



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 6.11.2017
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Dear Chairs,

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 safeguarding competition in air transport, repealing Regulation (EC) No 868/2004 {COM(2017) 289 final}.

This proposal forms part of a package of several measures adopted by the Commission and designed to further support open and connected aviation markets in the European Union and beyond. These initiatives aim to safeguard competition and connectivity in aviation and reinforce the competitiveness of European aviation, which is a strong driver of job creation, economic growth and trade.

The Commission is pleased that the Assembleia da República, through its European Affairs Committee, shares the view that action at the European Union level as envisaged in the proposal respects the principles of subsidiarity and of proportionality. It takes note of the diverging views expressed by the Committee for Economic Affairs, Innovation and Public Works and would like to clarify in this regard that its proposal takes into account bilateral air agreements as it imposes full compliance with them.

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

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*cc. Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
President of the
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The Commission looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Violeta Bulc
Member of the Commission*