



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the Green Paper on the Dual-use Export Control System of the European Union: Ensuring Security and Competitiveness in a Changing World {COM(2011) 393 final}. I would like to apologise for the long delay in replying to this Opinion.

The Commission fully shares the view of the Assembleia da República that Security and economic interests of great importance to the Member States and the EU are at stake, and that controls must be carried out in such a way so as to ensure security, whilst allowing economic development and fostering the innovative capacity and competitiveness of all economic operators. The Commission also agrees that further harmonisation may be needed between the Member States, and that a future EU dual-use export control framework must involve a comprehensive EU approach allowing equal treatment of exporters, a more favourable environment for the operation of businesses, enhanced controls on higher risk transactions and strengthened exports from the EU.

The Commission has taken good note of the concerns that the Assembleia da República expressed regarding the imposition of particular prescriptive solutions, which may not always be well suited to individual export control requirements.

I would like to take this opportunity to set out the next steps in the formulation of this policy. First, the European Commission will publish a technical analysis of the responses received to the Green Paper. This is to be expected by mid-2012. The Commission will then proceed with the preparation of its formal report on the review of the dual-use Regulation as required under Article 25 of Regulation 428/2009.

I would once again like to thank the Assembleia da República for its valuable contribution to the Green Paper on the Dual-use Export Control System and look forward to continuing our political dialogue.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

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