

**Discurso para a Sessão de Abertura da 15th Annual Conference of the
European Society of Criminology (Eurocrim 2015)**

Sebastião Feyo de Azevedo, em 2 de setembro de 2015

Dr. Renato Gonçalves, representing the Minister of Justice

President to be of the European Society of Criminology, Professor Frieder Duenkel

Past president, professor Michael Tonry

Dean of the Faculty of Law, Professor Miguel Pestana de Vasconcelos

Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, Professor José Luis Santos

Diretor of the School of Criminology of the Faculty of Law, Professor Cândido da Agra

Distinguished speakers and Delegates to the Conference

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to Portugal, to the City of Porto, to the University of Porto and to EUROCRIM 2015.

I am delighted that you are with us and these are not words of occasion. For more than thirty-five years I have been committed in my professional life to international, in particular to European cooperation. Seventeen years ago and thirteen years ago, in this very same auditorium, in both cases also in September I was addressing audiences in opening ceremonies of European Conferences that I shared or co-chaired. In my programme with which I applied to the position of Rector, last year, international cooperation, namely European Cooperation, was on the top of my priorities.

Indeed, I strongly believe that in spite of the current 'winds of discontent' that are blowing in Europe, particularly in the southern European countries, there is no other way for the future of Europe, and indeed of the world, but this one of walking together in intense cooperation in Science and Education.

During the next 4 days, we shall have some of the most respected criminologists of this World, together, here in Porto, discussing most relevant scientific and also real issues and problems of our contemporary life. New or improved criminal policies, advances in research of crime science, new techniques to prevent and fight crime. Unfortunately issues that are on the top of our concerns.

Let me leave a sincere word of appreciation to the Organizing Committee and to all those that directly made this event possible.

The University of Porto is well engaged in International cooperation in this domain. EUROCRIM 2015 will have significant impact in the International scientific community, which means that it is totally in line with our strategic plans of development.

The choice of our University, our Faculty of Law and its School of Criminology, to host EUROCRIM 2015, decided by our European peers, is for me a clear indication of the recognition of the quality of the work of my colleagues. I am delighted with this clear signal and I congratulate all those that work in the School of Criminology, specially my colleague and friend Cândido da Agra for that.

Ladies and Gentleman,

The conference has more, I was told, than 1400 delegates registered.

It is of course a remarkable figure.

I really welcome enthusiastically all these prestigious researchers, professors, jurists and practitioners, that I understand come a bit from all over the World. Be sure that we shall do our best for you to have the best conditions of work, but also for socializing.

Let me leave you with a word about the University.

The University of Porto was formally established on the 22nd of March 1911, but its origins, through several higher education institutions, date back to the 18th century.

Today our institution is the second largest Portuguese universities. With more than 31,000 students, of which more than 3200 from other countries, the University of Porto is made up by 14 faculties covering all major areas of knowledge. We are also the academic partner of a business school, in association with the major companies and institutions of the region.

The University of Porto has 50 certified research units and is responsible for 23% of the Portuguese scientific production indexed in the Web of Science. Several indicators of academic quality show a continuous progress along the years, and particularly a consolidated reputation nationally and at international level.

This high scientific performance has allowed the University of Porto to improve its position in international academic rankings, being the Portuguese institution with the best score in many of those rankings. Today, the University of Porto is catching up with the top 100 European universities.

I mentioned one minute ago about socializing. There are dozens of places, good reasons and opportunities for that here in Porto. So, I leave you with a triple invitation:

Enjoy our architectural heritage and cultural and human wealth;

Enjoy our gastronomy, of course with Port Wine on the top;

Enjoy your stay with us, as much as we enjoy that you are with us.

Opening session of Eurocrim 2015

Seminário de Vilar, Porto, 2 September 2015

Sebastião Feyo de Azevedo, Reitor