



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Brussels, 27.2.2018
C(2018)1102 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 a Framework for the free movement of non-personal data in the European Union {COM(2017) 495 final}.

This proposal represents one of the sixteen policy actions announced in the Digital Single Market strategy of the Commission, which is a broader package of ambitious measures designed to unleash the potential of the Union's internal market for digital goods and services. Stimulating the European data economy is an important element of this strategy, and enhancing the free movement of data in the European Union is an important precondition in this regard.

The proposal on the free flow of non-personal data will lead to economic growth and job creation for European Union citizens by providing legal certainty that the Union's internal market freedoms also apply to the storage and processing of non-personal data. More specifically, the proposal will make it easier to do business in multiple locations in the Union by avoiding the need to duplicate Information Technology infrastructure for businesses that operate in more than one Member State. This allows for economies of scale and will make it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups to scale up and enter new markets across borders.

The Commission is pleased that the Assembleia da República recognises that the proposal contributes to completing the Digital Single Market. The Opinion of the Assembleia da República has been made available to the Commission's representatives in the ongoing negotiations with the co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council, and will inform these discussions. The Commission is hopeful that an agreement will be reached in the near future.

*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*

The Commission highly appreciates the Opinion of the Assembleia da República and places it into perspective of the excellent reputation of Portugal in the digital realm. Just one example of this is the recently revised Agenda Portugal Digital. This digital policy agenda has had significant effects, for example in the area of connectivity. In Portugal, all households have access to broadband, and at least 95% of homes have access to speeds of at least 30Mbps. This is well above the European average and it is in line with the goal of reaching 100% coverage by 2020, which is also set at European Union level.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Mariya Gabriel
Member of the Commission*