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The Evaluation of
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in Europe

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To Professor Mercedes Samaniego Boneu

Maria Manuela TAVARES RIBEIRO

Professor Mercedes Samaniego Boneu is a nationally and internationally renowned scholar and a leading expert in the fields of Contemporary History, History of Spain, Social History, Cultural History, Political History, History of Education, European Studies, European Integration and Human Rights.

As a distinguished master, her reputation has clearly transcended the boundaries of the University of Salamanca.

Her academic vocation showed itself from an early age and a vision of multi and interdisciplinarity is very clearly expressed in the dedicated and always brilliant exercise of her profession. This uncommon teaching ability also transpires in her continued encouragement to young researchers and students. She was able to urge her students to follow the path of research, teaching them the values of intellectual curiosity, critical awareness, scientific rigor and the healthy exchange of ideas. All this I discovered many years ago, when I first met Professor Mercedes Samaniego Boneu. Many of her students who participated in scientific meetings in which I collaborated shared with me their heartfelt gratitude and admiration for a Professor who helped them during their academic 2 training, and often along their life journeys. They are living testimonies of the kind of School she managed to create and promote.

The thinking and the work of Professor Mercedes Samaniego Boneu – in the scientific, pedagogical, cultural and civic fields – are clearly expressed in her life as an expert in European Studies and an historian of ideas and of culture, and reflect the undeniable scientific and pedagogical expertise she exudes both in academic circles, as well as among the most diversified audiences.

In both her classes and in all scientific meetings, Professor Mercedes' lectures and interventions stirred up debate, critical discussion and questioning dialogues.

The depth of her work as an historian and a researcher is fully expressed in its main lines of research – history of education and cultural history, social policy of the state – and in its main subject – the Spanish integration in the European Community. This is illustrated in both the subsidized research projects and in the tens of PhD dissertations she supervised. It is also important to highlight her various and very extensive bibliography, as well as the hundreds of conferences she gave in Universities, Institutes and Research Centers both in Spain and abroad (Portugal, Italy, France, the United Kingdom, Romania, Greece, Poland and Chile, among other countries).

In her hard work, she dedicated most of her time to the promotion of seminars, crash courses, colloquia and congresses, always in a committed and enthusiastic manner. Holder of the Jean Monnet Chair in History of the European Integration, funded by the



European Commission, she has carried out an intense activity in the field of European Studies at the University of Salamanca. In this context, she organized an Intensif Program (IP) gathering teachers and students from various European universities. She was granted a Modulo Europeo by the European Commission, which enabled her to launch various initiatives that gave a special impetus to European Studies. I look back with pleasure on the importance of the active participation of Professor Mercedes Samaniego Boneu, acknowledged by so many of her colleagues, in the Master in European Studies, a pilot experience supported by the European Commission. Coordinated by Professor Ariane Landuyt from the University of Siena, this Master course gathered representatives from the Universities of Salamanca, Poitiers, Granada, Coimbra, Strasbourg, Hannover, Cracow, Oradea, Bologna, Azores and the Panteion University. This course has always counted on the valuable collaboration of Professor Mercedes and was a pioneering and innovative experience for tens of teachers and hundreds of students from various European and non-European countries.

It is absolutely imperative to acknowledge her equally important civic participation initiatives.

I am in debt to her knowledge, her critical rigor, her curiosity for the world and her selfless interest for the Other. She combines laudable intellectual skills with valuable human qualities expressed in a great generosity, in a deep sense of sharing and in the constancy of her relations with Others, in which she values Friendship and Solidarity.

I express my admiration and faithful friendship for Professor Mercedes Samaniego Boneu, my colleague and dear friend.

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