



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the Commission proposals for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop) and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 337/75 {COM(2016) 532 final}; a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Foundation for the improvement of living and working conditions (Eurofound), and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 1365/75 {COM(2016) 531 final}; and a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA), and repealing Council Regulation (EC) 2062/94 {COM(2016) 528 final}.

The Common Approach on EU decentralised agencies agreed in July 2012 by the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission defines a framework for the functioning of Agencies with a particular focus on coherence, effectiveness, accountability and transparency. In the Joint Statement accompanying the Common Approach, the three signatory institutions agreed to take the Common Approach into account in the context of all their future decisions concerning EU decentralised agencies, following a case-by-case analysis.

With the above proposals, the Commission seeks to address the divergences between the current Regulations establishing Cedefop, Eurofound and the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work and the provisions of the Common Approach on EU decentralised agencies. Furthermore, in the case of Cedefop, the proposal also proposes a revision of the Centre's mandate and tasks to take into account the evolution of its activities and policy developments in the field of vocational education and training, skills and qualifications as well as societal, institutional and economic developments in the EU that have occurred since it was established in 1975.

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Discussions between the Commission and the co-legislators concerning the proposals are now underway and the Commission remains hopeful that agreements will be reached in the near future.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Marianne Thyssen
Member of the Commission*