

Council of Europe
The Secretary General

Strasbourg, 10 January 2017

Dear President,

It was with great sadness that I learnt of the death of Mr Mario Soares, former Prime Minister and President of Portugal.

Mr Soares will always be remembered not only in Portuguese, but also in European history, as a political leader who – by his own example – in a crucial moment in the history of his country, laid the path to the liberty of the nation and brought Portugal back to democracy. Portugal and the whole of Europe have lost a great statesman.

I would like to offer you my sincere condolences upon his death, both personally and in my capacity as Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and I should be most grateful if you would also transmit my condolences to his family for their loss.

Yours sincerely,



Thorbjørn Jagland

Mr Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa
President of Portugal