



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 8.6.2017  
C(2017) 3813 final

*Dear Chair,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work {COM(2017) 11 final}.*

*The proposal aims to improve workers' health protection by reducing occupational exposure to carcinogenic chemical agents, to provide more clarity and to contribute to a level playing field for economic operators.*

*In proposing these measures, the Commission is making good on the promise in its 2016 Work Programme to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the European Union framework for protecting workers. The intention is also to continue this important work and to conduct further impact assessments with a view to proposing limit values for additional carcinogens.*

*The Commission took a first step to address these issues by adopting on 13 May 2016 a legislative proposal to amend Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work with a view to revise or to introduce exposure limit values for 13 chemical agents {COM(2016) 248 final}. The Commission is now taking a further step in a longer-term process of updating the Directive with regard to seven more carcinogens and proposes to establish limit values and/or skin notations. According to the impact assessment this is estimated to result in increased protection for at least 4 million workers and improved clarity for employers and enforcers. Together it is estimated that both proposals would prevent over 100,000 deaths caused by work-related cancer.*

*The Commission is pleased that the Assembleia da República shares the view that action at the European Union level as envisaged in the proposal is required to improve health protection by reducing occupational exposure to carcinogenic chemicals.*

*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  
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*The Opinion of the European Affairs Committee has been made available to the Commission's representatives in the ongoing negotiations with the co-legislators and we have taken due notice of the statements in the Opinion.*

*Discussions between the Commission and the co-legislators concerning the proposal are now underway and the Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached in the near future.*

*The Commission is grateful for the input provided by Assembleia da República and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Marianne Thyssen  
Member of the Commission*