



Brussels, 23.2.2017  
C(2017) 1279 final

*Dear Chair,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the Commission proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions by Member States from 2021 to 2030 {COM(2016) 482 final} and on the Commission proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the inclusion of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from land use, land use change and forestry into the 2030 climate and energy framework {COM(2016) 479}.*

*These two proposals under the Energy Union would, together with the proposal for revising the EU's emission trading system, ensure that the EU is on track to reduce greenhouse gas emissions domestically by at least 40% by 2030 and that it fulfils its commitments under the Paris Agreement. This package of measures would help Europe prepare for the transition to a low-carbon economy. A wide range of policies will support citizens and businesses to achieve this transition, including on climate and energy, agriculture and transport, innovation and investment.*

*The Commission welcomes the Assembleia da República's general support for the proposals. It also notes the Assembleia da República's concerns regarding Articles 8 and 9 of the proposal on binding annual greenhouse gas emission reductions, relating to the development of a corrective action plan and imposing an adjustment for non-complying Member States in order to achieve the objectives of the Regulation. The Commission considers that those provisions are necessary and proportional in order to ensure that all Member States contribute their fair share to the achievement of the EU's nationally determined contribution under the Paris Agreement.*

*The Commission also notes the Assembleia da República's concerns regarding the need to conserve traditional forests. In that regard the Commission recalls that the proposal on land use, land use change and forestry specifies in its Annex IV that national forest management reference levels "...should take into account the objective of contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources, as set out in the EU Forest Strategy, Member States' national forest policies, and the EU Biodiversity Strategy".*

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

*cc. Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES  
President of the  
Assembleia da República  
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*Therefore the Commission believes that the proposal would encourage the protection of traditional forests.*

*The points made above are based on the initial proposals presented by the Commission which are currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council. The Opinion of the Assembleia da República has been made available to the Commission's representatives in the ongoing negotiations with the co-legislators and will inform these discussions.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Miguel Arias Cañete  
Member of the Commission*