

News in Portugal

14 November 2018

A weekly summary of the headline news from Portugal in English, every Wednesday.

Works on the 25 de Abril Bridge will start "soon"

The Minister of Planning and Infrastructure said on Monday that the works on the 25 de Abril Bridge "will start soon, maybe even before the end of this year". Pedro Marques was at the joint hearing with three parliamentary committees for discussion in the specialty of the State Budget proposal for 2019 (OE2019) when he gave this statement. "We are now awaiting approval from the Court of Auditors," he continued, adding that after that the 25 de Abril Bridge may "enter into a construction phase". Infraestruturas de Portugal announced that the works had been awarded for 12.6 million euros.

See the full Portuguese version of the story [here](#).

The national coordinator of integrated care, Manuel Lopes, resigns from office

Manuel Lopes indicated only that he had ceased duties, without specifying whether he was fired or resigned, sending further explanations or comments to the Ministry of Health. The agency Lusa has already contacted the Ministry of Health, but so far has not received any response or clarification.

Manuel José Lopes was named national coordinator for the reform of the National Health Service in the area of Integrated Care, in 2016, by the former Assistant Secretary of State and Health, Fernando Araújo, who left office with the government remodelling that led to the departure of the minister Adalberto Campos Fernandes a month ago.

See the full Portuguese version of the story [here](#).

Minister says minimum wage of 600 euros "is starting point"

The Labour Minister said on Tuesday that 600 euros for the minimum wage in 2019 "is a starting point" for the discussion and that the Government does not oppose a higher value. The minister of Labour, Solidarity and Social Security, Vieira da Silva, spoke at the end of the Social Concertation meeting in Lisbon, where the National Minimum Wage (SMN) for 2019 was being discussed. The current National Minimum Wage is 580 euros.

See the Portuguese version of the story [here](#).

Economic growth slows in the third quarter

Economic growth slowed in the third quarter, with Gross Domestic Product rising 2.1% year-on-year and 0.3% on quarter, down from growth of 2.4% year-on-year and 0.6% in the first quarter of the year, due to a slowdown in consumption.

The average of analysts heard by the Lusa agency expected the growth of the Portuguese economy to remain constant in the third quarter, but, according to the INE, "domestic demand registered a less positive contribution as a result of the deceleration of private consumption", and the investment "showed a slightly more pronounced growth".

See the Portuguese version of the story [here](#).