Dear Joan

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

As in the previous six years, the Scottish Government will draft a distinct 2017 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. It also provides an opportunity to reiterate to our European partners that Scotland wishes to maintain positive engagement with the EU despite the UK vote to leave. I know that previous Scottish NRPs have been welcomed by stakeholders and also by the European Commission.

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.

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

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