

OPENING SPEECH BY PROF. TONG IO CHENG, DEAN, FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF MACAU

Esteemed Vice-Rector of University of Macau, Professor Rui Martins,

Esteemed Vice-Rector of University of Coimbra, Professor João Nuno Calvão da Silva,

Esteemed Dean of Faculty of Law of University of Coimbra, Professor Jónatas Machado,

Distinguished Professor Manuel Lopes Porto, and all my dear guests, colleagues, students and friends,

Good afternoon,

It is both an honor and a pleasure to welcome you all to this joint seminar between the Faculty of Law of the University of Macau and the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra. This gathering offers us a unique opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions on contemporary issues of International and European Union law, an area that has become increasingly relevant in today's interconnected world.

Today's seminar holds special significance for us, as it serves not only as an academic forum but also as a tribute to a remarkable individual whose impact resonates deeply within our institution. It is with profound respect that we honor Professor Manuel Lopes Porto for his exceptional contributions to legal education, international cooperation, and his support of the academic exchange between Macau and Coimbra.

Professor Manuel Lopes Porto career is a testament to intellectual excellence and public service. With over 45 years of experience, he has established himself as a leading authority in Competition Law and European Union Law, while also shaping policies at the national and international levels. From serving in the European Parliament to leading the National Planning Council of Portugal, his breadth of expertise reflects a lifelong dedication to public welfare, economic development, and the pursuit of justice.

However, his connection with the University of Macau goes beyond academic or political achievements. Professor Manuel Lopes Porto has been a mentor, collaborator, and friend to many within our faculty. His support has enriched our programs, strengthened our ties with Coimbra, and fostered a spirit of legal scholarship that bridges cultures and continents.

The theme of today's seminar, focusing on contemporary issues in International and European Union Law, perfectly reflects Professor Manuel Lopes Porto lifelong commitment to legal scholarship and international cooperation. His expertise in these areas, coupled with his dedication to fostering academic exchange, has been instrumental in strengthening the bonds between our institutions and enhancing our students' understanding of European legal frameworks.

We are particularly grateful for Professor Manuel Lopes Porto role in facilitating academic dialogue between Coimbra and Macau, two cities with deep historical connections and shared aspirations for legal excellence. His contributions have helped shape our approach to legal education and research, especially in understanding the complexities of regional integration and global legal frameworks.

Looking at today's program, which includes discussions on regional blocks in a globalized world, international humanitarian law, and regulatory frameworks, I am reminded of Professor Manuel Lopes Porto comprehensive vision of legal education – one that emphasizes both theoretical depth and practical relevance.

As we commence this joint seminar, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Professor Manuel Lopes Porto for his outstanding contributions to legal scholarship and to our faculty. I also extend my warmest thanks to our distinguished speakers, our colleagues from the University of Coimbra, and all participants who have joined us today.

I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to organizing this seminar, especially our partners from the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra. Your collaboration reaffirms the enduring connection between our institutions and serves as a foundation for future endeavors.

To Professor Manuel Lopes Porto — on behalf of the Faculty of Law, University of Macau, and all gathered here — I offer our deepest appreciation. Your legacy will continue to inspire us to pursue excellence, embrace change, and uphold the values of justice and cooperation.

Thank you all once again for being part of this meaningful occasion. I look forward to the discussions ahead and the new insights that this seminar will undoubtedly bring.

Please join me in warmly welcoming Professor Jónatas Machado, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Coimbra, who will also share his opening remarks.

Thank you.

Tong Io Cheng
Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Macau

