

Portuguese government puts the Armed Forces in a state of readiness to help fighting Covid-19



The MoD determined the readiness, activation and collaboration of the Armed Forces within the scope of the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 strain, in an order that was published today, November 3rd. The document, signed by the MoD and dated October 28, has taken effect since then.

According to the order, the branches of the Armed Forces will contribute with the human and material resources that prove necessary to support the competent entities, in the context of this public health emergency, with the ChoD tasked with gathering and activating the means, being in their dependence, in coordination with the Civil Protection, security services and forces, and other entities.

Also, in the first line of combat to the pandemic will be the director of Military Health, for the employment of human and material resources related to the Armed Forces Hospital, other health units of the Armed Forces and the Military Laboratory of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Products.

The document states that this determination is in force as long as the current situations of alert, contingency or calamity that justify the readiness, activation and collaboration of the Armed Forces in the scope of this public health emergency are maintained.

The state of emergency was in force in Portugal at the beginning of this epidemic, between March 19 and May 2, in the first wave of the pandemic.

According to the Portuguese Republic Constitution, the declaration of a state of emergency can determine the suspension of some of the rights, freedoms and guarantees, for a maximum period of 15 days, without prejudice to any renewals with the same time limit.

Its declaration in all or in part of the national territory is a competence of the President of the Republic, but depends on the hearing of the Government and authorization of the Parliament.