



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2017) 4624 final

Regina BASTOS
Chair of the European Affairs Committee
Assembleia da República
Palácio de S. Bento
P – 1249-068 LISBOA

cc. Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
President of the
Assembleia da República
Palácio de S. Bento
P – 1249-068 LISBOA

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 mutual recognition of freezing and confiscation orders {COM(2016) 819 final}.

The Commission welcomes the support of the Assembleia da República for the above-mentioned proposal.

This proposal forms part of a broader package of ambitious measures designed to strengthen the European Union's capacity to fight the financing of terrorism and organised crime adopted by the Commission on 21 December 2016, thereby delivering on the commitments made in its Action Plan for strengthening the fight against terrorist financing of 2 February 2016¹.

Confiscating assets generated by criminal activities is a very efficient tool to fight crime as it deprives criminals of the proceeds of their illegal activities.

The proposed Regulation would facilitate the cross border recovery of criminal assets and lead to a more efficient freezing and confiscation of funds from illicit origin in the European Union without cumbersome formalities. Recovered assets would be used for the compensation of victims, where national legislation allows for it. It would also provide additional funds to reinvest law enforcement activities or other crime prevention initiatives or to be used for other public interest or social purposes.

¹ COM(2016) 50 final

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Assembleia da República in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Věra Jourová
Member of the Commission*