

News in Portugal

13 March 2019

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

Porto airport is the best in Europe

The Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport, Maia, Porto was named the best airport in Europe in 2018 in the category of five to 15 million passengers, an official source at ANA - Aeroportos de Portugal announced.

The award is based on a study by the Airport Service Quality Survey (ASQ) that was carried out for passengers taking into account "34 indicators", namely the services offered by airports at the level of service, waiting times, courtesy of employees and comfort.

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

Franclim Pereira Lobo, drug trafficker arrested in Spain

The largest drug trafficker in Portugal was detained in southern Spain. According to the magazine Saturday, Franclim Pereira Lobo was captured in Málaga under an European Arrest Warrant issued by the Central Department of Investigation and Criminal Action. Since 2016, the Judicial Police had sought him out as a suspect in Operation Achilles, which revealed links between Portuguese drug traffickers and senior PJ officials, but Franclim had managed to escape to Morocco before being detained. He was found nearly three years later.

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

Portugal formalizes participation in the largest telescope in the world

The Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education, Manuel Heitor, signed in Rome the convention that creates the astronomical observatory "Square Kilometer Array" (SKA), a project with Portuguese participation to build and operate the largest telescope in the world.

"This is an intra-governmental initiative whose goal is to build and operate SKA, the largest radio telescope in the world involving a thousand researchers and engineers, 270 companies and research centres and 20 countries and with which will develop the study of waves gravitational and test the Einstein theories, understanding the evolution of the universe, mapping hundreds of millions of galaxies and looking for signs of life in the Universe", the Ministry announced.

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

Mercadona inaugurates first supermarket in Portugal

Mercadona, Spain's largest supermarket chain, will open its first establishment in Portugal on 2 July in Canidelo, Vila Nova de Gaia, and nine more will be opened by the end of the year, all in the north of the country. The announcement was made today in Valencia by Juan Roig, president of the company that has 27.5% of the retail trade of food products in Spain, during the presentation of the company's 2018 results.

"We will start by opening 10 supermarkets this year in the Porto, Aveiro and Braga regions, and we will continue down to Lisbon", said Juan Roig, who indicated that the future objective will be to open up to 150-200 establishments, among which 70 will be in the northern region.

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