I.

Referendum gives overwhelming majority to the independence of Catalonia. The "yes" won by about 90 percent in a vote marked by violence.

European Union and the United Kingdom divided at the negotiating table for Brexit. Several dossiers without a solution in sight: Citizens' rights and Northern Ireland are some of them.

In this edition still: European Union studies imposition of digital fees to technological giants. Ireland and Luxembourg with doubts about the effectiveness of these taxes.

II.

Welcome to the Europe Magazine,

The "yes" won in Catalonia. With 90 percent of the votes, the Catalan government opens the door to the unilateral declaration of independence in the coming days.
About 2.2 million people went to the polls. 7.8% chose the "no" 0.89% of votes were considered void and just over 2% percent of voters left the ballot blank.
Voting day was marked by clashes between popular and police at polling stations. There are at least 844 injured, two people remain in serious condition. The European Commission has reacted in the meantime and said that violence can never be an instrument in politics. He reiterated, however, that the Sunday referendum in Catalonia was illegal under the Spanish Constitution.
Addressing the population, Carlos Puigdemont, President of the Catalan Government, said that on Sunday Catalonia won many referendums.

Carlos Puigdemont, President Government Catalonia
That is why today, after this journey of hope and determination, we, the citizens of Catalonia, have won the right to have an independent state that will have to be reconstituted in the form of a republic.
Consequently, the government that I preside over will be transferred in the first days to the Catalan Parliament, a symbol and expression of the sovereignty of our people, given today's results, so that everything that is provided for in the law of the referendum.

Spain's prime minister, Mariano Rajoy, has once again said that the Spanish government is on the side of the law.

Mariano Rajoy, Spanish Prime Minister
The referendum that sought to liquidate the Spanish constitution, to declare the independence of a part of our country, without the opinion of all the

Spaniards, simply did not exist. And I want you to know that we did what we had to do. We are the government of Spain and I am the president of the government of Spain, having assumed my responsibility. We fulfilled our obligation.

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 1st of October will stay for the history of Spain. What can you expect going forward? Several media wrote that Spain has lost somehow to Catalonia?
Spain is today, above all, a deeply divided country. Spain that already had a great degree of autonomy - we must know that in Spain there are 17 autonomous regions, that is 17 regional governments with enough powers, including the Catalan government. Only that the Catalan government for many years was in a process that would sooner or later lead to a declaration of independence. And it is in this situation that we find ourselves, ie a deeply divided Spain, on the one hand the Catalans who are for independence, on the other hand, the residents in Catalonia who are against independence and even more the fact that a large majority of Spaniards in the rest of Spain have created a very anti-Catalan sentiment. During the referendum I was in Spain and I noticed that in several parts of the Spanish kingdom there is a very negative feeling towards Catalonia. They consider that the Catalan leaders are xenophobic, do not like other Spaniards.

However, with the images that have passed around the world of violent clashes during the referendum, there is a certain movement of international solidarity towards Catalonia and the Catalans and also towards the leaders of Catalonia ...
The images are very strong. We live in a historical period in which television and the images projected by television mark the political agenda very much. In fact, it is fundamental to win the battle of information nowadays. And at the moment, after what happened on Sunday in Catalonia, it is evident that the information battle was won by the Catalan separatists, that is, the images that were projected were images of police beating or being violent with civilian populations and these images have a very strong power. It is stronger, let us say, the person of old age to shed blood than a legal argument or a constitutional argument. And in this sense, it can be said today, at the beginning of the week - which is very serious for all the Spanish people including the Catalan people - the narrative campaign is being won by the Catalan separatists.

Victor, and who should vote in a pro-independence referendum? The Catalans or the whole of Spain?
There are two positions. The position of the Government of Madrid is that they should be all Spaniards and this is in fact the position that dominates or predominates throughout Spain. I think, however, that the correct

position and the only political solution is a referendum for all residents in Catalonia. Only then can a solution be found. But it has to be a serious referendum, a referendum organized according to international standards, a referendum that is credible, a referendum that can be observed by international organizations specialized in the matter, that is, we can not in any way make a referendum on the stairs.

And what role should or should the EU have here?
There is only one option, which is to fully support the Spanish government. It is simply a very costly option, very difficult, since the costs of European opinion together can be high because what predominates in European public opinion is the fact that here in Catalonia there has been a violation of the fundamental rights of the people who can choose their future, in particular the right to self-determination. Brussels has to make a very careful public information campaign to show that it does not support any kind of human rights violation at all, but on the other hand to recognize that the constitution of one of the key countries for the European Union has to be respected. Brussels will have to insist strongly on a domestic political solution in Spain, that is to say, to ensure that the only solution to the issue of Catalonia and to the question of Spain is solved through political negotiations and, in particular, through a legal referendum and that allows all residents of Catalonia to vote in a referendum that could be considered a serious referendum.

III.
And we are still in Europe today: Brexit's first round of negotiations has come to an end. European Union and the United Kingdom without solutions to a number of issues, such as citizens' rights or Northern Ireland. More with Antena 1.

(Meetings succeed and differences remain.) For more meetings and speeches to take part, there seems to be no solution to the three major issues that separate the 27 from the UK. The UK negotiator says there is a commitment to integrate into national law the agreement that will be reached on citizens' rights. Europe fears that it is only a temporary transposition and wants the Court of Justice of the European Union David Davis says no.
"The UK has been clear. As a third country outside the EU, it would not be fair to be prosecuted by the European Court of Justice. We have heard concerns about the rights of citizens, and the United Kingdom therefore commits itself to fully incorporate into national law the final agreement reached. "
But it is not only on the issue of citizens' rights that the stalemate remains in financial matters as well, and the European Union negotiator, Michel Barnier, recalled the differences again.

"Prime Minister Theresa May said two things in Florence: that no member state should pay more or receive less because of the departure of the

United Kingdom and that it would honor commitments made as a member state. This week British negotiators have made it clear that this only applies briefly until 2019/2020. The United Kingdom has also stated that it is not yet in a position to identify all the commitments made as a member of the European Union. "

And as long as the United Kingdom does not, the European Union says it does not move forward to negotiations on future trade relations or the two-year transition period as Theresa May has requested.

Victor, also the President of the European Commission, Jean Claude Juncker proved pessimistic and said that only with a miracle there will be enough progress until this month. What analysis can be made of this week when the negotiations of the Brexit returned to the table?
The position that dominates at the moment in Brussels is that you cannot discuss the future until you settle the accounts of the present. And to settle the accounts means, inter alia, defining what the rights of Europeans residing in the United Kingdom, also the question of the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland and also the question of the jurisdiction of the European Court of Justice, because it is a fundamental question for the In the event of a dispute with London, this dispute can be resolved by this tribunal. As long as these things are not resolved, it is very likely that we will not be able to move forward with the second dimension of negotiation which is the dimension relative to the future relationship between the two parties.
We also attended the week that went to a marginalisation of the issue of Brexit, namely either Macron, whether Merkel and even other European leaders, are already looking into the future; They are already thinking of the future and making proposals for the future, without worrying about anything about the United Kingdom, namely the United Kingdom is rapidly fading from the European equation.

And when you speak of the position that dominates in Brussels refers to the position of the Franco-German axis?
It is the position of the Franco-German axis which is the position which actually prevails not only in the institutions of Brussels, but also in the formation of the political opinion of the other leaders. There is now a great alignment again behind the positions of the French and the Germans. The French and the Germans not only dominate the main positions in the European institutions – we must not forget this – and with the departure of the British, the main functions in the European Union will be occupied by Germans or French or by people very close to the Germans or the French. As is the case of Juncker. Indeed there is a reality that is the Franco-German reality and this Franco-German reality, even after the very partial victory of Angela Merkel in the very recent elections, this alliance between Macron and the German leader is increasingly visible and last week it was very clear that Merkel is willing to work with Emmanuel Macron.

Macron that last week in a long speech at the Sorbonne drew a map for the next 10 years in Europe. What grades have you taken from this speech?
He proposes more defence, for the first time proposing a joint military force that would be able to intervene rapidly in conflicts. It proposes the establishment of a European anti-terrorism agency, proposes a European common asylum policy and, moreover, it proposes for the first time that the European Union's agricultural policy is reviewed. and agricultural policy has been one of the obstacles to the advancement, let's say, from other sectors of the European Union, because agriculture receives practically 45% of the European budget. If agricultural policy is reviewed and it ceases to be so subsidized, it is very likely that there will be more money for other things. It also proposed a reform of the number of Commissioners in Brussels, i.e. passing the current 28 to 15, which would certainly mean a more united Commission, more type governance and less type representation. We are currently attending a whole reflection that is proposed and that it is going to create a more European nucleus, the centre, and then with several concentric circles that will group the countries that only participate in some of the European issues, i.e. Countries less inclined to greater European integration.

iv.

And at the European Digital Summit in Estonia, which took place last week, European leaders discussed the creation of a tax for the digital giants. For companies like Apple, Google or Facebook.

The creation of this digital fee is not generating consensus among European leaders. Ireland and Luxembourg are two of the countries with reservations about the effectiveness of this new tax.

Already Italy believes that countries that agree with the payment of the tax should advance separately.

Victor, Emmanuel Macron French prime minister said "economic aggression" to describe the performance of these giants faced with the smallest European competitors. What reading can be made of these declarations and the EU's positioning in the face of these companies?
Large global companies in the digital area, such as Google, Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Uber and others practically don't pay taxes in the European space. They can make the European headquarters of their businesses established or in Luxembourg or Ireland and then with these governments reaching an agreement where the percentage of taxes paid is extremely small. We take Apple's case, for example, where it is currently only paying 0.005% of its profits. We are very far away from what is normal for a company to pay in relation to profits that it is normally in the order of 17% to 25%. So there is a problem here, there is an important problem, global

businesses take advantage of the different laws of each State to maximize their interests and, in particular, to reduce taxes. This reminds us that in the face of global enterprises the only solution is to also have a global European position that allows businesses to operate freely in Europe, but to pay taxes through Brussels, and not to pay taxes through country A, B or C. Simply US We are still very far from that, because in the field of taxes it remains a national issue and then we will see great differences between, on the one hand, the most industrialized and most economically advanced countries in Europe, namely France, and the countries that are in the Margins of the European economy, such as Ireland or Malta, or even Luxembourg is a country that has a very small economy. And these countries desperately need to have these large enterprises headquartered in their territories, not by the taxes they pay, but to the extent that these companies generate enormous amounts of local jobs.

And what is necessary to enforce a tax reform in the EU?
There was a decision of all States that would say the following: certain types of fees cease to be the prerogative of each of the States and apply directly from Brussels and then Brussels will distribute these revenues according to criteria That they are adopted. We cannot continue to treat global businesses from a national position, must be from a European position.

V.

On the phone, Victor Angelo, a commentator of the Magazine Europa, based in Brussels. And before you finish, a culture note.

We talk today about the exhibition "Opera: Passion, Power and politics" at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, United Kingdom. This is a trip for the 400 years of opera, from the beginning of the beginnings, in Venice in the 17th century, to the modern productions of today.
An exhibition laying on the ground the idea that opera is a form of conservative art. As the BBC writes, "Opera has been on the frontline of culture over centuries, inspiring political upheavals and social changes.
The show runs until February 25th next year.

We stay here, we go back next week!

Saw:

[Technical Sheet]

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