



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 12.12.2018
C(2018) 8407 final*

Dear President,

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 the establishment of the Reform Support Programme {COM(2018) 391 final}.

This proposal builds on the current experience of the Structural Reform Support Programme: it is the Commission's intention to support Member States in their efforts to design and implement reforms that are aimed at improving the performance of national economies and at promoting resilient economic and social structures. The objective is to contribute to addressing national reform challenges of a structural nature and strengthening Member States' administrative capacity, thereby ultimately contributing to cohesion, competitiveness, productivity, growth and employment. With this objective in mind, the Programme will offer targeted financial and technical support to all Member States upon submission of their proposals for reform commitments or upon request for technical support, including – in the context of the convergence facility – from those Member States whose currency is not the euro and which have taken demonstrable steps towards adopting the single currency within a given time-frame.

The implementation of structural reforms is a matter of common interest for the Union, as reforms help strengthen the resilience of Member States' economies, the euro area and the Union as a whole.

The Commission is pleased that the Assembleia da República agrees that these objectives will be achieved more effectively by means of Union action and that the proposal does not go beyond what is necessary for that purpose. It looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Valdis Dombrovskis
Vice-President of the Commission*

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*cc Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
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