



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 2.8.2013
C(2013) 5124 final

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion concerning the Green Paper on unfair trading practices (UTPs) in the business-to-business food and non-food supply chain in Europe {COM(2013) 37 final}.

The Commission welcomes the fact that the Assembleia da República has given great significance to the Green Paper and appreciates that the Portuguese Parliament organised a public hearing on the issue. The contributions submitted to the public hearing will also be taken into consideration.

The Commission welcomes the fact that the Assembleia da República will continue monitoring the developments on the subjects covered by the Green Paper. It is important to note, however, that the Commission has yet to perform its final assessment on the extent and severity of problems resulting from UTPs throughout the EU. The results of the Green Paper consultation will be instrumental for this purpose and any conclusion as to whether an action at EU level will be required and which policy option the Commission would recommend depends on the outcome of this analysis. In this context, the Commission is considering a broad range of alternative options for the purpose of addressing UTPs, including the possibility for a self-regulatory mechanism at European level or a legislative framework. In any event, possible future policy recommendations would be based on a thorough Impact Assessment.

The Commission looks forward to continuing our political dialogue with the Assembleia da República in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Ms Maria da Assunção ESTEVES
President of the
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