

Winston Churchill Memorial Lecture
19 October 2020: 18:30 — 19:30

Opening words
João Carlos Espada

Dear Ambassador Christopher Sainty,
Distinguished Members of the Panel,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure and privilege to welcome you all to this online Winston Churchill Memorial Lecture. (I hope by the way that you can appreciate my Churchillian bow-tie).

As most of our guests may already know, our Institute for Political Studies of the Catholic University of Portugal usually hosts two Winston Churchill Lectures per year. One at the beginning of the academic year, in late September/early October, which has always taken place at the beautiful Presidential Palace in Cascais, by the sea. Another Churchill Lecture and Dinner takes place at the end of the academic year, in late June, also near the sea, at the Estoril Palace Hotel — which was the hotel of the Anglo-American Allies during the second world war.

Today, we are for the first time bringing together the two events and for the first time doing it online and not in person. We all miss the gentlemanly in person conviviality at the Estoril Palace and at the Presidential Palace in Cascais — not to mention the two lovely dinners and the closing toasts to the Queen and to the President.

On the other hand, though, we have today an extremely distinguished panel and I would like to express emphatically our deep gratitude.

Our guest-speaker is H.E Ambassador Christopher Sainty, the British Ambassador to Lisbon who has given us the privilege of his friendship and of his presence at several Churchill Lectures and Dinners. Today, Ambassador Sainty will be the main-speaker and has provided a very interesting and inspirational title indeed: “Difficulties Mastered Are Opportunities Won: The UK, Portugal and Europe in 2020 and Beyond.” We all very much look forward to listening to his lecture.

We will then have three comments coming from highly distinguished discussants who have also been with us several times. Allen Packwood, Director of the Churchill Archives Centre at Churchill College, Cambridge; followed by Lord Moore, authorised biographer of Margaret Thatcher, and former editor of *The Spectator*, *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sunday Telegraph*. The third discussant will be our friend James Muller, Professor at the University of Anchorage, in Alaska, and Chairman of

the International Churchill Society's Board of Academic Advisers — as well as, I am delighted to add, a member of our Institute's International Advisory Board.

Last but certainly not least, our debate will be joined by another prominent Churchillian who has also been with us at several previous Churchill events: H.E. Miguel Albuquerque, president of the Regional Government of Madeira.

Finally, I am also delighted to recall that our Winston Churchill Memorial Lecture has the the kind support of several civil associations that have also been with us at previous Churchill events: the British Historical Society of Portugal, IEP Alumni Club, International Churchill Society of Portugal and the Royal British Club.

Now, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my great pleasure and privilege to give the floor to our Guest-speaker, Ambassador Christopher Sainty.

Dear Ambassador, thank you very much for having accepted our invitation. The virtual floor is yours.

Thank you.