



# *Stirling Before Pylons*



## **Press Release for immediate dispatch**

### ***Stirling Before Pylons* welcomes European Parliament resolution calling for review of powerline guidelines and sends delegation to brief MEPs in Brussels.**

- Timely reminder of the health risks posed by the Beaulieu to Denny 400kV proposal to thousands of residents along its route. Ministers are expected to make a decision on the application within the year.
- Last week (April 2<sup>nd</sup>) a European Parliament resolution “*urges the Commission to review the scientific basis and adequacy of the EMF limits as laid down in Recommendation 1999/519/EC*”. The resolution was passed by 559 votes to 22 with 8 abstentions. [http://www.next-up.org/parlement\\_europeen.php#1](http://www.next-up.org/parlement_europeen.php#1). Press release attached.
- The report also “*calls on the Council and Commission, in coordination with the Member States and the Committee of the Regions, to encourage the introduction of a single standard designed to ensure that local residents are subjected to as low a degree of exposure as possible when high-voltage grids are extended.*”
- This is in recognition that many countries including China, Switzerland and Russia, in addition to at least 9 EU member states have already adopted precautionary exposure limits far below (by a factor as much as 250 times) the level recommended by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection in 1999, in response to scientific evidence of the hazard.
- The ICNIRP limit of 100 microtesla provides no meaningful protection, allowing a 400kV powerline to pass directly over homes. Some homes, particularly in the populated Stirling area, will therefore be drastically affected if the Beaulieu to Denny proposal is approved.
- Yet there is an internationally acknowledged (WHO, HPA etc) doubled risk of childhood leukaemia at exposure levels above 0.4 microtesla. So *Stirling Before Pylons* welcomes this resolution calling for change.
- If the Beaulieu to Denny 400kV proposal is approved as submitted, then hundreds of lives will knowingly be put at serious risk, ironically in the name of green, sustainable energy generation.
- **This is just one of the issues which will be presented to Scottish MEPs by a delegation from *Scotland Before Pylons/Stirling Before Pylons* in Brussels next week (April 15<sup>th</sup>), together with experts from Europacable**

**demonstrating the advantages of undergrounding, which would almost entirely remove any health threat.**

- It is hoped that in the light of this European resolution, and the precautionary approaches being adopted by many EU members, coupled with their more ambitious undergrounding programmes, MEPs will impress on the Scottish Government the need to rethink the Beaulieu to Denny application.

Please find attached a copy of the agenda for next Wednesday's meeting with MEPs, together with the health briefing update to be presented.

Caroline Paterson, [www.stirlingbeforepylons.org](http://www.stirlingbeforepylons.org), 01786 462567 (Thursday & Monday pm), mobile (will be off over much of Easter) 07739945329