



## Position Paper

Committee: NATO

Country: Portugal

Conference: HUTRAIN'24

Agenda Topics:

Potential NATO Measures to Counter the Growing Danger Posed by the Eastern Bloc

### Introduction

As one of NATO's founding members, Portugal has always stood for the values of collective defense, cooperation, and the promotion of peace. <sup>1</sup> Our country's location on the western edge of Europe gives us a unique position as a bridge between Europe, the Atlantic, and the rest of the world. <sup>2 3</sup> In addition, having a close relationship with USA, enables Portugal to cooperate with USA and other countries such as United Kingdom, Spain, Brazil, France, Germany, Canada, African Lusophone countries. <sup>4 5</sup>

Portugal has consistently contributed to NATO's operations and missions, from peacekeeping to security cooperation. Today, with rising global challenges like the war in Ukraine and the increasing threat of cyberattacks, NATO's role is more important than ever. Portugal believes in standing united with our allies to address these issues while staying committed to NATO's core principles. <sup>6 7</sup>

### Portugal's Position on the Agenda Topic

#### 1. Russia-Ukraine War and NATO's Role

The war in Ukraine represents one of the greatest challenges to European security in recent history. Russia's actions—the illegal annexation of Crimea and the ongoing invasion of Ukraine—are direct violations of international law. These acts threaten not just Ukraine but also the stability of the entire region. <sup>8 9</sup>

Portugal stands firmly with Ukraine and all NATO allies in condemning Russia's aggression. While we support the defensive measures NATO has taken, including strengthening the eastern flank and providing aid to Ukraine, we also believe that diplomacy must remain a priority to avoid further escalation. <sup>10</sup>

## What Portugal Supports:

- Expanding NATO's presence in Eastern Europe to reassure allies who feel most vulnerable.<sup>11</sup>
- Continued military and humanitarian support for Ukraine to help them defend their sovereignty and address the humanitarian crisis.<sup>12</sup>
- Economic sanctions that target Russia's ability to sustain its war efforts.<sup>13</sup>
- Promoting dialogue to keep diplomatic solutions on the table while maintaining a strong defensive position.<sup>14</sup>
- Portugal also emphasizes the importance of planning for Ukraine's future after the war, including rebuilding efforts and long-term security guarantees.<sup>15</sup>

## 2. Strengthening Cybersecurity and Hybrid Warfare Capabilities

Cyberattacks and hybrid warfare are no longer threats of the future—they are challenges we face right now. NATO's enemies are targeting critical infrastructure, spreading disinformation, and trying to undermine the stability of our democracies. These threats require coordinated responses, and Portugal is committed to being part of that solution.<sup>16</sup>

As a nation with growing digital infrastructure and expertise, Portugal believes that NATO needs to prioritize cybersecurity. Stronger defenses in cyberspace will not only protect NATO countries but also deter future attacks.<sup>17</sup>

## What Portugal Proposes:

Creating a NATO-wide task force to share intelligence and coordinate responses to cyber threats.

Strengthening each member state's ability to defend their critical infrastructure through<sup>18</sup> investment and training.

Expanding NATO's joint cybersecurity exercises to prepare for real-world attacks.

Addressing disinformation campaigns through better communication strategies and public education.

Portugal also recognizes the role of private-sector partnerships in tackling these issues, as many critical technologies are developed and maintained outside of government.<sup>19</sup>

## Conclusion

Portugal remains deeply committed to NATO's mission of collective security. The challenges we face today—from the war in Ukraine to the rise of cyber warfare—require unity, strength, and adaptability. Portugal is ready to work alongside our allies to address these challenges head-on, defend our shared values, and protect the peace and stability we have worked so hard to maintain.

Through cooperation, resilience, and decisive action, Portugal believes NATO will continue to be a pillar of global security. We look forward to contributing to meaningful discussions and actionable solutions during this conference.

Citation:

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