



## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 15.1.2019  
C(2019) 63 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, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the instrument for financial support for border management and visa {COM(2018) 473 final}, the proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing, as part of the Integrated Border Management Fund, the instrument for financial support for customs control equipment {COM(2018) 474 final} and the Commission Recommendation adding Appendices A and B to Commission recommendation {C(2006) 5186} of 6 November 2006 laying down a “Practical Handbook for Border Guards (Schengen Handbook)” to be used by Member States’ competent authorities when carrying out the border control of persons {C(2018) 3658}.*

*On 2 May 2018, the Commission adopted a package on the Multi-Annual Financial Framework for the period 2021-2021. The Commission proposed a new, modern long-term budget, tightly geared to the political priorities of the Union at 27. The proposed budget combines new instruments with modernised programmes to deliver efficiently on the Union’s priorities. Building on those foundations, the Commission is proposing the establishment of a new Integrated Border Management Fund. This new Fund is aimed at providing vital and reinforced support to Member to secure the common external borders of the Union.*

*The Integrated Border Management Fund will contribute to the further development of the common visa policy and the implementation of European integrated border management by Member States, to help combat irregular migration and facilitate legitimate travel and trade. Funding should continue to provide support to Member States to build and enhance their capacities in these areas and to reinforce cooperation, including with the relevant Union agencies. The Fund will also play a role in ensuring more uniformity in the performance of customs controls at the external borders.*

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

*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*