



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 7.11.2018  
C(2018) 6897 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 on specific provisions for the European territorial cooperation goal supported by the European Regional Development Fund and external financing instruments {COM(2018) 374 final}.*

*The proposal forms part of a broader package of ambitious measures designed to govern cohesion policy for the post-2020 period, in particular to promote socio-economic and territorial cohesion across the European Union. As pointed out in the Opinion, the proposal aims more specifically to foster cooperation between Member States of the European Union and between the Member States and neighbouring European third countries, partner countries, other territories or overseas countries and territories.*

*The Commission presented a proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027 that is both realistic and ambitious. This required taking into account a wide range of issues, including Brexit, the need to provide support for new priorities and the need to ensure support for our regions and cities. As the Assembleia da República mentions in its Opinion, some adjustments were needed in the cohesion policy budget, as well as in the allocation for Interreg. The proposed cohesion policy would still be the largest policy of the Union in terms of financial volume and would continue to cover all regions.*

*The Commission welcomes the Assembleia da República's assessment that this legislative initiative is in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.*

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

*cc. Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES  
President of  
the Assembleia da República  
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*The Commission sees the concerns of the Assembleia da República about the proposed level of co-financing. However, it has to be taken into consideration that co-financing rates were raised in a time of economic crisis to ensure the continuity of investment in the hardest hit regions. The Commission proposed to reduce them to reflect the improvement of budgetary conditions across the Union, as the Member States consolidate their financial situations after the crisis. The decrease is also expected to create a greater ownership by beneficiaries and is expected to improve the quality of the projects.*

*The Commission welcomes the Assembleia da República's support for the Interreg component covering outermost regions in view of their better integration and cooperation amongst each other and between them and third countries.*

*The proposal is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council, and the Commission calls on them to swiftly reach an agreement to ensure that EU funds start delivering results on the ground as soon as possible under the new Multiannual Financial Framework.*

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

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Corina Crețu  
Member of the Commission*