

Colin McGrath MLA
SDLP - South Down



Northern Ireland
Assembly

23rd November 2016

Mr Mike Nesbitt MLA
Chairman
Committee for the Executive Office
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT3 3XX

Dear Mr Nesbitt,

Re - European Commission's Work Programme 2017

Thank you for your request for views about the above matter in my capacity as a substitute member of the Committee for the Regions. Unfortunately my appointment has yet to be ratified and I have not yet attended any meetings so my understanding of the work of the European Union through this committee is limited.

I would, however, welcome the inclusion of 'Youth Initiative' as a work stream that should include opportunities for a solidarity corps and measures to develop young people's skills and apprenticeships together with ideas to modernise schools and pathways for vocational qualifications.

I welcome such ideas, suggestions and initiatives as I believe that we must always do what we can to give our children and young people the best start in life and the best comprehensive and encompassing education that we can.

Any assistance that your committee can have upon the development of this matter through the European Union and/or the Northern Ireland Assembly would be welcome and I offer my assistance where appropriate and helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colin McGrath". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Colin McGrath MLA
South Down