



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 15.5.2017*

*C(2017) 3087 final*

*Dear Chair,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Governance of the Energy Union {COM(2016) 759 final}.*

*This proposal was adopted as part of the 'Clean Energy for all Europeans' package with a view to putting in place the necessary legislative framework to achieve the objectives of the Energy Union, notably the 2030 energy and climate targets. Together with the other initiatives in the package, the proposal promotes secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy.*

*The proposal aims at ensuring that the objectives of the Energy Union are reached through a coherent and sufficiently ambitious set of measures at national and Union level. It is centred on streamlining, integrating and simplifying existing planning, reporting and monitoring obligations in the energy and climate field, and introduces a robust political process between Member States and EU institutions on the preparation and implementation of integrated national energy and climate plans. This framework would help to ensure the necessary certainty for investors as well as transparency and foresight on national policies and measures, which would be beneficial for jobs and growth in the energy sector. The initiative would also ensure that the Union and its Member States honour their commitments under the Paris Agreement on climate change.*

*The Commission is grateful for Assembleia da República's broad support for the aims of the proposal, which provides an unprecedented opportunity to have comparable, comprehensive and integrated national plans, but at the same time ensures that Member States retain significant flexibility to take account of specific national circumstances and preferences. Moreover, the iterative process between the Member States and the Commission is based on Commission recommendations that will ensure proportionality and full respect of the Member States' rights and prerogatives under Article 194 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.*

*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  
Palácio de S. Bento  
P – 1249-068 LISBOA*

*The Commission is confident that the proposed role of regional cooperation would further promote cooperation and dialogue around the key issues facing the Member States in South Western Europe, including on the issue of cross-border interconnections.*

*The Commission would also like to highlight that the proposal would promote a transparent and participatory process for the preparation of the national plans. While it is for the Member States to decide on the institutional set-up to prepare the national plans, the Commission trusts that the Assembleia da República will play an active role in preparing the Portuguese national plan.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Miguel Arias Cañete  
Member of the Commission*