



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 15.1.2019  
C(2019) 64 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 establishing the Asylum and Migration Fund {COM(2018) 471 final}.*

*Migration has been a top political priority for this Commission. Financial support provided by the Union budget to Member States under pressure has been pivotal in supporting the management of asylum seekers and migrants, in developing search and rescue capacities to save lives, in managing effective returns, and in providing a coordinated response in the context of the European Agenda on Migration. Learning the lessons of the past, and acknowledging that migration and border management will remain a challenge in the future, the Commission proposed to significantly reinforce funding for migration under the next Union budget from 2021 to 2027.*

*The new Asylum and Migration Fund will contribute to a European Union's migration policy which is robust, realistic and fair, and which acknowledges the needs of the host societies and the European Union citizens and works closely with partners worldwide. The new Fund will support ongoing efforts and needs in the areas of asylum, integration and return. In addition, more resources are foreseen for Member States under severe migratory pressure, for legal migration and the early integration of legally staying non-European Union citizens, countering irregular migration, increasing the effective return of those people who have no right to stay, cooperation on readmission with third countries and equipping the Union with faster and more flexible means of responding to crises.*

*The Commission welcomes the Assembleia da República's assessment that proposed policy objectives can be achieved most effectively by means of Union level action.*

*Discussions on the proposal are now underway in the European Parliament and in the Council. The Commission stands ready to facilitate the negotiations between the two co-legislators and remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached in the near future.*

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

*cc Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES  
President of the Assembleia da República  
Palácio de S. Bento  
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*The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*Frans Timmermans  
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos  
Member of the Commission*