

Assembly Section

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Mr Shane McAteer
Clerk
Committee for Finance and Personnel
Room 419
Parliament Buildings
Stormont

Our Ref: CFP/302/11-15

11 March 2014

Dear Shane,

DFP INVOLVEMENT WITH THE BAROSSO TASK FORCE AND WORKING GROUP.

DFP (European Division) engages with the Interreg IVB and C programmes but it does not drawdown any European funding; responsibility for all such drawdown lies with the department associated with each of the funded projects. DFP participates on the Northern Periphery and Atlantic Area Monitoring Committees, and has established strong networks and relationships with UK and Ireland Contact Points and programme authorities in order to raise Northern Ireland's profile as an active participant and potential source of project partners.

DFP also co-sponsors the Special EU Programmes Body which is the Regional Contact Point for the Northern Periphery Programme and which assumes a guidance role for other Interreg/Transnational programmes. Both DFP and SEUPB disseminate information, advice and guidance to promote the programmes and encourage applications.

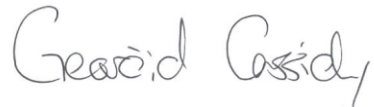
DFP is represented in the Barroso Taskforce Working Group by European Division who attend the three thematic working groups (i) Social, (ii) Economic, (iii) Environmental as well as the generic Group. Contributions are, however, generally of an advisory nature as it has no role in the drawdown of funding.

Given the absence of a role in drawing down funding, DFP has had a limited interaction with the BTWG but appreciates, in the wider NI perspective, that the Group has been successful in establishing a target and monitoring the achievement in the drawdown of EU funding. BTWG has helped departments

to focus on the need to draw down more EU funding and to be more active in the European arena.

DFP will continue to engage fully with BTWG providing it with advice and information on European Structural Fund matters as required.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gearóid Cassidy".

Gearóid Cassidy