I.

Fire in Pedrogrão Grande is one of the deadliest in Europe in recent decades. We analyzed the European response to Portugal's request for help.

Helmut Kohl, architect of German reunification and the European single currency, died at the age of 87. We look at the main moments of the political journey of the man who ruled Germany in the post-war period.

And in today's edition a balance sheet on the study visit of students and professors of the Academic Program of the European Union for Macau to Portugal and Belgium.

II.

Welcome to the Europe Magazine!

In Portugal, the fires in the center of the country caused 64 dead, over 200 injured and more than 150 evacuees. An interim assessment points to about 53 thousand hectares of burned area.

The fight against the flames mobilized about 3000 operatives; More than 900 land vehicles and 22 air vehicles.

Brussels responded immediately to Portugal's request for aid.

At the time, Carlos Gordejuela, spokesman for the European commission for humanitarian aid and crisis management, said that Europe is ready for more.

Of course, we are fully ready and available to respond to other requests for assistance through Member States participating in these mechanisms.

And the spokeswoman of the European commission for financial affairs, Annika Breidthardt, said the expenditure of this aid should not count towards the deficit calculation.

According to European Union rules, short-term emergency expenditure in response to large and exceptional natural disasters can be classified as punctual and should be excluded from the Member States' structural fiscal effort calculations.

Portugal was satisfied with European aid. Portuguese Foreign Minister Augusto Santos Silva said the response was immediate.

Of course we will also turn to the European Solidarity Fund. It exists precisely to help each other in responding to these very difficult events. In due course we will. What I

have to say is that all the requests we made in the European framework were immediately answered.

At dawn on Sunday, the European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Center received an alert from Portugal. Spain, France and Italy responded immediately.
In all, seven aircraft were sent to the country, 135 firefighters supported by 29 vehicles and 42 high-definition maps.
The Big Pedrógão Fire is the third largest number of fatalities in Europe in recent decades, barely exceeded by a fire in Greece in the summer of 2007, when 77 people died. And also by another fire in France, almost 70 years ago, where 82 people died.

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

ME: Victor, how do you look at this European solidarity?
VA: The fires, and especially the fire in Pedrogão Grande, had a great media impact in Europe and the Europeans in general felt a lot of solidarity with the Portuguese. On the other hand, it is also clear that there is a collective response in Europe in terms of the means available to firefighters and civil protection to respond to this type of natural disaster. Simply put, these natural disasters are very fast, that is to say, the fire spreads very quickly and sometimes the means do not arrive with the necessary speed, because nevertheless there is the distance. This leads European bodies to believe that the first response capacity has to be developed at the local level, then at the national level, and support from other European countries is a more structural support, it is a The fire takes a long time to be controlled and controlled.

ME: And at this moment, do the member states have the means to deal with crises of this dimension in the countries themselves?
VA: They do not. And there are several European states, namely the case of Portugal, where the fire response system still remains a very traditional response system, ie based on the volunteer firefighter, the local fire brigade who are people who have others Jobs. It is true that in recent years, and especially in Portugal, there has been an intensification of the training and training of these volunteer firefighters, but the truth is that the dimension of these problems sometimes requires professional sapnings, that is, it requires means that mobilize capable men and women To respond to these questions in a very professional, highly specialized way, with a great capacity of training and a great capacity of immediate response.

ME: And in the face of this issue is it inevitable to talk about global warming Can Portugal and the Portuguese forests also be warming themselves?
VA: The average temperature, also in summer, has risen and the truth is that a good part of the country this year was quite dry, in fact a good part of Europe is quite dry. It is one of the novelties, let us say, of global warming, that summers are much warmer

and much drier than they used to be. In the case, for example, of Belgium where it used to rain during the summer, for a few days it rained, and now we have had some summers, a very dry summer. This clearly creates the conditions conducive to the rapid spread of any type of fire.

ME: And with regard to the issue of forest management in Portugal, what has failed in governments?
VA: Forestry and land planning in Portugal have always been, and especially since 25 April, that is, from the moment Portugal began to develop, it has been a failure. Therefore, blaming the current government or the previous government is absolutely not to take into account that we have several decades of bad land planning, that is, we have used the national territory in a chaotic way. One notes this in the forests, one notices this in the coastal zones, one notices this in the way in which tourism has developed, that is, we have a very big problem, which is a problem of environmental indiscipline, a problem of Institutional problem of the Portuguese State and we also have a major problem, which is the problem that in many rural areas, the small-holder predominates and people do not have the economic conditions to maintain the forests, to maintain the parcels of land that they inherited from the family, and They leave the forests to abandonment.

III.

Helmut Kohl, a worker of German reunification, also of the single currency, died on the 16th of this month at the age of 87. Antena 1 journalist, Cristina Santos, recalls the main moments of the political career of the chancellor who ruled Germany for a longer post-war period.

Father of the reunification of Germany, a pillar in the European construction or the chancellor who stayed longer in power. Any of these phrases is used to synthesize part of Helmut Kohl's legacy. The former chancellor was also nicknamed the good giant because of his high physical stature.
Kohl's biography highlights the fact that he was the chancellor who ruled Germany for a longer post-war period. It was 16 years in power, which also had as one of the highlights the fact of becoming the first chancellor of Germany reunified in 1990. It was then that Helmut Kohl stressed the importance, but also the advantages of reunification.
The Christian Democrat politician also played a leading role outside of Germany and in the heart of Europe. Helmut Kohl played a key role in the process of integration and enlargement of Europe, starting with the deepening Franco-German reconciliation with François Mitterrand and culminating in the creation of the Euro.
Throughout his political life, he faced several controversies. For example, in the late 1990s, with election campaign funding scandals. More recently the Cologne regional court has ordered Helmut Kohl to pay compensation of one million Euros for moral damages. It was the highest amount ever stipulated in similar cases in Germany. In

question a book written by the former biographer of the former chancellor, then and according to Helmut Kohl, the work contained statements inaccurate or out of context. Among the embarrassing passages are references to Angela Merkel, for example, Kohl would have stated that she can not hold the fork and the knife as it should be.

ME: Victor, Helmut Kohl played an important role in the reunification of the two Germanies. He also persuaded the most skeptical to leave the German mark. It is undeniable then this role that had in the union of the European continent.
VA: I think Helmut Kohl was a European giant. He was one of the key contributors to the end of the Cold War, he was one of the artisans who contributed decisively to the end of the rivalry between Eastern and Western Europe. This then led - and this is the second aspect I would stress - to the unification of Germany. The third aspect is that Helmut Kohl made a decisive contribution to European integration. He realized that France and other countries of central Europe would never accept a strong and unified Germany if this were not accompanied by an in-depth process of integration and building of Europe. He was also the fundamental architect of the creation of the Euro. It was a giant with some weaknesses, namely weaknesses in relation to the crisis in the Balkans. In other words, the policy he pursued towards the former Yugoslavia and, at the same time, by recognizing the independence of Croatia and Slovenia very quickly and prematurely, this deepened the crisis in the Balkans, led to the terrible wars that took place in the years 90 in that part of Europe and to some extent the question of the Balkan Civil War must be associated with the hesitations and party takeover that Helmut Kohl took at that time.

ME: And how did Helmut Kohl look at Europe today?
VA: He thought that Europe did not have the kind of leadership that is accurate, had lost ideals in terms of what European construction means and in particular had lost the soul of what is the European construction, which is the question of peace and Economic solidarity between European states. One must not forget that Helmut Kohl came from a border region between Germany and France. Helmut Kohl and his family had known generations and generations of wars between Germany and France and he knew perfectly well that a divided Europe and an unequal Europe from the economic point of view would always be a Europe that would lead to war, conflict, lead Evidently loss of life. And he has thought in recent years that this kind of problem has been forgotten.

ME: And what can today's leaders hold, can they learn from the leadership of Helmut Kohl?
VA: Helmut Kohl never cared about the details, never cared about the little things. He has always tried to read events from a historical perspective, from a deeply structural perspective, to what extent would this affect Europe's construction, to what extent would it affect economies and living standards of Europeans, and therefore the way the Europeans would see each other. That is, he went to the bottom of things. And he has in recent years felt that European leaders were too superficial, too unconcerned

with everyday life, too preoccupied with the media and opinion polls and not with the big issues of historical trends and transformation, which At the moment it is absolutely visible in Europe but has not yet found a politician who can express clearly and who can mobilize the European populations in order to transform their own lives, taking into account the new challenges that Europe and the world has.

IV.

On the phone, Victor Ângelo, resident commentator of Magazine Europe. For the week we return to the conversation.

And this year the European Union's Academic Program for Macao returned to Europe with a group of students and professors from the University of Macau and the Institute of European Studies of
Macao.
The group was in Belgium, where it visited the European Commission,
External Action Service of the European Union. He also attended a conference at the Free University of Brussels and went to the Belvue Museum. In Portugal, the 18 participants went through the
Republic, had a meeting with the secretary of
State of European Affairs, were received by the President of the
Porto Municipal Council, and also met with the
President of the republic Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa. O
The program in Portugal also included visits to the National Museum of Ancient Art in Lisbon, the Machado Castro National Museum in Coimbra and the Serralves Foundation in Porto. There was also a conference at the Institute of Economics and Management and a visit to the Higher Institute of Social and Political Sciences in Lisbon and the University of Coimbra.

The President of the Institute of European Studies of Macao, José Luís Sales Marques, who led this delegation, is one of the highlights of this visit.

JLSM: We were received by the President of the Republic, with that sympathy, openness and also as all the wisdom that he has and knows how to convey, also talking about the relations between Portugal and China, his current state of excellent relationship, some perspectives Future.

ME: And what swing students did they do?
JLSM: The students were amazed, I think there is no other word to describe, either because of the cultural richness and also of the urban environment of great vitality that is lived today particularly in the great cities of Lisbon and Oporto - Coimbra is something different - and above all They felt a great ease, a great proximity to maximum figures of the Portuguese state and politics.

V.

And before finishing, a cultural note for a lecture on the
Relationship between the United Kingdom and Ireland.
The Consul-General of Ireland for Hong Kong and Macao will be
Half past six in the Rui Cunha Foundation.
Peter Ryan will talk about the Irish perspective of BREXIT.
With the support of the European Union's Academic Program for Macao,
The lecture will be conducted in English. Admission is free.

See you next week!

[Datasheet]
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