I.

Independence of Catalonia can now be declared by the Government of the region. In this program we look at the latest events in Spain.

European Union launches package of 550 million Euros to better manage the oceans.

And still in this edition: employment increases 1.5% in the European Union in the second quarter of the year.

II.

Welcome to the Europe Magazine!

Carlos Puidgemonnd, the President of the Catalonian Government, said last week that he would make a declaration of independence on Tuesday. The Catalan leader said he will abide by the law, but the law passed in the Catalan parliament.
Meanwhile the European Commissioner for Economic Affairs, Pierre Moscovici, reiterated the position of the European Union on the Catalan referendum. The former French minister said that the region "will never be a member of the European Union" if it promotes the division of Spain and becomes an independent state.
And this weekend was marked by demonstrations for and against independence throughout Spain. Also a Madrid movement in favor of dialogue arrived on Saturday at the Plaza de S. Jorge in Barcelona, as Antena 1 tells us.

Order Antena1
[Kiss each other. This is an almost desperate plea that is read on a poster - one of dozens of others - in this concentration that has served to appeal to dialogue and negotiation. Always with palms in the background standing for almost an hour. The square of S. Jorge in Barcelona, where the Town Hall is, has turned out to be small for so many people. I'm here with César Lopes, he has a white t-shirt that says: please, dialoguem.
"Caesar, why is dialogue important?"
"Because we've reached a situation where tension is worrying. I think that the president of the nation like that of Catalonia, for what they represent, should find a place where they begin to dialogue. Both have to give in, because we are doing an exercise of responsibility, we ask them to do the same.
Dialogue without conditions and without excuses reads in another poster. Hundreds of people have come here dressed in white, just as it was in the convocation of the "Hablamos" movement, which organized this gathering held today in dozens of cities throughout Spain]

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, I started this series of moves in Spain over the weekend. What a balance can be made of this first week after the referendum. Are we further from the dialogue?
It is hard to say. We are certainly in a very tense and very complicated time in Catalonia. The fact is that the demonstration of Sunday against independence and in favor of Spanish unity was a manifestation that marked the agenda, an exceptional manifestation with about one million people in the street and this evidently altered the equation enough, in the sense that the street is no longer just occupied by people who are in favor of independence and has also become the stage of those who are against independence. Which also means that Catalonia is deeply divided and this type of divisions can lead to a very big confrontation. So I would be facing this week with much concern and certainly if there is a call to make is a call to dialogue.

Everything is open. Puidgemond may, on the one hand, declare independence unilaterally and Mariano Rajoy could trigger Article 155 and suspend the autonomy of this region. European Commissioner Günther Oettinger also speaks of the danger of a civil war. Is this statement true?
I think it is an exaggeration to speak of civil war, but it is also true that there are extremist groups in Catalonia, namely groups of anarchist inspiration that probably if the situation gets too complicated will try to create very serious disturbances in the public places of Catalonia, but then speak It is a bit of an exaggeration. But the truth is that Catalonia is now in a very dangerous situation, it is in a situation that fractures the Catalan society quite a lot, in fact, this is breaking families, we know of cases in which one side, for example, the husband is in favor of independence and the woman is against independence, and this creates enormous problems with families. That is to say, we have here in Spain, and in Catalonia in particular, a situation of a totally unprecedented gravity in Europe in the last 60 or 70 years.

And as regards the position of the European Union, which called for dialogue, it also pointed out that violence can not be an instrument in politics. Brussels initially said that these are internal affairs of the country, but could the bloc be called in to intervene should there be a unilateral declaration of independence?
I do not think so, I believe that the EU has neither the vocation nor the will to intervene in internal affairs, particularly in a country such as Spain which is a pillar of the European Union. The truth is that the European Union insists on respect for the constitutional legality of Spain, nor does it see favorably a change of borders in Europe. It is also true that the European Union knows that the public opinions of the Member States do not accept violence and that therefore in its statement on the situation in Catalonia it had to speak about the issues of violence. On the other hand, we must not forget that Mariano Rajoy is from the same political family as Jean-Claude Juncker, Donald Tusk, the president of the European Parliament, that is, Mariano Rajoy belongs to the great European family of the center right and will continue to support from both the European Commission and the other institutions. But it is not only for this reason that Brussels supports Mariano Rajoy, it is also because a weakened Spain would make the European Union much weaker, both politically and economically.

III.

At the global conference "Our Ocean" held last week in Malta, 400 sea conservation commitments were announced. Only the European Union will invest 550 million euros with policies to better manage the oceans. More with the journalist Sofia Jesus.

Make the seas cleaner and safer. This is the ambition of the European Union, which organized last week in Malta the conference "Our Ocean".
"Our Ocean", the name of the event in Portuguese, ended with alliances between governments, the private sector and nongovernmental organizations. In all ... .400 investment commitments worth more than six billion euros.
Malta was the stage for important announcements. Vigo, in Galicia, which has one of the main ports in the world, announced a 30 percent reduction in emissions by 2022, and the creation of a system for capturing CO2 through seaweed.
The European Union presented a package of more than 550 million euros for a marine conservation plan. It is a plan that is divided into six areas: sustainable fisheries, marine protection, climate change, blue economy, marine pollution and maritime safety.
These are actions which, according to a Brussels communiqué, confirm the European Union's determination to conserve the seas and send a signal that could stimulate the rest of the world.
Of this plan that contemplates 36 maritime commitments, emphasizing the fight against pollution. "A massive problem," says the European Union, which reports that 10 million tons of litter end up in the sea every year and by 2050, "the oceans could have more plastic than fish."
With regard to pollution, the European Union will still spend € 2.85 million on prevention projects; 2.5 million with the organization of exercises linked to contamination and more than 250 million to fund marine research.
More than EUR 37 million will still be transferred to maritime security activities and to combating piracy along the southeastern coast of Africa and the Indian Ocean.

Victor, in relation to this Global Conference, an initiative of the European Union, pollution is one of the most dramatic issues. As the part of the journalist Sofia Jesus says, it is estimated that at the current pace there is more junk than fish in the oceans in 2050. Can the EU lead a global ocean protection movement?

The EU must play a crucial role in the protection of the oceans and the fight against all illicit activities in the maritime environment-and there are many illicit activities, from fishing to the transport of drugs, unauthorized weapons, but also piracy. Moreover, the question of piracy is now one of the great concerns of the European Union, in the sense that piracy is not already just off the coasts of Somalia and the Indian Ocean, it is also closer to us in the Gulf of Guinea, which is a very important area for trade in the Union. And it is in particular a zone where the oil is produced in Nigeria.

The truth is that pollution of the seas is a gigantic problem. Freight vessels are guilty of a lot of pollution in the oceans, either by the fuels they use, either by washing the

tanks on the high seas, and also by the fact that they transport sea waters from one point from the globe to another. And here it is noted for example only that last week or two weeks ago appeared blue crabs from Canada on the Largo de Vila Real de Santo António in Portugal. There is also a contribution from freighters to the amendment of maritime ecology. In other words, we have a number of problems, not just pollution, but also the misuse of fisheries, insecurity and there, of course, the European Union can play a key role, but it must do in close liaison with the United Nations.

And in relation to Portugal, which has the European Union's third largest exclusive economic zone. Can this area be harnessed differently?

Portugal has several hypothesis, one of them is certainly reforming its naval capability. I think that when you think of the Portuguese armed forces you should, above all, think of the Portuguese navy, taking into account the extension of the maritime coastline of Portugal and taking into account also the Azores and Madeira. That is, we need a much more efficient navy, a navy with many more conditions. At this moment, our navy is the poor relative, say so, of the Portuguese defence. It has very few resources, it has very limited means and, in fact, little or almost nothing can patrol. So there's this investment to be done in this area. There are also important investments to do with regard to the conservation of the Portuguese coast and also in the question, for example, of production in fish nurseries. In fact, what we have been watching is a drastic decrease in the quality of fish that are produced in nurseries elsewhere in the world. Now, Portugal could be an example of fish bred in nursery, but quality.

iv.

In the European Union: employment increased by 1.5% in the second quarter of the year. According to a communiqué from the European Commission in the Euro area, growth was 1.6%. The figures also say that over the past year there are more than 3.5 million of people employed in the EU countries and 2.4 million in the eurozone.

The total number of people with employment in the EU rises to 235.4 million. It is the highest ever, according to the quarterly report on the evolution of employment in Europe. The document also indicates that the recorded values have resulted in an improvement in the financial situation of the families of the European Union.

Victor, Europe now registers the highest number of people with employment and unemployment has reached the lowest level in nine years. According to the Commission's report, the largest beneficiaries are young people. What analysis can you make of these numbers?

The truth is that in the last year there has been economic growth in Europe, there has been an investment, and this translates to more employment. It is true that there are still countries in Europe that have very high levels of unemployment. Greece remains a country which is given as an example of absolutely unacceptable unemployment rates,

but beyond Greece, Spain, Italy, Croatia, Cyprus, France itself continue to have very high unemployment rates and above the European average. But in reality in the whole of the European Union, the unemployment rate has dropped considerably and in particular in the countries of Central and North Europe and, to some extent, also in Portugal.

There is more job and there are also people who say much of this job has a very high precariousness aspect. More jobs arise, but many jobs are jobs that do not have the stability that was usual in the past. But the truth is also that other types of employment have arisen, notably in the services that offer more guarantees of permanence. It is also true that when talking about employment in Europe says the following: There are still a lot of inequalities between men and women, that is, there are inequalities in wage levels and there are also inequalities at the level of the participation of active life.

Inequalities not only in gender, but from state to state. Is the issue of labour rights fractured in European space?

Yes, labor rights vary widely from country to country. In some countries, labour rights are heavily consolidated and the law does not permit the redundancies to give here that straw. In other countries it is much easier to fire. But in addition to the inequalities in terms, for example of labour rights, there is also a very important issue that much of the employment that is creating, including in Germany, is low-wage employment at a time when the cost of living in Europe is relatively high. In other words, we are watching a situation where people find employment on the one hand and continue to live in a situation that is just above the poverty line.

V.

To the phone Victor Angelo, the Magazine Europa commentator. And before finishing, a cultural note:

After Bob Dylan, in 2016, this year, the Nobel Prize of literature was awarded to Kazuo Ishiguro, British writer of Japanese origin.

It is according to the Swedish Academy a writer with "romances of great emotional strength".

The author, edited in Portuguese by Gradiva, began publishing tales in magazines in the decade of 1980. He is the author of "The Spoils of the day" that won the Booker Prize in 1989, and was adapted to the cinema in 1993 by James Ivory, with Anthony Hopkins and Emma Thompson in the main roles.

Ishiguro wrote still: "Inconsolate", "Never Abandon Me" and the "giant buried". It has work translated into more than 28 countries.

For the writer and former secretary of state of Culture of Portugal, Francisco José Viegas, Ishiguro is a discreet and unproductive author.

Francisco José Viegas, writer

[I think this choice is also a discreet choice and it is a choice that avoided, as they say, make difficult choices, make choices among the great authors, and this option by Kazuo Ishiguro, being that is not absolutely irrelevant, is a small choice]

Declarations to Antena 1 of Francisco José Viegas on the award of the Nobel Prize in Literature of 2017. We'll stay here till next week!

VI .

[Technical Sheet]

With the editing and presentation of Catherine Domingues, Victor's analysis

Angelo and coordination of Helder Beja, Magazine Europe results from

A collaboration between Macao Radio and Macao University

Framework of the Jean Monnet Magazine Europe project.

Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent the

Official positions of the various institutions of the European Union.

The Jean Monnet Magazine Europe Project is a partnership between the

University of Macao and the Macao Institute of European Studies,

Co financed by the European Union in the framework of the Erasmus +

We're on Facebook in Europe Magazine