The reason of the PRO REG International Conference arose from puzzlement: European Union is implementing policies promoting professional deregulation, at the same time as the introduction of new forms of regulation is limiting professional bodies, which are growing, following the increasing number of professionals.

In Portugal, the pressure of professional groups on the political decision-makers has led to the legislators’ discretionary foundation of self-regulating bodies, which in turn led to the creation of a specific legislation to regulate self-regulating bodies, by Law nr. 6/2008.

Like in other countries belonging to the European Continental pattern of professional regulation, in Portugal, a professional group that becomes a self-regulating body, this is a public professional association (PPA), acquires a monopoly over professional regulation. This monopoly implies an important professional empowerment and an inherent ambiguity of interests, given that while the State charges the PPA with the mission to defend the public interest; PPA represents at the same time the interests of the affiliated members.

There are currently 18 Portuguese PPA and more than 10 professional groups (archaeologists, biochemichals, designers, landscape architects, physiotherapists, teachers, social workers, etc.) pursuing the objective of acquiring the PPA status and thereby gain greater influence, which in this country is also visible through a significant exposure in mass media. In this sense, some professional groups announce this objective in the official name of the voluntary professional association. This is the case for instance of the Pró-Ordem Psychologists Association which was the precursor of the Ordem of Portuguese Psychologists, created in 2008.

The organisers believe that this first international conference on professional regulation may give an important contribution to the understanding of the systems of professional regulation trends and to their apparent contradictions. For that we count on the presentation of the work and reflections of sociologists and other experts of various geographical origins. We expect that other countries realities and a comparable approach will help us to analyze this subject with greater awareness.

The PRO REG International Conference will contribute to the knowledge of the quality of democracy in the extent to which it will enable us to understand the evolution of the relationship between professional groups and the State, and its effect on public policies and the economic and social well-being of the nation. In this sense, this conference is addressed, not only to the scientific community, but also to political decision-makers and organized professional groups.
**PROFESSIONAL REGULATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Conference details**

**Date**
Friday, 11 November 2011.

**Place**
The conference will be held at the Auditorium of the Representação da Comissão Europeia em Portugal (Largo Jean Monet, 1 – 10.º, Lisbon).

**Registration**
Free admission.

**Official language**
The language of the conference is English.

**Organiser contacts**

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**Organisers**

[Image 1]

**Sponsor**

[Image 2]
PROfessional REGulation INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Lisbon - Friday, 11 November 2011

Program

9:30 a.m. – Welcome

Morning session - Portugal: the increasing number of professional associations
10:00 a.m. – Raquel Rego – the Portuguese case
10:30 a.m. – Luísa Veloso – methodological remarks
11:00 a.m. – Vital Moreira – legal and political perspectives
11:30 a.m. – Debate

12:30 a.m. – Lunch break (1 ½ hour)

Afternoon session - Other national and international trends
2:00 p.m. - Tracey Adams – the Canadian case
2:30 p.m. – Thomas Le Bianic – the French case
3:00 p.m. – Julia Evetts – European patterns of professional regulation
3:30 p.m. – Debate

4:30 p.m. – Closure

Organisers

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FCT Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia

COMISSÃO EUROPEIA Representação em Portugal

INSTITUTO SUPERIOR DE ECONOMIA E GESTÃO UNIVERSIDADE TECNICA DE LISBOA
PROfessional REGulation INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Lisbon - Friday, 11 November 2011

Short presentation of speakers

Julia Evetts
Emeritus Professor of Sociology in the School of Sociology and Social Policy of the University of Nottingham. She has published, in 2002, “New directions in state and international professional occupations: Discretionary decision-making and acquired regulation”, in Work Employment Society; and she was co-editor, last year, of Sociology of Professions. Continental and Anglo-Saxon Traditions.

Luísa Veloso
Researcher Fellow at the Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology from the Lisbon University Institute (CIES-IUL). She has coordinated sociological studies on the professional field ordered by Portuguese professional groups in order to support their candidature to the public professional association status, according to Law 6/2008.

Raquel Rego
Researcher Fellow at the Research Centre of Economic and Organizational Sociology from the School of Economics and Management (ISEG), within the Technical University of Lisbon. She is the first author of the entry “Professional associations”, in Springers’ 2009 International Encyclopedia of Civil Society. She has also a Working Paper online since the beginning of the year entitled “Regulating self-regulating Professional associations: what changes in the Portuguese context with the Law 6/2008?”.

Thomas Le Bianic

Tracey Adams

Vital Moreira
Associate Professor at the Law Faculty of the University of Coimbra. He is the author of Administração Autónoma e Associações Públicas (Autonomous Administration and Public Associations) in 2003, author of several legal opinions on the creation of professional self-regulating bodies, and currently a socialist eurodeputy.