I.

European Union defends sanctions for North Korea after new nuclear test. In this program we look at the latest developments on the Korean peninsula.

Court confirms that member states of the European Union are obliged to receive refugees. The decision overturns the claims of Hungary and Slovakia, which were against the measure.

And in this issue of Magazine Europa we also analyze the decision of the Constitutional Court of Spain that suspended the law of the referendum on the independence of Catalonia.

II.

Welcome to the Europe Magazine,

North Korea celebrates the 69th anniversary of the founding of the country. And it was in the party atmosphere that the leader Kim Jong Un received scientists and technicians who developed the ballistic missiles that the country has tested.

Kim said that this sixth nuclear test, conducted just over a week ago, was a "great victory."

The test with an alleged hydrogen bomb has added tension to the region and was immediately condemned by the international community, which believes less and less in dialogue.
European Union diplomacy chief Federica Mogherini has already said that "it is necessary to strengthen economic pressure on North Korea," "adopting tougher economic measures, including targeted sanctions."

After the trial, the French ambassador to the United Nations, François Delattre, also called for a "quick and firm" reaction.

French Ambassador to the UN, François Delattre,
We have the time counted, we must be aware of it. We know that Pyongyang does not hesitate and will not hesitate, even with the sacrifice of the population itself, to challenge the most elementary rules that we have instituted in the field of non-proliferation and beyond.

The United States has, meanwhile, taken a package of sanctions against the Asian country for approval by the UN Security Council. At the time of writing this program the results of the meeting were not yet known.
Meanwhile in a statement from the official North Korean agency KCNA, the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs said that if Washington moves forward with sanctions, it will pay for it.

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

Victor, the European Union is preparing new sanctions to complement the sanctions envisaged by the UN. What is the importance of EU measures?

[The European Union, in addition to the sanctions, thinks that it should continue to try to politically isolate the North Korean government. And this is very important insofar as economic isolation and political isolation will certainly create a lot of pressure on the living conditions of the Korean population and this is to a certain extent very negative, but they will also create conditions for weapons and nuclear weapons development will not work because there will probably be neither sufficient funding nor sufficient parts to make the program work. Of the economic sanctions, the most important ones at the moment would be those related to the fuel blockade in terms of oil and also a blockage in terms of the international banking system. It would be very important if one could get the largest international banks to stop operating in North Korea]

And can the EU serve as a mediator of the growing tension between North Korea and the US?

[I think the European Union can not do mediation work. Although it is not an active part of this conflict between North Korea and the United States, but also Japan and South Korea, the European Union in international terms is seen as aligned with the interests of both the United States and the United States. Japan and South Korea. It would therefore be very difficult for the European Union to be able to act as a mediator. It has also been spoken in Switzerland - and Switzerland, although not a country of the European Union, is a very politically and economically close European Union country as a possible mediator. Switzerland could, given its neutrality, have some advantages, but I still see many difficulties ... both the United States and North Korea accepting a mediator. In fact what North Korea wants is direct negotiations, face to face with the United States]

Is this North Korean weaponry program considered a threat to Europe?

[It is above all a threat to the region, on the one hand, in terms of security in terms of peace, but also a threat to international economic relations and financial markets. And that is where Europe would be primarily affected, that is, at the level of the economy, at the level of stock exchanges and financial markets. When a direct military threat against Europe, at the moment this is not expected to happen. We have to raise the fundamental question, which is to try to know what it is that Kim Jong Un intends, what

is his plan. And I think that, fundamentally, what Kim Jong Un wants is for North Korea to become a nuclear power, and it will try to accelerate the weapons program, including experiences with nuclear bombs and the launching of missiles so that it arrives quickly to nuclear power status.]

III.

The European court ruled: Brussels could force Member States to receive refugees. According to the European plan, by the end of September Europe should have fulfilled the distribution plan of 160,000 refugees. But that did not happen. More with the journalist Sofia Jesus.

The European Court of Justice rejected the appeals lodged by Hungary and Slovakia against the distribution of asylum seekers across the continent.
According to the decision of the highest judicial body in the European Union, European states are obliged to receive refugees and migrants.
The distribution program was designed by the European Commission, which was approved by most Member States and entered into force in 2015.
This project, intended to relieve pressure from ports of arrival of migrants - such as Italy and Greece - counted on the votes against Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and the Czech Republic.
Around 160,000 refugees were to be distributed over the course of two years. A few days after finishing the deadline of the distribution plan, less than 30 thousand arrived at the final destination.

Victor, the Court of Justice of the EU rejected the appeal of Hungary and Slovakia. What will happen from now on?

[Certain regimes in certain Eastern European countries are at present undermining the functioning of the fundamental institutions of the European Union and this is very serious. This could create a situation of fragmentation and a very large divide within the European Union. for the weakening of the European Union, and the key now is to protect the role and authority of the European institutions against the authoritarian and populist tendencies of regimes such as that of Hungary in particular. Viktor Orbán, the Prime Minister of Hungary, is a man extremely dangerous in terms of European stability and cohesion and it must be said openly that political attitudes such as those Viktor Orbán has been taking are absolutely unacceptable. Viktor Orbán plays the nationalist card to try to strengthen his internal political base in Hungary, but the truth is that he also plays on another board, he is very politically close to Vladimir Putin and to some extent, there are those who wonder: is it possible that Viktor Orbán is playing Putin and is trying to weaken Europe and the European Union to please Putin and get Russia's investments and economic aid? It is a question that can be put]

And a fundamental question. Why do these countries, Member States, especially from

the Eastern European region to deal with this humanitarian issue? Does it have to do with this question that Victor mentioned earlier... the nationalist issue in the case of Hungary?

[It has a lot to do with the fact that these societies are not only very ethnically joined societies, i.e. societies that have in fact a virtually unique ethnic composition. They are societies that have also used to exclude other minorities and, in particular, and I am thinking of Roma minorities, these Eastern-European societies are totally unacceptable to the representatives and populations of Roma minorities and now is the Question also of the treatment of people coming out of Europe and in particular those who may be of Islamic faith. In these countries, where there is a profound connection of nationalism to religion and religion and nationalism to authoritarian power, these three ingredients make people and politicians not prepared to accept who is different.

The Government of Victor Orban speaks of an "irresponsible" decision that "harms the security" of Europe. This may have some consequences in the sense of ' contaminating ' other nations. As Victor said, the question of refugees is very complicated for all European nations.

[This certainly contaminates, namely neighboring nations of Hungary and who have a very similar social fabric to Hungary, i.e. a large unit at the level of ethnic origin of their populations. One of the next will be Slovakia, the Czech Republic, but also a country that has been talking little, but where the issue of immigration will again appear very prominently, which is Austria. Austria is on the brink of parliamentary elections and I think that during the campaign for elections we will attend several immigration demonstrations and even expressions and slogans that will be very close to the border with racism.

IV

And in Spain, the Constitutional Court suspended the referendum on independence of Catalonia.

Catalonia has already made known that it does not accept the court's decision. The ministerial advisor of the Government of Catalonia, Raul Romea, said that this will not be respected.

Raul Romea, Minister of the Government of Catalonia
I do not know what will make the Spanish state, but I know what will make the people of Catalonia together: vote, express themselves, and we will, from the Catalan government, respect the will of the population, whatever it is.

The Government of Catalonia, signed on Wednesday night the decree convening for 1st October the realization of the referendum.... Decision that Mariano Rajoy, Spanish

Prime minister, considers unconstitutional.

Mariano Rajoy, Spanish Prime Minister
This consultation, as much as you want to impose a why would, cheating and illegal way, will not happen.

In addition to suspending the approved law, the Constitutional Court also leaves a warning to the Catalan government: it has asked not to participate in the organization of this referendum.

Victor, was the Constitutional Court's decision as expected?

[Yes, the decision of the Constitutional Court to suspend what the Parliament of Catalonia had approved in terms of referendum was absolutely predictable. In fact, we are faced with a referendum that is illegal from the legal and constitutional standpoint and, moreover, is a referendum that does not have any kind of credibility, either within the Spanish nation, but also in Europe. Europeans look at apprehension for the realization of a referendum that will take place within 15 days, i.e. we are talking about a referendum that is a fundamental issue-and above all this referendum that deals with a constitutional issue of such importance that is the independence of A region in relation to a state in which it is integrated. And there is no way to accept that a referendum of this kind, of this importance, of this gravity is organized in a space of 15 days and in a way that no one knows exactly how it is organized, namely, it is not known where the polls are being printed, there are no known electoral registrations, no updated electoral record, is all done in a more or less clandestine way, more or less obscure and without any kind of independent supervision, i.e. this referendum beyond being absolutely illegal, is a referendum that does not have Any credibility as a democratic process

And what challenges do they represent to the European nations these different movements of independence that still persist?

[Being at this moment in Europe to question the borders of Europe's stories at a time when we are all aware that this creates instability, it creates processes that are very difficult to control and very difficult to predict democratically what may happen, is I prefer not to take this kind of solutions and continue to support the autonomy where they are needed and, on the other hand, ensure that all this is done within a democratic and tolerance framework.

But you think can inspire other movements?

[I think not, I think that what will happen is that even if Catalonia unilaterally decides to declare itself independent, this independence will not be accepted by any other state of the European Union. We will be in a situation of great confusion, in that, on the one hand, Spain does not accept independence and, on the other hand, the declared

unilaterally independent Catalonia would not be able to have a normal and predictable relationship with the rest of the European Union, because There will be no EU to support the integration of this new state in European space, i.e. we will have a situation where a region, which is one of the most prosperous regions in Europe, one of the most active regions of the economic viewpoint and also from the cultural viewpoint within the spacious The European Union will suddenly find itself in isolation in relation to the rest of Europe.

V

We were with Victor Angelos, a Magazine Europa-based commentary on Brussels.
And before finishing, a cultural note: It will be launched next month in the United States, human Flow, the new documentary by the artist and Chinese activist Ai Wei Wei who follows refugees over 23 countries. Examples include the Greek island of Lesbos, the arrival point of many Syrian refugees, and also Bangladesh, where the ethnic minority Muslim Rohingya arrives fleeing from Myanmar.
The film was in competition at the Venice film Festival, which was held until the end of last weekend.
It was the film of the Mexican filmmaker Guillermo del Toro "The Shape of Water" that won the Golden Lion of the best film of the festival. Charlotte Rampling has received the award for Best Actress in the Italian film "Hannah". The Palestinian Kamel El Basha was considered best actor for the role played in the film "The Insult".
We'll stay here. See you next week!

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