

I.

Tomorrow the Zapad-2017 will be finished, a set of military exercises from Russia and Belarus. Neighboring countries and NATO are concerned with maneuvers, which they consider a demonstration of strength.

European Union condemns humanitarian crisis in Myanmar It offers help, but postpones delegation visit to the country. In today's issue we also look at the position of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, who is being criticized.

This week we also look at the President of the European Commission's speech on the state of the Union. A speech of optimism.

II.

Welcome to the Europe Magazine.

A series of military exercises carried out by Russia and Belarus will end tomorrow. The maneuvers began on the 14th and have been heavily criticized by neighboring countries and by NATO. At stake, the unprecedented dimension of these exercises, which are considered a demonstration of strength. More with the journalist Marta Melo.

Russia and Belarus attack three fictional enemy states.

This is the idea behind the Zapad-2017, a series of military maneuvers from Russia and Belarus, which aims to test the joint forces of the two countries.

The exercises began on the 14th of this month and run until tomorrow near the border with Poland and Lithuania.

NATO accuses it of being a demonstration of strength and of being more than 100,000 soldiers on the ground.

Moscow has said that these exercises are "purely defensive" and that they mobilize only 12,700 soldiers. It also insists that it has made available all the necessary information required by international standards. Still, NATO accuses Russian officials of a lack of transparency.

On the telephone from Riga in Latvia is Victor Ângelo, a resident commentator of Magazine Europe and an international consultant based in Brussels.

Victor, I began by asking you, what reading can you make of these military maneuvers? Vladimir Putin wants to show Russia's military capability. He has invested immensely in the military forces in the Russian military. It will show that Russian power has returned. And you need to show this to two types of audience: on the one hand internally, the Russian population - we can not forget that we are going to have presidential elections in Russia in the year 2018 - and he needs not only to show that he means the rebirth of Russia and its military force and presence in the world, but also means the protection of Russia against external enemies.

The fact that the exercises are called Zapad, which means "West" is also a source of concern, although the Russian defense minister has already come to say that this "West" refers to the westernmost part of Russia. What is really concerned about NATO and the neighboring European countries? The truth is that Europe has a recent memory, which is Russia's intervention in the Crimea.

There are a number of concerns here, on the one hand, that Russia does not respect the Vienna agreement with regard to military exercises. The Vienna agreement, which was established within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, states that when military exercises involve more than 13,000 soldiers or 300 tanks, the country or countries organizing such exercises should invite foreign observers. In fact, Russia says that this exercise does not have 13,000 soldiers and is only an exercise with 250 tanks. No one believes this because in reality, as far as we know, there is a great mobilization of several units, several military divisions in Russia and also in the Russian part of the Kaliningrad Baltic Sea, which means that we are probably not talking about a mobilization close to 70 thousand to 100 thousand Russian military for this exercise.

The West, the European Union, NATO know what they want. Basically they want to defend the space of the European Union, they want to defend the space of democracy that is the one in which we live. But they are not sure of knowing Putin's intentions. And in fact what happened in 2014 in Ukraine with the Crimea and then in the eastern part of Ukraine with the presence of Russian soldiers disguised as local rebels, raises many questions.

How to deal with this, how can NATO and the EU deal with this situation?

We can not live in a situation, which is the situation that exists today in which Russia continues to fabricate false truths and to promote these false truths in the European space and in the Russian language space. One of the false truths that has circulated in recent days was that with the opening of the Schengen area to the citizens of Ukraine, ie citizens of Ukraine can now enter the Schengen area without a visa, this has meant an exponential increase in tuberculosis cases in Europe. This is purely and simply to show Russian citizens and those speaking Russian in Eastern Europe that Ukraine is a problem and even a problem for Europe in terms of public health.

That is why we must get out of this kind of mentality, we must create communication channels, we must send military observers on both sides, we must restore diplomatic relations and, above all, we must solve the problem of Eastern Ukraine, which continues to be resolved, and this is to be respected, across national borders and also to respect for the Minsk agreement, as regards the future of Ukraine.

III.

Jean-Claude Juncker, the President of the European Commission, last week made the usual State of the Union address. Over the course of 70 minutes, the EU official said what vision he has for the bloc's future. It was a speech of hope for a continent in

recovery.

Jean-Claude Juncker, President European Commission

We are now in the fifth year of an economic recovery, which truly reaches all member states. Growth in the European Union has surpassed that of the United States over the past two years.

Among the proposals left on the table, the Luxembourgish spoke in the single currency. This should not be a currency of a group of countries, but the currency of all member states.

The official, who indicated that he will not be re-nominated in 2019 for an upcoming term, also defended the existence of a finance minister for the union.

Jean-Claude Juncker, President European Commission

For reasons of efficiency, I would argue that the Commissioner responsible for finance and economics - ideally a Vice-President of the European Commission - is responsible for this task and the President of the Eurogroup.

Jean Claude Juncker advocated creating the conditions for countries such as Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia to be integrated into the Schengen area.

Topics such as terrorism, the crisis of migration and digital security were also addressed by the president of the European Commission, who still harshly criticized Turkey, demanding that it "stop insulting the member states."

After all, this was an optimistic statement for a Europe that should be increasingly united and equal.

Jean Claude Juncker

Europe is about equality between members, large and small, east and west, north and south. Europe stretches from Vigo to Varna, Spain to Bulgaria.

Victor, I would start by this last comment from Jean-Claude Juncker who said that Europe goes from Vigo to Varna, from Spain to Bulgaria, thus excluding Portugal. Comment that is already giving you talk on social networks. It was a slip, is this a non-subject?

I think so, I think it's a non-subject. It was probably a slip of the pen who wrote this part of the speech, most certainly a young Englishman looking at Spain as the end of Western Europe. I would not attach too much importance to this slip, given that Jean-Claude Juncker has said many very positive things in his speech and this is what is crucial to underline.

What are the main notes, the main lines to retain?

The main line, I would say, is the fact that he says that there should be equality and a community of values in Europe. That is, Europe is based on freedom, equality between the different states, so there are no first states, nor second States. On the other hand, it

has reemphasized, and this is important that we have to move forward with integration, particularly as regards the Euro. He clearly stated that the Euro is the currency of Europe, and we must move forward with the banking union, that is important, we must move forward with European security and he has talked a lot about the establishment of a European defence Union and established the year 2025 as the year in which this objective should be attained. On the other hand, he also continued to talk about fundamental issues in which Europe plays a critical role, very important in matters such as climate change.

There is also a sorrow in the mandate of Juncker, which is the Brexit. But also an intensification of terrorist attacks on the European continent. Recently, the fifth attack in London this year has been occurred. Why does the United Kingdom continue to be one of the main targets of terrorist attacks in Europe?

Jean-Claude Juncker, in his speech, also spoke of the need to continue to fight terrorism and this is one of the strong lines of his speech and what happened in London last week shows the correction, say so, of this line of action. England is a very favorable terrain to the emergence of attacks of this kind, of terrorist attacks of homemade manufacture, because England has a very diverse social composition and has many young people from immigration families who do not feel fully integrated into the English social fabric or the British social fabric, and therefore these youngsters are very permeable to radical ideas and one or another may opt for violent actions as happened last week on the London Metro.

IV.

The European Commission has condemned the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar. The EU offered more support, but postponed a visit from a delegation to that country.

The Commissioner for humanitarian Aid and crisis management Christos Stylianides announced additional help. It is EUR 3 million, worth joining the EUR 12 million announced in May 2017, when the Commissioner visited the state of Rakhine in the country.

Since 1994, the European Commission has offered humanitarian aid in the value of EUR 232 million.

However, according to the Euronews television channel, the President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker said that what is happening in Burma is a "shocking disaster".

According to estimates, in the country, there are about 1 million of Rohingyas. It is a Muslim ethnic minority not recognized by the Burmese authorities. They say persecuted, they have crossed the border towards Bangladesh. According to this ethnic minority, discrimination has risen in recent years: they are treated as strangers in the country, where more than 90% of the population is Buddhist. The UN speaks of "ethnic cleansing" and requires the Myanmar to take immediate action.

Victor, we begin by speaking of Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader, also the Nobel peace laureate, a friend of the West and is one of the biggest targets of the harsh criticism. How do you evaluate your position on this case?

Aung San Suu Kyi is in an extremely difficult situation, as she does not control the military of Myanmar. On the other hand, she needs to find a balance between her political power and the power that the military maintains and that it is an extremely strong power. And, on the other hand, it needs support from the populations of Burma and most people in Burma have an extremely racist attitude and a very negative attitude towards the Rohingya populations. The truth is that the law of nationality, which is a law that has been adopted in 1982, has not already acknowledged since the Rohingya as citizens of Burma.

Aung San Suu Kyi is trapped in this dilemma: on the one hand, she will probably recognise that there is a matter of human rights here, a matter of very important genocide, but, on the other hand, there is no way to lose its base policy on supporting populations. From Myanmar, because if it loses this support policy base, its transition, its contribution to the democratic transition in Burma will be lost, it will be greatly weakened in particular in relation to the military.

On the other hand, what role can Europe have in solving this humanitarian crisis?

What the European Union must do is primarily a lot of pressure with the generals leading the military of Myanmar. The solution goes through that kind of pressure. At this time the EU has industrial relations, important economic relations with the Myanmar Armed forces. We need to take advantage of these channels to make pressure and cause them to cease these genocide operations in the state of Rakhine.

And Bangladesh that is the country of destination for refugees is also in a difficult situation. Being the host country, what role can you have?

Bangladesh is a country with immense problems. It is an extremely poor country, with a population density very high and, in fact, it looks at these populations Rohingya as strange populations to Bangladesh and, in fact, is not in any way willing to accept these populations. Although it should be said that in the last few days, the position of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh has evolved considerably in the positive sense and the kind of speech she has begun to do is at least more positive, i.e. it is a speech of acceptance of these populations as refugees, it is a speech that PE Rmitirá certainly to humanitarian organisations have more space to help refugees who are already in Bangladesh, but in the background is also a speech that says these populations will have to return to Myanmar.

V.

On the phone, Victor Angelo, a commentator of the Magazine Europa, based in Brussels. And before you finish, some reading suggestions. This is September, this is the month of rentrée literary in Portugal.

We highlight some news for this year: We start the story hunter. Tales of Eduardo Galeano. The work was completed a year before the author's death in 2015. It's an edition of Antigone.

The first book of the year to be published by the Quetzal is: The bodies of Rodrigo Magalhães. In late September the new work of José Luís Peixoto on the voyages he made in the Orient is called the flawed path.

The water clock will continue to reedit this year's complete works of Agustina Bessa-Luís and the House of letters launches men without women. These are tales of Japanese Haruki Murakami.

Already the Don Quixote publishes human acts of the winner of the Man Booker Prize International of 2016-Han Kang. This romance retreats to the 1980 years in South Korea. It has the backdrop of the period after the assassination of President Park Chung-hee and the violent crackdown of the dictatorship in Gwangju, South Korea, from where the author is natural.

These are some of the suggestions, we stay here. See you next week.

[Technical Sheet]

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