



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 31.10.2018
C(2018) 7211 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 the Rights and Values Programme {COM (2018) 383 final}.

This proposal forms part of the post 2020 Multiannual Financial Framework package that the Commission put forward in May 2018. At a time where European societies are confronted with extremism, radicalism and divisions, it is more important than ever to promote, strengthen and defend justice, rights, and European Union values. This programme will contribute to protecting and promoting rights and values as enshrined in the European Union Treaties, including by supporting civil society organisations, in order to sustain open, democratic and inclusive societies.

The Commission is pleased that the Assembleia da República shares the view that action at Union level as envisaged in the proposal is required to pursue the promotion and protection of rights and values through transnational cooperation mechanisms and networking opportunities.

Legislative negotiations between the Union co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council, concerning the proposal are now underway, with the Commission fully involved. The Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached in the near future.

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

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Věra Jourová
Member of the Commission*

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*cc. Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
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