



República de Cabo Verde

PRIMEIRO MINISTRO

Praia, May 9th 2020

Dear President Von der Leyen,
Your Excellency,

Celebrating Europe Day is indeed evoking peace, stability, citizenship and solidarity. These shared values epitomize the very essence of the friendship and are so rightfully embodied in the Special Partnership Agreement between the EU and Cabo Verde.

I am, thus, honored and delighted to address you at this time to express my warmest congratulations for the Europe Day 2020 marked by the 70th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration. "The bonds forged by five hundred sixty years of cultural miscegenation and common history so oblige.

In a rather unfortunate set of circumstances, this year's observance of Europe Day is taking place amidst the coronavirus' daunting challenges, urging us all to take a renewed look at our world and its impending prospects. The quest for continuing enhancement and universal consolidation of our shared belief in democratic values, rule of law, mutual understanding and, above all, global solidarity remains truer than ever before.

In this context, Excellency, allow me to fervently commend the dedication, efforts and leadership of the European Union to set up a global response for the coronavirus pandemic. These difficult times very clearly underline the relevance of collective action and joint endeavours as key tools to defeat the threats pending over our interconnected world.

My Government has also been following with particular attention and increased interest, the EU efforts and actions aimed at preserving and strengthening the rules-based multilateral system. For this reason, we are hoping and pleading for a successful conclusion of the Post-Cotonou negotiations. Today, more than ever before, it has become evident that common challenges can better be dealt with through multilateral initiatives/actions and stances. As the current chair of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), also presiding the SIDS Forum in ACP, we are happy to participate in such efforts

Other global issues such as climate changes, ocean protection, food insecurity, migration, drug trafficking, terrorism, mobility and security, can only be tackled through global ambitions and global solutions in a multilateral framework that has proven to be more democratic, more inclusive and more sustainable.

Building on our commitment to the Special Partnership, undeniably based on common history shared values, let me convey that closer relations between the EU and Cabo Verde remain an absolute priority of my Government. In the concert of nations, we are committed to work closely with EU towards an effective multilateralism able to mobilize international solutions for global challenges. Fortunately, the EU acquis of recent decades is an important beacon and a clear example that without solidarity or joint work it is impossible to tackle common defies.

I look forward to meeting you at the earliest mutually convenient date. It will represent an undeniable opportunity to pursue our proactive dialogue and efforts towards the solidification of the EU-Cabo Verde Special Partnership, so that it delivers increased results in growth, trade, investments and progress of our respective spaces.

It is our belief that these exceptional circumstances call for a bolstering of our already stimulating partnership, by way of sharpened collaborative stands on multi-lateral issues, as well as, expanded business, investment and development cooperation within the framework of the proposed 'New Strategy with Africa' launched by the EU Commission on March 2020.

On behalf of the people of Cabo Verde, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation. Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and esteem.

Happy Europe Day!

Sincerely yours,

Jose Ulisses Correia e Silva

Prime Minister
Republic of Cabo Verde

HER EXCELLENCY

MRS. URSULA VON DER LEYEN

PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EUROPEAN UNION – BRUSSELS