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Portugal

**XVIII COTEQ EUROPE
SUMMIT**

A call to
Action

MAY 13TH & 14TH | 2025
COIMBRA, PORTUGAL

PROGRAM

PRELIMINARY

cotec/05.03/v2

Background

The **2025 COTEC Europe Summit** will be held in **Coimbra, Portugal**, on 13 and 14 May. Europe is facing a range of geo-political, social, scientific and technological challenges, and **the need to act against a possible competitive decline** is increasingly urgent, as clearly **stated by Letta, Heitor and Draghi reports**. This year will be witnessing important changes in the global governance stage, as the new European Commission will be presenting its eagerly four years-strategy and President DJ Trump will be in taking his place at the oval office for a second term.

At an inflection point, COTEC Europe 2025 Summit will be a timely **opportunity to bring together business leaders, academia and policy decision makers** to discuss how to proceed in the most concrete and agile way towards **a new path for the future of European competitiveness**. In other words, the Summit spirit will be a call for action by COTEC organisations.

This year's edition of **the Summit celebrates 20 years completed since the first meeting in Rome, 2005**. It will be also the final meeting between the three Head of States, as President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa's term will end in 2025.

The Summit will be held in Coimbra, a city located in the center of the country, where lies one of the oldest academic institutions of Europe, University of Coimbra, a 700 years old institution. In Coimbra is installed a first-class business incubator considered once "the best of the world", and is also the origin of one of the portuguese unicorns.

Objectives

- **Stimulate a debate on the actions to be taken** concretely at the European level inspired by the Draghi and Letta Reports;
- **Encourage the creation of shared cooperation policies** between Portugal, Spain and Italy which can be a benchmark for Europe;
- **Facilitate the development of partnerships between large companies** in the three countries with reference to four major thematic areas: Aerospace and Defence; Health and life sciences; Microelectronics; Highperformance computing (HPC) and artificial intelligence (AI);
- **Enhancing the role of the three COTECs** of Portugal, Spain and Italy, as enablers of the collaboration processes between the institutions and companies of the three countries, also seeking political and financial support at the European level.

Structure

This year, the Summit's structure will be extended into two half-days:

- On the **afternoon of the 13th**, will be discussed how to develop collaborations between companies from Italy, Portugal and Spain in key-sectors: aerospace and defence; health and life sciences; microelectronics; high performance computing (HPC) & artificial intelligence.
- The **morning of the 14th** will be dedicated to discuss the enabling policies that can lead Europe and in particular southern economies achieving higher level of participation of their companies in strategic industrial value chains.

As in the past summits, the closing ceremony will encompass the intervention of the three Heads of State and the official lunch.

Additionally, please note that the **emergency number** in Portugal is **112**. For security reasons, it is important to have your **ID or passport with you at all times** during the event. Simultaneous translation into Portuguese, Italian, and Spanish will be provided during the plenary session.

DAY ONE - MAY 13TH

Moving Towards Industrial Partnerships

(TENTATIVE PROGRAMME)

15:00 - Welcome remarks

Working sessions

- **Sector Group 1 – Aerospace and Defence**
- **Sector Group 2 – Health and Life Sciences**
- **Sector Group 3 – Microelectronics**
- **Sector Group 4 – High Performance/Quantum Computing & Artificial Intelligence**

Reception to Delegations

- **Reception at Colégio da Trindade** (Holy Trinity College) cloister/chapel.
- **Visit to Biblioteca Joanina**

DAY TWO - MAY 14TH

Enabling Growth

9:00 - Opening Session

José Manuel Silva, Mayor of Coimbra

Setting the Stage

Jorge Portugal, General Manager, COTEC Portugal

Gianfranco Ruta, General Manager, COTEC Italy

Jorge Barrero, General Manager, COTEC Spain

9:20 - Session 1

The Entrepreneurial University and its role in turning knowledge into value

Matteo Lorito, Rector of Napoli "Federico II" University

Pedro Mercado Pacheco, Rector of Granada University

Amílcar Falcão, Rector of Coimbra University

10:00 - Session 2

Turning Europe to a healthier business environment

Mónica Martínez Walter, President of GMV Innovating Solutions

Filipe de Botton, Chairman of Logoplast

Silvia Rovere, President of Poste Italiane

10:40 - Break

11:00 - Session 3

Acting together: Policies for competitiveness

Pedro Reis, Minister of Economy of Portugal *tbc

Anna Maria Bernini, Minister of University & Research of Italy

11:40 - Closing Session

Interlude

A call to Action: debriefing with Mario Draghi *tbc

Speeches by:

H.E. the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella

H.M. the King of Spain, Felipe VI

H.E. the President of the Portuguese Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa

13:30 - Official Lunch

Ancient Church (D. Afonso Henriques hall, Convento S. Francisco)

Ceremony of Honoris Causa Doctorate Degrees

MAY 13TH

H.M. the King of Spain, Felipe VI

H.E. the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella

This moment has restricted entry, with access by invitation only.



Venues

Convento de S. Francisco

The Convent of São Francisco was founded in the early 1600s. Throughout its history, it has served as a hospital and a military barracks and housed a significant textile manufacturing unit. Today, the Convent of São Francisco – Coimbra Culture and Congress Centre – Municipal Heritage is a multifunctional space that brings together economy, culture, knowledge, and innovation in service of the development of the city, the region, and the country.



Colégio da Trindade

When, in 1537, by order of King João III of Portugal, the University was permanently established in Coimbra, the city was provided with a set of collegiate buildings to accommodate students. Following recent rehabilitation works, completed in 2017, the Casa da Jurisprudência was installed there, later followed by the Legal Institute, which belongs to the Faculty of Law of the University of Coimbra.



Biblioteca Joanina

The Joanina Library of the University of Coimbra—to-day an extension of the modern General Library of the University, but formerly known simply as the University Book House until the latter's establishment, a name by which it was recognised for over two centuries—owes its name to the monarch under whose reign it was built: King João V of Portugal, historically remembered as the Magnanimous King. Devoted to culture, science, and the arts, he made this library a cornerstone of his cultural programme.



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