

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS IN
Political Studies
(Est. 1993)

**CONFRONTING
THE AUTHORITARIAN CHALLENGE**

30th Annual Edition
27-29 June 2022



Opening Address

Rita Seabra Brito

It was with great pleasure that we once again organized a very special programme for the 30th edition of the Estoril Political Forum. It is a very extensive programme about which I invite you to learn more, both within the conference materials and on our website.

This year's central topic, *Confronting the Authoritarian Challenge*, will be discussed in various panels throughout the programme. The debate on this topic will be launched directly in the next session through a video by Her Excellency the Ambassador of Ukraine in Portugal, in a session with the participation of José Manuel Durão Barroso, very well known by everyone for his role carried out as Portugal's Prime Minister and President of the European Commission, but also as director of the Centre for European Studies of our Institute; Marc Plattner, founding co-editor of the *Journal of Democracy* and President of the International Advisory Board of our Institute, and William Galston, from the Brookings Institution.

We were informed last week that our guest speakers Charles Moore and Raymond Plant will unfortunately not be able to join us this year.

The conference work will proceed with the Ralf Dahrendorf Memorial Lecture, which will be delivered by Carl Gershman, Founding President of the US National Endowment for Democracy. This session's topic will be *Ukraine's Resistance and the Future of Democracy*, a topic we consider of the utmost importance given the remarkable

example the Ukrainian people have been giving the world, on the values of freedom and democracy.

The Garden Reception *Celebrating the 650th Anniversary of the Anglo-Portuguese Alliance*, will follow, in which we will have the honor of welcoming HRH Dom Duarte, Duke of Bragança.

According to our tradition, throughout the programme we will have the Raymond Aron and Luigi Einaudi Memorial Luncheons as well as the Winston Churchill, George Washington and Konrad Adenauer Memorial Dinners. During the Konrad Adenauer Memorial Dinner, we will welcome the participation of our Academic Association and the Lisbon Swingers.

It is a great pleasure to count on the participation of our International Advisory Board members, Professors: Anthony O' Hear, Catherine Marshall, Clifford Orwin, Hartmut Mayer, James Muller, Paul Flather and Zdzislaw Mach.

Our programme would not be possible without the support of many friends and sponsors, some of them will join us for the next days. I would like to express our deepest gratitude to:

Fundação Amélia de Mello, which sponsors scholarships and various events and programmes at the IEP, will be represented by Jorge Quintas, its secretary general.

Jerónimo Martins/Biedronka which sponsors scholarships for students from polish universities to participate in the conference. This company was presided by Alexandre Soares dos Santos, to whom we had the privilege to assign the Faith and Liberty Lifetime Tribute in 2014.

This prize was also assigned to Father João Seabra in 2017. Father João Seabra left us last June. We will profoundly miss him.

We are also deeply grateful to the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, which will be represented by Ludger Gruber, director for Portugal and Spain and who will be guest speaker at the closing dinner. We will have the pleasure of having among us Wilhelm Hofmeister, former director for Portugal and Spain of the Foundation and a long-time friend of the Institute.

We would also like to thank Jakub Klepal, host of the *Prague Appeal for an International Coalition for Democratic Renewal* and President of Forum 2000, launched by Václav Havel.

Last but certainly not least, we are profoundly grateful to the Township of Cascais and to Mayer Carlos Carreiras, who have kindly supported us since 2011.

Dear Guests,

On behalf of the Institute for Political Studies of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa, I would like to thank you all for coming to this 30th edition of the Estoril Political Forum.

The EPF is a kind of club of friends of liberty that has grown over the years. It was not built on a central decision, or a central command. It has grown. It has evolved gradually through the free interaction and cooperation of free and decentralized individuals and institutions that have felt at home and have enjoyed these annual meetings.

Some of our Portuguese colleagues from other Universities are sometimes surprised by the success of this unplanned evolution of what has become a great institution of friends of liberty. However, whenever they join us at the Estoril Political Forum, they too, are touched by the atmosphere of orderly liberty which we celebrate in these meetings.

We may well be facing today new threats to liberty, but we remain confident on its charm and strength.