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Christina McKelvie
Convener
European and External Relations Committee
Scottish Parliament



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Dear Christina

As you will be aware, yesterday the Scottish Government published "*Scotland's Future – Your Guide to an Independent Scotland*". An electronic copy of the paper can be found here: <http://www.scotreferendum.com>

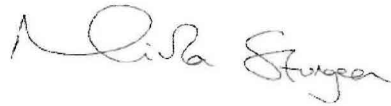
"*Scotland's Future*" is a detailed and comprehensive guide to independence. It sets out what a yes vote in the Referendum on 18th September 2014 will mean, and the opportunities and benefits that independence would bring for Scotland.

We have a responsibility to provide as much information as possible to the people of Scotland who will cast their vote in the Referendum on 18 September 2014. We also regard it as important to inform others who have an interest in Scotland's constitutional debate and so "*Scotland's Future*" provides answers to 650 questions about what a vote for independence will mean. This includes a consideration of Scotland's place in the world and information regarding the Scottish Government's intentions around EU membership and our wider international aspirations.

As a further background briefing for the interest of key stakeholder groups, we are also today publishing "*Scotland in the European Union*". This supplementary paper sets out, in detail, the importance of the European Union to an independent Scotland, and of an independent Scotland to the European Union. The paper will be available at www.scotland.gov.uk/publications/.

As the paper makes clear, there is a legal framework by which Scotland can become an independent Member State of the EU from the first day of independence. The paper also sets out how Scotland will play a full and constructive role as an independent Member State, working with its partners to address common economic and social challenges on a basis of mutual respect and co-operation in accordance with the terms and spirits of the Treaties.

As always the Scottish Government welcomes constructive dialogue with the Committee and looks forward to the opportunity to participate and contribute to the Committee's forthcoming inquiry into "Scotland and the EU", as set out in the Committee's work programme.



NICOLA STURGEON