



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 27.3.2018
C(2018) 1834 final*

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 import of cultural goods {COM(2017) 375 final}.

The proposal aims to prevent the import and storage in the European Union of cultural goods illegally taken from third countries. Such illicit trade is fostering organised crime, terrorism financing, money laundering and tax evasion as well as loss of cultural identity and heritage to the detriment of source countries.

The proposal follows up on European Union's ad hoc legislation prohibiting trade in cultural goods from Iraq and Syria (Regulations 1210/2003 and 36/2012) and places a particular focus on endangered heritage, such as archaeological objects and elements of dismembered monuments in third countries which are affected by armed conflict or natural disasters.

The Commission is pleased that the Assembleia da República shares the view that action at the level of the European Union, as envisaged in the proposal, is required in order to achieve these objectives. It looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Pierre Moscovici
Member of the Commission*

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Chair of the European Affairs Committee
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*cc Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
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