

**Introduction of Minister José Mariano Gago by Vint Cerf,
in the opening ceremony of the ICANN Meeting in Lisbon, 26-30 March 2007**

It's my honor to introduce Minister Jose Mariano Gago, who is now the Portuguese Minister for Science, Technology and Higher Education. He served in this role earlier, from 1995 to 2002, and added the higher education responsibility in 2005. So it is under his watch that the Portuguese information society initiatives unfold.

He is trained as a high energy physicist. He continues to serve as a professor of physics at the Instituto Superior Técnico in Lisboa, here, and has worked for many years at CERN, which is where we crossed paths, in fact, in 1993. He kindly invited me to Lisbon at that time to speak, and unfortunately, I wasn't able to do. So it's a pleasure 14 years later to have this opportunity and of course to greet him in this rather substantial role which he has undertaken.

In 2004, he chaired the Initiative for Science in Europe, which joined together some of the largest scientific organizations and laboratories and institutions in Europe. He chaired the International Risk Governance Council, which is based in Geneva. And I think if we are speaking about Internet and its future, risks for all participants and the mitigation of them is a very important part of our agenda.

So I would like to invite Minister Gago now to address you. I urge you to pay close attention to what he has to say.

It is wonderful to see someone in a technical discipline serving in this important political role.

I must tell you that his experience at CERN has equipped him to detect any kind of false information. He has Bogon detectors operating at high speed. So when you encounter him and have any discussions, be aware of that.

Minister Gago, it's a pleasure to welcome you here.