



Dr. Martin Ney, German Ambassador to Portugal

Bom dia senhoras e senhores,

Muito obrigada por esta oportunidade de abrir esta conferência Q-Day. Em primeiro lugar, gostaria de cumprimentar as autoridades presentes, senhor João Pedro Matos Fernandes, Ministro do Ambiente e da Transição Energética. Muito obrigado. E também o senhor João Paulo Carvalho e senhor Rui Pedro Saraiva. Fico muito satisfeito e honrado por este ano a Alemanha ter sido escolhido como país convidado. Como estou em Portugal há relativamente pouco tempo, gostaria que me permitissem prosseguir em inglês, por favor.

Good morning, once again. As you know, this is the 11th edition of the Q-day conference here in Lisbon. When it started in 2009, the theme was innovation against the crisis. Today the topic is the new spring of artificial intelligence and models. The theme today is well chosen and the comparison to 2009 shows the successful way Portugal has taken since then, making its way out of the crisis. Let me say that I deeply admire Portugal for this success, because Portugal not only made it out of the crisis, somehow, but it got out of it with a strengthened economy and a solid fiscal policy. Portugal, like few other countries, has managed to use innovation, and digitalization to resurge from the crisis with a more modern and more innovative economic reality.

It's an honour that Germany was chosen as the guest country of this year's conference. Relations between Portugal and Germany are better than ever. Last year, our president, the chancellor and the prime minister, visited this beautiful country, followed in February this year by our finance minister. Only last month, your president visited his counterpart in Germany and, I was an eye witness, his visit was extremely well received in Germany. This high-frequency of mutual visits is unique at least in our foreign policy. Portugal is one of the few countries where there are absolutely no critical aspects to be discussed in such visits. We share the same values and we are like-minded partners when it comes to all of the current challenges within the European Union, on climate policy, on migration, on multilateralism and when it comes to rules-based international order.

These excellent bilateral relations are also mirrored in the private sector. German companies have become the backbone of the Portuguese economy, with more than 350 German companies having invested here creating directly and indirectly about 50.000 in Portugal. In the recent years we have seen a number of Digital Hubs inaugurated by German multilaterals, like Bosch, like Volkswagen, BMW and others. We are lucky to have a very active and high-professional German chamber of industry and trade here, without any doubt, an excellent partner when it comes to knowing the German market. In Germany we are proud of our system of vocational training and are happy to work with Portuguese authorities in this field. In February we signed a new declaration of intent to promote concrete projects of cooperation. And, without any doubt, Germany is a strong and competent partner also in the areas of research, innovation, technology transfer and academic exchange. As you know, **Fraunhofer Institute in Portugal** celebrates its 10th anniversary this Autumn in Porto.



On our topic today, I think we must be quite honest. Artificial Intelligence and Automation create many challenges, I only mention data protection, but they also create opportunities. As in politics too, looking across borders and cooperating with partners, has always been good advice. If you want to find the best solution to challenges. And to find the greatest benefits of any new development. My recognition to Quidgest for having organized the conference for more than a decade now, with experience and substantial know-how.

So, once again, thank you very much for inviting me. I wish you all the best for future projects and learning insights throughout the day.

Thank you very much e muito obrigado.