



GLOBAL GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE

National Backgrounders – European Foreign Policy

Country Profile

Portugal

Capital:	Lisbon
Geographical Size:	92 211.9 km ²
Population:	10 427 301 (2014)
Population as % of total EU population:	2.1% (2014)
GDP:	€ 165.690 billion (2013)
Defense Expenditure:	€ 2.591 million (2013)
Official EU language(s):	Portuguese
Political System:	Semi-presidential republic
EU member country since:	1 January 1986
Seats in European Parliament:	21
Currency:	Eurozone member since 1 January 1999
Schengen area member?	Schengen Area member since 26 March 1995
Presidency of the Council:	3 times between 1992 and 2007

Source: Europa.eu

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Peace & Security Section

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a. Political System

Portugal is a Parliamentary Democracy. On April 25, 1974 the “Armed Forces Movement” overthrew the former “New State” in a bloodless coup, which led to creation of the 1976 Constitution of Portugal¹. After constitutional amendments in 1982, 1989, 1997, 2004, and 2005, the current regime is more of a semi-Presidential Democracy because of an increase in the power allocated to the Parliament. The amendments made great strides to limit the President’s power to sack the government. In addition, they established a constitutional court, removed connections to a planned economy, widened the scopes for electoral systems, and adjusted the country’s policies to those of the EU.²

The most influent Portuguese political parties are: the Social Democratic Party (*PSD*), the Portuguese Socialist Party (*SP*), the People’s Party (*CDS-PP*), the Portuguese Communist Party (*PCP*), and the Left BLOC (*BE*). What is confusing about these groups is that aside from the Communists and the Left BLOC, the parties’ names do not reflect their positions. The Social Democratic Party is actually center-right on the political spectrum and is linked to the conservative European People’s Party. The Socialist Party is made up of center-left social democrats advocating a market economy and the welfare of the state, while legalizing key social issues such as gay marriage and abortions. The People’s Party represents the conservative right. While the People’s Party has retained minority representation in the Portuguese government, the regimes have alternated between Social-Democratic and Socialist Party control. The Left BLOC and Communist parties had never had government power, until recent political overthrow.³

Within the Third Republic of Portugal, the President of the Republic leads the country as a whole, focusing on handling the external and internal affairs of the state. This is not to be confused with however, the government affairs which are run by the Prime Minister of Portugal (appointed by the President). The President has limited involvement in governmental affairs and legislation, however he does reserve the right to dissolve the Government under certain circumstances and veto legislation after the advising of the Prime Minister.⁴ The current President of Portugal is Aníbal Cavaco Silva (Social Democratic Party, *PSD*), who was elected in 2011. Under Silva has been Prime Minister António Costa (Socialist party, *SP*) since November 2015.⁵

¹ Ellicott, Karen. “Portugal”, *Countries of the World and Their Leaders Yearbook 2015*, Vol. 2, Detroit: Gale, 2015. Accessed October 1, 2015. http://jc3th3db7e.search.serialssolutions.com/?ctx_ver=Z39.88-2004&ctx_enc=info%3Aofi%2Fenc%3AUTF-8&rft_id=info:sid/summon.serialssolutions.com&rft_val_fmt=info:ofi/fmt:kev:mtx:book&rft.genre=book%20item&rft.title=Countries+of+the+World+and+Their+Leaders+Yearbook+2015&rft.atitle=Portugal&rft.date=2015-01-01&rft.isbn=9781569958605&rft.space=2002&rft.epage=2012&rft.externalDocID=320000161¶mdict=en-US

² n.a. “The Portuguese Political System: Calls for Reform”, *Cosmopublic.eu*, January 25, 2015. Accessed November 16, 2015. <http://cosmopublic.eu/article/the-portuguese-political-system-calls-for-reform/>

³ Matos, Vitor. “Political Parties: A Guide to the Conundrums of Portuguese Politics”, *Portugal Daily View*, June 3, 2011. Web. Accessed October 2, 2015. <http://www.portugaldailyview.com/02-politics/political-parties-a-guide-to-the-conundrums-of-portuguese-politics>

⁴ n.a. “The Portuguese Political System: Calls for Reform”, *Cosmopublic.eu*, January 25, 2015. Accessed November 16, 2015. <http://cosmopublic.eu/article/the-portuguese-political-system-calls-for-reform/>

⁵ Ellicott, Karen. “Portugal”, *Countries of the World and Their Leaders Yearbook 2015*, Vol. 2, Detroit: Gale, 2015. Accessed October 1, 2015. http://jc3th3db7e.search.serialssolutions.com/?ctx_ver=Z39.88-2004&ctx_enc=info%3Aofi%2Fenc%3AUTF-8&rft_id=info:sid/summon.serialssolutions.com&rft_val_fmt=info:ofi/fmt:kev:mtx:book&rft.genre=book%20item&rft.title=Countries+of+the+World+and+Their+Leaders+Yearbook+2015&rft.atitle=Portugal&rft.date=2015-01-01&rft.isbn=9781569958605&rft.space=2002&rft.epage=2012&rft.externalDocID=320000161¶mdict=en-US

In November 2015, former Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho's (*PSD*) right-wing government came to an end following the formation of a leftist coalition between the Portuguese Socialist Party (*SP*), the Left Bloc (*BE*) and the Portuguese Communist Party (*PCP*). The Portuguese Parliament dismissed the minority government by a vote of no confidence, and forced Pedro Passos Coelho to resign. This government was thus the shortest in Portugal's post-war history (11 days of existence).⁶ The Leftist alliance led by António Costa in power since November 26 aims at reversing the austerity measures enforced by the previous government while still cutting the government deficit.⁷

The Portuguese unicameral Parliament (*Assembleia da República*) is in control of legislative power and is able to censure and question Government as it did in November 2015, as well as investigate issues it sees important. Its members are elected on a closed-list basis, meaning that voters elect the parties they want to be represented in the Parliament, and the parties choose the members seating. The political parties forming a majority in the Parliament are the Socialist Party (*SP*) with 86 seats, the Left Bloc (*BE*), the Portuguese Communist Party (*PCP*), and the Greens, totalizing 122 seats. The opposition is made of deputies from the Social Democratic Party (*PSD*) with 89 seats, the People's Party (*CDS-PP*), and the People-Animals-Nature party (*PAN*), totalizing 108 seats.⁸

The judicial branch of Portugal is grouped into four court systems: common courts, administrative courts, military courts (only used in War), courts of auditors, and constitutional courts.⁹

b. Foreign Policy

Portugal's foreign policy can be categorized by three spheres of influence: the global Lusophone community, the US, and Europe. In the Mediterranean, Portugal plays a major role in dealing with maritime affairs and Northern Africa. Deeper into Africa, Portugal has centered foreign policy around rebuilding relationships with former colonial domains known as the **Communities of Portuguese Speaking Countries** or by the Portuguese acronym "CPLP." Over 50% of new discoveries of Oil and Natural Gas reserves have been discovered in CPLP countries such as Mozambique, Angola, and Brazil. This rise in resources in Lusophone regions has led Portugal to tailor its foreign policy as a preparation for future political clout. Portugal has also increased its relations with its former colonies East-Timor and Indonesia to enter into the foreign relations arena of Asia.¹⁰

01-01&rft.isbn=9781569958605&rft.space=2002&rft.epage=2012&rft.external DocID=3200000161¶mdict=en-US

⁶ Godin, Romaric. "Green light for left-wing government in Portugal", *EurActiv*, November 9, 2015. Web.

Accessed November 14, 2015. <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/eu-priorities-2020/green-light-left-wing-government-portugal-319321> ; Khan, Mehreen. "Portugal on collision course with EU as centre-Right government falls after 11 days", *The Telegraph*, November 10, 2015. Web. Accessed November 14, 2015.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/portugal/11986416/Portugal-on-collision-course-with-EU-as-centre-Right-government-falls-after-11-days.html>

⁷ n.a. "Socialist Costa to head Portuguese government with uneasy far-left backing", *EurActiv*, November 24, 2015. Web. Accessed December 16, 2015. <http://www.euractiv.com/sections/euro-finance/socialist-costa-head-portuguese-government-uneasy-far-left-backing-319789>

⁸ "Members of the A.R. and Parliamentary Groups", *Assembleia da República*, October 4, 2015. Web. Accessed December 16, 2015. <http://www.en.parlamento.pt/MembersAR/ElectoralResults.html>

⁹ n.a. "The Portuguese Political System: Calls for Reform", *Cosmopublic.eu*, January 25, 2015. Accessed November 16, 2015. <http://cosmopublic.eu/article/the-portuguese-political-system-calls-for-reform/>

¹⁰ Gorjão, Paulo. "Letter From Lisbon", *Judy Dempsey's Strategic Europe*, Carnegie Europe. March 20, 2015. Accessed October 13, 2015. <http://carnegieeurope.eu/strategieurope/?fa=59439>

While Portugal is moving toward a more global foreign policy narrative, it is still in large part tied to its biggest ally from NATO, the **United States**. As an original member of NATO, a key strategic handhold in Europe, and receiver of Marshall Plan funding, Portugal has had a longstanding relationship with the United States following the Second World War. Following the war, the United States used the Lajes Air base in Portugal as one of their central bases in Europe. However, following Portugal's accession into the European Union in 1986, the Portugal-US relations have cooled. These relations may increase with the pending status of the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). Portugal has also continued an active relationship with NATO and the European community.¹¹

European Union (EU)

In the European Union, Portugal could be classified as **complacent**. After completing its bailout program from the “troika” (European Commission, International Monetary Fund, and European Central Bank), Portugal has been aligning itself with German EU economic goals. Paulo Gorjão's article in Carnegie Europe states that the alignment between Lisbon and Germany is one of “necessity and conviction.”¹² According to a recent Foreign Policy article by Emily Chertoff, it should be noted that the Portuguese are struggling to adapt to the European community internally. There have been large votes in support of “**Euro-sceptic**” political parties in Portugal, such as the “Opposition Socialists” and “Alliança Portugal”, protesting the growing dependence on the European Commission and the EU-dominated decision-making in Portugal. One of the critical factors is the debt bailout plan Portugal was put on in spring of 2011, receiving a €96 billion emergency loan package. This package aims to supervise Portuguese austerity for years to come, seemingly indefinite. The supervision and conditions made by the “troika” are well within the legal framework of the EU and its members, however the Portuguese people feel it is undermining their sovereignty.¹³

One of the benefits seen in the EU-Portuguese relationship is its ability to enhance Portuguese foreign policy. In its effort to extend its reach into Lusophone regions and promote better external relations with former colonies, Portugal has been able to use European resources and funding. In recent years, Portugal has helped re-establish secure and fair elections in former territory Mozambique. As a result of EU Election Observation Missions (EOMs), EU and Portuguese officials have helped stabilize Mozambique's government and security. Going forward, scholar António Raimundo argues that Portugal will be able to more clearly execute its foreign policy as a result of EU aid and procedures.¹⁴

Going forward, Lisbon will have to better navigate its foreign policy in relation to its domestic politics. With growing emigration of young Portuguese citizens, flagrant unemployment, and increasing economic austerity, the concepts of Europeanization and global politics are growing unpopular in the country.

¹¹ Gorjão, Paulo. "Letter From Lisbon", *Judy Dempsey's Strategic Europe*, Carnegie Europe. March 20, 2015. Accessed October 13, 2015. <http://carnegieeurope.eu/strategieurope/?fa=59439>

¹² Gorjão, Paulo. "Letter From Lisbon", *Judy Dempsey's Strategic Europe*, Carnegie Europe. March 20, 2015. Accessed October 13, 2015. <http://carnegieeurope.eu/strategieurope/?fa=59439>

¹³ Chertoff, Emily. "After the Revolution Comes Consensus", *Foreign Policy*, May 24, 2014. Accessed October 13, 2015. <http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/05/24/after-the-revolution-comes-consensus/>

¹⁴ Raimundo, António "The Europeanization of foreign policy: An assessment of the EU impact on Portugal's post-colonial relations in Sub-Saharan Africa", *European Integration online Papers (EIoP)*, Vol. 17, Article 1, 2013. Accessed November 8, 2015. <http://eiop.or.at/eiop/texte/2013-001a.htm>, pp. 1-23

c. Peace & Security Policy

In an article by Carlos Branco, Portugal's security policy could be amply categorized as one of **strategic interest**. Lisbon treads lightly on the subject of security and defense policy as it plays into its international relations and politics. As a member of the European Commission, the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), and the EU's Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP), Portugal is constantly caught between aligning itself with the US and NATO as well as voicing its interests as a member of the European Community; NATO is the "backbone" of Portuguese security and defense policy.¹⁵

While Lisbon has currently taken the stance to participate in both **NATO and CSDP** realms as **complimentary** organizations, it still holds its sovereignty at the highest priority. Portugal has created multiple internationally capable forces such as the EUROFORCES and EUROGENDFOR helping provide crisis management and security capability. Portugal has aided multiple international security missions from Kosovo to Afghanistan, however the large focus of the Portuguese is on the Lusophone community, specifically in nearby African regions.¹⁶

European Union (EU)

Portugal's peace and security policy with the EU is largely based on the European Defense Agency (EDA) and the Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP). Portugal is characterized, not as an innovator or pioneer of the group, but as a **supporter and follower** of major actions. Portugal has taken large strides to promote the CSDP's goals by partaking in research projects, technology developments, and troop contributions. Portugal also formed a EU Battlegroup with Spain, Italy, and Greece.¹⁷

The EU's High Representative Federica Mogherini recently discussed a few common core EU policy objectives and Portugal's potential to assist. One of the main objectives was to rekindle **EU-Latin America relations**, due to recent developments in Colombia and Cuba, which will be discussed in a meeting set for June. Furthermore, both Spain and Portugal told Mogherini that Libya posed severe security threats with the development of *Daesh* (ISIS), however the Foreign Policy chief stressed that only CSDP collaboration with the UN could be possible in this regard.¹⁸

Portuguese contributions to Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) operations have been significant, yet **inconsistent**. Over the years, Portugal has seen steady participation in the interest of European security. However, CSDP contributions are weak in comparison to NATO's. It was reported that Portugal, on average, devotes 70% of its defense budget to NATO operations and 18% to CSDP operations. Because of economic austerity, there have

¹⁵ Council of the European Union, *2011 Comprehensive Annual Report on CSDP and CSDP-related training*, Brussels, November 2011. Web. Accessed June 1, 2015.
http://eeas.europa.eu/csdp/documents/pdf/st17438_en11_en.pdf

¹⁶ Council of the European Union, *2011 Comprehensive Annual Report on CSDP and CSDP-related training*, Brussels, November 2011. Web. Accessed June 1, 2015.
http://eeas.europa.eu/csdp/documents/pdf/st17438_en11_en.pdf

¹⁷ de Melo Palma, Hugo. "European by Force and by Will: Portugal and the European Security and Defence Policy", *EU Diplomacy Papers*, No. 7, College of Europe, 2009. Accessed November 8, 2015.

https://www.coleurope.eu/system/files_force/research-paper/edp_7_2009_palma.pdf?download=1

¹⁸ n.a. "EU foreign policy, Libya & Ukraine discussed during Federica Mogherini's Iberian visit", *European Union External Action*, February 18, 2015. Accessed November 8, 2015.

http://eeas.europa.eu/top_stories/2015/180214_federica-mogherini_visits_spain_portugal_en.htm

been less defense expenditures than in prior years.¹⁹ Going forward, Portugal's participation in CSDP operations is unclear. The regimes of 2000 and 2007 stressed the importance of interoperability among CSDP members in the EU, as well as joint training.²⁰

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Portugal was one of the founding members of NATO in 1949 and sees it today as a guarantor of national and international security. NATO is Portugal's **priority** in terms of contribution. With rising tensions in the East, Portugal is part of a growing NATO initiative to increase training exercises. Portugal's most recent conference with NATO leader General Bartels revealed a new plan to increase the interoperability of the alliance through the Connected Forces Initiative. Portugal is currently working extensively with the United States Marine Corps in amphibious training in the Mediterranean under STRIKFORNATO as part of the "interoperability" initiative. For the period 2014-2015, Portugal participated in 0,94% of NATO's Common-Funded Budgets and Programmes²¹.

United Nations (UN)

Portugal is currently contributing a total of three Portuguese personnel to UN Peacekeeping Operations: one military expert in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and two soldiers in Mali (MINUSMA). The UN is likely, similar to the OSCE and CDSP, a complimentary function to its priority NATO membership.

In recent news, the United Nations oversaw an investigation of the accessibility of the Portuguese legal system. After a January 2015 visit from the UN Special Rapporteur Gabriela Knaul, it was reported that Portugal has a formidable system however isolation and costs prove it difficult to be accessible to all. Knaul highlighted that budget restrictions and the concentration of responsibility in the government limits the ability of judges and prosecutors. This case is a demonstration that despite its membership and success, Portugal has internal struggles for reform.²²

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Portugal joined the OSCE at its creation in 1973, when it was called the *Conference for Security and Co-operation in Europe*. Like many other international collaborations, Portugal's contributions to OSCE missions is very limited. One of OSCE areas of action that Portugal supports is Election Monitoring. Portugal's former President Joao Soares has led OSCE missions in Georgia and Ukraine to monitor elections. In addition, the former Portuguese deputy Isabel Santos was elected chair of the Committee of Democracy, Human Rights, and Humanitarian Questions in 2013 and has been re-elected twice.

¹⁹ Council of the European Union, *2011 Comprehensive Annual Report on CSDP and CSDP-related training*, Brussels, November 2011. Web. Accessed June 1, 2015.

http://eeas.europa.eu/csdp/documents/pdf/st17438_en11_en.pdf

²⁰ Pike, John. "Portugal - National Defense Policy", *GlobalSecurity.org*, 2015. Accessed November 8, 2015.

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/europe/pt-policy.htm>

²¹ "NATO Common-Funded Budgets & Programmes", *The North Atlantic Treaty Organization*, Web. Accessed September 22, 2015.

http://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2014_06/20140611_20140601_NATO_common_funded_budgets_2014-2015.pdf

²² n.a. "Portugal Must Ensure Justice Is Accessible to All", *Targeted News Service*, February 3, 2015. Accessed November 8, 2015. <http://0-search.proquest.com.bianca.penlib.du.edu/docview/1650857970?pq-origsite=summon&http://search.proquest.com/newsstand/advanced>

In 2014, Portugal particularly advocated to move forward on policy amendments, adjustments, and events for anti-human trafficking. In the same year, it contributed two personnel members to missions and three personnel members to the Secretariat totaling five Portuguese OSCE staff. Portugal's 2014 monetary contributions of €1,026,918 amounted to 0.7% of the OSCE's unified budget.²³

Council of Europe (CoE)

Following stressed regimes and economic crisis, a multitude of Council of Europe recommendations were implemented in Portugal. In a September visit to Portugal, CoE experts stated that they were pleased with the results of local finance improvements, reduction in structures, expenditures, and debt, as well as growth in small businesses and diversification.²⁴ A member since 1976, Portugal contributed €3,492,637 to the 2015 unified budget of the CoE.²⁵ Portugal recently conducted a meeting with judicial representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina to demonstrate the functions and mandates of Judiciary systems. The visit included time with the High Judicial Council of Portugal, the Office of the Prosecutor General, and the Directorate General for Judicial Administration.²⁶

Strategic Culture

Portugal's strategic culture is largely centered on its NATO membership. Recently participating in NATO's largest military training exercise since the Cold War, Trident Juncture 2015, Portugal was part of a 36,000-troop coalition meant to prepare NATO for threats in both Eastern Europe and Africa.²⁷ On January 22, 2015, the Government approved a 12-year military plan showing that Portugal intends to exercise its newfound economic independence by bolstering its military capability in the CSDP and NATO. The development in military technology is a clear explanation of Portugal's desire to have increased military capability while remaining a follower of leaders in NATO and the EU.²⁸

d. Economic Policy

European Union (EU)

Following the 2011 default on its debt and the recent elections, economic policy in Portugal is a subject of significant interest. Some of the important structural issues at the height of

²³ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), *Annual Report 2014*, July 2015. Web. Accessed September 1, 2015. <http://www.osce.org/secretariat/169971?download=true>

²⁴ n.a. "Council of Europe Experts Hail Reform of Local Portuguese Government", Portugal Economy, *PE Probe*. September 10, 2015. Accessed November 8, 2015. <http://www.peprobe.com/new/council-of-europe-experts-hail-reform-of-local-government-in-portugal>

²⁵ "Portugal", *The Council of Europe*, Web. Accessed November 16, 2015. <http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/portugal>

²⁶ n.a. "The Council of Europe Organised a Study Visit to Portugal for the Representatives of BiH Judiciary", *Council of Europe Newsfeed*, The Council of Europe, September 16, 2015. Web. Accessed October 19, 2015. http://www.coe.int/fr/web/sarajevo/news/-/asset_publisher/uQ1mCvdLDkRJ/content/the-council-of-europe-organised-a-study-visit-to-portugal-for-representatives-of-bih-judiciary?_101_INSTANCE_uQ1mCvdLDkRJ_viewMode=view

²⁷ Villarejo, Esteban. "Trident Juncture: NATO Starts To Show Muscles to Russia", *Defense News*, October 19, 2015. Accessed November 8, 2015. <http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/air-space/support/2015/10/19/trident-juncture-nato-starts-show-muscles-russia/74215796/>

²⁸ Barreira, Victor. "Portugal Approves Military Programming Law", *IHS Jane's 360*, January 27, 2015. Accessed November 08, 2015. <http://www.janes.com/article/48378/portugal-approves-military-programming-law>

discussion are the decrease in social benefits, unemployment among youth, emigration of young professionals, and economic autonomy.²⁹ With large amounts of pressure from the “troika” to implement **austerity measures** and cut multiple government-funded programs, social security benefits have been exhausted in Portugal. Lisbon is currently trying to sort through the problem in its political turnover.³⁰

The most problematic figure in the Portuguese economy is **unemployment**. Portugal’s unemployment rate is high but decreasing from record of 17,5% in January 2013 to a current rate of 12.4%.³¹ The mostly affected portion of the population is youth, with a current unemployment rate of 31.8%.³² Scholars disagree in regards to whether the **emigration of youth** will invite foreign investment or simply further deteriorate the diversification and growth of the Portuguese Economy.³³ Indeed, large amounts of young Portuguese citizens are leaving the country to pursue better lives elsewhere. Emigration levels alone in Portugal resemble those of the 1960s under the former oppressive regime. Statistically, over a third of men under 25 are unemployed, almost half of the college graduates above 35 are making salaries equivalent to that of minimum wage (€900 a month), and the economy is growing and receding in a turbulent fashion. The most staggering statistic of all is that the public debt is 130% of the GDP, which takes away from the 1.7% annual growth of the economy.³⁴

Facing increasing challenges politically, the large question remains **economic autonomy**. The supervision of Lisbon’s recovery is to continue indefinitely despite its repayment of debt. With the current government now supporting a move away from austerity, the tender economy may sink back into turmoil pending more European oversight and advising, a situation the Portuguese people would like to avoid.³⁵

Economic Diplomacy & Foreign Trade

In pursuit of economic autonomy and a return to government support from austerity measures, Portugal has seen a dramatic rise in “salesman” techniques in its foreign service. Under the former center-right government, Portugal used its foreign service to promote Portuguese exports and businesses to global markets. The main goal: diversification and increased exports. Previously, Lisbon saw the majority of Portuguese trade (roughly 80%)

²⁹ n.a. "Austerity without the Anger", *The Economist*, June 6, 2015. Accessed October 14, 2015.

<http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21653653-perhaps-surprisingly-anti-austerity-and-populist-parties-are-not-doing-well-austerity-without>

³⁰ Aguiar-Conraria, Luís. "What Impact Will Portugal's Election Have on the Country's Economy?", *European Politics and Policy (EUOPP)*, LSE, October 07, 2015. Accessed October 14, 2015.

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/euoppblog/2015/10/07/what-impact-will-portugals-election-have-on-the-countrys-economy/>

³¹ “Portugal Unemployment Rate”, *Trading Economics*, 2015. Web. Accessed December 16, 2015.

<http://www.tradingeconomics.com/portugal/unemployment-rate>

³² n.a. "Portugal's Unemployment Rate Rises in August", *Shanghai Daily*, September 30, 2015. Accessed October 14, 2015. http://www.shanghaidaily.com/article/article_xinhua.aspx?id=303734

³³ Aguiar-Conraria, Luís. "What Impact Will Portugal's Election Have on the Country's Economy?", *European Politics and Policy (EUOPP)*, LSE, October 07, 2015. Accessed October 14, 2015.

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/euoppblog/2015/10/07/what-impact-will-portugals-election-have-on-the-countrys-economy/>

³⁴ n.a. "Austerity without the Anger", *The Economist*, June 6, 2015. Accessed October 14, 2015.

<http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21653653-perhaps-surprisingly-anti-austerity-and-populist-parties-are-not-doing-well-austerity-without>

³⁵ n.a. "Austerity without the Anger", *The Economist*, June 6, 2015. Accessed October 14, 2015.

<http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21653653-perhaps-surprisingly-anti-austerity-and-populist-parties-are-not-doing-well-austerity-without>

between EU members France, Germany, and Spain. That number has since decreased as the Socialist party has increased trade with non-EU members. Out of 18,000 companies in Portugal that export, only 100 are responsible for half of the major exports, a statistic that has led to significant policy change specifically with SMEs (small-medium enterprises). Portuguese scholar Luis Mah writes that in order to increase the Portuguese exports and improve the domestic economy, Portugal will need to expand its Foreign Service budget, “foster a credible domestic economic environment,” and develop a firmer image abroad.³⁶

e. Other Diplomatic Priorities

Priorities at the European Level

In conjunction with aiding different security issues across Europe and the Globe, Portugal is involved in significant environmental policy change. Lisbon recently negotiated **environmental agreements** with the Kingdom of Spain in relation to pollution management, sustainable water use, and preservation of shared natural environments. Regarding pollution management, Spain finalized the ratification of the Lisbon Agreement in 2013, which allows Western European countries such as Portugal, France, and Spain to have a more effective and comprehensive response to pollution incidents in the nearby sea “zones.” Portugal and Spain also met in June 2014 to set up policies regarding shared river basins and protected environmental parks along the Tagus River. The meetings resulted in new policies where Portugal and Spain agreed to new joint management plans in the future. Specifically for the Tagus River, the two have developed a new International Tagus Park that will be jointly run with a “common action plan and management [of] structures.”³⁷

Portugal’s main policy accomplishments are part of continuing programs either developed in Lisbon or mandates imposed on them by the European Commission. Developments in policy include decreased green house gas emission trade policies, scaling up the incorporation of renewable energy sources, the storing and packaging of waste, waste disposal, the disposal of “end-of-life” cars, the storing of metallic mercury, protection of animals for scientific purposes, industrial emissions, the participation of the public in environmental decisions, as well as integrated pollution prevention and control. Lisbon has recently seen a dramatic decrease in penalization by the European Commission for environmental policy violations due to policy implementations and increased NGO activity.³⁸

Priorities at the Global Level

With the ongoing events in Ukraine and Syria, **NATO training operations** have seen a direct increase. Portugal, a loyal member of the organization, has recently hosted some of the training events. The main goal of the training is to help perfect a rapid response mechanism for NATO in the event that Russian troops violate any NATO member’s sovereignty. While Portugal serves as a strategic access point to the Mediterranean, NATO officials have expressed their concern for Russian strongholds throughout the Baltics and Northern Africa. The Russian strategy has been characterized as an establishment of “defensive-zones of

³⁶ Mah, Luis. “Lisbon’s Diplomats and Global Bazaars”, *Global Brief*, March 5, 2015. Accessed October 14, 2015. <http://globalbrief.ca/blog/2013/03/05/portuguese-diplomats-and-global-bazaars/>

³⁷ de Brito Fernandes, Mário João. “Yearbook of International Environmental Law.” *ProQuest*, 2013. Accessed October 19, 2015. <http://0-search.proquest.com.bianca.penlib.du.edu/docview/1648116487?pq-origsite=summon>

³⁸ de Brito Fernandes, Mário João. “Yearbook of International Environmental Law.” *ProQuest*, 2013. Accessed October 19, 2015. <http://0-search.proquest.com.bianca.penlib.du.edu/docview/1648116487?pq-origsite=summon>

influence” or “anti-access areas of denial,” where Russian troops have extensive anti-personnel and anti-air munitions in buffer-zone-choke-points. In relation to Portugal, NATO is its most prominent membership and the center of its security policy. Going forward, Portugal will be faced with much more demanding foreign policy decisions where it will have to take more defined stances on issues affecting the international community.

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