

“The Future of NATO”
With the Deputy Secretary-General of NATO, Mrs Rose Gottemoeller
Lisbon, IEP-UCP, 28 February 2019
Welcome Adress by João Carlos Espada

Dear Mrs Rose Gottemoeller,
Distinguished Guests,
Dear Colleagues, Dear Students,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Institute for Political Studies of the Catholic University of Portugal, I would like to welcome you all to this very special event on “The Future of NATO”.

It is for us a great pleasure and privilege to host the Deputy Secretary-General of NATO, Mrs Rose Gottemoeller, on the occasion of her official visit to Portugal.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to Mrs Gottemoller, and we also would like to thank the co-hosts of this Lecture:

Ambassador Luís de Almeida Sampaio, Portugal’s Ambassador to NATO, who unfortunately cannot be with us today because of his previous commitments in Brussels;

Mr. Júlio Miranda Calha MP, president of the Portuguese Atlantic Commission who will briefly introduce our guest-speaker;

and last but certainly not least, Mr Jaime Gama, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and former Speaker of the Portuguese Parliament, who is chairing our event today within the European Studies Seminar that he kindly teaches at our Institute.

Those who have known our Institute for a while will not be surprised by our warm welcome to the Deputy Secretary General of NATO. We have been deeply committed to the Atlantic Alliance since our founding, in 1996.

We have hosted in 2010 the then Secretary-General of NATO, Mr Anders Fogh Rasmussen.

I am also delighted to mention that I am now chairing the “Trans-Atlantic Working Group” within the “International Coalition for Democratic Renewal”, which was founded two years ago in Prague, hosted by the late President Vaclav Havel’s Forum 2000.

And our Institute for Political Studies has devoted at least three of our annual Summer Courses, **The Estoril Political Forum**, to the general theme of the Atlantic Alliance:

In 2004, the title was “**Ideas of Europe and the Trans-Atlantic Relationship**”.

In 2005, “**The Trans-Atlantic Relationship in a Global World**”.

In 2009, “**NATO, 1949-2009: The Future of the Free World**”.

I am now delighted to recall that our next edition of the Estoril Political Forum — the 27th, incidentally, that will take place on 24-26 June (please, save the dates) — will be again devoted to NATO. The title that has already been announced is “**The Atlantic Alliance: 70 Years After the Founding of NATO; 30 Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall**”.

Among many distinguished speakers from the US, the UK and continental Europe that have already confirmed their participation, I am delighted to announce that we will have with us Mr. Randolph Churchill, the great grandson of Sir Winston Churchill — certainly one of the leading defenders of the Atlantic Alliance in the 20th century.

Dear Mrs Rose Gottemoeller,

Welcome to this Club of good friends of NATO. We all look forward to your lecture and to the conversation that will follow.

Thank you very much for coming.