I.

Human Rights Court gives reason to Belgian state and confirms ban on the wearing of Islamic veil. Justice argues that law is "necessary in a democratic society".

Germany and France will cooperate in defense and security. The two countries want to develop a new model of combat aircraft. Decision announced during the meeting of Franco-German Council of Ministers, which took place in Paris.

And it was 30 years ago that Turkey made its first application for membership of the European Union. Ankara says now that the 28 block is making the country lose time.

II.

Welcome to the Europe Magazine!

The European Court of Human Rights has upheld the ban on the Belgian state of wearing an Islamic veil in public.
The decision was taken after two women challenged the law, which came into force in July 2011. The ban relates to veils that partially cover the face or even the "niqab", which covers the entire face, with the exception of the eyes .
The Court decided unanimously ... and stressed that there had been no violation of the articles of the European Convention on Human Rights. It also considered that Belgian law was "necessary in a democratic society". Already three years ago, the high court had taken a similar decision in France.

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

ME: I would start by asking: Not only Belgium, but other countries in Europe prohibit the wearing of the veil in public. Does this prohibition make sense?

VA: I think so and especially at this point that the European Court of Human Rights has passed a judgment saying that this does not violate human rights and is acceptable in a democratic society. The truth is that there are also several Muslim countries that ban the use of the veil. I am thinking, for example, of Morocco, Egypt, Chad, Niger and many others, and, moreover, the veil that only lets the eyes see - the `nigap' - is not a precept of the Koran. On the other hand, the European Court of Human Rights has recognized that there are certain caveats regarding the rights of individuals and, in particular, it must be ensured that the rights of individuals also have a balance with the need for the social integration of each person. That is, what the court sought to do was find a balance between what could be considered an individual right and the right of society. And it attached great importance to a question that in reality is now a fundamental question in Europe which is the question of the social integration of very

different cultural minorities. This is probably one of today's great themes and will in future also be a major concern.

ME: This decision will not foment the differences, the creation of ghettos?

VA: The ghettos to some extent already exist. The concern with social integration is precisely to prevent the emergence of neighborhoods such as we currently have in Brussels or in Paris or in the outskirts of the great cities of central Europe - neighborhoods that are mainly inhabited by foreigners and especially by people of the Muslim religion . It is clear that sooner or later it will create very large social tensions and call into question the stability of these countries. It must also be acknowledged that there is growing hostility among European populations towards the Muslim segments of the population and this kind of hostility has to be tackled. Public education and civic education must acknowledge, on the one hand, that this growing uneasiness - not just malaise, but also hostility towards European Muslims - must be overcome and People can be more tolerant.

III.

France and Germany want to develop a new European fighter plane. This is just one of the defense measures announced during the meeting of the Franco-German Council of Ministers, held last week in Paris. More with the journalist Sofia Jesus.

Defense and Security. Paris and Berlin will bet heavily on these two areas. The announcement was made during the Franco-German Council of Ministers, which took place last week in the French capital .... Which was attended by French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The two leaders announced that they want to develop a new European fighter plane. And also a future model of the Tiger attack helicopter and new categories of ground-to-air tactical missiles.
The agenda of this meeting was also marked by other themes, such as the environment, innovation, education and culture.
To the journalists, the French leader, Emmanuel Macron, said the two countries need to come together to keep Europe together.

Emmanuel Macron: If Germany and France do not understand each other, Europe is divided. We have the duty and the ability to build a common future, because neither country can succeed without the other. Whenever this was thought of in the past was a mistake. We have long experience and long learning with mutual mistakes.

In addition to Angela Merkel, Paris also hosted Donald Trump last week. But the two did not. The president of the United States was the guest of honor for the traditional military parade of the day of the Bastille. This year coincided with the centennial of

the United States' entry into the First World War.
In Paris, about a hundred demonstrators were also waiting for Trump.

Protester: We are manifesting ourselves by a number of things that Trump has implemented or defended and which we do not stand for or agree to, such as getting out of climate change conference and standing against immigrants' rights, being misogynist, homophobic and all that .

But in Macron's presence, Donald Trump showed openness to the Paris treaty.

Donald Trump: Something could happen with regard to the Paris agreement. We'll see what happens. But we will speak of this in this period that follows.

If the climate dossier continues to be a rock in the shoes between the two countries, the fight against terrorism unites Paris and Washington, who have pledged to work together on the Syrian issue.

ME: It was a busy week in Paris, with very symbolic encounters. Victor, let's start with the Franco-German Council of Ministers. There is a clear bet on the defense .. Is this bet driven by terrorism? What do the two countries want?

VA: What Macron is trying to do is revive an old habit, an old ritual of regular meetings between the two countries, which are two neighboring countries, which in the past have been at the center of the armed conflicts that Europe, which destroyed much of Europe, both in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, ie there is a concern to re-establish a very direct relationship between the governments of France and Germany and, in Defense and the fight against terrorism. The defense because, increasingly, there is a conviction in Europe that the defense will have to be ensured by the European states. For decades - since the end of World War II - European security has been fundamentally secured by the United States of America. I think that the emphasis on defense has a lot to do with the creation of a European defense system that is already in the forge.

Me: And in relation to Trump's visit to Paris. Is it possible to change the American position in relation to the Paris agreement?

VA: Time will tell. The truth is that the meeting between Macron and Donald Trump went well. It is also true that these things resolve themselves through dialogue and also that Donald Trump at the press conference left open the possibility of reviewing the American position in relation to the Paris agreement in some time. I think it is worthwhile to insist on the dialogue and it would be a mistake to try to exclude the American president from the future and negotiations. So I think Emmanuel Macron did what was necessary to do, went into dialogue with Donald Trump. It is certainly a very difficult dialogue, but it is a dialogue that is absolutely necessary, even because

the United States is the first country in terms of the world economy, are the first country in terms of pollution, say so, and are the first country in terms of defense and international relations between the States.

iv.

And Turkey. Ankara says he's wasting his time with the European Union. In an interview with the BBC, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan revealed that urgently awaits an answer on the entry into the block. News of João Shrike.

If the union says bluntly that it doesn't want to accept Turkey, it will be comforting. These are the words of the president of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan during an interview with the BBC. and said more:
"The European Union is not indispensable for us." The Turkish leader also reminded the British channel that most of the population no longer wants to belong to the European Union. He also accused Brussels of having a very insincere approach.

The declarations arise after the adoption of the European Parliament of a report requesting that Turkey's accession negotiations to the European Union be suspended.
The BBC interview also happens at a time when Turkey is again under the spotlight of the international community. This is because in early July nine human rights activists were detained and still Idil Eser, Amnesty International representative in the country.
July 15th has also scored a year since the military coup attempted in the country. According to advanced news by various media, Turkey has ended however 160 media and 2500 journalists have been fired.
The Turkish president has still confirmed the detention of two journalists... But he denied that people were detained for exercising this professional activity.

Me: Victor, strong declarations of President Erdogan. Case to ask: why is the negotiations in relation to the entry in the Union have not yet been suspended?
VA: The relationship between Turkey and the European Union is an extremely complicated relationship. We are faced with eternal dating and convenience, but without love. Turkey is too big, it's too poor and too different. It is too big because, in fact, if Turkey enters the European Union, it will quickly be the second most important country in terms of population and can in the future be the largest country in terms of the number of people. It is also a country too poor and the European Union has now a number of countries which have a much lower level of development than the European average-I am thinking for example in Romania or Bulgaria. To include in the European Union another country where the level of development is very low has enormous financial burdens and pulls down, say so, the European economies. And then there's the big question that's a country too different. It is a country already in the Middle East and is, above all, a Muslim country and in which religion increasingly weighs in Turkey's internal politics. It is also true that Turkey is a country of frontier, hinge country between Europe and certain very important parts

in the strategic direction for Europe, namely the Middle East, Persia, i.e. Iran, the countries of Central Asia. And, therefore, there is some interest in maintaining a relationship with Turkey, but it will continue to be an ambiguous relationship based on interests which certainly exclude the willingness to integrate Turkey into the European Union.

Me: And after a year since the attempted coup d'état, Erdogan is stronger?

VA: Certainly, much more. The coup allowed Erdogan to solve two major problems he still had. On the one hand, crush the opposition. He has practically ruled out the opposition, either from parliament, or from the public road, that is, the opposition exists, but is in such a weakened way that it has ceased to hear in Parliament and is virtually unable to meet in the public and manifest itself. Therefore, a year after the attempt of coup d'état, this great ambition of Erdogan to have a more absolute power is being achieved. On the other hand, he also got something else that cared enough, which was to submit the armed forces to his personal power.

V.

Victor Angelos on the phone from Brussels. And we ended up today with a note about laziness and physical activity.
A study conducted by Stanford University revealed that Hong Kong is the region of the world where people walk more daily.
Data collected through Argus, a smartphone application that counts the number of steps data, reveal that, on average, users are 4,961 steps a day.
Hong Kong has an average of 6,880 daily steps. It follows the inside of China, with 6,189.
Among the 10 most active countries, four are European: Ukraine
Spain, Sweden and Switzerland. Already Portugal is slightly above average with 5000 steps.
The country with less activity is Indonesia, with 3,513 steps.
The study, published this week in the magazine "nature" evaluated anonymous data of about 700,000 users.
One of the conclusions also concerns factors that determine obesity. And the most important thing is the so-called "inequality of activity", i.e. the differences between people more and less active.
The United States and Mexico, for example, have a daily average of similar steps, but in the USA the "inequality of activity" is superior and, therefore, the level of obesity as well.
Another of the conclusions states that pedestrian friendly towns reach more daily footsteps.

We're staying here today. See you next week!

[Technical Sheet]

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