João C. Marques de Almeida was Director of the Portuguese National Defense Institute, from 2004 to 2006, before joining the Cabinet of the President of the European Commission J. M. Barroso in October 2006. He has taught International Relations at the Lusíada University, Lisbon, and at the Portuguese Catholic University. He is also a frequent commentator on world politics in the newspaper, "Diário Económico".

João Marques de Almeida is a specialist in International Relations Theory, International and European Security, and Portuguese Foreign Policy. He has published numerous articles in scientific journals. In 2004, he co-authored *A Encruzilhada: Portugal entre a Europa e os Estados Unidos*.

João Marques de Almeida was educated at Lusíada University, and received his M.A. in International Relations from the University of Kent at Canterbury, U.K., and his Ph.D. in International Relations from the London School of Economics.