



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 15.1.2019
C(2019) 59 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 Internal Security Fund {COM(2018) 472 final}.

This Commission has made security a top priority from day one. Over recent years, security threats have intensified and diversified in Europe. They are increasingly cross-border in nature, meaning that Member States can no longer act alone to address all threats. While protecting citizens is a national responsibility, the European Union plays a vital role in supporting Member States' efforts. The European Union budget has a key role to play in supporting Member States in keeping Europeans safe, in particular when security threats know no borders and insidiously target our values and our way of life. Building on these foundations, the Commission has proposed a reinforced Internal Security Fund.

The reinforced Internal Security Fund will have three new objectives focusing on increasing the exchange of information between European Union enforcement authorities, intensifying cross-border joint operations and strengthening capabilities to combat and prevent crime, and to tackle radicalisation. This will support Member States in a more flexible and effective way to deliver on priority security areas: the fight against terrorism and radicalisation; serious and organised crime; cybercrime; and the protection of victims of crime. The Commission appreciates the Assembleia da República's Opinion and welcomes the conclusion that action at the European level is necessary to achieve the aims of the proposal.

Discussions on the proposal are now underway between the co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council. The Commission remains hopeful that an agreement can be reached in the near future.

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Chair of the European Affairs Committee
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*cc Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
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The Commission looks forward to continuing the political dialogue with the Assembleia da República in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Dimitris Avramopoulos
Member of the Commission*