

Porto.

Discurso do Senhor Presidente da
Câmara Municipal do Porto

Sessão Solene de Abertura
Conferência Internacional da Associação Europeia de
Juízes

28 de Abril de 2022
Salão Nobre do Tribunal da Relação

Mr. President of the Supreme Court of Justice

Mr. President of the International Association of
Judges

Mr. President of the European Association of
Judges

Mr. President of the Associação Sindical de Juízes

Authorities,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Benjamin Disraeli once wrote that “justice is truth in action”. I believe that this short statement summarizes the role of justice in all societies but particularly in our contemporary environment, when social media has replaced hearsay, when hordes of people rally to sentence people and events based on prima facie evaluations, often tarnished by fake news or mere rumors.

The independent courts of law are, and must remain, the temples of justice. And it is with your courage and determination that we can hope that the winds of inquisition will never set foot again on our doorsteps. Let me therefore express on behalf of the citizens of

Porto, a city that has always valued freedom, our deepest respect for all of you.

Thank you for having chosen Porto for your event. It is not only symbolically important, I also believe this will allow you to have a glimpse of our city.

The old city, with its pre-historic remains, with its baroque churches, with its romantic gardens. With the river Douro and the Atlantic sea. With its gastronomy and its wines. With its traditions deeply embedded which mingle with its lively university and culture. The cosmopolitan city where Eiffel built bridges, where english architects build hospitals, where german landscapers built gardens and parks,

where merchants from flanders established business, where an italian king died in asylum, where the licee français shares the gardens of our museum of contemporary art.

This is the city of choice of the Erasmus students and the new nomads, which find here a safe, comfortable and interesting haven to study and to live in.

And of course, as a port, as a hanseatic city, we are hospitable and we are always proud to show our city and to host events like this one. I wish you, therefore, a very successful conference, and I hope that the city will tempt you to return.