



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 3.8.2018
C(2018) 5328 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 establishing a European Labour Authority {COM(2018)131 final}.

This proposal, presented within the framework of the Social Fairness Package, forms part of a series of Commission initiatives to deliver on the European Pillar of Social Rights and to support fair and well-functioning labour markets. It aims to contribute to the overall strengthening of the Internal Market, which is one of the priorities of the Juncker Commission.

Over the last decade, the number of mobile citizens almost doubled to reach 17 million in 2017. The Commission submitted several proposals to ensure that the European Union legislative framework on free movement of workers, freedom to provide services and social security coordination is fit to respond to the social and economic reality in the Member States and to the challenges of the increasing mobility across Europe. However, concerns remained regarding the effective application and enforcement of these rules. The proposal to create a European Labour Authority aims at addressing this aspect, by ensuring that the Authority can provide relevant information and services to individuals and employers, as well as support Member States in cooperation, information exchange, concerted and joint inspections, risk assessment, capacity building, mediation, and cooperation in the event of cross-border labour market disruptions.

The Commission welcomes the Assembleia da República's support for the objectives of the proposal on fostering fair mobility.

The Opinion of the Assembleia da República has been made available to the relevant Commission services. Discussions concerning the proposal are now underway between the Commission and the co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission remains hopeful that an agreement can be reached on its proposal in the near future.

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In parallel, an Advisory Group on the European Labour Authority has been established; bringing together representatives of Member States, the European Parliament, European level social partners and other stakeholders. While not participating in the legislative process, the task of the Group is to advise the Commission on how to build the future Authority, taking into account good practices and anticipate and address possible challenges.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Elżbieta Bienkowska
Member of the Commission*