



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 16.9.2020
C(2020) 6444 final*

Dear Chair,

The Commission would like to thank the Assembleia da República for its Opinion on the amended proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund {COM(2020) 452 final}.

This proposal provides for extended eligibility for support, in order to improve the overall economic resilience and recovery of the EU in the context of the post COVID-19 shock. It proposes to increase the flexibility of investment to address weaknesses in the health sector, improve preparedness related to unexpected emergencies, promote job creation in small and medium enterprises and fully exploit the economic potential of the tourism and culture sectors. It also allows for temporary measures providing a targeted extension of the scope of the European Regional Development Fund in case of exceptional and unusual circumstances in the context of the Stability and Growth Pact. This flexibility will enable Member States and regions to tailor their reply in accordance to the specific needs of each region and in particular the most impacted by the crisis, such as the outermost regions.

The Commission welcomes the Assembleia da República's assessment that this legislative initiative is in accordance with the principles of subsidiarity and proportionality.

As regards the concerns of the rapporteur about the consultation of the Committee of the Regions, the Commission is pleased to confirm that the proposal was submitted to the Committee of the Regions on 28 May 2020.

*Mr Luís CAPOULAS SANTOS
Chair of the European Affairs Committee
of the Assembleia da República
Palácio de S. Bento
P – 1249-068 LISBOA*

*cc. Mr Eduardo FERRO RODRIGUES
President
of the Assembleia da República
Palácio de S. Bento
P – 1249-068 LISBOA*

The proposal is currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council, and the Commission remains hopeful that an agreement will be reached swiftly to ensure that EU funds start delivering results on the ground as soon as possible under the new Multiannual Financial Framework.

The Commission believes that the political dialogue with national Parliaments is essential for linking the Institutions and the citizens of the European Union, and looks forward to continuing it with the Assembleia da República in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Elisa Ferreira
Member of the Commission*