

António Saraiva President of CIP - Confederation of Portuguese Business

António Saraiva, 59 years, married, 2 sons, is the President of CIP - Confederation of Portuguese Business since January 2010.

He began his professional career at age 17 as a metalworker at Lisnave, the largest ship repair yard in Portugal.

Graduated, while working, at the Industrial School and attended the Higher Technical Institute (High School of Engineering).

Member of the Workers Council of the Company, with political against the Portuguese Communist Party, that was on that time (after the Portuguese revolution) the leading workers organization.

In 1989, he mooved to other company of the Group Mello - economic group of Lisnave owner - first as Commercial Director and after as executive member of the Board of Metalúrgica Luso-Italiana, manufacturer of faucets.

Acquired the company in 1996, where he is currently Chairman.

Has always devoted much attention to the causes of civil society, first as a manager of workers' and then as a businessman.

He was President of the Association of Metallurgical Industries until 2009, before being elected President of CIP.

Argues that civil society has an important role to play and believes that private enterprise within a market economy is essential for economic development.