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CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF EUROPEAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL
HABITATS

Standing Committee

46th meeting,
7-11 December 2026,
Strasbourg

Bureau of the Standing Committee

17-18 June 2026,
Strasbourg

Complaint on stand-by: 2020/06

**Presumed threat to Tagus Estuary Special Protected Area
from a new airport (Portugal)**

- REPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT -

*Document prepared by
el Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas*

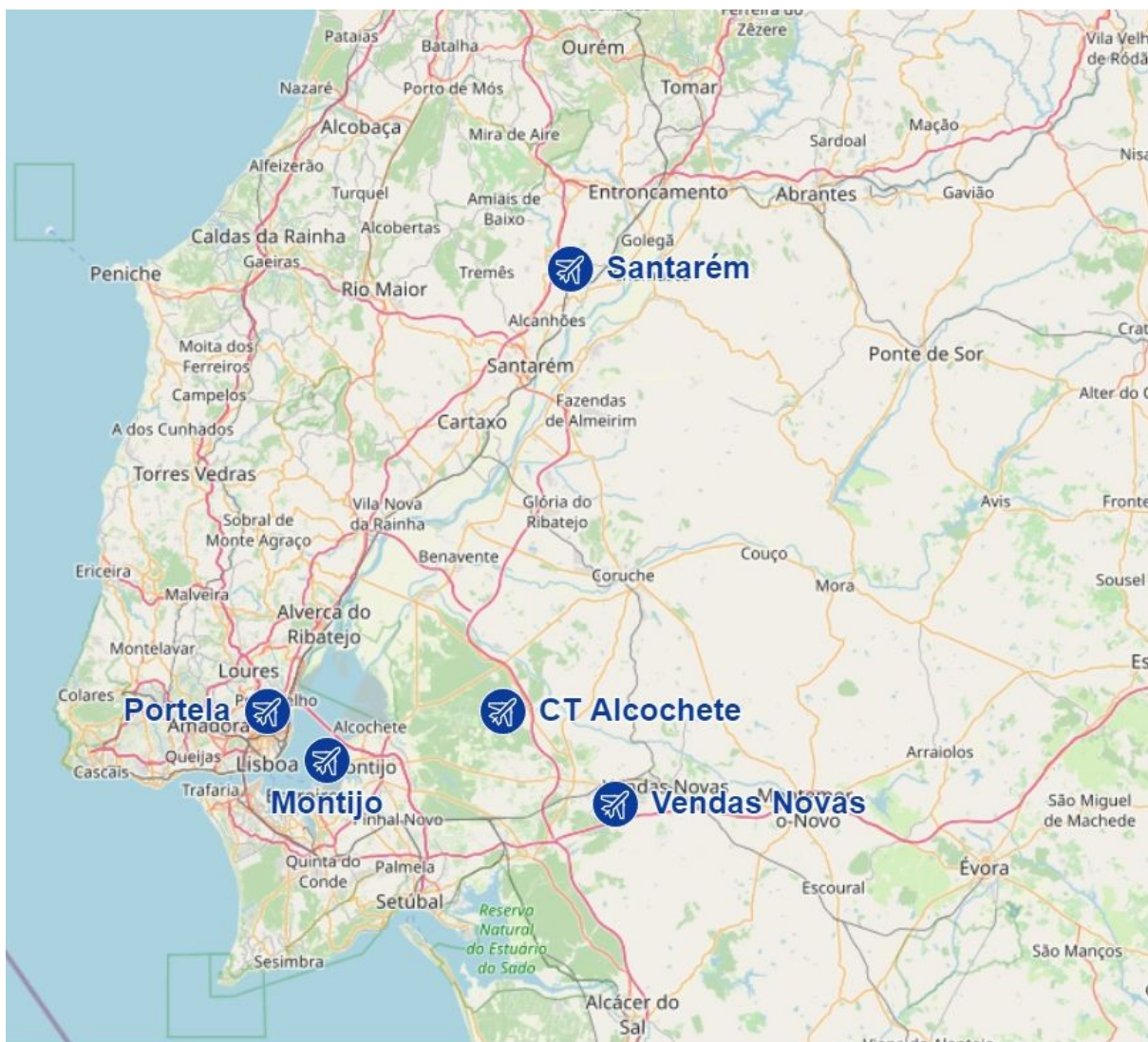
Progress Report on the Location of the New Airport 27/04/2026

Council of Ministers Resolution no. 89/2022, of October 14, amended by Council of Ministers Resolution no. 86/2023, of July 26, hereinafter referred to as the CMR, determined the strategic and multidisciplinary analysis of the increase in airport capacity in the Lisbon Region, and the assessment of strategic options, through the coordination and carrying out of a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), hereinafter referred to as the SEA.

The same CMR determined the creation of an Independent Technical Commission (ITC) to perform that SEA.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment evaluated 5 possible locations for the new airport, with dual or single options, depending on whether the current location at Portela Airport was to be maintained or not.

The 5 locations evaluated are shown in the figure, corresponding to the following alternatives:



Portela: current airport;

Montijo: location submitted to an Environmental Impact Assessment procedure which resulted in a favorable conditional decision in 2020, which expired on January 21, 2024, and was not renewed;

CT Alcochete: considered the most favorable location by the SEA, although, from an environmental point of view, it is located close to the Tagus Estuary SPA, and it could affect its integrity;

Santarém: option located to the northeast, 90 km from Lisbon, without affecting the Natura 2000 network;

Vendas Novas: option located further east of Lisbon, without affecting the Natura 2000 network.

In March 2024, the Independent Technical Commission (ITC) delivered its final report on the assessment of strategic options for increasing airport capacity in the Lisbon region, which was handed over to the government in the same month.

With the change of government in April 2024, the decision on the location of Lisbon's new airport was left up to the new government. Considering the results of the ITC report, the choice fell on CT Alcochete, the most favourable solution pointed up by the report, and the one that better allows the establishment of an intercontinental hub, one of the premises underlying the development of the project.

This choice was confirmed in the Council of Ministers Resolution no. 66/2024, of May 27. In this Resolution, the government stipulates that the New Lisbon Airport is to be located at the Alcochete Shooting Range (CT Alcochete) and is to fully replace Humberto Delgado Airport.

The Council of Ministers Resolution no. 30/2026, of February 20 further establishes a framework of preventive measures in CT Alcochete and its surrounding area, with a view to preventing any changes to existing circumstances and conditions that might jeopardise the construction of the New Lisbon Airport.

The implementation of the new airport at CT Alcochete, decided by the government, will still have to be submitted to an environmental impact assessment, a procedure that has not been set yet.

With these decisions by the government, the possibility of locating the airport in Montijo, which was already put forward as very remote in the progress report sent in February 2024, is definitively ruled out, as it has been already reported in the Final Report, in January 2025. In this context, we consider that the complaint regarding the presumed threat to the Tagus Estuary Special Protected Area, arising from the construction of the new Lisbon Airport at Montijo, is no longer valid.