



HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE

Rule of law in Europe

17 – 18 May 2021

Grande Auditório do Convento de São Francisco, Coimbra
and at 2021portugal.eu

17 May

9.00 | 9.30

Opening Session

- Amílcar Falcão, Rector of University of Coimbra
- Francisca Van Dunem, Minister of Justice of Portugal
- Augusto Santos Silva, Minister of State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal
- Didier Reynders, European Commissioner for Justice

9.30 | 11.00

Session 1 – The role of civil society for upholding the rule of law

- Juan Fernando López Aguilar, Member of the European Parliament and Chair of the LIBE Committee (*pre-recorded message*)
- Caroline Fennell, Chair of the European Network of Human Rights Institutions (*VTC*)
- Berber Biala-Hettinga, Senior Executive Officer at Amnesty International (*VTC*)
- Pepijn Gerrits, Executive Director, The Netherlands Helsinki Committee
- Dulce Lopes, University of Coimbra, Faculty of Law



11:15 | 12:45

Session 2 – The role of European and national courts for upholding the rule of law

Moderator: Paulo Pinto de Albuquerque, Catholic University of Portugal, Faculty of Law

- Koen Lenaerts, President of the European Court of Justice (VTC)
- Robert Spano, President of the European Court of Human Rights
- António Joaquim Piçarra, President of the Portuguese Supreme Court of Justice
- Karoline Edstadler, Federal Minister for the EU and Constitution of Austria (VTC)
- Ms. Margarete von Galen, President of the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (VTC)
- Pedro Caeiro, University of Coimbra, Faculty of Law

14.30 | 16.00

Session 3 – Communicating the rule of law

- Jaime Carey, Secretary-General of the International Bar Association
- Filippo Donati, President of the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary
- Michael Meyer-Resende, Executive Director at Democracy Reporting International (VTC)
- Elena Calistru, President of Funky Citizens

16.15 | 17.30

Session 4 – The Rule of Law under the Lisbon Treaty

Moderator: Mariana Martins Pereira, Lawyer

- Alessandra Silveira, University of Minho, School of Law (VTC)
- Ana Gaudêncio, University of Coimbra, Faculty of Law



18 May

9.00 | 10.30

Session 5 – Rule of law in the context of the covid-19 pandemic

- Ms. Lúcia Amaral, Portuguese Ombudsman
- Cláudia Santos, University of Coimbra, Faculty of Law (VTC)
- André Dias Pereira, University of Coimbra, Faculty of Law
- Paula Veiga, University of Coimbra, Faculty of Law

10.45 | 12.00

Session 6 – Rule of law, Social Progress and Economic Recovery

- Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (VTC)
- José Casalta Nabais, University of Coimbra, Faculty of Law

12.00 | Closing Session

- Michael Roth, Minister of State for Europe at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany
- Gašper Dovžan, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia
- Ana Paula Zacarias, State Secretary for European Affairs of Portugal
- Vera Jourová, Vice-President of the European Commission for Values and Transparency (VTC)