31 January 2015

As you will be aware, Europe 2020 is the European Commission’s Strategy to bring Europe smart, sustainable and inclusive growth by 2020. Through the National Reform Programmes (NRP), Member States report on the macroeconomic environment, and how they intend to meet the targets set out in Europe 2020.

As in the previous four years, I have asked my officials to draft a distinct 2015 National Reform Programme for Scotland. The production of a Scottish National Reform Programme has allowed us to represent Scottish interests and strengths in greater detail, and to set out the distinct policy approaches being pursued in Scotland.

I know that previous Scottish NRPs have been welcomed by stakeholders and also by the European Commission. In particular, we received supportive letters from President Barroso’s office regarding the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Scottish NRPs. The 2014 Scottish NRP can be found at: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/04/2682/0

Alongside this, officials in the Scottish Government will also be contributing fully to the UK National Reform Programme to ensure that it reflects action being pursued in Scotland.

To help aid the development of the 2015 Scottish NRP, the Scottish Government will host an event in late February to allow stakeholders to contribute to the process. We have run similar sessions in the last three years, which have proved to be very helpful in informing the development of the document.

I look forward to working with the European and External Relations Committee of the Scottish Parliament on matters related to the National Reform Programme and Europe 2020.

JOHN SWINNE

St Andrew’s House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.scotland.gov.uk