

**TO: CABINET SECRETARY FOR CULTURE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

**REPORT OF VISIT TO PARIS ON 19 NOVEMBER 2012**

**BRIEF OVERVIEW**

I visited Paris on Monday 19 November 2012 to promote Scotland as one of Europe's key locations for international investors in offshore wind and enabling us to make significant steps towards achieving our ambitious carbon reduction target. My programme included meetings with key French Energy companies, Areva and Technip, who have significant investments in Scotland and a meeting with the French Government's Energy Minister in order to strengthen cooperation and exchange of views on key issues relating to energy and low carbon economy.

I also had the opportunity to meet with the President of the Amaury Sport Organisation, the owners and organisers of the Tour de France, to personally endorse Scottish Government support for proposals to bring the Grand Depart of the Tour de France to Scotland and the rest of Britain in 2014 and commitment to bring this prestigious event to Scotland in a future year, should the 2014 bid not be successful.

**KEY OUTCOMES**

- I witnessed the signing of a strategic agreement between Areva and Scottish Enterprise outlining its intention to locate nacelle (turbine operator) and blade manufacturing facilities in Scotland, which could create 750 jobs in Scotland.
- Affirmed the Scottish Government's commitment to support and encourage offshore wind and marine projects and in encouraging investment in Scotland based facilities as well as the value of further strengthening relationships with strategic players such as Areva and Technip.
- Agreed follow-up contact with and French Government at official level to further develop cooperation in key areas of mutual interest and to explore further collaboration in Sustainable Energy Research and Development.
- Scottish Government support for proposals to bring the Grand Depart of the Tour de France to Scotland and the rest of Britain in 2014 and commitment to bring this prestigious event to Scotland in a future year, should the 2014 bid not be successful.

## **GOVERNMENT MEETINGS**

### **MEETING WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT MINISTER FOR ECOLOGY, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY**

I held a constructive discussion with the French Energy Minister, Mme Delphine Batho exchanging views on measures being taken to develop renewables to meet parallel commitments in both Scotland and France. Many French energy companies including Areva are classified as public companies but a large percentage of shares are owned directly or indirectly via agencies by the French Government. We agreed to follow-up contact at official level to further develop cooperation in key areas of mutual interest. These include: offshore wind reduction, research and development and testing in wave and tidal energy; transmission systems, smart grids storage and interconnection to remain part of EU budget settlement; and to explore further collaboration in Sustainable Energy Research and Development more broadly. I was accompanied in the meeting by the British Ambassador to France, Sir Peter Ricketts and Colin Imrie, Scottish Government's Deputy Director of Energy and International Low Carbon.

## **OTHER ENGAGEMENTS, VISITS & MEETINGS**

### **MEETING WITH AREVA GROUP**

Areva is Europe's second largest offshore wind industry company. I held a round-table meeting to discuss Areva Groups interests and future plans. A press conference followed the meeting where Luc Orsel, President and CEO of Areva Group, announced that Areva will locate its UK turbine manufacturing site in Scotland. I witnessed the signing of a strategic agreement, that underpins this proposal, between Areva (Luc Orsel) and Scottish Enterprise (Lena Wilson) outlining its intention to locate nacelle (turbine operator) and blade manufacturing facilities in Scotland, which could create 750 jobs in Scotland. Luc Oursel, President and CEO was supported by: Louise-François Durret, Senior Executive Vice-President, Renewable Energies Business Group; Alain-Pierre Raynaud, Chairman Areva UK; Desmond Cecil CMG, Senior Vice-President, Areva UK; and Julian Brown, Country Director UK, Areva Wind. I was accompanied by Dr Lena Wilson, CEO Scottish Enterprise and Adrian Gillespie, Energy and low carbon Technology Director, Scottish Enterprise.

## **MEETING WITH TECHNIP**

Technip is one of Europe's largest engineering construction and project management firms. In a round-table discussion, I was informed of Technip's plans for renewables and oil and gas operations in Scotland. I outlined the Scottish Government's commitment to support and encourage offshore wind and marine projects and encouraging investment in Scotland based facilities and the value of further strengthening relationships with strategic players. I also offered my support for development of the Sait-Brieuc wind farm in France, awarded by contract to Technip, Iberdrola, Areva and Eole-Res SA. Following the meeting I lunched with Thierry Pilenko, Chairman and CEO in Technip's HQ. Participants in the round table discussion included: Thierry Pilenko, Chairman and CEO, Julian Waldron, Chief Financial Officer; Philippe Barril, Executive Vice-President onshore/offshore; Nello Uccelletti, Senior Vice-President onshore; Ron Cookson, Senior Vice-President and Head of Renewables UK; and John Harrison, General Counsel. I was accompanied by Dr Lena Wilson, CEO Scottish Enterprise and Adrian Gillespie, Energy and low carbon Technology Director, Scottish Enterprise.

## **MEETING WITH AMAURY SPORT ORGANISATION (ASO)**

ASO are the owners and organisers of the Tour de France. In a meeting with Jean-Etienne Amaury, President of ASO, I personally endorsed proposals to bring the Grand Depart of the Tour de France to Scotland and the rest of Britain in 2014 and gained a commitment to bring this prestigious event to Scotland in a future year, should the 2014 bid not be successful. I highlighted Scotland's credentials and success in delivering major international events; set out how bringing the event to Scotland would serve to enhance the reputation of the ASO and the Tour de France; and emphasised Scotland's great track record of working as part of Great Britain across major sporting events, the most recent example being the Olympic football and torch relay as part of the London 2012 Olympic Games. Jean-Etienne Amaury was supported by Cyrille Tricart, Head of External Relations ASO and I was accompanied by Stuart Turner, Events Director, EventScotland and Mike Cantlay, Chair of Visit Scotland.

**FIRST MINISTER  
DECEMBER 2012**