



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 29.5.2017
C(2017) 3317 final*

Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on its proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a European Year of Cultural Heritage {COM(2016) 543 final}.

The Commission believes that raising awareness of the various positive impacts of cultural heritage is particularly important. It can lead to discovering hitherto unexplored ways of achieving economic growth and social cohesion. Cultural heritage is a unique catalyst for creativity and a pivotal component of cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue. The Commission therefore thanks the Assembleia da República for its analysis of the various challenges persisting in the sector which will be addressed during the implementation of the European Year.

The Commission looks forward to collaborating closely with the Assembleia da República when implementing this important Year with a view to promoting our cultural heritage and fully reaping the benefits of its untapped potential.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Tibor Navracsics
Member of the Commission*

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