

# Maria da Graça Carvalho

Member of the European Parliament



Activity Report  
2019/2020

Six causes to provide a better future  
for the Portuguese and Europe

- **SCIENCE AND INNOVATION**
- **ENERGY AND CLIMATE**
- **INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION**
- **DIGITALIZATION**
- **CONSUMER RIGHTS**
- **WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

## Editorial

## Bringing the voice of citizens to decision-makers

In my political life I have been guided by two fundamental principles: the first, whatever the position I hold, is the awareness that I am acting on the basis of a mandate given to me by the citizens, which makes me responsible for the defense of their superior interests; the second, the awareness that if we want to have an impact - and this is particularly true in

the competitive environment of Brussels - we have to focus on the causes that tell us the most and to which we feel we can bring greater added value.

I did this in this legislature, identifying six major themes, often interconnected, to which I have been giving priority: Science and Innovation, Energy and Climate, Industrial Transition, Digitization, Consumer Rights and Women's Rights. In addition to these, due to the circumstances, came the struggle for adequate means to overcome COVID-19, namely through scientific research.

This brochure, where I explain in more detail the different activities in which I am involved, is my accountability to citizens after a year in office.

## The role and work of Maria da Graça Carvalho in the European Parliament

She is a full member of:

- Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)
- Special Committee on Artificial Intelligence in the Digital Age (AIDA)
- Delegation for the relations with the United States (D-US)

She is a substitute member of:

- Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO)
- Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM)
- Delegation for the relations with the countries of Central America (DCAM)
- Delegation to the Euro-Latin American

Parliamentary Assembly (DLAT) ■ Delegation to Parliamentary Cooperation Committees EU-Kazakhstan, EU-Kyrgyzstan, EU-Uzbekistan and EU-Tajikistan and for the Relations with Turkmenistan and Mongolia (DCAS)

She co-chairs:

- Intergroup on Long-Term Sustainable Investments and Competitive European Industry
- Ocean Governance Working Group in the Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development
- MEP Heart Group

## My work

# The balance of a year of work in six numbers

AROUND  
**50**

Interventions  
in plenary  
and in committees

OVER  
**150**

Organization  
and participation  
in events

**6**

Reports and  
opinions

**40**

Parliamentary  
questions

**3**

Resolutions

**40**

Published  
op-ed articles

## Recognition



## Nominated for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time for the MEP Awards

Maria da Graça Carvalho was nominated, for the third time, for the awards organized by the prestigious The Parliament Magazine, the "MEP Awards 2020". The MEP was nominated in the "Single Digital Market" category. In 2011, Maria da Graça Carvalho had been nominated and elected the best deputy in the "Research and Innovation" category. In 2013 she was nominated in the "Energy" category.

## Graça Carvalho in the Top 10 of the most influential MEPs in the digital field

The MEP was considered this year as one of the most influential in the area of digital in the European Parliament. The choice was made by the Digital Influence Index, published in July by BCW Brussels and VoteWatch Europe, that placed the Portuguese in eighth position. This distinction reflects the role of Maria da Graça Carvalho in the battle for technological and digital innovation in Europe.

The main initiatives in which she was involved in the last year

# Eight key moments in 2019/2020

## 1 Response to COVID-19

The fight against COVID-19 has been a priority for the MEP, with her first plenary speech on the subject dating from January 29, when she called for greater international cooperation and research for the development of a vaccine. She was also amongst the first to call for investment in COVID-19 rapid test technology and its widespread use, as well as the creation of a body to coordinate biomedical research at EU level.

## 2 Election for the presidency of the Industry Intergroup

Maria da Graça Carvalho was elected co-chair of the Industry Intergroup. This group's mission is to help the industry to be competitive and maintain its leadership and strategic autonomy while carrying out the ecological and digital transformation. The group's presidency consists of herself and two more co-chairs: Simona Bonafè (S&D) and Dominique Riquet (Renew).

## 3 Digital Gender Gap: Report on the role of women in the digital economy

The MEP was responsible for the Digital Gender Gap report, developing several proposals to reinforce the involvement of women in the digital economy. In September, Maria da Graça Carvalho presented the report's conclusions to the European Parliament, as well as the strategies to ensure a greater gender balance in this sector.



## 4 Strategic Agenda for the EIT

Last year, Maria da Graça Carvalho was appointed by the European Parliament, rapporteur for the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). The MEP included in the report the principles of greater transparency, program sustainability, simplification and a more balanced geographic distribution, and added two new areas of activity for the EIT: water and the creative and cultural sectors.



## 5 More funding for Science

As Science and Innovation is one of the causes defended by Maria da Graça Carvalho, the MEP has been engaged, through interventions in the European Parliament and other initiatives, in an effort to draw attention to the importance of Europe having a strong budget for Science and Innovation. Lately, she has intensified her actions, both with the European Commission and the German presidency of the European Council, with the goal of ensuring an increase in the budget of the Horizon Europe framework program.

## 6 Women on Boards Directive

The defense of women's rights is one of the main causes chosen by Maria da Graça Carvalho. In this context, the MEP was appointed shadow rapporteur for the directive on improving gender balance among non-executive directors of companies listed on stock exchanges ("Women on Boards").

## 7 Digitalization

The MEP took several initiatives in the field of digitization: In May, in one Opinion Report, she defended the importance of creating a clear legal framework for the development of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics in the European Union, considering that these should be guided by the principle of "Artificial Intelligence for Humanity, centered on people and for people". In October, she was appointed rapporteur in the FEMM Committee on the Opinion on the digital single market and the use of artificial intelligence.



## 8 Coordination of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE)

Maria da Graça Carvalho was elected deputy coordinator of the European People's Party in one of the most important committees of the European Parliament: The Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). "It implies the responsibility to coordinate a very important area for Europe, which covers Industry, SMEs, Energy, Science and Innovation, the Information Society and Artificial Intelligence", said the MEP at the time.



## Portugal



### Beja delegation in Brussels António Zambujo performed in the European Parliament

Last year, before the emergence of the pandemic, Maria da Graça Carvalho welcomed a delegation of 25 personalities from the city of Beja to Brussels, where they raised their concerns regarding their district. The musician António Zambujo was part of the delegation and, along with the rest of the visitors, sang in the European Parliament and in the Berlaymont building, headquarters of the European Commission.



### Water Scarcity Debate Group of citizens from the Algarve visited Brussels

It was in December 2019 that Maria da Graça Carvalho welcomed in Brussels a group of 35 citizens of the Algarve, including mayors, academics and members of the Portuguese national parliament. The purpose of this visit, in addition to debating the region's problems, with an emphasis on the issue of water, was to make the European Parliament and the work of MEPs known.

## The future

# Preparing Europe for future generations

Work in the European institutions is often an exercise in planning the future. We work on legislative initiatives, present solutions; approve financing that will then be applied by member states. The decisions we make have a lasting impact. At certain times, the future weight of these decisions is particularly clear. At a time when we are facing challenges such as the green transition, digitization, the fight against COVID-19 and the prevention of future pandemics, we must be aware that what we do now will define the world that future generations will inherit. It will be with this conviction that I will face the next years in office.

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