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## **EUPP: Minister of Defence discusses priorities with Vice-President of the European Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR/VP)**

**Peace and security in Africa, Maritime Security in the Atlantic, EU-NATO Relations, Resilience and the European Defence Economy are the EUPP's top priorities for the Common Security and Defence Policy.**

EU support for Mozambique, military CSDP missions in Africa and maritime security were at the top of discussions today between The Minister of National Defence, João Gomes Cravinho, and the Vice-President of the European Commission and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR/VP), Josep Borrell Fontelles, during the European Commission's visit to Portugal.

In a first meeting, under the theme "Global Europe: Promoting a Europe open to the world", which was attended by the Minister of State and Foreign Affairs, Augusto Santos Silva, they discussed some of the priorities of the Portuguese Presidency, both in the framework of the Foreign Policy and also of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), namely maritime security and European Union (EU)/Africa relations, with emphasis on Mozambique.

It is recalled that last December, João Gomes Cravinho also announced Portugal's support for Mozambique, with the formalization of a new training mission of Mozambican military personnel.

In another bilateral meeting with the High Representative, the Minister of National Defence also had the opportunity to address other important defence issues for the Portuguese Presidency of the EU.

In addition to the CSDP military missions in Africa, where Portugal maintains a regular presence of Deployed National Forces, they discussed transatlantic relations, notably with the United States of America, and the rapprochement and deepening of the EU/NATO relationship.

Peace and security in Africa, Maritime Security in the Atlantic, EU-NATO relations, Resilience and the European Defence Economy are the top priorities of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the Common Security and Defence Policy.

Portugal assumes from 1 January until 30 June, for the fourth time in its history, the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, under the motto: "Time to act: for a fair, green and digital recovery".