



**PRÍHOVOR PREZIDENTA SR
pri príležitosti otvorenia slovensko-portugalského
podnikateľského fóra**

Lisabon, 27. 11. 2025

Dear Mr. President,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honour to open today's Slovak-Portuguese Business Forum together with President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, here in the inspiring space of the Beato Innovation District – a symbol of Lisbon's creativity, energy, and future-oriented spirit.

This forum is taking place as part of my State Visit to Portugal, which reflects the excellent relations and growing partnership between our two nations. It also marks a new chapter in our economic and innovation cooperation – one based on mutual respect, shared values, and a common European vision.

Slovakia and Portugal may lie at opposite ends of our continent, but we are united by a forward-looking mindset, by our belief in innovation, education, and human potential. Both our nations know that the future belongs to those who are ready to adapt, to explore, and to cooperate.

Today, we have gathered representatives of around twenty Slovak companies and institutions, active in energy, ICT, and smart cities, as well as our Portuguese counterparts from both the public and private sectors. Together, they represent a wealth of experience and creativity — the driving force behind our shared European competitiveness.

During this forum, important agreement will be signed — between Export-Import Bank of Slovakia and Banco Portugues Fomento (*Banku Portugész Fumentu*) as well as between Slovak company Nexineo and Portuguese Beltrao Coelho (*Beltrau Kuel'u*). Yesterday our Ministries of Health signed the Memorandum on Joint procurement and healthcare innovation.

These memoranda are not just formal acts — they are commitments to work together, to share ideas and best practices, and to create real opportunities for businesses and citizens in both our countries.

I am confident that our trade and investment ties will continue to grow beyond the current level of 850 million euros. There is room to do more — to diversify our cooperation in renewable energy, smart mobility, cybersecurity, and the digital economy.

The success of this forum would not have been possible without the dedicated work of SARIO, Portuguese Trade&Investment Agency (*AICEP*), and our Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Lisbon, as well as the generous support of the City of Lisbon and the Beato Innovation District for hosting this event.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This gathering is more than an economic forum — it is a celebration of partnership and trust. Together, we can build bridges of innovation between the Atlantic Ocean and the heart of Europe.

Let us seize this opportunity — not only to do business, but to create lasting friendships, to inspire one another, and to build a more competitive and resilient Europe.

I wish all participants fruitful discussions and successful new partnerships. Muito obrigado (mujtu obrigádu).

Ďakujem.

Thank you very much.