

In memoriam Guilherme Pinto

Up to his death in January 2017, Guilherme Pinto was President of the European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS) for more than seven years. As Lord Mayor of the Portuguese City of Matosinhos he had previously been successful in several preventive initiatives and his town was already a member of EFUS and the Portuguese Forum for Urban Security.

The general assembly of EFUS took place in Berlin (Germany) in 2010 and was organized into the framework of the 15th German Congress on Crime Prevention. In this general assembly we both had been elected in our new functions, Guilherme as EFUS President and I as Vice President. Already the very special circumstances of Guilherme's travelling from Matosinhos to Berlin had shown us his extraordinary motivation and engagement. Due to the volcano Eyjafjallajökull (Iceland) the air traffic was enormously hindered around Europe and all flights between Portugal and Berlin were cancelled. The consequence for Guilherme: he took his car and started overnight a long journey of about 2,600 kilometers to arrive just in time in Berlin for his election as the new President.

The years of Guilherme Pinto's presidency were years of good governance, splendid institutional developments of EFUS as well as a large number of successful projects and international cooperation. Guilherme Pinto was a brilliant communicator in the EFUS-family and for the interests of urban security in a lot of international meetings, organizations and cooperations. Very often his knowledge of several languages made it easy to have detailed discussions and talks without translation.

With Guilherme Pinto I lost a wonderful colleague whom I also considered a friend. I'm deeply grateful for having had the opportunity to work with this cheerful, unique and always positive person. The European Forum for Urban Security and I personally are very thankful for everything Guilherme Pinto did. We lost a great person, a great president and a good friend.

Erich Marks

Vice President of the European Forum for Urban Security (EFUS)
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