



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.12.2018  
C(2018) 8953 final*

*Dear Chair,*

*The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the Commission's contribution to the Informal Leaders' meeting on 23 February 2018 "A new, modern Multiannual Financial Framework for a European Union that delivers efficiently on its priorities post-2020" {COM(2018) 98 final}.*

*Following an open and inclusive debate on the new Multiannual Financial Framework, the Commission presented between 2 May and 14 June 2018 a comprehensive package for the 2021-2027 long-term budget, including sectoral legislative proposals for programmes supporting and implementing European policies. On 29 June, the Assembleia da República adopted an Opinion on these proposals in which specific concerns were raised, which the Commission addressed in its reply of 13 September.*

*The Commission proposals are pragmatic and realistic, strongly geared to the top political priorities on the future of Europe, agreed by Leaders in Bratislava and Rome. They aim to show how the European Union addresses continued and emerging challenges, combining additional efforts with the necessary budgetary rigour, to move forward, together with confidence to deliver on our common agenda. Also, in presenting the proposals, the Commission has shown unprecedented transparency so as to facilitate swift negotiations.*

*Member States and the European Parliament have taken the view that the Commission proposals provide a solid basis for the ongoing negotiations. The Commission is therefore encouraged that its ambition to achieve an early political agreement on the proposals can be realised in the interest of our citizens. It looks forward to a constructive and positive debate with the Portuguese government and with the Assembleia da República on the next Multiannual Financial Framework, and to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Günther H. Oettinger  
Member of the Commission*

*Ms Regina BASTOS  
Chair of the European Affairs Committee  
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*cc Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES  
President of the Assembleia da República  
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