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# Month of MFA

By Bruno Oliveira

In this double edition, we follow the agenda of the Minister of State and Foreign Affairs, Paulo Rangel, throughout November and December. At the beginning of November, the minister travelled to Croatia and Greece and, in the middle of the month, he met with the European Commissioner for the Mediterranean, as well as with the European Commissioner for the Budget. November ended with a visit by the President of Slovakia to Portugal. December began with the NATO ministerial meeting, followed by the 6th Portugal-Mozambique Summit. The month was also marked by Paulo Rangel's visit to Poland.

## Visit to Croatia

For the first time, a Portuguese Foreign Minister paid an official visit to Croatia, Zagreb, between 30 October and 1 November.

During his visit, Paulo Rangel participated in high-level meetings with his Croatian counterpart, Gordan Radman, with whom he signed a Cooperation Agreement between the two countries. The Minister also met with the Prime Minister of Croatia, Andrej Plenkovic, where they discussed issues such as defence and security, the conflict in Ukraine and European enlargement to the Western Balkans.



*Working meeting between Portuguese Foreign Minister Paulo Rangel (right) and Croatian President Andrej Plenkovic (left) (source: MNE)*

## Visit to Greece

After visiting Croatia, the Minister travelled to Greece, where he also met with the country's Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, with whom he discussed bilateral relations between the two states and the geopolitical challenges facing the EU in the areas of defence and energy. With his counterpart Giorgos Gerapetritis, he discussed relations between Greece and Portugal, as well as other issues such as migration, the multiannual financial framework, energy, fisheries, civil protection and current international conflicts.



*Meeting between Paulo Rangel (right) and Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis (source: MNE)*

## Meeting with the Commissioner for the Mediterranean

On 14 November, Paulo Rangel welcomed Dubravka Suica, the current European Commissioner for the Mediterranean, to the Palácio das Necessidades. At this meeting, the Commissioner presented the 'Pact for the Mediterranean' and Portugal's role in it. The situation in the Middle East was also discussed.

## Meeting with the Commissioner for the Budget

A few days later, it was the turn of Piotr Serafin, the current European Commissioner for the Budget, to be welcomed in Lisbon for a working dinner, which was also attended by the Ministers of Finance, Economy and Territorial Cohesion. The main topic of discussion was the ongoing negotiations on the future Multiannual Financial Framework.



*Paulo Rangel and Dubravka Suica (source: MNE)*



*Paulo Rangel and Piotr Serafin (source: MNE)*

## Visit by the President of Slovakia

On the occasion of the official visit of the President of the Slovak Republic, Peter Pellegrini, to Portugal, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organised a lunch at the Palácio das Necessidades. The lunch provided an opportunity to discuss the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework, bilateral relations between Portugal and Slovakia, and the memorandum of understanding signed between the Ministries of Health of both countries. This brought November to a close.



*Paulo Rangel (left) and the President of Slovakia, Peter Pellegrini (right) at the Palácio das Necessidades (Source: MNE)*

## NATO Ministerial Meeting

The beginning of December was marked by the NATO ministerial meeting, at which Portugal expressed its support for the peace process in Ukraine, as well as for increased investment in defence. At this meeting, Paulo Rangel met with his counterparts and representatives of NATO member states, notably Christopher Landau, Deputy Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the United States of America.



*Paulo Rangel (left) and Christopher Landau (right) (Source: MNE)*

## Portugal-Mozambique Summit

On 9 December, the 6th Portugal-Mozambique Summit took place in Porto, in which the MFA participated. At this summit, 22 cooperation agreements were signed between the two countries, celebrating 50 years of relations between Portugal and Mozambique. This event was attended by 20 members of both governments, at which the opening of a new €500 million credit line to support Mozambique in partnership with Portuguese companies was also announced.



*Signature of cooperation agreements (Source: MNE)*



*Working meeting of the Summit at the Palácio da Bolsa, in Porto (Source: MNE)*

Mozambican President Daniel Chopo emphasised the results of this summit, where Portuguese investment will generate employment and income in Mozambique, but will also strengthen relations between the two countries. Portuguese Prime Minister Luís Montenegro highlighted the internationalisation process of Portuguese companies and collaboration with Portugal's friendly neighbour. Both heads of state and government highlighted the common vision for the future and the historic friendship between Portugal and Mozambique.

## Visit to Poland

At the end of the month, the MFA paid an official visit to Poland on 19 and 20 December. During this visit, Paulo Rangel met with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski, with whom he discussed support for Ukraine, European defence, relations between the EU and Africa, negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework and the strengthening of economic relations between the two countries.



*Paulo Rangel (left) with his Polish counterpart, Radoslaw Sikorski (Source: MNE)*

In addition, Banco Português de Fomento and Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego signed a memorandum promoting new joint investments in a wide range of areas. The MFA also participated in the presentation of the Polish translation of "Os Lusíadas" and visited the Library at the University of Warsaw and its Centre for Portuguese Studies.

# **Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa visits Angola Celebrations of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Angola's National Independence**

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By Raquel Bravo

The President of the Portuguese Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, was in Luanda, Angola, on 10 and 11 November 2025 to take part in the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of Angola's Independence, at the invitation of Angolan President João Lourenço, in what was an event of great bilateral significance.



*Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa (left), President of Portugal, with João Lourenço (right), President of Angola (Source: LUSA)*

His visit to the Angolan capital therefore included his participation in the central ceremony at the Dr. António Agostinho Neto Memorial and a meeting with the Portuguese community, as well as with other state figures, in what is expected to have been his last visit as head of state.

## **Portugal and Angola: two partners**

The President highlighted the cooperation and friendship between the two countries, stating that it is "difficult to find a moment as excellent in relations" between them. He acknowledged that relations between Portugal and its former colonies in the years following 25 April were marked by a period of "tension". However, he said that this represented a "difficulty in relations" that bears no resemblance to what he finds today.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Paulo Rangel, who accompanied the President of the Republic on the visit to Angola, stressed that the relationship between the country and the former colony is "unique", since it "has a place in our collective imagination

that none of the others (relations with former colonies) has". The head of Portuguese diplomacy also stated that Portugal managed to "overcome a phase that could have been highly traumatic", referring to the relationship maintained between the country and its former colonies after their respective independences. However, he also added that "there is still much to be done", and that the "link between the two Lusophone countries is not endless".



*Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa at the celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of Angola's independence (Source: LUSA)*

## **Discrimination and Colonialism**

In response to a question about episodes and discourse of racial discrimination in Portugal and, more specifically, about the case involving the Luso-Angolan PS MP Eva Cruzeiro, when a Chega MP told her to "go back to her own country", Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa said that there are different "sensitivities" and "points of view", which "are part of democracy". He thus indicated that he does not believe there is a "racist state of mind" in Portugal, but that such ideas "accompany a wave, a trend, from other countries", amounting to "copying what is happening abroad".

During his speech, Marcelo referred to Portuguese colonialism, considering that such references are necessary and are part of the context "when one is commemorating the struggle for liberation, for independence".

He also highlighted the clear "Portuguese contribution" to the existence of "unity" (in Angola). He said he felt very fulfilled and satisfied with the country's success after 50 years of independence, considering Angola a "power" in several fields.

# **From Accession to Ambition: Portugal marks 70 years of accession to the UN and strengthens its ambition towards the Security Council**

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By Beatriz Inocêncio

On 14 December 1955, Portugal became a full member of the United Nations, joining the international community at a time of profound geopolitical reconfiguration in the aftermath of the Second World War. In 2025, the celebration of the 70th anniversary of that accession takes on a meaning that goes beyond a mere commemoration, as it represents a moment to reflect both on Portugal's historical path within multilateralism and on its diplomatic ambitions for the future.

## **Seven decades of Portugal at the UN**

Portugal's entry into the UN, in the context of the Cold War, signified formal recognition of its position as a sovereign state committed to maintaining peace and promoting cooperation among nations. Over seven decades, the country has built a trajectory of progressive participation in the United Nations system, contributing to debates and initiatives that have consistently shaped its standing on the international stage.

Thus, even when faced with internal and external challenges—such as tensions surrounding its positions during the 1960s and 1970s amid the Colonial War—Portugal's presence at the UN translated into an opportunity for dialogue and participation in discussions surrounding major transformations in international law and multilateralism. From 1974 onwards, with the consolidation of democracy restored by the 25 April Revolution and integration into major international consensus, relations with the organization intensified, reflecting a renewed commitment to the founding principles of the United Nations Charter—the treaty that established the UN, which entered into force on 24 October 1945 following its signing at the San Francisco Conference on 26 June of that same year.

## **Official commemorations**

The celebrations of the 70th anniversary of accession were marked in Lisbon and New York, at UN Headquarters, through a series of institutional events, academic reflections, and diplomatic meetings. On the commemorative date, the President of the Portuguese Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, highlighted Portugal's "commitment to multilateralism," thereby underscoring the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter as essential pillars of international law and of a rules-based global order.

As he also stated in his speech, “in an increasingly fragmented and unpredictable world,” strengthening these principles takes on added ethical and political significance. Portugal has reaffirmed that lasting peace is not possible without respect for human rights, nor sustainable development without inclusive societies—ideas that have guided its action within the UN.



*Approval of Portugal's accession to the UN, 14 December 1955*  
(Source: UN Photo, Jornal Expresso)

## **Portugal and the UN over the years**

Over recent decades, Portugal has consolidated its position as a reliable partner of the organization. Its participation in peacekeeping missions, involvement in agendas dedicated to sustainable development and ocean governance, as well as the promotion of intercultural dialogue, have been distinctive hallmarks of Portuguese diplomacy at the United Nations.

There are also other symbolic moments that illustrate the maturation of this relationship, such as the election of Diogo Freitas do Amaral as President of the UN General Assembly in 1995, marking international recognition of Portugal's contribution, and the appointment of António Guterres as UN Secretary-General in 2016, which elevated Portugal's presence to a singular level, placing it at the center of critical global debates.

## **Portugal's candidacy for the Security Council**

Also within the context of the commemorations, Portugal's candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council emerged as a strategic ambition consistent with its diplomatic trajectory. Participation in this body, responsible for maintaining international peace and security, represents both an opportunity and a strong desire for Portugal to strengthen its voice in forums where crucial issues of the global agenda are discussed and decided, and to continue working toward a greater international focus for the country.

The presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs in New York during the celebrations, as well as the reception linked to the candidacy, symbolize Portugal's continued commitment to asserting a more active role in multilateral decision-making. By running for a non-permanent seat, the country seeks to contribute more effectively to consensus-building, the promotion of international law, and responses to crises that challenge the global security architecture.



*Candidacy of Portugal for the Security Council  
(Source: XXV Constitutional Government)*

## **A challenging international context**

Portugal's ambition unfolds within an international environment marked by complex challenges, such as protracted conflicts, geopolitical tensions, climate risks, and persistent inequalities. In light of these realities, the effectiveness of the UN—and especially of the Security Council—is frequently under scrutiny, and the roles played by the members of that body, both permanent and non-permanent, become particularly significant.

Thus, for Portugal and the consolidation of its role within the UN, the candidacy does not merely represent greater diplomatic visibility, but rather an aspiration to influence agendas and contribute a perspective guided by the principles of multilateralism, respect for human rights, and international cooperation.

Portugal's trajectory at the UN and its current candidacy for the Security Council reflect a diplomacy that combines experience, credibility, and a vision for the future, a desire to do more and to be more present as an active state in international affairs. By participating actively in multilateral debates and initiatives, Portugal strengthens its image as a responsible actor committed to solutions based on dialogue and cooperation, aligning itself with the main challenges facing the international community.

Celebrating 70 years of accession to the UN is, for Portugal, more than recalling a historical event; it is reaffirming an ongoing commitment to the principles that govern peaceful coexistence among states and the joint resolution of global problems. Like the candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council—also of great importance—it thus emerges as a logical step in the country's diplomatic trajectory, reflecting both its legacy of active participation and its determination to constructively shape the future of the multilateral system.

# **Interview with Cristina Sofia Dias**

*In this edition, our guest is Cristina Dias, Head of Cabinet of the European Commissioner for Financial Services and the Savings and Investment Union. With extensive experience in capital markets, Cristina Sofia Dias began her career at the Portuguese Securities Market Commission and was Head of Cabinet to the Minister of Finance. At European level, she has held positions at the Permanent Representation of Portugal to the European Union, the European Parliament and the European Commission, and currently serves as Chief of Staff to Commissioner Maria Luís Albuquerque. Interview conducted by Bruno Oliveira.*

**First of all, I would like to thank you for accepting our invitation to this interview. For my first question, I would like to know how you came to your current position as Chief of Staff to the European Commissioner for Financial Services and the Savings and Investment Union, Maria Luís Albuquerque.**

I have been working in the capital markets area since 1995. I was hired by the Portuguese Securities Market Commission as a lawyer as soon as I graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Lisbon. Since then, I have been working in the area of financial services, which is the area that Commissioner Maria Luís Albuquerque oversees and monitors. I started working in the financial market at European level in 1997, because that was when I negotiated my first directive, the takeover bids directive, which ended up being blocked in the European Parliament because the German automotive industry did not accept some of the conditions set out in that directive.

So the fact that I am here now is because I started working in financial services relatively early, at a time when this was still unknown in Portugal. And secondly, because I had a keen interest in European issues from the outset. I was responsible for international relations at the CMVM, which also involved monitoring the CMVM's international representation, both in European and international bodies. In my professional career outside the CMVM, I worked at the Permanent Representation of Portugal to the European Union (EU), managing portfolios and dossiers on financial services legislation. I was also chief of staff to the Minister of Finance when the current Commissioner Maria Luís Albuquerque was Minister of Finance.



*Cristina Sofia Dias*

In practice, I have a connection to Europe through financial services and also because I believe that the project is fundamental, as a project for peace, as a project for cooperation and as a project for equal development for all Member States. And whether Member States are larger or smaller, more Atlantic or less Atlantic, more inland or less inland, the project makes sense for everyone and it makes sense for everyone to contribute in an integrated way to the development of what is a European Union of principles.

**And what are your main duties as chief of staff?**

To ensure that everyone does what they are supposed to do. Fundamentally, what a chief of staff does, whether in the European Union or in any other role, and I have also been chief of staff in Portugal, which allows me to compare the two sides, is to ensure that the team works and that it fulfils the objectives assigned to it.

But that also depends on the teams. The teams here, as in Lisbon, are very committed, very hard-working and very dedicated, so I don't really need to check up on what each person is doing in their work. My role is basically to ensure that they all have the information they need, to ensure that they coordinate how they do their work, to give them guidance on the direction they should take in the dossiers they have, and basically to monitor their development as team members and as those responsible for a particular area of work, which they do in the best way possible to achieve the Commissioner's objectives and the Commission's objectives. So, whether here, in Lisbon, or anywhere else, the role of a head of cabinet is basically to guide the team and ensure that the objectives are achieved in the best possible way.

Another thing we always say is that people should enjoy themselves, because in practice we spend so much time together that if we can't have a good working environment and enjoy what we do, it becomes very difficult. So it's also part of my job to try to ensure that the team has a good working environment and that people get on well and have a good relationship.

**In addition to this aspect, you are also responsible for managing relations with other European Union institutions and bodies, acting as a link and communication channel?**

That is also part of the normal management of an office. We are the point of contact when other institutions do not know who to turn to and do not know who is following up on a particular dossier, so we are the gateway and the exit point for many of these institutions. This is largely done by getting to know people, establishing contacts with them, understanding their concerns, communicating those concerns, getting the team to help resolve any issues that arise and, ultimately, acting as a hub for all these contacts and developments. The fact that I have been working in financial services and European affairs for many years makes this relationship relatively easy because I know a lot of people in other institutions who have similar or different roles, but who have contacts with our office because of the subject matter or simply because they are interested in following European affairs.

This is done on a very personal basis, but obviously also from an institutional perspective, because what we say represents the Commissioner. The Commissioner's teams do not exist as such. The person at the centre of the office is the Commissioner. So when we speak, we speak with the Commissioner's voice. When we act, we act with the hands and arms of the Commissioner. And that is a fundamental element in the way the team positions itself, which everyone has to be aware of. In the Commission, this is fundamentally a very marked feature of the offices, but in Portugal it was also partly the case. But clearly, in the Commission, the office does not exist. And therefore, neither do I. The Commissioner exists, and we work for her and are the way she relates to other institutions. And that also conditions the way each of us positions ourselves in relation to other institutions.

### **Moving on to the work of the committee, financial services and the Savings and Investment Union, the name already says a lot about what it focuses on, but what are its main functions?**

All commissioners receive a document from the President at the beginning of their term of office called a mission statement. The mission statement is essentially the mandate that the President gives to each commissioner to exercise, focus on and concern themselves with a specific set of issues. In the case of Commissioner Maria Luísa Albuquerque, the mission statement assigns her responsibility for financial services, the Savings and Investment Union, which encompasses all areas relating to capital markets, banking markets and insurance markets, both from a legislative point of view and from a practical point of view in terms of defining policies that may or may not involve legislation.

But this covers such diverse matters as the supervision of insurance companies, involves areas such as crypto assets, involves defining the appropriate structure for capital market supervision, and involves things as tangible to people as recommending that Member States to establish savings and investment accounts that allow first contact with the capital market based on a more flexible tax instrument that facilitates this connection. It has to do with financial literacy, with encouraging Member States to increase the levels of literacy that their citizens have in order to enable them to understand the options available to them between deposits and investments in the capital market. It has to do with the latest recommendations we have issued, it has to do with the area of pensions, where we have presented a package of legislative measures aimed at two specific instruments and a set of recommendations to Member States to implement more transparent systems that allow future pensioners to understand where they are in their working lives and what that means in terms of savings for their retirement.

Therefore, in practice, using a wide variety of instruments, what we aim to achieve in this portfolio is to facilitate access to investment options, whatever they may be, and here investment in a very broad sense, including deposits, long- or short-term savings instruments, which enable people to have a better life, whether it is to send

their children to university, secure the purchase of a home, investing in their retirement, or to enable markets to function more efficiently so that companies can find the financing they need to meet the priorities of the European Union and their own priorities. In this area, the Commission has done significant work to clarify the investment case or business case for a number of areas, particularly defence, which is relevant to the security of citizens and to continuing this project of democracy and fundamental principles.

**Why is it so important that this portfolio has been assigned to Portugal, even though commissioners do not represent their countries, as they have a more technical role, but in a way manage to provide a slightly more national perspective, and why is it important that Portugal has been given this portfolio?**

One of the fundamental principles of the European Union is diversity. And the fact that we have 27 commissioners from 27 Member States brings that diversity, regardless of national perspective. I think the issue is not national perspective, it is a perspective of diversity. Obviously, someone who comes from a corner of Europe where they have a very large neighbour and the sea on the other side has a different perspective on issues than those in the centre of Europe surrounded by neighbours – large and small – on all sides. And so each commissioner brings not only a set of skills and competences that they have acquired throughout their life, but also, obviously, a perspective of diversity that results from the context in which their life has unfolded. This diversity enriches the European Union.

This portfolio has a particular characteristic, which is its horizontality. The work done in the Capital Markets Union and the Savings and Investment Union serves all 27 Member States. It serves all Member States globally, whether they are in the north or south, small or large, and it serves all types of industries. One of the key elements of our strategy in March this year, when the communication on the Savings and Investment Union was published, is that it is an agnostic strategy. The mechanisms we are developing are designed to benefit all industries and all sectors. This horizontality is fundamental and makes the portfolio very central to all Commission policies. So we don't have regional policy, we don't have the Union budget, we don't have other portfolios that are perhaps better known, but we do have a portfolio that is fundamental to the implementation of all policies and essential to making them more competitive. Because in addition to public funds, what we bring to the table are mechanisms that enable the private sector to invest appropriately, without barriers, in the internal market.

What we do is contribute to the deepening of the internal market in an area that is central to any economy, which is the functioning of the financial system. And as our financial systems are all integrated, having a policy that is so central in the hands of a Portuguese Commissioner is obviously very important for all Member States and also for Portugal.

**As you explained, financial markets are at the centre and are all interconnected, but there was a moment, which was the Eurozone crisis in 2009, that was a turning point for Economic and Monetary Union, and which also raised questions about internal disparities between countries, creditors and debtors. Is that division still visible in any way today?**

I prefer not to talk about divisions and to talk about what unites us. If we look at the European project and all the obstacles that have been overcome over the years, in practice it is almost a miracle that we are where we are today. We have created a single currency, we have created an internal market, which is probably not yet complete and must continue to be completed. We have created the Schengen Area, we have created roaming, we have created a single plug for all devices. This implies a harmonisation and coordination of Member States that is unprecedented or has very few precedents in the economic development of the world.

Obviously, divisions exist and result from differences, bringing about the diversity I mentioned earlier. But more than divisions, what we must look at is what unites us. We have common projects, we have common principles, we have a series of elements that enable us all to move forward together, sometimes more slowly than some countries would like, but we do have a set of common policies that are fundamental for the 450 million citizens who make up Europe.

**And also the issue of solidarity among Member States, for example, during the Covid-19 pandemic.**

Exactly. Covid-19 has also clearly demonstrated that these elements of unity are stronger than the elements of disunity or difference. Even in our particular area, financial services, the sovereign debt crisis led to the creation of a set of mechanisms, such as banking union, which effectively reinforce the elements that bring us together. We now have a single supervisor, the ECB, through the single supervisory mechanism, which ensures that the supervision of banks is equivalent or equal in all Member States that are part of this union. Therefore, the decision taken in relation to a Portuguese bank is the same as that taken in relation to a French or German bank in the same circumstances.

This gives these market agents what is known as a level playing field, allowing them to operate in all Member States in accordance with a framework of common principles and rules and with a unified supervisor, which effectively gives them predictability in their actions. And what financial markets dislike is unpredictability. Therefore, anything that helps to reduce this unpredictability and uncertainty is better for the functioning of the markets in general.

**How, then, can we make the environment more stable, given that today's world is increasingly unstable?**

All the initiatives that the Commissioner is implementing within the framework of the Savings and Investment Union are aimed precisely at contributing to the removal of

barriers to the internal market and accelerating this level playing field between all economic agents. This obviously brings benefits for citizens and businesses, which find it easier to operate on a cross-border basis. Investors have more opportunities, and businesses can find the financing they need more quickly and with less hassle.

The Savings and Investment Union has a set of fundamental pillars. We operate in the area of citizens and businesses, we operate in the area of markets, and we operate in the area of supervision. These areas are essential to understanding the measures as a whole. No single measure can make a difference on its own. But all these measures together do have a positive impact on market integration.

Take pension systems, for example. The recommendations we made last week have a huge impact on people's lives because, through transparency mechanisms, they allow them to understand their contribution history and where they stand in terms of the savings they already have for their retirement. This makes it easier for them to make the right investment decisions to maintain their current quality of life when they reach retirement age. Therefore, having visibility at the age of 40 of what my contribution career will look like and what I can expect 20 or 30 years down the line is essential for me, at the age of 40, to make the right investment decisions.

Financial literacy, on the other hand, also helps people understand the risks and opportunities of various instruments and, above all, realise that turning off the lights when leaving a room or looking at white label products that are produced by exactly the same company as a well-known brand is a way to spend less and save money, even when they do not have a very high income. Therefore, financial literacy is not just about knowing the difference between shares and bonds, it is about knowing how to manage your financial life.

Managing your financial life is much more advanced than that. In the citizens' pillar, we are not only looking at investment in the capital market, we are fundamentally looking at the investment or savings options that people may have, at the life choices they have to make in order to manage their capital in the most effective and productive way. From the point of view of businesses, what we are trying to create is effective access to funds that will enable them to grow and contribute to the priorities of the European Union and, in doing so, all market players also contribute as effectively as possible in their respective areas, with banks financing and insurance companies also financing the economy, because they are patient capital for companies and can, in essence, take a more risky approach because they have a much broader investment horizon.

Ultimately, all these elements and more harmonised supervision also allow decisions to be taken in a more equitable manner for all agents. These elements together contribute to the ultimate goal, and all these measures contribute to that goal and must be viewed as a whole rather than individually.

**In this regard, how can we help to promote financial literacy, given that it is extremely important?**

Financial literacy is everyone's responsibility. We are all responsible for teaching our children how the pocket money we give them is generated, we are responsible for helping older people understand that the digital world has risks and that they must therefore be careful with the passwords they give them for credit cards and to access home banking. In schools, we must make it easier for children and young people to learn, alongside mathematics, science, English, Spanish, French, or whatever else, to include concepts of financial literacy that are important for understanding all these subjects. And, ultimately, market players have responsibilities, states have responsibilities, but fundamentally, we all have responsibilities.

It is not something that depends solely on the European Union. On the contrary, in fact, the Commission and the institutions do not really have specific powers in this area. What we can do is coordinate what Member States are doing, point out good examples we have found, whether in other Member States, other economies or third countries, which work or do not work, because there are some that do not. Learning from mistakes and from less successful examples is also a way of learning. Our role is therefore essentially to share this information, make it accessible, contribute to the visibility of initiatives taking place in a number of other areas and, ultimately, enable these experiences to be shared in a more consistent manner.

Then, another thing we have to do is to help Member States assess the impact these policies have, help them correct where it can be corrected, in order to make these policies more effective. Portugal has done a great job in this area, but the results are slow to come. Therefore, assessing how these policies are being implemented in order to try to find out what is not working so well and taking action on what is not working so well to make it work better is also one of the elements we take into account in our financial literacy strategy.

This is not something that the Commission can do alone, nor can Member States do it alone, nor can citizens do it alone. We must all work together to steer these policies towards achieving the objectives.

**To conclude, I would like to ask what reforms you consider essential to help cooperation between the various States within this portfolio?**

Fundamentally, the States need to understand the benefits they can gain from all these policies. What the Commissioner has been doing is talking to the Member States, understanding their concerns and, ultimately, trying to respond to those concerns. And in practice, what we all realise is that we are not competing with each other, we are competing with other economic areas outside our borders, and it is these economic areas that bring us challenges and difficulties. So we are not competing with Spain, we are competing with other areas that are much larger than Spain. That is why we have to work together to make us all better. We have to ensure

that we all improve as a result and that each of us brings our diversity to this better whole. And, at the end of the day, gain scale and effectively have the scale to deal with these other spaces, because each of us, individually, remains small. What I personally feel is that this spirit of unity really does exist, with differences, with diversity, but this spirit of unity exists.

# **Drones, Uncertainty and Air Safety: The Mystery Troubling Brussels and Europe**

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By Magda Gonçalves

## **A recent phenomenon with strategic impact.**

Starting in September 2025, European airspace has become the scene of a series of disturbing incidents: unidentified drones have been repeatedly detected near civilian airports, military bases and critical infrastructure, forcing the suspension of air operations and triggering security alerts in several member states. The phenomenon reached particular visibility when, on the night of November 4th, 2025, the International Airport of Brussels-Zaventem air traffic was disrupted twice due to the presence of drones in its airspace, affecting dozens of flights and hundreds of passengers.

Brussels, as the Belgian capital and political center of the European Union and NATO, quickly became a symbol of the political dimension of the problem. What initially could be interpreted as isolated incidents came, over the course of a few weeks, to be seen as a cross-cutting challenge to European security.

## **From the periphery to the center: the geographical expansion of incidents.**

The first warning signs had already emerged in the beginning of September, when, on September 9 2025, Poland reported multiple drone incursions into its airspace, some of which were reportedly neutralized. The incident led to the temporary closure of airports and the activation of enhanced surveillance measures on NATO's eastern flank, culminating in the launch of an aerial monitoring operation a few days later.



*German police patrolling Munich Airport after drone sightings forcing it to cancel all flights for the day  
(Source: AP News)*

In the following weeks, the phenomenon spread to northern Europe. Between September 22nd and 27th, airports in Denmark and Norway cities including Copenhagen and Oslo have suspended operations following sightings of drones near sensitive infrastructure. In October, Germany registered similar incidents: Munich airport suspended night operations on October 2nd and 3rd, and Berlin-Brandenburg airport suspended flights to October 31st.

This chain of events reinforced the perception according to a pattern: drones appeared mainly in areas of high strategic value, simultaneously testing detection systems, decision chains, and the response capacity of national authorities.

### **Brussels and the symbolic dimension of vulnerability.**

It was, however, in November of 2025 that the issue took on greater political weight. In addition to the closure of Zaventem airport on November 4th and 5th, sightings were recorded in Liège, in the vicinity of Belgian military bases, such as Kleine-Brogel. On November 7th Liège airport has once again suspended operations, confirming that the incidents were not an isolated event.

A few days later, on November 11th, Dutch authorities investigated reports of drones near NATO Joint Command in Brunssum, adding a distinctly transatlantic dimension to European concerns. The impact of these events was both practical and symbolic. The disruption to the normal functioning of the European capital exposed vulnerabilities in a city that houses the institutional core of Euro-Atlantic security.

### **The logic of ambiguity: drones and hybrid warfare**

Despite the multitude of incidents, the origin of the drones remained officially unattributed throughout 2025. This lack of clear attribution fueled strategic interpretations that frame the episodes within the concept of hybrid warfare: deliberately ambiguous actions designed to generate uncertainty, test responses, and pressure adversaries without clearly crossing the threshold of a conventional military attack.

Several European policymakers suggested that the incidents could be linked to broader geopolitical tensions, namely the context of the war in Ukraine and relations between NATO and Russia. However, the lack of public evidence limited both the diplomatic response and the possibility of traditional deterrent measures.



*German soldier uses anti-drone technology (Source: AP News)*

## **European response: between reactivity and coordination**

The initial reaction from the States was essentially national, reflecting sovereignty over airspace control. However, as incidents accumulated between September and November, greater political coordination emerged.

In Belgium, the events of November led to the acceleration of the creation of The National Airspace Security Center, scheduled to become operational in January 2026, as well as strengthening the acquisition of anti-drone systems. Germany followed a similar path when it inaugurated on December 17 2025, one joint drone defense center, integrating armed forces and civilian authorities.

At the European level, debates on information sharing, integrated surveillance, and the creation of common detection networks have intensified. However, disagreements persist regarding the respective roles of the European Union and NATO, as well as on funding and strategic leadership.

### **A silent test of European security.**

The drones that flew over Brussels and other European cities in the second half of 2025 did not cause any casualties or significant material damage. Even so, they functioned as a silent test of the resilience of the European security architecture. They revealed gaps in detection, difficulties in assigning responsibility, and limitations in the joint response to ambiguous threats.

More than a succession of technical incidents, this phenomenon forced Europe to face an uncomfortable reality: in an international context marked by strategic uncertainty, security increasingly depends on the ability to respond to what is not clearly identifiable. The way these lessons are incorporated into European policies could shape the future of the continent's security.

# EU-CELAC Summit

By Alexandre Batista

The fourth EU-CELAC Summit took place on 9 November of this year, bringing together, in Santa Marta, Colombia, the European Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

António Costa, President of the European Council and former Prime Minister of Portugal, argued that “multilateral dialogue is more important than ever,” highlighting the creation of new projects approved at this summit. “This is the most important message we can send to the whole world: in a multipolar world, biregional cooperation and multilateral dialogue are more important than ever if we are to build a shared future together,” stated the President of the European Council upon arrival at the summit.

The summit was co-chaired by António Costa and the President of CELAC and, simultaneously, President of Colombia, Gustavo Petro.



*Group photo of representatives in the EU-CELAC summit (Source: European Council)*

The conference was marked by an emphasis on shared principles, values and interests, the promotion, protection and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law. These themes were reinforced by debate on the defence of multilateralism, trade and investment, the green and digital transitions, and social cohesion.

Among the many topics addressed during the conference, several key points were highlighted by the leaders of the participating states.

With regard to multilateralism, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the principles and objectives enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, namely the sovereign equality of states, respect for territorial integrity and political independence, as well as the rejection of the threat or use of force and of any actions contrary to international law and the UN Charter. They also underlined the importance of strengthening the UN-centred multilateral system and promoting more effective, inclusive, transparent and democratic global governance, in full respect of international law. They further agreed on the need to promote fairer, more inclusive and more effective international financial institutions, capable of mobilising adequate resources for development in its various dimensions and ensuring greater representation of developing countries.

Regarding the armed conflict ongoing since 2022 between Ukraine and Russia, the leaders expressed their support for all efforts aimed at achieving a lasting ceasefire and fostering political dialogue with a view to a just, comprehensive and sustainable peace, as well as promoting de-escalation and direct dialogue, in accordance with international law.

In the Palestinian territory, all parties were called upon to fully engage in the implementation of all phases of the comprehensive plan to end the conflict in Gaza, refraining from any actions likely to undermine the agreement. They reaffirmed their firm commitment to a just, lasting and comprehensive peace, in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, based on the two-state solution. They also stressed the need to ensure immediate, unrestricted and large-scale humanitarian access, guaranteeing the continuous distribution of aid throughout the Gaza Strip.

Full support for Haiti was also reiterated, along with support for the country's efforts to achieve political, economic and social stability, with the backing of the international community. The commitment to combat the trafficking of weapons and ammunition destined for the country was reaffirmed, in order to preserve stability, while respecting the principles of sovereignty, peoples' self-determination and solidarity.

The leaders also recognised the strategic importance of concluding agreements that strengthen economic and trade ties, promoting economic security and shared prosperity, and committed to continuing to adopt measures that expand and deepen the network of trade agreements between the two regions. They further underlined the relevance of cooperating to reduce trade tensions, facilitate international trade, improve market access and ensure food security, noting that over the past ten years, trade in goods between the EU and CELAC has increased by more than 52%, while trade in services has nearly doubled, supporting more than one million jobs in the Union.

References were also made to several other topics, including the Global Gateway and the progress achieved in this area; climate, the environment and the energy transition, welcoming the agreements reached at COP30; digital transformation and the intention to respect, protect and promote all human rights also in the digital space; and the holding of both the Civil Society Forum (7 and 8 November), which promoted inclusive and participatory diplomacy and encouraged cooperation with youth, women's and Indigenous peoples' organisations, strengthening dialogue between civil societies, and the Business Forum (9 and 10 of this month), which focused on green investment, digital connectivity, sustainable transport and market integration, laying the foundations for new public-private partnerships and deeper economic ties between the two regions.

# The COP30 Summit

By Maria Neves

The 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30) took place from November 10 to 21, 2025, in Belém, Brazil. Held in the heart of the Amazon, this summit brought together 193 countries (with registered delegations) to discuss responses to the climate crisis.

## What is a COP?

The COP (Conference of the Parties) is the supreme decision-making body of multilateral international treaties. In other words, it is the forum that brings together all countries that have ratified a given international convention.

In the case of climate change, it operates under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 1992). Each member country has one vote at these annual conferences, which move forward through complex negotiation processes.



*Group photo of State representatives in COP30 (Source: Council of the European Union)*

## COP30 – Context

COP30, dubbed the “COP of Implementation,” was the first United Nations climate conference to be held in the Amazon region. This geographical choice carries strong symbolic and political value, reinforcing the link between climate, biodiversity, and sustainable development.

Another particularity of this summit was that it coincided with the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement, making it a conference focused on reviewing the progress towards the climate goals set in 2015. Since the signing of the Paris Agreement, several scientific reports have shown that current national efforts are not sufficient to prevent the average global temperature from rising above 1.5°C, a threshold beyond which climate impacts could become irreversible.

Firstly, the need to limit global warming to 1.5°C was emphasized, a goal that, although one of the main legacies of the Paris Agreement, remains far from guaranteed. To that end, countries were pressed to set more ambitious targets in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure a renewable energy transition. In parallel, numerous debates were held on the progressive phase-out of fossil fuels.

Secondly, metrics and mechanisms were established to strengthen climate adaptation and resilience. One of the main mechanisms was the increase in climate financing for countries most vulnerable to irreversible climate impacts, with a projected mobilization of 1.3 billion USD by 2035. Additionally, 59 indicators were defined to measure progress in climate adaptation across seven key sectors, such as water management, agriculture, and energy.

Thirdly, discussions addressed the operationalization rules of the carbon market mechanisms under Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement. This article sets out one of the key instruments for international cooperation on climate mitigation, allowing countries, companies, or private entities to trade carbon credits derived from projects that reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions. The aim is to ensure the development of an international emissions compensation system while integrating local social and environmental benefits into eligible projects.



António Guterres, UN Secretary-General, at COP30  
(Source: United Nations)

Fourthly, the “Tropical Forests Forever Fund” was launched, accompanied by discussions on global strategies to address deforestation. This fund aims to preserve tropical forests, which play a crucial role in regulating the Earth’s climate, through sustainable financial mechanisms that compensate countries and communities for maintaining these ecosystems intact.

Finally, an Action Plan for a Just Transition was adopted, designed to ensure that the global decarbonization process proceeds in a fair and inclusive manner by protecting workers and vulnerable communities. While the energy transition is indispensable, it also entails profound structural changes with significant social and economic impacts that must be mitigated.

## **Voluntary Initiatives**

In the absence of formal consensus among the Parties, two voluntary initiatives emerged from this conference aimed at accelerating global climate action.

The first, the “Belém Mission 1.5 °C,” brought together countries committed to going beyond their formal obligations set in their national climate targets.

The second, the “Global Implementation Accelerator,” recognizes that today’s climate challenge stems not only from a lack of commitment but also from shortcomings in policy implementation. This initiative seeks to create platforms for technical cooperation and financial mobilization to support countries in executing their climate plans.

Finally, Colombia and the Netherlands announced that they would host an international conference in 2026 focused on advancing a just transition away from fossil fuels.



*Climate activists protest in front of COP 30 during the People's Summit's March (Source: Loss and Damage Collaboration)*

## **Conclusions**

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres stated that “COP30 delivered progress,” but warned that “the gap between where we are and where science demands we be remains dangerously wide.” The summit demonstrated continued multilateral cooperation and sustained commitment from States in the fight against climate change; however, the progress achieved fell short of what is required given the urgency and scale of the global climate crisis.

# G20 Summit

By João Confraria

The G20 meeting took place on 22 November in South Africa and was marked by disagreements and strong opposition from the United States, both to South Africa's presidency and to the themes that were addressed.



*Group photo of State representatives attending G20 (Source: Reuters)*

Both COP30, which took place this year in Brazil, and the G20 meeting have been marked by an interesting phenomenon based on attempts by regional powers, such as Brazil and South Africa, to set the international agenda. The themes that have been raised, particularly by Brazil, focus on the climate transition and, above all, the debt of developing countries. At COP30, Lula, for example, stated that the unpayable debts of developing countries are unfair and need to be reconsidered. Lula proposed a mechanism to swap debt in exchange for financing the climate transition. In addition, the channeling of part of the profits of the oil industry towards the climate transition was discussed. Thus, in the final declaration of the annual G20 meeting, the climate transition, external debt, renewable energy and the occupation of Palestinian territory played a prominent role.

However, what stood out most from the meeting was the American boycott. Trump justified the absence of U.S. representatives by stating his disagreement with the meeting's agenda, further claiming that the G20 was being instrumentalized by the President of South Africa. Beyond this disregard for the issues discussed at the meeting, the absence was also due to tensions between the United States and South Africa, as Trump has accused the South African government of persecuting white farmers and committing genocide against a white minority. Although these accusations have been discredited by various *fact-checking* sources, there appears to be a strategy on Trump's part to antagonize and disrupt countries with governments that do not align with the United States and that lie on the opposite ideological spectrum to Trump. This also occurred, in the case of Brazil, where severe tariffs were

re imposed (later withdrawn due to inflation) and attempts were made to intervene in Jair Bolsonaro's political process. It is within this context that the United States did not sign the final declaration of the G20 meeting.

In addition to the United States, Argentina also chose not to sign the declaration, despite having participated in the negotiations. This decision was due to the reference in the final document to the occupied territory in the Gaza Strip, which the government of Milei believes does not capture the complex reality of the conflict and therefore disagrees with the terminology used to describe what is still occurring in Gaza.

Beyond these tensions, seemingly driven by the emergence of a new far-right alliance in the international system, Ursula von der Leyen, although she signed the document, warned against the transformation of economic dependencies into weapons. She referred to the growing dependence of African countries and the BRICS on the Chinese economy and investment, as well as China's access to rare earths on the African continent. Von der Leyen also implicitly suggested that China itself, through the reduction of exports of rare earth resources, was turning Europe's dependence on these materials into a bargaining tool. The Chinese representative, in turn, pointed out that divergent national interests are today a major barrier to G20 unity and that it is necessary to overcome these differences.

In this context, the meeting reveals not only the attempt by developing countries to shape the agenda by bringing many of their problems to the discussion, but above all the fragmentation and increasingly hostile climate prevailing in the international system. The G20 meeting thus becomes yet another example of the growing degradation of multilateralism and of how Trump's election has intensified an ongoing return to realism. This meeting therefore highlighted the deep divergences in countries' agendas and priorities, as well as a growing rift linked to the demand for historical justice by the so-called Third World countries.

# Coup d'état in Guinea-Bissau

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By Jorge Paixão

On November 26, in the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, just two days after the general elections called on February 23, 2025, for both the position of the Presidency and the 102 members of the National Popular Assembly, unexpectedly, President Umara Sissoco Embaló, declared to a French news agency, Jeune Afrique, that he had been arrested together with the Minister of the Interior and two other officials, as a result of a successful coup d'état attempt led by Brigadier General Dinis N'Tchama Incanha, spokesman for the Military High Command for the Restoration of National Security and Public Order, (ACMRSNOP). On the same day, General Dinis Incanha, together with other military personnel, declared, through Guinea-Bissau Television (TGB), that there would be a need to protect Bissau-Guinean democracy from an alleged sabotage plan between recognized figures in national politics and drug traffickers, with the purpose of manipulating the electoral results, while admitting to having ordered the arrest of President Embaló, also directly appealing to citizens for their cooperation in the transition process, declaring a temporary closure of the country's borders, the media, and state services.

## **Context of the Coup**

This military coup took place less than a month after the last military attempt to seize power by force, in both cases with the justification of preserving the democratic process. It is important to note that since its independence in 1974, the Republic of Guinea-Bissau has undergone 17 coup attempts, a trend that has been increasing since 2020, with about 10 coup attempts in the last five years. Which demonstrates a recurring pattern of cycles between civilian governance, punctually interrupted by periods of military rule. These coups, to date, have always led to an eventual return of civilian governance, with their main purpose being the removal of presidents, as in 2012, with the arrest of Carlos Domingos Gomes Júnior and Raimundo Pereira, without the consolidation of power by the military on a prolonged basis.

Guinea-Bissau's status as one of the poorest nations in the world, with a substantial dependence on the export of agricultural products, together with a strong presence of drug trafficking in the country, due not only to its geographical position as a bridge between South America and Europe, but also to the role of the state, which on the one hand does not have the necessary infrastructure and resources to protect its land and sea borders, and, on the other hand, the growing influence of drug trafficking itself in politics, and many of the campaigns in the November election involved financing from drug traffickers, in addition to cases such as that of General Bubo Na Tchuto and the son of President Malam Bacai Sanha.

## International Impact

The international community, including the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States, the United Nations and the European Union, condemned the coup, demanded the release of President Embaló and an immediate return to the electoral process, with the release of the official results as soon as possible. Nigeria has secured the protection of opposition candidate Fernando Dias da Costa after several members of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC), including the party's president, Domingos Simões Pereira, were arrested by the military. The Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) has suspended the mandate of the rotating presidency of the organization, which was under the control of Guinea-Bissau, admitting to only return the mandate when civilian governance and the constitution are reapplied.



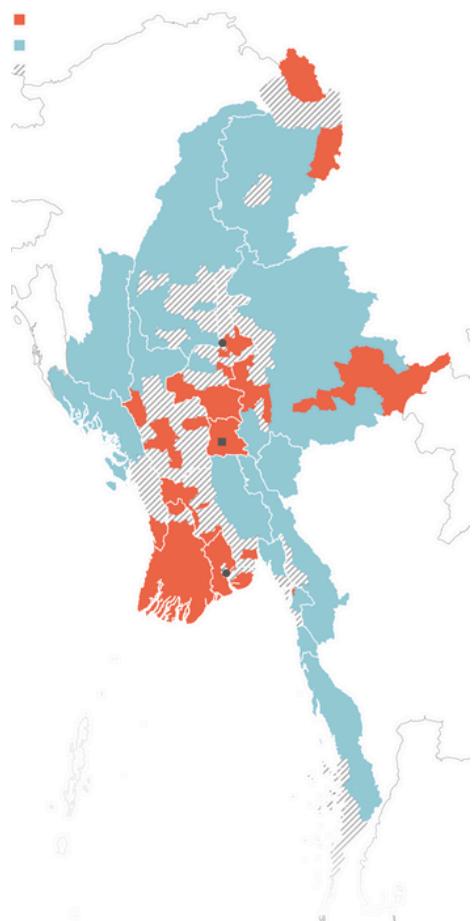
*Military personnel defending the Presidential Palace speak to the country, on November 26, 2025 (AFP via Getty Images)*

# Conflict Clarified: Myanmar Civil War

By Dario Vargas

## What conflict is this?

Since 2021, Myanmar, a country in Southeast Asia, has been embroiled in an internal conflict between the Tatmadaw, the country's armed forces, which have led a military government since 2021, the National Unity Government (NUG), an alternative government made up of supporters of the country's former democratic government, and a number of regional militias, some of which have been in conflict with the central government since the country gained independence in 1948.



*Map of Myanmar in 2024, with territories under Tatmadaw control (red), territories under rebel control (green) and contested territory (stripes) highlighted (Source: New York Times)*

## How did it begin?

Since its declaration of independence in 1948, Myanmar (then called Burma) has been the scene of a series of insurrections and armed conflicts. In the immediate post-independence period, the country suffered from a number of communist guerrilla rebellions as well as a secessionist insurgency among the Karen people, a minority located in the southeast of the country (a conflict that continues to this day). Faced with an environment of internal instability, weak economic performance, and dissatisfaction with the direction of the country's governance, the armed forces (known as the Tatmadaw), to which the government had granted broad powers to stabilize the country, carried out a coup d'état in 1962, two years after organizing elections at the request of the civilian authorities.

Reorganizing Burma into a socialist-inspired military regime, the government presided over a period of international isolation, with international organizations being banned from operating on national soil and sanctions being imposed on the

country, as well as the emergence of new ethnic-based rebellions due to the government's refusal to implement a federal system and to restore democracy in the country.

In the face of economic stagnation and internal instability, a new constitution was promulgated in 1974, initiating a period of political and economic liberalization which, however, was not sufficiently comprehensive to contain the growing internal dissatisfaction with state repression and the lack of development in the country. As a result, the 1980s were marked by protests in favor of the implementation of democracy, culminating in the 8888 Uprising, a wave of social unrest organized by university students. Faced with this threat to the regime's survival, the Tatmadaw carried out another coup d'état, replacing the government with a new military regime that imposed martial law across the country and changed its name to Myanmar.

Subsequently, this regime organized elections in 1990, in which the opposition, led by the National League for Democracy (NLD), won an absolute majority. This result, however, was not recognized by the Tatmadaw, which sought to entrench its influence over the country through a series of reforms initiated in 2008 that, while restoring democracy, ensured that the armed forces would retain some control over governance. It was only in 2015 that the country saw truly competitive elections, with the NLD once again obtaining an absolute majority in parliament and negotiating a power-sharing agreement with the Tatmadaw, under which the military would retain control over security policy and certain ministries in exchange for accepting a government led by the party.

Despite these agreements, the NLD's victory in the 2020 elections revealed the existing tensions between the Tatmadaw and civil society, with the armed forces declaring the elections fraudulent and marked by irregularities, and carrying out a coup d'état in 2021 that overthrew the government and once again imposed a military government on the country. In response, a series of protests against the coup emerged, which were heavily repressed by forces aligned with the new government. During this period, the National Unity Government (NUG) was formed, led by members of the former democratic regime and its supporters, and backed by an armed group known as the People's Defense Force. Thus, a civil war began in the country.

In this conflict, ethnically based rebel groups, many of which had begun rebelling against central authority decades before the outbreak of the civil war, confronting both military and civilian regimes, have proven to be key actors in military operations. Both the Tatmadaw and the NUG have sought to obtain the support of these groups. However, given that successive military regimes have used the existence of these groups as justification for their rule, maintaining an antagonistic stance toward them in the name of Myanmar's national security, there is a greater

propensity for these groups to align with the NUG, or simply to maintain an independent position in relation to the confrontation between the two forces. This latter stance is favored by many of these groups, as they fight primarily within the states in which they are based. Attempts to reach a ceasefire between Myanmar's central government and these rebel groups have stalled since the 2021 coup.

From 2021 to 2024, the conflict showed a trend favorable to the NUG and its allies, who achieved consistent victories against the Tatmadaw. By 2024, the military controlled only 21% of the territory compared to 42% controlled by rebel forces (although this control was largely due to operations by ethnic militias and did not represent effective territorial control by the NUG). However, in 2025 the Tatmadaw regained some territorial control, advancing against its adversaries. At the same time, the military regime announced the holding of elections in December 2025, having postponed the process for two years, despite the absence of opposition participation.

### **How is it relevant to Portugal?**

Portugal does not maintain a permanent diplomatic representation in Myanmar, and therefore diplomatic relations are conducted through its embassy in Bangkok.

Portugal's position regarding the conflict in Myanmar reflects its regional nature, which attracts significant attention from regional actors such as India and China, but to which the European response has been more restrained. Portugal does not maintain an independent position on the conflict, instead aligning itself with European sanctions against individuals and organizations linked to the Tatmadaw, as well as with the condemnation of the 2021 military coup and the defense of a return to civilian government.

Portugal also maintains a direct cultural link with the Baingyi people, an ethnic group of Portuguese descent that has been subject to repression and discrimination by the Tatmadaw, which attacked a number of villages belonging to this community. In response, the International Association of Luso-Descendants (AILD), an organization that seeks to support Luso-descendant communities and promote stronger ties among Lusophone communities, has sought to provide humanitarian aid to this group.

At the economic level, the conflict does not present a significant direct impact on the Portuguese economy due to the limited trade ties between the two countries. However, because of the significant presence of heavy rare minerals originating from the Asian country in the global market, the conflict has indirect impacts on production costs across various European industries and, consequently, on Portuguese industries that depend on these materials.

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