

Pontos de Intervenção para a reunião do CERI com o Secretário de Estado das Relações Internacionais e Cooperação da África do Sul, Alvin Botes

CIP, 28 de junho 2022

Intervenção do Presidente da CIP, António Saraiva

Speaking points

Mr. Secretary of State for International Relations and Cooperation, Mr. Alvin Botes, Madam Ambassador of South Africa, MJ Gaoretelelwe, and all South Africa delegation, welcome to CIP – Confederation of Portuguese Business.

We are the largest and most representative national business association. We are the voice of more than 180.000 (one hundred and eighty thousand) companies, employing over 1.8 (one point eight) million workers, with a total turnover representing more than 72% (seventy-two per cent) of Portuguese GDP.

CIP is a strong and comprehensive employer's organization with a firm commitment to Portugal's progress and well-being and it represents Portugal in the most important international employer's confederation, such as BusinessEurope, BIAC – Business at OECD and OIE – International Organisation of Employers, among others.

For a small open economy like the Portuguese economy, internalisation is a key factor to boost our business competitiveness and innovation towards Portugal's economic growth and social development.

Although our main trading partners are still located in Europe, our efforts to diversify our economy have been fruitful and Africa is, of course, a natural partner that the Portuguese know very well.



For Portuguese Business, South Africa is a traditional market with many untapped economic opportunities. Although our greatest asset is, naturally, the hundreds of thousands of Portuguese who live there, it is also fundamental to note the importance that South Africa gives to greater investment by Portuguese companies in this country.

In these difficult and unpredictable times we are living today, it is crucial that we work together to address the common challenges we face. Portugal and South Africa are close partners, and we need to strengthen our cooperation so that the recovery and transformation of our countries is not only economic but also social.

Count on CIP and its members to achieve this goal.

As we are meeting today in the context of CIPs Strategic Council for International Relations assembly, where we bring together the main Portuguese players in the private sector - companies and business associations - with the aim of defending the interests of the Portuguese private sector in the area of internationalisation, in terms of exports, investment, cooperation, and development, I pass the word to its President, Arnaldo Figueiredo, who will lead this meeting. Thank you.