

**OPENING STATEMENT - THE DEBATE ON “THE AMERICAN ELECTIONS
AND THE GEO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS ON PORTUGAL AND EUROPE”**

Geographical Society of Lisbon

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I would like to begin by extending a cordial greeting to all those present.

I would like to extend a special greeting to the Vice-President of the Assembly of the Portuguese Republic, Mr. Diogo Pacheco de Amorim; Mr. Hugo Costa, Socialist Party Deputy and Coordinator of the Parliamentary Group in the Commission of Economy, Public Works, and Housing; and Mr. José Lourenço, responsible for the Economic Activities Commission of the Communist Party, who is representing Deputy Ms. Paula Santos.

Furthermore, I extend my greetings to the President of the Geographical Society of Lisbon, Prof. Luís Aires Barros, who has kindly welcomed us to this esteemed institution, which bears significant symbolism regarding the construction of globalization. This topic will be addressed both directly and indirectly during this debate.

I would like to extend a final and particularly warm greeting to Prof. António Rebelo de Sousa, who was originally scheduled to be present today to participate in and conclude the debate. Unfortunately, due to health issues, he is unable to be physically present as originally planned. Nevertheless, he will be present in spirit through a message that I will have the honor of reading at the conclusion of this event. I extend my best wishes for a speedy recovery and a prompt return to our esteemed company, where he will continue to contribute invaluable insights to the Order and the enhancement of Economists.

Returning to the topic of globalization, of which this room is a symbol and historical protagonist, we are gathered here today to debate a pressing issue in the current political and economic reality. The outcome of this debate will have a profound influence on future events, not only in the realms of global geopolitics and geoeconomics, but also in inter-European relations and particularly in Portugal.

It is therefore fully justified that the Order of Economists, with the support of the Luso-American Development Foundation, the Geographical Society of Lisbon, and in collaboration with the American Club of Lisbon, promotes the debate on “The American Presidential Elections and the Geo-Economic Impacts on Portugal and Europe.”

We would like to express our gratitude to the invited speakers for their willingness to engage in this discourse: Ambassador Allan J. Katz, former American ambassador to Lisbon, and Terry Nelson, Political Advisor and National Campaign Director for former President George W. Bush. These two distinguished figures in American politics will undoubtedly offer invaluable insights into the contemporary American political and economic landscape and its implications for the immediate and long-term future of international political and economic relations.

Furthermore, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the contributions of our colleague Rui Cartaxo, who conceived of this initiative and played a pivotal role in its realization through his friendship with Ambassador Allan Katz and his personal dedication.

Furthermore, we would like to express our gratitude to the President of the American Club of Lisbon, Patrick Siegler-Lathrop, and Ambassador Mário Godinho de Matos for their role in moderating the two parts of this debate.

The contemporary era is characterized by a series of shocks and changes in the international geoeconomic and geopolitical power relations.

As is often the case when multiple forces of change converge and collide, it is challenging to predict the future and even more difficult to discern the eventual outcomes.

It is possible that the current difficulties may give rise to changes that could foster a new cycle of global expansion and development. However, it is also possible that we are witnessing a period of critical intensification of all contradictions.

This debate is occurring at a time of significant geopolitical change, marked by political transitions in Portugal and Europe, as well as in other regions, ongoing conflicts in Europe and the Middle East, a rise in global political and military

tensions, a trade and economic conflict between China and the West, and a decline in the influence of international organizations.

A further list of developments could be provided, but the aforementioned examples are sufficient to convey the essence of the current situation.

To debate these topics, we have assembled an excellent panel of experts. The participants have not only experienced and even influenced the development of current events within their responsibilities but also possess the technical, cultural, and political expertise that make us all privileged participants.

Ambassador Alan Katz combines his diplomatic experience with a profound knowledge of Portugal and Europe, acquired during a particularly complex period of economic crisis in this continent, which has extended to our present day.

Mr. Terry Nelson occupied a position of considerable privilege and influence with the President of the most prominent power in the Western and democratic world during a similarly complex period of international economic and political life.

Among the moderators, Mr. Patrick Siegler-Lathrop, an American resident of Lisbon, possesses a profound understanding of the Portuguese perspective on the United States and the expectations they hold for their relations with this country, particularly in the context of Euro-Atlantic relations in which Portugal plays a pivotal and interested role.

Additionally, Ambassador Mário Godinho de Matos, who has held numerous diplomatic posts, including the first of which was in Washington, D.C., served as the Portuguese Ambassador to Cuba, Mozambique, and Russia. He also held the position of Deputy Chief of the Portuguese Delegation to NATO.

In all cases, these individuals possess the requisite qualifications and experience to engage in the analysis and decision-making processes pertaining to major international issues.

The Order of Economists aims, with this initiative, to contribute to the debate on major international issues impacting economic and political life in Portugal and its positioning in the world.

Additionally, it is our intention to facilitate the ascendance of common sense and a sense of responsibility over more primordial interests.

In light of the aforementioned considerations, it becomes evident that the fundamental objective at this juncture should be the advancement of values such as democracy, peace, the deepening of international economic relations, the strengthening of the role of international institutions, and the replacement of economic and political confrontation with dialogue. This would entail the construction of a global public good — international economic cooperation, democracy, and mutual respect.

Portugal, due to its historical legacy, capacity for relationships, international prestige, and current positioning, is well-positioned to play a pivotal role in seeking new international balances.

This debate, by its nature and participants, can be a valuable contribution in this regard.

I would like to thank everyone for their participation and wish them a fruitful debate.

I would also like to express my gratitude for your attention.