## ASSOCIAÇÃO NACIONAL DE SARGENTOS

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## National Report ANS - Portugal

- 1. Last January, the Board of ANS was reelected (with minor arrangements in order to improve the capacity of work) for another two years period.
- 2. At the present moment we are organizing different meetings with the Sergeants from the different Armed Forces branches in order to maintain our members informed.
- 3. Portugal has a new Government since 6<sup>th</sup> of April 2002 out of the general elections held last 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2002, in consequence of the resignation of the socialist government, after the results of the local elections held in 16<sup>th</sup> of December 2001. The new government results from a center-right wing coalition, in order to obtain the majority in parliament. Therefore we have a new Minister of Defense, Mr. Paulo Portas. He is the President of Partido Popular (the most right wing political party in parliament). The Prime Minister is Mr. Durão Barroso, President of the Social Democratic Party. We already asked for an audience with the new MoD.
- 4. Although we have a new law (since last summer) that recognizes the right of association for military citizens, we are still waiting for legislation to be published in order to regulate the rights of the board members of the military associations.
- 5. Several meetings with the different military associations have been held and some more are being prepared.
- 6. Meanwhile some more protocols were signed or are in preparation, with a Mobile phones company, a bank institution, a car parts shop.
- 7. Last, but not the least, since January the ANS office belongs to the Portuguese Sergeants. It was bought, via a bank loan.

António Lima Coelho President of the Board