

Thousand of police officers and security guards protest against wage cuts in Portugal

Several thousand off-duty Portuguese police officers have demonstrated on the steps of parliament, protesting fiercely against pay cuts

The officers broke through a cordon of riot police to reach the doors of parliament, where they sang the national anthem and chanted anti-government slogans, before dispersing. The organisers say budget cuts do not just mean reduced police pay, but are also a risk to national security. The government says the police cannot be immune from austerity measures.

The demonstration was called by various police associations, including Portugal's paramilitary National Republican Guard, border agents, prison guards and the maritime police. The off-duty officers made repeated attempts to breach the security cordon around parliament in Lisbon, although there were no direct confrontations with the riot police. Some shook hands with on-duty police officers, before being allowed to climb the steps of the building and reaching the main entrance doors.

They sang the national anthem and called for the government of Prime Minister Pedro Passos Coelho to resign. In 2011 Portugal agreed to carry out a sustained programme of reforms and cuts in return for a bailout from the European Union and International Monetary Fund worth 78bn Euros (\$105bn or



Thousand of police officers furiously protest against pay cuts

£65bn).

Police associations in Portugal say public sector austerity measures have led to police pay cuts and reduced pensions. They also say they are worried that ongoing cuts will damage the operational capabilities of the security forces. Interior Minister

Miguel Macedo said police could not be exempt from the sacrifices suffered by the rest of Portuguese society in order to meet the demands of its international creditors.

One police officer, who travelled from Azores said, "I am here today because the minister has been tricking us

constantly. Says he's going to do things one way and then does them another way. He has penalised us greatly."

A local police officer from Lisbon explained, "What we want from this protest is to bring attention to the living conditions of the police in Portugal. We are on the verge

of indignity. We have almost nothing. No motivation, no working conditions, remuneration is falling more and more. The police is here to protect citizens."

The government want to cut police budgets by 66 million Euros, that's nine percent, in the coming year.

MEPs finally back EU budget after months of talks

MEPs have approved the first-ever cut to the EU's seven-year spending cycle in the bloc's history

The European Parliament voted for the 960 billion Euros earmarked for the period 2014 to 2020. British Prime Minister David Cameron opposed the higher figure of the one trillion Euros demanded by the European Commission. The approval follows over two years of terse political negotiations between governments and EU institutions. The Head of the Parliament, Martin Schulz, had threatened to block the budget before backing down.

"For nine months, everyone made a lot of noise. Mr Schulz made a lot of noise. He kept on making noise. Then something got a hold of him and that was that. Parliament did not exist," said French Green MEP Daniel Cohn-Bendit. Alain Lamassoure, a centre-right member from France, said that this deal was not enough to support the EU's spending and commitments. "This budget framework solves nothing. It was not the best or the least bad. It was the only possible. It will not last seven years. Not even three years. This framework does not ensure the minimum level of solidarity between member states," he told lawmakers.

EU pledges more money to typhoon-hit Philippines

The European Commission has pledged an extra seven million Euros in humanitarian aid to help those hit by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. EU officials have already provided 13 million Euros.

Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva said in Brussels, "80 percent of natural disasters are climate related. We do develop more skills and capabilities to cope with disasters but I'm not convinced yet that we are doing it with the speed that it necessary in face of this trend. Haiyan was one of the strongest storms ever recorded. It left thousands of people dead and millions of people homeless. The UN says 2.5 million people are in need of life-saving food assistance.



Art fair aroused great interest of people

Cologne Fine Art Fair

The Cologne Fine Art Fair is one of Europe's biggest events of the kind, showcasing ancient, modern and decorative art

It's an opportunity for international art galleries and dealers to display an eclectic mix of objects from a wide range of periods and styles. Visitors can buy anything their heart desires to improve their home or simply as an investment, if their wallet allows. Items

on show include a Picasso going for 8.5 million Euros and an X-Ray of surrealist artist Meret Oppenheim's skull — a snip at just 12,000 Euros.

For the first time this year, the event features a section called Style Icons, showcasing classic cars including a Chrysler Ghia L6 Coupé from the early 60s, and a 1930s Bugatti, which has been kept locked up for decades and has hardly ever been on the road.

Apple awarded 200m Euros damages against Samsung in retrial

A Silicon Valley jury has ruled that Samsung must pay \$290m (£180m) to Apple for copying iPhone and iPad features in its devices

This verdict comes after a previous jury found Samsung owed Apple \$1.05bn for copyright infringement. However, US District Judge Lucy Koh ordered a retrial because she said that jury miscalculated the amount Samsung must pay. Samsung is expected to appeal.

Apple said in a statement, "For Apple, this case has always been about more than patents and money. It has been about innovation and the hard work that goes into inventing products that people love. While it's impossible to put a price tag on those values, we are grateful to the



jury for showing Samsung that copying has a cost."

The jury's ruling covers 13 of the 26 Samsung devices that Apple had argued copied its technology. These are mostly older Samsung tablets and smartphones. The \$290m figure comes on top of the \$550m Samsung owes Apple as a result of the initial verdict. In total, Apple has now

been awarded close to \$930m in the case. Apple shares traded slightly higher on the news. Samsung closed down slightly earlier in the day.

However, the jury in the courtroom — which is located just 15 minutes away from Apple's headquarters in California — thought otherwise, awarding close to the \$380m Apple sought.