



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 15.09.2015  
C(2015) 6327 final*

*Dear President,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion concerning the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the use of genetically modified food and feed on their territory {COM(2015) 177 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes the conclusions adopted by the Assembleia da República and the support given to the above proposal.*

*The Commission would additionally like to clarify that measures adopted by Member States to restrict or ban the use of genetically modified food and feed on their territory have to be based on overriding reasons of public interest which should not conflict with the risk assessment performed by the European Food Safety Authority.*

*The points made above are based on the initial proposal presented by the Commission which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council in which your government is represented.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Assembleia da República and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Vytenis Andriukaitis  
Member of the Commission*

*Ms Maria da Assunção Andrade ESTEVES  
President of the  
Assembleia da República  
Palácio de S. Bento  
P – 1249-068 LISBOA*