

XIII European Regional Congress of the International Society for Labour and Social Security Law

I would like to greet the Portuguese Association for Labour Law (APODIT) for all the work it has been carrying out, thus justifying its growing presence in European and International levels in respect of labour and social security law related matters. The choice of Lisbon to hold the above mentioned event is evidence of APODIT's widespread respect and influence, which makes us very proud.

The world of work is changing rapidly. Combination of globalization and accelerated technological progress has contributed to develop global supply chains and to induce transformation to work and employment at world scale, profoundly mutating production and organization schemes. This all represents a huge challenge to the world of work.

To set out policies aimed at professional valorisation and decent and good quality work, it is fundamental to reflect about all the changes the economy is undergoing and to anticipate their impact on the world of work.

It is essential to debate the labour relations model we aspire to have in our society. It is also essential to find common answers to protect decent work and ensure the reality of social protection. We cannot and should not oppose transformation. Our role is to shape, frame and regulate the work of future times.

Once the future of work is today, this Conference is in itself an opportunity to listen to a large panel of researchers and legal experts on the subject of this very demanding challenge.

It is for me an honour to support an initiative of such scale and relevance.

January 2020

Ana Mendes Godinho



Minister for Labour, Solidarity and Social Security

International Society for Labour and Social Security Law's European Congress

The profound on going changes in the world of work and hence in our economies and societies challenges all of us urgently and in a very intense way. Either as politicians, scholars, economic actors, social partners or plain citizens, we cannot evade a joint reflection about the multiple dimensions of the future of work and employment. This reflection will in a large scale be critical to our capacity to understand, anticipate and be able to virtuously adapt to a reality we do not yet fully apprehend.

In more detail, the digitalisation of our economies and societies – one of the most challenging and structuring dimensions we are already experiencing – summons practice and regulation in different fronts.

From mundane changes to permanent connexion risks implicated by digitalization and artificial intelligence; from automation advances to the relationship between Man and machine; from modifications to work organization to emerging new configurations such as digital platforms; from social protection to new trends in associativism and participation, specially trade unionism; from social dialogue and collective bargaining to dispute resolution and relations between employers and employees in broad terms; from new challenges and risks in respect of work conditions to the matters of equality and non-discrimination; from social networking ubiquity and massive use and commodification of private data to privacy questions, data protection and cybersecurity.

All these themes, among relevant others, will be focused upon and deeply debated, in a very specialized and plural environment, in September 2020. It will be a golden opportunity and the highlight of national debate about the future trends of work and employment, to which no Government may go astray.

As such, the next European Congress of ISLSSL – the International Society for Labour and Social Security Law – to be held in Lisbon in September, 2020 – comes as very welcome news, which the Portuguese Ministry for Labour, Solidarity and Social Security could not but institutionally support.

Bringing ISLSSL's 2020 Regional Congress to Lisbon is foremost an extremely relevant achievement of APODIT – the Portuguese Labour Law Association, testament to its dynamism and growing national and international prestige. We are very happy to



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congratulate APODIT for having succeeded (in sound competition with other countries' liaison organizations) in bringing this extremely important Conference to Portugal and to the Lisbon University.

Besides, it also represents good-news to both Portugal and in particular to the city of Lisbon, which has growingly been cementing itself as privileged destination of similar international events; in this case, one of remarkable dimension, and undisputed academic relevance and scientific importance.

Above all, the Lisbon 2020 Congress represents an unique opportunity to gather, for three days, within the walls of the Lisbon University, hundreds of national and international labour and employment experts, to jointly reflect on the challenges of work in the digital era and the legal framework that we may or must design to fairly regulate them.

It representing a *legal* challenge, organised by a legal experts' association, all agents and specialist should feel called. It will certainly be a joint reflection congregating pundits from different fields of study, which we anticipate that will render fruitful outcome, anticipating questions and options we all are committed to weave.

March 2019

José António Vieira da Silva

Minister for Labour, Solidarity and Social Security