

COMMENDATION SPEECH BY PROF. PAULO CANELAS DE CASTRO, PRESIDENT, INSTITUTE OF EUROPEAN STUDIES OF MACAU

It is simultaneously easy and difficult to talk about Professor Manuel Porto and his connection to Macau and particularly the ties with the two institutions that in Macau he mainly dedicated his academic services and intellectual energies to: the Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM) and the University of Macau (UM). It is easy, on the one hand, because Professor Manuel Porto's actions in the academic world of Macau were so numerous, visible and influential that the mere reference to some of them shall easily be recognized by anyone who was graced with the opportunity to accompany, benefit from or simply witness this rich pathway. It is at the same time difficult, virtually mission impossible, because any recollection cannot but remain at the level of an almost vague and vain sketch, indubitably falling short of doing fair justice to the academic here deservedly recognized and the manifold community benefits of his actions.

Professor Manuel Porto first came to Macau to lecture for the Institute of European Studies of Macau, where since 2002 he consistently ensured the course on *Theory of Integration and EU Policies* over almost two decades. In this context, Professor Manuel Porto equally supported research on these key areas of European Studies and acted as mentor of swaths of students, mainly postgraduates. While collaborating with IEEM, Professor Manuel Lopes Porto equally contributed to the development by the latter institution and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences of a European Studies curriculum. Similarly, his services under IEEM's banner for local bodies in Macau equally extended to GADI, the cabinet of the

government on international law, for joint projects of legal reform. Professor Manuel Porto has moreover actively participated in a good number of conferences and seminars organized by IEEM, on the sovereign debt crisis in Europe, on globalization, and on the occasion of a few Europe Days. His teachings have become perpetuated and made available to the wider public by the publication in English of his seminal textbook entitled *Theory of Integration and EU Policies* which IEEM endeavored.

Professor Manuel Lopes Porto's association with the Faculty of Law of the University of Macau as his invited visiting Professor occurred in particular in the context of the latter's flagship Law programme for training lawyers for the globalization era: the Master's programme in European Union Law, International Law and Comparative Law established in 2003, the first programme of the faculty in English and one catering for a universe of students for the first time hailing from all over the world. In this programme, Professor Porto has been responsible in particular for the *Economic Law of the European Union* course, at the core of the European Union Law area of studies. He has additionally always lent his enthusiastic support to the connected Jean Monnet Actions for which we became responsible at the University of Macau, namely two Jean Monnet Chairs (2007-2012 and 2018-2022) and two Jean Monnet Modules (2012-2015 and the one started in 2023) spanning a decade and a half of intense works, teaching on, conducting research, mentoring students and reaching out on EU and EU law-related matters as well as studies within the area of law and economics. In particular, he has been always ready to offer Jean Monnet seminars in the respective seminar series touching the more timely issues of the moment, with a particular keen attention on the economic and institutional relations of the European Union, with other partners and the world, in the context of globalization. He has similarly also contributed to the seminar series of the European Union Academic Programme-Macau, of the joint consortium University of Macau-Institute of European Studies of Macau, over the years 2012-2018. Professor Porto was also

the first speaker to intervene in the Jean Monnet Conference on the *50 years of the European Union: Assessing the Past, Looking Ahead* held in Macau in 2008, which gave rise to a book and the establishment of the European Union Studies Association Macau, the platform for joint actions by all the scholars and other professionals who in Macau hold a keen interest on European Studies. In the same vein, he also offered an acclaimed talk within the 2017 international conference organized by the aforementioned European Union Academic Programme-Macau that reflected on the *60 Years After the Treaties of Rome: What is the Future for the European Union?*. Not less impactfully, Professor Porto has equally contributed several articles and book chapters to publications in Macau, particularly the law journal of the Faculty of Law of UM, the *Boletim da Faculdade de Direito da Universidade de Macau*.

Besides having been one of the main developers of knowledge and social and political awareness on the European Union, its law and policies in the two main institutions mentioned involved in higher education, Professor Manuel Lopes Porto has also been a generous contributor to its accreditation in the wider academic world dedicated to European Studies, by assisting these Macau institutions network with other related foreign *fora*. Amongst such important sister institutions, mention be made first to the European Community Studies Association-World, of which Professor Porto has been the President, and also the Former Members Association of the European Parliament, dedicated to supporting other entities conduct European Union-related activities under its *EP to Campus* programme. Not less beneficially, he has always supported younger academics in Macau engaged with the same area of studies, by calling the attention to their works and Macau's relevance for dissemination of knowledge on the EU outside of Macau. A well-known global Professor himself, Professor Porto has always acted towards Macau, its institutions, and younger Colleagues as a benevolent bridge-maker, promoting mutual understanding and dialogue between different communities and their members. A *caput scholae* in the area, Professor Porto has moreover always proven ready and effectively available to lend a helping hand

to younger Colleagues motivated by the same interest in the area of European Studies.

All these commendable actions, Professor Porto did, no doubt because, beyond his natural generosity, he has a keen sense of the fundamental nature of the *universitas*: that the university, space of knowledge, research, dialogue, is inherently universal, boundaries-less. In all his actions in Macau, a common thread underlies, a common denominator is visible: the availability, desire and determination to contribute to the creation of the wider possible epistemic community on the European project, its relations, institutions and policies; for the benefit of their own and the prosperity and peace of Humankind. In Professor Porto's vision and his no less resolute action underlies a constructive belief that this epistemic community of European Studies' practitioners is one that transcends disciplines, schools, continents. In Professor Porto's vision, this community equally overcomes generational gaps; for rarely has a Professor elicited so much adhesion of different batches of Students as Professor Porto - with his inclusivity, attention to the students' aspirations and concerns, his dedication to mentoring and inspiring them, his unique personal touch and charm. Rarely has an academic unanimously gained the students' admiration and heartfelt friendship.

In paying tribute to Professor Manuel Lopes Porto, we are not only honouring the unique and distinguished personality, the deservedly acclaimed scholar; we are equally committing to preserving his legacy and pursuing the values of academic excellence, social fairness, humanism and inclusivity he has always stood for. Let his example continue to illuminate and inspire the two sister law faculties and communities that he helped bridge and to which he so generously devoted so much of his ingenuity and dynamism.

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