Macron elected President in France - in this program we analyze the meaning of victory for the French and for Europe

In the week that marks another European Day, we look at what Europeans think about the European Union and we also look at the consensus of the European Council on the negotiations on Brexit

Also in this issue, Montenegro's future accession to NATO and the impact on relations between Brussels and Moscow

Welcome to the Europe Magazine,

Emmanuel Macron was elected President of France. The independent candidate won the run-off vote last Sunday with 66 percent of the vote.

In the victory speech at the Louvre, Macron left a message to those who voted for the far-right candidate Marine Le Pen:

RM – Emmanuel Macron:
"These people today expressed anger, anguish and, sometimes, convictions. I respect them. And I will do everything over the next five years so that they no longer have any reason to vote in an extremist position. "

At age 39, Macron will be the newest President in French history. He will also be the first French President since 1958 who does not come from the two main traditional parties.

Abstention on Sunday hit 26 percent - the highest in nearly 50 years.

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

Victor, what does Emmanuel Macron's victory for France represent?

RM – Victor Ângelo:
"Macron is the President of competence, renewal and, to a certain extent, the modernization of the French economy and social conditions. Macron is the President who will give a boost to European construction. The Macron election is good news for France and great news for Europe. We will watch from the political point of view the realignment of French party life. A new political movement will emerge around Macron, taking into account the parliamentary elections in June, and, on the other hand, we will also see the further weakening of the Socialist Party, bearing in mind that a good part of the Party Socialist will certainly adhere to the new movement that Emmanuel Macron will create and also at the center-right,

Republican level, we will see a depletion of the traditional right, as many Republican leaders, and also at grassroots level, supported the Macron's candidacy and gave victory to this candidate. "

In terms of policies, what can the French expect of this President?

RM – Victor Ângelo:
"I think the French expect this President to pay special attention to two major issues: one is the economy and the other is security. At the level of the economy, this President will reform the labor law, will make French companies more competitive both in France and within Europe. It will also allow a reduction of taxes on businesses and households. And this is very important, considering that in the last five or six years the French population has been crushed with a series of new taxes. It will also extend unemployment insurance and will certainly, as he has always promised and is known to do, invest heavily in education and culture. One of the great priorities of the new President is exactly primary school education. In terms of security, it will increase police numbers and, on the other hand, will also increase defense spending so that France can meet NATO criteria in terms of defense spending and , On the other hand, so that France can again play an international role, notably in North Africa, Sahel Africa and, to some extent, in the Middle East, which is a traditional French role but Has been lost in recent years. "

What about measures on Europe? What can you expect?

RM – Victor Ângelo:
"At European level, it will mainly insist on the creation of a common European budget for the Eurozone countries, will try to create the post of the Minister of Finance of the Euro Zone, will allow much more integration and much more solidarity between the Countries. Moreover, at the European level, Emmanuel Macron will be the missing balance in relations between France and Germany. In the last five years, especially during the presidency of François Hollande, on the French side the pillar was very weak and Emmanuel Macron knows that one of his tasks is to reestablish this balance of forces between these two great constructors of Europe that are Germany and France. "

What does this result mean for Europe?

RM – Victor Ângelo:
"Macron's election was seen in Europe in an extremely encouraging way and Macron was by far the preferred candidate of the European institutions and beyond - he was the preferred candidate of virtually every government in Europe, with the possible exception of the Hungary. The victory we have witnessed, the victory of Emmanuel Macron, sends a very positive message not only towards

Brussels but also towards the other European capitals. This is a time when Europe needs to strengthen itself, to position itself in the world and needs, above all, unity, given the negotiations with the United Kingdom, which are going to be extremely complicated negotiations. "

Today, 9 May, another European Day is celebrated. A Europe that Europeans want to see more intervention in the international sphere. This is revealed by a study commissioned by the European Parliament. The barometer also indicates that unemployment is a major concern of Europeans, including the Portuguese, as the correspondent of Antena 1 in Brussels, Andrea Neves tells us:

RM – Andrea Neves:
"It is the question of unemployment that the Portuguese give special priority. Eighty per cent consider that the actions of the European Union are insufficient. The issue is also of concern to Europeans in general: 78 percent want the Union to be more active in combating unemployment.
The data now known were achieved through a barometer commissioned by the European Parliament. With regard to Portugal, it is known that a third of the Portuguese believe that the crisis will last for many years, although 25 percent of those surveyed feel that they are already returning to economic growth.
In this survey, 28 thousand citizens, 1061 Portuguese, were heard, who show themselves to be the least identified with European citizenship. However, more than half - almost 54 per cent - believe that it is a good thing to be part of this Union. In this particular case, the data point to a reality very similar to that which existed before the 2007 crisis: there is general confidence in the European Union And the benefits of integration are recognized.
Overall, the data now collected also show that Europeans are concerned about recent international developments and call for more intervention in defense and protection of the environment, a subject that has gained ground in citizens' concerns, such as the need Avoid tax evasion. "

This year's European Day celebrations come days after the 27 member states have approved the guidelines for negotiations with the United Kingdom on leaving the European Union. The correspondent of Antena 1 reports that a quarter of an hour was enough for the 27th European Council to agree on the general guidelines that should guide the talks with London:

RM - Andrea Neves:
"Approved in less than 15 minutes. The tweets of Donald Tusk and Jean-Claude Juncker were significant. It was said here that the time taken to approve would reflect the level of union of the 27 - and less than 15 minutes obviously means that there is an immediate agreement on the guidelines that will set the negotiations for the withdrawal of the United Kingdom.
Among these lines is the question of citizens, who must be in the first place. The

27 want guarantees that there will be no discrimination and that fundamental rights will be respected. There is even a list of non-negotiable rights which the Commission has drawn up - for example, pensions, work and residence.
The United Kingdom must also fulfill the financial commitments it has assumed as a member of the Union, even if they extend beyond their exit.
The 27 are united - it has also been one of the slogans - and they do not allow sectoral or individual negotiations of a Member State with the United Kingdom.
First, we discuss the output and then the future. The 27 want future relations to be close, but for now it is necessary to know to what extent there will be sufficient progress in negotiating the exit. "

Victor, Europeans stand for a stronger Europe on the international scene ... How can Europe respond to this demand?

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"Europe needs to play a more visible international role. At the moment, Europe's foreign policy is still under construction. Federica Mogherini has done enough to make the European presence in relation to the different conflicts more visible, but there is still a lot to do. Europe is at present an extremely weak voice with regard to the crisis in Syria, it is a practically inaudible voice with regard to relations between Palestine and the State of Israel, and, in addition, it is also a voice Heard in the conflicts that exist in africa. We are, at the moment, as Europeans, the main donors in terms of humanitarian aid and in terms of development aid. But in terms of political influence in resolving major international conflicts our weight is very small. And this is what I need to solve. This is due not only to a more active foreign policy, but also to a more visible military presence, notably by the deployment of European military units within the framework of United Nations peace operations. "

The portuguese emerge as the least identified with European citizenship, although more than half believe that it is positive to belong to the European Union. How do you explain these results?

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"It is difficult to explain in a few words the position of the Portuguese. Most Portuguese recognize the benefits of European citizenship and, in general, the citizen of Portugal supports the European Union. It is clear that there are certain parties in Portugal - namely the Left Bloc and the Portuguese Communist Party - that are against the European project and against the presence of Portugal in the European institutions. And this, of course, has an impact on the electorate of these two parties. That is, about 20 to 22 percent of the Portuguese who support both the Left Bloc and the Portuguese Communist Party will have many reservations about the European Union. But that just does not explain. I think it is also the fact that Portugal would expect more in terms of European solidarity, Portugal feels

that it remains the poor relative of Europe, and there is also the periphery issue - we are not, however, in the geopolitical center of the Europe, and this, of course, has an impact on the way one sees the relationship with other European countries. "

As for Brexit, 15 minutes were enough for the 27 member states to approve the guidelines on negotiations with London. Is this a good indication of union between the members of the bloc for the coming years?

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"At the outset, the tuning is important, because the key is that the remaining 27 countries remain united. Even because negotiating with the UK will be a very difficult negotiation. Incidentally, last week we heard statements - notably by Theresa May - which clearly show that on both sides the mood is very high and that, on the British side, public opinion is likely to be mobilized against an agreement which Be regarded as unfavorable to the United Kingdom. The three fundamental issues are citizens' issues and their rights - European citizens living in the UK and the rights they must maintain; On the other hand, British citizens living in different European countries and also the maintenance of these rights. The second major issue is the question of UK financial commitments and what will be the total amount the UK will have to pay when it leaves the Union. And the third big issue is the issue of land borders with the UK, namely The borders in Ireland, between Ireland and Northern Ireland, and the border between Spain and Gibraltar. "

The European Day celebrations take place today at the University of Macau with a roundtable discussion on the European Union. Officials will take place on Thursday 11 with a concert of songs from famous European films - a celebration organized by the European Union Delegation for Hong Kong and Macao.

Montenegro prepares to join NATO. At the end of last month, the country's parliament ratified the protocol of adherence to the Atlantic Alliance, a protocol ratified days before by the United States. Montenegro should soon become the 29th member state of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Victor, what can Montenegro offer to NATO?

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"Montenegro is a very small country and with a tiny military. That is, we are talking about just over 2,000 soldiers. These armed forces are by no means a major contribution to NATO's military reinforcement. The issue on the table is that, on the one hand, Montenegro's accession to the Atlantic Alliance sends a very strong message towards Georgia and Ukraine, which are much more important than Montenegro and would like to join NATO . The message that is sent in the

direction of these two countries is that it is worth waiting for because Montenegro waited and was able to enter - and one day will come in which Georgia and Ukraine will also enter. The second great message is a message about Russia. NATO is telling Russia that, despite all the opposition from Moscow, regarding NATO's expansion in relation to the former Warsaw Pact allies, or members of the Warsaw Pact, NATO continues to admit countries That they belonged to this type of alliance in so far as those countries so desire. "

Russia has already criticized the future accession of Montenegro and the green light given by the United States ... What impact can the accession of the country in the relations between Brussels and Moscow?

RM - Victor Ângelo:
"The accession of Montenegro does not facilitate the relationship between Brussels and Moscow. Russia is against the accession of Montenegro for several reasons: because Montenegro was part of the communist world, so to speak, in the past, during the cold war; On the other hand, because Montenegro has a strong Serbian population and in general the Serbs are seen as the Slavs of the south and very close, therefore, of the northern Slavs, of the Russians; In Montenegro there is a strong economic penetration of Russia - for example, 40 per cent of Montenegro's property is owned by Russian citizens; And in addition, Russia thought that Montenegro could be the port that would be available for Russian ships that wanted to do operations in the Adriatic Sea, and with Montenegro's accession to NATO that hypothesis disappears. "

The House of European History opened to the public last weekend. It is a museum, journalist André Jegundo, which aims to encourage citizens to reflect and debate on the history of Europe and European integration:

RM - André Jegundo:
"It stays in Brussels and promises to challenge visitors to assess Europe's past and future.
The focus of the permanent exhibition lies mainly on the twentieth century and the process of European integration, from a comprehensive historical perspective. An approach that takes into account the diversity of Europe and multiple perceptions about European history.
The idea is to expose both shared experiences and contrasting cases.
The permanent exhibition, which covers an area of about 4,000 square meters and is available in 24 languages, includes materials brought from more than 300 museums or collections spread throughout Europe and beyond.
The museum is located in the Eastman building, which was converted to the lodge. There is also an area of about 800 square meters for temporary exhibitions. Various educational events and programs are also planned. "

To close, a note on the short film contest held at the end of last year by the Academic Program of the European Union for Macao. To celebrate Europe Day, the films that won the 2016 edition of the EU Short Film Challenge are broadcast this week at TDM - Canal Macau, following the English language newscast, at 11:30 p.m. The short films, made by students, focused on the subject of migrations.

[Datasheet]

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