

**Wednesday 29 March 2017**

**Comment on the Triggering of Article 50**

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive, Colleges Scotland said:

“Following the triggering of Article 50 and the start of our exit from the EU, Scottish colleges could lose significant EU funding, partnership and exchange programme opportunities, which have benefitted students, business and communities across the country. Scotland’s colleges have received approximately £46m from EU funding strands over the past two academic years and it is important that the Scottish Government works with the sector to mitigate the impact that this will have on the sector’s finances and students.

“Scotland’s colleges have been active players in the EU and international markets, both in terms of recruiting international students and pursuing markets to identify commercial opportunities. The Erasmus student exchange programme has been particularly beneficial to Scottish students, with many people taking the opportunity to study in European countries through the programme every year. Lots of students from across the EU also benefit from the opportunity to come to Scotland to study – and others from the EU working in Scotland are benefitting from access to our high quality education services. Leaving the EU could put these programmes at risk.”

**ENDS**

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