

The New Thinking of Police Diplomacy in the Context of International Coopetition

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Abstract. *This article analyses the innovative role of diplomatic police officers in international police and judicial cooperation, with a focus on Portuguese New Thinking in international relations. An active member of the United Nations and the European Union, Portugal has a foreign policy that promotes sustainable development, Fundamental Rights, and Human Security. With greater emphasis since the 1990s, the Public Security Police (PSP) and the National Republican Guard (GNR) have contributed to the internationalisation of security for peace, excelling in cooperation with international organisations and allied countries. The study analyses the formal mechanisms of international cooperation, especially the global network of Liaison Officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs (OLMAI), integrated into the national diplomatic system. These internationally accredited police officers work in strategic security circles, performing functions of representation, information, negotiation, promotion, protection, and extension of public service. The research highlights the importance of diplomatic police officers in the production of transnational security, emphasising the need for a comprehensive, integrated and innovative approach to tackling complex global challenges.*

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Introduction

‘Our world is in grave danger. We face a set of threats that put all of humanity at risk. Our leaders are not responding with the wisdom and urgency needed. The impact of these threats is already being felt: a rapidly changing climate, a pandemic that has killed millions of people and cost trillions, wars in which the use of nuclear weapons has been openly evoked. (...) We are on a precipice’¹

The contemporary international panorama shows signs of animadversion that shake the balance of power and erode the *status quo* agreed by the world powers

¹ M. Robinson, B. Ki-moon, G. Machel, E. Tsakhia, E.J. Sirleaf, E. Zedillo, R. Lagos (s.d.). *The Elders Open letter calling on world leaders to show long-view leadership on existential threats*, ‘Future of Life Institute’, <https://futureoflife.org/open-letter/long-view-leadership-on-existential-threats/> [accessed: 19/02/2024].

that won the Second World War (1939–1945)². The geopolitical tensions underlying the unprecedented climate crisis and the conflict in the far reaches of Europe — namely in Ukraine and Palestine — when combined with the eruption of hostilities, dissension and extremism, galvanised in various regions, contribute to the instability of the global order. The Russian ‘special military operation’ on Ukrainian territory has triggered a deep security crisis that tends to challenge the international arrangement that was scrutinized in the wake of the Peace of Westphalia, being the most serious blow to multilateralism and universalism.³ The arms race and the modernization of the nuclear arsenals of the United States (U.S.), Russia, Iran, North Korea and China, driven by the emerging technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, apart from the agreements granted internationally, reflect the imminent conflict, deliberate or by mistake.⁴ In 2024, Moscow’s irredentism emerged with greater spirit. The total seizure of Avdiivka and the death of Alexei Navalny in a prison colony in the Arctic, one month before the Russian elections, confirmed that it was ‘(...) the year of Putin’s revenge.’⁵ Recently, representatives of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United Kingdom’s armed forces, the German and Danish Defence Ministries, and Estonia’s intelligence services voiced the fear of an all-out war with Russia in the next twenty years.⁶

All over the world, millions of people go to the polls in several major economies, v.g., Belgium, El Salvador, Finland, India, Indonesia, Lithuania, Mexico, Panama, Portugal, Russia, Ukraine, Slovakia, South Africa, Uruguay, and Venezuela, among others. Democracies face a toxic hyperpolarization and an ideological weakening of politics that confront inducible ways of understanding the world. Social engineering, supported by the control of thought and the repression of dissent, favours totalitarian unanimity and the appeal of populism, as foretold by the dystopias

² H.A. Kissinger, *Diplomacia* (2.^a ed.), J.C. Ribeiro, Ed. Gradiva — Publicações, L.da., 2002, <http://ijevanlib.ysu.am/wpcontent/uploads/2020/05/1f6300e67784b164a9857efd25ed325b.pdf> [accessed: 9/12/2023].

³ S. Sénica, *Uma Diplomacia para o Século XXI. O legado do Professor Luís Moita*, [in:] *Em torno do Pensamento de Luís Moita: Humanismo e Relações Internacionais*, 2023, pp. 447–453.

⁴ K.M. Schwab, *A Quarta Revolução Industrial*. Levoir, 2018.

⁵ D. Sanger, *The Munich Dispatches: The Year of Putin’s Revenge*, ‘The Cipher Brief’, February 28/2024, https://www.thecipherbrief.com/column_article/the-munich-dispatches-the-year-of-putins-revenge [accessed: 28/02/2024].

⁶ *Otan anuncia maior exercício militar desde a Guerra Fria e cogita guerra com Rússia em 20 anos*, ‘Brasil de Fato’, January 19/2024, <https://www.brasildefato.com.br/2024/01/19/otan-anuncia-maior-exercicio-militar-desde-a-guerra-fria-e-cogita-guerra-com-russia-em-20-anos> [accessed: 19/02/2024]; I. Paula, *Quão perto a Europa está de uma guerra total contra a Rússia*, ‘Gazeta do Povo’ January 24/2024, <https://www.gazetadopovo.com.br/mundo/quao-perto-a-europa-esta-de-uma-guerra-total-contra-a-russia/> [accessed: 19/02/2024]; *Alemanha antecipa guerra entre Rússia e NATO no verão de 2025*, ‘Notícias ao Minuto’ January 15/2024, <https://www.noticiasao minuto.com/mundo/2481095/alemanha-antecipa-guerra-entre-russia-e-nato-no-verao-de-2025> [accessed: 19/02/2024]; Naughtie A., *Chefe do exército britânico avisa cidadãos para se prepararem para guerra maciça com a Rússia*, ‘Euronews’ January 25/2024, <https://pt.euronews.com/2024/01/25/chefe-do-exercito-britanico-avisa-cidadaos-para-se-prepararem-para-guerra-macica-com-a-rus> [accessed: 19/02/2024]; LUSA, *Dinamarca alerta para possíveis ataques da Rússia contra países da NATO*, ‘Observador’ February 9/2024, <https://observador.pt/2024/02/09/dinamarca-alerta-para-possiveis-ataques-da-russia-contra-paises-da-nato/> [accessed: 19/02/2024].

of Evgeny Zamiatine (1920), Aldous Huxley (1930), George Orwell (1948) and Ray Bradbury (1953). Transformed by polarizing narratives, media disinformation, and the corruption of the information ecosystem, modern societies are witnessing the erosion of trust in institutions and uncertainty about the future of democracies.⁷

At the same time, social unrest in the form of violent protests, hate crimes, intolerance and terrorism is proliferating. Thousands of Ukrainian and Palestinian refugees have been forced to be forcibly displaced, leaving everything behind in the search for survival in countries adjacent to their homeland, making the protection of human rights vulnerable.⁸

Transmuted by almost unsustainable criticalities and tensions, international security needs, more than before, urgent and concerted intervention on a global scale, as if this was the decisive moment for the survival of civilization, the democratic system and the entire modern geopolitical construction.⁹ European security seems less and less secure. Russian aggression and U.S. hesitation reveal how ill-prepared Europe is to curb these threats.¹⁰ More than before, the *momentum* is defined by a feeling of global insecurity (World Economic Forum, 2024).

Structured in five parts, this essay followed a planned and verifiable critical-reflective path. Bibliographic research and literature review played a key role in the construction of knowledge. Framing the study in the general context allowed us to reference omissions and flaws, to take advantage of the different theories and perspectives previously employed and, in this way, to calculate the results of previous research.¹¹ 'The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the most honourable people of past ages, who were their authors, in fact, even like a conversation as a whole in which they reveal to us only the best of their thoughts.'¹²

⁷ D. Zovatto, *O Superciclo Eleitoral Latino-Americano 2021–2024*, 'Diálogo Político' 2022, https://dialogopolitico.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Eleicoes_Artigo_1.pdf; LUSA. *De Portugal à Rússia, sabe quantos países têm eleições em 2024?* 'Expresso' 2/12/2023, <https://expresso.pt/internacional/europa/2023-12-02-De-Portugal-a-Russia-sabe-quantos-paises-tem-eleicoes-em-2024--a2ae7d2d> [accessed: 1/02/2024]; K. Buchholz, *The World's Biggest Democracies*, 'Statista' 14/02/2024, https://www.statista.com/chart/31744/biggest-democracies/?utm_source=Statista+Newsletters&utm_campaign=6fde220256-COM_DailyData_Mo_KW07_2024_KB_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-613a3b0bd6-%5BLIST_EM_AIL_ID%5D [accessed: 1/02/2024].

⁸ *People on the Move in a Changing Climate — Linking Policy, Evidence and Action*, Geneva: International Organization for Migration (IOM), 2022, <https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/PUB2022-094-L%20COP27%20Policy%20paper%20Oct22%20Final.pdf> [accessed: 1/02/2024].

⁹ F. Richter, *The Largest Risks Faced by the World*, 'Statista' January 11/2024, <https://www.statista.com/chart/29197/the-most-severe-global-risks-over-the-next-2-and-10-years/> [accessed: 2/02/2024]; J. Mecklin, *A moment of historic danger: It is still 90 seconds to midnight*, 'Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists' 23/01/2024.

¹⁰ Z.M. Beddoes, *Is Europe ready to defend itself?* 'The Economist' 22/02/2024, <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2024/02/22/is-europe-ready-to-defend-itself> [accessed: 23/02/2024].

¹¹ R. Quivy, L.V. Campenhout, *Manual de Investigação em Ciências Sociais*, Lisboa: Gradiva [1995] 1998.

¹² R. Descartes, *Discourse on Method and Meditations on First Philosophy* (4.^a ed.), D.A. Cress, Trans., Cambridge: Hackett Publishing Company, Inc. 1998, p. 6, <https://grattoncourses.files.wordpress.com/2017/12/rene-descartes-discourse-on-method-and-meditations-on-first-philosophy-4th-ed-hackett-pub-co-1998.pdf> [accessed: 18/02/2024].

In addition, the relevant legal framework consultation appeared to be decisive for the methodical, organized and controlled construction of knowledge, as well as to guide research in accordance with scientific standards and pending regulations. The interdisciplinary approach and methodological incorporation, when agreed with the review of literature and legislation of interest to the object of study, seem to grant due methodological rigor and authenticity to the essay, supporting the current of declared results. In this course, we used Patton's 'triangulation' to maximize and develop the analysis of the core of the research, according to various perspectives.¹³ By observing and including the prisms of various intellectuals, the path was blazed to achieve a greater understanding of the theme at hand. In turn, the intersection of the results of connection or digression of meanings tends to restrict possible biases and to increase the credibility of the results.

The Portuguese 'New Thinking' for a pacifist and universalist diplomacy

'The Portuguese diplomatic structure is the support network for a cause that goes beyond it and that is national.'¹⁴

As we have seen, the high degree of uncertainty and danger that qualify the contemporary dynamics of international relations on the world stage demand the renewed presentation of innovative, flexible and proficient players and solutions in the effort to resolve disputes between States and emerging existential threats. International relations and diplomacy are, par excellence, the intricacies through which antagonists fight their positions, visions and intentions, in search of a negotiated and hopefully peaceful compromise. Inspired by the principles of International Law enshrined in the UN Charter¹⁵ and arrogating itself as a promoter of the peaceful settlement of disputes, Portugal has embraced the 'diplomacy of peace' as a new way of thinking international relations, accommodated to stimulating and exploring the modalities of 'cosmopolitan democratic multilateralism'.¹⁶ However, this positioning represented both an opportunity and a responsibility.

With the aim of establishing an international order capable of ensuring peace and justice in relations between nations, Portugal has assumed, in its Fundamental Law, the elimination of imperialism, colonialism and all forms of aggression, domination and exploitation among peoples. Going further, it defends general, synchronic

¹³ M. Patton *apud* H. Machado, *Manual de Sociologia do Crime*, Porto: Edições Afrontamento 2008, p. 39, https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Helena-Machado-2/publication/285403786_Manual_de_sociologia_do_crime/links/5829c0ae08aeff66e480f57d/Manual-de-sociologia-do-crime.pdf [accessed: 23/03/2021].

¹⁴ L. Moita, L.V. Pinto, P. Pereira, F. Amorim, J.F. Marques, N. Brito, H. Morais, *Estudo da Estrutura Diplomática Portuguesa*. L. Moita, L.V. Pinto, P. Pereira (Eds), Lisboa: OBSERVARE — Observatório de Relações Exteriores, Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa 2019, p. 12.

¹⁵ The Charter was granted on June 26, 1945, following the Conference on International Organization, in San Francisco, entering into force on October 24 of that same year (United Nations, 1945)

¹⁶ L. Moita *apud* S. Sénica, 2023, p. 450.

and controlled disarmament, the decomposition of political-military groups and the establishment of a system of collective security. Privileging the ties of friendship and collaboration with the Portuguese-speaking African Countries (PALOP), Brazil and East Timor, Portugal advocates the strengthening of Europeanism and the promotion of its action in favour of democracy, peace, economic progress and justice in relations between peoples. With this in mind, the Portuguese Republic actively cooperates in the construction of an area of freedom, security and justice (AFSJ), shaped by common foreign security and defence policies. Cooperation and complementarity, adjusted to the promotion of respect for the Rights of the Human Person and peoples, are absolute watchwords.¹⁷ In fact, aligned with the hexahedron of Europe and the Atlantic, of Lusophony and diaspora, of internationalisation and multilateralism, Portuguese Foreign Policy is led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)¹⁸, through an interministerial, intersectoral and multidisciplinary ingenuity that shrewdly recruits assets from different sectors of governance in the pursuit of the *Raison d'État*¹⁹ and also the purposes fixed by the Diplomatic Service of the European Union: the European Union External Action Service (EEAS)²⁰. If, on the one hand, the MFA is distinctly versed in political matters, on the other hand, it makes use of specialists, experts and technicians to deal with peripheral dossiers — notably those related to the sphere of security, justice and police — in relation to which it inculcates a more generalist knowledge.²¹ It is concluded that, today, '(...) diplomacy is more than diplomacy.'²²

In this regard, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MAI) mandated its General Secretariat (SGMAI) with the national desideratum of positioning Portugal as a global

¹⁷ A.S. Silva, *Evoluir. Novos contributos para a política europeia e externa de Portugal* (1.^a ed.), Lisboa: Tinta-da-China 2020.

¹⁸ In 1626, Cardinal Armand Jean du Plessis de Richelieu, former Minister of State of Louis XIII of France, founded the first body analogous to the MFA, under the aegis of the prevalence of national interests over others. With the end of the exile resulting from the Thirty Years War (1618–1648) and with the agreements reached with the Treaties of Westphalia, the foundations of the European system of nation-states were laid, endowed with sovereignty over a certain population and the occupation of a certain territory. From this new configuration, conditions emerged for the construction of a diplomatic network, composed of permanent representatives of the States, reciprocally accredited, like the systems coming from the Italian republics of the *Renaissance*.

¹⁹ The contemporary system of external representation of national states, e.g., network of embassies, diplomatic corps and other official configurations abroad, are based on a reasonably conservative structure, whose foundations go back to a European tradition of more than three centuries. L. Moita, *Da diplomacia clássica à nova diplomacia*, 2006, p. 2, <http://hdl.handle.net/11144/1414> [accessed: 12/02/2024]

²⁰ Since 2011, the EEAS carries out the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy to promote peace, prosperity, security, and the interests of Europeans worldwide (Carta, 2013); A.S. Silva, 2020.

²¹ J.C. Magalhães, *Manual diplomático: direito diplomático: prática diplomática* (4.^a ed.), Lisboa: Editorial Bizâncio 2001; R.N. Fernandes, *Le Réseau D'officiers De Liaison Du Portugal: La Mondialisation De La Diplomatie Policière*, 'Lettre d'information sur les Risques et les Crises' (LIREC) 2022, Vol. 67, pp. 26–30, <https://comum.rcaap.pt/handle/10400.26/42705> [accessed: 12/02/2024]; R.N. Fernandes, *A Mundialização da Diplomacia Policial Portuguesa*, 'Janus' January 19/2024, <https://observare.autonoma.pt/anuario/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2024/01/A-MUNDIALIZACAO-DA-DIPLOMACIA-POLICIAL-PORTUGUESA.pdf> [accessed: 12/02/2024].

²² L. Moita, et al., 2019, p. 11.

player, considered and prestigious by the international community, through the outsourcing of specialized resources for Internal Security²³ in the outline of international cooperation. In the light of the universal recognition of the principles of free consent and good faith, the *Pacta Sunt Servanda* rule and the agreed framework of interdependent security, hosted by the Member States of the EU and by much of the Western world, the police forces under the supervision of the MAI operate beyond the borders of the national territory under the framework of cooperation with bodies and services of foreign States or international organisations.²⁴ Legitimized in international agreements and in the *Jus Cogens*, professionals from the Public Security Police (PSP), National Republican Guard (GNR), National Emergency and Civil Protection Authority (ANEPC) and National Road Safety Authority (ANSR), paired in the national diplomatic system²⁵, contribute with the different doctrines and specialties of security, prevention, emergency and civil protection in the strengthening of the EU AFSJ and platforms of increasingly broad dimension, in a humanistic, peaceful, solidary and universalist logic of sustainable development.²⁶

By actively interceding in the arc of international security and common foreign policies (Portuguese, Member States and European), the MFA and the MAI, through bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, have expanded the traditional limits of the State by deploying liaison officers (OLMAI) and immigration officers (OLIMAI), trainers, advisors and other agents of cooperation in international organizations and diplomatic representations in foreign countries.²⁷ And it is thus, as the late professor Luís Moita

²³ In the context of the European Union, Internal Security refers to the protection of people and the values of freedom and democracy, ensuring that everyone can enjoy their daily lives without fear. This concept encompasses a wide range of policies and measures aimed at addressing major threats that impact the safety and well-being of citizens (European Union, 2010). According to the Portuguese Law No. 53/2008, of 29 August, in its current version, Internal Security is defined as the activity of the State reserved for ensuring public order and security, preventing and suppressing crime, respecting democratic legality and its institutions, and protecting people, property, rights, freedoms and guarantees. Although they act mainly within Portugal's jurisdiction, the security forces and services, within the scope of signed agreements, can go beyond the domestic context and collaborate abroad.

²⁴ R. Carrilho, *Oficiais de Ligação do Ministério da Administração Interna na contextura internacional*, The External Dimension of Internal Security — The scope of international police cooperation in the contemporary world order, Lisboa: ISCPSI 2022.

²⁵ The current configuration of the Portuguese diplomatic system has 133 diplomatic and consular posts, of which 76 are embassies, present on the various continents. L. Moita, *et al.*, 2019.

²⁶ A. Cassese, *Gathering Up the Main Thread*. In A. Cassese, *Realizing Utopia: The Future of International Law*. Oxford: Oxford University Press 2012, pp. 645, 672; L. Tomé, *Oficiais de Ligação do Ministério da Administração Interna*, [in:] L. Moita, L.V. Pinto, P. Pereira, F. Amorim, J.F. Marques, N. Brito, H. Morais, *Estudo da Estrutura Diplomática Portuguesa*. L. Moita, L.V. Pinto, P. Pereira (Eds), Lisboa: OBSERVARE — Observatório de Relações Exteriores, Universidade Autónoma de Lisboa, 2019, pp. 77–81; P. Pereira, *A relevância da Cooperação Técnico-Policial na Política Externa Portuguesa*, 'Janus' 2023, p. 4, <https://observare.autonoma.pt/anuario/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2023/12/Politica-Externa-Portuguesa.pdf> [accessed: 12/02/2024].

²⁷ Regardless of the designation or model adopted (*i.e.*, police attaché, security attaché, liaison officer, *etc.*), liaison officers perform a wide variety of roles, functions and legal-police initiatives, as legitimate representatives of the country's Foreign Policy. Seen as intermediaries, intercessors, mediators or even facilitators, police liaison officers are generally recognised

has well elucidated, that '(...) The ambassador, the sovereign's delegate, loses the exclusive right to represent the country abroad. Beside it, a huge variety of agents, new actors, new forms of representation emerge. International relations are no longer circumscribed at the level of State to State to extend to the scale of society to society.'²⁸

In the same way, this change was reflected in the expansion of diplomatic work to new domains, covering foreign relations and global issues, far beyond the typical bilateral political dynamisms. Angularly based on the classic model of ambassadors, that is, career diplomats, as highly qualified servants of the State and in charge of the function of maximum external representation, the new diplomacy involves other internationalized actors, such as economists, legal advisors, police, military, journalists, influencers, scientists, entrepreneurs, stakeholders, etc., in a comprehensive approach to multiple fronts of interest, ordered with common foreign policies. Hastened by geopolitical transformations, technological revolutions and fluctuations in decision-making centres, with consequences that are still unexpected, diplomatic practice has evolved beyond the functions recognised by the Vienna Convention (1961)²⁹ on diplomatic relations and the Vienna Convention (1975)³⁰ on the representation of States in their relations with international organisations, influencing the different models of diplomacy, security and justice in the EU and the flows of the international arena.³¹

The 'diplomatization'³² of the Portuguese police mandate

'Liaison officers abroad are crucial actors in the development and practice of transnational policing. For a few decades, (...) police officers were specially selected for local or national police agencies and sent abroad. This could be for a short visit to one or more countries, or for a period of years working as an accredited 'police

as diplomatic agents by their respective governments. M. den Boer, L. Block, *Liaison Officers: Essential Actors in Transnational Policing*. The Hague: Eleven International Publishing 2013; L. Tomé, 2019; R. Carrilho, 2022.

²⁸ L. Moita, 2006, p. 5; A.S. Silva, 2020.

²⁹ The treaty prioritizes diplomatic relations, privileges, and immunities to foster friendly relations between nations, focusing on the effective function of diplomatic missions.

³⁰ Convention referring to any treaty that is a constituent act of an international organisation and to any treaty adopted within the framework of an international organisation.

³¹ J.C. Magalhães, 2001; L. Moita, et al., 2019; A.S. Silva, 2020.

³² Recently introduced by some authors, the expression 'diplomatization' refers to the act or process of making something diplomatic, that is, of conducting international relations in a peaceful, respectful and negotiated manner. The term derives from the noun 'diplomacy', which comes from French *diplomacie* and Latin *diploma*, reverberating the meaning of official document. In very generic terms, diplomacy can be understood as the practice of establishing and maintaining international relations between governments and nations. D.M. Fonseca, *A globalização e a necessidade de conhecer — As informações militares na democracia portuguesa*. Instituto de Investigação e Formação Avançada, Évora: Universidade de Évora 2014, p. 133, <https://dspace.uevora.pt/rdpc/bitstream/10174/12273/1/Tese%20de%20Doutoramento%20de%20Dinis%20Fonseca.pdf> [accessed: 19/02/2024].

diplomat' in an embassy or a high commission. In its origin, the liaison officer represents an extension of national policing into the transnational domain; But in terms of contemporary practice, this person is a globally mobile police officer. Having emerged in the latter part of the twentieth century, this specialty seems destined to play a very significant role in the future of global policing.³³

From April 25, 1974, to the present day, several moments of transformation have distinguished the evolution of Portuguese diplomacy. The transition to democracy, the end of colonialism, the integration into European communities and the creation of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), translate some of these milestones.³⁴ At the dawn of the 1990s of the last century, the external dimension of Internal Security in Portugal materialized through the participation of the MAI police in international missions of the UN and the EU in support of peace, but also the deployment of liaison officers, first from the PSP and then from the GNR³⁵, and immigration liaison officers from the Foreigners and Borders Service (SEF)³⁶, until the dissolution of this service in October 2023.

Armed with credentials issued by the Portuguese State and temporarily equivalent to career diplomats, OLMAI interact in the national and international diplomatic system on behalf of Portugal, aiming to protect its interests and promote a diplomacy designed for peace. Privileging the establishment of formal and, above all, informal and proximity relationships, these police actors operate in strategic circles of Justice and Home Affairs (JHA), in police networks and in different instances of countries in which Portugal maintains a strategic and cooperative interest.³⁷

To carry out their activity, police liaison officers are formally integrated into the regime on diplomatic relations, established by the Vienna Convention (1961) and other relevant treaties, benefiting from a *jus legatorum*. According to Article 1 of the above-mentioned Convention, the members of the mission consist of the head of mission — a person entrusted by the accrediting State to act in this capacity — and the members of the mission's staff. Consequently, and in addition to ambassadors — appropriately autonomous, coming from the diplomatic career and in charge of functions that are overriding State — we can distinguish among the members of the mission's staff: a) members of diplomatic staff (*i.e.*, those officials who actually have the quality of diplomat, and may belong to the various categories of the diplomatic career or come from staff external to the MFA, as long as they

³³ B. Bowling, R. Reiner, J. Sheptycki, *The Politics of Global Policing*, [in:] B. Bowling, R. Reiner, J. Sheptycki, *The Politics of the Police* (5.^a ed.), Oxford: Oxford University Press 2019, p. 18, https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/sites/files/oxlaw/the_politics_of_global_policing_all_souls_version_003.pdf [accessed: 19/02/2024].

³⁴ L. Moita, *et al.*, 2019.

³⁵ The PSP and the GNR are integral police forces, due to the variety of their functions, which permeate the '(...) defence of public peace and extend to prevention, repression and criminal investigation, including civil protection or missions abroad'. P. Pereira, 2023, p. 23.

³⁶ Autonomous by Decree-Law No. 290-A/2001, of 17 November, the OLIMAI of the extinct SEF focused on analysing migratory flows to and from Portugal and Europe, cooperating with local authorities to prevent illegal immigration and human trafficking. In this way, they differed from the broader mission of the OLMAI of the GNR and the PSP, which were more focused on technical-police cooperation and security issues in general.

³⁷ B. Bowling, R. Reiner, J. Sheptycki, 2019; R.N. Fernandes, 2022 and 2024.

are temporarily assimilated to the quality of diplomat for the exercise of their duties in the mission); b) members of the administrative and technical staff (e.g., chancellors, secretarial officers, clerks, archivists, typists, interpreters, transmission technicians, messengers, etc.); and c) members of the mission's service staff, such as butlers, cooks, servants, private servants, gardeners, etc.³⁸ This means that the diplomatic agent includes both the head of mission and any other member of the mission's staff. In this specific context, the military, commercial, cultural and press attachés, as well OLMAI and OLIMAI (until 2023), among others, are genuine diplomatic agents, by assimilation. All these officials are part of the diplomatic list of each mission, consequently enjoying the same status and diplomatic protection.³⁹

In this condition, diplomatic agents have the following prerogatives: a) personal inviolability⁴⁰ — the essence of the diplomatic function and the system of intermediaries between different political powers⁴¹; b) immunities from criminal⁴², civil and administrative jurisdiction and enforcement, with three agreed exceptions⁴³; c) exemptions from taxation⁴⁴, customs duties⁴⁵, social insurance benefits⁴⁶ and personal benefits⁴⁷; d) freedom of movement⁴⁸; e) the use of the national flag and shields⁴⁹; and, finally, f) the facilities granted to diplomatic agents⁵⁰ and members of their families⁵¹. We conclude with a reference to the inviolability conferred on the places of the mission, that is, the buildings or part of the buildings and annexed

³⁸ J.C. Magalhães, 2001; I.R. Nardoto, M.F. Obregón, *O Papel dos Agentes Diplomáticos no contexto das Relações Internacionais*, 'Derecho y Cambio Social' 2017, Vol. 54, https://www.derechoycambiosocial.com/revista050/O_PAPEL_DOS_AGENTES_DIPLOMATICOS.pdf [accessed: 19/02/2024]; R.N. Fernandes, 2022 and 2024.

³⁹ J.C. Magalhães, 2001.

⁴⁰ Article 38 of the Vienna Convention (1961); and Article 37 of the Vienna Convention (1975).

⁴¹ Article 29 of the Vienna Convention (1961); and Article 28 of the Vienna Convention (1975).

⁴² Articles 31 and 32 of the Vienna Convention (1961); and Article 21 of the Vienna Convention (1975).

⁴³ Article 31 of the Vienna Convention (1961); and Article 30 of the Vienna Convention (1975).

⁴⁴ Article 34 of the Vienna Convention (1961); and Article 33 of the Vienna Convention (1975).

⁴⁵ Article 36 of the Vienna Convention (1961); and Article 35 of the Vienna Convention (1975).

⁴⁶ Article 33 of the Vienna Convention (1961); and Article 32 of the Vienna Convention (1975).

⁴⁷ According to Article 35 of the Vienna Convention (1961); and Article 34 of the Vienna Convention (1975).

⁴⁸ Article 26 of the Vienna Convention (1961); and Article 36 of the Vienna Convention (1975).

⁴⁹ Article 20 of the Vienna Convention (1961); and Article 19 of the Vienna Convention (1975).

⁵⁰ Articles 21 and 44 of the Vienna Convention (1961); and Article 80 of the Vienna Convention (1975).

⁵¹ Articles 37, 39 and 44 of the Vienna Convention (1961); and Articles 36, 38 and 80 of the Vienna Convention (1975).

land, regardless of their owner, used for the purposes of the mission, including the residence of the head of the mission.⁵²

Formally created and still regulated today by Decree-Law No. 139/94, of 23 May⁵³, the OLMAI and OLIMAI were initially mobilized for the Portuguese-speaking diaspora on the African continent, encompassing friendly countries such as Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, among others.⁵⁴ Subsequently, its presence was expanded to other territories, including Brazil, India, Morocco, the United Kingdom, the People's Republic of China and East Timor, as well as to multiple international bilateral and multilateral forums, such as the Permanent Representation of Portugal to the EU (REPER) and, as of 2021, the EU Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (EUROPOL).⁵⁵

Today, OLMAI interconnects a constellation of different and complex contexts, implementing Portuguese and European foreign policy through the technical-police training, education, teaching and police schooling of the leading cadres of the police forces in Portuguese-speaking countries, both in Portugal and in the geographical regions benefiting from the cooperative contribution. This externalisation of Internal Security in the sphere of Foreign Policy aims to enrich the operational, technical and legislative reconfiguration of the Internal Security systems of allied countries, according to their needs and based on the exchange of information in critical areas, such as Justice, Security and Home Affairs, among other collaborative expressions. In essence, this diplomatic-police operation represents an extension of European principles and values to other geographies, contributing to their sustainable development. The dynamism and interoperability resulting from the establishment of networked relationships, linear and non-linear, formal and informal, between different security fractions and structures, in various dimensions and scales (ranging from the intra-state level to global security levels), often result in increased capacity to develop refined, reliable, strategic and innovative information products. These police intelligence products have proven to be essential to enable decision-making at the highest level of governance, in favour of national and regional interests, correlating the contexts of internal, external and international Security.⁵⁶ Recently fortified with reinforced competences, especially in the sphere of foreigners and border control⁵⁷, the OLMAI, as diplomatic police

⁵² J.C. Magalhães, 2001.

⁵³ Amended by Law No. 55-A/2010, of 31 December, and by Decree-Law No. 41/2023, of 2 June.

⁵⁴ As noted by Rui Pereira, former director-general of SIS and former minister of Home Affairs of Portugal, the PSP, in the 1990s, followed the evolution of violent, organized and transnational crime, 'modernizing and specializing, to correspond to the constitutional purpose of defending the democratic rule of law and fundamental rights' (R. Pereira, 2022), within and beyond national borders. As such, this transformation led to the co-optation of new competences and the participation of the PSP in multiple missions in different geographies, contexts and international organisations.

⁵⁵ L. Tomé, 2019; R.N. Fernandes, 2022 and 2024.

⁵⁶ M. den Boer, L. Block, 2013; B. Bowling, R. Reiner, J. Sheptycki, 2019; L. Tomé, 2019; R.N. Fernandes, 2022 and 2024.

⁵⁷ Imposed by Law No. 73/2021, of November 12, the reformulation of the national border control system and the consequent extinction of the SEF, on October 29, 2023, led

agents, act in the interstitial spaces between Foreign Policy and international police cooperation, providing strategic, technical and operational assistance to the services of the Portuguese Republic. This specialised advice includes facilitating the exchange of information, such as collecting data on the security situation and imminent risks, as well as providing technical-police advice based on police intelligence and years of accumulated experience. As a result, the intelligence reports drawn up periodically by OLMAI prove to be valuable management tools. It should also be noted that these reports are contextualised according to the specificities of the place of deployment, including circumstantial information elements (*e.g.*, social, economic, political, environmental, *etc.*) that allow close monitoring and anticipation of security and conjunctural scenarios. Due to their pertinacity for security (internal and external), the reports in question are regularly distributed by OLMAI, in an appropriate and secure manner, to the heads of the diplomatic missions where they are deployed, to the MFA (including the Directorates-General for European Affairs and Foreign Policy), to the SGMAI, to the Single Point of Contact for International Police Cooperation (PUC-CPI), as well as the Security Services and Police Forces integrated in the Internal Security and Intelligence Systems of the Portuguese Republic.⁵⁸ In addition, and whenever relevant for the EU's interdependent security, these intelligence reports are shared with European agencies and services such as EUROPOL and EEAS. This commitment to sharing consistent information is multi-ministerial, inter-institutional and transversal.

Acting in strategic sectors and in the reserved backrooms of power, previously accessible only to career and high-ranking diplomats, OLMAI promotes a multitude of impactful cooperative activities, in the representation of Portugal in EU, UN and other supranational, international and regional structures. Shared access to sophisticated databases and participation in forums dedicated to international security issues favour these operators with a privileged position in the global security archetype.

By bridging gaps and building alliances⁵⁹, OLMAI work as natural and privileged interfaces in the relations between the various diplomatic bodies, centres of governmental decision-making and legislative production, Security Forces and Services, intelligence, prevention, emergency and civil protection, and their counterparts

to the division of its competences among other forces and bodies, including the GNR and the PSP, which saw attributions added in terms of foreigners and border control. At the same time, the figure of the immigration liaison officer moved from the MAI to the Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum (AIMA), under the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, thus losing the police valence.

⁵⁸ It is the responsibility of the Strategic Defence Intelligence Service (SIED) and the Security Intelligence Service (SIS) to produce information aimed at guaranteeing national independence and Internal Security, on an exclusive basis. In a liquid society, under hyperactive change and in which the circulation of ideals, people and products has been globalized by technological and digital advances, the *principiis obsta* logic has gone beyond the scope of those services to cover the sectors of governance, police organizations, political-diplomatic networks and all those actors, public and private, that, directly or indirectly, can contribute to signalling, collection, processing, prospection and coverage of security information relevant to the pursuit of the national interest, at the domestic or external level. R. Pereira, 2005, p. 157.

⁵⁹ Motto of the UN World Day of Social Justice, which translates, in a few words, the missions of OLMAI (United Nations, 2024).

in other countries and organizations. As a corollary of their cooperative action, these police diplomatic officers offer direct advice to the ambassador on all aspects related to security, whenever requested. The package of collaborative activities is mostly agreed around Internal Security assistance, as well as the implementation of technical-police cooperation programs and projects.⁶⁰ The extent of experiences, knowledge, techniques and information shared between police emissaries from different contexts, models and regimes; the combination of national policing with other local, national, sub-regional/regional, international and supranational policing standards and architectures; strengthening cooperative ties, based on relationships of trust, proximity and reciprocity, aimed at promoting interoperability with other multinational agencies, organisations and police services; reverberate the enormous contribution of the OLMAI network to the promotion and realization of national and, at the same time, European interests. Indeed, these seem to be the unique capabilities that distinguish OLMAI as diplomatic dignitaries for law enforcement.⁶¹ Given its pre-eminence for Foreign Policy and diplomacy, the OLMAI is '(...) a kind of ambassador of our country, whose placement aims to create relationships of trust, working to raise Portugal's reputation at an international level.'⁶²

At the same time, with the aim of promoting greater cooperation and coordination of and between all Portuguese police liaison officers, including those of the Judiciary Police, under the aegis of the Ministry of Justice, as well as with foreign liaison officers accredited in Portugal, the aforementioned PUC-CPI was founded in 2017 and, in 2023, the Border and Foreigners Coordination Unit (UCFE), under the supervision of the Secretary-General of the Internal Security System. The goal is to interconnect the different internal security models of the Member States, truly strengthening the European internal security system, which is congruent, interactive and proficient. The external dimension of JHA represents a strategic priority within the framework of the EU's external relations.⁶³

Judicial and police cooperation in the European legal complex

'The 1992 Maastricht Treaty was the 'first formal basis for police cooperation in the EU' but was widely criticised for its 'intricate hierarchical structure of work' (...). However, Maastricht brought coherence to pan-European action and led to the creation of the (...) EUROPOL (...). The influential 1997 Treaty of Amsterdam led to a 'normative leap' in the predisposition among police officers, or at least of police diplomats working in the interstices of the European Union, to unify criteria and actions across Europe'.⁶⁴

⁶⁰ L. Moita, *et al.*, 2019; L. Tomé, 2019; R. Carrilho, 2022; R.N. Fernandes, 2022 and 2024.

⁶¹ O. Stevanović, S. Jacimovski, D. Kekić, *Police Diplomat — Example of the Euro-Atlantic Integrations good practice*, Security and Euroatlantic Perspectives of the Balkans, Skopje 2012; B. Bowling, R. Reiner, J. Sheptycki, 2019; R.N. Fernandes, 2022.

⁶² P. Pereira, 2023, p. 4.

⁶³ S. Lavenex, W. Nicole, *The external governance of EU internal security*, [in:] S. Lavenex, W. Nicole, *The External Dimension of Justice and Home Affairs*, London: Routledge 2013, pp. 81–100.

⁶⁴ M. den Boer & S.B. Morán *apud* B. Bowling, R. Reiner, J. Sheptycki, 2019, p. 12.

Within the framework of EU law, the Lisbon Treaty, signed in 2007, integrated judicial and police cooperation in criminal matters into the EU's institutional remit.⁶⁵ The Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) currently differentiates between judicial cooperation and police cooperation, although they are closely related to the EU AFSJ. Article 12 of the EU Treaty (EUT) calls for the participation of national parliaments in the AFSJ, in the tools for evaluating the implementation of EU policies in that context, in the political scrutiny of EUROPOL and, finally, in the evaluation of the activities of the EU Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (EUROJUST).⁶⁶

According to Article 82(1) TFEU, judicial cooperation in criminal matters is based on the principle of mutual recognition of judgments and judicial decisions, the approximation of the laws and regulations of the Member States in this context, and the establishment of minimum rules concerning the definition of criminal offences and penalties in the fields of cross-border and particularly serious crime (e.g., terrorism, drug and arms trafficking, money laundering, corruption, counterfeiting of means of payment, computer crime, organized crime, trafficking in human beings and sexual exploitation of women and children). In the context of judicial cooperation in criminal procedure, the EU may legislate on the establishment of common minimum rules concerning the mutual admissibility of evidence between Member States, individual rights in criminal proceedings, victims' rights and other specific procedural elements, provided that they are identified early by the Council decision.⁶⁷ Judicial cooperation in the EU is developed within the framework of EUROJUST, which is tasked with supporting and strengthening coordination and cooperation between national investigating authorities and prosecution of serious crime affecting two or more Member States or requiring prosecution on a common basis, in operations conducted and information transmitted by the Member States authorities and EUROPOL (Article 85(1) TFEU). In this regard, the European Judicial Network in criminal matters (EJN-Criminal)⁶⁸, structured in judicial contact points at the Member States, includes the central authorities responsible for international judicial cooperation, judicial authorities and other competent authorities. Its main mission is to stimulate intermediation between national and foreign authorities, especially through the exchange of requests for legal assistance in criminal matters, to streamline and enhance cooperation.

Duly enshrined in Article 87 *et seq.* TFEU, international police cooperation involves all the competent authorities of the Member States, including police services and other law enforcement entities, which specialise in the prevention, reporting and investigation of criminal offences. Also in this forum, the European Parliament and the Council have legislative powers in three crucial areas: a) the definition of measures on the collection, storage, processing, analysis and exchange

⁶⁵ Previously, under the terms of the Maastricht Treaty, judicial and police cooperation were part of the third pillar of the Union.

⁶⁶ Articles 88 and 85 TFEU; M. den Boer, *Police, policy and politics in Brussels: scenarios for the shift from sovereignty to solidarity*, [in:] C. Kaunert, J. Occhipinti, S. Leonard (Eds), *Supranational governance of Europe's area of freedom, security and justice*. London: Routledge 2014.

⁶⁷ S.B. Morán, *La Union Europea y la creacion de un espacio de seguridad y justicia — Vision historico de la lucha contra el terrorismo internacional en Europa*, 'Anuario espanol de derecho internacional' 2010, Vol. 26, pp. 251–284.

⁶⁸ Established by Joint Action No. 98/428/JHA of 29 June 1998 and reinforced by Council Decision No. 2008/976/JHA of 16 December 2008.

of relevant information, b) support for the training, exchange and equipping of personnel and forensic investigation, and c) standardisation of common investigation techniques regarding the identification of serious forms of organised crime.

In keeping with its name, EUROPOL is the central body for coordinating cooperation between law enforcement authorities within the European framework. Its primary purpose is to support and strengthen the action of the competent authorities of the Member States and their cooperation in preventing and combating serious crime affecting two or more Member States, terrorism and other criminal offences that affect a common interest or protected by EU policy. In addition, EUROPOL is responsible for collecting, storing, processing, analysing and exchanging information received⁶⁹, in particular, by the authorities of the Member States or other bodies or third countries. Similarly, it is this agency that ensures the coordination, organisation and execution of investigations and operational actions, carried out jointly with the competent authorities of the Member States or within the framework of joint investigation teams, in contingency with EUROJUST (see: Article 88 TFEU).

Pursuant to Article 7 of Regulation (EU) 2016/794 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 May 2016, Member States must create or appoint national units, in charge of the link between EUROPOL and the respective authorities, legitimizing them to access and disseminate national police data and other information necessary for cooperation. It is the responsibility of the EUROPOL National Unit (ENU) to expedite the information requested by the agency, covering the data listed with forms of crime prioritised by the EU. The ENU ensures the communication and connection of the competent authorities with EUROPOL, disseminating the agency's activities and ensuring compliance with national legislation in this regard⁷⁰, especially about data protection.⁷¹

We conclude the analysis of the European normative archetype of judicial and police cooperation with two final references. The first concerns the Schengen Information System (SIS-Schengen). The creation of the Schengen area and the abolition

⁶⁹ EUROPOL has the Secure Information Exchange Network Application (SIENA), a sophisticated cross-platform that quickly and securely exchanges information between police forces in the Member States. Regarding the exchange of police information, it is also worth mentioning Council Framework Decision 2006/960/JHA of 18 December 2006 (commonly known as the Swedish Framework Decision) and Council Decisions 2008/615/JHA and 2008/616/JHA of 23 June 2008 (Prüm Decisions).

⁷⁰ Article 7(7) of the EUROPOL Regulation provides for the possibility of not transmitting information in some situations, especially when it may jeopardise the success of ongoing investigations or the safety of persons.

⁷¹ Although it is located outside the EU legal system, we caution a reference to the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), an international intergovernmental organisation of which Portugal is a part. Founded in 1956, INTERPOL provides a range of information and services to its Member States, including access to exclusive police databases accessible in real time. Acting within the law and in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the organisation supports national efforts to combat organised crime, cybercrime and terrorism, as well as police investigation, through analysis, expertise and assistance in locating people. INTERPOL has concluded numerous cooperation agreements with other international organisations, including EUROJUST, EUROPOL, the European Central Bank and the EU Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX). The way in which national authorities and the organisation operate, as well as between the States Parties to each other, is like that of EUROPOL, including the establishment of national central offices.

of internal border controls have led to the establishment of common rules on the surveillance of external borders, the issuing of visas and cooperation in criminal matters between police and judicial authorities. The Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement ('The Schengen acquis') of 14 June 1985 enshrined the commitment of the police forces of the Member States to provide mutual assistance in the prevention and investigation of punishable acts (see: Article 39). Requests for assistance are triggered between the central bodies in charge of police cooperation or, in urgent cases, directly to the competent police authorities. The latter contingency led to the conclusion of bilateral arrangements between the Member States and the establishment of permanent structures for the exchange of information and cooperation (e.g. Police and Customs Cooperation Centres at internal borders).⁷² The Article 46 of 'The Schengen acquis' gives law enforcement authorities the power to communicate, without prior request, important information to their counterparts for the prevention of crime or threats to public order and security. Also, Article 47 of the 'The Schengen acquis' provides that Member States may deploy liaison officers for a fixed or indefinite period to collaborate, obtain and exchange inside information. The role of liaison officers is to promote and facilitate police cooperation through the provision of assistance, the exchange of information, the execution of requests for assistance and cooperation on external border surveillance.

The second reference relates to the revision of the European model for the exchange of information, within the framework of the EU and the Schengen area, and the proposal to implement the PUC-CPI in all Member States.⁷³ Its purpose was to rationalise and contribute to a proficient management of information exchange channels and national databases, standardising and concentrating all the instruments, channels and tools used by all law enforcement authorities, in a kind of 'one-stop-shop' for international police cooperation, bringing together the SIRENE office, ENU office and INTERPOL national central offices, as well as all the contact points of other strategic channels for cooperation.

Conclusions

'We, the peoples of the United Nations, determined (...) To practice tolerance and to live in peace with each other as good neighbours;

To join forces to maintain international peace and security;

To ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force will not be used except in the common interest;

To employ international mechanisms to promote the economic and social progress of all peoples (...)' (United Nations, 1945, p. 5).

⁷² The Contracting Parties shall define the terms of cross-border cooperation to be established, including the tasks, legal framework and operating rules of the centres. The information exchanged may only be used by the requesting Member States for the purpose of obtaining evidence in criminal proceedings, with the express consent of the judicial authorities of the requested Member States.

⁷³ See: Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council 'Strengthening law enforcement cooperation in the EU: the European information exchange model' (EIXM)/COM/2012/0735.

As final considerations, we highlight the indispensability of the interconnection between the domains of international relations, Foreign Policy, diplomacy and international security, illustrated in a remarkable way by the OLMAI network, coupled with the national diplomatic system. The doctrines of international relations, such as liberalism, realism and constructivism, shape the international strategies and agreements that streamline international police cooperation in addressing transnational threats to community security. By building bridges between different international actors and fostering close dialogue, police diplomacy plays a crucial role in the peaceful deterrent to existential threats and other contemporary challenges. Bringing together the added value of the cross-border collaboration of different police forces, namely the shared management of resources and the exchange of strategic information, police diplomatic agents contribute, with recognised prestige and agility, to the consolidation, vigour and improvement of global interactions in the negotiated resolution of conflicts and the promotion of Human Security.

However, let us consider that, as non-permanent police diplomatic agents, OLMAI work in an intricate multinational environment, qualified by strong competition-collaboration — a phenomenon also known as ‘coopetition’⁷⁴ — multilevel and heterogeneous values. Their daily responsibilities require proficient communication skills, a keen cultural awareness and a permanent spirit of collaboration, transparency and integrity with the multiple police agencies and international organisations. Police diplomacy is based, *de jure et de facto*, on cooperation and sharing of information agreed upon in the curvature of a culture of relational proximity, reciprocity and mutual trust. In addition, this diplomatic modality requires a precise understanding of the different legal, organisational and protocol frameworks, for the effective fulfilment of its mission. Flexibility, negotiation skills, discretion, ethics, availability and resolute commitment to national and international laws are equally decisive.⁷⁵

Fully qualified in the pursuit of diplomatic activity, the OLMAI has the components of representation, information, negotiation, promotion, protection and expansion of Portugal’s public service across borders, developing a key role in the transnational exercise of production, promotion and sharing of security. As mid-level state officials, recognised in the diplomatic environment and legitimised in the pursuit of Foreign and Internal Security Policies, the OLMAI deal with complex state affairs of technical-security substance. *Ipsa facto*, the network formed by police diplomatic agents composes a security fabric of global scope that contributes to the governance of security and transnational policing, among the risks and tensions of the threatened international order.⁷⁶

⁷⁴ M. Dowling, *Coopetition*. Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Business and Management, April 30/2020.

⁷⁵ D. Bigo, *Polices en réseaux. L’expérience européenne*, Paris: Presses de Sciences Politiques 1996; L. Block, *Bilateral Police Liaison Officers: Practices and European Policy*, ‘Journal of Contemporary European Research’ 2010, Vol. 6(2), pp. 194–210, <http://www.jcer.net/ojs/index.php/jcer/article/view/266/205> [accessed: 19/02/2024]; R.N. Fernandes, 2024.

⁷⁶ J.C. Magalhães, 2001; O. Stevanović, S. Jacimovski, D. Kekić, 2012; M. den Boer, L. Block, 2013; F. Lemieux, *Inside the Global Policing System: Liaison Officers Deployed in Washington, DC*, [in:] *Global Governance: A Review of Multilateralism and International Organizations* 2015, Vol. 21, pp. 161–180; R.N. Fernandes, 2024.

Masterfully exercised by specialists from the PSP and GNR on the international stage, through the extensions of the national diplomatic system, police diplomacy amplifies cooperative and innovative, coherent and comprehensive approaches to unconventional threats and the protection of national interests. The enhancement of Human Security and the ecumenical promotion of human rights consolidate the pioneering spirit of the MAI's police diplomatic agents in the exercise of Portuguese police diplomacy, contributing to the notoriety and universalisation of Portugal's soft power in the contemporaneous instruments of transnational security and international cooperation, *maxime* in the framework of justice, and home affairs.

'Europe Is Our Common Home. (...) But it is only together, collectively, and by following the sensible norms of coexistence that the Europeans can save their home, protect it against a conflagration and other calamities, make it better and safer, and maintain it in proper order. (...) If the world needs new relations, Europe needs them above all.'⁷⁷

The dialogue, mutual trust and fluid exchange of information provided by diplomatic police officers are undoubtedly relevant in bringing the multicoloured palette of countries that make up the European community closer together and thus mobilising it towards its common goal of security, defence, sustainable development *et plus ultra*.⁷⁸ This, finally, is the 'New Thinking' for the cosmopolitan policing of Our Union and a new pathway for a secure and peaceful World.

Omnēs omnibus

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⁷⁷ M. Gorbachev, *Perestroika: New Thinking for Our Country and the World*. Harper & Row 1987, pp. 180–181, <https://archive.org/details/perestroikagorbachev/page/n3/mode/1up> [accessed: 19/02/2024].

⁷⁸ M. den Boer, L. Block, 2013; Holton R.J., *Cosmopolitanisms: New thinking and new directions*. Bloomsbury Publishing 2017.

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Streszczenie. Autor analizuje innowacyjną rolę funkcjonariuszy policji dyplomatycznej w międzynarodowej współpracy policyjnej i sądowej, ze szczególnym uwzględnieniem portugalskiego 'nowego myślenia' w stosunkach międzynarodowych. Będąc aktywnym członkiem Organizacji Narodów Zjednoczonych i Unii Europejskiej, Portugalia prowadzi politykę zagraniczną, która promuje zrównoważony rozwój, prawa podstawowe i bezpieczeństwo ludzi. Z większym naciskiem od lat 90-tych, Policja Bezpieczeństwa Publicznego (PSP) i Narodowa Gwardia Republikańska (GNR) przyczyniły się do umiędzynarodowienia bezpieczeństwa na rzecz pokoju, wyróżniając się we współpracy z organizacjami międzynarodowymi i krajami sojusznikami. W badaniu przeanalizowano formalne mechanizmy współpracy międzynarodowej, w szczególności globalną sieć oficerów łącznikowych Ministerstwa Spraw Wewnętrznych (OLMAI), zintegrowaną z krajowym systemem dyplomatycznym. Ci akredytowani międzynarodowo funkcjonariusze policji pracują w strategicznych kręgach bezpieczeństwa, pełniąc funkcje reprezentacyjne, informacyjne, negocjacyjne, promocyjne, ochronne i rozszerzające zakres służby publicznej. Badania podkreślają znaczenie funkcjonariuszy policji dyplomatycznej w tworzeniu bezpieczeństwa transnarodowego, podkreślając potrzebę kompleksowego, zintegrowanego i innowacyjnego podejścia do rozwiązywania złożonych globalnych wyzwań.

Zusammenfassung. Der vorliegende Artikel untersucht die innovative Rolle der diplomatischen Polizeibeamter in der internationalen polizeilichen und justiziellen Zusammenarbeit, wobei ein besonderer Schwerpunkt auf dem 'neuen Denken' Portugals in den internationalen Beziehungen gelegen wird. Als aktives Mitglied der Vereinten Nationen und der Europäischen Union verfolgt Portugal eine Außenpolitik, die nachhaltige Entwicklung, Grundrechte und menschliche Sicherheit fördert. Seit den 1990er Jahren haben die Polizei für öffentliche Sicherheit (PSP) und die Nationale Republikanische Garde (GNR) verstärkt zur Internationalisierung der Sicherheit für den Frieden beigetragen und sich bei der Zusammenarbeit mit internationalen Organisationen und Bündnisländern hervorgetan. Der Artikel zeigt formale Mechanismen der internationalen Zusammenarbeit, insbesondere das globale Netz von Verbindungsbeamten des Innenministeriums (OLMAI), das in das nationale diplomatische System integriert ist. Diese international akkreditierten Polizeibeamten sind in strategischen Sicherheitskreisen tätig und erfüllen Repräsentations-, Informations-, Verhandlungs-, Werbe-, Schutz- und Erweiterungsfunktionen für den öffentlichen Dienst. Die Untersuchung unterstreicht die Bedeutung der diplomatischen Polizeibeamten bei der Schaffung transnationaler Sicherheit und betont die Notwendigkeit eines umfassenden, integrierten und innovativen Ansatzes zur Bewältigung komplexer globaler Herausforderungen.

Резюме. В данной статье рассматривается новаторская роль сотрудников полиции дипломатического корпуса в международном полицейском и судебном сотрудничестве с особым акцентом на португальское «новое мышление» в международных отношениях. Будучи активным членом Организации Объединенных Наций и Европейского союза, Португалия проводит внешнюю политику, которая призывает к устойчивости развития, основным правам и безопасности людей. С 1990-х годов Полиция общественной безопасности (PSP) и Республиканская национальная

гвардия (GNR) вносят все больший вклад в интернационализацию безопасности во имя мира, успешно сотрудничая с международными организациями и странами-союзниками. В исследовании изучены официальные механизмы международного сотрудничества, в частности глобальная сеть офицеров связи Министерства внутренних дел (OLMAI), которая является частью национальной дипломатической системы. Эти аккредитованные на международном уровне сотрудники полиции работают в стратегических сферах безопасности, выполняя представительские, информационные, переговорные, пропагандистские, защитные и расширительные функции публичной службы.

