I.

Negotiations have already begun on the largest ever trade agreement in the history of the European Union with a third country. Treaty with Japan has automobiles and agricultural products as major exchange currencies.

Jean Claude Juncker, chair of the European commission calls MEPs "ridiculous". Verbal confrontation is related to the lack of assiduity in the parliament.

And this month Estonia took over the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union. We look at Talin's priorities. The strengthening of digital policies and greater union of the European bloc are two of them.

II.

Welcome to the Europe Magazine!

If all goes as expected, the trade agreement between Japan and the European Union will come into force in early 2019.
For now it is only a principle of agreement, but to materialize will be the largest trade pact ever in the history of the European Union with a third country.
Shinzo Abé, the Japanese prime minister, who was in Brussels last week to attend the EU-Japan summit, said he has everything to go.

Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister Japan Japan and the European Union represent 30% of GDP, 10% of the population and 40% of world trade. This is the birth of the freest, most advanced, industrialized and largest economic zone in the world.

The details of this agreement are not yet known. It is already known that Japanese passenger cars will fail to pay the 10 percent fee to enter the European market. Also agricultural products of European origin arriving in Japan will benefit from a tax cut.
The Commission estimates that the value of exports originating in the Union could increase by up to EUR 20 billion.
But as important as these figures, says European Council President Donald Tusk, is the sharing of common values.

Donald Tusk, President of the European Council It is not just about common commercial interests. It is above all the shared values that sustain our societies. By this I mean liberal democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

At the time, Jean-Claude Juncker, chair of the European Commission, spoke against protectionism in a clear message addressed to the President of the United States.

Jean Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission We are not good for

business or the global economy or for workers. The agreement puts justice and values at its core. Like our agreement with Canada, it will set standards for others and respect high standards of labor and environmental protection.

Japan, the world's third largest economy, is the second largest trading partner of the European Union in Asia after China. In 2016, the European bloc exported 58 billion euros worth of goods to the Japanese market.
On the phone, from Brussels, is the commentator resident of Magazine Europe, Victor Ângelo, international consultant based in the Belgian capital.

ME: Victor, it is known that Brussels and Tokyo collided during the negotiations in the agricultural and automobile dossier. Anyway these are good news for both parties, according to the statements of the leaders we have heard. What does this agreement represent for world trade, and particularly for Europe?
VA: For the Europeans, it was vital to send the message that the European Union is still active and that it can sign very important trade agreements such as this agreement with Japan. On the one hand, the message was addressed directly to the G20 members To US President Donald Trump, a president who has proved quite protectionist and this agreement between Japan and the European Union was exactly the opposite message, ie that the future has to be a future of open economies, international trade In which protectionism is not accepted. It also sent a very strong message to China to show China that in the Far East Japan is a strong political ally of the European Union. There are two blocs that have very close international policies, which defend the same types of values in the world arenas and I think that this message was important, how important it was to show China that, despite the enormous interest that exists in Europe To trade with China, trade with the East is not simply summed up with China.

ME: What is China's response to such an agreement?
VA: For China this agreement with Japan is an agreement that is always seen with some concern. They say that there is a great rivalry between China and Japan and also to the extent that this approach of Europe towards Japan is seen by China as an attempt to send a political message to China that if China does not change politically in terms of Example of human rights, Europe will continue to prefer other trading partners, not China.

ME: What about Japan? The Japanese economy has been stagnating in recent decades. What change can this bring to Tokyo?
The Japanese economy is suffering mainly from a very strong yen and for Japan it is vital that, despite the high yen price, Japanese products can be exported to an economic region as important as the European Union and can be imported without Because the import taxes would increase the price of a product which is already based on a very expensive currency. It is therefore fundamental for Japan that such trade agreements be made and therefore Japan has also been committed to transpacific partnership, ie in partnership with other countries in the Pacific and the United States, but the transpacific

partnership Is now dying because of the protectionist policy of Donald Trump and in this case Japan has to gamble in other areas and is therefore trying to accelerate its trade relationship with the European Union.

ME: And also in relation to the G20 meeting, which also took place last week ... There were several themes highlighted. UK wants agreement to combat Islamic state funding; The issue of migration and the abandonment of the United States of the Paris Agreement on climate change have also been on the table in talks between these 20 nations. What balance would you make of this summit, also marked by numerous anti-globalization demonstrations?
VA: It can be seen in a positive way: the creation of a fund that will be administered by the World Bank, from a fund of US $ 325 million, which is intended to finance the entrepreneurial activities of African women. African women have great capacity for entrepreneurship, but often have many difficulties in accessing capital. There was also a positive side to the steel issue. There is great tension between the European countries and China with regard to steel production. China currently produces 50 percent of the world's steel. There is also great tension between the United States and China over the same product. And the G20 has decided to undertake a comprehensive review of world steel production and to present to the world leaders an action plan to address these tensions between the European Union, the United States and China with regard to steel production. But there were also extremely negative aspects. One of them was certainly the climate issue and the huge divergences that exist between the United States and the other 19 G20 member countries. Another extremely negative aspect was the fact that Hamburg was the scene of many extremely violent manifestations of anarchist groups, of anti-capitalist groups. It is true that Hamburg is considered the European capital and probably even the world capital of anarchy, as large European anarchist groups are based in the city of Hamburg. There were those who said with some cynicism that, in choosing Hamburg, they chose the right city, considering that it is the city of anarchy.

III.

And in Strasbourg, the President of the European Commission entered into a verbal confrontation with the president of the European Parliament, after calling MEPs "ridiculous." Juncker criticized the low attendance of MEPs. More with the journalist Sofia Jesus.

"You guys are ridiculous." That is how the president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, described the members of the European Parliament. Watching a debate were just dozens of MEPs.
And that was exactly the problem. In the face of an almost empty Chamber, Juncker accused Parliament of not complying with the small presidencies of the European Union. In the concrete case, guys.
Maltese Prime Minister Joseph Muscat participated in the debate to make the balance of the presidency that the country took over the first semester of the year.

Now Juncker stressed that if it were Merkel in place of Muscat everything would be different.

Jean Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission the European Parliament is ridiculous, very ridiculous. I greet those who have bothered to be in the room. But the fact that about 30 members are present in the debate, demonstrates the society that Parliament is not serious. I meant today: if Mr. Muscat was Mrs Merkel, difficult to imagine, or Mr Macron, even harder to imagine, she would have a full house.

The President of the European Parliament, Antonio Tajani, interrupted Juncker. And he asked me to use another kind of language.

Mr Tajani, President of the European Parliament, you can criticize Parliament, but it is not the Commission that should control Parliament. It is Parliament that must control the Commission.

But Juncker has recalled. And he left a warning.

Jean Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission
Never again. I'm never going to be here in a meeting like this again. The Commission is under control of Parliament, but Parliament must respect the presidencies of the smallest countries. And Parliament is not doing that.

Me: Victor, have the European Commission and the European Parliament reached zero level of institutional relationships?
VA: I don't think so. I think it was an incident between Juncker and the members present, who were very few, about a thirty. Juncker is a very spontaneous personality. He's a man who's used to saying what he thinks. Juncker is very easily annoyed, but it is also true that Jean-Claude Juncker believes in the European project, takes the relations between the Commission and the European Parliament and the fact that he has seen so few people in the room has irritated him deeply.

Me: It is a good occasion to perceive a little more about the role of the European Parliament. What is the significance of this entity? What role plays in the legislative process of the European Union? What good is an MEP?
VA: the European Parliament at this moment has much more importance and visibility it had a few years ago. The Treaty of Lisbon, which entered into force on 1 December 2009, gave greater powers to the European Parliament and in particular allows the European Parliament to approve the European Commission's budget, also has the possibility of electing the President of the European Commission and approving the commissars. Furthermore, at the moment the European Parliament has legislative powers in a series of subjects, including security, immigration, justice, even energy and even agriculture. And that makes it clear that the work of the European Parliament has more intention. And it is true that there are many Members who work in a very intense

way, but there are also members from virtually all the countries that are members who have already surpassed the expiration date as politicians in their country of origin and were eventually dispatched to the European Parliament as a kind of terminal station of its political life and it is true that these MEPs still weigh in the European Parliament and decrease the prestige of an institution that Reality has been gaining strength.

iv.
Malta closed the Rotary Presidency of the Council of the European Union at the end of June. Estonia succeeded, with a mandate extending by the end of the year
Tallinn has already announced as priority the strengthening of digital policies. "Europe has to explore the benefits of technological progress, which results in constant changes to citizens, businesses and governments", can read in the bi-annual program available on the Internet, which refers to a wager on the development of transnational electronic commerce.
Also the fight against terrorism will take a relief role in the next six months. An increase in defence expenditure is proposed and a reform of the European asylum system.
The negotiation of Brexit is another of Tallinn's priorities, which advocates that the European Union should be "more united and stronger".

Me: Victor: It is the first time that Estonia takes the rotating presidency. What can we expect from the country?
VA: Estonia is a dynamic country, a very young country, a very interesting country. It is the country that is more advanced in terms of digital economics. It is a pioneering country in the area of the digital economy and, therefore, we can expect from Estonia several things: on the one hand, much innovation, on the other, a great reinforcement of digital Europe. It is also a very concerned country with security and defence issues, taking into account that it is neighbouring Russia and taking into account also that about ¼ of Estonia's population is ethnically Russian and speaks Russian, in other words, Estonia feels very vulnerable about Russia and will certainly be in the next six months to put a very strong accent on defence and security issues. On the other hand, Estonia taking into account its past while one of the states in the Soviet Union will certainly make the European Union interested in Eastern Europe.

Me: And what may be the greatest difficulties?
VA: Probably the tonic accent will be more in relation to Russia and in relation to the east and less on issues related to the Mediterranean, in other words, Estonia must be aware that it cannot contribute to the division of the European Union between the eastern and northern countries, which are primarily concerned about the situation around the Baltic Sea and the border with Russia and the issues of Ukraine. For example. And you have to find a balance between these issues and the issues that are happening right now in the south of Europe, and in particular in the Mediterranean Sea, which are fundamental problems and that actually require very special attention.

V.

Victor Angelo, resident commentator of the magazine Europa. We're back in the conversation next week.
And, as always, before we finish, we leave a cultural note here.
On 4th of July they celebrated the 60 years of the launch of Fiat 500.
It was in 1957, which was produced in Italy the first unit of this model of Fiat. The success was immediate: 4 million of copies sold in Europe until 1975. From that number, the manufacturer said, about 400,000 remain in circulation.
Considered one of the most classic models of the European automobile industry, the small car marked a time.
The current generation of Fiat500, which reached the markets in 2007, maintained the design elements of the original model.
And to mark the 60 years, Fiat launched commemorative stamps.
It also produced a special limited anniversary series, launched in March at the Geneva automobile salon. This new series has been seeking inspiration from the model of 1957.
Also the MOMA, New York's Modern art museum included this month's most beloved automobile in the history of Fiat in its permanent collection. The model on exposure is the Fiat 500 series F Berlina, considered the most popular of all 500-manufactured between 1965 and 1972.
We'll stay here. See you next week.

VI.
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