

Resolution of the Council of Ministers no. 12/2019

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Approves the vision, objectives and measures for the implementation of the Integrated Rural Fire Management System

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The protection, relief and assistance of populations in the face of collective risks are essential rights and are of particular importance in view of the scale of the catastrophes and the potential of the resulting victims, together with the psychological and socio-economic impacts on the populations affected, and in the country as a whole. In this sense, civil protection structures, working in a multisectoral framework, have as their fundamental goals the prevention of collective risks inherent to major accidents or catastrophes, mitigation of their effects and protection and rescue of people and goods in danger, when those situations occur, as recommended in the Basic Law of Civil Protection.

The past has shown the dramatic impact of the great rural fires on the lives of the Portuguese, with loss of lives, property and thousands of hectares of forest. This evidence appears in the reports of the two Independent Technical Commissions created within the Assembly of the Republic. It is the result of the firm will to change the national paradigm in the prevention and combat of rural fires, which are the expression of the guidelines approved by [Council of Ministers Resolution 157-A / 2017](#) of October 27, expressed in the Single Prevention and Combat Directive, approved by [Council of Ministers Resolution No. 20/2018](#), of March 1, and, in general, the Program of the XXI Constitutional Government in matters of valorization of the territory, in particular of the interior.

In effect, the Government has implemented a new model of action, which advocates a greater and effective safety of people in the face of major accidents and disasters and a preventive attitude of civil protection, resulting in the adoption of an integrated and specialized model for the management of rural fire, seeking to ensure that fire does not pose a threat to the population, nor does it present a potential for harm to people, property and the environment.

Within this framework, an integrated system for the management of rural fires has been established, and the Agency for the Integrated Management of Rural Fire, IP (AGIF, IP) is responsible for planning, strategic coordination and evaluation.

The paradigm shift that the new system implies strengthens the commitment, collaboration and involvement of all entities whose missions contribute to managing rural fires, such as AGIF, IP, the Institute of Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF, IP), the National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection (ANEPC), the National Republican Guard (GNR), the Armed Forces, Fire Departments, and all private agents, including sector companies, forest producers' organizations, owners foresters and citizens. Together with these entities, the municipalities

are, because of their proximity to the citizen and the information that is made available to them regarding the best practices, either in the actions of preparation of the population agglomerates to better resist the fires,

The solution to the problem that brought Portugal and the Portuguese to this important and serious moment in our collective history requires a single voice that inspires, mobilizes, blends and integrates the actions that are necessary, and that will lead to the transformation of a model that has elevated the response in combat and which, now, should be accompanied by a very active prevention, preparation and goal-sharing. Prevention and combat must be two pillars integrated in a broader value chain, without silos of knowledge or intervention, with the best use of the best skills and knowledge for the community.

The integrated management of rural fire is a commitment to change the future of landscape and territory, assumed in favour of all Portuguese who survived rural fires and who seek clear definition of roles and a mission and vision, covered by national design, which recalls how much it depends on each and everyone, the organizations and the citizens.

Like this:

Pursuant to point g) of article 199 of the Constitution, the Council of Ministers resolves:

1 - To approve the mission of the Integrated System of Rural Fire Management (SGIFR), which is to protect the territory, people and property of rural fires, which materializes in the specialization, with clear responsibilities in the management of the rural territory and in the protection of the people and of the built-up against rural fires, and in the integration, with the full knowledge and joint action both in the prevention processes and in the suppression of fire.

2 - To approve the vision of the SGIFR, "Portugal protected from serious rural fires", which reflects the ambition that the entire system and, inherently, all the entities that integrate it have in the search of the success of this national design.

3 - Establish that the vision of SGIFR is supported by a culture of full mobilization, through the sense of mission, the ambition of permanent overcoming, responsibility in the execution, integration of work, continuous improvement and flexibility in management.

4 - To entrust to the Agency for the Integrated Management of Rural Fire, IP (AGIF, IP), the strategic coordination of the SGIFR, to the Institute of Conservation of Nature and Forests (ICNF, IP), the coordination of the prevention in rustic soil, and the National Authority for Emergency and Civil Protection (ANEPC) to coordinate prevention on urban land and its surroundings (population clusters, industrial areas and other infrastructures used by people), both entities being involved in defining the measures for each type of soil, and ANEPC the command of suppression operations.

5 - To entrust to the National Republican Guard (GNR) the coordination of surveillance, surveillance, detection and support to prevention and suppression operations, in accordance with the SGIFR strategic guidelines and the needs identified by the ICNF, IP, and by the ANEPC.

6 - To approve, as strategic objectives of action within the scope of the SGIFR:

a) To value the rural spaces, because these territories need to be lived and felt by the Portuguese and the entities and organizations as factors that generate wealth;

- b) Take care of rural areas, because these territories, once recognized its value, have to be cared for and preserved through the use of practices compatible with the security of citizens;
- c) To change behaviours, because the security of the Portuguese and the preservation of a productive and safe territory depend very much on responsible behaviour, avoiding the ignitions and making the best decisions of individual and collective protection;
- d) Manage risk efficiently, because decisions must be taken to reduce losses, in a clear definition of priorities and efficient use of public resources, always limited to meet multiple challenges.

7 - Adopt a value chain of rural fires, by means of a link that extends the attention of the entities to the activities prior to the prevention and after suppression of the fires, breaking the polarization on two silos, or poles, traditionally watertight, in favour of a an iterative approach that includes:

- a) Planning: coordinated by the AGIF, IP, encompassing the definition of strategic guidelines, which decline to regional and municipal level management instruments, the operational guidelines designed by each entity of the SGIFR, which operationalize the national strategy at the same scales; the production of consolidated information from the overall budget of the system, based on the budgets of each entity and its sources of funding;
- b) Preparation: with the hiring of resources, human and technical, to complement the permanent means, carried out within the scope of the mission of each SGIFR entity, education and awareness, oriented to the expansion of knowledge, behaviour modification and adoption of measures of self-protection, strategically coordinated by the AGIF, IP, and the monitoring of compliance with the measures of prevention and signalling of non-compliance, entrusted to the GNR;
- c) Prevention: with the specialization in the management of territory with rustic soil, for a territory prepared for a better fire management, by the ICNF, IP, the preparation of the built territory and agglomerates population, by ANEPC and municipalities , and the verification of security conditions, on the ground, within the scope of the mission of each entity of the IRMSR;
- d) Pre-Suppression: with the establishment of a structure for decision support, providing mechanisms for meteorological interpretation and warning to the populations, operationalized by ANEPC with the technical participation of AGIF, IP, ICNF, IP, GNR and Armed Forces, the alert phase, operationalized by ANEPC, surveillance in critical areas operationalized by the GNR, and in a supplementary way by the deterrent presence in operational training of the Armed Forces, and the pre-positioning of means of suppression and relief of the entities of SGIFR ;
- e) The Suppression: encompassing the initial attack (ATI) and extended attack (ATA), aftermath and extinction phases, the restoration of security and social and environmental emergency response, entrusted to the operational command of ANEPC, with the commitment of Firefighters and all entities of SGIFR, in terms of operations management and training;
- f) Post-event: with the investigation of causes, entrusted to the GNR, the rehabilitation, operationalized by the ICNF, IP, in the public areas under its management, by the municipalities and by the natural or collective persons of a private nature holding forest areas and forest management organizations, forest management organizations and waste

management bodies, and lessons learned and continuous improvement, the responsibility of all entities and entrusted to the coordination of AGIF, IP, in collaboration with all the entities of the SGIFR.

8 - To establish that the planning, in the seat of the SGIFR, is an iterative process, with the definition of strategic and operational directives of national level, that result in the execution of the actions of preparation of the territory at the municipal level.

9 - Establish that the National Integrated Rural Fire Management Plan (PNGIFR), to be delivered to the Government within 30 days of the publication of this resolution, defines the main lines of action of the SGIFR for the period 2019-2030, in accordance with the provisions in the [Resolution of the Council of Ministers no. 157-A / 2017](#) , of October 27, constituting the organizational model, the process chain and the capacity model of the system, according to the program of gradual transformation inscribed therein.

10 - Establish that the PNGIFR is subject to an annual review, through the analysis report coordinated by the AGIF, IP, incorporating the municipal achievement indicators.

11 - Establish that all elements of planning produced by the municipalities are submitted in a computer platform managed by AGIF, IP

12 - To determine that the IFRSR involves the training of professionals and decision support systems, as follows:

(a) Strengthen the Operations Management System, ensuring that, in the context of the protection and rescue operation, all functions provided for therein are carried out by human resources with the requisite profile and competence, irrespective of their origin and status, in accordance with countries;

b) To increase the use of collaborative laboratories, research centers and other sources of scientific knowledge, namely in the implementation of protocols, collaboration in research projects and in the reception of trainees in the entities of the SGIFR, to increase the predictive capacity in support of planning and decision in the preparation, pre-suppression and suppression;

c) To entrust to AGIF, IP, the construction of an interoperability platform between public and private entities, with a geographical component to collect, centralize and make available information on planning, forecasting, decision support, expeditious assessment of potential losses, of damage and management of rural fires, to be operational during 2019.

13 - To entrust to the coordination of AGIF, IP, the joint design of a strategy, uniform and collaborative, of communication to the population of information pertinent to its security and adaptation of behaviors to be applied by all entities of the SGIFR with approval of the member of Government which exercises the guardianship over the AGIF, IP

14 - To determine that this resolution shall enter into force on the day after its adoption.

Presidency of the Council of Ministers, October 25, 2018. - The Prime Minister, António Luís Santos da Costa.