



EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS  
COUR EUROPÉENNE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

**Speech by President Linos-Alexandre Sicilianos at the swearing-in ceremony for  
Judge Ana Maria Guerra Martins, judge elected in respect of Portugal**

Judge Ana Maria Guerra Martins,

As you take up your duties as Judge at the European Court of Human Rights, allow me to convey my heartfelt congratulations to you on your election.

You are taking up your duties in exceptional and dramatic circumstances, but that should not prevent us from giving you a fitting welcome, despite the fact that your swearing-in cannot take place in public as would normally be the case.

Today, you have become the fifth Portuguese judge at the Court, but the first woman to hold that office since Portugal ratified the European Convention on Human Rights.

You are following in the footsteps of four highly respected judges: Manuel António Lopes Rocha, João de Deus Pinheiro Farinha, Ireneu Cabral Barreto and Paulo Pinto de Albuquerque.

In welcoming you into our ranks, the Court is gaining a very experienced judge, as you were a judge of the Portuguese Constitutional Court for nine years. That court is a member of our Superior Courts Network, set up in 2015. With its 89 member courts spread over 40 countries, it has become the forum of choice for cooperation and knowledge-sharing concerning the Convention. Your experience with the Portuguese Constitutional Court will undoubtedly enrich the discussions within that network.

You are also a recognised expert in public law and Community law.

Having obtained a doctorate in public law and a Master's degree in Community law from the University of Lisbon, your brilliant academic career led you quite naturally into teaching and conducting research at that university. For the last twenty years or so you have taught courses on human rights, European Union law and constitutional law.

In particular, since 2011 you have been an associate professor at the University of Lisbon and director of research in legal spheres that are very familiar to our Court such as civil rights and fundamental freedoms.

However, you have not only worked in Portuguese universities, but have also played an active role in the dissemination of international and Community law in various countries including Mozambique, France, Germany and Italy.

Your career also testifies to your commitment to equality and non-discrimination, and since 2016 you have been a member of the European Commission's network of legal experts in this field.

You have shared your thoughts on these subjects at conferences and seminars, but also in academic publications.

Your expertise will undoubtedly be greatly appreciated by your colleagues, given the constant increase in the number of legal questions we are asked to examine in these spheres.

In addition to these specific subject areas your numerous articles and legal reflections, published in journals and in books, reflect your remarkable work in the different fields of public law such as constitutional law, human rights law and European Union law.

Lastly, your commitment to Europe is demonstrated by your mastery of several languages. In addition to your mother tongue you also speak French, English, German and Spanish. This will be of great assistance to you at the Court.

Dear new colleague,

As of today you are joining our Court, even if for obvious reasons you are not yet physically among us. I hope that this will very soon be the case and that we will then be able to extend a proper welcome to you. Once you are here, I have no doubt that your fellow judges will offer you their support and their friendship.