

LAUNCH OF THE BOOK «EUROPE'S CRISES»

(Edited by Manuel Castells, Olivier Bouin, João Caraça, Gustavo Cardoso, John B. Thompson and Michel Wieviorka)

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**June 5th, 2018 – Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation,
Lisbon**

**15h00m: Welcome address by the President of the
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Dr^a Isabel Mota**

Dear President Jorge Sampaio

Dear Professor Wieviorka, President of Maison des Sciences de
l'Homme Foundation

Dear Professor Manuel Castells and all co-authors of the book
Europe's Crises

Ladies and gentlemen

It is an enormous pleasure to welcome such a distinguished
panel of speakers and a dedicated audience for what I think will
be a fruitful and thought provoking session devoted to Europe's

hopes and achievements, on one side, and to its **crises and challenges**, on the other.

What certainly moves us is the wish to engage ourselves in **constructive ways** to enable a **more radiant future for our descendants and for all future generations**.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation took a deep interest in the different works of the group of people that brought together this book. The outcome surely defies many assumptions that we have taken for granted and that we now have to overcome.

In particular, I wish to thank the editors in the person of **Manuel Castells**, who for so many years has collaborated with the Gulbenkian Foundation. Of particular note, the Foundation has published his outstanding work about the “network society” which was and still is so influential about the way we think regarding our connected world.

A special word for **João Caraça** former director of the Gulbenkian Foundation who for so many years has worked –

and continues to work – with us, and is the main responsible for the support the Foundation has given to the work we will present today, together with the Maison des Sciences de L’Homme and the University of Cambridge.

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is therefore very pleased to take part in the presentation of the reflections contained in this book.

In much earlier days, back in the late 80’s (eighties) and early 90’s (nineties), when I was in charge of negotiating, in Brussels, as Secretary of State for Regional Development, the level of the Community funding for Portugal, I also felt that the European construction would be prone to significant difficulties. But the globalization winds were still a breeze back then. And our enthusiasm in the construction of a political entity of brand new features, geared to promote a full exercise of citizenship, was then overwhelming.

What happened since then is a matter of the utmost importance, not only for politics and politicians, but for all European nations and economies as a whole, for academic and non-academic institutions and for every single one of us who is concerned with the common future of Europe.

Today I feel some discouragement regarding the political project that informs our common action. And I also feel that the roots and values of the European citizenship are being eroded. I sincerely hope that the ongoing discussions that the European Commission is leading together with the proposals from some European leaders, that include important dimensions like security and defence, will be able to regain a political project for a post-BREXIT Europe.

I remain an optimist and continue to give full stress to the initiatives that the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation shares with other Foundations and European institutions regarding the reflection about the challenges that the European project

faces like rising inequality, democracy, migration, research and innovation.

Finally, I would like to emphasize the honor that President Jorge Sampaio gives us this afternoon by joining us in this reflection. It will be also an honor – and a great pleasure – to listen to all your ideas and thoughts on these matters.

I wish you all an enjoyable and profitable debate.

Isabel Mota