

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER



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Our ref SUB/455/2014

Christine Darrah
Committee Clerk
Committee for Justice
Northern Ireland Assembly
Parliament Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3XX

11th April 2014

Dear Christine

**COMMITTEE FOR THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY
FIRST MINISTER INQUIRY INTO THE BARROSO TASKFORCE**

Thank you for your letter of 3 April 2014 inviting comments from the Department on the Barroso Taskforce Inquiry.

The Department believes the Barroso Taskforce Working Group (BTWG) has served to focus and promote the drawdown of European funding and has provided the Department with a forum to share European priorities and learn from best practice. The Group may wish to consider, with a new budget and new Parliament imminent, whether there are new opportunities to influence policy development.

This might involve the European Commission Taskforce and BTWG asserting their influence by, for example, seeking to be part of working groups on specific negotiations, or funding Seconded National Experts and other similar posts in priority areas for Northern Ireland within the Commission.

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That said, it is recognised that as a region our influencing power is limited.

I trust the Committee will find these comments helpful.

Tim Logan

**TIM LOGAN
DALO**



**NORTHERN IRELAND
ASSEMBLY
COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE**

Tim Logan
DALO
Department of Justice
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

3 April 2014

Dear Tim

**Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister Inquiry
into the Barroso Task Force**

At its meeting on 27 February 2014 the Committee for Justice considered correspondence from the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister providing a copy of the terms of reference for its Inquiry into the Barroso Task Force.

The Committee agreed to refer the correspondence, a copy of which is enclosed, to the Department of Justice for comments on any justice related issues relevant to the Inquiry.

I would appreciate a response by 14 April 2014.

Yours sincerely

Christine Darrah

**Christine Darrah
Clerk, Committee for Justice**

FROM: Shauna Mageean - Clerk to the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister

DATE: 20 February 2014

TO: **Statutory Committee Clerks**

SUBJECT: **Inquiry into Barroso Task Force**

1. At its meeting of 19 February 2014, the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister agreed the Terms of Reference for an Inquiry into the Barroso Task Force.
2. Given the cross-cutting nature of European issues and involvement by all Departments in the Barroso Task Force Working Group, the Committee agreed to write to all statutory committees to seek views on the Inquiry.
3. Attached is a copy of a letter sent to all stakeholders and provides further information on the Inquiry and the Terms of Reference.
4. All responses to the Inquiry should be received by Friday 6 April 2014.
5. I would be grateful if you would bring this information to the attention of your committee.

Regards

**Shauna Mageean
Committee Clerk**



Northern Ireland
Assembly

Mike Nesbitt MLA, Chairman

Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

Date: 20 February 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Inquiry into the Barroso Taskforce

The President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso announced a European Commission Task Force for Northern Ireland on 1 May 2007. This inaugural task force for a specific region in the EU was created in order to support the peace process, with particular emphasis on how to support Northern Ireland in its efforts to improve its economic competitiveness and to create sustainable employment. After the Executive took up their new mandate in May 2011, Junior Ministers assumed the Chair of the Barroso Task Force Working Group (BTWG).

At its meeting on 19 February 2014, the Committee for the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister agreed the following terms of reference for an Inquiry into the Barroso Taskforce:

- Consider the work and structures of the Taskforce including the Barroso Taskforce Working Group since its inception in 2007
- Identify the outcomes from the Taskforce and assess against the objectives
- Identify and consider lessons learned from the functioning of the Taskforce in order to inform recommendations for future engagement in EU affairs post Barroso

I should be grateful if you would submit a response in MS Word format by e-mail to: Committee.ofmdfm@niassembly.gov.uk

The Committee is seeking the views of representatives in the European Institutions and from key stakeholders on the work of the Barroso Taskforce and views on future engagement on European issues. **Submissions should arrive by 2 April 2014.** Written evidence submitted to the Committee should be kept confidential until published by the Committee.

Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

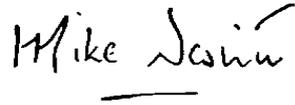
Room 435, Parliament Buildings, Ballymiscaw, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3XX

Telephone: (028) 905 21904

E-mail: committee.ofmdfm@niassembly.gov.uk

Should you require any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact the Committee Office on (028) 90521904.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Nesbitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mike Nesbitt MLA
Committee Chairman

Committee for the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister

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