



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 11.12.2018  
C(2018) 8386 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 Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument {COM(2018) 460 final}.*

*The Commission is of the view that the inclusion in the general budget of the European Union of the financial support to African, Caribbean and Pacific countries previously covered by the European Development Fund represents a major change in the field of European Union development cooperation. The proposal does not only maintain but increases the current level of funding for these countries, preserves the existing capacity of response and allows the European Union and its partners from African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to develop further strong alliances on key global challenges. Funding is secured for each of the three regions.*

*The proposal preserves essential features from the European Development Fund, including the possibility to carry-over unused funds to the following year, to reuse de-committed funds, and to have access to unallocated funds in case of emerging needs. The scrutiny and control powers of the European Parliament will be extended to the whole of the development cooperation funds of the Union, strengthening their transparency and accountability.*

*The Commission welcomes the support of the Assembleia da República for the proposal, and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Neven Mimica  
Member of the Commission*

*Ms Regina BASTOS  
Chair of the European Affairs Committee  
Palácio de S. Bento  
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*cc Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES  
President of the Assembleia da República  
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