



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 22.2.2017  
C(2017) 781 final*

*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*

*Dear Chair,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation on standards for the qualification of third-country nationals or stateless persons as beneficiaries of international protection, for a uniform status for refugees or for persons eligible for subsidiary protection and for the content of the protection granted and amending Council Directive 2003/109/EC of 25 November 2003 concerning the status of third-country nationals who are long-term residents {COM(2016) 466 final}; the Proposal for a Regulation establishing a common procedure for international protection in the Union and repealing Directive 2013/32/EU {COM(2016) 467 final}; and the proposal for a Regulation establishing a Union Resettlement Framework and amending Regulation (EU) No 516/2014 of the European Parliament and the Council {COM(2016) 468 final}.*

*In April 2016, the Commission set out priorities for a reform of the Common European Asylum System in its Communication 'Towards a reform of the Common European Asylum System and enhancing legal avenues to Europe'<sup>1</sup> and presented two sets of proposals to reform the Common European Asylum System on 4 May 2016 and 13 July 2016. The proposals referred to in the Opinion form part of the second set of proposals.*

*To achieve the objectives set out in the above-mentioned Communication, a fully harmonised common EU procedure for asylum, resettlement and of rights granted to applicants for and beneficiaries of international protection was essential. In this context, the Commission welcomes the support of Assembleia da República for its efforts and the views expressed in the Opinion that the proposed initiatives do not breach the principle of subsidiarity.*

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<sup>1</sup> COM(2016) 197 final.

*The Commission is committed to continue its work to address both the immediate and the long-term challenges of managing migration better from all aspects.*

*This Opinion has constructively contributed to this work, since it has been made available to the Commission's representatives in the ongoing negotiations with co-legislators. The Commission remains hopeful that agreement will be reached on all proposals within a reasonable timeframe.*

*The Commission welcomes the Opinion of the Assembleia da República and looks forward to continuing our constructive political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos  
Member of the Commission*