



REPÚBLICA
PORTUGUESA

MINISTRO DA AGRICULTURA,
FLORESTAS E DESENVOLVIMENTO RURAL

INTERVENÇÃO DO MINISTRO DA AGRICULTURA, FLORESTAS E
DESENVOLVIMENTO RURAL

Cerimónia de Assinatura dos Contratos de Financiamento do Programa Nacional de Regadios

Salão Nobre do Ministério das Finanças

Praça do Comércio, Lisboa

13 de abril de 2018

Mr. Minister of Finance

Mr. Vice President of the EIB [European Investment Bank]

Mr. Vice President of the CEB (Council of Europe Development Bank)

Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to greet everyone present here today, especially the representatives of the agricultural organisations. I also wish to thank Minister Centeno and the Vice Presidents of both EIB and CEB, as well as their teams, for the work they have done over several months, which allowed us to complete successfully the negotiation that we are now celebrating.

For Portugal and for the Portuguese agriculture, water and its efficient use are crucial to face climate change and to mitigate its negative effects, such as the drought that has recently affected us for many months.



REPÚBLICA
PORTUGUESA

MINISTRO DA AGRICULTURA,
FLORESTAS E DESENVOLVIMENTO RURAL

In vast Portuguese rural areas, irrigation is absolutely vital to ensure the competitiveness of many crops, the settlement of populations and the creation of jobs.

National Irrigation Programme will also contribute positively to our economic growth, to maintain the upward trend in our agricultural exports, to substitute imports and to reduce our agricultural trade deficit.

I would also like to highlight the support received from the European Commission for implementing this Programme, which is partly financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) through the Portuguese Rural Development Programme.

Therefore, from now on, all the conditions are met to achieve the defined goals as scheduled, that is, by 2022. An area of 95 000 hectares will be benefited, all over the country, mainly through rehabilitation and expansion works of existing irrigation projects, in order to guarantee the efficient and sustainable use of scarce and precious water.

Thank you, once again, for your commitment in making possible this important project in Portugal.