

VIII EUROSAI CONGRESS

Cultural Centre of Belém

CLOSING SESSION SPEECH

02/06/2011 (18h 30 – 19h 30)

Guilherme d'Oliveira Martins
President of EUROSAI
President of the Portuguese
Tribunal de Contas

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

Now that we are concluding the VIII EUROSAI Congress, I would like to express my delight about this event, which has greatly benefitted from the effective and competent cooperation among our Institutions.

First of all, I want to let you know that it was an honour for us to have your participation in this Congress that we had the pleasure to organize in Lisbon.

I would like to add that, undoubtedly, we have all gained more knowledge and are professionally more prepared because of the fruitful discussions we had, due to the

important Conclusions and Recommendations, reached as a result of this four-day Congress.

I am sure that, henceforth, our institutions will analyse the matters we have discussed in an increasingly informed and safe manner.

In addition, I would like to highlight the decisive enrichment that always stems from the exchange of views, of a more informal character, among colleagues with different experiences, which are generally established in these events and that we have also had the excellent opportunity to develop during this meeting.

Institutionally, I have no hesitation in saying that EUROSAI is stronger because of this Congress. Obviously, from my point of view, this is, up to a great extent, the result of the excellent framework document of our activities resulting from the work carried out by the Polish Presidency – which is the Strategic Plan 2011-2017.

This Strategic Plan needs to be implemented now. The current presidencies during this period – the Portuguese *Tribunal de Contas*, which is now empowered; and the *Algemene Rekenkamer*, of the Netherlands, in the following three-year period – face this important challenge, which is very stimulating, at all levels, and will require unquestionable substantial commitment.

And, because events of this nature are also important opportunities to get to know different and often unfamiliar cultures of the countries in which they are held, I would

like to talk about the place and the area of Lisbon in which we are now, Belém, a name that recalls one of the cradles of Christianity.

Significantly for the Portuguese history and culture, Belém invokes Camões and *Os Lusíadas*. Vasco da Gama set sail from this place to discover India. The Tower of Belém and the Jerónimos Monastery transport you back to those days and are classified by the UNESCO as World Heritage. But there are other important places in this area, such as the National Palace of Belém, which is not very far from here, where the official residence of the President of the Republic is located.

The Cultural Centre of Belém, where this session is being held, is a contemporary building - a building of our time - which was built at the end of the XX century and contains spaces for exhibitions, concerts, conferences and other activities, generally of recognized quality.

I would like to invite you now for a moment to paying tribute to the *Fado* music and the Portuguese Guitar with my friend António Chainho, who honours us with his presence today, as one of the world-famous most reputed instrumentalists.

Speaking about the *Fado* music in this “atmosphere” is to invoke the Portuguese word “saudade”, which means remembrance and longing, although I think it should be regarded today as the “longing for the future”.

COMING NEXT: ANTÓNIO CHAINHO'S RENDITION

AFTER ANTÓNIO CHAINHO'S RENDITION:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for your presence. It was for me a great honour to have hosted you in Portugal and I will now give the floor to Mrs. Saskia Stuiveling, President of *Algemene Rekenkamer*, of the Netherlands, the country that will host the IX EUROSAI Congress in 2014.

Thank You.