



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 16.1.2017
C(2016) 14 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 (EU) 230/2014 of 11 March 2014 establishing an instrument contributing to stability and peace {COM(2016) 447 final}.

With this proposal the Commission honours the commitment made in its 2016 Work Programme to further develop instruments to enhance security and development in partner countries and to support them in improving security sector reform and capacity building in support of security and development. The proposal forms part of a broader package that covers elements for an EU-wide strategic framework to support Security Sector Reform {JOIN(2016) 31 final}.

Improving the capacity of partner countries to prevent and manage crises by themselves in support of the rule of law is a priority for the Commission and with this proposal the EU would be able under exceptional circumstances to provide assistance to all relevant security sector actors, including military actors. The proposal is in line with the new United Nation's (UN) 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and in particular with Sustainable Development Goal 16 which calls for building capacities at all levels to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.

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.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
Fist Vice-President*

*Federica Mogherini
High Representative/Vice-President*

*Ms Regina BASTOS
Chair of the European Affairs Committee
Assembleia da República
Palácio de S. Bento
P – 1249-068 LISBOA*

*cc. Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
President of the Assembleia da República
Palácio de S. Bento
P – 1249-068 LISBOA*