**EMBARGOED UNTIL 17:30, Wednesday 11.01.2017**

**Scotland’s Chance for World Leading Food Policy**

On Wednesday 11th January, Professor Corinna Hawkes, Director of the Centre for Food Policy at City University, London, presented at the Scottish Parliament the opportunity for new legislation to create the conditions for everybody to eat well.

The Scottish Government plans to introduce a Good Food Nation Bill late in 2017. [1] For the first time primary legislation will draw together agriculture, health, environment, social justice and education to meet Scotland’s aspirations to be a Good Food Nation.

The proposed legislation is receiving attention at home and abroad for its potential to be a world-leading national food policy. [3]

Professor Hawkes is a member of the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems; she previously worked for the World Health Organisation and the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington.

The Holyrood evening reception was hosted by the Scottish Food Coalition, which is a broad alliance of organisations that have come together to work on a joined-up approach to creating a better food system. [2] It was sponsored by Richard Lochhead MSP, former Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment.

Pete Ritchie, co-chair of the Scottish Food Coalition and Executive Director of Nourish Scotland, said, ‘we’re delighted to have someone with so much experience from around the world coming to the Scottish Parliament.’

He continued, ‘we hope MSPs will seize on this opportunity to provide leadership in developing a national food policy that ensures that everyone in Scotland can access a healthy, sustainable diet’.

This event was the first in a series of events organized by the Scottish Food Coalition in the lead up to the national consultation on the Good Food Nation Bill. In addition to the Holyrood events there will be a parallel seminar series at the University of Edinburgh open to members of the public. [4]

Pete concluded ‘we need Government to provide leadership and raise ambitions, but we also want to see the development of this bill as something that everybody can engage with. We all eat, we should all have a say in the rules that govern our food system.’

**Notes to editors:**

[1] Scottish Government Programme for Government 2016-17:

Available online: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00505210.pdf>

[2] Scottish Food Coalition resources outlining their ambitions for a national food policy available at: [www.foodcoalition.scot](http://www.foodcoalition.scot)

[3] The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights reviewed Scotland’s performance of right to food obligations in June 2016 and recommended framework legislation to protect and progress the right to food.

[4] Details for the monthly series available on Scottish Food Coalition website: <http://www.foodcoalition.scot/events.html>

Available online: <http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=E%2fC.12%2fGBR%2fCO%2f6&Lang=en>

**For further comment please contact:**

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