



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 14.12.2017
C(2017) 8342 final*

Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council assessing the impact of existing national law, establishing as a criminal offence the use of services which are the objects of exploitation of trafficking in human beings, on the prevention of trafficking in human beings, in accordance with Article 23(2) of the Directive 2011/36/EU {COM(2016) 719 final} and the Report from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council assessing the extent to which Member States have taken the necessary measures in order to comply with Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims in accordance with Article 23(1) {COM(2016) 722 final}.

These Reports respond to the requirements of Article 23 of Directive 2011/36/EU and aim to effectively promote its objectives.

The complete transposition of the Directive by the Member States, followed by its effective implementation, is a legal obligation and necessary to ensure progress throughout the European Union. The Commission will monitor the implementation of the Directive and, where necessary, will take appropriate action.

The Commission welcomes the Opinion of the Assembleia da República and thanks the Portuguese authorities for their cooperation on addressing trafficking in human beings.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission*

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