

PAULO PORTAS

Contacts:

Telephone number: 21.3917560

Mobile phone: 96.2056262 (Lisbon)

Assistant's mobile phone: 91.2641450 (Lisbon)

E.mail address: pportas@pp.parlamento.pt

Address: Assembleia da República

Palácio de S. Bento

1249-068 Lisboa

I) Minister of State and National Defence in 2002

Minister of State, National Defence and Sea Affairs in 2004

Minister of Defence for three years, in a center-right coalition Government

Member of the High Council of State

Member of the High Council for Homeland Security

Member of the National Defence Council

First elected President of the third ruling party, the Christian-Democrat CDS/PP (Conservative) which he ran for seven years (just recently he decided to step down)

Elected MP four times (1995, 1999, 2002 and 2005)

Parliamentary party whip from 1999 to 2001

Member of the National Parliament Defence Foreign Affairs and Defence committees

Member of the European Parliament and head of the Portuguese Christian/Democrats to the European Parliament

Elected Councillor for the Lisbon Town Council in 2001

II) Paulo Sacadura Cabral Portas was born in 1962

Graduated in Law at the Portuguese Catholic University

In 1996, he taught History of the Political Thought

Founded in 1988 the second national weekly newspaper “Independente” (conservative) that he directed until 1995

Founded an Opinion Poll center

III) While in office, as Minister of Defence, he set forth a vast number of reforms to update, modernize and reequip the Portuguese Armed Forces and defence policy.

1. Revised the Strategic Defence and Military Concepts (the first review since the 90’)

2. Set up the first fully integrated and long term Procurement Law (passed in Parliament with no democratic opposition)

3. Set up the first fully integrated national forces system

4. Put new emphasis on international relations and rebalanced the participation of the PO Armed Forces in peacekeeping operations

a) consistent increase in defence spending towards the European and NATO average

b) re-balanced the level of commitments to NATO missions and operations

c) decision to renew the deployment of troops to Bosnia under EU flag, and to NATO’s operations and missions in Afghanistan, Kosovo, Irak and Active Endeavour

d) full involvement in the negotiations of the NATO Command Structure that led to Lisbon being chosen as one of the three NATO European Commands

e) close engagement in the European Headline Goal process with a view to generate the necessary

Military Capabilities to fulfil fundamental shortfalls, in articulation with NATO. Particular attention to the new European Defence Agency

f) set forward a close dialogue with the Mediterranean, Maghreb and African countries, namely on security/defence and “intelligence” issues

g) special emphasis on the dialogue, close cooperation and complementary between United States and Europe.

5. Succeeded in achieving a fully professional army (last conscript in November 2004)

6. Set out the major re-equipment programs so far:

Navy: LPD (Landing Platforms Dock) logistic multipurpose ship
Two new submarines
14 new off-shore patrol vessels
New patrol vessels
Two Perry frigates (from the USA)

Army: about 300 new Armoured wheeled vehicles
10 NH-90 Helis and 9 new light observation Helis (OH)
substitution of the infantry weapon (rifle, light machine gun and pistols)

Air Force: midlife upgrade of the Portuguese forty F-16
new tactical airplanes
substitution of the P3 Orion
12 new EH-101 (for SAR)

7) reform of the Portuguese strategic and military intelligence network system

8) Restructure, privatization and internationalization of the Portuguese defence industries, including naval and aeronautic. Actively pursued a policy of transatlantic balanced partnerships

9) set up a Under Secretary of State in the MOD charged with the general coordination of Sea Affairs

10) set up a political department and specific legislation designed to protect war veterans

11) Participated as speaker and keynote speaker in numerous conferences, seminars and workshops in Portugal (National Defence Institute, Army High College Institute, Navy Academy, etc.) and abroad (European Defence Congress, New Defence Agenda, the Munich Conference) on foreign affairs, security and defence issues, transatlantic dialogue and armaments cooperation

12) Guest of several *think-tanks* and conferences; several articles in newspapers and specialized publications (national defence and foreign affairs).

13) large experience and contacts with the major global defence industries (HDZ, EADS, Embraer, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, L3, Alenia, Agusta Westland, Steyer, Mowag, Patria, HK, Colt, Elbit, etc).

IV) Personal interests

- keen interest and avid reader in political science, international relations, diplomacy, security and defence issues
- Attentive reader of European affairs, including constitutional politics, national political parties and society
- vast knowledge and experience in intelligence
- vast knowledge of Mediterranean and African affairs, particularly southern Africa
- closely follows American politics

V) Awards

- Distinguished Public Service Award, Defense Department, USA (May 2005)