



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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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 of the Council on the European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT systems in the area of freedom, security and justice, and amending Regulation (EC) 1987/2006 and Council Decision 2007/533/JHA and repealing Regulation (EU) 1077/2011, {COM(2017) 352 final}.

This proposal forms part of a broader package of measures designed for a better functioning of the current European Union information systems, for the creation of necessary new systems, their interoperability and for enhancing information exchange. These measures are key to ensure security, efficient migration and border management in the European Union.

By proposing a new mandate for the European Agency for the operational management of large-scale IT Systems in the area of freedom, security and justice (eu-LISA), the Commission is delivering on the European Agendas on Security and Migration.

The purpose of the proposal is to improve the functioning of eu-LISA and strengthening its role to ensure that its mandate meets the current challenges at Union level in the area of freedom, security and justice.

The Commission is pleased that the Assembleia da República shares the view that eu-LISA's mandate should be extended and aligned to the principles of the Joint Statement of the European Parliament and of the Council on decentralised agencies, the Framework Financial Regulation and the new legal framework on data protection.

*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*

*Mr Bacelar de VASCONCELOS
Chair of the Committee on Constitutional
Affairs, Rights, Freedoms and Guarantees
Palácio de S. Bento
P - 1249-068 LISBOA*

The proposal would provide the Agency with the necessary resources to efficiently deal with the current and new systems and its additional tasks, highlight the role of the Agency for the technical implementation of interoperability and for improving data quality, and strengthen the Agency's advisory and support role toward the Member States and the Commission.

The points made above are based on the initial proposal presented by the Commission which is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission*