



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 3-10-2012
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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) {COM(2011) 627 final} and apologises for the long delay in replying.

The Commission takes note of the fact that the Assembleia da República considers the above mentioned legal proposal to be in compliance with the principle of subsidiarity as well as the proposal to have positive implications for rural development in Portugal.

Moreover, the Commission takes note of the concerns as regards the possible effects of the proposed provisions related to the support of investments in irrigation systems in Portugal, as well as the wish expressed to change the legal proposal in this respect. The Commission is carefully considering related comments made in the relevant Council Working Party by the outgoing Danish Presidency and various Member States and will maintain contacts with the parties concerned in the coming weeks, in the interests of coming to a common understanding of how rural development policy can best be used to support appropriate investments in sustainable irrigation.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the policy dialogue in future on this and other issues.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Mrs. Maria da Assunção ESTEVES
Presidente da Assembleia da República
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