



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 24 11 2012  
C/2012/1110 final

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the Green Paper on a Common Strategic Framework for EU research and innovation funding {COM(2011) 48 final}, and apologises for the extremely long delay in this response.*

*The Commission particularly welcomes your strong support for the Common Strategic Framework, renamed Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020).*

*The Commission, taking into account the input received during the consultation process, presented its legislative proposals for Horizon 2020 in November 2011.*

*Horizon 2020 will be structured around three distinct, but mutually reinforcing blocks, in line with Europe 2020 priorities: the first block 'Excellent science base' will strengthen the EU's world-class excellence in science. The second block 'Industrial leadership and competitive frameworks' will support business research and innovation. The third block 'Tackling societal challenges' will respond directly to challenges, identified in Europe 2020. The implementation of the programme will be simplified and standardised, with simplification covering both funding schemes and rules.*

*The involvement of national Parliaments is of crucial importance for the development of EU research and innovation policy and I am looking forward to further constructive exchanges on this important topic, especially in the context of the negotiation of the new Multiannual Financial Framework.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Maroš Šefčovič  
Vice-President*

*Maria da Assunção Andrade Esteves  
President of the Portuguese Parliament  
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