



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 11.12.2018
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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 amending Council Regulation (EC) No 1206/2001 of 28 May 2001 on cooperation between the courts of the Member States in the taking of evidence in civil or commercial matters {COM(2018)378 final} and on the proposal for a Regulation amending Regulation (EC) No 1393/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the service in the Member States of judicial and extrajudicial documents in civil or commercial matters {COM(2018) 379 final}.

The proposals aim to improve the smooth functioning of the area of freedom, security and justice, and of the internal market, by increasing the efficiency and speed of the cross-border taking of evidence and service of documents. They will help to modernise and digitise judicial cooperation concerning the taking of evidence and service of documents in cross-border civil and commercial cases throughout the Union. Moreover, they aim at making the access to civil justice cheaper, more efficient and more accessible to citizens and businesses.

The updated rules will make it obligatory for courts to exchange documents cross-border electronically, promote the use of video-conferencing in the context of taking of evidence and strengthen the procedural rights of the parties and access to justice. At the same time, they will increase legal certainty and thereby help to avoid delays and undue costs for citizens, businesses and public administrations and address the shortcomings in the protection of parties' procedural rights when it comes to cross-border service of documents.

*Ms Regina BASTOS
Chair of the European Affairs Committee
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*cc Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
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The Commission welcomes the general support of the Assembleia da República for the aims of both proposals.

The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Věra Jourová
Member of the Commission*