MAGAZINE EUROPA Catarina Domingues
7 de Novembro de 2017

I.

Carles Puigdemont and four other former members of the Catalan government turned themselves over to the Belgian authorities. They are at liberty but forced to remain in Belgium.

And in Portugal: Council of Ministers approves a bill that obliges companies to pay the same salary to men and women who perform the same functions. In this program we look at the European panorama with regard to gender equality in wage policies.

And still in this Magazine Europe: European Union establishes first ever agreement with Cuba.

II.

Welcome to the Europe Magazine.

After surrendering to Belgian justice, the deprived president of Catalonia, Carles Puidgemont, and four of his former advisers are on parole in Brussels. The five are now awaiting the Belgian court's decision on extradition to Spain. More with Antena 1 journalist Andrea Neves.

[It was one of the possible decisions of the criminal investigation judge that stayed with the case and that in 24 hours he had to listen to the five former members of the government in Catalonia and determine how they would spend the next few days. And that is what is going to happen, they will be at liberty, but with conditions. They can not leave Belgium, none of the five, and they have to appear before the court whenever they are requested to do so. There are now 15 days to decide on the European arrest warrant issued by Spain, ie the Belgian court has to decide whether or not to bring these five people to justice.
After these 15 days have elapsed for a first decision of the criminal investigating judge, there may also be an appeal. Between appeals and complaints can happen here about 60 days, which leads many people to think that the election campaign will even be done through Brussels for the elections scheduled for December 21 in Catalonia. The fact that Puigdemont is now in Belgium with four of his former advisers has already raised some issues between the Belgian authorities and the Government itself. The Belgian Deputy Prime Minister said in an interview with TV that the Madrid government has gone too far and questioned why the European Union has not yet pronounced itself on the subject. The former Belgian prime minister said that Rajoy had even an authoritarian

and pro-Francoist behavior - it is his words - and it would be shocking if the Belgian judiciary decided to put Puigdemont in prison. This decision is taken, the first of a long-guessed process.]

And from Brussels is the resident commentator of Magazine Europe and international consultant, Victor Ângelo.

Victor, Carles Puigdemont and other elements deprived of the Catalan government remained in Brussels on parole.
This was not the decision that pleased Madrid the most ...
No, the issues, the relations between Madrid and Brussels are getting very complicated with regard to dealing with the issue of Catalonia. In fact, in recent days there have been a number of political statements by Belgian leaders who are not in favor of the position that Mariano Rajoy has taken, that is, there is an open criticism, a criticism now publicly expressed by of Belgian leaders as regards the way in which the Government of Spain has been dealing with the issue of Catalonia.

"To imprison a government that has the support of a parliament, is to put itself outside the rule of law." These are words of Carles Puidgement that is also addressed to the European Union and that is ironically in the country that houses the European institutions. What can you expect for the next time?
The European Union will continue to insist that this issue is an internal problem of Spain and in reality has so far been the line followed by Brussels by the European institutions. But it is also true that many people within the European Union do not understand what is happening in Spain, and in particular does not understand the detention of the members of the Government of Catalonia. For many Europeans, such arrests are exaggerated, unjustified and to some extent linked to human rights issues. So sooner or later there will be, within European institutions and political circles in Europe, people who begin to try to explain to the European population that the European people are right when they see human rights abuses here. That is, little by little it will become a European issue. This is the great concern at this moment of the leaders of Catalonia, which is to try to internationalize and, in particular, to Europeanize the struggle for independence. On the other hand, at the level of the Europeans and in particular of the Brussels institutions, they must show great solidarity with the government of the Kingdom of Spain and try to avoid this internationalization, this Europeanization of the problem of Catalonia.

Another note that is not interesting is the deprived president have made declarations in Flemish, not only because the lawyer is Flemish, but because there is the idea that the Flemish have more

sympathy for the Catalan cause. Victor lives in Brussels. Do you feel this sympathy?
Yes, there are leaders of the Flemish part of Belgium who are for the independence of Flanders and therefore see the process of Catalonia as very important for their own independence one day of Flanders, that is, they think, that if Catalonia is able to liberate of the rest of Spain and if it can become independent, this opens the door to the independence of Flanders. In Flanders there are very strong nationalist movements, and one of the parties, which is in government, is an extremist, Flemish nationalist party. It is the party to which the Deputy Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium belongs, it is a relatively important party and this party has been openly supporting the deposed president of Catalonia and has certainly been behind many of the public statements that appear in the newspapers Belgians in favor, let us say, of independence, or at least of a very favorable treatment of the leaders of Catalonia. Belgium is a very fragile country from the point of view of national unity, it is a country very divided in terms of ethnic groups, that is to say, there is a great difference between the Flemish part and the Walloon part, the francophone part. Belgium has achieved a very precarious balance between these two parts of the country, but of course there are still a lot of people in Flanders who are for independence and who would welcome another region of Europe to become independent.

III.

In Portugal, the Council of Ministers approves a proposal for a law on gender pay equity. The diploma, which will also have to pass through the Parliament and the social partners, provides for equal remuneration between men and women who perform the same function. More with the journalist Marta Melo.

In Portugal, the Council of Ministers approved a bill that obliges companies to pay the same salary to men and women who perform the same functions.
According to the law, the Authority for Labor Conditions will start to receive statistical information every year on the remuneration policy of companies. If there is wage discrimination, companies will have to present a plan in two years and correct the differences.
More recent data show that average wages for women in Portugal are 16.7 per cent lower than for men. At the European level, the average hourly pay of women is currently 16.3 per cent lower.
The European Union did the math and concluded: The wage gap in the 28 block corresponds to a loss of two months' salary for women. That is, it was around the European Day for Wage Equality, which

took place on 3 November, that women received the last salary of the year.
When you celebrate Equal Pay Day, the day of equal wage in Europe, the European Union also reveals that it will present an action plan so that the inequality that today exists between the remuneration of men and women disappears. How can you accept that in the 21st century this gender inequality in work still exists? What can be done to fight this?
The truth is that inequality exists, wage inequality is patent, particularly in the private sector. It's also patent in terms of careers. Men have faster and more successful careers than women, so it is patent not only in wage terms, but also in terms of professional development of men and women. And there in the careers area is so evident in the private sector as well as in the public sector, notably in Portugal. That is, either in the economy, both in politics and public administration, there is still much to do in terms of inequalities, not only wage inequalities, but also inequalities in terms of promotion opportunities and leadership opportunities. It is good to begin and is the case of Portugal by smaller companies, but it would also be crucial in Portugal and in other countries of Europe where inequality is still very patent if it also solved the problem of political representation, because in reality women are Represented in politics in very small numbers and in a proportion that is frankly inferior to the one it should be.

It is impossible not to mention the issue of sexual harassment that has dominated the latest news, which has recently begun in Hollywood, reaching the European political bodies. Victor, what keeps keeping.. This behaviour and to allow it to be muted?
I think that regarding the issue of sexual harassment, it remains in politics one of the characteristics that negatively defines the relationships between men and women in politics and probably the existence of sexual harassment in politics is one of the reasons that leads many women to n They will participate in the life of the parties and not to participate in political activities. In fact, there are few European countries that have advanced enough in this matter, but some examples are. In Europe, the great examples in terms of equal treatment of men and women are in Scandinavia and also, for example, in Slovenia which is a very small country, but it is a country that has succeeded in advancing a lot in terms of equal treatment between men and women. What is true is that in countries, in particular in Portugal, you continue to treat these things lightly. We have attended the last few weeks in the Portuguese scene to decisions of judges regarding domestic violence which are absolutely backward decisions and in which individuals committing such crimes are treated in a very, very superficial and very much way. Generosity. We have problems also

at the level of justice, we have a very retrograde justice and we also have-and that is the other dimension of the subject – an inappropriate education. In other words, in schools, in public places do not do what should be done that is promoting equality between boys and girls and the education of future citizens, so that one side respects the other.

iv.

It's a turn of the page in relations between Brussels and Havana. The European Union and Cuba have signed the first agreement ever.
It is the political dialogue and Cooperation agreement, aimed at encouraging sustainable development, democracy and human rights.
The areas of common interest include, for example, the environment, renewable energies, rural development, security and job creation.
In a communiqué, the European Union states that this agreement confirms the ongoing commitment of the European Union in Latin America and the Caribbean. Cuba was the only country in the region with which the European Union had not yet reached an agreement on a legal basis for dialogue and cooperation.

Victor, what is the political and symbolic significance of this agreement?
This arrangement is important. It is important to Cuba, because Cuba needs to show that it is open to the world and that it is ready to political dialogue. It also needs cooperation evidently and trades. It is also important for Europe, because Europe needs to be seen by the Latin American countries as not excluding Cuba. In fact, so that Europe can have a stronger voice with regard to the situation in Venezuela, it is crucial that, at the same time, it can be seen-that the European Union can be seen-as having an attitude of openness and dialogue A positive opening in relation to Cuba. It is true that Europe is now the largest foreign investor in Cuba, but trade between the European Union and Cuba is still relatively weak, there is a potential here. Despite the economic difficulties it has, Cuba has an extremely educated population, very polite, professionally very competent and probably can be an important market, whether the production of goods that can be imported into Europe, in Europe, He also wants goods that can be exported to Cuba. Therefore, the economic potential exists and, therefore, at a time when relations between the United States and Cuba are extremely exhausted by the position of American President Donald Trump, it is crucial that Europe will, on the other hand, show its independence

and show that it is Interested in the political, economic and commercial development of the Cuban population.

And what has changed more recently in the socio-economic situation of Cuba?
I have been in Cuba not long ago and I saw, on the one hand, that there is a great political opening, I mean, people can openly say that they are not entirely according to government policy. Obviously, you have to say that with some prudence and some humor, but the truth is, you can say those things. I was, for example, at the National University of Havana and the teachers who received us clearly stated the points in which they were not agreed, namely the points from the point of view of economic policy where they did not agree with the President and the Government of Cuba. So there is a certain political opening, there is a great economic opening. At the moment, a part of the economy has been opened to the private sector, there are many companies and many families to invest, for example, in the hospitality industry or in small commercial or industrial activities and this evidently creates a diversity in terms of opportunities Economic and economic diversity also reaches political diversity and dialogue between Cubans. We note that, despite a large part of the Cuban population still living in very difficult conditions, with very low wages and many difficulties in terms of access to primary consumer goods, there is a major opening at the political level and especially a very sharp opening. At the economic level.

V.

Victor Angelo is every week here in the Magazine Europa.

And today we are still back to Catalonia for our cultural agenda. This week we propose a visit to the first house designed by Antoni Gaudi – Casa vices, built in 1883, and will open to the public for the first time permanently.

The house, located in the Greece neighbourhood was ordered to build by Manuel vices I Montaner, owner of a brick factory.

This is considered one of the main and first works of the Catalan modernist movement.

We'll stay here till next week!

[Technical Sheet]

With the editing and presentation of Catarina Domingues, the analysis of Victor Angelo and the coordination of Helder Beja, magazine Europa is the result of a collaboration between Radio Macao and the University of Macao under 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.