

Dear Prof. Espada, dear Prof. Capeloa Gil, dear Mr. Pinto Luz, dear members of parliament,

lieber Herr Hofmeister, *lieber Herr Ostermann*,

esteemed guests, dear students.

It is a pleasure being here with you tonight at the closing of this year's Estoril Political Forum.

First of all, I would like to express my respect and compliments to the *Instituto de Estudos Politicos* of the Catholic University and its director, Joao Carlos Espada, for having organised yet another high level edition of the *Estoril Political Forum*. I have listened to some discussions and frankly, I am impressed.

The theme of this year's forum is "The Transatlantic Alliance. 70 years after the founding of NATO, 30 years after the fall of the Berlin wall". Honoring Konrad Adenauer with tonight's dinner perfectly fits to this, as it points the way to his personal ambitions and achievements.

Adenauer was convinced, that the nation-states - though fundamental elements of any foreign policy - were no longer capable of solving – on their own - the political and social challenges of modern times. His political ingenuity showed in laying the foundation for the eventual reunification of our country by firmly and unequivocally anchoring the young Federal Republic within the Western community of nations and its system of collective security. Under his leadership Germany became member of NATO in 1955, he signed the Treaties of Rome and he was a firm believer in the Franco-German reconciliation.

Adenauer's policies led not only to "unity in freedom" for all Germans, but also to German unity in peace and harmony with our neighbours - and partners beyond. Henry Kissinger aptly summed up the chancellor's achievement (by the way - originally in German language): "*Within a decade, Adenauer, in a way unprecedented in European history, had turned his country from being ostracized into an equal partner in political and security affairs.*"

The 'West', to which Adenauer made post-war Germany adhere, agreed on essential ground rules: It agreed on freedom, human rights and the rule of law.

In today's world, those rules and values are being challenged. The very term "great power competition" has returned as a buzzword. The current decline in trust and reliability in international politics is putting some of our common pillars in question.

But Chancellor Angela Merkel left no doubt in her well received speech at Harvard this spring about Germany's firm believe in multilateralism and a rules based international order. She called upon all of us to act multilateral rather than unilateral, global rather than national, outward-looking rather than isolationist. Germany committed to use its current seat in the UN Security Council to work against the described trend and to unite all those that still believe in multilateral cooperation and dialogue.

It is our joint responsibility to assure, that Europe is not allowed to be smashed between the old and new centers of power, however assertive they might be. Nor should Europe strive for equidistance to the various poles of power. The transatlantic partnership is - and will remain - deeply rooted in our lives. It is a strategic necessity not least for us Germans.

Part of Adenauer's legacy is his sense of historic responsibility – and the lesson never again to over-estimate our strength. Consequently, striving for international consensus has become part of our DNA. Foreign Minister Maas has accordingly called for an "Alliance for Multilateralism", a concept also welcomed by the Portuguese foreign minister, when the Ministers met in Lisbon last December.

The idea behind the initiative is to build a network of countries, also outside of Europe,

- that share a common set of rules and values.
- that are committed to international order and
- that aim to address new challenges together.

We need to shape an international order in which we can rely on each other and in which medium and long-term benefits outweigh short-term gains. Therefore,

- we want to defend international rules and institutions that are coming under attack at the moment. The nuclear deal with Iran and the Paris climate agreement are only some examples, our humanitarian system and arms control are others.
- we want to strengthen international cooperation where new challenges demand new answers. Climate change, migration and cyber threats do not stop at national borders, they need a joint answer.
- And we want to reform international institutions like the UN or the WTO. They must reflect today's world and priorities; this is not just a matter of fairness, it is a matter of credibility.

Such goals might seem like a long shot sometimes. But I truly believe they are worth every effort as much as I believe that "Multilateralism Matters".

In this, I feel quite encouraged by the staunch pro-European as well as multilateralist stance of our wonderful host country, Portugal.

But now let me turn to my actual task tonight, which is presenting tonight's main speaker, Dr. Wilhelm Hofmeister, who heads the Konrad Adenauer Foundation on the Iberian peninsula, a known guest in this Forum.

He has worked for the foundation in Brazil, Chile and Singapore before as well as working on the foundation's Africa, Latin America and Asia programs. He holds a PhD in Political Science, Sociology and History and has published numerous publications about, among others, European external relations and international cooperation.

I am looking forward to what he has to tell us tonight, as well as looking forward to spending a wonderful dinner here with you tonight.

Thank you, muito obrigada!