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Christina McKelvie MSP
Convener of the European and External Relations Committee
Scottish Parliament
Holyrood
Edinburgh
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6 May 2015

Dear Christina,

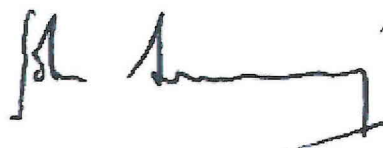
The Scottish Government shares the aims and objectives of Europe 2020, which are strongly aligned with our Economic Strategy. Both Europe 2020 and Scotland's Economic Strategy are focussed on creating the conditions for smarter, more sustainable and more equitable growth.

As I outlined in my letter of 31 January 2015, we have again produced a distinct Scottish National Reform Programme (NRP) to provide the European Commission with more information on the distinct approach being pursued across Scotland to support delivery of the ambitions contained in Europe 2020. The Scottish NRP 2015 will be published online on 8 May 2015. I have also included a copy with this letter, and would be grateful if it could be shared with Committee members.

As has been the case in previous years, stakeholder involvement has been central to the development of the Scottish NRP. A successful stakeholder event was held in Edinburgh on 12 March, and included representatives from the European Commission and HM Treasury.

Scottish Government officials also contributed to the development of the UK's NRP for 2015, which was published on 26 March 2015 in advance of the UK pre-election period.

I look forward to working with the European and External Relations Committee to achieve the ambition of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, as articulated in Europe 2020 and Scotland's Economic Strategy.



JOHN SWINNEY

