

ADVANCE QUESTIONS TO PORTUGAL

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

- The UK would be grateful if Portugal could please elaborate on the role played by civil society in the preparation of the Government of Portugal's national report.
- Could you please provide further information on the likely timetable for the establishment of a national human rights institution in Portugal, in accordance with Paris principles?
- Under the revised Criminal Code of 2007, we should be interested to know to what extent is the Government of Portugal considering further changes to the allowed period of preventative detention? In which areas of crime in particular? And to what extent might such changes impact on Portugal's human rights obligations?
- Similarly, we should be interested to know to what extent is the Government of Portugal considering further changes to the allowed period of judicial secrecy? In which areas of crime in particular? And to what extent might such changes impact on Portugal's human rights obligations?
- Please could you elaborate on what is the Government of Portugal's assessment of the effectiveness of measures taken to ensure that police officers at all levels understand, and observe, their duty to respect the human rights of suspects and detainees? Furthermore, what is the Government of Portugal's assessment of the effectiveness of mechanisms to ensure police accountability?
- Please could you inform us, what is the Government of Portugal's assessment of measures taken to ensure defendants are granted timely and effective access to a lawyer ahead of preliminary court hearings?
- We should be grateful to know Portugal's assessment of the effectiveness of measures taken to ensure foreign detainees/defendants are granted timely access to an interpreter?
- We should be grateful to know to what extent are measures to provide education, training and work for prisoners proving effective? What percentage of prisoners benefit from such programmes? Are such programmes equally available to all groups of prisoners irrespective of race, gender, religion or nationality?
