

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cultair agus Cùisean an Taobh a-muigh
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs
Fiona Hyslop MSP/BPA

T/F: 0845 774 1741
E: scottish.ministers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Christina McKelvie
Convener
European and External Relations Committee
Scottish Parliament
EH99 1SP

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You will be aware that I visited Finland on 6/7 March and Denmark and Sweden on 8/9 December last year. In that context, I am pleased to inform you that we have published the Nordic Baltic Policy Statement, which can be accessed online at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/International/Europe/Our-Focus/Nordic-Baltic-Policy> .

We have published this policy statement because the Nordic-Baltic countries have a reputation as established leaders in maritime affairs, energy, research and innovation which are all areas where Scotland has key interests and a contribution to make. There is significant potential for us to widen and deepen relationships with our Nordic and Baltic partners. The statement outlines the key areas for future cooperation with each of the eight Nordic Baltic countries, ranging across a wide range of areas from energy to creative industries.

I would be happy to engage with the Committee on our Nordic Baltic work as part of future scrutiny on the Government's international activity.

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