

In response to the paper which was published at the end of last month entitled EU 2020 Strategy the West of Scotland would like to submit the following brief comments

Under the heading Education

You place great emphasis on Universities and their role in assisting “low achievers” it should be recognised that in some Member States universities attract a more middle class and more motivated student. Further Education Colleges play a far greater role in the education of “low achievers” and have done more to reduce social exclusion than many universities. You should therefore recognise this in your document.

Under Research

Simplification of the bureaucracy surrounding the European Patent Office would be a step in the right direction and may encourage more people to register.

Under Social Inclusion

Most of what you have included in this would strike a chord in the West of Scotland though greater use of flexible working and even a shorter working week could be considered.

Finally under Competitive, Connected and Greening Economy

You state the need for a greater integrated transport network that should not be to the exclusion of peripheral areas while a green sustainable transport system is desirable that should be throughout the EU and not confined to the major cities.

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