

It is requested if me that I speak about the possible application of Madam President of the Portuguese Bar Association, Dr.^a Fernanda de Almeida Pinheiro, to the Vice-presidency and Presidency of the Fédérations des Barreaux d'Europe.

I was President of the Portuguese Bar Association between the years 2005-2007.

Before that, between 2002 and 2004 I was President of what was then known as the Lisbon Regional Council of the Bar Association.

I have been practising law for over 36 consecutive years.

I follow closely the phenomena connected with practising our activity and have taken part in several initiatives promoted by international lawyer's organizations, namely IBA, UIA, ABA and FBE itself.

I have been witnessing Madam President of the Portuguese Bar Association's commitment with the defence of our profession's prerogatives, placed at the service of the Constitutional State and being likewise, guardian and assurer of the good state of rights.

Portugal is now facing a unique stage of clenched attack to those prerogatives, obtained through ongoing legislative changes that endanger our autonomy and independence.

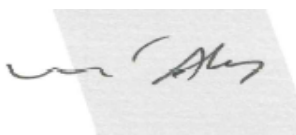
In this much difficult context, Dr.^a Fernanda de Almeida Pinheiro has relentlessly maintained herself in the trenches of the Good Fight, if I am allowed that biblical expression, to which she has been summoning international entities support, namely the CCBE.

Assessing her still short and yet very demanding mandate, it is my belief that she gathers all necessary qualities for the application and for the performance of the roles that she might achieve in the FBE.

And I say it with as much at ease as, at the polls that resulted in her election, I was national representative of the candidate with whom Madam President of the Portuguese Bar Association has competed in the second round on elections.

Taking into consideration the specific moment that we cross, it would be excellent for the Portuguese law that this application would successfully materialise.

Lisbon, November 16th, 2023.



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