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School of Law – University of Minho



Presentation

It was with enthusiasm that the European Parliament Information Office in Portugal (EPIO) accepted the proposal made by Professor Alessandra Silveira, Director of the Centre of Studies in European Union Law (CEDU) of Minho University, with a view to holding a conference addressing both the Portuguese constitutional project and the European integration project in the year in which the Portuguese Constitution and Portugal's accession to the then European Communities completed, respectively, forty and thirty 30 years.

Such a challenge was at the origin of the conference “*40/30: from the constitutional project to the integration project – hopes, scepticism and reality in a political-constitutional debate*”, which was held on 28 October 2016 at the School of Law of University of Minho.

The first part of the conference allowed for a dialogue between academics of two generations, those who had an active participation in the design of the abovementioned projects and those who had received them as legacy. Subsequently, five Members of the European Parliament, Francisco Assis, José Manuel Fernandes, Miguel Viegas, Nuno Melo and José Inácio Faria, in the framework of a debate moderated by CEDU members Joana Covelo de Abreu and Pedro Madeira Froufe, assessed the three decades of Portugal's integration in the EU and depicted its outlook.

The relevant political debate and the previous academic discussion constituted moments of stimulating and plural reflection, allowing the EPIO to be associated with a platform for dialogue between elected representatives of the Portuguese citizens, academics and civil society, thereby fulfilling one of its main attributions.

I thank the abovementioned Members of the European Parliament for their participation in the conference and congratulate CEDU for its continuous and dedicated role in the discussion of European topics, acknowledging the publication of this special edition of UNIO - *EU Law Journal* as a living example of such a key contribution.

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