

Tiago Pitta e Cunha

Tiago Pitta e Cunha is currently a Counselor for Environment, Science and Maritime Affairs to the President of Portugal.

He has been working on maritime affairs, mainly as a policy-maker in the field of public policies on oceans and seas for 15 years. He also works as a private consultant on maritime affairs. He has been an advocate of the strategic importance of maritime affairs in Portugal and in Brussels for several years now and has been involved in many public projects relating policy and sea-based economy, including in the media and in the academia. In this context, he has written the book "Portugal e o Mar", published in 2011 by the Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos. He is also a member of several steering committees of international networks on maritime affairs.

In 2012 he coordinated and drafted a comprehensive report entitled "*Blue Growth for Portugal*", which studies the Portuguese sea-related economy and analyses the finances of the most important companies of that economy.

As a policy maker he was a member of the Cabinet of the European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs, from November 2004 to February 2010, and was a key player in the European Commission on the development of the EU Integrated Maritime Policy.

In 2003 he was appointed by the Portuguese Prime-Minister as Coordinator of the Oceans Strategic Commission, a high-level working group in charge of designing the Country's national strategy for the oceans.

Before that he worked in the United Nations as a Delegate to the International Sea Bed Authority, where he was Vice-President of the Council. He founded and attended for several years the UN Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea and participated as a delegate of Portugal in the Assembly of State-Parties of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). He was a Counsellor in the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations General Assembly and represented the EU (then 15 Member-States) in the UN on Oceans Affairs during the Portuguese and the French EU Presidencies in 2000.

He was also an Advisor to the President of the United Nations General Assembly from 1995 to 1996 and was a delegate to the 6th Committee of the UN General Assembly in 1998.

He started his professional carrier as a lawyer and holds a degree in Law by *Universidade Católica Portuguesa* (1990) and a LL.M. (Legis Magister) in European and International Law, by the London School of Economics and Political Science (1994).