



21st June 2016

**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS
STATEMENT FOR THE PORTUGUESE ARCHITECTURE**

Architecture is universally recognized by contemporary society as a specific field of activity, with public and cultural interest which is enabled by academic and professional standards, protocols and discipline. This recognition is due to the importance of Architecture as a matter of public interest and as an essential element in the creation of the quality in the built environment.

UNESCO and the European Union, through a number of directives, have consistently recognized and proclaimed the public and cultural interest of Architecture. Both organizations detail a set of requirements for the acquisition of knowledge, skills and competencies, that must be included in the training of the architect.

From 2009, Portuguese legislation has clearly defined the requirements for the qualification of the professions responsible for architectural design, engineering and landscape architectural projects. The Portuguese Law 31/2009, which was based on a consensus among all actors involved in the building industry, has established a key milestone in the Portuguese society by regulating the role of the professions in the construction sector. This has been fully achieved with the necessary professional qualifications for the development and coordination of projects and building works. It encourages the advancement of architecture and culture for a better environment for the nation.

Any change of legislation on the exercise of the architectural profession could lead to a serious regression, by the Portuguese State, in its obligation to ensure the right to Architecture for all citizens and to guarantee that the profession is responsibly exercised by architects that hold the required professional qualifications. It is the current legislation that properly conducts the professional role of Architects that makes Portuguese Architecture gaining wide international recognition today as a universal benchmark of quality and prestige.

The International Union of Architects fully supports the enforcement of legislation that preserves the distinction of Portuguese Architects in accordance with their professional qualifications and maintains the integrity of their profession.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Esa Mohamed', is written over a light blue diagonal line that runs across the page.

Ar. Esa Mohamed
FPAM, FMIP, FRAIA, RIBA, Hon AIA, Hon KIRA
UIA President

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ARCHITECTS

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