



## **Plataforma Salvar o Tua demands the immediate suspension of the dam construction works**

**The press conference Save the Tua, held on the 19th June in Fábrica do Braço de Prata has gathered environmental associations, lawyers, wine producers from the Douro, politicians and several public figures, united to prevent the construction of the Foz Tua dam.**

The Plataforma Salvar o Tua demands the immediate suspension of the construction works in the Foz Tua dam, raising awareness for the irreversible damages for the Tua Valley, part of the Alto Douro Wine Region, UNESCO World Heritage since 2011.

The imminent destruction of the Tua Valley, where one of the last rivers existing in Europe runs in a natural state and one of the most beautiful rivers in Portugal, has inspired an unprecedented alliance of supporters. The surfer Garrett MacNamara that became for surfing the giant waves of Nazaré, a declared lover of the overwhelming natural landscape in Portugal, is one of the official supporters for the Tua , as well as other notorious public figures that have expressed publicly their disgust concerning the construction of the Foz Tua dam.

Several Portuguese musicians have as well given their special contribution. They composed a song that is like the hymn of the campaign and a video, which were presented today in the conference. Written by Márcia and Luísa Sobral the song was interpreted by Amélia Muge, André Tentugal (We trust), Catarina Salinas (Best Youth), Francisca Cortesão, Frankie Chavez, Hélio Morais, Luisa Sobral, Mafalda Veiga, Márcia, Marta Ren, Rui Reininho, Samuel Úria, Selma Uamusse, Susana Travassos, Tiago Bettencourt. The video is available in: <http://youtu.be/ISQ9S6qJy8E>

To face the environmental, economic and social negative impacts in the region caused by the construction of the dam, it is imperative an overall effort for the mission "Save the Tua". To that end, the Plataforma has made a site ([www.salvarotua.org](http://www.salvarotua.org)) where it is explained how each person can give its contribution. In focus is for instance a letter to send to UNESCO, in each own name, whose subject and contacts are available in this page. The goal is to send 25. 000 letters, to put pressure on the body able to stop the construction of the dam.

João Joanaz de Melo, University Professor and activist for the environment goes frequently to the Tua Valley from about three decades. He says that: "***If the dam goes ahead, the Tua Valley will be doomed to depopulation and poverty: there will be no tourists wanting to see another dam of polluted water, and there will be no investors interested in an abandoned and disfigured region. But if there is a serious strategy of development, rooted in the local natural and cultural values, such as the river, the railway and local products, there will be many people interested in exploring this amazing landscape, travelling along the valley by train or canoeing in white waters***".

Taking into account that the consequences of the dam on the wine production, one of the main economic activities of the region that became worldwide, the wine producers in the region Esporão (owner of Quinta dos Murças in the Douro) and Muxagat are among the voices raised for this cause. One of their contributions was a limited edition of two wines – Assobio 2011 (Quinta dos Murças) and Muxagat Tinta Barroca (*Muxagat*) whose sales go entirely to the campaign.

To João Roquette, CEO of Esporão and Quinta dos Murças, core member of the Plataforma, "**the history and wine qualities of this region and the touristic potential are not compatible with this project. The Foz Tua dam favours the shareholders of the construction and concessionary companies to the detriment of society. The companies should act for the benefit of society and not the opposite**".

Likewise, Mateus Nicolau de Almeida, oenologist at Muxagat shares the same concern: "**The Douro valley and its tributaries belong to mankind. Over several centuries was born one of the most known Portuguese symbols. We cannot keep on with the gross destruction of this cultural and natural heritage of man-made landscape. All these decisions depend on the future we want to leave for the future generations.**"

The Plataforma Salvar o Tua believes that it is possible to stop the construction of the dam, as the example of the ongoing movement in the USA where old dams that over time have become useless are being taken down. To make this solution

obvious, the Plataforma is exhibiting the movie "DamNation" (<http://damnationfilm.com/>), which expresses how the extinction of the dams in the USA lead to the recovering of surrounding ecosystems.

The trailer of the documentary "DamNation" can be seen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8X2dYnTX55E>

More info about the Plataforma Salvar o Tua: <http://www.salvarotua.org/>  
[www.facebook.com/plataformasalvarotua](http://www.facebook.com/plataformasalvarotua)

### **Contacts of the Plataforma Salvar o Tua":**

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### **About Assobio 2011 – Special edition "Save the Tua, Protect the Douro"**

As part of the the contribution to the Plataforma Salvar o Tua, Esporão released a special edition of 1.000 bottles of the awarded red wine Assobio 2011, produced in Quinta dos Murças.

Quinta dos Murças was purchased by Esporão in October 2008. Located on the right shore of the river Douro, a few kilometres from the Régua dam, Quinta dos Murças emerges given the impressive steep of the hills that are covered with vineyards and host dozens of the region native varieties. The property spreads over 155 hectares, in which 48 hectares are vineyard among which 5 is of biologic production.

In the special edition Assobio 2011 was posted a photo of the river Tua, courtesy of the photographer Duarte Belo and refers to the site of the Platform. The money raised for each €10 bottle of this special edition "Save the Tua, Protect the Douro" will go entirely to the campaign. The wine will be available to public during several activities of the campaign. The producer had as well the initiative to put a seal in the back label of all the brand Assobio available, conveying the campaign on going.

### **About Muxagat Tinta Barroca 2012 – Special edition "Save the Tua, Protect the Douro"**

Muxagat made its first steps in 2003 in a village of Douro Superior – Muxagat (coming from the combination of the Portuguese words Owl and Cat). It is a project whose ideal is to produce different wines, able to show the variety of the *terroirs* and the grape varieties that grow in Douro Superior, a region where the elders of Mateus Nicolau de Almeida have also believed. The wines come from a blend of knowledge absorbed from local producers, and from the studies taken by the Mateus' family and from the feeling that he has for this region.

Muxagat Tinta Barroca 2012 is produced with one only native variety from the Douro, ageing 9 months in cement vats. A wine fresh, young and audacious, showing the complexity the Douro soil brings to the wine.

Beyond this aspects, Muxagat applies to understand and respect the surrounding nature.

**For more informations:**

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