



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 12.06.2017
C(2017) 3819 final*

Dear Chair,

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 amending Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 listing the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing the external borders and those whose nationals are exempt from that requirement (Kosovo) {COM(2016) 277 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Assembleia da República's support for its proposal and is pleased with the Assembleia da República's assessment that the proposal complies with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

The objective of the proposal is to facilitate the movement within the European Union of nationals of Kosovo holding biometric passports for stays of up to 90 days in any 180-day period. Kosovo, however, first needs to fulfil all the benchmarks defined in its roadmap for visa liberalisation. At the moment, Kosovo has not yet ratified its demarcation agreement with Montenegro and still needs to make progress in the fight against organised crime and corruption, as set out in the Commission's proposal.

The Commission is confident that once the roadmap on visa liberalisation is fully implemented, the legislative process allowing for the amendment of Regulation (EC) No 539/2001 will be swiftly completed.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission*

*Ms Regina BASTOS
Chair of the European Affairs Committee
of the Assembleia da República
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*cc. Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
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