

Statement of Portugal

at the 30th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Vienna, 17 to 21 May 2021

Francisca Van Dunem
Minister for Justice

Let me start by welcoming your election, Ambassador Cortese, as Chair of this Session of the Commission.

I would like to assure you my delegation's full support and cooperation. Portugal fully associates itself with the European Union statement.

I express my gratitude to the Government of Japan for organizing the 14th Crime Congress.

The Kyoto Declaration is an excellent example of our joint commitment to develop efficient and effective criminal justice systems.

Mr. Chair,

Threats faced by the States are global and complex.

Criminal activities are more and more sophisticated, raising serious challenges to the rule of law.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to an increase in domestic violence, violence against women and children and cybercrime.

The internet is a powerful tool for information and free speech. But it presents serious challenges as to the dissemination of hate speech and hideous crimes, sexual abuse of children or the spreading of fake news.

Portugal is constructively engaging in the process launched towards the creation of a new instrument to tackle cybercrime.

At the same time, we consider that the Council of Europe Convention and its additional protocols remain the most effective framework to cooperate in this area. The pandemic has demonstrated the increased involvement of organized crime in counterfeiting and on-line offer of falsified medicines and vaccines for COVID-19.

Counterfeiting related activities constitute serious risks to public health and to safety and life of our citizens.

For these reasons, Portugal included counterfeiting on the agenda of its ongoing Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

At the domestic level, the first ever national anti-corruption strategy was recently approved with a strong support of political parties and civil society.

Mr. Chair,

No single State can fight transnational crime on its own.

Globalisation requires strengthening of international law and cooperation in full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In this context Portugal reiterates its rejection of the death penalty and life imprisonment sentences.

To conclude, Mr. Chair,

Portugal, with its long respect for multilateralism, is fully committed to work on this Commission to help achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Thank you.