



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 31.1.2019
C(2019) 711 final*

Dear President,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the Recommendation for a Council Decision authorising the opening of negotiations with Cabo Verde for the conclusion of an implementing Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement between the European Community and Cabo Verde {COM(2018) 299 final}.

The Council adopted the Decision authorising the opening of negotiations on behalf of the European Union for the renewal of the Protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement with Cabo Verde on 4 June 2018. Subsequently, the Commission opened negotiations with Cabo Verde for a new implementing Protocol to the Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreement. These negotiations were concluded and a new Protocol initialled by the parties on 12 October 2018.

The Commission would like to reassure the Assembleia da República that its concerns have been addressed in the recently agreed Protocol. It indeed foresees a significant increase of the financial envelope for the sectoral support, which for the first time will encompass the development of the local fishing communities, while continuing to reinforce the control and surveillance capacities of Cabo Verde in its fisheries policies. Such objectives fully reflect the spirit of the partnerships that the EU signs with its partners, as well as the shared values in relation to sustainable development.

The Commission is now preparing its proposals for the relevant Council decisions to sign and conclude the new Protocol, which will initiate the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Assembleia da República and looks forward to continuing their political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Karmenu Vella
Member of the Commission*

*Ms Regina BASTOS
Chair of the European Affairs Committee
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*cc Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
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