

Estoril Political Forum 2020
28th International Annual Meeting in Political Studies
New Authoritarian Challenges to Liberal Democracy

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Closing Address João Carlos Espada

Senhor Embaixador Martin Ney, Excelência,

Senhor Vice-Reitor da Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Professor Luís Gustavo Martins,

Distintos Membros do Painel,

Distintos Convidados, Senhoras e Senhores, Caros Amigos,

Gostaria de começar por agradecer a presença de todos nesta sessão solene de encerramento da 28^a edição do Estoril Political Forum, a Konrad Adenauer Memorial Lecture. Um agradecimento muito especial a S.Exa. o Embaixador da Alemanha, bem como a — que nos dá a honra e o privilégio de nos conceder o seu Alto Patrocínio e de presidir a esta Sessão de Abertura.

Pedia agora a vossa compreensão para usar a língua inglesa, de forma a comunicar directamente com os nossos convidados estrangeiros.

Now to our English-speaking participants and friends:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the closing session, The Konrad Adenauer Memorial Lecture, of the 28th International Annual Meeting in Political Studies, now also called the “Estoril Political Forum.” We are delighted to let you know that you are participating at Portugal’s largest annual meeting in Political Studies – and, yes, indeed, almost twenty-eight years have now passed since we had our first meeting, in the Arrábida Convent, in September 1993. We were then fewer than 20 participants. I am delighted to let you know that we have registered 712 participants at this year’s online session.

If there has been a defining permanent feature of our meetings since 1993, this has certainly been our strong commitment to the idea of a University, to liberal democracy, the rule of law, free-speech, free-trade and a market economy — the common ground of the European Union and of the Atlantic Alliance.

This year we have had our first online event. We all are sorry to miss the gentlemanly in person conviviality of the Estoril Palace Hotel. But we are delighted to let you know that we have already reserved the Palace Hotel for next year's Estoril Political Forum. You are all invited to join us next year, hopefully in person at the Estoril Palace. Please pencil in the dates of June 28, 29 and 30.

It is now my pleasure to express our gratitude to all the distinguished speakers of this panel:

HE Martin Hey, Ambassador of Germany in Lisbon, who gives us the very special privilege and pleasure of being the main speaker at this Konrad Memorial Lecture.

Mr. Wilhelm Hofmeister, Director of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung for Spain and Portugal, who has sponsored the Estoril Political Forum for several years and that has just announced a new program of Konrad Adenauer Scholarships for our Master's students.

Mr Constantin Ostermann von Roth, Chairman of ASBAL, Associação São Bartolomeu dos Alemães, who has been supporting us for many years, including a very generous Award for our students.

Mr. Henrique Burnay, Presidente of IEP Alumni Club, to whom we are delighted to thank his commitment to creating a home atmosphere to our former students.

Vice- Rector Professor Luís Gustavo Martins, who will kindly close our session on behalf of our Rector, Professor Isabel Capeloa Gil, who is also the President of the International Federation of Catholic Universities.

Without further ado, it is now my privilege to give the virtual floor to Mr. Wilhelm Hofmeister.

Dear Wilhelm, the virtual floor is yours. Thank you.