



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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C(2017) 7078 final

*Ms Regina BASTOS
Chairperson of the European
Affairs Committee
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 proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council establishing the European Defence Industrial Development Programme {COM (2017) 294 final}.

The Commission is pleased that the Assembleia da República shares its view about the paramount importance of strengthening the European defence capacity in the context of emerging challenges and in the context of persisting low level of investments and major fragmentation of the sector.

Against this backdrop, the objective of the European Defence Industrial Development Programme is to leverage the competitiveness of the sector by incentivizing and supporting collaboration between enterprises and Member States. It should mitigate the existing inefficiency resulting from a significant fragmentation of the market, which, together with falling spending on defence hamper the competitiveness of the European defence industry as well as render the Union more vulnerable to both internal and external threats.

The Commission is pleased that the Assembleia da República agrees that the actions proposed are in line with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality. It believes that the proposal and, more generally, the initiatives outlined in the Communication on the European Defence Action Plan¹ will contribute to addressing most notable obstacles preventing the European defence industry from being more competitive and enabling the European Union to face in a more efficient manner emerging challenges and threats.

¹ COM (2016) 950 final

Following the adoption of the proposal by the Commission on 7 June, the Estonian Presidency has set up a 'Friends of Presidency' Council Group which is currently discussing the document and preparing a common position.

The Commission looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Elżbieta Bieńkowska
Member of the Commission*