



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 19.9.2019
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Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the Proposal for a Council Decision on the conclusion, on behalf of the European Union, of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Singapore, of the other part {COM(2018) 784 final}.

The Commission appreciates that the Assembleia da República decided to analyse this proposal and welcomes its conclusion that the proposed cooperation initiatives can only be achieved at the European Union level.

The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement is predominantly a political agreement which provides a framework to consolidate relations and enhance cooperation on global challenges. It strengthens the relationship between the European Union and Singapore by reinforcing existing areas of cooperation and engagement, and deepening and diversifying relations further in areas of mutual interest.

With the overall aims of promoting economic and social progress for the citizens of both the European Union and Singapore, the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement builds on the shared commitment towards good governance and sustainable development, underlining the importance of trade, investment and rule of law, and upholding multilateralism. Moreover, the Agreement will broaden cooperation in a wide range of areas, such as environment, climate change, energy, education and culture, science and technology, transport, counter terrorism and the fight against organised crime.

The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Singapore is the fourth such agreement signed with a country belonging to the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), following the agreements with Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam. The Commission appreciates the ongoing support of the Assembleia da

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*cc. Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
President of the
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República to the increasing EU engagement in South East Asia, and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Federica Mogherini
High Representative/Vice-President*