

Dear President of the Portuguese Economists Association;
Dear Ambassador Allan Katz;
Dear Terry Nelson;
Dear friends Patrick-Siegler-Lathrop and António Godinho de Matos;
Dear friends,

In good time, the Portuguese Economists Association made the decision to organise a conference on the forthcoming US presidential elections at the historic Geography Society of Lisbon.

In truth, the world is at a crossroads, with the war in Ukraine, the conflict in Palestine, the return of radical nationalist movements and the trend towards new protectionist policies.

The US elections will influence the whole world, particularly what will happen in the Euro-Atlantic Alliance, embodied in particular in NATO and in Europe, which, as we know, is going through a critical situation.

Knowing who will win the Trump-Biden dispute is essential for all of us. It was in this context that the Portuguese Economists Association decided to invite two distinguished speakers, Allan Katz, former US Ambassador to Portugal, a good friend of our country for many years, and Terry Nelson, Political Adviser and former Political Director of George W. Bush's National Campaign.

The former was favourably inclined towards the American Democratic Party, whereas the latter towards the Republican Party.

To moderate this interesting debate, we invited Patrick Siegler Lathrop, who being very American himself, has a French way of living life and a strong connection to Portugal, including being President of the American Club of Lisbon.

We also invited Ambassador António Godinho de Matos, who has served as ambassador to Mozambique, Cuba and Russia, and has extensive experience of trying to get along with Eastern European leaders.

It was not possible to reach a conclusion in this debate, because of the complexity of the exogenous and endogenous variables that influence the electoral process.

We can only hope that the USA, a country that has always lived in democracy and which received from the Founding Fathers an important legacy of defending freedom and respecting everyone's right to happiness, regardless of their creed or origin, will continue to be a bastion of the human rights.

This is our wish.

The wish that Europe and, in general, democratic and free countries around the world can continue to count on the active solidarity of the USA in this fight, the same fight, that George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin fought when their own country's Declaration of Independence was approved.

This is our wish. This is our hope.