



# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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WE ARE WHAT WE DO

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[WWW.SG.MAI.GOV.PT](http://WWW.SG.MAI.GOV.PT)

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# ABOUT US



## Technical Specifications

Title: We Are What We Do

Date: 2 February 2026

General Secretariat of the Ministry of Home Affairs

International Relations Services Department

## Reference legislation

- Law No. 53/2007, of 31 August
- Law No. 63/2007, of 6 November
- Decree-Law No. 126-B/2011, of 29 December
- Regulatory Decree No. 28/2012, of 12 March
- Decree-Law No. 45/2019, of 1 April
- Decree-Law No. 22/2021, of 15 March

# MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

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THE MHA IS THE ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL SECURITY, SUPERVISION OF ELECTORAL PROCEDURES, BORDER MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL, CIVIL PROTECTION AND ROAD SAFETY.

Its main responsibilities are:

- to ensure the protection of the freedom and security of persons and their property, maintain peace and public order;
- to prevent and suppress crime; to control the movement of persons at borders;
- to assess and decide on the granting of equal status and refugee status;
- controlling the import, manufacture, marketing, licensing, exploitation and use of weapons, ammunition and explosives, without prejudice to the specific duties of the Ministry of National Defence;
- regulating, supervising and controlling private security activities;
- prevent disasters and serious accidents and protect and rescue victims;
- promote road safety and traffic control;
- adopt appropriate regulatory measures for internal security policies established by the Assembly of the Republic and the Government and study, design and monitor the implementation of integrated regulatory measures in the area of internal administration;
- ensure relations in the field of internal affairs with the European Union (EU), other governments and international organisations, without prejudice to the specific powers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- organise, execute and provide technical support for voter registration, electoral and referendum processes.

**The MHA carries out its mission through the National Republican Guard (GNR), Public Security Police (PSP), National Emergency and Civil Protection Authority (ANEPC), National Road Safety Authority (ANSR), General Secretariat of the Ministry of Home Affairs (SGMAI) and the Inspectorate-General of Internal Administration (IGAI).**

# MHA GENERAL SECRETARIAT

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IT IS A CENTRAL TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING THE FORMULATION OF SUPPORT POLICIES, STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING, LEGISLATIVE POLICY, MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY FUNDS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, AS WELL AS ENSURING AND COORDINATING THE ADMINISTRATION OF TECHNICAL ELECTIONS.

## **Mission**

Support the MHA with rigour, efficiency and a spirit of public service, ensuring sustainable, collaborative and legally sound solutions in the public interest.

## **Vision**

To be a benchmark structure in public administration, operating with excellence, integrity and innovation to ensure high-quality services for the MHA, the State and society.

## **Scope of Responsibilities**

- Monitoring, evaluation and control of the financial activity of MHA entities, services and bodies
- Provision of common services
- Technical, administrative and financial management of programmes, Community funds and other financing
- Strategic planning and legislative policy
- International relations

## **Values**

- Rigour
- Public Service
- Cohesion
- Efficiency
- Innovation
- Cooperation

**STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2027**

**1. Modernise to serve better**

Make processes simpler, digital and closer to citizens

**2. Manage efficiently to make the most of every resource**

Use what we have well, sustainably and responsibly

**3. Innovate responsibly**

Technology at the service of quality, security and trust

**4. Strengthen democracy through modern electoral processes**

More agile, transparent and accessible elections

**5. Maximising the impact of European and international funds**

Funding that transforms and empowers the MHA

**6. Projecting Portugal onto the world stage**

Cooperation, international presence and strategic alliances

**7. Planning with evidence to make better decisions**

Assessing, predicting and anticipating challenges for more effective public policies

**8. Communicating better to strengthen identity and trust**

Clear information, preserved institutional memory and greater proximity

# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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## RESPONSABILITIES

Without prejudice to the duties of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Relations Services Department is responsible for:

### **International Relations Policy**

Provide technical support for the development and implementation of international relations and cooperation policy within the MHA, without prejudice to the responsibilities of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

### **External relations**

Ensure the coordination of external relations and cooperation policy among all departments and agencies of the MHA.

### **International instruments**

Monitor and support the Portuguese State's international policy in areas falling within the remit of the MHA, coordinating its representation in the negotiation of international instruments.

### **Representation**

Coordinate the representation of the Portuguese State in all committees, meetings, conferences or similar organisations that take place at international level in the area of internal administration.

**Enhance the Portuguese State's international representation and participation in the field of internal administration: bilateral relations, the European Union and multilateral organisations.**

### **International missions**

Coordinate the participation of MHA security forces and services in international missions and ensure functional and technical coordination and liaison with MHA liaison officers.

### **Cooperation**

Establish cooperative relationships with similar entities and non-governmental organisations that carry out relevant activities in the areas of responsibility of the MHA, as well as with the services of other relevant ministries and national services.

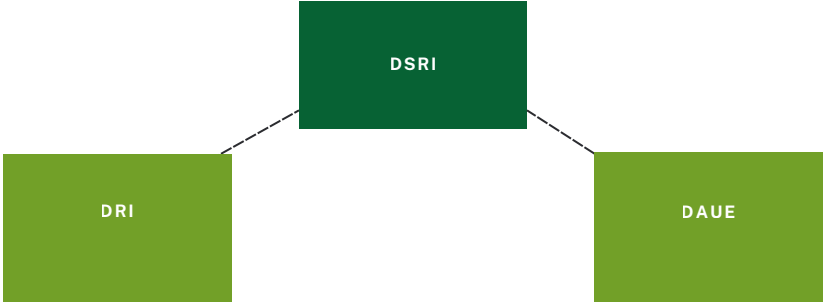
### **Legislation**

Analyse and give opinions on proposed European Union legislation, coordinating the MHA's representation and position in the respective negotiations.

**ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The International Relations Services Department (DSRI) comprises:

- Division of International Relations (DRI)
- Division of European Union Affairs (DAUE)



The DSRI team consists of 20 employees.

# MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITY

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EUROPEAN UNION AREA OF FREEDOM, SECURITY AND JUSTICE; INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS; NETWORK OF LIAISON OFFICERS; PORTUGUESE COOPERATION; BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

## **Establishment and development of the European Union's area of freedom, security and justice**

Active participation in the areas of Schengen, Borders, Migration, Cooperation, Security and Preparedness of the European Union.

## **Peace missions and civil crisis management**

In Europe, Africa, America and Asia, under the auspices of various international organisations, in particular the United Nations and the European Union.

## **Liaison Officers**

Coordination of MHA liaison officers in foreign countries or international organisations, in accordance with national interests and commitments made in the context of international cooperation.

## **Technical-police cooperation**

Development of technical and operational skills in the security forces and services of partner countries.

## **Bilateral Agreements**

With more than 70 countries across several continents, in matters of internal security, visas and civil protection.

## **Safeguarding Human Rights**

In line with the application of the United Nations and Council of Europe Conventions and Protocols to which Portugal is a party.

# MHA ENTITIES AND BODIES

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## MISSION

### **Republican National Guard**

Within the scope of national security and protection systems, ensure democratic legality, guarantee internal security and citizens' rights, and collaborate in the implementation of national defence policy, in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

### **Public Security Police**

Ensuring democratic legality, guaranteeing internal security and citizens' rights, in accordance with the Constitution and the law.

### **National Emergency and Civil Protection Authority**

Plan, coordinate and implement emergency and civil protection policies, namely in the prevention of and response to serious accidents and disasters, the protection and rescue of populations, the coordination of civil protection agents, in accordance with the law, and ensure the planning and coordination of national needs in the area of civil emergency planning, with a view to dealing with crisis or war situations.

### **National Road Safety Authority**

Planning and coordination at national level to support the Government's road safety policy, as well as the enforcement of road traffic offences.

### **General Secretariat of the Ministry of Home Affairs**

Provide technical support for policy formulation, strategic planning and legislative policy within the MHA, ensure technical and administrative support for the offices of members of the Government and bodies and services without an administrative support structure, as well as ensure the provision of common services to the Ministry's services, conduct the budgetary process within the MHA and manage Community-funded programmes and other internationally funded programmes, in coordination with national and international entities with competences in this area, as well as provide technical support for the development of international relations within the MHA and ensure and coordinate the technical aspects of automatic voter registration and electoral administration.

### **Inspectorate-General of Internal Administration**

Ensure high-level auditing, inspection and supervision functions in relation to all entities, services and bodies that are dependent on or whose activities are legally supervised or regulated by the member of the Government responsible for internal administration.

Websites



Republican National  
Guard

GNR

[www.gnr.pt](http://www.gnr.pt)



Public Security Police

PSP

[www.psp.pt](http://www.psp.pt)



National Emergency and  
Civil Protection  
Authority

ANEPC

[www.prociv.gov.pt](http://www.prociv.gov.pt)



National Road Safety  
Authority

ANSR

[www.ansr.pt](http://www.ansr.pt)



General Secretariat of  
the Ministry of Home  
Affairs

SGMAI

[www.sg.mai.gov.pt](http://www.sg.mai.gov.pt)



Inspectorate-General of  
Internal Administration

IGAI

[www.igai.pt](http://www.igai.pt)

# CONTACTS

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