



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

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Dear Presidents,

The Commission would like to thank the Cortes Generales for their Opinion on the proposals for a Directive on a proportionality test before adoption of new regulation of professions {COM(2016) 822 final}, for a Directive on the legal and operational framework of the European services e-card introduced {COM(2016) 823 final} and for a Regulation introducing a European services e-card and related administrative facilities {COM(2016) 824 final}.

These proposals, adopted by the Commission on 10 January 2017 as part of the “Services Package”, should be seen in light of President Juncker's political commitment to unleash the full potential of the Single Market and make it the launchpad for European companies to thrive in the global economy. This goal was confirmed by the European Council in its December 2015, June 2016 and December 2016 conclusions. The proposed measures aim to make it easier for service providers to navigate administrative formalities, and to help Member States identify overly burdensome or outdated requirements on professionals operating domestically or across borders. Rather than amending existing Union rules in the area of services, the Commission focuses on ensuring they are applied better, as evidence shows that implementing them to their full potential would provide a significant boost to the economy of the European Union.

The Commission welcomes the overall support of the Cortes Generales for these objectives to steer the internal market for services, for service providers and professionals and for customers of these services.

The proposal for a European services e-card sets-up a simplified electronic procedure to make it easier for providers of business services and construction services to complete the administrative formalities required to provide services abroad. It aims to enhance trust on the services markets through advanced administrative cooperation.

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With the proposal for a proportionality test on regulated professions, the Commission is proposing to streamline and clarify how Member States should undertake a comprehensive and transparent proportionality test before adopting or amending national rules on professional services.

These proposals presented by the Commission are currently in the legislative process involving both the European Parliament and the Council. The Opinion of the Cortes Generales has been forwarded to the relevant Commission services and will form part of the briefing files used when they go to the European Parliament or Council to negotiate the proposal.

The Commission hopes that these clarifications address the issues raised by the Cortes Generales and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Elżbieta Bienkowska
Member of the Commission*