

Magda Cocco

Group Executive Partner Regulatory & Digital | **Head of Practice Partner**

Digital Frontiers, **Partner** Information, Communication & Technology

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Magda Cocco joined VdA in 1994. Regulatory & Digital Executive Partner, Partner of the Information, Communication and Technology practice, Head of the Digital Frontiers practice and the Aerospace sector, Magda has in-depth knowledge and experience with innovative technological projects in the electronic communications industry and across several jurisdictions and regions, notably Europe and Africa.

She has led multidisciplinary teams in different ICT projects & transactions and assisted Governments and Regulatory Entities in connection with the definition of regulatory policies and legislative drafting, having also advised various international organizations such as International Telecommunications Union, the World Bank and the European Investment Bank.

Magda has provided expert advice to companies and public entities across different industries on several digital economy legal issues, from electronic and postal communications to information and emerging technologies, such as robotics, blockchain, nanotechnology, Big Data and IoT. She also specializes in AI topics, leading internally the VdA legal products in the context of the Centre for Responsible AI consortium and she participates in the working group of the Bridge AI project, aiming to provide guidance to policy makers when implementing the AI ACT.

She also advises clients on Data Protection & Cybersecurity. In this context, she has assisted several entities in connection with governance matters and data related strategies, coordinated several GDPR compliance programs and assisted public and private entities in connection with Cybersecurity threats.

Magda has been involved in various Space sector projects, including negotiating contracts for satellite construction and launch and for the installation of ground stations, and assisted Governments in connection with the definition and drafting of Space-related strategies and legislation. She is also leading internally the VdA legal products in



the context of the New Space Portugal consortium.

She is a member of the Observatory of Digital Ecosystems and Infrastructures (OEID) advisory board, and board member of the Portuguese Quantum Institute (PQI). She is an Officer at the International Bar Association (IBA) Communications Law Committee, and she co-coordinated the world-class project of the IBA Metaverse Regulation Guide. She is a member of the European Union's Digital for Development (D4D) Hub Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG), a member of the World Economic Forum's "Defining and Building the Metaverse" Governance working group and the "AI Global Alliance - Resilient Governance and Regulation" working group. She participated as an Independent Expert in the drawing-up of the first General-Purpose AI Code of Practice by European Commission's EU AI Office. She also participates in several Space sector-related forums, namely the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), and she is VdA's representative at the International Astronautic Federation (IAF). She is also responsible for liaising with The Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI).

Awards & Recognitions

Lawyer of the Year - Portugal - Legal 500 Iberial Awards 2025

Lawyer of the Year - TMT - Legal 500 Iberia Awards 2025

Lawyer of the Year - IP&TMT Awards 2022

Lawyer of the Year TMT - IP&TMT Awards 2022

Lawyer of the Year Information Technology - IP&TMT Awards 2022

Lawyer of the Year, Best Lawyers - Media Law - 2022

Lawyer of the Year TMT - IP & TMT Awards 2021

Lawyer of the Year, Best Lawyers - Technology Law (Lisbon) - 2020

Lawyer of the Year, Best Lawyers - Media Law (Lisbon) - 2019

Lawyer of the Year, Best Lawyers - Technology Law - 2017

Lawyer of the Year, Best Lawyers - 2015

"40 Under Forty", Iberian Lawyer - 2007

In 2016, Magda was nominated for the Financial Times' Legal Innovator of the Year award, along with the top ten most innovative European lawyers.

Academic background

Law Degree – Lisbon University Law School.

Introduction to English Law - London School of Economics.

Negotiation Program for Lawyers - Harvard Law School.

Strategic Space Law Program - McGill University, Institute of Air and Space Law.

Compact MBA for Law Firm Leaders - Porto Business School and Vda Academia.

Leading Professional Service Firms - Harvard Business School.

Cybersecurity: Managing Risk in the Information Age Program - Harvard University.

Teaching chairs

- Lecturer – Master's Course in Data Science and Engineering, Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto;
- Lecturer – Postgraduate Programme in Artificial Intelligence for Management, ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa;
- Lecturer – Postgraduate Programme in Personal Data Protection, promoted by NOVA School of Law & Jurisnova;
- Lecturer - Portugal and the Space Sector: Actors, Regulation and Economic Potential, course co-organized by the National Defence Institute (IDN) and University of Porto, Faculty of Letters;
- Lecturer - ECSL Summer Course on Space Law and Policy, promoted by European Centre for Space Law and Lisbon NOVA School of Law;
- Lecturer - Space Studies Program, International Space University;
- Lecturer - Space for Business Course, dedicated to the New Space Economy in Europe, promoted by NOVA School of Business and Economics;
- Lecturer – Cybersecurity Executive Program, promoted by Premivalor Consulting and University of Lisboa, Faculty of Sciences;
- Lecturer – Master's in Law & Technology, Lisbon NOVA University, School of Law;
- Lecturer –Advanced LL.M. on Air and Space Law, International Institute of Air and Space Law/Leiden University.

Published works

She has penned or co-authored several articles published in national and international specialized publications, notably: World Economic Forum; Elgar Encyclopaedia of Space Law; Lexology In-Depth/ Panoramic Next: Artificial Intelligence Law; Chambers Global Practice Guide: Space Law and TMT; ISTE Ltd editions; Law Business Research Guide to Telecoms Arbitrations; Iberian Lawyer; Wolters Kluwer; OneTrust DataGuidance; Space in Africa Journal;

Thomson Reuters; Via Satellite Digital; The Privacy, Data Protection and Cybersecurity Law Review.

Member of

Admitted to the Portuguese Bar Association.

Admitted to the Timor-Leste Bar Association (*Conselho de Gestão e Disciplina*).

Member of the Observatory of Digital Ecosystems and Infrastructures (OEID) Advisory Board.

Board Member of the Portuguese Quantum Institute (PQI).

Treasurer and Membership Officer of the International Bar Association (IBA) Communications Law Committee.

Member of the General Board of the Association for the Promotion and Development of the Information Society (APDSI).

Languages

English, French, Spanish.