

Mr President,
Ladies and gentlemen
Dear Friends

Firstly, I must emphasise what an absolute honour it is to launch my new book at Grémio Literário, an honour that I owe to two Presidents: the President of Grémio itself, Dr António Pinto Marques, who made sure that every little detail was dealt with in a marvellous manner and the President of the Portuguese/Arab Institute for Cooperation, Dr Manuel Pechirra, whose idea it was to hold the event here in the first place.

You see, Grémio, as it has been pointed out is not any other venue. It was founded in 1846 to foster the arts and letters, with the seal of approval of Queen Mary II, because she said and I quote: «intellectual creation breeds moral improvement».

And there is a most wonderful link between Grémio, culture and copyright law. One of its founding members, the Viscount of Almeida Garret, a poet, playwright, novelist and politician, was the drafter and tenacious advocate of the first Portuguese copyright bill, which he eventually got passed through Parliament in 1851.

Secondly, I would like to thank Dra Cecília Santos, who has been my patient editor for 4 years and who commissioned the work that we are launching today. Dra Cecília Santos is a representative of the biggest law publishing house in Portugal, a publishing house that fiercely stands for traditional legal publishing in the face of extraordinary pressure and austerity.

Thirdly, I thank Mestre José Jorge Letria, President of Sociedade Portuguesa de Autores, a collective management entity that courageously defends the rights and interests of the Author, for the magnificent and so very generous foreward he wrote.

Fourthly, a special thank you goes to Professor Doutor Paulo Câmara, who works constantly, in industry and academia, efficiently manages a law firm, but graciously made the time to read my book and present it with a detailed and critical eye.

Fifthly, I would like to especially acknowledge the law firm's endeavours in this context, especially the fact that (i) Professor Doutor Sérvulo Corriea, founder of the firm and eminent and distinguished academic in the Public Law field, has honoured us with his presence at this event, (ii) the firm kindly sponsored the drinks party that follows and (iii) Dra Maria Roquette Cardoso, Head of the Marketing Department, frantically waved her magic marketing wand along the way, always with great competence – as fairies tend to do.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my child, Laurie, my parents and my closest friends who have been a constant source of support and encouragement.

And **above all**, I thank you all dear friends and colleagues for being here today, aware as I am that some of you came all the way from Cambridge!