[Titles]

Five scenarios for Europe: the White Paper on the Future of the European Union to 27, presented by Jean-Claude Juncker

The European Council elects a new President this week. Donald Tusk is favor to run for office but there are more people that can enter the race

The European Agency for Fundamental Rights celebrates 10 years. The work done and the priorities for the future under consideration in this program

[Titles End]

Welcome to Magazine Europa

The President of the European Commission last week presented the White Paper on the Future of Europe by 2025. The idea is to launch the debate before the 60th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, scheduled for the end of this month. Jean-Claude Juncker considers that the date should not only serve to celebrate an anniversary; should also serve to mark the birth of the European Union to 27:

RM – Jean-Claude Juncker:
"As we turn the page and start a new chapter in our history, it is time to find new answers to a question as old as our Union is new: where are you going, Europe, to 27?"

The document prepared by Jean-Claude Juncker does not offer answers but rather questions. Five possible scenarios for the future of the European bloc are set out in the White Paper, summarized by Radio Macau's Rui Cid:

RM – Rui Cid:
"Scenario number 1: moving forward with what there is. The idea is to adapt the measures to the reality of the moment, updating the reforms regularly and finding solutions to the problems as they arise.
In the second scenario, we find a Europe facing the single market, due to the lack of consensus on other aspects of integration, such as immigration or defense. It is a Europe in which issues that oppose member states are resolved on a case-by-case basis through bilateral agreements.
Scenario number 3 indicates that the EU-27 continues as it is today, but it allows member states interested in doing more to unite to do so, especially in areas such as defense, homeland security, social affairs or fiscal matters. The European Commission anticipates here the emergence of what it calls 'coalitions of will'.
In the fifth and final scenario, the European Union decides to do much more and better in all areas. The member states assume that the bloc as it stands and each

country by itself is not well equipped to meet the current challenges. There is a strengthening of cooperation, with the decisions to be taken more quickly and implemented, but there is a risk of alienating parts of society that feel that the European Union lacks legitimacy or that it has too much power to deprive the national authorities.
On the phone from Brussels is the resident commentator of Magazine Europe, Victor Ângelo, an international consultant based in the Belgian capital.

Hello, Victor, should any of these scenarios be the way to go in Europe?

RM – Victor Ângelo:
"I think that more and more we are going towards a Europe with several levels of ambition. What some call a Europe at different speeds, but which in reality is not a Europe at different speeds, because some have no speed at all. That is, they have little ambition for their integration into the European area. We will increasingly be witnessing a Europe of circles where, in one of the circles, there will be a number of countries with a very broad common ambition and, therefore, it will go a long way in matters of integration in the area of defense, Taxation, macroeconomics, and even social affairs. It will also make good progress in the area of external relations of the European Union. And then there will be other countries, in other circles, that will advance in some of these areas, they will not advance in others. And we will probably have a third circle that will be just a little more circle than the single market. "

Some people have criticized the European Commission for offering scenarios instead of a concrete proposal for action for the future. How do you look at this option by Jean-Claude Juncker?

RM – Victor Ângelo:
"The presentation of scenarios was certainly the smartest position. At a time when it is unclear what the objectives are, what the level of ambition of each of the European leaders is, it would be unwise to move forward immediately with one or two scenarios. I think it is also important to support the position of Jean-Claude Juncker. At this point, it would be a mistake to publicly criticize Jean-Claude Juncker because, in reality, that would weaken his position. "

The European Council should elect a new President this week. The Heads of State and Government of the European Union meet on Thursday and Friday to discuss who will hold the position currently held by Donald Tusk.

The current President of the European Council has already expressed interest in a second term. But she does not have the support of her country, Poland, and there are other names in the race, as reported by Radio Macau journalist Sónia Nunes:

RM – Sónia Nunes:
"Donald Tusk is willing to continue to chair the European Council and seems to have the necessary support to achieve it.
The former prime minister of Poland took office in December 2014, when he replaced the Belgian Herman Van Rompuy, the first to take that position. Today, and according to some international agencies, it has the support of several European leaders.
Warsaw has already announced that it does not support this re-issue. Instead, the Polish government presented another candidate on Saturday: Center-right MEP Jacek Saryusz Wol-ski, who until this announcement was a member of the Civic Platform, the main opposition force in Poland, and a party that Donald Tusk arrived To lead.
On Sunday, however, the European People's Party, the political family to which both belonged, warned that Tusk is the party's only candidate and that Saryusz Wolski could be expelled from the PPE if he challenged him in the race.
Another name spoken of as potential competitor to the post of President of the European Council is François Hollande. The French President, who enjoys little popularity in France, has already said he would like to carry out these functions, but it is unclear whether he will even apply for it.
Another name spoken of over the weekend was that of the Irish Prime Minister, Enda Kenny. But here too, there are no certainties. "

Victor, is it possible that Donald Tusk will get the second term as president of the European Council?

RM – Victor Ângelo:
"Donald Tusk has the support of his party group, the European People's Party, and currently has the support of all Heads of State and Government, with the exception of the Polish. So, from the outset, Donald Tusk has almost all the conditions to be re-elected President of the European Council. The Presidency of the European Council is very important. More and more the President of the European Council is the person who appears publicly to speak of political Europe, while the President of the European Commission appears to speak of a more technical Europe and of the Europe that he executes. On the other hand, Donald Tusk does not have the support of his government. And the tradition in these things is that it is very difficult for an application to take revenge when it does not have the support of the government of the country where that person comes from. However, in this case we have a relatively exceptional situation which is that we have an extremely conservative government in Warsaw, far right and a government that is often criticized by other European governments. I think, however, that the fact that he does not have the support of the Polish government can weigh on the deliberations. The candidate who was introduced by the Polish Government has no chance, because he was never Head of Government or Head of State, and it is very likely that another name will emerge during the deliberations. "

It is said that François Hollande is running for this position . Considered of the weak popularity he has in France, does he seem to be a good candidate for the presidency of the European Council?

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"François Hollande has some advantages. On the one hand, during the last five years he is President of the Republic, [and] a very important country in the European Union. On the other hand, it belongs to the socialist family and, for the sake of political equilibrium in Europe, it would be important for the European Council Presidency to be assigned to a European socialist leader. But he also has some problems, it has a question of image, particularly in France, which is relatively modest, a weak image in terms of public support. At this point, I think he is a relatively distant hypothesis because of all these circumstances. François Hollande must leave [for a time] public functions so that, within two or three years, he can be considered as a very strong candidate. "

What about Enda Kenny?

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"The Prime Minister of Ireland, Enda Kenny, is a man who has been in power for many years, from the progressive center, although he is also a member of the European People's Party, hence the European center-right, that is, the same Political group of Donald Tusk. But Enda Kenny has a good image, both in his own country and in Europe, and also has a feature that can weigh on the deliberations, which is that Enda Kenny is probably the only European leader at this point that can establish a productive relationship with the President of the United States, Donald Trump. "

But the EPP has made it clear that it only supports one candidate ...

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"The European People's Party is going to the summit with a candidate, who is Donald Tusk. Indeed, it may be Donald Tusk himself to suggest that, given that he does not have the support of his own government, he may not feel the political conditions to continue. This is one of the possible scenarios. "

On the agenda of this week's European Council meeting is also the issue of cooperation in the area of security and defense, among other issues. The conclusions of the meeting in December last year were reaffirmed by the commitment to cooperation between the European Union and NATO. After the recent visits of American leaders to Europe, how important are these ties?

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"The European Union has come to the conclusion that cooperation with NATO needs to be strengthened. It also came to the conclusion that the European Union needs to

have a self-defense system that, although linked and integrated into the NATO system, has its European characteristics, because Europe thinks it is time to address its own security. And so this week, a military operational military staff will be established for the first time in Brussels. In other words, we will have a permanent staff of the European Union's external action services, which is a military staff who will deal with strategic issues and diplomatic relations related to the military and police missions in this area. In various parts of the world, including the missions that the European Union has in Mali, the Central African Republic and Somalia. In other words, we are gradually moving towards a military defense structure in Europe, but always with the great concern that this structure will complete what NATO is doing and will not be seen as a dispersion of resources and as a attempt to replace NATO. "

The European Agency for Fundamental Rights celebrates 10 years. The journalist Miguel Brandão, of Radio Macau, outlines the profile of this entity:

RM - Miguel Brandão:
"Established in 2017, the European Agency for Fundamental Rights has succeeded the Center for Monitoring Racism and Xenophobia in the European Union.
The Agency follows the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, which aims to strengthen the protection of these rights in a context of social change and scientific and technological development.
The Agency is responsible for implementing specific projects and activities in a number of areas, defined in a multiannual plan, reviewed every five years.
The next one refers to the period between 2018 and 2022.
Headquartered in the Austrian capital Vienna, it has 90 staff, as well as national experts and trainees. "

Victor, not much has been said about this European Union agency. What have it done over the last ten years?

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"The agency is a small agency based in Vienna, but it is crucial that we talk about fundamental rights and that there is a small structure within the European Union that is concerned with issues of discrimination and exclusion. Despite all the democratic achievements and freedoms in Europe, there is still discrimination. There is discrimination, for example with regard to Roma, there are problems of racism, there is discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnic origin, there are problems of access to justice, there is an increasing frequency of crimes of racial hatred and all these are Areas where the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights has a role to play. It has played this role in the sense that it regularly publishes reports on these different topics and will continue to do so. It is good that governments know that there is an independent agency within the structure of the European Union that is observing how justice, freedom and access to equality are administered in the European Union. "

At a time when refugee rights are at risk and where there are countries speaking to reduce freedom of movement in Europe, what should be the main concerns of this agency in 2017?

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"On the one hand, it is essential to pay special attention to isolated migrant children because they are extremely vulnerable to all kinds of crimes and all kinds of violence. On the other hand, increasingly the issue of cybernetics and citizens 'freedom, and the privacy of citizens' lives are important issues. And also the question of the administration of justice. In several countries, including Portugal, the issue of justice is an issue that needs to be addressed seriously, it needs to be thoroughly reformed. Often access to justice is very much conditioned by people's economic capabilities, and on the other hand we often see extremely slow processes. "

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

To close we highlight two meetings that will happen in the coming days in Macau. RTP journalist José Manuel Rosendo and the Portuguese author Henrique Raposo travel to the territory at the invitation of the European Union's Academic Program for Macao. On Saturday, 11, there will be the debate Europe, Refugees and Islamic Terrorism, with Henrique Raposo and José Manuel Rosendo, at 7:00 p.m., in the Old Court Building. It is a session that integrates the program of the Macao Literary Festival.

On Monday, March 13, also under the The Script Road, Henrique Raposo will travel to the University of Macau, and give a speech at 18:30.

See you next week!

With the edition and presentation of Sofia Jesus, the analysis of Victor Ângelo and the coordination of Rui Flores, Magazine Europe is the result of a collaboration between Radio Macau and the University of Macao under the Jean Monnet Magazine Europe Project.

The opinions expressed in this magazine do not necessarily represent the official positions of the various institutions of the European Union.

The Jean Monnet Magazine Europe project is a partnership between the University of Macao and the Institute of European Studies of Macao, co-financed by the European Union under the Erasmus + Program.

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