I
The European Union is concerned about sanctions passed by the United States Congress to Russia. Brussels foresees economic losses and speaks in retaliation. Moscow has announced the withdrawal of hundreds of US diplomats from the country.

The Court of Justice of the European Union has already said that it will not change asylum application rules. It is up to the first country of arrival of a refugee to examine the application for asylum.

And still in this edition: UK announces end of diesel or gasoline vehicles until 2040.

II
Welcome to the Europe Magazine.

The House of Representatives of the United States has approved a new package of economic sanctions against Russia. Sanctions that punish the country for alleged interference in the US presidential election. Also by the Russian annexation of the Crimea and military interferences in Ukraine.
Moscow said they are insolent measures, which has lost its patience and has already announced the withdrawal of 755 US diplomats until 1 September.
This sanctions package was also met with concern by the European Union, which fears that the measures will penalize the continent's economic interests, notably in the energy sector.
The project provides for a ban on access to US banks and markets for any company that contributes to the development and maintenance of Russian gas pipelines. Gas pipelines, by the way, that supply Europe with energy.
If this goes forward, the European Union also envisages retaliatory measures.

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: Victor, these sanctions may signal a divergence in international politics. What are the consequences of this decision on relations between the European Union and the United States?

VA: A process of divergence and withdrawal had already been initiated to a great extent in the time of President Obama, is now in a phase of acceleration. We will probably not have an economic war between the US and the US but the truth is that there will be more and more opposing interests and major tensions both from a commercial and political point of view. The truth is that the sanctions against Russia and also to some extent the sanctions adopted with regard to Iran are sanctions that call into question the functioning and economic and commercial interests of large European companies and these sanctions are causing great concern in Brussels, a

major concern in the main European capitals and more and more there is the idea that the economic and political relationship with the United States is an extremely difficult, unpredictable relationship that is likely to remain a relationship of great confusion.

ME: News reports that Donald Trump intends to sign this project. Is it the most likely scenario?

VA: President Trump can not veto the new law. On the one hand, the new law was passed by the overwhelming majority of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Virtually all members of these two institutions, of the Congress, are therefore in favor of sanctions against Russia. And, on the other hand, the President of the United States finds himself in such a situation with regard to his relationship with Putin and Russia that he can not in any way imply that he is the only defender of Russian interests that still remains in the United States. It is very likely - but very likely - that the President of the United States close his eyes and sign on the cross.

ME: What may be the consequences of this decision. Can you bring Europe closer to countries like Russia or China?

VA: The first major consequence is in the area of oil and gas because there are large European projects with Russia in these two areas and there are big companies like Shell or ENI, which is an Italian oil company, or BP that are Deeply invested in Russia and that with this new regime of sanctions that the Americans will impose, these companies become fragile with respect to their operations in the United States. Will sanctions bring Russia closer to Europe? Will they bring Europe closer to China? Most probably not. Europe, however, has some disagreements with China. As far as Europe's economic relationship with Russia is concerned, there is still a great dependence on many Russian countries in relation to Russian oil and gas. That is, on the one hand, there are major tensions between Europe and Russia from the political point of view, but on the other hand, there is a great economic interconnection, and in particular in the fundamental sector which is the energy sector.

ME: On the other hand, Vladimir Putin should be satisfied with this cool relation between the US and US.

VA: Vladimir Putin always bets on the division of his opponents, by the way, it is an absolutely correct bet, a bet that makes historical sense. And on the one hand he will always look for a gap between Washington and Brussels and, on the other hand, will always try to bet heavily on the division within the European Union itself. And that is why the European Union must do everything to maintain cohesion among the member countries, because it would be against its own interests if it were divided and played the game that Putin wants done, that is, of divergences, Of divisions within the European Union.

III.
The European Commission has started an infringement procedure against Poland after the country's lower house has approved a new law allowing the Warsaw government to decide on justice issues.
Brussels argues that the reform undermines the independence of the Polish courts. It gave Poland one month to respond to this procedure which could result in financial penalties.

IV.
And the European Union Court of Justice said it will not change the rules of asylum. This means that Dublin rules are maintained. That is, it is the first arrival destination of a refugee who should review the asylum application. More with the journalist Sofia Jesus.

It is up to the first country in which refugee arrives duty to examine the asylum application of a refugee. That was the decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union, maintaining the rules laid down by the Dublin Agreement.
The verdict came in response to a case dating back to 2015, when a Syrian citizen and two Afghan families illegally entered Croatia.
Authorities in Zagreb transported immigrants to the border, allowing them to travel to other European Union nations. The group eventually applied for asylum to Slovenia and Austria.

But these two countries have decreed that the request for refuge would have to be made in Croatia.

Italy has already been disillusioned with the verdict of the European Court of Justice as it needs to deal with thousands of people arriving directly and daily to the country.
Rome then awaits a revision of the Dublin regulation, which stipulates that refugees seeking asylum must do so in the first country where they arrive.

ME: Victor, we have tried to facilitate procedures, but European justice has not given a damn. What consequences can this decision have in terms of European asylum policy?

VA: The Dublin rules were approved in 1990, approved in a totally different political context. Today, Europe has a very serious problem of migratory flows, notably through the Mediterranean of people coming from Africa and the Middle East, a question that did not exist 27 years ago, when Dublin was approved. We are today dealing with a much more complex, much bigger, much more serious, with rules that have been made for a situation that was a situation of few cases, a situation that existed many years ago. This means that it would be crucial to change the rules of Dublin and in the last two years there have been several attempts, either from the European Commission, for example by the German Government in order to amend

these rules, but the truth is that this issue of emigration is a very sensitive issue for certain States and those states do not want to alter the DUBLIN rules that have been approved for so long.

ME: Can this judicial decision be considered as a political decision?

VA: The decision of the European Court of Justice was fundamentally a legal decision, in the sense that they were, to see what the Treaties that were in force in the area of immigration, they referred to the Treaty which is in force which is the Treaty of Dublin and made an interpretation to the letter of the agreement between the Member States. So I do not believe that at the level of the European Court of Justice this has been a political decision. However, the issue of immigration to the Member States is a fundamentally political issue and for some Member States it is even one of the most important concerns they have to resolve at this time. I'm thinking for example in Italy, I'm thinking France, I'm thinking Germany, Belgium, Holland. These are all countries that have very serious internal issues relating to the acceptance or not of new migratory flows and, therefore, the issues of immigration and, in particular the question of the breakdown of those arriving in Europe by the different Member States, is a very important issue. But that question is not solved. The states that can be taken refuge in Dublin rules continue to take refuge in the Dublin rules, this means fundamentally that they are the countries of southern Europe, namely Italy, Greece and to some extent more and more to Spain, which have to resolve a problem that is actually a common problem and not just a problem of those three countries.

iv.
After France, it was the UK's turn to announce that it will prohibit the sale of cars to diesel or petrol, from 2040.
This prohibition is valid for passenger and freight cars.
The measure is part of a pollution-fighting program. For Theresa May's government, this is the main environmental risk for public health.
The air quality Protection plan is rated at almost EUR 4 billion. It includes the creation of clean air zones and also investments in public transportation and infrastructure.

ME: Victor, this is good news that arrives from the UK. It was also announced earlier in the year by Paris. Is it possible for the whole Union to take the same decision in the short term?

VA: This will mainly happen at the level of factories and large brands producing vehicles, more and more we will see a situation where large automobile companies will decide to move from diesel and gasoline, i.e. diesel and gasoline to hybrid cars and above all and increasingly electric cars. Alias, Volvo, which is a large automobile brand company, says it will already start producing electric cars and hybrids from 2019. And what's happening with the Volvo will certainly happen to other big

companies. We will see, on the one hand, certain governments, like the French government a few weeks ago and now the British government to take action in relation to cars with traditional engines. But especially what we're going to check out is a major transformation in automobile production. This is one of the sectors that in the next ten years will suffer a completely radical revolution.

ME: And what are the biggest challenges, problems or difficulties of this measure?

VA: We will watch in this automobile sector a radical transformation of the production conditions with a greater use of robots, with fewer jobs, lower production costs and, on the other hand, also with other issues related to the disappearance of petrol pumps, the disappearance of automobile repair workshops, because all this will be completely transformed. The supply of cars will require non-petrol pumps but yes electrical points that will have to be created and at this time still do not exist-only exist in absolutely exceptional situations – and, on the other hand, the autonomisation of car-producing factories will mean that a large portion of the employment in the sector will disappear. We will also have the problem of batteries and the autonomy of the batteries. The problem of the batteries has several dimensions, one is that the batteries of the electric cars are made from cobalt and that 60% of the cobalt world comes from a country only that is the Democratic Republic of Congo, comes from a deeply insecure and politically unstable country. It is also produced in a part of the Congo where there are several guerrilla movements. We will watch a huge demand for cobalt and, on the other hand, we will see increasingly that this mineral is going to be linked to armed conflicts.

V.
Victor Angelo, Magazine Europa, Brussels-based commentator.
And before finishing, two cultural notes:
The Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum will take a traveling exhibition to 14 European and North American cities
More than 600 objects and possessions of victims or survivors from the Auschwitz concentration camp will be exposed over seven years.
The first city to receive the exhibition is Madrid by the end of the year.

And as we are leaving for holidays, we also leave here some musical tips for this summer. They're music festivals in Europe. Jorge Vale's suggestions.

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It's summertime. And with warmth the music festivals are multiplying throughout Europe. There's a little bit of everything for all tastes. In this interrail musical we started in Portugal.
Start the Southwest Meo at the Zambujeira do of the sea tomorrow. We highlight the presence of the poster heads: Chainsmokers and Mac Miller.

On the 5th Jamiroquai and Afrojack terminate the festival where the Portuguese Dengaz and black ear are still acting.

In Holland, the Lowlands music festival runs between the 18th and 20th of this August. An opportunity to enjoy the sound of Mumford & Sons, Bastille, Feist, Tove Lo, Iggy Pop, Elbow, and still Cypress Hill. You remember Cypress Hill?

In England, the prestigious Reading festival takes place between August 25th and 27th. On the first day, featured for Kasabian and Two Door Cinema Club. In the second, they climb on stage the Korn, Major Leisure and Eminem. On the third and last day Liam Gallagher and the Muse close one of the best known festivals in the UK.

Finally we descend to the French capital, Paris, where Rock en Seine brings to the stage the XX, PJ Harvey and Franz Ferdinand on the 25th, 26th and 27th of August.

And this summer of 2017 no doubt that Europe is a privileged destination for all the festival goers.

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Here are some tips for this hot and music-filled summer.

We're going on vacation, too. We're back on September 12th. Until then.

[Technical Sheet]

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