



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 8.6.2017  
C(2017) 3880 final*

*Dear Chair,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the Commission Communication on reform recommendations for regulation in professional services {COM(2016) 820 final}, on the proposal for a Directive on the enforcement of the Directive 2006/123/EC on services in the internal market, laying down a notification procedure for authorisation schemes and requirements related to services {COM(2016) 821 final}, on the proposal for a Directive on a proportionality test before adoption of new regulation of professions {COM(2016) 822 final}, and on the proposal for a Directive on the legal and operational framework of the European services e-card {COM(2016) 823 final} and for a Regulation introducing a European services e-card and related administrative facilities {COM(2016) 824 final}.*

*These proposals, adopted by the Commission on 10 January 2017 as the “Services Package”, should be seen in the light of President Juncker's political commitment to unleash the full potential of the Single Market and make it the launchpad for European companies to thrive in the global economy. This goal was confirmed by the European Council in its December 2015, June 2016 and December 2016 conclusions. The proposed measures aim to make it easier for service providers to navigate administrative formalities, and to help Member States identify overly burdensome or outdated requirements on professionals operating domestically or across borders.*

*The Commission welcomes the Assembleia da República's overall support for these objectives to steer the internal market for services, for service providers and professionals and for customers of these services. The different proposals of the “Services Package” are complementary in this respect.*

*The proposal for a European services e-card sets up a simplified electronic procedure to make it easier for providers of business services (for example engineering firms, IT consultants, organisers of trade shows) and construction services to complete the administrative formalities required to provide services abroad. It aims at enhancing trust on the services markets through advanced administrative cooperation.*

*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  
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*In addition, the proposal for a revised notification procedure for services introduces improvements to the existing procedure in place under the Services Directive<sup>1</sup>, to make the process more timely, effective and transparent. This proposal aims at preventing the introduction of measures which might not be compliant with the Services Directive. It should bring more legal certainty for both Member States and stakeholders (and in particular market players and consumers) on the regulatory environment regarding services at national and Union level.*

*With the proposal for a proportionality test on regulated professions, the Commission is proposing to streamline and clarify how Member States should undertake a comprehensive and transparent proportionality test before adopting or amending national rules on professional services.*

*Finally, the Guidance for national reforms in regulation of professions will complement this action on regulated professions. It invites Member States to assess whether professional requirements fulfil the declared national public policy objectives, and complements the work undertaken in the context of the European semester in more general terms.*

*These proposals presented by the Commission are currently, except for the Guidance for national reforms in regulation of professions, in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council.*

*The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Assembleia da República and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Elżbieta Bienkowska  
Member of the Commission*

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market, OJ L 376, 27.12.2006, p. 36–68.