



PORTO SOCIAL SUMMIT

Speaking notes by the Prime Minister, António Costa, at the closing session

7 May 2021

Today marks a historic achievement. For the first time, we have secured a joint commitment from the President of the European Parliament, the President of the Commission and the Social Partners to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan. It is the most ambitious and comprehensive tripartite commitment ever reached at European Union level. As host of this Summit, I am honoured to join this commitment, which I will hand to the President of the European Council.

This commitment marks the start of a journey that we will take together.

I leave this Social Summit with the certainty that it is time to deliver to ensure a fair economic and social recovery, which meets the needs of the present and the challenges of the future.

Time to deliver:

- To strengthen skills, in order to empower people, so that our citizens are agents and not victims of the climate and digital transitions;



- To invest more in innovation, in order to boost competitiveness of our businesses; and
- To strengthen social protection, in order to give confidence to our citizens and ensure them that no one will be left behind.

This was the ambition that we brought with us to the Porto Social Summit. We have achieved this ambition and now embark upon a journey of hope.

The Porto Commitment is a commitment to the future and to hope. Today we have concluded that we will only have fairer and more prosperous societies if – in addition to meeting the climate and digital targets that we have set ourselves – we deliver on our Social Pillar.

The most important lesson learnt from this pandemic is the collective spirit that it created. For the first time, contrary to what history has taught us, a crisis did not lead to self-interest but to solidarity between people. Each person's protection depends on everyone's protection. Only when everyone is protected will I be protected.

As a result of the pandemic, social issues, especially health, became our citizens' major concerns. Nine out of ten Europeans consider Social Europe a priority.

With this Summit we are reaching out to our citizens by placing their concerns at the heart of the European debate.



There have been many times when the pandemic has distanced us, but as a Union it has brought us closer together, uniting us. We are providing a joint response, on health, on vaccination, and on economic and social recovery. Above all, we have renewed the meaning of the word *community*. It is for this reason that, after Porto, we must continue to build together a future of hope against fear.

Member States, local communities, European institutions, social partners, civil society. You can count on me and you can count on Portugal to continue this journey with you.

And to continue this project, I would now like to invite the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, to join me.

Charles, I am entrusting this collective undertaking to you, so that the European Council ensures its follow-up.

Thank you all for your participation.