

IEP -EPF-2019

Senhor Presidente da Câmara de Cascais, Dr. Carlos Carreiras,
Senhor Diretor do Instituto de Estudos Políticos da UCP, Prof. João Carlos Espada,
Dr. Pedro Norton, Presidente do Conselho Estratégico do Instituto de Estudos Políticos,
Srs. Embaixadores,
Docentes, estudantes, palestrantes, distintos convidados,
Minhas senhoras e meus senhores

É para mim um particular orgulho assinalar 27 anos de fundação e atividade do Estoril Political Forum, organizado pelo Instituto de Estudos Políticos da Universidade Católica, o evento que encerra as atividades do ano letivo do IEP, congregando ao mais alto nível o pensamento académico, a gestão da coisa pública, atores da estratégia política global, professores e estudantes. Num tempo em que a efemeridade é lei e quando a virtualidade se tornou doutrina, 27 anos de diálogo presente, profundo e alargado, não representa apenas resiliência, assinala a reconhecimento de um trabalho intelectual único, e reconhecido globalmente, a marca relevante e a incisão da escola de Estudos Políticos da Universidade Católica Portuguesa. Sem humildade, exemplo maior de excelência na academia portuguesa. Dou por isso os meus parabéns ao Instituto, cumprimentando no seu Diretor todos os docentes e colaboradores, pelo labor destes 27 anos, desejando um futuro com pelo menos outros tantos mais.

Cumprimento igualmente o senhor Presidente da Câmara de Cascais que, com generosidade, tem associado o município a este magno evento do IEP, certa de que esta colaboração constitui uma importante plataforma que cria valor para as duas partes, projetando o capital de conhecimento do IEP e a imagem de Cascais por todo o mundo.

Dear participants of the Estoril Political Forum, distinguished guests,

On behalf of the University, it is my privilege to welcome you once again to the Estoril Political Forum and this extraordinary venue in Estoril. Though this year, weather conditions seem to be shying away from the warm brilliance of the glamorous Estoril Coast tradition, I trust the springy outside atmosphere will pale before the radiant knowledge sun inside these illustrious rooms, famously admired as settings of

undisclosed, and decisive, diplomatic negotiations, espionage accounts, business dealings, social celebrations. If only walls could speak ...

This year's Forum convenes around the crucial topic of the Transatlantic Alliance. At a time of increasing partisanship, before the rise of illiberal political projects and the wildfire spread of nationalist populism, it is wise to remember lessons learned and avoid the pitfalls of political egotism, sleepwalking from one failed decision to the next, until the final rupture. Politics is the art of brokering, finding tentative consensus, where demise is foreseen. For the art of politics is not a hollow form of conveying elitist self-entitlement but rather the noble representation of the collective voice of the *demos*. Words coupled with action, not the art of superficial rhetorical debating but speaking with knowledge and reasoned arguments on behalf of a larger constituency. This is why a solid education – not a flashy degree from a trendy Higher Education venture – is more than invaluable, it is an urgent requirement. Contrary to Oscar Wilde's invective that nothing worth knowing can be taught, an education for our times of need requires an honest and deep understanding of the past narratives that have crafted our present, our values, our way of making sense of the world, analytical training to compile, unpack and understand large amounts of information and an ethical cosmopolitanism, keen to engage in dialogue with the global community that is as diverse as it is difficult. The large challenges we face are no longer simply those of the national 'we' but are inevitably intertwined with the global 'our'. Our planet, our resources, our children, our work.

Arguably, in these days, the rhetoric is all geared towards denouncing the feebleness of consensus, and insisting on bullish *diktats*. But this is effectively the opposite of courageous engagement. Forging alliances - as the transatlantic alliance shows – beats building walls.

It is precisely an education for our times and our future, that the Institute of Political Studies has been resiliently imparting over more than two decades. An education that not only studies but also forges alliances such as those evident here today.

The anniversaries addressed in this year's call celebrate landmarks in democratic conquest, but they also signal the sacrifice that has come with it. As years go by, the debt

of the many before those few increases exponentially. As we recall D-Day, remember the joy of November 9, 1989 and the Fall of the Berlin Wall, the dire events of Tiannanmen Square, our outlook must be less that of mnemonic recognition than of prospective anticipation. We celebrate what lies ahead, how those past actions shape our present, and continue to inspire our future. If I may argue that locations also have a spirit, a *genius loci*, then Cascais/Estoril is a powerful *lieux de mémoire* of the fight against the darkness enshrouding Europe between 1939 and 1945. These rooms and this environment are precisely ideal locations for a novel reengagement with a past that is not a monument and can only be relevant if it continues to celebrate our commitment to democratic principles, moving forward into better and stronger alliances, and forging more perfect unions. Thank you.