

News Release

Embargoed until: 7pm, Wednesday, 14th December, 2011

Ross Finnie takes up new position with Environment LINK

Scottish Environment LINK (the umbrella body for Scotland's environmental NGOs) has announced that Ross Finnie is to become its next President. Mr Finnie was a MSP from 1999-2011 and Cabinet Minister for Rural Affairs and the Environment between 1999 and 2007. He will take up post as LINK President early next year, continuing the excellent work of Dr Helen Zealley OBE, President since 2008.

Speaking at the LINK Festive Reception, Past-Chair of Link, John Mayhew said: **"It gives me great pleasure to welcome Ross Finnie as our new President. I don't know whether he is a poacher turned gamekeeper or vice-versa, but I do know that Scotland and LINK will benefit from his huge experience of matters environmental and his long track record of bringing together diverse interests to pursue our goal of a sustainable Scotland."**

Mr Finnie responded: "I am delighted to have been asked to be the next President of Scottish Environment LINK. I will do my best to provide help and support to Scotland's splendid environmental voluntary organisations. But on the evidence of LINK's two recent campaign publications - **Governance Matters** (full of important ideas about improving the methods of government) and **Acting Locally** (LINK's comprehensive manifesto to inform next year's local elections), I've got a bit of homework to catch-up with over the festive season."

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Editors' Notes

(1) Scottish Environment LINK is the network for Scotland's voluntary sector environmental organisations. LINK has over 30 member organisations spanning interests across the natural environment and associated cultural heritage and supported by around 500,000 people. Further information on LINK is available at www.scotlink.org

(2) The Link Festive Reception was held in the Scottish Book Trust, Sandeman House, High Street, Edinburgh on the evening of Wednesday, 14th December 2011.

(3) The term of office for the President of LINK is 3 years.