



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 1.10.2018  
C(2018) 6265 final*

*Dear Chair,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the Recommendation on enhancing the European nature and efficient conduct of the 2019 elections to the European Parliament {C(2018) 900 final}.*

*The Commission welcomes the Assembleia da República's interest in this Recommendation, which calls on political parties to engage with European citizens in debates on European elections, to make an earlier choice of the 'lead candidates' and to start earlier the campaign in order to give voters more opportunity to identify which candidates and political programmes they would like to support. The Recommendation also suggests that the link between national parties and European parties be made more visible and that political parties at national level boost transparency about the European parties they are affiliated to, for example by using their logos in campaign and ballot material. The Commission suggests that national political parties position themselves clearly on important European issues and express their intention for participating in political groups in the European Parliament as well as their preferred candidate for the office of President of the European Commission.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Ms Regina BASTOS  
Chair of the European Affairs Committee  
Palácio de S. Bento  
P-1249-068 LISBOA*

*cc Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES  
President of the Assembleia da República  
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