

**Speech by the Secretary of State Assistant and for Commerce in the
signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between Portugal and the
People's Republic of China on consumer and market supervision**

Your Excellency, the Vice Minister of State Administration for Industry and
Commerce of People's Republic of China, Mr. Ma Zhengqi

The Representative of His Excellency the Ambassador Cai Run of the Embassy
of the People's Republic of China

Inspector-General of the Portuguese Economic and Food Safety Authority

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with great pleasure that I welcome the Vice Minister, Mr. Ma Zhengqi, and
the Delegation of the State Administration for Industry and Commerce from
the People's Republic of China.

I am very honored to host and represent the Portuguese Government in the
signature ceremony for the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation
between the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Portugal and the State
Administration for Industry and Commerce from the People's Republic of
China.

As we all know and feel in our daily life, the expansion of global trade is
bringing together consumers, firms and, ultimately, countries all over the
world, intensifying economic integration in a global scale.

In this context, each national regulation framework, concerning and potentially affecting trade between countries, becomes even more important.

Global economy is not new to Portugal. In fact, we are engaged with it since its very beginning.

And, also since its very beginning, Portugal has looked up for the establishment of partnerships with China. I remember, for example, the first Luso-Chinese trade agreement of 1554 by the Portuguese and the Guangzhou authorities.

Five centuries later, both our Governments continue to honor the spirit and the efforts of our ancestors, and are here today to put another piece of this partnership into place, by signing this Memorandum, which will contribute to the development of modern cooperation between the Portuguese Economic and Food Safety Authority, and the State Administration for Industry and Commerce of China.

It is important to continue to promote cooperation between our institutions, in order to share knowledge and experiences, and to search together for more efficient and effective solutions regarding common challenges ahead of us.

One of the goals of the Portuguese Economic and Food Safety Authority is, precisely, to promote the creation of an information network between entities acting in its operational areas.

As of today, the Portuguese Economic and Food Safety Authority has already established 17 protocols with 13 counterparts from different countries and continents, as well as a close cooperation with similar authorities from the Portuguese Speaking Countries, thus playing a central role in supporting their growth and development potential.

Moreover, the Portuguese Economic and Food Safety Authority is also associated with international organizations, like the European Union Intellectual Property Office and the European Union's Law Enforcement Agency, which are in the very front run of trade rules and regulations' thinking and enforcement .

It is under this bilateral and multilateral cooperation framework, and through our mutual commitment to promote safer and more transparent trade relations, that we are here today to strengthen and enhance, also, the affective bonds that already exist between our two countries and, in particular, between the Portuguese Economic and Food Safety Authority and the State Administration for Industry and Commerce from the People's Republic of China , hoping that these bonds grow and prosper more and more in the future.

I once again welcome, with pleasure, the presence of the Vice-Minister, Mr. Ma Zhengqi, at this ceremony whom I invite now to take the floor.

Thank you very much for your attention.