



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 31.7.2017
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Dear Chair

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the Commission's Communication 'The Youth Guarantee and Youth Employment Initiative three years on' {COM(2016) 646 final}.

Fighting youth unemployment is one of this Commission's top priorities. The Youth Guarantee provides a key policy framework, with the Youth Employment Initiative being a major financial instrument to support Member States with the highest youth unemployment rates.

The Commission welcomes the Assembleia da República's broad support for the Communication and agrees that while the Youth Guarantee has yielded good results, it is crucial to continue working towards its full and sustainable implementation. This includes, as rightly described in the Assembleia da República's opinion, increased efforts to ensure more and better quality offers in line with the recommendations of the European Court of Auditors; strengthened outreach to an even higher number of people who are not in employment, education or training; more capacity building for all stakeholders and enhanced partnerships among them; and improved data collection practices. The Commission is committed to maintaining its support to Member States in view of fully implementing the Youth Guarantee through financial support, mutual learning and technical assistance, as well as further monitoring the Youth Guarantee implementation.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue and is committed to working closely with the Member States, and in particular the national Youth Guarantee coordinators.

Yours faithfully,

*Julian King
Member of the Commission*

*Ms Regina BASTOS
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cc

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