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Vasco Pereira da Silva*

Magnífico Reitor da Universidade de Lisboa
Dear Dean of the Law Faculty of the University of Lisbon
Dear Colleagues proposed for *doctor honoris causa*
Dear Guests of honour
Dear Colleagues of the Law Faculty of the University of Lisbon
Dear Students Academy

It is with great honour and pleasure that I introduce Prof. Jörn-Axel Kämmerer to the academic members of the University of Lisbon, as the academic “godfather” of the candidate, representing my scientific Group of Legal and Political Sciences of the Faculty of Law, that took the initiative to propose to the Rector to make him *doctor honoris causa* by the University of Lisbon.

Axel, do you remember when you asked me some time ago «why are you doing that? Why are you giving me that honour? » And I replied in a “nutshell”: «Because you are a foreign Law Professor that can teach all the courses included in my scientific group, a “globetrotter” of the Law, a professor “of all trades”, a good friend of the faculty, and the time has come now to celebrate that. But I’ll explain it to you better later! ».

So, now is the time for all explanations. It is the right time to tell you and the academy all about the 5 reasons we have chosen you to become *doctor h.c.* by the University of Lisbon.

The main 5 reasons for my proposal are as follows:

* Professor Catedrático da Faculdade de Direito da Universidade de Lisboa.

1. A Professor able to teach all the courses taught by my Scientific Group of Legal and Political Sciences of the Faculty

Professor Kämmerer is Professor of Public Law, in a Chair dealing with State, European and International Public Law (Lehrstuhl Öffentliches Recht, Öffentliches Recht Völker und Europarecht). And as a matter of fact, Prof. Kämmerer has researched, written, published, and taught in all the main areas of the Legal and Political Sciences Group, namely in the fields of Constitutional Law, European Law, International Law, Administrative Law (General and Special), as evidenced by his diversified CV.

In each of these fields Prof. Axel Kämmerer is indeed an academic of excellency.

2. A “real Globetrotter” of the Law

Professor Kämmerer made his complete Law studies and degrees in Germany (first and second State Exams, Doctoral degree in Göttingen, “Habilitation” in Tübingen), got his *Maitrise* degree in France (at the “Faculté de Droit d’Aix-Marseille”), and is now Professor at the Bucerius Law School, in Hamburg.

He has also been a Visiting Professor at the University of Paris I (Panthéon Sorbonne) at Seoul National University in the Republic of Korea, at the National University of Singapore, and at the University of Sidney (Australia), as well as took part in numerous congresses and conferences in Germany and other European and non-European Countries (like at the University of Beijing, and at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa).

His language skills cover English, French, Italian and Spanish (in addition to German), and he began learning Portuguese following his teaching stays at Lisbon Law Faculty.

3. A Law Professor “of all trades” because of his participation in a leadership role in many and diversified scientific Law Associations

Professor Kämmerer is very active in numerous and diversified scientific institutions (German and international), including the Presidency of SIPE, the Association of Public Law Professors of Europe (Societas Iuris Publici Europei), of which he was previously Secretary General for two terms (by the way, that’s when we met and became good friends both being members of the executive board of SIPE). He is also a member of the International Association of Constitutional Law, the German Association of Public International Law (Deutsche Gesellschaft

für Internationales Recht), the German Association of Comparative Law (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Rechtsvergleichung); the German Association for National Defence Law (“Deutsche Gesellschaft für Wehrrecht”); the Association for the Promotion of Law Policy (“Förderverein Gesellschaft für Rechtspolitik”); the Argentine-German Jurists Association (“Argentinisch-Deutsche Juristenvereinigung”).

4. A Friend of the Law Faculty of the University of Lisbon

Professor Kämmerer has a (long-standing) relationship of cooperation and friendship with the Faculty of Law of the University of Lisbon, where he has taught an Intensive Course in recent years, at the invitation of the Erasmus and International Relations Office and the Dean of Law Faculty. And I may certify that he already understands almost everything in Portuguese language, as he began to learn it during his (at least) annual teaching stays in Lisbon.

5. This is the right time to do the honours and celebrate the European Academy

Professor Kämmerer is not yet at the end of his career, even if he has already reached the top of the academic hierarchy, so he still has a lot to give to German, Portuguese, and European legal science.

On the other hand, the Law Faculty of the University of Lisbon became experienced and well-known by its participation in leading roles in European and non-European scientific groups and networks (like ELPIS, SIPE, SEALS, Sui Iuris, among others), as well as pioneer experiences like the Intensive Courses Programme, taught mainly by foreign Professors, on a topic of foreign Law with a comparative, European or global overview, to an audience with an equal number both of Portuguese and Foreign students, (mainly) in English language, providing an equal number of ECTS for all the student’s curricula, that is also considered by other Academies as a “case-study” of law teaching.

So, it was about time to celebrate this intense international activity by having more *doctor h.c.*, like we are doing here right now with our European colleagues. For the honoured colleagues, it is time to strengthening the bonds of solidarity and academic complicity with the University of Lisbon thus it represents an excellent opportunity for the internationalisation of FDUL. Let’s celebrate the Europeanization and the Internationalization of our Academies all together now!

Magnífico Reitor

“Peço que seja concedido o Título de Doutor “Honoris Causa”, pela Universidade de Lisboa, ao Prof. Jörn-Axel Kämmerer como reconhecimento do mérito e culto de valores fundamentais da Universidade.”