

Mr Vitalino Canas

Former Coordinator of the Socialist Party MPs for Security and Home Affairs

Vitalino Canas has played a significant role in Portuguese politics. In the Portuguese parliament he was the Coordinator of the Socialist Party MPs for Security and Home Affairs from 2002-2005. He is also internationally renowned for his contribution to the development of a more effective global drug policy: As Secretary of State of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the Portuguese Government (1995-2002), Vitalino Canas was responsible for drug policy coordination. It was during his term of office that Portugal adopted its new drug legislation for which it is known as one of the pioneer countries in innovative and effective drug policy in Europe.

Mr Vitalino Canas is a Member of the Portuguese Parliament, Member of the Portuguese Socialist Party's National Secretariat and Speaker of the Portuguese Socialist Party.

Mr Canas holds a Masters degree in Law and is Professor of Security and Legal Affairs in several high-level teaching institutions and Universities, including the Police Academy and Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

He has written numerous books and papers on Constitutional Law, Political Science and other subjects. Mr Canas is a consultant with the Fundacao Oriente and the Aga Khan Foundation as well as other organizations and governments.