【Titles】
The House of Commons Parliament of The United Kingdom approves the diploma that opens the way for negotiations about the Brexit.

In the program, we also analyses the sustentation of Greek debt and what awaits the country in the coming times

The political crisis is anyway the highlight in Romania and the circumstances where happens the demonstrations against the government.
【Titles End】

Welcome to Magazine Europe

The House of Commons of the British parliament has given a green light to a proposition of a legislation that authorizes the Government of Theresa May to start the negotiations on leaving the European Union.

The vote took place after the British parliament's justice, considered that fits to the congressmen to authorize the activation of Article 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon. It's a gesture that formalizes the beginning of the process of a country's leaving of the European Union.

The proposition of the London Government received 494 votes in favor and 122 of against.

RM - parliament's announcement

Some conditions that the deputies wanted to impose on the process were putted down. This was the case of the proposition that had defended that the Government should grant permanent residence to all citizens of the European Union who are currently living in the United Kingdom.

The proposition of the legislation to start Brexit has yet to pass in the House of Lords, which should happen this month.

On the phone from Brussels is the resident commentator of Magazine Europe, Victor Ângelo, an international consultant in the Belgian capital.

Hello, Victor, process in the British parliament is not yet completed, but the first green light is guaranteed. The conditions that some deputies pretended to introduce in the diploma have not passed ...

What can we expect then from the negotiations between London and Brussels?

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"I would say that voting in the House of Commons was the easiest part of this process. We are facing a theme that will be very complex. Brexit will be chaotic for both sides. On the side of European Union, the main question will be whether the countries of the Union will stick together, whether they will have a homogenous position, or whether they will be divided according to their national interests. Now, I foresee that several countries of the European Union will have a much softer position, so we can say that, with Brexit, they will try to make concessions to the United Kingdom. Certainly it will be the case, for example, in Spain. Spain doesn't want a crisis into the United Kingdom, and in particular a crisis with Scotland, because that would be a crisis similar to the one that Spain lives with Catalonia. Poland is also going to be a relatively mild country during the negotiations because there are many Poles living in the UK. And I think that Portugal will also adopt a relatively easy position in relation to British interests, because Portugal has many Portuguese living in the United Kingdom."

And it's also chaotic for the UK...

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"I think it will be chaotic for five big reasons. On the one hand, it will create a very large internal crisis within the Labor Party. The second problem is that it will create a constitutional crisis, as Scotland is entirely against the exit process from the United Kingdom of the European Union. The third aspect is that it will create a generational crisis - the British young people are against the exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union, while the older populations are looking for this exit. Certainly there will be an economic crisis, because the United Kingdom exports about 44 per cent of its products to the European Union, and this is very important. If they don't get commercial facilities and preferential tariffs, these exports will be in danger. Finally, a fifth aspect is the political costs of exit and, in particular, the costs of compensation to be paid by the United Kingdom to the European Union - and now talking of compensation amounting to 60 billion euro.

How was the vote in the British Parliament received in Brussels?

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"In Brussels, there is a lot of concern about Brexit and, in particular,

Jean-Claude Juncker and the management team. Jean-Claude Juncker thinks that this is not the case, he thinks that Brexit will worsen the political crisis within the European Union, it will create great divisions and it will certainly be a period of great political tension. And political tension now means a rebirth of nationalist positions and a constant attack on the Brussels institutions. I think that we are dealing with a process, which, if it isn't conducted wisely, very carefully and with a great capacity for leadership, will be a process which can jeopardize the continuation of many of the common policies which we have in Europe. "

Theresa May plans to formally start the process of leaving the UK by the end of March. Is it possible?

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"I think so. I believe that the lawsuit will be filed within the timeframe it envisaged. Then there will be a very difficult negotiation process that will drag on and end in a unpredictable way today, but it will certainly end with a very, very complicated divorce unless, on the one hand and on the other, suddenly, there is an injection of wisdom that reaches the heads of European politicians. But at the moment, this flame of wisdom seems to be a long way from the way politicians sees the interest of Europe and the common future. "

On the 7th, the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Maastricht Treaty was marked. The document represented a new phase in European integration, opening the way to political integration and also to monetary union. The date was celebrated by the official entities in Brussels. Also the Dutch city celebrated the event, with the Festival of Opinion of Youth, highlighting the so-called Maastricht generation.

The Greek Finance Minister met last Friday with the representatives of Euro group.

According to some international agencies, the progress has been made in the meeting between Euclid Tsakalotos and Greece's international creditors. But it's still without a final agreement on the review of the Athens bailout process.

Prior to the meeting, the International Monetary Fund expressed again the concern about the sustainability of Greek debt. The disagreement between the IMF and the European Stability Mechanism remains.
RM – Alexis Tsipras [Sound Playing Next]

On Saturday, in a speech to his party, Syriza, the Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, warned lenders not to fill the country with new burdens, but was optimistic about a review of the bailout process.

Victor, what is the status of the payment of Greek debt?

RM – Victor Ângelo:

What is at stake, fundamentally, is the fact that the Greek debt is priceless. In other words, it is impossible to solve the Greek debt problem unless a large part of the debt is forgiven. There are two fundamental positions here. On the one hand, the position of Germany and other Eurogroup countries who think that the debt of a country belonging to the Euro Zone can not be cut. And, on the other hand, the position of the IMF, which considers that it can not continue in a rescue process like the Greek case without a sustainable debt. The IMF now believes that Greek debt, if not be largely cut and remains unsustainable and therefore the IMF's statutes do not allow to continue with the Greek bailout program. And this is the great difficulty. "

It was once again talked about the possibility of Greece leaving the Euro. Last week German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble argued that "the pressure on Greece has to be maintained, to reform and to be competitive," or otherwise the country "can not continue in the union Monetary ". At the moment, what are the chances that Greece will leave the Euro?

RM – Victor Ângelo:

I think we will find a temporary solution again in relation to Greece. That is, the problem will continue to be postponed. Greece will continue to be required to reduce the standard of living of the population and, in particular, pensioners. In recent years, Greek pensions have already been cut off several times. There have been 11 times cuts for pensioners since 2010. As a result, Europe will continue to insist on an austerity program, new cuts in public spending and, most likely, in 2018, a decision from parts of Europe without being a reduction of Greek debt, will allow lower tax and will allow Greece to have much more time to pay. But it will require, on the other hand, even more austerity. "

Frank-Walter Steinmeier was confirmed as President of the Federal Republic of Germany. The 61-year-old former Foreign Minister was

supported by 931 members of the electoral college.

In Romania, the demonstrations do not stop. All because of a law that decriminalized some cases of corruption and abuse of power, and provided amnesties for some prison sentences.

The Government, led by the Social Democratic Party, ended up going back and canceling the decree, but there is still a final vote. The citizens do not trust the Executive, as the protesters explained last Sunday to Euronews.

RM – Manifestantes à Euronews:

RM - Protesters at Euronews:
"It's a message for our Government. You can not do what you want. It's a message to end this law that protects those corrupt. "
"I expect more protests next week, until the government complies with its obligations, being with people instead of against them."

Earlier, the Romanian executive survived a motion of censure presented in Parliament. Prime Minister Sorin Grindeanu has assured that in the future he will not take measures "...that could arouse strong emotions in society without prior debate."

Victor, what are we seeing in Romania?

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"On the one hand, the anti-corruption process has been led by prosecutors under the leadership of a woman. A relatively young woman, Laura Kovesi, who has a extraordinary courage. She has been the prosecutor of the anti-corruption agency since 2013 and has demonstrated an ability and political courage that should be examples in other countries around the world, in particular in other European countries. That's one of the aspects. The second aspect is the popular character of these manifestations. The political parties are totally absent from the organization of the protests, it is the civil society that spontaneously comes to the street. And it comes to the street in great numbers. The third aspect is that it is through social networks that people are mobilized.

Faced with these three aspects, and also tensions between the Government and the President of the country, Klaus Iohannis, from the opposite political camp. What can we expect in the coming future? How far can these protests go?

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"It's hard to predict because, in fact, all Romanian politicians are more or less corrupt. The truth is that, in the last three years, thousands of politicians have been arrested, including the former Prime Minister. So it is very difficult for political parties to find people who can be accepted by people. However, it is clear that the institutions continue to function. The President has pressure because parliament wants to take up his responsibilities, and I think that these days we will see the fall of this Government and the appearance of other political leaders, perhaps less known, perhaps less corrupt, and to some extent , this will calm civil society and allow, perhaps, to start things from a cleaner plan. Romania is currently undergoing an extremely complex political process, which is the result of many years of corruption and the exploitation of public resources. "

At some point, the European Union even accepted the possibility of cutting funds for Romania if legislation were to move forward. How does Brussels accompanied this political crisis in Romania?

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"Brussels expressed a great concern with what is happening in Romania because many of the European funds were misappropriated by Romanian politicians. This, of course, undermines not only the European Union's aid policy but also calls into question the supervisory capacity of the European institutions. The European Union would like to see Romania re-entering the political axes, but the truth is that an important part of Romania's corruption at government level is passed on to the social-democratic family. And the social-democrat family still has a lot of influence in various parts of Europe and in particular in Brussels. That is why the Social Democrat families in Brussels have not made much of what is happening in Romania because it does not want to damage the image of social democracy in Europe. "

The analysis from Victor Ângelo, resident commentator of Magazine Europe.

British singer Adele has won five Grammys at the ceremony that took place on Sunday night, the United States time.

The acceptance of the best album of the year for the album "25" was marked by wide praise to Byoncee, whom Adele said she loves.

Adele, 28 years old, now holds 15 Grammys. And she became the first person in the history of American awards to win the top three categories twice.

Grammys of Song of the Year, Record of the Year and Pop Solo Performance went to the song "Hello", with which we closed our program. See you next week!

Magazine Europa is presented by journalist Sofia Jesus, with the comments of Victor Angelo, a former undersecretary general of the United Nations, and Rui Flores, coordinator of the Jean Monnet Project Magazine Europa, coordinates it.

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