

SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE
EUROSAI SECRETARY GENERAL
Closing Ceremony V EUROSAI-OLACEFS Conference
(Lisbon, Portugal, May 11 2007)

Presidents of INTOSAI, EUROSAI y OLACEFS,
Executive Secretary of OLACEFS,
Mr. President of the Tribunal de Contas de Portugal,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear friends,

It is a satisfaction for me to be among you in the beautiful location of this splendid city of Lisbon, modern and at the same time jealous guardian of its traditions and *saudade*. It is, equally, an honour to have the occasion of addressing you some words in this Closing Ceremony. I can only begin by expressing my satisfaction for the development of this Conference and my cordial congratulations and gratefulness to our Host, the President of the *Tribunal de Contas* of Portugal and dear friend, Mr. D'Oliveira Martins, and to his great team who have worked in a diligent and effective way to impel, to organise and to carry out with full success this event. It is very well-known the Portuguese hospitality and warm welcome, of which our colleagues of the Tribunal have been a great expression.

It is also a question of justice to express all my recognition to the chairmen, speakers and rapporteurs of each one of the sub-themes, for their work in the preparation, presentation and discussion of the essential points related to them. But there is not doubt that the full success of this type of events is only achieved if it becomes effective the contribution to the debate of all the participants, and the exchange of information and experiences; sharing initiatives, difficulties and challenges regarding complex realities and with differentiated elements but with common foundations in all our countries. I believe that organisation, management and participation have been united in this Conference in perfect proportions, as it demonstrates the fruitful results achieved.

The Theme chosen for discussion, “Fiscal Sustainability, Presentation of Accounts and Accountability”, it is of great relevance and a highly topical

subject due to the common interest that it has and the diverse perspectives from which it can be confronted, as it has been exposed in this forum. Transparency in relation to risks and financial consolidation, the new systems of presentation of the accounts, the reinforcement of the responsibility of the managers, as well as the role of the Supreme Audit Institutions to contribute to its strengthening, fundamentally by means of the issue of recommendations. These are questions of great impact. Special interest has also had the conference pronounced by the Governor of the Bank of Portugal, in which a good analysis of the present time and of the future perspectives of the financial sustainability in the modern State has been made. All this has highlighted once again that one can no longer act isolated in a global world, with vastly interrelated economies and public sectors subject to huge transformations in front of the new economic and social models characteristic of the open systems of the post-modernity.

Auditing has taught us that the political action should head to “internalise ethics in the legal framework”, where ethical principles become principles of legality. This way, besides of the economic effectiveness, the ethical behaviour of all the agents related with the use of the public resources is impacted positively, contributing to the social progress. In the scope of the organisation and good management of the public sector, it corresponds to the audit institutions at the service of Parliaments, to contribute technically, by means of their reports and recommendations, to the process of creation of regulations for the improvement of the organisation and management of the public sector.

In the complex area of the international relations, cooperation is defined as key piece to advance with the shared value of obtaining together more than what each one can achieve individually. EUROSAI has assumed a serious commitment with cooperation among its Members and with other Regional Organisations of INTOSAI.

A clear expression of it is this V EUROSAI-OLACEFS Conference; meeting that began in Madrid in 2000, after a progressive approach effort between both Organisations, and that already had as venues, Cartagena de Indias in 2002, London in 2004, and Lima in 2005. These Conferences have contributed to set up bridges among SAIs, to establish communication structures, to approach jointly aspects of common interest, to constitute habits of cooperation and exchange, to establish performance models, and to put specific combined and coordinated actions into practice. All these actions are

part of the shared desire of contributing to the improvement of audit and good governance.

Cooperation among our Organizations constitutes an integrative element in the development of the INTOSAI 2005-2010 Strategic Plan; it cannot be understood as a static process but as a dynamic one. This requires an important creation, revision and updating effort, with the shared commitment of all the implied parts. The establishment and execution of effective strategies precise the application of the necessary material, human and financial resources that make them possible; the strengthening of training activities and the expansion of the obtained effects; and the exchange of experiences, trying to get of their conjunction the maximum synergies.

I would just like to thank you for your attention and to reiterate my congratulations to Mr. D ' Oliveira to make this Conference possible in this city, open door towards the Ocean that unites America and Europe fraternally. I would also like to express my highest satisfaction for the maturity of the commitment that some time ago EUROSAI and OLACEFS acquired to promote, to support and to implement this cooperation initiative, and that it is giving fruitful results in the promotion of the understanding and professional cooperation.

THANK YOU,