



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 1.8.2018
C(2018) 5258 final*

*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*

Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the Report from the Commission on the joint review of the implementation of the Agreement between the European Union and the United States of America on the processing and transfer of passenger name records (PNR) to the United States Department of Homeland Security {COM(2017) 29 final}.

The Commission welcomes the Assembleia da República's support for the continuous monitoring and review of this Agreement. The processing of passenger name record data remains an important tool to fight terrorism and serious crime when combined with strong safeguards in terms of protection of the right to privacy and of personal data. As with many other instruments in the security domain, its effectiveness depends on the way it is implemented and the level of cooperation and exchange of information among relevant competent authorities, including international partners. This is particularly relevant now that the Member States are in the process of building their own passenger name record architecture in line with the provisions contained in the Directive on the use of passenger name record data¹. At the same time, ensuring that the obligations and commitments attached to international agreements that permit the transfer of personal data to third countries are being implemented correctly is vital in ensuring that the personal data of EU citizens are processed lawfully and fairly.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Elżbieta Bieńkowska
Member of the Commission*

¹ Directive (EU) 2016/681 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the use of passenger name record (PNR) data for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of terrorist offences and serious crime.