

THE BRUSSELS EUROPE



PRESS CLUB

MAGAZINE

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THE LUSOPHONE WORLD IN FOCUS



Definition of Lusophone: Portuguese speaking person either as a native or as a learner.

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Editorial

Fernanda Gabriel

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The objective of this issue of the Press Club Brussels Europe Magazine is to take a long hard look at the Portuguese speaking world. It is a timely and wise initiative because all too often discussion of the “Lusosphere” is inward looking and restricted to the countries using the Portuguese language. Most readers will be familiar with the British Commonwealth or the International Organisation of La Francophonie but far fewer are likely to be aware of the existence of the 9 members from the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP) let alone the PALOP Organisation which groups the 5 African countries which have Portuguese as their official language!

This issue of the Press Club’s magazine, which is devoted to “The Lusophone World in Focus”, is aimed at stimulating interest in this linguistic, cultural and potentially economic and political community of countries which extends across several continents. In Europe, Portuguese may only be spoken by some 10 million people but worldwide it ranks 5th in the league table of languages and is used by over 230 million native speakers. But even in places such as Macau, or Goa, Damian and Diu in India, where the Portuguese language is now rarely used people have retained an emotional link to certain facets of their cultural identity which are common to the “Lusosphere” as a whole. Portuguese-speaking countries enjoy a strong sense of a shared identity stemming from a common historical, linguis-

tic and cultural heritage as well as a long tradition of contacts and exchanges amongst themselves, particularly in Africa. Nowadays a concerted policy to capitalise on the benefits of this friendship and cooperation is needed in order to create a political impetus in the international fora such as the European institutions, the United Nations, etc. Hence the importance of this issue as a window onto the realities of the Portuguese-speaking world because each country has had the opportunity to present its special features and potentialities. Likewise academics, journalists, MEPs and political consultants have been asked to make a critical assessment of these countries’ economic and cultural prospects.

All this will be invaluable for the work of the Interest Group for Relations with Portuguese-speaking Countries which has been recently created in the European Parliament and is chaired by the Portuguese MEP Carlos Zorrinho. The idea behind this Group which has finally seen the light of day 30 years after Portugal’s accession to the then EEC is to foster a greater knowledge and understanding of the “Lusosphere” countries in the context of the EU’s external relations policy and to take full advantage of the economic, social and cultural potential of a closer relationship with Portuguese-speaking Africa and Brazil. Portugal itself, due to its size, has taken a long time to become aware of the role it can play in consolidating the “Lusosphere” and promoting its interests as part of its European integration policy.

ANGOLA



© Erik Cleves Kristensen

Capital
Languages
Area (km²)
Population (2010)
GDP 2010 (billion USD)
Currency

Luanda
Portuguese
1,246,700
24,383,301
139.059
Kwanza

Angola, more than three times the size of California, extends for more than 1,609 kilometres along the South Atlantic in South-West Africa. The Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of Congo are to the North and East, Zambia is to the East, and Namibia is to the South. A plateau averaging 1,829 meters above sea level rises abruptly from the coastal lowlands. Nearly all of the land is desert or savanna, with hardwood forests in the North-East. The original inhabitants of Angola are thought to have been Khoisan speakers. After 1000, large numbers of Bantu speakers migrated to the region and became the dominant group. "Angola" comes from "Ngola" which was the title for rulers got in the Bantu Kingdom of Ndongo.

Explored by the Portuguese navigator Diogo Cão in 1482, Angola became a link in trade with India and South-East Asia. Later it was a major source of slaves for Portugal's New World colony of Brazil. The development of the country began after 1985 when the Berlin Conference fixed the colony's borders, and the British and Portuguese investment fostered mining, railways, and agriculture.

Angolan civil war

Following World War II, independence movements began but they were sternly suppressed by Portuguese military forces. The major nationalist organisations were the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), the Marxist party; the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA); and the National Union for the Total Inde-

pendence of Angola (UNITA). After 14 years of war, Portugal finally granted independence to Angola in 1975. The MPLA, which had led the independence movement, has controlled the government ever since. But Angolan long war for independence was not followed by peace.

UNITA disputed the MPLA's ascendancy, and the civil war broke out almost immediately. With the Soviet Union and Cuba supporting the Marxist MPLA, and the United States and South Africa supporting the anti-Communist UNITA, the country became a cold war battleground. With the waning of the Cold War and the withdrawal of Cuban troops in 1989, the MPLA began to make the transition to a multiparty democracy. Despite shifting ideologies, the civil war continued, with UNITA's charismatic rebel leader, Jonas Savimbi, armed and sustained by his control of approximately 80% of the country's diamond trade. Free elections took place in 1992, with incumbent President José Eduardo dos Santos and the MPLA winning the UN-certified election over Savimbi and UNITA. Savimbi then withdrew, dropping electoral fraud charges, and the Civil War resumed. Four years of relative peace passed between 1994 and 1998, when the UN, at a cost of \$1.6 billion, oversaw the 1994 Lusaka peace accord. In 1997, it was agreed that a coalition government with UNITA would be implemented. However, Savimbi violated the Lusaka accord repeatedly by refusing to give up his strongholds, failing to demobilise his army, and retaking territory. As a result, the government suspended the coalition rule in September 1998, and the country plunged again into the Civil War. Angola's citizens continued to suffer. The hostilities affected an estimated 4 million people, about a third of the total population, and there were around 2 million refugees.

2002: peace is achieved

On February 22, 2002, the government troops killed Jonas Savimbi, and six weeks later, on April 4, 2002, the rebel leaders signed a ceasefire deal with the government, signalling the end of 30 years of civil war. While peace finally seemed secure, more than a half-million Angolans were faced with starvation.

In August 2006, a peace deal was signed with the separatist rebels from the Cabinda region.

Angolan culture is invading the world

Kuduro is a type of music and dance originally developed in Luanda, Angola in the 1980s. It is characterised as uptempo, energetic, and danceable. Initially, producers sampled traditional carnival music like "soca" and "zouk" from the Caribbean, and also "semba" from Angola and laid this around a fast 4/4 beat. According to Tony Amado, the self-proclaimed creator of Kuduro, he got the idea for the dance after seeing Jean-Claude Van Damme in the 1989 film Kickboxer, in which he appears in a bar drunk, and dances in a hard and unusual style. As Vivian Host points out in her article, despite the common assumption that "World Music" from non-Western countries has nothing in common with Western modern music, Angolan kuduro contains "elements in common with punk, deep tribal house, and even Daft Punk." Although Angolan kuduro reflects an understanding and an interpretation of Western musical forms, the world music category that it fits under tends to reject the idea of Western musical imperialism.



I Love Kuduro Festival

This is a travelling festival that has become known as one of the largest gatherings dedicated to the Kuduro genre and lifestyle. It was first organised by Angolan artist Coréon Dú in 2011 with premiere events in the Showcase Club in Paris followed by Arena Club in Berlin under the name of Kuduro Sessions. It included Angolan legends such as Noite e Dia, Nacobeta, Bruno M, DJ Znobia, Big Nelo, Titica, Francis Boy Os Namayer, DJ Djef & DJ Sylivi, as well as with a large number of international guests and Kuduro supporters such as Louie Vega & Anané Vega, Ousunlade, Daniel Haaksman, John Digweed, Hernan Cattaneo, Trentemoller, Tiefschwarz, Diego Miranda, and Wretch 32, among others. The first event of Love Kuduro in Luanda was a two-day festival that hosted over 14,000 Kuduro fans in January 2012 at the Luanda International Fair Grounds. The event has been happening annually in Luanda, with various events taking place around the world in the cities such as Paris, Amsterdam, Stockholm, Rio de Janeiro, New York and Washington DC.



Isabel dos Santos, an example of African women in business

Isabel dos Santos, a 42 year-old businesswoman, is the eldest daughter of the President of Angola José Eduardo dos Santos and one of the most prominent figures of the Angolan public society thanks to the business success she achieved.

Considered by her friends as «a friendly, humble and very intelligent woman» in the business world Isabel dos Santos is known as an entrepreneur «cold and brilliant negotiator.»

Although considered one of the richest women in Africa, Isabel dos Santos is proud of her humble past, a period when she held modest jobs and faced difficulties inherent to that situation.

Her investments began in Angola and in Unitel telecommunications operator - created in the 90s before the end of the civil war and before also the «golden period» following the peace. She generated numerous jobs and contributed to the technological development of the country.

The latest investments Isabel dos Santos have been especially noticed in Portugal.

Her assets in Angola include 25% of Unitel, the country's largest mobile phone network, and a stake in a bank, Banco BIC. In Portugal she owns a nearly 7% chunk of oil and gas firm Galp Energia (alongside Portuguese billionaire Américo Amorim), and nearly 19% of Banco BPI, the country's fourth largest bank. She is also a controlling shareholder of Portuguese cable TV and telecom firm Nos SGPS (formerly called Zon). In November 2014, Isabel dos Santos made a \$1.5 billion bid for Portugal Telecom, but withdrew the bid late the following month. Her first business, opened in 1997 when she was 24, was a restaurant in Luanda, the Angolan capital, called Miami Beach.



BRAZIL



Jorge Amado

“Eu sou muito otimista, muito. O Brasil é um país com uma força enorme. Nós somos um continente, meu amor. Nós não somos um paisinho, nós somos um continente, com um povo extraordinário.”

Capital
Languages
Area (km²)
Population (2010)
GDP 2010 (billion USD)
Currency

Brasília
Portuguese
8,515,767
204,451,00
3.259
Real

Terra da Santa Cruz, Terra do Brasil

The word «Brazil» originates from brazilwood, a tree that once grew plentifully along the Brazilian coast. In Portuguese, brazilwood is called Pau Brasil, the etymology of the word «Brasil» is «red like an ember». As brazilwood produces a deep red dye, it was highly valued by the European cloth industry and was the earliest commercially exploited product from Brazil. Throughout the sixteenth century, massive amounts of brazilwood were harvested by indigenous peoples along the Brazilian coast, who sold the timber to European traders in return for assorted European consumer goods. The official Portuguese name of the land was the «Land of the Holy Cross» (Terra da Santa Cruz), but European sailors and merchants commonly called it simply the «Land of Brazil» (Terra do Brasil) on account of the brazilwood trade. The popular appellation eclipsed and eventually supplanted the official Portuguese name. Early sailors sometimes also called it the «Land of Parrots». The land now called Brazil was claimed by the Portuguese Empire on 22 April 1500, with the arrival of the Portuguese fleet commanded by Pedro Álvares Cabral.

The Portuguese encountered indigenous peoples divided into several tribes, most of whom spoke languages of the Tupi-Guarani family, and fought amongst themselves. The colonisation effectively begun in 1534 when King Dom João III of Portugal divided the territory into the fifteen private and autonomous Captaincy Colonies of Brazil.



Romantic depiction of the first landing of Pedro Álvares Cabral in 1500
By Oscar Pereira da Silva (1865–1939)

A Unique Story: Brazil, the Empire

The independence of Brazil was not to come through the usual channel of revolution and war, as had been the experience with the Spanish colonies. In 1807, Portugal, unable to resist the armies of Napoleon, was forced to yield to him. Prince John, regent of Portugal, realising that he had a province in South America larger than half of Europe, decided to move his court to Brazil and thus escape French tyranny. He arrived in America on January 21, 1808, and established his court at Rio de Janeiro, which he made the capital of the country. Some years later the queen died, and the regent became the king under the title of John VI.

While the other Spanish colonies in South America were seeking independence from the Spanish king, the Brazilians welcomed their monarch with rejoicings and with the gratification arising from the fact that the seat of the government was now Brazil instead of distant Europe. This made a great difference in the history of the country. The people of Brazil, generally, were delighted to have their king with them. The whole nation seemed to forget its revolutionary leanings and made a spontaneous effort to show its ruler how well satisfied it was with monarchy. Dom John, for his part, was glad to have a splendid dominion in which to take refuge.

Naturally, the country prospered more under the direct government of the king than it had before his coming. Repressive laws were repealed, and the people had more latitude in trading with foreign nations; hence, that was a period of great prosperity. The influx of many educated Portuguese and the introduction of the printing-press gave new life to the land. Many foreigners found Brazil a desirable place for living. English shipbuilders, Swedish iron-workers, German engineers, and French manufacturers settled in the country and gave it new industries. King John established a government in Brazil similar to that in Portugal. The upkeep of the court and the salaries of a large number of officials increased the taxes, which the people were little disposed to pay. Moreover, the government was not in the hands of the Brazilians but of the Portuguese who had followed the court across the ocean. Discontent was growing as taxes increased. John, however, was of an amiable disposition, and the people, liked him as a ruler, though they were determined to have a representative government. They did not intend to be left without a voice when it came to the expenditure of public funds. The king's son sided with them. Finally in 1821, the king yielded and the people of Brazil were thrilled with delight.

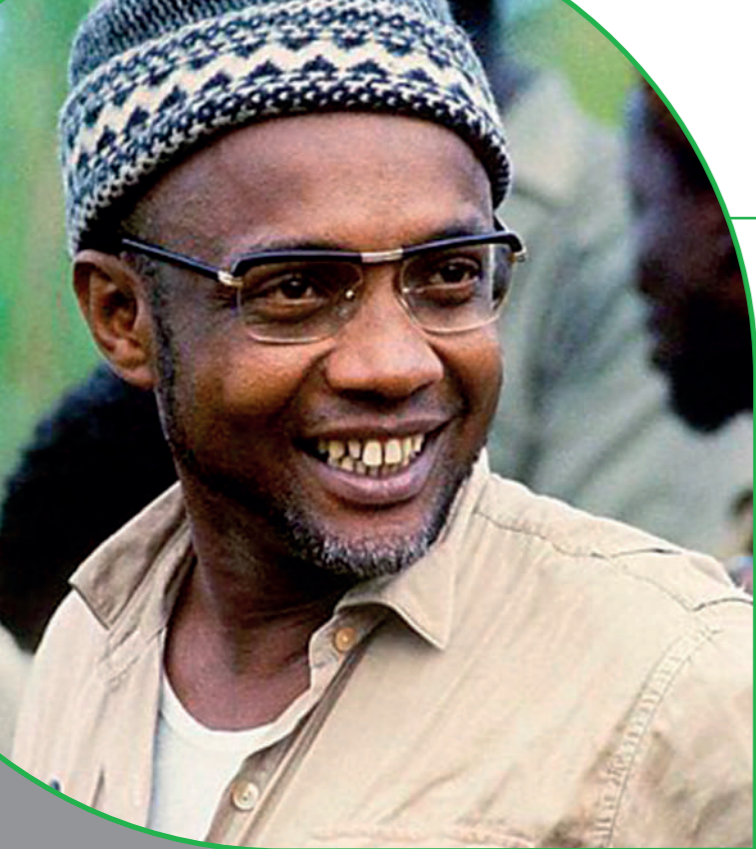
The king's attention was called at that moment to conditions in Portugal. The European Wars had ended, and Portuguese themselves were clamouring for a representative government. As the king could not leave Portugal to itself, he first decided to send the prince there, his son, as a regent. But Dom Pedro had acquired such popularity and had exhibited such a thirst for glory that the king feared to trust his adventurous spirit in Europe. Therefore, he decided to go himself and leave his son as a regent in Brazil.



Emperor Don Pedro I of Brazil
By Símplicio Rodrigues de Sá

Soon after the arrival of the king in Portugal, the newly elected parliament passed a decree ordering the prince regent, Dom Pedro, to return to Portugal. This filled the Brazilians with alarm. They foresaw that without a central authority the country would fall back to its former status of colony. Consequently, some of the provinces began to clamour for independence. They wished to be separated entirely from Portugal. The province of Sao Paulo in the South asked the prince to disobey the decree of the Portuguese parliament and remain in Brazil. The council of Rio de Janeiro followed with a similar request. The Brazilians were keenly interested in Dom Pedro's attitude, for they realised that a critical moment had arrived. The prince was in the great coffee state of Sao Paulo when the parliamentary mandate was delivered. The Brazilian leaders gathered around him, with a vast concourse of people, on September 7, 1822. In the midst of the great assembly and with dramatic gestures, he laid the decree in the flames, and as it burnt to ashes he raised his hands aloft and exclaimed: «Independence or death!»

The people were wild with joy. Since the young prince would not obey the parliament and the court of Portugal, they made preparations to give him a warm welcome on his return to the capital. Everything was carefully timed for his entrance into Rio de Janeiro, and when he appeared he was greeted with the wildest enthusiasm. On October 12, 1822, he was solemnly crowned Dom Pedro I., «Constitutional Emperor of Brazil». The country was at last free from Portugal; the people would no longer take orders from the Portuguese court. This is how Brazil became an empire at a time that the other South American countries were becoming republics.



CAPE VERDE



Capital	Praia
Languages	Portuguese
Area (km ²)	4,033
Population (2010)	525,000
GDP 2010 (billion USD)	2.305
Currency	Cape Verdean escudo

Portuguese settlements. Sir Francis Drake, an English corsair, twice sacked the capital Ribeira Grande in 1585. After the French attack in 1712, the city lost importance to Praia, a city that which became the capital in 1770.

Cape Verde's early prosperity slowly vanished. However, due to its excellent harbour, Mindelo, from the island of São Vicente, became an important commercial centre during the nineteenth century.

With few natural resources and inadequate sustainable investment from the Portuguese, the citizens grew increasingly anger towards the colonial masters, who nevertheless refused to provide the local authorities with more autonomy. In 1951, Portugal changed Cape Verde's status from a colony to an overseas province in an attempt to blunt growing nationalism. In 1956, Amílcar Cabral and a group of fellow Cape Verdeans and Guineans organised the clandestine African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC). It demanded improvement in economic, social and political conditions in Cape Verde and Portuguese Guinea and formed the basis of the two nations' independence movement. Moving its headquarters to Conakry, Guinea in 1960, the PAIGC began an armed rebellion against Portugal in 1961.

By 1972, the PAIGC controlled much of Portuguese Guinea despite the presence of the Portuguese troops. Portuguese Guinea and Cape Verde declared independence in 1973 and was granted de jure independence in 1974.

Before the arrival of Europeans, the Cape Verde islands were uninhabited. This archipelago was discovered by the Genoese and Portuguese navigators around 1456. According to the official Portuguese records, the first discoveries were made by António de Noli, who was afterwards appointed the governor of Cape Verde by Portuguese King Afonso V. In 1462, the Portuguese settlers arrived at Santiago and founded a settlement they called Ribeira Grande - now called Cidade Velha, to avoid confusion with the town of Ribeira Grande on the Santo Antão Island. Ribeira Grande was the first permanent European settlement in the tropics. In the sixteenth century, the archipelago prospered from the Atlantic slave trade. Pirates occasionally attacked the



Césaria Evora, the Queen of Morna

Cesaria Evora (her friends called her Cize) was born on August 27, 1941 in Mindelo, Cape Verde. At the age of 16 she started to sing in bars and on ships, always standing and wearing down her legs. Mindelo has a large bay and ships arrived frequently bringing all kinds of goods, creating a lively atmosphere.

After Cape Verde gained its independence from Portugal, things didn't go so well. There were less ships arriving to the ports and the once green archipelago suffered a severe drought that forced many of the island's inhabitants to emigrate to mainland Africa, Portugal, the United States and France. Cesaria stayed in her hometown until 1985, when a musician friend, Bana, and a Cape Verde women's association encouraged her to travel to Lisbon to showcase her talent.

In 1988, José Da Silva, a Cape Verdian producer living in France, offered her to travel to Paris and record an album. She was 47 at the time and had nothing to lose. She had never been to Paris before and so she agreed to go. In Paris, Cesaria's performances of Cape Verdian styles such as morna and coladeira gained a large following among the immigrant community. After the release of her fourth album, Miss Perfumado, she received great reviews

and became popular with French, Belgian and German audiences and later with other international audiences. Worldwide tours followed.

Cesaria usually toured with fellow Cape Verdian singer Bau and his band: Jacinto Pereira (cavaquinho), José Paris (bass), Luis Ramos (guitars), Nando Andrade (piano), Totinho (saxophones and percussion), and Bau (guitars, cavaquinho, violin).

In recent times, the situation improved in Cape Verde. Cesaria returned to the island, bringing with her a blue Ford that she owned in Paris. The lady with the bare feet, as she was also known, had difficulty walking so she had a driver. Her album Cafe Atlântico sold more than 300.000 copies in France. In 2004, Voz d'Amor won the Grammy for the best contemporary world music recording. That same year, Club Sodade: Cesaria Evora came out. It was the first-ever remix collection from the enduring Grammy winning artist. For her 2009 album, Nha Sentimento, Cesaria and her crew found a collaborator and an admirer in Fathy Salama, a former conductor of the Cairo Orchestra who arranged the three mornas on the album. The queen of morna died in 2011.

Cachupa, a Must-Have!

This slow cooked stew of corn, beans, and fish or meat (sausage, beef, goat or chicken) is often referred to as the country's national dish. Each island has its own regional variation. The version of the recipe called Cachupa Rica tends to have more ingredients than the simpler, Cachupa Pobre.

Nham, Nham.



Saudade.

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EAST TIMOR



Capital Dili
Languages Portuguese and Tetum
Area (km²) 15,410
Population (2010) 1,201,542
GDP 2010 (billion USD) 2.234
Currency United States dollar

Descendants of at least three waves of migration are believed still to live in East Timor. The first were related to the principal Australoid indigenous groups of New Guinea and Australia, and arrived more than 40,000 years ago. Around 3000 BC, Austronesians migrated to Timor, and are thought to be associated with the development of agriculture on the island.

Thirdly, Proto-Malays arrived from south China and north Indochina.[15] Before European colonialism, Timor was included in Chinese and Indian trading networks, and in the fourteenth century was an exporter of aromatic sandalwood, slaves, honey, and wax. It was the relative abundance of sandalwood in Timor that attracted European explorers to the island in the early sixteenth century. During that time, European explorers reported that the island had a number of small chiefdoms or princedoms. The Portuguese established outposts in Timor and Maluku. Effective European occupation of a small part of the territory began in 1769, when the city of Dili was founded and the colony of Portuguese Timor declared. A definitive border between the Dutch-colonised western half of the island and the Portuguese-colonised eastern half of the island was established by the Permanent Court of Arbitration of 1914, and it remains the international boundary between the successor states East Timor and Indonesia. For the Portuguese, East Timor remained little more than a neglected trading post until the late nineteenth century,

with minimal investment in infrastructure, health, and education. Sandalwood remained the main export crop with coffee exports becoming significant in the mid-nineteenth century. As was often the case, Portuguese rule was generally neglectful but exploitative where it existed.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, a faltering home economy prompted the Portuguese to extract greater wealth from its colonies, which was met with East Timorese resistance. During the First World War, the Japanese occupied Dili, and the mountainous interior became the scene of a guerrilla campaign, known as the Battle of Timor. Waged by Allied forces and East Timorese volunteers against the Japanese, the struggle resulted in the deaths of between 40,000 and 70,000 East Timorese. The Japanese eventually drove the last of the Australian and Allied forces out. However, following the end of the Second World War and Japanese surrender, Portuguese control was reinstated.

Following the 1974 Portuguese revolution, Portugal effectively abandoned its colony on Timor and the Civil War between East Timorese political parties broke out in 1975. The Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor (Frente Revolucionária de Timor-Leste Independente, Fretilin) resisted a Timorese Democratic Union (União Democrática Timorense, UDT) coup attempt, and unilaterally declared independence on 28 November 1975. Fearing a communist state within the Indonesian archipelago, the Indonesian military, with western support, launched an invasion of East Timor in December 1975. Indonesia declared East Timor its 27th province on 17 July 1976 (Timor Timur). The UN Security Council opposed the invasion and the territory's nominal status in the UN remained as "non-self-governing territory under Portuguese administration".



Luís Represas

*"Ai Timor
 Calam-se as vozes
 Dos teus avós
 Ai Timor
 Se outros calam
 Cantemos nós"*



José Ramos-Horta
 © Chatham House

The Nobel Peace Prize 1996

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 1996, in two equal parts, to Carlos Felipe Ximenes Belo and José Ramos-Horta for their work towards a just and peaceful solution to the conflict in East Timor.

In 1975 Indonesia took control of East Timor and began systematically oppressing the people. In the years that followed it has been estimated that one-third of the population of East Timor lost their lives due to starvation, epidemics, war and terror.

Carlos Belo, bishop of East Timor, has been the foremost representative of the people of East Timor. At the risk of his own life, he has tried to protect his people from infringements by those in power. In his efforts to create a just settlement based on his people's right to self-determination,

he has been a constant spokesman for non-violence and dialogue with the Indonesian authorities. Ramos-Horta has been the leading international spokesman for East Timor's cause since 1975. Recently he has made a significant contribution through the «reconciliation talks» and by working out a peace plan for the region.

In awarding this year's Nobel Peace Prize to Belo and Ramos-Horta, the Norwegian Nobel Committee wants to honour their sustained and self-sacrificing contributions for a small but oppressed people. The Nobel Committee hopes that this award will spur efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the conflict in East Timor based on the people's right to self-determination.

Oslo, October 11, 1996
 Source: Nobel Prize 1996 Press Release

GOA



Goa's lusophone tale starts in 1510 when the Portuguese defeated the ruling Bijapur sultan Yousuf Adil Shah with the help of a local ally, Timayya. They set up a permanent settlement in Velha Goa (or Old Goa). This was the beginning of Portuguese rule in Goa that would last for four and a half centuries, until 1961. In 1843 the Portuguese moved the capital to Panjim from Velha Goa. By the mid-eighteenth century, Portuguese Goa had expanded to most of the present-day state limits. Simultaneously the Portuguese lost other possessions in India until their borders stabilised and formed the Estado da Índia Portuguesa or State of Portuguese India, of which Goa was the largest territory. After India gained independence from the British in 1947, India requested that Portuguese territories on the Indian subcontinent be ceded to India. Portugal refused to negotiate on the sovereignty of its Indian enclaves. On 19 December 1961, the Indian Army began military operations with Operation Vijay resulting in the annexation of Goa, Daman, and Diu into the Indian union. Goa, along with Daman and Diu, was organised as a centrally administered union territory of India. On 30 May 1987, the union territory was split, and Goa was made India's twenty-fifth state, with Daman and Diu remaining a union territory.

Capital Languages

Panaji
Konkani - Portuguese
*is still spoken by the
elder generation*

Area (km²)
Population (2010)
GDP 2010 (billion USD)
Currency

3,702
1,457,723
2.234
Indian Rupee



Church of Saint Cajetao in Old Goa.

FUNDAÇÃO ORIENTE

About the Fundação Oriente work

The Fundação Oriente was created on 18 March 1988 and it is a non-profit private law organisation with established legal status. The Fundação was established by the Sociedade de Turismo e Diversões de Macao (STDM) as part of the conditions imposed by the Macao Administration for the concession of exclusive gambling rights in Macao until 31 December 2001. On 20 June 1997, following consultations by both parties, and with the Foundation's concurrence, the Luso-Chinese Link Group — under the guidance of the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs in Portugal and China - decided that as from January 1996, the regular income stipulated in the contract for the exclusive gambling rights in the Territory of Macao would cease to be paid to the Fundação Oriente. Instead, they would be paid to another foundation to be set up and based in Macao. This ended the ten-year link that had existed between the Fundação Oriente and the gambling contract in Macao. Being one of the twenty largest European foundations, classified according to total assets, the Fundação Oriente is a founder member of the European Foundation Centre (EFC). This association is based in Brussels and brings together around 200 of the leading European foundations, in addition to co-operating with 7,000 non-profit-making organisations in 35 countries. In Portugal, the Fundação Oriente led the process to create the Portuguese Foundation Centre (CPF), which was started in 1993 in association with the Fundação Eng. António de Almeida and the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian. The Foundation's headquarters are in Lisbon and it has delegations in Macao, India and East-Timor.

The Fundação Oriente's delegation in India was established in Panjim, Goa in 1995. It carries out its work in association with several Indian institutions, especially the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), in addition to other governmental, academic and religious bodies at different levels.

The annual programme of activities in India is drawn up considering the different areas of activity: supporting teaching Portuguese language at Goa and Daman secondary schools; helping to conserve architectural heritage; supporting historical and artistic research by awarding short-term and long-term scholarships to Indian and Portuguese researchers; supporting cultural events by organising concerts and exhibitions by Indian and Portuguese artists. This also includes exchange visits by artists between the two countries; occasional support for performing arts such as music, theatre and dance and support in promoting books or subsidies for publication; co-operation with other institutions to organise seminars, conferences and other events. The Fundação Oriente's delegation is located in the most traditional neighbourhood in Panjim - Bairro das Fontainhas - and occupies an old building with Indo-Portuguese architecture that was purchased and restored for the specific purpose of housing the delegation. The ground floor houses António Xavier Trindade's permanent collection of art works.



GUINEA-BISSAU



Ângela Coutinho

Capital	Bissau
Languages	Portuguese
Area (km ²)	36,125
Population (2010)	1,647,000
GDP 2010 (billion USD)	837.000
Currency	West African CFA franc (XOF)

Bordering Senegal to the north and Republic of Guinea to the south, Guinea-Bissau has an area of approximately 36,000 square kilometres, like Belgium or Haiti. It has a mainland, a number of offshore islands and the archipelago of Bijagós. The country is divided by numerous rivers, streams and other channels and its climate is tropical, warm and humid. When the first Portuguese navigators arrived in 1446, Guinea-Bissau was part of the Kingdom of Kaabu, which in turn was within the Mali Empire. In order to undertake slave trafficking, the Portuguese Crown established itself in the neighbouring islands of Cape Verde, which were hitherto deserted. Plantations of monocultures were established, in particular cotton and sugar cane. The islands began to be settled by Portuguese, including Jews, as well as Spanish, Italians, and especially slaves from the mainland. The Portuguese colony of Guinea was directed from Cape Verde until the end of the 19th century. However, it wasn't until the 1930s that Portugal effectively occupied Guinea-Bissau, imposing the growth of monocultures for export, especially peanuts. Many Cape-Verdeans became employees of the colonial administration of Guinea-Bissau. In 1975 Guinea-Bissau had a population of approximately 800,000, consisting of over 20 ethnic groups, the majority of whom were animists, but also Muslims and Christians. 90% of the population was illiterate and in 1965 average life expectancy was 33 years. The archipelago of Cape Verde was a Portuguese colony

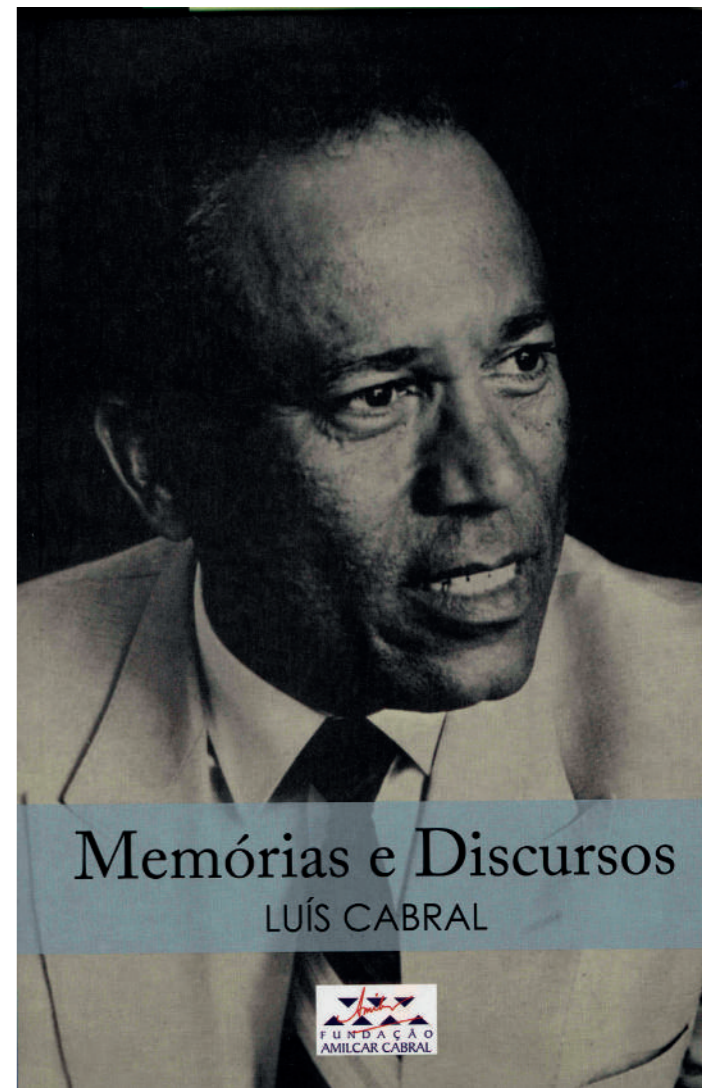
from 1460 to 1975. It has 10 islands, nine of which are inhabited, and a number of islets. It has an area of approximately 4,000 square kilometres and a hot desert climate. Cape-Verdean society has a large amount of miscegenation and a strong Creole culture with most of the population considering themselves to be Roman Catholics. At the beginning of the 1970s, the population was in the region of 200,000 people with a much larger diaspora. Emigrants' remittances sustained a part of the population, which was mainly dependent on agriculture, although they suffered ever-more frequent and devastating droughts. In 1975, 70% of the population was illiterate. According to official sources, the PAIGC (African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde/Partido Africano para a Independência da Guiné e de Cabo Verde) was founded on 19 September 1956 in Bissau and was led until 1973 by the Bissau-Guinean agricultural engineer of Cape-Verdean stock, Amílcar Cabral. Luís Severino de Almeida Cabral, one of Amílcar's younger brothers has always featured as one of the founders of the party. Born in 1931 in Bissau, to a Cape-Verdean father and Portuguese mother, Luís spent his childhood and some of his youth in Cape Verde where he completed most of his studies. He returned to his native Bissau in his youth to work as an accountant for one of the largest companies there. He moved to Dakar in 1960 with his family and worked as an accountant for Shell before dedicating his life fully to politics. Having been an active diplomatic player, besides all the forbidden actions in clandestineness, the PAIGC began an armed conflict in 1963 against Portuguese armed forces which was to last a decade. At the time the far-right Estado Novo was in power in Portugal and in 1961 its leaders decided to begin a war on three fronts in Africa: in Angola, Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique. In 1964 the PAIGC opened a fourth front of action, that is, the socio-political and economic organisation of the territories under its control.



Tabanka Djaz, Depois do silêncio.

"Filho di Guiné na curri mundo"

Throughout this process, Luís Cabral was a member of party at the highest level, namely the Political Bureau, Permanent Secretariat and Council of War. He was also nominated secretary-general of the Guinea [-Bissau] National Workers' Union (União Nacional dos Trabalhadores da Guiné), editor of the party paper, PAIGC Actualités, party representative in Senegal, and responsible for the northern front in the armed conflict. Finally, he was responsible for the management and reconstruction of the so-called "liberated zones" where new educational, sanitary, legal, economic and political systems were implemented, and which served as the basis for the innovative proposals for two new independent states, in which the PAIGC aimed to create socialist societies. Following the assassination of his brother Amílcar on 20 January 1973 in Conakry, Luís Cabral was elected to the post of assistant secretary-general of the PAIGC, whose leader became the Cape-Verdean Aristides Pereira. The Republic of Guinea-Bissau declared independence unilaterally on 24 September 1973 and was recognised by the majority of countries in the General Assembly of the United Nations. Luís Cabral was appointed the first head of state of the new republic. Guinea-Bissau thus became one of the rare examples of African states becoming independent through armed conflict. Amílcar Cabral is considered, even today, to be one of the pre-eminent African politicians of the twentieth century. The case of Guinea-Bissau has also been considered by experts as that which laid the foundations for the decolonisation process begun by Portugal following the coup d'état of 25 April 1974, when Portuguese armed forces dismantled the existing regime, creating the conditions for the democratisation of the country and ending the so-called colonial war. The PAIGC created an original one-party system in both independent states and in 1977 Luís Cabral was re-elected assistant secretary-general of the party as well as president of Guinea-Bissau in the elections held in the same year. In 1980 he was deposed by a coup d'état. This work contains hitherto unpublished texts written by him which describe the main events between January 1973 and the date of the unilateral declaration of independence of Guinea-Bissau. It also contains speeches given between 1973 and 1980 and an interview granted by Luís Cabral to



the editor of the work, which deals with family socialisation. Being a work compiled after the death of the author, it contains detailed biographical information by the historian Ângela Coutinho, a note of intention by his children, depositions by Cdr Pedro Pires, the former president of Cape Verde, himself a leader of the PAIGC's independence movement, and Gen Ramalho Eanes, one of the insurgent militaries of the April 1947 coup in Portugal and subsequently the first democratically-elected president in the history of Portugal.

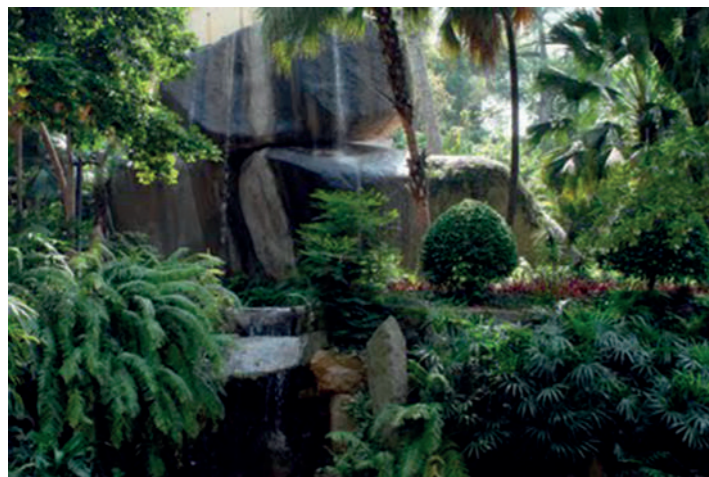
MACAO



Capital
Languages
Area (km²)
Population (2010)
GDP 2010 (billion USD)
Currency

Macao
Cantonese Portuguese
30.3
642,900
51.753
Macanese pataca

In the early 1550s the Portuguese navigators reached Ou Mun, which the locals also called A Ma Gao, «Place of A Ma», in honour of the Goddess of Seafarer. The Portuguese adopted the name, which gradually changes into the name Macau. With the permission of Guangdong's mandarins, the navigators established a city that within a short time became a major trading location between China, Japan, India and Europe.



Jardim Luís de Camões, famous Portuguese poet. He wrote part of the Lusiadas, portuguese epopeia, in Macao.

Macao also became the perfect crossroad between eastern and western cultures. The Roman Catholic Church sent some of its greatest missionaries to continue the work of Saint Francis Xavier - who died nearby after making many converts in Japan. A Christian college was built, beside what is now known as Ruins of St Paul's, where students such as Matteo Ricci prepared for their work as Christian scholars for the Imperial Court in Beijing. Other churches fortresses were built, which gave Macao a historical European appearance that distinguishes still today. Portugal's golden age in Asia faded as their rivals, the Dutch and British, took over their trade. The Chinese chose to continue to do business with the Portuguese in Macao. As Europe's trade with China grew, the European merchants spent part of a year in Guangzhou buying tea and Chinese luxuries at bi-annual fairs, using Macao as a recreational retreat. Following the Opium War in 1841, Hong Kong was established by Britain and most of the foreign merchants left Macao. Consequently Macao became quiet backwater. Nevertheless it has continued to enjoy a leisurely multicultural existence and make daily, practical use of its historical buildings, in the process becoming a favourite stopover for international travellers, writers and artists. Macao had developed in such industries as textiles, electronics and toys in the past; today Macao has built up world class tourism industry with a wide choice of hotels, resorts, restaurants and casinos. Macao's economy is closely linked to that of Hong Kong and Guangdong Province, in particular the Pearl River Delta region, which qualifies as one of Asia's "little tigers".

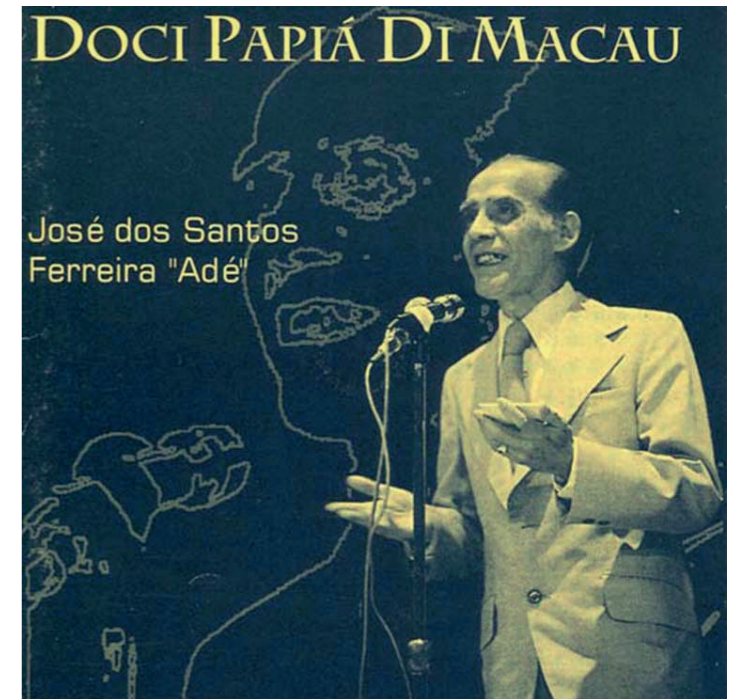
Today, Macao is a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China and, like Hong Kong, benefits from the principle of "one country, two systems". The tiny SAR is growing in size — with more buildings on reclaimed land — and in the number and diversity of its attractions. The greatest of these continues to be Macao's unique society, with communities from the East and West complementing each other, and people who come to visit.

澳門

“Poema de Macau”

Para ti, Macau querida, pequenina,
Nesga de terra por Deus abençoada
Macau cristão, que a mão do destino
Colocou no caminho iluminado;
Para ti, pensei vir com devoção,
Compor um poema de amor,
Contigo enfeitado no coração,
E assim merecer a bênção do Senhor.
Terra que um nosso Rei chamou leal,
Só uma: és tu, graciosa
Filha do coração de Portugal,
Alma cândida, impregnada de beleza;
Quero vir contar com sentimento,
A todo o mundo a tua história!
Ah, que pena não estar aqui Camões»

José dos Santos Ferreira («Adé»)



José dos Santos Ferreira, better known as Adé, was born in Macao on 28 July 1919 and died in Hong Kong on 24 March 1993. He was the last poet of distinction to write in Macanese (Patuá), the Portuguese-Cantonese creole.



MOZAMBIQUE



Mia Couto

Not only is Mia Couto considered one of the most important writers in Mozambique, but his works have been published in more than 20 countries and in various languages, including Portuguese, English, French, German, Italian, Serbian, Catalan and Estonian. In many of his texts, he undertakes to recreate the Portuguese language by infusing it with regional vocabulary and structures from Mozambique, thus producing a new model for the African narrative.

Capital	Maputo
Languages	Portuguese
Area (km ²)	801 590
Population (2010)	25 900 000
GDP 2010 (billion USD)	26.257
Currency	Mozambican metical

History and Population

Mozambique has a history of over 2000 years. The first people to settle in the present territory were the Bantu, who from the tenth century onward formed several states. The empire of Mwenemutapas was one of the principal Bantu states that era. Also from the tenth century onwards, extensive commercial contacts developed between the North coast and central Mozambique, and also with the Arab Peninsula.

Mozambique has an extensive coastline. Therefore, throughout history, most contacts between Mozambique and other countries were maritime contacts. The first Portuguese arrived in Mozambique in the sixteenth century. Another important contact were the merchants from the Indian subcontinent. After the division of Africa by European colonial powers during the Berlin Conference of 1885, Mozambique became a Portuguese colony. But less than a century later, after an anti-colonial war that lasted 10 years, Mozambique became independent. The date of independence, June 25, 1975, is celebrated every year and is the country's most important holiday. The Civil War from 1976 to 1992 was a dramatic period in the history of the young nation. In 1992, the Peace Agreement was signed in Rome, thus creating the conditions necessary to establish a multiparty system. The first elections were held in 1994. Since then, Mozambique has been a peaceful, stable and democratic country.

Population, Language and Religion

Mozambique has a population of about 20 million people. The population is young and rapidly growing. Since 1960, the country's population has nearly quadrupled. A third of the population is concentrated in cities. Indian and European communities, the latter mostly of Portuguese origin, can be found everywhere in the country. Portuguese is the official language of the country. Besides Portuguese, there are several native languages, spoken by large numbers of the population. These languages are protected by the Constitution, among others: Xichangana, Xirhonga, Xitshwa, Cichopi, Bitonga, Chibalke, Cimanika, Cisena, Chitewe, Cindau, Cinyanja, Echuwabo, Elomwe, Kimwani, Shimakonde, Emakhuwa. Mozambique is a multi-religious country. About 56% of the population is Christian, 18% are Muslim, 7% have other religions (mostly animism) and about 19%, according to the 2007 census, declared having no religion.

Culture

Mozambique's culture is essentially African, with great predominance of Bantu culture. In urban areas there is a clear Portuguese influence. This influence dates back to the sixteenth century. Mozambique is also known for its traditional art. The wooden sculpture and Makonde masks are famous. Other examples are the traditional music and dances of Mozambique, with instruments like the "marimba" and "mbila" of the Chope people. The best-known modern artists from Mozambique are the painter and poet Malangatana Ngwenya and the sculptor Alberto Chissano. Virtually all visitors of Mozambique know the sculptures of Chissano, because his work is exposed in the new terminal at Maputo International Airport. The cuisine of Mozambique is part of the culture of the country. It is a tasty fusion of African, Oriental and European influences. The sea is a rich source of food, such as the famous — and gigantic — shrimps, lobsters, grouper, clams and more. The rich soil provides cassava, sweet potatoes, corn, peanuts, mangoes, papayas and coconuts. Curries are widely known in the Mozambique cuisine.

Visit Mozambique

Mozambique is a country with tropical beaches, spectacular nature and wildlife, historic towns with an interesting culture, a healthy and tasty cuisine... in a few words, a country that has everything a modern and demanding tourist is looking for. With a coastline of 2,400 kilometres not spoiled by mass tourism, it is the high-end quality tourism that has future in Mozambique. There are luxury resorts along the beaches, but also the nature lover will like the waters of the Indian Ocean. Snorkelling, horseback riding on the beach, whale watching: it's all possible here. Want to have even more exclusivity? Then visit the idyllic archipelagos of Bazaruto and Quirimbas. Want to know more about the culture of Mozambique? Take a boat ride to the Island of Mozambique, a trading post which has attracted the Arabs and the Portuguese in distant and not too distant pasts.

A trip to Mozambique is not complete without a safari in the one of the national parks. The largest parks and nature reserves, from north to south, are the Niassa National Reserve, the Gorongosa National Park and the Limpopo National Park. There you can observe elephants, rhinos, buffalos, hippos, crocodiles, lions, cheetahs, giraffes, zebras and migratory birds. Last but not least, the capital, Maputo, is well worth a visit. It is a green city with an atmosphere that reminds both of African and Latin America. The city has interesting monuments, but at the same time it's a very dynamic urban hub with over a million inhabitants. The best restaurants in Mozambique, no doubt, are in Maputo. In Maputo you can find restaurants with local cuisines as well as with international cuisines.



© David Stanley

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRINCIPE



Capital
Languages
Area (km²)
Population (2010)
GDP 2010 (billion USD)
Currency

São Tomé
Portuguese
1001
200 000
264
Dobra

small size, they are comparable with other island centres of endemism such as the Galápagos and the Hawaiian archipelagos. São Tomé Islands have recently designated protected areas to be known as the Obo National Park with include primary rainforests filled with exotic birds and lush vegetation. There are over 700 species of native plants including 100 unique orchid flowers and 143 birds species, many of which are only found on this islands. The São Tomé Islands are blessed with pleasant weather all year round, which means that those precious Islands can be visited any time of the year.

History

São Tomé and Príncipe was discovered and colonised by Portugal in the late fifteenth century. The Portuguese started with the use of slave labour to grow sugar on the islands and in the mid 1500s it was Africa's foremost exporter of sugar. In the nineteenth century sugar was replaced by cacao and coffee plantations ("Roças») owned by large Portuguese companies and by 1908 São Tomé had become the world's largest producer of cacao which still is the country's most important crop.

Even if Portugal officially abolished slavery in 1876, the Roças system continued to abuse workforce well into the twentieth century. This led to an outbreak of riots in 1953 — «The Batepa Massacre" — where many workers were killed in a clash with their Portuguese rulers. When the Portuguese dictator Marcello Caetano was overthrown in the Carnation Revolution in 1974, Portugal was committed to dissolve its overseas colonies and the São Toméan party MLSTP (Movement for the Liberation of São Tomé and Príncipe) negotiated with the Portuguese authority and worked out an agreement for the transfer of sovereignty. São Tomé and Príncipe achieved independence on July 12, 1975. In 1991 São Tomé and Príncipe held its first multi-party election and have held regularly and fair elections ever since.

Like jewels in the West African coast, we invite you to discover two fascinating islands that offer fascinating landscapes with torrents and waterfalls on its slopes, white and black sand beaches, sheer cliffs over the sea, tropical forests filled with exotic birds and extensive cocoa plantations with their beautiful colonial houses. For the most of travellers, this unspoiled Atlantic jewels if still the Africa's well-kept secret... This archipelago, officially named the Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, or just São Tomé Islands for short, is located in the Gulf of Guinea approximately 180 miles off the West African coast. It's made up of two major volcanic islands surrounded by eight small islets, six of which are inhabited. With a total land area of 1001 km² and a population of 200,000, São Tomé and Príncipe is the smallest country in Africa, after Seychelles. The island's interesting volcanic geology, as well as its rich flora and fauna have been admired and studied by numerous travellers, scientists, and nature-lovers. The islands support high numbers of endemic species. Given the islands'

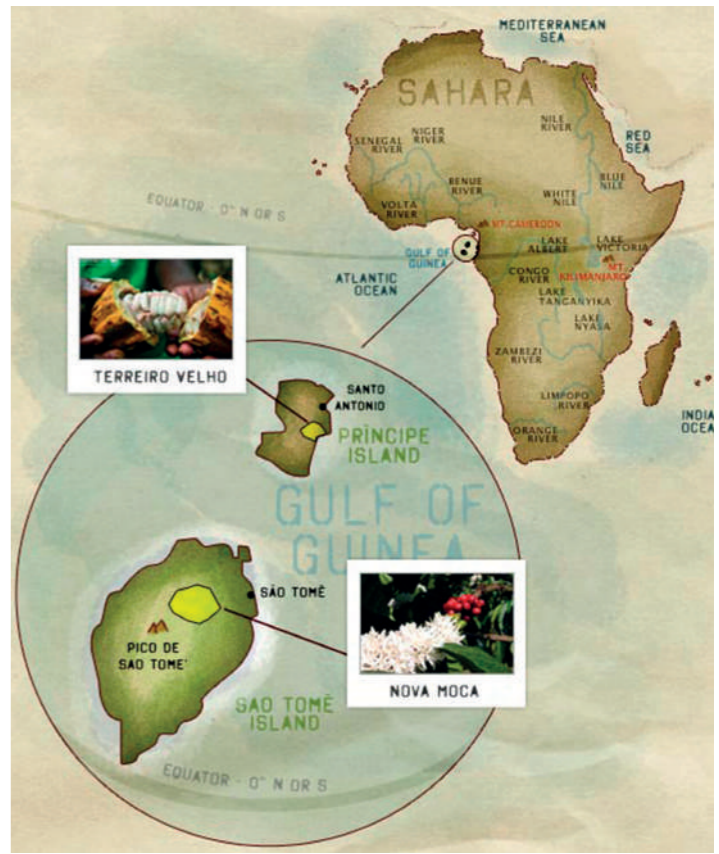


The Chocolate Islands

Be sure to spend some time visiting the famous Claudio Corallo (a man who was named «The chocolate king of São Tomé») and taste some of the finest dark chocolate in the world. Cocoa plant was taken from Brazil to São Tomé and Príncipe for the first time around 1822. From there, it spread to Nigeria and Ghana. By 1908, São Tomé had become the world's largest producer of cacao with an exotic sobriquet, "The Chocolate Islands». Although São Tomé Islands are no longer the world's biggest supplier of cacao, they are capable of exporting some of the best-quality beans on earth. Over the years, the world's cacao growers have sacrificed quality for the sake of high yields. In the São Tomé archipelago, however, there are still descendants of the original Forastero plants that the Portuguese brought from South America in 1822.

This kind of magic only happens in Terreiro Velho (Príncipe Island) and Nova Moca (São Tomé Island), two old plantationa (locally known as «Roças») devoted to coffee and cacao. The man who runs the place, Claudio Corallo, an Italian who spent most of his life in Africa, is working with these surviving plants, farming organically to produce a limited-yield superior cacao. Corallo has been for the past decade on a quest to produce some of the finest dark chocolate in the world. His bars, which range in cocoa content from 60% to 100%, and may contain ginger, arabica coffee beans, orange rind or plump raisins soaked for months in his home-made cocoa-pulp alcohol, have been going to a few small luxury stores in Europe, the United States and Japan.

Learn about Claudio's unique chocolate making process, starting with the cacao trees on his farms on the islands of São Tomé and Príncipe! Get a healthy dose of antioxidants while sampling his cacao beans and tasting his dark chocolate!





Rio 2016: The Biggest Sport Festival in the Heart of Brazil

Dilma Rousseff, President of Brazil

We are still one year away from it, but Brazil's heart is already beating faster. The Brazilian generous heart leaps up when confronted with two of its passions: Welcoming people from all over the world and competing with enthusiasm and fair play in a superb sport performance. We saw it happen during the FIFA World Cup. It will be like that again, beginning on August 5, 2016, when we will light with the Olympic flame our passion for sport and will host the flag bearing the five interlocking rings at our magnificent Maracanã stadium.

It is not by chance that Brazil was given the honour of being the first South American country to host the Olympic Games. Brazil is known worldwide for its impressive and diversified landscape. We are also a country with a history of tolerance and respect for diversity, which has become an international symbol of sociability. Indeed, we have welcomed different peoples and cultures with hospitality and happiness. Our people — our workers, businesspeople, students, scientists and artists — managed to build one of the most open nations in the world, thanks to their creative capacity, friendliness and solidarity. We have built a vigorous culture of peace and work. This set of values guides our hard work to turn these coming Olympics into the best ever world sports festival.

We achieved it during the FIFA World Cup and we have everything it takes to repeat it at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games. This is a major challenge which we are overcoming day after day, hour after hour, long before the competitions actually start. The preparation process for the games began with investment in the most important asset of all: Our athletes. It went on with massive investments in sport infrastructure and will reach its peak with the great ongoing urban restructuring of Rio de Janeiro - doubtlessly the most beautiful natural landscape for the Olympic Games since Ancient Greece.

Throughout the last years we made huge public investments to ensure adequate material support to our athletes, their coaches and teams, with such programs as the "Athlete Scholarship" and the "Brazilian Medals Plan." Our outstan-

ding athletes have succeeded in continuously improving their performances with each competition. They are our great stars and source of inspiration. The results achieved by Brazil in the last Pan American Games are a concrete example of the drive of our athletes. These investments in people and infrastructure will bring far reaching results in future years, beyond the time frame of the Olympic Games. Indeed, we are disseminating sport practice in our country among the young, with investments in sport facilities for a wide range of sport modalities throughout the country. This will be the greatest legacy which we will reap from the Rio 2016 Games. We believe that education and sport are our best allies to ensure social inclusion and integration. Through them we stimulate young people to fight for their goals, to experience the joy of breaking limits, to learn teamwork and respect for their competitors.

Sport inspires in us a culture of cooperation, honour, good ethics and hard work as means to reach our goals and celebrate our achievements. Combining it with the natural joy and self-esteem of our hospitable and welcoming people will produce the greatest legacy of the Rio 2016 Games. We will also have the monumental legacy of urban modernisation of Rio de Janeiro, one of the most beautiful cities in the world and our national postcard. Two-thirds of the financial resources allocated to the Rio 2016 Games are being invested in urban infrastructure works for the city. A wide range of infrastructure works are under way: A new metro line, a tramway connecting the whole of Rio's city-centre and express lanes for buses which will interconnect all competition venues. The aim of much of this investment is to improve public transportation and commuting for people during and after the games, in particular people who live in the most remote quarters and need public transportation of high quality.

Urban transformation is not all. The Rio's harbour area, for example, will become a new leisure and culture quarter for the local population and for the thousands of tourists we receive each year. In the future, "Porto Maravilha" will house new office and residential buildings. We are recuperating the brightness of the Marvelous City which has enchanted the world ever since it was the capital of our country.



The Rio 2016 Olympic Games strongly attracted investments from the Brazilian private sector — and not only for sponsoring or for building and modernising the new hotel network. For example, the Barra Olympic Park was built to a great extent with private investment, including works on local infrastructure. The Olympic Village, which will host athletes from all over the world, is also being constructed by the private sector, which has begun to sell these apartments. It is possible to state, therefore, that the Rio 2016 Games will receive one of the highest levels of private investment if compared to previous Olympic Games in the last 20 years. The Deodoro Sport Complex, one of the competition venues located in the middle of a deprived area and having the largest concentration of youngsters in Rio de Janeiro, will become a space for the local population to practice radical sports. It will also be a training stage for our best athletes. The Barra Olympic Park will be the foundation for the future Olympic training center, responsible for preparing the country's future high level athletes. It will also enhance sport cooperation with other countries, especially with our neighbours from South America. This effort is being stimulated by investments all over Brazil. In total, there are 12 training centres and 261 sport initiation centres, in addition to the 46 official athletics tracks. The investment on the sport legacy in Rio and in the country totals \$1.2 billion.

We are also providing for the cost-efficiency as well as the sustainability of the facilities. One example is Future Arena, the venue of the handball competitions at the Olympic Park. The arena is made from temporary modules, which will be

dismantled after the games and converted into four schools. Ensuring the smooth operation of this great project has required constant attention and a joint effort by the local, state and federal governments, as well as the Organising Committee and the Olympic Public Authority. All parties will remain fully committed until the end of the Paralympic Games in September 2016. An event with such complexity also requires constant attention to details. Rio's infrastructure and Olympic projects are already being tested with the first events taking place throughout the city. By early 2016, we will have held competitions in 40 sports modalities.

Brazil is fully prepared for the upcoming Games. In cooperation with the event's organisers, we will proudly show the world the recent accomplishments of a strong and well-functioning democracy which is committed to reducing social inequalities through economic development and investment. This is the collective effort of an entire country. Our energy to overcome challenges will be demonstrated to all the 15,000 Olympic and Paralympic athletes, the thousands of spectators and the billions of viewers. Athletes and tourists will be warmly welcomed by the Brazilian society, as it happened in the 2014 World Cup, when the country charmed the world with its festive atmosphere and overall safety and efficiency. At that time, all those watching our festivities on TV certainly wanted to be here in Brazil.

Come enjoy all the good that the Olympic Games can give you during this one-time event — and all that a country like Brazil can offer you at any time: peace, love, joy, and lots of happiness! We are waiting for you with open arms and hearts.



“Afectos com Letras”
an NGO for the Development through Education,
Health and Training in Guinea-Bissau

Recognised by the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a Development NGO since 2009, “Afectos com Letras” is an Association that works mainly on education and health in Guinea-Bissau. Guinea-Bissau is one of the poorest countries in the world and it is in the tail of the Human Development Index of the OECD. The public services and infrastructures do not work and, regardless the kindness of the people from Guinea-Bissau, the fact is that it has been very difficult to the international community to help in the country’s rebuilding.

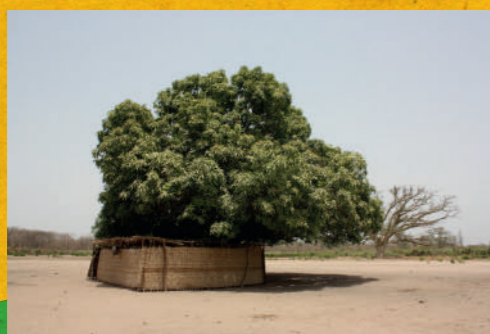
Guided by the problematic living and learning conditions of children in Guinea-Bissau, we decided to create “Afectos com Letras” with the main goal of helping children to escape from an illiteracy and poverty environment in the country. So far, the 6-year-old NGO, whose projects are already being implemented in 4 different locations (Bissau, Varela, Djoló and Bijagós Islands), has accomplished many small but significant victories — it has a class and individual sponsorship programme that supports hundreds of children (with financial support that allows them to attend school and have access to food and medical aid); it co-financed the construction of two schools in Djoló (built in 2010) and Varela (built in 2012), with around 200 students; it built a school in Quelelé in 2014, with 310 students; and it also pays salaries to 12 teachers, sends teaching materials, school manuals, food and provides basic health care to the schools that it supports. Apart from all these initiatives, “Afectos com Letras” also created a public library in Bissau, with more than 13,000 books.



Djolós’ news school since 2010, with 125 students

So far, “Afectos com Letras” has already sent to Guinea-Bissau 15 different solidarity missions that counted with over 80 volunteers. Several containers with humanitarian aid have been distributed by the NGO’s volunteers and over 8 tons of medicines have been donated to the country’s most needing patients. The NGO also supports local hospitals and health care centres by providing regular medical supplies and surgical equipment and also helps local communities with the infrastructure or machinery needed for agricultural purposes — a rice peeler was given to a village and the second one will be on its way in the end of 2015.

But the NGO still has many on-going projects and intends to continue working in Guinea-Bissau and provide all people in need with the basic education and health care conditions. This is why “Afectos com Letras” very much appreciates all the help people can give to be able to build its 4th school in Maru Bague, north of Guinea-Bissau, which has 108 students in one single class room with only one teacher and one school book for everyone;



The current Maru Bague’s school (left) and its 108 students (right)

So if you wish to know more about “Afectos com Letras” work in Guinea-Bissau or want to contribute with a small but meaningful donation to help us with our on-going projects in the most needing country, please do not hesitate to contact us via email: afectoscomletras@gmail.com, more information can be found on go our Facebook page (<http://facebook.com/afectoscomletras>) or BlogSpot (<http://baobaproject.blogspot.be/>).

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Portuguese, the Language of Diversity

Alexandre Homem Cristo

Majored in Political Science (2008) and concluded his Master in Comparative Politics at the Social Sciences Institute of the University of Lisbon (ICS-UL) (2011). He is a political advisor for Education and Culture at the Portuguese National Assembly, and also Counsellor at the Portuguese National Council for Education. With regular collaborations with the press, he has a weekly opinion column at Portuguese newspaper "Observador".

Originating in Galician-Portuguese (a dialect of north-western Iberia), the Portuguese language was born and evolved under the influence of Latin, Arab and neighbouring languages (Spanish and Catalan) that invasions and conquests imposed on the territory that is now Portugal. Pinpointing the exact moment in which a language was born is an ungrateful task, as it is all but an exact science — in fact, no language ever appeared overnight, it arises from a number of influences and popular uses. Having said this, a symbolic date should be noted: on June 27, 1214, Afonso II, the king of Portugal, writes his will, which is the oldest document on record written in Portuguese. The language was evidently not invented at that time, neither was Afonso II its creator. Simply, and contrary to what was the norm, the king opted to use the language of his people instead of the official language usually adopted at that time: Latin. This symbolic choice made the Portuguese language official.

The eight centuries that separate us from that date marked the evolution of the Portuguese language, together with countless changes and influences, first from the Castilian language and later (in the eighteenth century), by the French language. In parallel, the multiple geographies of the Portuguese language shaped its popular use. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the Portuguese spoken in Portugal and Brazil started to vary, as a natural result of the specificities of their use. And in Africa, during the twentieth century, Portuguese colonies officially adopted the language, despite the multiplication of local dialects — the Portuguese was the language of power and not of the people. This being said, the 800 year history of the Portuguese language is a story of diversity which shaped it into its current form, with the coexistence of several forms of speaking and even writing in Portuguese. One thing is sure: Portugal might be the point of origin, but this country is not the owner of the Portuguese language, which has grown and evolved by the hand of its speakers around the world.

Diversity Brought Them Closer

Ethnic and cultural diversity are part of Portugal's history and, inevitably, of the Portuguese language. It is estimated that the language has about 262 million speakers on 4 continents and at least in 9 states, among which is the population (resident and emigrant) from Brazil (207 million), Angola (17 million), Mozambique (19 million) and Portugal (15 million) stand out. This is a portrait of diversity that today makes up the Portuguese language, the fifth most spoken in the world: it is spoken in the European Parliament; it is the musical language of the Americas; it grows in influence in Africa; and remains in the East. And for all nations that share it, this diversity has been a source of enrichment and has brought them closer together.

First of all, from institutional perspective, Portuguese-speaking countries have created the CPLP (Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries), which brings together Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Portugal, São Tomé and Príncipe, and East Timor. Established in 1996, the main purposes of the CPLP consist of establishing diplomatic coordination among its member states, cooperation and development in a number of political, economic and social fields (such as education, protection or science), and also diffusion of the Portuguese language throughout the world. In other words, language acts as a background to a valuable political and business cooperation that has been beneficial for various countries belonging to the CPLP — in such a way that even Equatorial Guinea has joined recently, although Portuguese is not really spoken in their country (a controversial decision that raised protests in Portugal).

Secondly, from cultural perspective, the Portuguese is a root of a cultural production that crosses borders and affirms cultural power of this language and its speakers worldwide. Either through literature (Camões, Fernando Pessoa,

Saramago, Jorge Amado, Nelson Rodrigues, Mia Couto, José Eduardo Agualusa) or music (fado, morna, samba, bossa nova), the Portuguese language established itself in the international cultural scene.

Thirdly, from the economic perspective, the high number of Portuguese-speakers in the world makes the Portuguese language a significant business asset. Portuguese is among the most spoken languages in the world, after Mandarin, English, Spanish and Arabic. According to international reports, the expectations relating to economic development in Brazil, Angola and Mozambique elevate Portuguese as a language of the future. Indisputably, despite the evolution of the language varying from country to country, particularly in Brazil where it has been altered the most, all of these countries share a common heritage, which also brings them closer together — in terms of identity, institutional relations, cultural affairs and economic opportunities.

Uniformity Teared Them Apart

Despite a healthy relationship between diversity and diffusion of the Portuguese language, in 1990, an effort of standardization of spelling was put in place, aiming to end orthographic differences between countries.

Now, 25 years after being signed, it is safe to say that the Orthographic Agreement 1990 (AO90) became a source of disagreement between Portuguese-speaking countries. The Agreement, which sought to harmonise spelling of general vocabulary, was signed in Lisbon in 1990 by the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon, the Brazilian Academy of Letters and representatives of Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique and São Tomé and Príncipe. In the Portuguese Parliament, it was rapidly approved and subsequently ratified by the President. But because in 1994 only three countries had ratified the Agreement, it failed to be implemented according to the schedule. Therefore, in order to deal with refusals of a number of countries, the following years two major amendments to the initial agreement had to be made, including an institutional association with the CPLP. In Portugal, the Orthographic Agreement was finally applied in 2009, with a transitional period expiring in May 2015. Today, Portugal is still the only country that has fully adopted the Agreement.

The process involving the Agreement is still ongoing, and nothing in it was easy to accomplish. On the contrary, it awakened all kinds of love and hate, quite understandably: looking at the history of the Portuguese language, including its dissemination and diversity, the standardisation of spelling seems like an unnatural process. Indeed, the initiative was political in its origin, not the expression of popular will and not even a result of a debate about possible advantages of the Agreement for the Portuguese language. In fact, the need for a new orthographic agreement was never consensual, which explains numerous political obstacles that the process has been encountering. At present, the verdict is (almost) unanimous: the Agreement has still not accomplished its objectives. For lexical and syntax reasons, books published in Portugal are still translated to be published in Brazil — and vice-versa. In both countries, many reject its implementation, particularly in Portugal where the Agreement is currently the correct spelling — for example, many journalists and media refuse to adopt the new rules.

What Future for the Portuguese Language?

According to British Council, Portuguese is one the "languages of the future". Looking back on the evolution of Portuguese speaking-countries (2000-2014), it is easy to understand why. Taking all countries into account, population increased from 220 million to 272 million (+24%). In each of them, GDP per capita doubled or more (with the exception of Portugal) and the literacy rate of the adult population consistently increased. The role of Portugal as a member of the European Union and the Eurozone, the growth of Brazil as a leader economy in South America and the rising influence of Angola in African economic affairs have put the Portuguese language in the front row of world economic affairs. Staying there depends now entirely on the political and economic performance of Portuguese-speaking countries, as well as their ability to maintain healthy institutional relations within the CPLP.

After all, what is a language? Only sounds, phonetics and spelling? No — it is history, culture, prose, poetry, traditions and identity. It is, basically, what its speakers make of it. There are no doubts about the cultural and economic value of the Portuguese language — both now and in the future. But the warning was given: as history has shown again and again, no future can be built without respect for the past. After all, nothing that results from diversity can be standardised.



Interview with Ana Gomes

António Buscardini

Ana Gomes is Portuguese politician, who suspended her career as a diplomat to enter party politics in 2003. In 2004, she was elected as a Member of the European Parliament and reelected in June 2009. She has been a career diplomat since 1980 and served in the Portuguese Missions at the UN in New York and Geneva, and also in the Embassies in Tokyo and London. Between 1999 and 2003, she was Head of Mission and Ambassador in Jakarta, where she played an important role both in the process leading up to the independence of East Timor and in the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Portugal and Indonesia. In the European Parliament, her main areas of activity are: human rights, security and defence, international relations, gender issues and development.

AB: The Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) celebrated 19 years of existence. Do you believe that this is a sustainable platform?

AG: CPLP should be sustainable. I think there is indeed a great potential in this platform. It is a tremendous way of building ties between all the Portuguese speaking countries and, of course, fostering economic as well as people to people relations. But it certainly implies a lot of leadership and a clear path living up to its standards. Unfortunately, this is not happening. We are seeing some attempts to instrumentalise CPLP by some governments — Brazil and Portugal namely — for very concrete economic purposes.

AB: Do you have any concrete examples?

AG: Yes of course. Look at the accession of Equatorial Guinea! It is a clear violation of the founding principles of CPLP! How was it possible? In fact, Brazil and Angola were the patrons of this accession even if Equatorial Guinea did not meet the criteria to join the club. So I'm really sorry to say but CPLP is not living up to the expectations.

AB: In your opinion, does Portugal agree with this accession?

AG: There was a time in the Portuguese foreign policy, namely during Mr. Luis Amado administration (Minister for foreign affairs during the Socialist Government from 2005 to 2011), that Portugal actively lobbied for Equatorial Guinea accession within the CPLP. Let's be clear: this happened due to its own interest in this territory for the BANIF bank. Today he's running that bank. But to answer your question, today's Portuguese government may not be happy with the accession of this Equatorial Guinea to the CPLP but did nothing to avoid it!

AB: But could they do anything?

AG: Of course they could but they didn't pay too much attention to the founding principles of CPLP which ought to be a community for the improvement of all countries in terms of democracy, freedom of press, basic conditions for economic life and, most of all, human rights.

AB: Talking precisely about human rights, you are lobbying in favour of an improvement of media freedom in Angola. In fact, we understand that you will receive in the European Parliament Mr. Rafael Marques De Morais, an Angolan journalist and activist for the freedom of press. Do you see any change in Angola?

AG: I just visited recently Angola (in July) and actually I have passed a resolution this month (September 2015) in the European Parliament on the lack of freedom in Angola. Building on my experience in transition from dictatorship to democracy in Portugal (1974), to me, the most important element of building a democracy is actually freedom of press. If you don't have it all the other basic freedoms will be undermined. That's precisely what is happening in Angola. The Angolan government has a clear plan of controlling Portugal by buying strategic groups. Those groups are not known to be extremely profitable! They are buying those groups to be sure that they could control everything that can be published against Angola in the Portuguese media. In my view what is happening in Angola is extremely serious. There is a growing number of violation of human rights; for instance, 52 young people are accused of planning a coup d'Etat which is completely ridiculous. Everyone knows that it is not true. Many people in Angola think that the political succession of President José Eduardo dos Santos has been



blocked. We have to underline that this President is the second longest serving President in Africa which not at all a very healthy indicator for democracy.

AB: But the President stated that he will leave the power in 2017.

AG: That will not happen because the President has communicated to its own party (MPLA) that he thinks this not the right moment to leave. He tried to put his own son in power but there is a strong resistance inside of his own party to this solution. That is giving the feeling to the citizens of Angola that the situation is blocked.

AB: If we go back in time: two years ago there was a strong statement from José Eduardo dos Santos on the special partnership between Portugal and Angola. He said that the partnership would end if there had not been a change of how Portugal speaks of Angola. How do you see this situation?

AG: Most of the Portuguese political class has been corrupted by Angola and those who have not been corrupted are scared

of the consequences namely to the thousands of Portuguese that work in Angola. I think both of these attitudes are wrong. I understand that there must be a smart and diplomatic way for a government that respects human rights to interact with others. In my perspective, Portugal should interact with the civil society from Angola. Multiple NGOs are doing an amazing work that should be highlighted.

AB: You have a very strong opinion. Does your party (PS) share your views?

AG: First of all, I speak on my own behalf. My party, the socialist party, encourages freedom of speech. Some member of my party will see themselves represented by my positions regarding Angola but others will not. In the Portuguese socialist party there are people who have been also corrupted by the Angolan system. I have no doubt about that! I know that I am upsetting a lot of people in my own party but I don't mind. I'm there to upset them. I'm there to upset the corrupt people even in my own party. To sum up, the more I upset these people in my own party the better I am.



Strategic Challenges for the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries

Rogério Gomes

Rogério Gomes é professor de Urbanismo e Ordenamento do Território da Universidade Lusófona e dirige a Rede Portuguesa de Desenvolvimento do Território, que desenvolve projectos em Portugal e no estrangeiro relacionados com o desenvolvimento económico e a melhor exploração sustentável do território.

Uma encruzilhada de crescimento

A agregação dos países de língua oficial portuguesa numa organização internacional teve sempre um intuito político e cultural e pode dizer-se que, para além de alguns episódios, designadamente de natureza solidária, não tem sido a economia a dominar as reuniões institucionais.

Todavia, o contexto dos PALOP mudou significativamente desde a sua fundação.

Os PALOP constituem hoje um conjunto de países que, apesar das respectivas fragilidades, podem desempenhar um importante papel no contexto internacional.

Essa potencialidade é clara, por exemplo, no golfo da Guiné, onde a navegação, nomeadamente de petroleiros, convive com várias ameaças de pirataria, num plano geográfico onde se localizam S. Tomé e Príncipe, Angola, a Guiné Equatorial, encontrando-se ainda nas vizinhanças a Guiné Bissau e Cabo Verde.

Portugal, como pequena país europeu cujas forças consistem mais na sua sociedade de conhecimento e inovação

do que propriamente na força militar, não tendo quaisquer interesses directos a defender na área, tem acompanhado com disponibilidade e preocupação o desenrolar da situação, dada a presença de tantos países irmãos.

A convicção geral parece ser a de que Portugal e os PALOP poderão representar na área um importante papel interpretativo e construtivo na cadeia de acontecimentos relacionada com a dissuasão da pirataria, que doutro modo se pode tornar a breve trecho ameaçadora para a estabilidade energética internacional.

É outro, todavia, o grande desafio dos PALOP: a melhor integração das suas capacidades diplomáticas, políticas, financeiras e económicas em favor dos interesses comuns. É ainda insuficiente o conhecimento das capacidades diplomáticas que cada um dos países de expressão portuguesa possui. Será eventualmente interessante assistir nos próximos anos ao lançamento de um programa de estágios diplomáticos cruzados, para minorar este conhecimento.



35M€

Start-ups accumulated turnover expected for 2015

607 SME

8.650 jobs
650 million Euros annual turnover

170 SME

helped in their internationalization process



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Nuno Gomes, the enthusiastic CEO of **BICMINHO** said "BICMINHO have been supporting the ambition and talent of our entrepreneurs, with know-how and specialized expertise. Fifteen years later, we gained a new vitality and a renovated spirit. Together with our start-ups and SMEs, we will build, for Minho and for Portugal, a future based on innovation, competitiveness and business success."

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http://ebn.eu/sharedResources/users/59/Infographics_EBN_2014.pdf.

At the end of 2014, a European Court of Auditors report (http://ebn.eu/downloads/Special_Report_Incubators_ECA.pdf) had already concluded incubators under the EU|BIC label are more efficient in their spending of public money, reach better results and have higher impact than other EU incubators, thanks to the use of sound quality, benchmarking and monitoring mechanisms.

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"REALISING EXCELLENCE"



Lusophone opportunities in the Indian Ocean



António Vieira da Cruz

António Vieira da Cruz is an independent consultant working with international clients (corporations, associations and individuals), providing assistance in business, politics and communications. He worked in Brussels, Ottawa, Barcelona and Lisbon, leading missions to Europe, North America and Asia. He studied Political Science and Political and Corporate Communications in Lisbon, Pamplona and Washington DC.

Portuguese is the sixth most spoken language in the world by the number of native speakers — it is spoken by around 250 million people in the five continents.¹ We might say that the Portuguese culture is a tale of three oceans: the Atlantic, the Indian and the Pacific oceans. Most of the times we hear news in Portuguese from Atlantic Brazil, Angola or Portugal; we may also think of Macau and Portuguese interactions with Pacific China or Japan; instead, I chose to write here about our relation with the Indian Ocean. Travelling this ocean one will certainly encounter many people with Portuguese surnames, find Portuguese fortresses and churches, or even taste Portuguese cuisine influences in local gastronomies.

There is a strong link between those people, those places and the Portuguese culture. This is the intangible value of lusophony. But we can go forward — as Portuguese sailors did in the past — and find also very tangible ways to connect people and produce wealth. Today, 90% of international trade and two-thirds of all petroleum supplies travel by sea. Around 70% of the world traffic of petroleum products pass through the Indian Ocean.² What happens in the Indian Ocean has always had repercussions in other regions. Two proverbs from the fifteenth century are

significant: one says "If the world were an egg, Hormuz would be its yolk"; and the other one «whoever is Lord in Malacca has his hand on the throat of Venice».³ Well, the Portuguese conquered both Ormuz (1507) and Malacca (1511). When the Portuguese conquered Malacca, Ming China's economy suffered.⁴ Former President Hu Jintao recognised China's "Malacca Dilemma"; the country is still dependent on the strait for over 25% of its exports and 15% of its imports.⁵ Moreover, "40% of the world trade passes through the Strait of Malacca and 40% of all traded crude oil passes through the Strait of Hormuz."⁶ From the early sixteenth century until mid-seventeenth century we may say Portugal dominated trade in the Indian Ocean by setting up forts on the important straits and ports along the coasts of Africa and Asia. Like Homer's Odyssey and Virgil's Aeneid drew maps to sail in the Mediterranean Sea, we could use The Thousand and One Nights' Sinbad the Sailor story or Camões's The Lusiads to sail through the Indian Ocean. From Camões we will find some clues to understand the importance of the Indian Ocean to Portugal and vice-versa. Inspired by this poet I would like to commemorate some of the key locations for the Lusophony, starting from South Africa and going through three continents by the ocean's coastline to Australia.

¹ <http://www.lavanguardia.com/cultura/20140627/54411368382/portugal-celebra-800-anos-del-nacimiento-oficial-de-su-lengua.html>

² http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/31/business/worldbusiness/31indiaarms.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

³ KAPLAN, Robert D., in "Monsoon", p. 7, Random House Trade Paperbacks, New York 2011.

⁴ KAPLAN, Robert D., in "Monsoon", p. 10, Random House Trade Paperbacks, New York 2011.

⁵ <http://foreignpolicyblogs.com/2015/04/01/the-shadow-of-a-malacca-dilemma-on-an-iranian-hormuz-dilemma/>

⁶ http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2009/03/rivalry_in_the_indian_ocean.html

Malindi (Melinde), Kenya

Contrasted with the hostile reception in the South in Mombasa, Vasco da Gama was very well received by the Sheik of Malindi. This is where in the *Lusiads* the hero Vasco da Gama narrates a part of the Portugal's history. That is already a good reason to visit the place. In reality, they signed a trade agreement and the Portuguese explorer hired a Muslim sailor — probably Ahmad ibn Mājīd El-Melindi — to guide him through the Indian Ocean water until India. Back then, the main exports of Malindi were ivory, rhino horns and agricultural products such as coconuts, oranges, millet and rice. In 1499 the Portuguese established a trading post in Malindi that served as a resting stop on the way to and from India. Malindi remained the center of the Portuguese activity in the Eastern Africa until 1593 when the main base was moved to Mombasa. Nowadays, the main industries in the region are tourism, cement and cashew.



Pillar of Vasco da Gama in Melinde

Adding to the previously mentioned conquests of Hormuz and Malacca, we must acknowledge other strategic places that the Portuguese conquered, such as Socotra Island (Yemen) and Aden (Yemen) to control the entry of the Red Sea; Muscat (Oman), Sohar (Oman), Khor Fakkan (United Arab Emirates), Bahrain, Qeshm (Iran) and Bandar Abbas (Iran), Hormuz (Iran), in order to control the Persian Gulf.

Zanzibar, Tanzania

Vasco da Gama passed in Zanzibar in 1498 and the island became a Portuguese possession for almost two centuries (1503-1698). Zanzibar's main industries are spices (cloves, nutmeg, cinnamon and black pepper), raffia, and tourism. The island where Freddie Mercury was born also exports seaweed. It is relatively autonomous from mainland Tanzania and Saul Bernard Cohen points out the island's geopolitical potential: "the durability of the union of Zanzibar and Tanganika is increasingly in doubt. Should Zanzibar become independent, it could benefit from its location to become a gateway state linking East Africa to South Asia and Middle Eastern areas oriented to the Indian Ocean."⁷

Mombasa, Kenya

Vasco da Gama was not well received by the King of Mombasa, who tried to ambush his units. With 1.3 million people, Mombasa is now the second largest city of Kenya and it was part of the Portuguese Empire for more than 100 years (1593-1698 and 1728-1729). Mombasa has the largest port of Kenya and exports refined oil and cement. Tourism is its main industry.

Mozambique

Mozambique is the biggest Portuguese-speaking country in the Indian Ocean. Gas reserves are estimated to be the fourth largest in the world.⁸ mining and quarrying sector accounted for 1.5% of the economy and energy accounted for 5%. However these sectors were expected to expand by more than 10% per year due to increased output of coal and gas. Important minerals extracted in the country are aluminum (2% of world's production), beryllium (5%) and tantalum (6%). There is also a significant extraction of marble and production of cement. The main agricultural products in Mozambique are cotton, sugar cane, cashew, copra and cassava.

Cape Town, South Africa

The first European to cross the cape was Bartolomeu Dias in 1488. Until then the cape was called "Cape of Storms" (Cabo das Tormentas), but it was renamed by King John II of Portugal as "Cape of Good Hope" (Cabo da Boa Esperança), revealing his optimism to find a sea route to India. Camões writes about Adamastor, a terrible monster that sunk many ships and tells how the heroic Portuguese sailors overcame this obstacle.⁹ The main exports of Cape Town are wine, petroleum products, grapes, apples, pears and quinces. It is also worthy to mention the growing tourism industry and the relevant financial, business services and real estate sectors.

India and Ceylon

The Portuguese presence in India is well known and has lasted for 450 years. I will not spend much time talking about this here. Places like Goa, Daman, Dadra and Nagar Aveli, Diu, Kochi, Cannanore or Calcut were part of the Portuguese Empire as well as Mumbai had belonged to Portugal for 127 years (1534-1661). Mumbai was given to the British as a wedding dowry when the Portuguese Queen Catherine of Braganza married King Charles II of England. This Portuguese

queen was the one who introduced the culture of tea and the use of a fork at the dining table in English society. Today, Mumbai is the largest city in India as well as one of the largest cities with more than 12 million inhabitants. Spices and tea were the main imports from Portuguese India and Ceylon. Ceylon belonged to Portugal for 153 years (1505-1658), until it was conquered by the Dutch. Nevertheless, there are still many lusophone cultural elements in Sri Lanka and many people still bear their Portuguese names. Besides tea, Sri Lanka is rich in rubber, coconut and graphite. It is also important to note Sri Lanka's tourism which is rapidly growing industry and its indisputable centrality in the Indian Ocean.

Chittagong, Bangladesh and Bago, Myanmar

Also known by Portuguese as Chatigão or Porto Grande de Bengala, Chittagong now has a population of 7 million people and it is the second largest city in Bangladesh. In 1598 there were around 2500 Portuguese in Chittagong. In 1616 Chittagong and the island of Sundiva were conquered, the remaining Portuguese people dedicated themselves to piracy. There are many descendants from Portugal in that area and I met some Christians with Portuguese surnames. Main industries nowadays are shipping, tea, consumer foods, textiles, cement, real estate and tourism. Chittagong is also central in the BCIM international commercial corridor, which links Kunming (China) to Mandalay (Myanmar), Chittagong (Bangladesh), Dhaka (Bangladesh) and Kolkata (India). Likewise, other Portuguese adventurers went south to Myanmar and installed themselves in the Kingdom of Pegu (now Bago). Two of them were even acclaimed as kings: Salvador Ribeiro de Sousa and Filipe de Brito e Nicote. Unfortunately, that story did not end well. Brito e Nicote was impaled, his troops were made prisoners for life. Their descendants are still Christians, have Portuguese names and faces and can be found in rural areas in Ava and Bago areas. They are known as the "Bayingyi".¹⁰

East Timor

Finally, and leaving many other lusophone places to name, we must consider a country that has Portugal's best support: East Timor. Where the Indian Ocean ends and the Pacific Ocean starts, the eastern part of the island of Timor was governed by the Portuguese and it is still a Portuguese-speaking country on the other side of the world. Timor has been developing a partnership with Australia for extraction of petroleum and natural gas resources in the waters southeast of East Timor. Regarding Australia, some theorists say that the first Europeans to reach Australia were the Portuguese. But what we know for sure is that there is a large hardworking Portuguese community in Australia nowadays.¹¹

Conclusion

Like the Portuguese, other great nations explored the Indian Ocean. The Ottomans, the Omanis, the Arabs, the Persians, the Chinese, the Dutch, the French, the English, and now the Americans, the Indians and the Chinese again, all of them had different experiences in the region. But as we see the Portuguese experience is especially rich. If we dare to rediscover the lusophone Indian Ocean and reconnect with its people, we may find a new opportunities for trade and investments. In order to achieve that, we must embrace the lusophone values like the courage to turn the Cape of Storms into the Cape of Good Hope; or to partner up with people to achieve better results, just like Vasco da Gama and Ahmad ibn Mājīd did in Melinde; to think strategically like Afonso de Albuquerque did; and to conquer the hearts of natives, just like St. Francis Xavier did in Goa and Malacca where he is greatly respected up to this date. So, the remaining question is... when will you start your lusophone enterprise?

⁷ COHEN, Saul Bernard, in "Geopolitics of the World system", p. 376, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Oxford 2003

⁸ https://www.bci.co.mz/Mozambique_JuneSite_2012.pdf

⁹ CAMÕES, Luís Vaz de, in "Os Lusíadas"

¹⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HWMj-7DPHg>

¹¹ http://www.bbc.com/portuguese/reporterbbc/story/2007/03/070321_portugalaustalia_ir.shtml



Promoting the relations with Portuguese speaking countries

Carlos Zorrinho

A challenge set in the framework of the European Parliament

Carlos Zorrinho is a Portuguese politician and university professor. From 2009 to 2011, he served as Secretary of State for Energy and Innovation, within the Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Development of the XVII Constitutional Government. Returning to the Parliament in 2011, Carlos Zorrinho was elected Leader of the Socialist Party's Parliamentary Group in September 2011.

Following the 2014 European elections, Carlos Zorrinho was elected Member of the European Parliament, where he is Head of the Portuguese Delegation, Vice-chair of the Delegation for the External Relations of the European Parliament to Brazil, Member of the ITRE Committee, EUROLAT and the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, and Substitute Member for the ENVI Committee and the Delegation for the External Relations of the European Parliament to the MERCOSUR.

More than 261 million people around the world speak Portuguese. Their cultural, political, social and economic weight is enormous, since the community of Portuguese speakers, although mainly focused in countries like Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe and East Timor, spreads across the globe through strong and recognisable diasporas in the communities that host it. Portuguese speaking countries are, therefore, an important cultural, economic and political network, but they are also a very important bridge between regions and continents. For the European Union, although Portugal is an integral part of it, the relations with the Portuguese speaking countries play a significant role in terms of diversification and consolidation of geo-strategic partnerships. An example of this is the recent creation of the Parliamentary Delegation for relations with the Federative Republic of Brazil or the role that Portuguese speaking countries have in the Joint Parliamentary Assembly ACP-EU, the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EUROLAT) or the Delegation for relations with Mercosul. Taking into consideration this reality, I have decided, in close articulation with MEPs Fernando Ruas, José Inácio Faria and Roberto Gualtieri, to promote the creation of an informal interest group for relations between Europe and the Portuguese speaking countries. In the constitutive document, initially subscribed by 36 MEPs from different political groups and from ten different nationalities, examples of areas such as priority cooperation, foreign policy, culture, development aid, migrations, knowledge, innovation and technology, sea and natural resources, energy and tourism were highlighted. However, taking into consideration the nature of the group that has been created the priorities will be established in the framework of its normal functioning and taking into

account an appropriate analysis of the circumstances. An example of this flexibility was the proposal that came up during the group's first meeting, to also consider the exchange of best practices among outermost regions, the cooperation in agriculture and fisheries or the promotion of human rights in general, and the rights of women in particular, as areas of interest. During that first meeting, six co-Presidents were elected by a large consensus in order to guarantee the coordination of the group. The elected co-Presidents were as follows: me (S&D Group), Fernando Ruas (EPP Group), José Inácio Faria (ALDE Group), Charles Tannock (ECR Group), Jordi Sebastia (Greens EFA Group) and Lidia Senra Rodriguez (GUE/NGL Group). An indicative activities' programme illustrating the characteristics and goals of the group has also been established. Therefore, besides the preparation of an event at the European Parliament related with the independence of some Portuguese speaking countries, it was also decided to prioritise the preparation of the presence of the Portuguese speaking countries at the Paris Summit (COP21) and the follow up of the negotiations on fisheries. The promotion of an annual visit to one of the Portuguese speaking countries was also established, although the invitation comes from those countries themselves. The interest group's reference framework is the promotion of Lusophony. The vision on the interest group's goals and priorities that I have previously underlined reflects a modern and more ambitious vision of that concept. Lusophony as I see it constitutes a particular way of being and seeing the world, starting from a shared culture that has the Portuguese language in its centre, but that also goes beyond the cultural element, in order to also be, and above all to be, a relation of affections, of humanism, of dialogue, excluding principles of supremacy or domination among its speakers.



14 July 2015 – Launch of the interest group on the lusophone world at the European Parliament
© European Parliament

In this perspective, Lusophony cannot only be seen as a sum of territories and populations linked by a common language; it also has to be seen as a legacy of ideas, feelings, monuments and even of important historical documents. The Portuguese speaking countries are also represented in four different continents. In fact, if the nine countries included in the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) became one, they would represent the sixth most biggest economy in the world. This means that the language they share may be their common heritage, but the opportunities that it offers are huge and should also be addressed by this interest group. The Angolan writer José Eduardo Agualusa considered the Lusophony as "a world in expansion" due to the growth in the movement of people and ideas between the countries that speak Portuguese. We have considered the concept of Lusophony in a much broader significance that corresponds to the amount of institutions, people and even groups outside the Portuguese speaking countries that maintain with our common language, culture and Portuguese literature a leaning, friendship and sympathy dialogue, with very different interests that start in the same root. This dialogue

is the other side of the coin and the common heritage for the political, economic and social dialogue that we aim to promote. Lusophony also transcends the exclusive circle of Portuguese speakers. There are a vast number of people from other countries, languages and cultures that have an interest for the Lusophony. These "Portuguese speaking" people by affection should be mobilised in order to boost the exchange between countries, languages, economies and cultures. We have to encourage them to boost the "expansion" underlined by Agualusa.

By creating the interest group in order to promote the relations with the Portuguese speaking countries, we can try to understand the Lusophony as sharing an opportunity, by receiving and including, simultaneously, influences from cultural and geographical areas where the Portuguese language is spoken. One area of influence that, ultimately, is spread throughout the world.

In short, this is what we aim to achieve. To promote a global vision for the twenty-first century, valuing the specificities of the countries and the people that speak Portuguese.



EU-Brazil trade relations: boom or doom

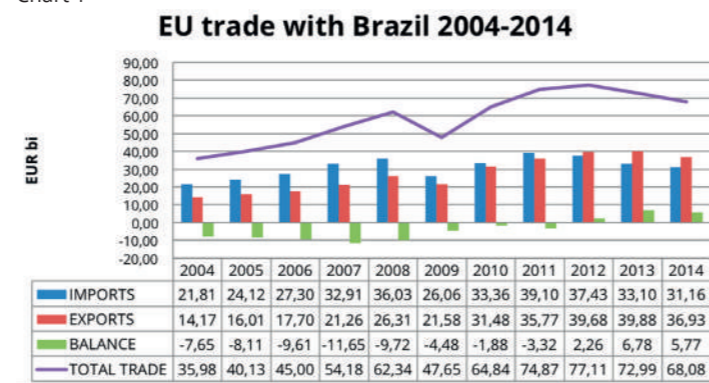
Rui Faria da Cunha

Lawyer, senior advisor at AVISA Partners, Brussels, external consultant at Barral M Jorge, Brasília and São Paulo, executive manager and government relations manager at Apex-Brasil Brussels between 2010 and 2015. Law graduate by the University of Coimbra, post-graduate in competition law by the King's College, master of European law by the European Institute of Public Administration, master in European litigation by the University of Luxembourg. This article is of the author's full responsibility.

Having established diplomatic relations in 1960, it took Brazil and the European Union more than 30 years to sign their first Framework Cooperation Agreement, in 1992, in which the contracting parties undertook to give new boost to their relations focusing in development of cooperation in trade, investment, finance and technology. In 1995, MERCOSUR (of which Brazil is a member) and the EU signed an Interregional Framework Cooperation Agreement, which established the outlines for the negotiation of an Association Agreement between the two regions, with three pillars: political dialogue, cooperation and trade. In 2004, EU-Brazil relationship gained new momentum with the signing of an Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation, which aimed to encourage, develop and facilitate cooperation in areas of common interest by conducting and supporting research activities and scientific development and technological. However, it was only in 2007 that the relationship raised to a first tier level, with the launch of the EU-Brazil Strategic Partnership during the first bilateral Summit, in Lisbon. Brazil was the last "BRICS" to meet the EU in a Summit. The Strategic Partnership aimed to promote the prosperity, protect the environment and reforming global governance. On its trade chapter, it intended to address issues of specific bilateral relevance that complemented the EU-MERCOSUR discussions, for example, through dialogue on intellectual property issues, industrial policy and regulatory co-operation as well as consultations in the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) area. The increasing intensity of the political relations seems to have found an echo on bilateral trade and investment relations. In 2014, EU and Brazil exchanged €78.65 billion worth of goods, being the EU the main destination of Brazil's exports and origin of its imports: 20% of Brazil's exports go the EU and 21% of Brazil's imports originate

in the EU. Brazil represents one-third of total EU trade in Latin America, accounting for 2% of EU's imports and export, ranking number ten in EU's trade partners. On the other hand, Brazil is not only the main destination of EU's investment in the region, with a stock of €272 billion, but also one of the major foreign direct investor in the EU, totalling a €58.2 billion in stock. It results clearly from statistics that trade and investment flows between the EU and Brazil had a sharp increase in the past decade. From €35,98 billion in 2004 to €68.08 billion in 2014 in total trade. From €4.3 billion in 2003 to €57.1 billion in 2013 in total investment. However, in spite of a steady increase in total trade in the last decade (with the exception of 2009), an important turn of events occurred in 2012: Brazil lost its long-standing trade surplus with the EU. While Brazil's exports to the European bloc decreased from €39.10 billion in 2011 to €31.16 billion in 2014, the EU's exports to Brazil increased from €35.77 billion in 2011 to €36.93 billion in 2014. 2012 may have also been the peak of bilateral trade, with a decrease of total trade from €77,11 billion in 2012 to €68.08 billion in 2014 (see chart 1).

Chart 1



Source: EUROSTAT

Is this the start of a long-lasting decline? What could be the cause of the decrease of both Brazilian exports to the EU and total trade between the two strategic partners? How can this tendency be stopped and growth resumed? As for the decrease of the Brazilian exports to the EU, it could be explained in part by the loss of competitiveness of its economy vis-à-vis its main international competitors such as China and other Asian countries. The rising cost of production factors, namely due to high taxes, the rising costs with logistics and an increasingly high inflation may well have contributed to the loss of Brazil's competitiveness. Another important factor to be considered is the loss by Brazil, in January 2014, of the EU Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), decision that the European Commission justified with the entry of the Brazilian economy in the group of upper-middle income countries, according to the World Bank. The decision strongly affected Brazilian exports to the European bloc, namely in sectors such as machinery, auto parts, plastics, textiles and chemicals. Other countries in the region were also excluded from the EU GSP, such as Argentina, Cuba, Venezuela and Uruguay. Others remained, such as Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

However, for some of the countries that have also lost the tariff preference, the impact was very limited or none at all because they already had free trade agreements signed with the EU. In this group of countries are Mexico, South Africa, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and several Caribbean countries, including the Dominican Republic. As for the slowdown trend of bilateral trade flows, a possible explanation can be found in international trade negotiations. In an increasingly globalised and interdependent world, with global value chains often involving different continents, bilateral and plurilateral trade agreements won a renewed relevance, especially with the impasse of the Doha round. The United States, for instance, has currently in place free trade agreements with 20 countries and is negotiating with several countries in the Asia-Pacific region to complete the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP)

EU-MERCOSUR Association Agreement

- 1999, Rio de Janeiro - launch of negotiations;
- 2004 - Suspension of negotiations due to insurmountable differences in the free trade agreement negotiations;
- 2010, Madrid - resumption of negotiations.
- 2010-2015 - 9 rounds of negotiations, the last of which took place in October 2012

and with the European Union to conclude the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Meanwhile, the European Union concluded in recent years free trade agreements with Mexico, Chile, South Korea, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Central America, Ukraine and Canada. Currently, it holds negotiations with the United States, ASEAN, Japan and India, among others.

The signing of a free trade agreement between Brazil and the EU could not only mitigate the effects of loss of tariff preference, but also integrate Brazil in the current chain of bilateral or plurilateral trade negotiations and compensate the advantages that some of its main competitors gained by signing agreements with the EU. However, MERCOSUR and the EU have failed so far to conclude the negotiations for the conclusion of an association agreement. Launched in 1999 during the first EU-LAC Summit, negotiations were suspended in 2004 due to insurmountable differences in the free trade agreement part. Resumed in 2010 during the sixth EU-LAC Summit, nine rounds of negotiations took place so far, the last of which in October 2012, focused on the normative part of the agreement, in chapters such as rules of origin, non-tariff barriers, trade facilitation, competition and dispute settlement mechanisms.

Parties agreed that the next step in negotiations should be the exchange of market access offers but no date has been set yet, even though parties agreed during the second EU-CELAC Summit, held in June 2015, that it should take place in the last quarter of 2015. The first decade of the twenty-first century witnessed an exponential growth of political, trade and commercial relations between Brazil and the EU, with the signing of important cooperation and partnership agreements and record numbers of trade and investment. However, bilateral trade may have reached its peak in 2012, the year since both Brazil exports to the EU and total trade started declining. A renewed political engagement between the EU and Brazil could boost growth of trade and investment flows. Given the clear option of the EU and other global players to enter into bilateral and plurilateral free trade agreements (at the expenses of multilateralism), particularly with countries that compete directly with Brazil for access to the European market and the effects of the end of the tariff preference that the EU granted to an important part of Brazilian exports; the signing of a free trade agreement between Brazil (alone or as part of MERCOSUR) and the EU appears as a natural development of the bilateral relationship that can consolidate a sustained growth of the trade and investment relations.



Hidden Iuso-secrets in Brussels

António Buscardini

António Buscardini is the Editor-in-chief of the Press Club Brussels Europe. He is also the Senior Editor at The Brussels Times where he signs a permanent column named Tales from the Regions. Furthermore he is leading the Regional Flavours initiative within FEDRA and working as a Communications Consultant for the baseEUcities platform. From 2010 to May 2015 he was the Coordinator for Press and Communications within the Assembly of European Regions. He holds a degree in Political sciences from the Catholic University of Portugal and a Master degree in Geopolitics and International Affairs from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques of Toulouse.



Place Flagey, the Iuso-bubble

In this square you can find five Portuguese restaurants. Due to the presence of the Portuguese community, the city of Brussels has decided in 1989 to inaugurate a statute of Fernando Pessoa, Portuguese poet, that states "My motherland is the Portuguese language".



Churrascaria Bossa Nova

If you wish to experience a real Brazilian barbecue you should definitely pass by the Churrascaria Bossa Nova. We strongly advise you to try their rump cap, also known as Picanha.

Rue Haute, 381 - 1000 - Brussels
<http://www.restaurant-bossanova.be/>



Restaurant Coimbra

In Coimbra you can discover a unique and traditional dish from Portugal: octopus à lagareiro. Lagareiro is a style of cooking fish which has many variants but typically consists of dressing the fish generously with extra virgin olive oil (lagareiro is the owner of olive oil press) after grilling or roasting. A must-try!

Avenue Jean Volders 54, 1060 Saint-Gilles
<http://www.restaurant-coimbra.be/>



La bonne fourchette Africaine

La bonne Fourchette Africaine owned by Mrs. Isabel invites you to discover the Angolan national dish. The Chicken Moamba. In other words, chicken with palm paste, okra, garlic and palm oil hash or red palm oil sauce, often served with rice and funge. A variant dish of moamba de galinha is muamba de ginguba (peanut sauce) instead of palm paste.

Rue Jean Robie 1, 1060 Saint-Gilles
<http://www.labonnefourchetteafricaine.be>



MONTE DO ALÉM



Monte do Alem is our multiple blend wine.
Cabernet sauvignon 35 %,
Merlot 35 %,
Aragonez 15%,
Syrah 10 %,
Petit Verdot 5%

This is a strong, structured and full-bodied wine bearing a similarity not unlike the winemaker! After the winemaking and aging in oak casks, the various grape varieties are assembled and it is here that Parviz combines his art and imagination to produce a complex and rewarding wine. Since the opening of our winery in 2009, we can now talk about the "art of making wine".

The Cabernet Sauvignon gives the wine a frank aroma accentuated by a taste of black currant. It is the King of grapes and it dominates this wine. Fortunately the Merlot provides the touch of smoothness, toning down the sharp features of the Cabernet Sauvignon, bringing soft flavours reminiscent of black cherries, chocolate, and even prunes. Finally this blend is completed by the remaining grape varieties providing a rich, concentrated balance of taste throughout the drinking experience.

What to eat with Monte do Alem?

We like to serve it with pâtés of pheasant, duck or rabbit. Also very pleasant with all meats accompanied by sauces, beef stews, quail with red wine sauce or Porto as well as gratins, mushrooms on toast, cheeses and certain desserts.

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A dialogue with the Iuso-brussels

Maria Laura Franciosi

Interview with Beth Costa

Former Secretary General of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)

Beth Costa is a journalist who has worked in the foreign sector of Globo TV in charge of international news, where journalists are "more free to write" (except on Venezuela and Cuba!). She has always been involved in union issues on behalf of journalists.

Brazil, a big country of over 200 million people, what is the condition of the press?

There are differences between regions. The southeast of the country is the most developed. This is where most immigrants to Brazil settled — Europeans, Italians, Japanese, etc. It is here that two of the biggest groups, especially print media, are based. Then there are the Amazonian region and the northeast region which is a very poor one but these regions have very popular radio and television stations. The main problem in Brazil is the heavy concentration of media in the hands of some families, despite the fact that in the Brazilian constitution there is a special chapter that warns against this. "No monopoly of media" it says meaning that it is not acceptable to concentrate print, broadcast and cable. This results in a big lack of diversity. In general, the media (and some politicians) become the opposition to the government.

Brazil has very strong institutions but the role of media is powerful. However, there is no regulation for public concessions for TV and radio. When regulation is attempted media owners say that this is an attempt against the freedom of the press! The media owners don't like the word "regulation" and accuse trade unions of attacking press freedom!

How are quality and diversity of information guaranteed?

The big debate at present in Brazil is how can journalists organise this self regulation whilst guaranteeing quality and diversity. Some media establishments have created their own in-house "ombudsman". The number of TV and radio stations far exceeds the print media: 3000 against 260 print. Generally, big media groups have both their own print media and their own radio and TV stations, such as Globo where I worked. It has a TV station, a national radio network, a national newspaper, a national cable service, a national



music station, a magazine and a film production company. It is owned by the Marinho family who have also created a foundation for education but their TV and radio stations are their most important activity.

Have you ever tried to involve citizens in your efforts to tell the truth?

When I worked in Brazil we created a forum with the civil society. We involved people in a debate on the role of information. We discussed the role of communication and we started to work with people in the health sector and also with teachers, women, homosexual groups, and all those who thought they were marginalised by the media. We launched this debate and we organised conferences at a regional level followed by a national communication conference. We had over 600 proposals which we condensed into 22 mainstream debates on communication. Then we tried to see if these were dealt with by existing legislation. We went to the Congress and had contacts with individual senators and pressure groups to see what the public profile of information was and we concluded that it had been a very good decision to work with civil society.

What was the result?

The work is still going on but I am convinced that there will be no real society in Brazil unless we democratise the media. Fortunately the spreading of social media is helping this change.

What is the main point of debate now in the Brazilian society?

Maintaining our sovereignty! We had to open up our economy to big economic groups. Part of our wealth, our soil, was privatised, the only resource which is still exclusively Brazilian is oil and gas. Big oil fields have been discovered which could make Brazil independent and wipe out poverty. The law has already been approved that says that royalties from this oil are going to be used for education. Another major opportunity for research for scientific and environmental studies is Amazonia. There we have everything to cure numerous diseases and we need to not only protect that area but also help it to become sustainable. Amazonia is now considered "the lung of the world" because so many forests have been destroyed around the world. But there are also people living in Amazonia and they should be allowed to live off the resources of the earth. This is the point made by Chico Mendes (he was assassinated over 25 years ago because of his campaign to save Amazonia and is considered a hero by environmentalists) who wanted to help people of Amazonia live from the land they inhabited.

So, environment is the big issue now in Brazil, right?

Yes, we have big communication links with other countries (Amazonia includes also Peru, Bolivia, Venezuela, etc., not only Brazil) in this area and we need to protect forests and to avoid timber smuggling. It is not an easy campaign. We have also found minerals including diamonds in areas inhabited by indigenous populations. But Indians cannot exploit these. They are now working on a law to try to supervise this field and help the local people to have returns from this wealth. There is a very good leadership among Amazonia's indigenous population: people know that they have to protect their traditional knowledge, some have studied at university and can assure a good scientific follow-up. We do not want what happened in the United States to the Indians to also happen in Brazil! We need to protect their traditional knowledge and their rights.



How do you see the future of Brazil?

Brazil is an amazing country but everything there has to be built. We have technology skills comparable to those in Europe but also vast rural areas and an incredibly long coastline of over 8000 km. As well as an incredible variety of cultures within independent states of our federal structure.

So, how do you see the role of the media now?

Media has to be as diverse as the country. We need a greater diversity for remaining united to let people be proud of their culture.

How do you deal with corruption?

Corruption is a big issue but now for the first time it is being dealt with. The federal government has started to investigate, and fight it.

What is the role of the different immigrant populations in the country?

One of the biggest immigrant groups are the Italians, Sao Paulo is the biggest Italian city in the world with over 3 million Italians out of a population of 20 million. The city has been shaped by them, in the food sector in particular and the wine industry! They also founded many football clubs, for instance, the Corinthians was founded by anarchist Italians!

How do you see the future of Brazil?

I see it as a country of hope, everybody is trying to do better in spite of poverty and problems. Small businesses are becoming bigger. There is a lot of hope around and a lot of vitality!

Also in the media sector?

In this sector the crisis is still there, a new crisis, I would say. Recently, in the Globo network 200 people were fired, 50 of them were journalists, some of the best ones because they were the highest paid! How are they going to continue? Just with internet and social media? The moral of the story is that even in a moment of economic optimism of a booming country, media is suffering.

Interview with Isabel Duarte

Creator of the Brazilian cultural association AArtenativa in Brussels



I arrived in Brussels in 1996 to study. I had a great passion for the French language and stayed with a girlfriend who was living here at the time. I came to take a course in French and my intention at the time was to have experience of a new society. I come from the North-East of Brazil, Paraíba João Pessoa, at the extreme east of Brazil, they call it "the door of the sun" because it is where the sun arrives first in Brazil! I stayed in Belgium for three months and the following year I came to stay since I met my husband here. It is now almost 10 years that I have been living in Brussels. This is why I created an association that deals with the diversity of the Brazilian culture. We started with practical workshops but today we work on three axes: culture and organisation of events, social with the women recently arrived and education with workshops in schools, associations, women groups.

Are you working with Brussels municipalities?

We have contacts with them but we have our own place in the city centre, MicroMarché, where we organise our initiatives. We have partnerships with many other cultural centres in Belgium such as PianoFabrik and in Etterbeek with the centre Malbeek. Also the Flemish community supports us, every year they give us a small budget to help us in our organisations. We look for partnerships all the time.

Was this the first Brazilian cultural association in Brussels?

No, there were other associations here. Our idea was to put together all the associations and to create a platform with all of them. There are around ten, each one with its own specific focus. What is our focus at A'artenativa? We are not a group of artists, musicians or others, we just want to promote and spread the diverse Brazilian culture as a tool of integration and so we are open to all. Brazil is culturally very active and we want to open a small window on the wealth of Brazilian culture. And so people who follow our events will find themselves in our culture since in the Brazilian culture there are also elements from Europe, Africa, Middle-east, etc. I am convinced that a Brazilian carries the world in himself! Following colonisation of Brazil there was a positive outcome, the "metissage", the mixture of cultures and races, and this is why Brazil is a living country at a cultural level. Brazil has received cultural elements from everywhere which we have absorbed and transformed into something different.

For example the Samba rhythm arrived from Africa but we created a new rhythm, the "forro" with the piano accordion, an instrument coming from Europe, and also percussion instruments such as African tambour. "Forro" is a musical rhythm, it has had a great international success since

there are elements that people recognise from their own country. It comes from dances in Europe, like waltz. The Portuguese brought waltz at the time of the monarchies to Brazil and from the royal palaces it has become a kind of country dance. In our association we show all these different cultural elements, if there is an element that brings people together it is culture, it helps us to see that we are not too different, after all.

Do you have also art workshops?

Yes, we have art workshops, recycling workshops, we have a project that was approved by the Fondation Roi Baudouin, now we are going to organise some sewing workshops with Brazilian women and at the end we are going to have a fashion show, a school asked us to do a jewel workshop, we work mainly with natural products from Amazonian cooperatives using seeds of plants of the area: they collect the seeds, clean them and transform them into grains for jewels. We work with this material, the children love this, they call us from schools, every month we do a recycling workshop. We work in Ixelles, in the city centre but also outside of Brussels in some Flemish cities and in Wallonia.

Do you have a good follow-up of your activities?

Our idea is to help people become more professional as in the case of the sewing workshop. They love the finished products! And they can sell their work. This is what we call "social economy". Many of these women arrived here dreaming of Europe, of creating an activity but often they don't work and it is good to integrate them and to give them a chance of a future activity. For the time being the women who participate in these activities are Brazilian since we work in a specific community, the Parish Church of St. Antoine in St. Gilles, the Catholic community for Brazilians in Brussels. We have started with them but now we are going

to open these activities to the PianoFabrik. This project is associated with another initiative, a "speaking group", "la cirenda de palabre", a circle of words, done with a Brazilian methodology created in the favelas where there is a lot of poverty. A doctor, a Brazilian psychologist, created this methodology consisting in sharing problems with others.

Women then realise that their problems are common also to others and this is a good way to create solidarity. This is called community therapy, in the sense of "welcoming". In Belgium we are the first ones to adopt this method which is very well known in France. Starting from this project, we have created another project called BruxElles, i.e., "elles" the women in my city, Bruxelles. These are our two social projects and the workshops for recycling with children. We explain the reasons for recycling, the impact these materials have on the environment, the impact of our consumption. We do this in schools, in associations, in women groups, in street festivals, etc., to make people aware so that they care for the environment. We do this also with different municipalities in Brussels.

What is your objective? Only social or also political?

Non-political in an electoral sense but creating an association signifies having a political objective. We are four administrators but more than twenty members in our association. The political meaning is to give visibility to our community and if we are here it means we are here as citizens.

How many Brazilians are there in Belgium?

In Belgium there are approximately 50,000 Brazilians, 90% of them live in Brussels (St. Gilles, Midi, Ixelles), these are very Brazilian neighbourhoods where there is also a large Portuguese community. We have many contacts with the Portuguese who own lots of shops, restaurants, cafes, and many work in the construction sector.

And the Brazilians?

Many Brazilian men work in the construction, and women as babysitters and cleaners. But a good number of the almost 50,000 Brazilians living in Belgium have no papers so they have no visibility, they try also not to be too visible even if their nature is to be much more "visible" but they try to avoid this since they don't want to have problems.

What activities you do with women?

Women work a lot but there is competition, jobs are scarcer now and women are the first ones to suffer. There is also the problem of domestic violence with their men, husbands or others, some of them live in a perpetual situation of domestic violence. This is why we work with Brazilian women which

is a small community and often they are afraid to denounce a situation of violence at home. However, we don't work with their problems since we are a cultural association but we try to create some perspectives for them, we create a group in the parish church, we organise these meetings and for them it is a good opportunity to get out of the house, to tell their story, socialise with others and this brings also a mental well-being, when they meet a group that accepts them they open up and get better. When we offer them the opportunity to show what talents they may have in the cultural field it is splendid.

Do you organise music related activities? What kind of music do you promote?

We have a programme at the MicroMarché, at the Via Café which is the market inside the MicroMarché, we have a partnership with this café and twice a month we organise 4 musical evenings, la "roda de samba", "la roda de choro", an instrumental rhythm music, the "forro" and "Brazilian jazz" and once a month we have the "Via MPB", popular Brazilian music, with some of the local musicians interpreting some of the best Brazilian artists like Chico Duarte, Caetano Veloso, Gilberto Gil and others.

Are the activities popular with both young and old people?

Our activities are intergenerational: there are young and old participants, children and adults, everybody participates as well as the Belgians who love spending with us. Our activities are open to all. The joy of being together is for all ages. They like to come, have a drink, listen to music, there are whole families who come with their children who run around or do some activities, it is a kind of fête, and it is interesting that we have all ages together.

What is the link with Brussels?

The association itself represents the way of living in Brussels. We see Brussels as a welcoming city where there are all nationalities which live side by side in this very small territory and we have here the whole world, in spite of the complexities of politics, there is an image of the people living together, of "mixité", mixing cultures together. It is different from Brazil, there you have all the faces in the world but one language; here you have all the faces of the world with all the languages of the world and I think we have a great responsibility. My responsibility as a Belgian citizen is to guarantee this conviviality to all. If there are political problems, if we want to change, this depends on us, it is the citizens who are the basis of a good working society where responsibility is shared at an individual and collective levels.

I am Italo-Brazilian. I was born in Rome and grew up between Buenos Aires and São Paulo, the city of my father. My mother is from Rome. The story of my family was written in the book "Tristes Trópicos" (Sad Tropics): by Claude Lévi-Strauss. In the book there is a chapter on São Paulo with very interesting references to Italian migration. There I recognised the story of my ancestors on one of the pages. A 13 year old boy from my family travelled alone from Mount Pollino, on the Calabrian Apennine Mountains, to Brazil. He was sent there to see what was happening in Brazil after the abolition of slavery in 1888. So this 13 year old boy (the brother of my grandfather Francesco) returns to Italy and tells what he had seen and takes his parents back to Brazil (including my great grandfather Domenico who was buried in Jaú in the heart of the State of São Paulo). Italians arrived to Brazil in great numbers. Many are still living there especially in the State of São Paulo but also in Paraná, Santa Catarina, Rio Grande do Sul, Bahia and a little less in Rio de Janeiro. There are now around 35 million Brazilians with Italian origin. São Paulo is the biggest "Italian City" in the world, a metropolis with a clear Italian imprint. It was the time of big migrations to Brazil: Portuguese, Spaniards, Lebanese, Turks from the Ottoman Empire, Arabs, Jews, Russians, Germans, Swiss, Italians, and even Austro-Hungarians from the Trentino region. Unlike Argentina, United States, Canada or Australia, all the migrants arriving in Brazil, just like it happens to plants and trees which grow very quickly, become Brazilians, from one day to the next! Brazil is the fifth country in the world for its population and geographical dimension, 8,514,000 km² whereas the present EU is around 4,500,000 km².

What can you tell me about Brazilian culture?

Culturally Brazil is a "crucible", a classic country of immigration with immense uninhabited territories. Amazonia or Pantanal, the State of Mato Grosso, the State of Pará, which is part of Amazonia, are almost empty, but we also have to consider the "savana" which is called "cerrado" and then the "sertão" which is an even drier zone with some Dutch influence. The "Nordeste" region from a cultural point of view is a very rich country, although economically poor. When we talk about Brazil we refer to its musical tradition, full of rhythm, a mixture of Afro-Brazilians with European melodies. All this is explained in the reference book "História da música no Brasil" by Vasco Mariz, diplomat and musicologist. This book is a kind of treasure trove: you can find links also with Cuba, a country not directly comparable to Brazil but with an equally rich musical tradition. But Brazil is at the top in the world as a musical country for rhythm, everybody dances, all kids sing, everybody tries to play a musical instrument even if the general level of education leaves a lot to be desired. Education is still a huge problem. This is a huge problem for



Brazil, by far the biggest Iberian-American country, much bigger than Mexico, the second in size among all Iberian countries. But Brazil has never thought of having a regional supremacy based on its cultural richness, a richness which has never been exploited even from a diplomatic point of view. This is probably due to the low interest of Brazil towards smaller countries and probably also to the level of corruption which was and still is a big issue or due to the genesis of this patriarchal country where slavery left a mark on all generations not only in the past but even now. In richer areas of São Paulo there are still separate lifts and entrances reserved for servants!

What kind of links exist between Brazil and Belgium?

There are two splendid books published in 2014, one by a Belgian journalist Kris Clerckx "Les Belges au Brésil" dedicated to his father Henri Clerckx who had won the "corrida de São Silvestre" (a very famous race in São Paulo). The cover photo of the book shows the viaduct of Santa Efigênia in the very centre of São Paulo which was built with Belgian steel. On this viaduct a certain Luigi Perroni, the brother of my grandfather, started his life in Brazil as a seller of dried meats before becoming a coffee baron at the end of the nineteenth century. He lost everything in 1929 with the Wall Street Black Tuesday. He was the 13 year old boy who had left Italy alone on a sail boat to explore Brazil soon after the abolition of slavery! The second book is "Brasil e Bélgica": five centuries of links and interactions. It was written by Eddy Stols, a Belgian professor and diplomat, together with two Brazilian authors: Luciana Pelaes Mascaro and Clodoaldo Bueno. It is a collection of writings concerning the two countries with several historic photographs. An interesting person living in Brussels is the cinema producer Susana Rossberg from São Paulo. She made a documentary film a few years ago "Brasileiros como eu" (Brazilians like myself) with interviews to several people, not only artists who live in Belgium. Let's not forget also the big event of Europalia-Brazil organised in Belgium in 2011-2012 (October to February).



What is the story of your association, EUBrasil?

EUBrasil was founded around ten years ago by Luigi Gambardella, the head of Telecom Italia in Brussels. Professor Alfredo Valladão from Paris is the president of the advisory board, formed by European and Brazilian scholars. Our association is now well known both in Brasilia and Brussels and we are trying to expand its scope. After all, Brazil is the fifth country in the world!

Can you tell me more about the major problems in Brazil?

The lack of education at secondary and high school level... although the country has excellent scientists, many of them were trained in the US. Europe comes the second, with, perhaps, Paris as the first point of contact mainly for artists and writers. Brazil is a very violent country although from

a statistical viewpoint crime there is much lower than in some Central American republics where violence is endemic, particularly against women. Brazil has always been always presented as a welcoming country though there are also cases of racism. Now there are economic migrants especially from Haiti who arrived after the earthquake even in far away areas such as Acre at the border between Peru and the Amazonian forest. The Haitians living there are forbidden to move elsewhere.

For a better understanding of this magic and multicultural country I strongly recommend two books: "Um enigma chamado Brasil" (An enigma called Brazil) by several authors who explain why Brazil is still trying to align itself with developed countries. The other book that I would recommend "Pensadores que inventaram o Brasil" is by Fernando Henrique Cardoso, former senator and president of Brazil.



Magellan, a bridge to luso-lobbying

Ana Paula Mesquita

Senior expert in business development, strategic planning and lobbying with more than 30 years of experience in business management and a training background in Law and History, a EU law specialization in the College of Europe.



magellan

MAGELLAN is a non-profit private law association for the representation of Portuguese interests abroad. Operating since 2005, MAGELLAN is engaged in the promotion and lobbying of Portuguese institutions abroad, promoting the Portuguese image and culture, while representing and bringing together the Portuguese-speaking communities. Aware that much of the legislation governing the Portuguese business structure originates within the European Union from Brussels, we cultivate a close contact with the most relevant actors within the European institutions and other correlated entities. We have assembled a solid understanding of European issues and emerging economies, assured, on the one hand, by the experience and training of our employees and, on the other hand, by means of close ties to the academic world, through partnerships with specialized institutions in different areas of expertise.

Where are we ?

With offices in Brussels, Porto and in Washington, we are strategically located promoting from Brussels a close contact with key agents within the European institutions and other entities.

Our services

Intelligence, Monitoring and Lobbying: We carry out a constant and continuous observation of new developments, decisions, policy guidelines and programs in our clients' activity area. We also proceed to the identification of the relevant media and institutions. Subsequently, we process the relevant information and later elaborate an individual action plan with a view to defending the client's interests, seeking to ensure that their interests are adequately protected. Our actions are governed by high standards of transparency and ethics. We ensure that our intervention is as timely as possible to enhance the effectiveness of our operations and thus obtain the desired results.

Promotion of Interests in the EU: We provide advice and support with a view to reaching and maintaining a strong Portuguese presence within the European Union, highlighting Portugal's key contacts and historical relationship with African countries and Brazil, while cultivating a close contact with key agents within the European institutions and related entities.

Strategic Consulting: This allows us to obtain an analysis of regulatory conditions, agents, institutions and competition, as well as political interests. We understand the logic of political thought and the most pertinent contacts in various areas. We use the term "strategy" often but never lightly. We ensure that our clients' message is transmitted properly and that their interests are defended in the best way and wherever necessary.

Applications to EU Programmes and EU Public Procurement: The European Commission dedicates part of the EU budget to companies and organisations through grants, tenders and funding programmes. We provide consulting services in the identification for the best opportunities, preparation of proposals and for the establishment of partnerships of interest, as well as a full range of follow up services in project management. As far as funding opportunities are concerned, we gather a thorough experience in the application and management of projects in programmes such as Connecting Europe Facility, Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+, providing the entities we represent with a full range of services from Market Analysis and Research: The studies and analysis we have conducted may take into account a certain topic, a challenge or a specific decision making process. Our goal is to deliver a rigorous and excellent quality work, so that our clients' objectives can be met in the most convenient way.

Organisation and Management of Conferences and Events: Events are an excellent way to approach institutions, companies and the civil society. They are unique opportunities to establish unique contacts with relevant decision makers in the fields of economics, politics and media. Services provided include personalised support with regard to the planning and MAGELLAN is a non-profit private law association for the representation of Portuguese interests abroad. Operating since 2005, MAGELLAN is engaged in the promotion and lobbying of Portuguese institutions abroad, promoting the Portuguese image and culture, while representing and bringing together the Portuguese-speaking communities. Aware that much of the legislation governing the Portuguese business structure originates within the European Union from Brussels, we cultivate a close contact with the most relevant actors within the European institutions and other correlated entities. We have assembled a solid understanding of European issues and emerging economies, assured, on the one hand, by the experience and training of our employees and, on the other hand, by means of close ties to the academic world, through partnerships with specialised institutions in different areas of expertise. implementation of national and international events.

Networking: We provide support in establishing contacts with decision-makers in politics, media and civil society. In addition, we offer advice concerning the maintenance and expansion of the personal contact network. In this context, we offer a roadshow service, which has generated not only relevant information on how to cultivate a closer contact with the institutions and other international players, enhancing the presentation of our clients and their interests. We take a special interest and strategic approach to all Portuguese representatives and entities in Brussels, with the main goal of establishing and maintain a strong Portuguese network and presence.

THE TEAM: Endowed with a skilled team, young and dynamic, MAGELLAN managed to gather a set of skills especially in the context of Management, Law and Economics absolutely vital for the implementation of its objectives. In addition, and in order to train and provide value-added services, we regularly gather the input from senior collaborating experts.

Who do we represent?

Since the beginning of its activity, MAGELLAN has been able to effectively offer the aforementioned set of services. Consequently, we have managed to extend our range of represented entities essentially consisting of associations of undertakings, businesses and scientific institutions in a wide range of sectors, namely, communication and information technologies, transport, energy, environment, forestry, textiles and clothing, fashion, health, and youth entrepreneurship, among others.



Be part of the process

Henrique Burnay

Senior Partner at Eupportunity – European affairs consultancy, with offices in Brussels and Portugal.

Most of the European companies and organizations know they must be present and active in Brussels if they wish to be a part of the decision making process that directly affects their business in their home countries and across Europe. They also recognize how important it is to be in Brussels when it comes to trade issues. This is all old news. Or it should be. But when it comes to their business in third countries, this lesson is less than obvious.

Bilateral relations are still at the heart of international politics. Culture, memory, migration flows, language (like in the case of this magazine's issue) play a fundamental role and there's no reason, and no good reason one can add, why it shouldn't be so. Yet the role of the EU in the world is unique and not taking full advantage of this uniqueness would be a big mistake.

Following the changes brought in by the Lisbon Treaty, the European Union's presence in third countries is growing in size and relevance. At the same time, third countries that negotiate trade deals, partnership agreements and development and cooperation programs with the EU know very well how important their presence in Brussels is. And that may very well be part of the reason why so many send some of their most skilful diplomats to the embassies next to the EU. Real and sometimes hard negotiations are made here. Yet, despite knowing how an important actor the European Union is when it comes to third countries, some Europeans and European companies and organizations forget how much of the policies that shape those relations are designed in Brussels - actually they're drafted both in Brussels and in the capitals of each of these countries, but it is far easier to be present in Brussels than all over the world, although a local presence is equally fundamental – and don't pay enough attention to what's being decided here. That's a mistake and paying close attention to what's being done by those engaging in Brussels should be a reminder, if not an alert, and a call for action.

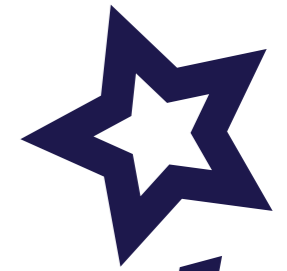
We can look at the EU and third countries relations from all kinds of different perspectives. Trade, culture, migration,

development, cooperation... In fact, these are often all interlinked. Yet and for the purpose of this magazine let's focus on the relations the EU has with the majority of the Portuguese speaking countries. Naturally, at the core of these policies there are common traces and similar processes, but it is obviously impossible to expect the issues and priorities with Timor or Brazil to be the same. Size matters, economy too.

Thinking of those companies and organizations that have business and invest in countries where the European Union plays a major role in the cooperation for development, they must know very well how the political process works and how the cooperation for development is drafted and implemented. Otherwise they risk missing opportunities while complaining their contributions are not being taken into consideration.

Likewise, with countries where trade is at the core of the economic relations, what's being discussed there and in Brussels is equally important.

Over the past years, the European Union's cooperation for development has evolved significantly. The main objective, the eradication of poverty, remains to be fulfilled, but the way these policies work, have changed significantly. The role of the beneficiary countries is increasingly important, while the idea of a coordinated and sustained program between the different partners made it's way. Currently, more than a support on a case-by-case, project-by-project basis, this cooperation is designed in a medium to long-term perspective. The European Union remains the main external contributor to the development of several of these countries, and does so under an agreement with the national authorities and in coordination with the EU Member States. To make the most of the opportunities brought by this contribution it is necessary to understand it and anticipate it. That's the challenge for companies and organizations on both sides of this equation: learn and understand how such cooperation works and how to work with it.



eupportunity

european affairs consulting

“ If third countries matter to your business you should be active both there and in Brussels. That's where politicians, diplomats and officials discuss the future cooperation, development, trade and investment policies that concern you. ”

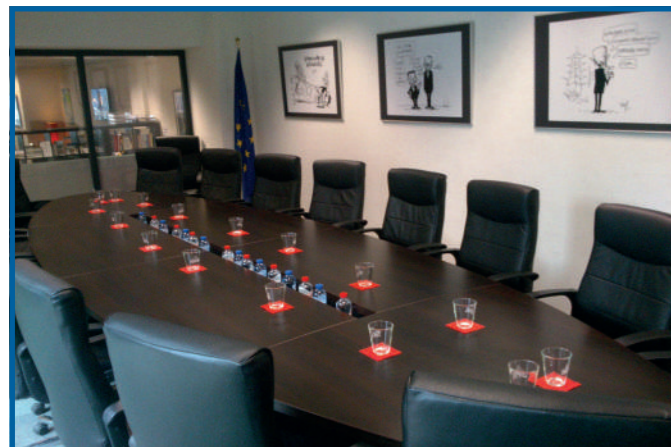
With the development of a cooperation model that is jointly programmed, which includes the integration of private investment and which is planned in medium and long term, the anticipation of programming, knowledge of the priorities and dialogue with the partners are the key elements. The European Development Fund (EDF) is still the main instrument for EU support to development cooperation in the ACP countries. It will change in a few years, but for the time being it is so. EDF serves objectives as poverty eradication, sustainable development and integration of ACP countries into the world economy. The management of most of the financial funds from the EDF is made either at the local level, by national authorities or, centrally, by the European Commission. The funds are divided by national indicative programs, regional and inter-regional cooperation programs and the Investment Facility. And the objectives of funding are negotiated between the EU and each of its beneficiaries. In addition, the Commission makes use of framework contracts lasting four years for short-term service recruitment in areas such as health, agriculture, infrastructure or new technologies, allowing the shortening of deadlines for

the award of service and rapid response to emergencies. The Development and Cooperation instrument is another tool that supports EU external policies. Its aims are to fight poverty, promote economic development, social and environmental development, and consolidate and support democracy, the rule of law, good governance, human rights and the principles of international law.

Next to all these instruments briefly described, there's also the role that the European Investment Bank plays managing the Investment Facility but also lending both to private entrepreneurs and public authorities.

To sum it all up, it is a complex, dynamic and multi-actors process. The goal is to make sure that cooperation fights poverty and fosters economic development and this can only be done when the private sector plays its role. There's room for that, but the private sector must be proactive and engage in this conversation. To be an active player in Brussels, talking both to the European Institutions and the representatives of third countries is absolutely fundamental if you wish to be a successful part of this process.

Welcome to the Press Club Brussels Europe



News from the Diplomatic Platform



Viktor Sidabras

With “rentrée” behind us, the Diplomatic Platform of the Press Club Brussels looks forward to an exciting fall of lively programmes and unique networking events. The Diplomatic Platform initiative was launched on March 9 this year by Mr. Alain Hutchinson, Brussels Commissioner for Europe and International Organisations, in the presence of 90 members and guests, including several ambassadors. The Platform aims to provide the Club’s seventy diplomatic Mission members, including government and regional representations, and special guests with exclusive programs offering insider perspectives on current events, as well as with social and professional networking opportunities. As each diplomatic membership provides five individual memberships, the Platform thus unites 350 ambassadors, press officers, other diplomats, government officials and regional office representatives. Diplomatic Platform members are invited to participate in these select events and are encouraged to offer suggestions for future programs. In order to allow Platform speakers to be frank, Chatham House rules apply to these briefings and presentations unless noted otherwise.

Planned events for the autumn include briefings on the migration crisis in Europe, new developments in Cuban foreign policy, and on the US presidential and congressional election processes. In addition, there are plans for a special autumn networking event — stay connected for details! In addition, the Diplomatic Platform plans to unite member Press and Media officers in a new Press Officer’s Board which will provide guidance both to the Club and the Diplomatic Platform on programming directions and useful activities for diplomatic members. A Diplomatic newcomers’ orientation is planned to help those just or recently arrived to make sense of the Brussels Bubble, and equally impor-

tantly, to gain tested knowledge about where to find the best restaurants, bars and markets! The Head of the Diplomatic Platform is former US Diplomat Viktor Sidabras. A dual US-Lithuanian national, Mr. Sidabras is committed to the cause of European integration and the promotion of public diplomacy. He has served in Belgium, (west) Germany, Liberia, Norway, Lithuania, Sweden and Russia, besides numerous postings in the US Career highlights include establishing the American Cultural Centre in Vilnius, Lithuania, in 1994, and organising the then-annual Stockholm Baltic Sea Region Security and Cooperation conferences in the Swedish capital from 1998 until 2002. For his service advocating Lithuania’s integration into the Transatlantic community, he was knighted by Lithuanian President Adamkus in 2002. He has also received four Superior and Meritorious group and individual awards from the U.S. Foreign Service. Mr. Sidabras last served as the U.S. Spokesperson to the European Union, 2010-2013. He speaks English, Lithuanian, German, Swedish and French. Besides the special programs of the Diplomatic Platform, diplomatic members of the Press Club Brussels enjoy several other benefits. Besides invitations to all of the Press Club Brussels’ public events, some thirty a month, these include use of the Members’ lounge, with gratis beverages and publications, and invitations to newcomer welcome cocktails and media training events. Becoming a diplomatic member of the Club offers your Mission or governmental or regional representation the opportunity to use the Diplomatic Platform to organise briefings and presentations to showcase your priorities. These could include: investment attractiveness, policy initiatives and challenges, cultural programs, tourism campaigns, and special events. Diplomatic members can expect tailored assistance with their media needs and with publicising visits by ministerial delegations.

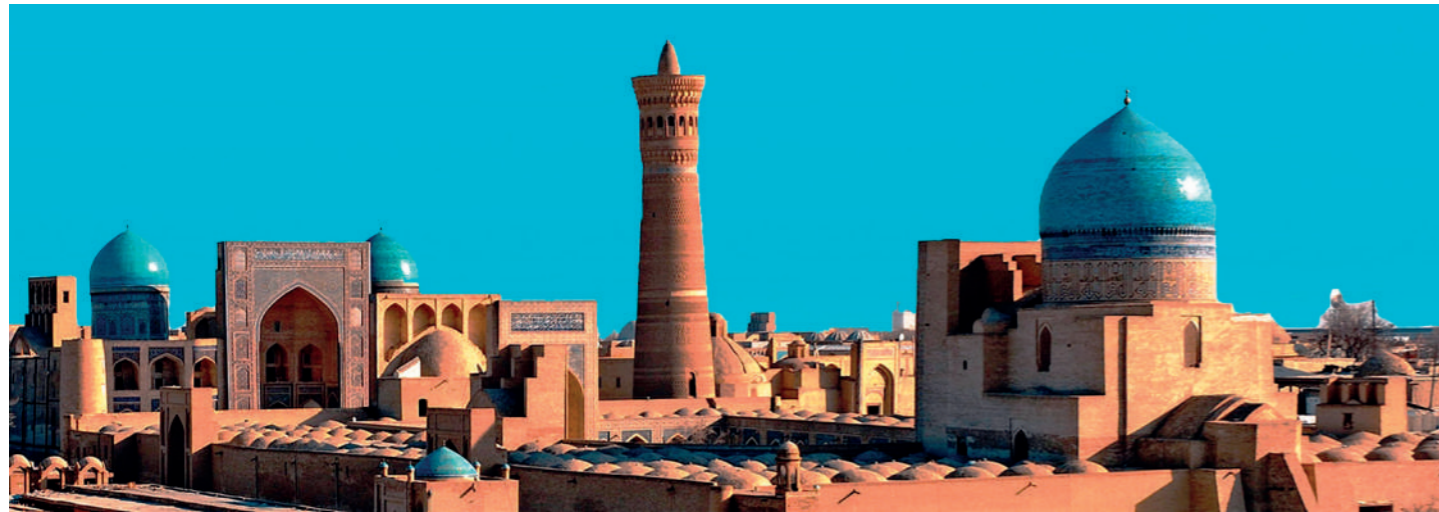
JOIN US



The Republic of Uzbekistan: meet our new member

António Buscardini

A step by step approach



Tolerance, the backbone of interreligious and interethnic harmony

The Republic of Uzbekistan is a country with multi-ethnic and multi-faith population. More than 130 nationalities now live in this country. From the first days of independence (1st September 1991), the country has been following a policy of interethnic accord and religious tolerance among all nationalities living nationwide.

Development of each country and its place in the global community is primarily determined by the extent of peace and concordance in it, and strength of the spirit of tolerance. Uzbekistan has always been considered one of the world's civilization centres, a place of a century-old interchange of cultures.

One of the unique features of Uzbekistan is not so much in its multi-ethnicity, but in the fact that the representatives of nations and nationalities live as one nation, maintaining their own identity. Today, when the country is undergoing the intensive process of self-identification and revival of spiritual values, tolerance is raised to the state policy level. This process started by the accession of Uzbekistan to the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and Discrimination Based on Religion or Faith of 30 August 1997.

In the very first years of independent development, Uzbekistan became a full-fledged member of the UNO and OSCE. The country ratified the major international documents on human rights, and signed 38 documents related to the

various spheres of human rights. It is obvious how the humanity continues facing the processes of formation of the new Nation-State identity in the mentality of people.

The right of every person for professing any religion or no religion is guaranteed by the Constitution of Uzbekistan and the Law "On the freedom of Conscience and religious organizations". Representatives of different nationalities have broad opportunities to study their native language, develop national culture and arts. Schools and universities offer teaching in seven languages. Large communities publish newspapers and magazines, broadcast radio and television programs in their native languages.

The country provides all the conditions for the legal equality, economic and social freedom of all citizens regardless of their ethnicity or religion. According to the statistics, over 2,224 religious organizations and 16 different confessions are currently officially registered in Uzbekistan. More than 2000 mosques currently operate across the country. Hundreds of churches, synagogues and prayer houses have been built and restored during the years of independence. 159 Christian organizations, 8 Jewish communities, 6 Baha'i communities, Krishna society and a Buddhist temple run their activities. The religious of Uzbekistan freely celebrate all their religious holidays. Thus, celebration of Eid-al-Adha and Ramadan-Eid among Muslims, Easter and Christmas among Christians, Passover, Purim and Hanukkah, among the Jews is gaining scale from year to year.

Question to the Ambassador Vladimir Norov



Born on August 31, 1955 in the city of Bukhara.

Has a higher education; Ph.D. in Law. Awarded the order «Mehnat shuhrati».

Has the rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Speaks English, German and Russian

Married, has three children.

How to invest in Uzbekistan?

The investment legislation of Uzbekistan is one of advanced amongst is one of advanced legislations of the CIS countries, and it incorporated major provisions of the international investment law, in particular, regulations on guarantees of the rights of foreign investors, certain preferences for investor and others. In fact, as of today, the most different forms of capital investment are offered to potential foreign investors: creation of joint venture, enterprise with 100% foreign capital and purchase of a part or full package of share of privatized enterprises.

As a result of reforms, brought forward by the President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov, the structure of the economy was radically changed, a reliable legal framework for dynamic economic development and favourable investment climate were created.

This is supported by such macroeconomic indicators as increase of the gross national product by 5.5 times during the years of independence, while GDP per capita (PPP) has risen by 4 times. Since 2005, state budget execution reached annual surplus contributing to the strengthening of macroeconomic stability.

Favorable investment climate and stimulating measures, as well as guaranteed protection of the rights of investors, contributed to the increase in the volume of accumulated investments to \$190 billion, including \$65 billion of foreign investments.

In this context I would like to inform you that the Republic of Uzbekistan is pleased to announce that it will host an International Investment Forum on November 5-6, 2015 in Tashkent city.

The main objective of the event is to present the leading enterprises of the Republic of Uzbekistan, included in the state program of privatization, and to sell them to strategic foreign investors capable of ensuring modernization and technological renewal of production, manufacturing of goods competitive in both domestic and external markets, as well as introduction of modern corporate governance practices.

The Forum will be attended by members of the Government, heads of ministries and departments of Uzbekistan, official foreign delegations, executives of major foreign companies, investment funds and banks, as well as inter-national financial institutions: the World Bank, the Inter-national Finance Corporation, the Asian Development Bank and others.

The agenda of the event includes plenary sessions, presentations by major foreign investors on their experience in doing business in Uzbekistan, panel sessions on various economic sectors with presentations of specific privatization objects, visits to enterprises, as well as cultural program with trips to ancient cities including Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva, which will complement the business part of the event.

The International Investment Forum will allow foreign investors to establish mutually beneficial business contacts and to open up new growth opportunities in the promising and fast-growing market of Uzbekistan.

Detailed information about the Forum and documents about enterprises of the Republic of Uzbekistan offered to strategic foreign investors are also available at www.investuzbekistan.uz.



Interview with Pascal Goergen, FEDRA Secretary General

António Buscardini

Fill in the gap is the word

Pascal Goergen, born in Cologne in 1963, is Secretary General of FEDRA. He is currently working as a Professor at the EPHEC University College (Marketing and Business) in Brussels. He holds a PhD in Political Sciences from the UCL (Louvain-la-Neuve). From the end of 2011 till 2014, he was the Secretary General of AER (Assembly of European Regions). From 2001 till 2011, he was the diplomatic Representative of the Brussels-Capital Region in the European Union, he was involved in the research and structural funds working groups of the EU Council. He has also established excellent relations with the 233 regional representation offices in Brussels.

About FEDRA

The Federation of Regional Actors in Europe (FEDRA) is a regional intelligence hub based in Brussels that gathers different types of regional actors from all over Europe (SME's, enterprises, public bodies, regional agencies, research centres, and academic institutes). With a pool of regional and thematic experts, the mission of FEDRA is to inform, educate and assist its members and partners to engage in concrete European regional and interregional projects. Its main aim is not to only "fill in the gap" between the EU bubble and outstanding regional actors, but also to communicate with 20.000 key regional influencers in more than 300 regions.



AB: Since the 80's we have assisted to a growing number of entities aimed at promoting local and regional authorities and stakeholders. Indeed, the Committee of Regions was created to fill the gap between the EU institutions and regional governments. According to FEDRA's presentation, the main aim is, once again, "to fill in the gap" between the EU bubble and outstanding regional actors. Why do you think that this work still has to be done? What has failed?

PG: I think it is still important to fill in the gap between Europe and regional stakeholders due to significant changes in the European Union in the past 30 years. For instance, this can be seen in the increase of Member States from 6 to 28. In fact, one institution, the Committee of the Regions (CoR), was created in 1994 to become the bridge between both parts with the aim to defend the local and regional interests at the European Union level. But, FEDRA is not an institutional body, so we have a different job. As a regional expert for the local and regional stakeholders, who are far

away from the Brussels scene, FEDRA aims to inform and engage them more in the European Union daily work. We noticed that a wide number of regional stakeholders are not involved enough in the process of obtaining the EU funds and programmes. How many SMEs have not succeeded to answer a call for proposals, because they couldn't get the right information on time or fill in all the bureaucratic forms? We have a practical approach of the institutions and the EU market, and we aim to facilitate efficiently the relationship between all regional key players: public and private sectors as well as universities and individuals.

AB: To facilitate their relationship but what for?

PG: In the Brussels arena, we identified two ways of tackling regional affairs. On one hand, through regional offices, which are promoting the interest of their region and on the other hand, the regional networks, which are focusing on one specific policy. Based on this analysis, FEDRA wants to offer a combination of the two. With FEDRA, we aim to give regional actors the opportunity to defend their own interest

on several fields of expertise as well as reducing the actual bureaucratic, cultural and linguistic gaps that still exist. For instance, a director of an SME and a regional Minister might not speak the same language than the European institutions. FEDRA will facilitate these exchanges to overcome these barriers. Furthermore, FEDRA's daily work will be to promote growth in the regions.

AB: I had in mind some specific networks in Brussels that cover concrete policies (such as NEREUS) and became a specialists in the matters that they cover. Compared to these structures, FEDRA will cover 6 topics, that you call ecosystems. Isn't this structure obsolete?

PG: Not at all! As a cofounder of thematic networks (ERRIN, NEREUS) and with more than ten years of experience in thematic networks, I will always promote their activities. They work with regional lenses in one specific topic (research for ERRIN and space technologies for NEREUS) and their members come mainly from the public sector. We chose 6 crucial ecosystems that are in line with the Europe2020 objectives. Our work will focus on Digital, Mobility, Energy, Food, Tourism and Health issues. By bringing together 20,000 regional actors from the private, public and academic sectors, we will become an effective hub responding to the specific needs of these 6 ecosystems.

AB: If you reach this huge mass of 20,000 stakeholders (companies, regions, cities, start ups, regional agencies), how can you provide daily sustainable output?

PG: FEDRA will work as an expertise hub: we will provide knowledge and business opportunities. One of my concerns was to eliminate the bureaucratic burden that you find inside a traditional network. FEDRA has a pool of experts in each ecosystem and expect that they will provide content and knowledge. We are a flexible entity. Adaptability will be our keyword. We don't want long political speeches or institutional barriers that will slow down the process. Can you imagine the real and concrete opportunities we can provide with all the key regional players adding their knowledge? There is no limit and it will be a perfect application of the European Union's motto: "United in diversity".

AB: Will you be in competition with regional offices in Brussels?

PG: I was the representative of the Brussels Capital Region for 11 years and have been working with regional offices for a long time now. I know what they do and salute their accomplishments. However, they follow a specific strategy which is provided by their region. It is a completely different from what FEDRA will do. We will promote the interregional "integration" — "A true Europe for and with the regions". I would like to add that cities are also welcome as member of FEDRA due to their importance and dynamism in the development of regions. Integrating these actors into our

way of working is important if we want to foster regional initiatives that will meet the needs of the regional actors we represent. It is what "Brussels" calls "multilevel governance", which I translate simply into: without them we can't properly develop regional projects.

AB: If we go into politics, without any doubt since 2011, the main issue within the EU has been the sovereign debt crisis. Aren't regional and municipal politicians, very far from this discussion? How can an entity like FEDRA have a say in this matter?

PG: The answer is simple: we are not representing Member States, nor regional or local politicians. FEDRA wants to improve the situation by creating bonds between the diverse regional actors and by promoting projects coming from the ground. It is time to underline positive news, through concrete actions and draw attention to the work of companies and SMEs, which are the engine of their city, their region and Europe. Yes, indeed, you are right: they are far from the financial discussions at the EU level. Together with FEDRA, we will give regional politicians and local press further opportunities to demonstrate to Europe that they possess regional champions, growing companies and innovative start-ups. Let us show "Brussels" that they will boost growth within the EU and help citizens to believe in Europe..

AB: During our conversation you underlined multiple times the fact that we have to fill in the gap between the EU institutions and local and regional entities. I assume that you agree that this gap exists in regard to the EU and citizens. If we analyse what is happening with the press covering the EU affairs, why do you think that most of the newspapers are closing down?

PG: I have been working in the EU affairs for the past 20 years and I have always read the major EU affairs newspapers. It is a part of my job to be aware of what is happening in the "Brussels Bubble". However, policies described in the EU affairs newspaper are too complex for the citizens or even for the regional or local journalists. They can't "sell" Europe to their readers. It is too difficult and too far away from local or regional interests. Once again we assist to a growing gap between Europe and its citizens. The news should cover what really happens in our territories through EU funds, through EU directives, through interregional programmes or investments coming from the EIB. This is not currently the case and it is the reason that justifies FEDRA's choice to include local and regional press in its key players community. Finally, I'm curious to see the future of the media landscape in Brussels, especially since the fresh arrival of POLITICO, but this is another story. With FEDRA and our members, we want to tell concrete regional and local stories in the next months. This is another way to contribute towards filling in the gaps and bringing growth to Europe.

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