

Dear President Tavares,

[Dear Vice-President Martins,]

Dear colleagues from the Tribunal de Contas,

Thank you very much for your hospitality and the warm welcome to Lisbon.

Let me briefly **introduce my fellow Members of the Court** here, which you might already know from the conference:

Samo Jereb, the Dean of the Court's First Chamber, which deals with all issues of the sustainable use of natural resources;

Rimantas Šadžius, who is not only the Court's Member for inter-institutional relations but also an expert on matters of financial and economic governance in Europe; and

Ivana Maletić, who is – same as Rimantas – a Member of the Court's Fourth Chamber and our expert on the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

I think the **first day of our joint conference was already a great success**. Once again, thank you very much for the good collaboration of our institutions in making this event possible.

It is an excellent example of how European and national supreme audit institutions work together.

Our collaboration is not limited to this joint conference of course. We successfully work together in many fora on international level. Let me just highlight some:

Like the European Court of Auditors, the Tribunal de Contas is an active member of the **EU Contact Committee**.

In this framework, we cooperate, for example, in the Task Force on Banking Union and in the Fiscal Policy Audit Network, and we look forward to hearing more about the latter from Ana Furtado later today.

We have also cooperated, for more than a decade, in the Europe 2020 Strategy Audit Network, under the chairmanship of the Tribunal de Contas. This Network has just recently finalised its concluding overview report on the relevant work of EU SAIs, to which we gladly contributed.

I am convinced that this **internal** CC document will be a rich source of information and inspiration to CC Members, particularly in terms of audit ideas and for benchmarking purposes.

The Tribunal de Contas and the ECA also cooperate in the framework of EUROSAI, and notably in two working groups that are dealing with very topical issues, as today's conference has again shown. These are the **Working Group on Information Technologies** and the **Working Group on Environmental Auditing**.

Furthermore, the Tribunal de Contas was the chair of an important task force, the former **Task Force on Audit & Ethics**, of which the ECA was an active member as well.

One particular remarkable event took place in 2019, when the Tribunal de Contas hosted the first **EUROSAI-AFROSAI Seminar**, with the active participation of the ECA.

On INTOSAI level, the Tribunal de Contas is of course most notably a member of the Governing Board. But it is also a member of the **Professional Standards Committee**, of which the ECA is the vice-chair.

We also work together in the **Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing Committees**.

The ECA and the Tribunal de Contas have also cooperated closely in the field of **peer reviews**. Most importantly, the Tribunal de Contas was one of the reviewing SAIs for the ECA's first peer review in 2008. We profited a lot from the expertise of the Tribunal de Contas.

Later on, in 2014-2015, the ECA and the Tribunal de Contas teamed up as peer-reviewers of the Spanish SAI.

There is one more point, which I find worth mentioning. In fact, the Tribunal de Contas' current Director-General Paulo Nogueira da Costa won the **2014 ECA Award**. For us, this shows the relevance of our award.

And last but not least, President Tavares also contributed to the latest edition of the **ECA Journal on Strategy development** with a highly regarded article on *“Dynamic planning as a means of embracing rapid change – the experience of the Tribunal de Contas of Portugal”*.

These are just some examples for the broad range of topics on which our institutions cooperate. I look forward very much to continuing this successful cooperation.

But first, I am looking forward to a good discussion here today and thank you, President Tavares, once again for your kind hospitality.

Thank you.