the view that the huge cost to the taxpayer of the recent Calamc tendering exercise was not justified, and we continue to work with our affiliates to argue for publicly owned, publicly funded services.
- STUC welcomes the Committee's view that the Calmac HQ at Gourock should be retained.

Over the coming period the STUC will:

- Continue to contribute to the European Commission's investigation into ferry subsidies in Scotland – will follow up on written submissions by meeting the Commissioner in Brussels;
- Participate in a public hearing on maritime employment at the European Parliament on 16 October;
- Meet with Scotland's MEP's on 16 October to discuss the Commission's inquiry and wider issues impinging on maritime employment in Scotland; and,
- Contribute to the Scottish Government's review of ferry services in Scotland.

Publicly owned publicly funded ferry services - investing in jobs and the island communities of Scotland

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