



DEPUTADA AO PARLAMENTO EUROPEU

Mr. Jaap De Hoop Scheffer
NATO Secretary General
NATO Headquarters
Blvd Leopold III
1110 Brussels
Belgium

Brussels, 27 November 2007

Dear Secretary General,

I am writing to you on a matter that concerns Portugal's standing and credibility as a member of NATO.

As one of the founding members of the Alliance, Portugal has developed its national defence around NATO doctrines, standards and procedures. This has been essential not just to the modernization of the Portuguese armed forces, but above all to allow the country to act effectively as a trustworthy member of the Alliance.

One of the important components of Alliance procedures is the proper classification of national documents according to their degree of sensitivity and their safe storage in Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministries.

Recently, the main Portuguese weekly newspaper *Expresso* published an article according to which the country's Defence Minister from April 2002 to March 2005 - Mr. Paulo Sacadura Cabral Portas - had photocopied around 62.000 pages of documents from the Defence Ministry on the eve of his departure from the Ministry. The documents in question were classified as "confidential", "Iraq", "submarines", "UN" and "NATO".

Far from denying these reports, Mr Portas has confirmed them and has alleged that the documents in question were "personal notes". He did not elaborate on why he didn't simply take his "personal notes" with him, instead of copying them and leaving the original documents in the Ministry.

I believe that this behaviour on the part of Mr Portas represents a breach of NATO and EU security rules and deserves further investigation.



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However, the Portuguese Public Attorney's office has stated that it does not see any reason to start an investigation. No government representative has promoted any kind of investigation or disciplinary action.

In this context, I have the following questions:

1. Can you let me know whether this behaviour by Mr Portas - in case it involves NATO classified documentation - breaks NATO rules and procedures on document confidentiality?
2. Is NATO following this case? Has it gathered any more relevant information on the nature of the documents that were copied?
3. Is there anything that can be done by NATO (a disciplinary procedure, a warning to Portugal etc) to make sure this kind of behaviour does not take place again, and that no other officials - members of government and/or civil servants - follow Mr Portas' example?

I would be most grateful if you could provide me with your views on this issue as soon as possible.

Best regards
Ana Gomes

Ana Gomes, MEP

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