



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 21.1.2019
C(2019) 103 final*

Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the proposal for a Regulation establishing the European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre and the Network of National Coordination Centres {COM(2018) 630 final}.

With this proposal, the Commission is making good on the announcement in the 2017 Joint Communication on Resilience, Defence and Deterrence: Building strong cybersecurity for the EU {JOIN(2017) 450 final} to reinforce the European Union's cybersecurity capability through a network of cybersecurity centres with a European competence centre at its heart. The objective of the proposed European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology and Research Competence Centre and the Network of National Coordination Centres is to help the Union retaining and developing the cybersecurity technological and industrial capacities necessary to secure its Digital Single Market. This goes hand-in-hand with the key objective to increase the competitiveness of the Union's cybersecurity industry and turn cybersecurity into a competitive advantage of other European industries.

The Commission is pleased that the Assembleia da República concludes that the objective pursued by the proposal will be achieved more effectively by means of action at Union level, and therefore the proposal is in compliance with the principle of subsidiarity.

Discussions between the co-legislators, the European Parliament and the Council, concerning the proposal are now underway and the Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached in the coming year.

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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*

*Mariya Gabriel
Member of the Commission*