



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 5.2.2019
C(2019) 97 final*

Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the proposal for a Council Recommendation on access to social protection for workers and the self-employed {COM(2018) 132 final}.

The Recommendation which was agreed by the Employment, Social Policy Health and Consumer Affairs Council on 6 December 2018 aims at encouraging Member States to adapt their social protection systems to a changing labour market and, in particular, to promote that self-employed and those who do not have a full-time open-ended contract can participate in social protection schemes and receive adequate coverage on the basis of their contributions. It therefore contributes to upholding principle 12 of the European Pillar of Social Rights, according to which ‘regardless of the type and duration of their employment relationship, workers, and, under comparable conditions, the self-employed, have the right to adequate social protection’.

The Commission welcomes the broad support of the Assembleia da República for the aims of the proposal and takes due note of its considerations.

The Council Recommendation, aims at complementing and supporting debates and reforms that are underway in many Member States. Following its formal adoption, the Recommendation can contribute to creating consensus among policy-makers and stakeholders on the best way to modernise social protection systems. Furthermore, the Recommendation can be a springboard to strengthen the evidence base in this area and better monitor the situation of the different target groups.

The Recommendation is a cornerstone of the European Pillar of Social Rights. Reaching the political agreement was a crucial step but now we need to concentrate our joint efforts in its full and timely implementation.

*Ms Regina BASTOS
Chair of the European Affairs Committee
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*cc Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
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The Commission values the engagement of the Assembleia da República at this stage of the policy making process and will take its Opinion into account when further developing policy and evidence base in this field.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Marianne Thyssen
Member of the Commission*