I.

European leaders advocate more citizen-friendly policies and establish "European Social Pillar", a document that brings together 20 fundamental principles for the continent's social policy.

Member States of the European Union move towards defense cooperation and sign joint notification. Portugal is, for the time being, from the outside.

In this Magazine Europe still: European Parliament advocates greater integration between European Union and Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova.

II.

Welcome to the Europe Magazine.

A Europe that is not only focused on finances, but on citizens. More employment, more salary justice, less inequalities.
These are ideas espoused by European leaders who last week met in Gothenburg, Sweden, and signed the "European Social Pillar". This is a non-binding document setting out 20 priorities for European social policy.
Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven spoke on employment as one of those priorities.

Stefan Löfven, Prime Minister of Sweden
If we allow unemployment to grow due to unfair practices, if there are no jobs filled, because the young people lack proper training or the parents did not retrain their training, then there will be growing social discord in our countries.

Vieira da Silva, the Portuguese Minister of Labor, Solidarity and Social Security, points out the call for the establishment of a minimum wage in Europe.

Vieira da Silva, Minister of Labor, Solidarity and Social Security of Portugal
An innovative aspect, I could cite the fact that this proclamation recognizes and calls for the existence of a generalized system of minimum wages throughout Europe. I believe it is difficult to find a document of this size that makes this call so clear. There is the role of the minimum wage in the defense of social cohesion and European welfare.

And as usual, on the phone from Brussels is Victor Ângelo, a resident commentator of Magazine Europe and an international consultant based in the Belgian capital.

Victor, the last social summit at the level of heads of state and government took place 20 years ago. At the time it was chaired by Jean-Claude Juncker, then Prime Minister of Luxembourg. Jean-Claude Juncker who during this meeting stressed that this signed document "is not a poem". It is a program of principles and action. What, then, can one expect from this "European Social Pillar"?
Europe already had a European social charter, but it is a charter that was signed in 1961. It was later updated in 1989, but in the last 28 years there has been no updating of European social policy when in fact the world has changed radically over the last

three decades. That is why the aim of last week's summit in Sweden was essentially to send a very strong message to European citizens that the European Union is not just a union of economies or a union of large companies or a union of financial interests. It is also a union and, above all, a union of citizens with social rights. Basically, Europe has a big question: to what extent is the current European social model feasible and can it continue? We are in a phase of accelerated globalization, we are also in the process of digital revolution. Both globalization and the digitization of the economy have immense influences, have a great impact on employment and the extent to which employment will not be totally affected. And who says the job, says later all other benefits and social rights will be affected, both by globalization and by the numerical revolution.

And how can the European Union make workers recover some of the labor rights lost over the last few years, above all during the period of the financial crisis?
In the same week that the European Social Summit was taking place, France and President Macron were adopting a new labor code which, in the end, diminished the rights of French workers and also the role played by trade unions. That is to say, on the one hand, and in the public opinion, we are talking about the deepening of social rights and, on the other hand, in reality, these rights are limited, as much as possible, and in particular the trade union rights. Another major issue is that we are currently in a changing economic situation, which is changing rapidly, and the experience of recent years has shown that every five years we need to re-learn new ways of doing things. It is necessary to develop new job skills and one of the major concerns at the moment in Europe is that European workers have not been professionally supported to enable them to make the necessary adaptations to meet the new challenges of the digital economy.

It is worth here also to look here for the updated ranking of Social Justice in Europe, which has just been released by the German foundation Bertelsmann. In general, Europe, according to the foundation, is recovering not only economically but also in the field of social justice.
Here are some results: It is reported that the risk of poverty has decreased slightly, although the gap between North and South remains high. There is also progress in education, with the percentage of students leaving school ahead of time falling from 14.7% in 2008 to 10.7%.
Denmark leads this ranking of 28, followed by Sweden, Finland and the Czech Republic. Lastly, Greece was the 26th and 27th respectively Bulgaria and Romania. Portugal, which ranked 20th, remains below the European average. Victor, what reading is it possible to make of these new data?
On the one hand, certain countries of the European Union, and in particular the countries of northern Europe, continue to deepen social justice issues and continue to invest heavily in equality between people and, in particular, equality between men and women; continue to invest heavily in education, access to education. And, on the other hand, certain other countries continue to have many difficulties in responding to issues of access to education, access to health, and everything related to other social rights. In fact, we continue to see a divergence in social terms between one part of Europe and the other. And that is one of the major concerns right now in Brussels. It is the fact that certain countries, instead of approaching the European average, are gradually moving away from the same average. At the moment, for example, we have ten countries out of the 28 that have a minimum wage that corresponds to less than

50% of the European average. And that's just an indicator of divergence. Other indicators of divergence relate in particular to inequalities in educational opportunities.

III.

Twenty-three Member States of the European Union will strengthen collaboration in the area of security and defense. The aim of the agreement is for countries to jointly develop defense capabilities and invest in projects that improve operational availability. More with Antena1 journalist Andrea Neves.

[The possibility of closer cooperation in the areas of defense and security has been defined in the Treaty of Lisbon. It has a voluntary base and countries that do not adhere can already do so at a later stage, provided the founding states accept it. And any country may decide to leave at any time by notifying the council. The aim is to enable member states to jointly develop defense capabilities and to jointly invest in projects that improve operational availability. Cooperation will not entail the creation of a European army or European forces. With the signed notice, one notices this, because it is written, but implies that, for example, tactical groupings that are already foreseen and that result from a combination of forces can be fulfilled. By integrating PESCO or the acronym that will begin to form part of the European talks and which defines this cooperation, the states commit themselves to reinforce investment in defense and equipment, which has also been assumed at NATO level. Decisions and recommendations made under this cooperation shall be adopted unanimously by the participating States. National sovereignty remains untouchable, Foreign Ministers assert.]

Permanent structured cooperation should be established in the Foreign Affairs Council scheduled for 11 December the next, is it necessary a military more capable Europe?
We need a European Union that can respond to the new security challenges. And these new challenges have to do with military issues and have also to do with police issues and political issues. These challenges are very close at this point at what can happen at the Eastern European Union border with Russia, but they also have a lot to do with the European Union's intervention in neighbouring spaces such as North Africa or the Sahel. For that we need military capabilities, we need security and police capabilities, and we need to have a very clear idea of what threats are. And today a large portion of the war nanomachines shares are made with wool feet, i.e. they are made not the classical way with tanks and planes, but are made, for example, through the use of informatics, from cyber, are made through the false news and are made also through the creation Internal divisions. So, seeing the defence only in military terms is insufficient. It is necessary to see the defence in a complete way, namely that it takes into account not only strengthening the military capabilities of the European Union, but also to take account of the political issue and the police issue.

And Portugal is, together with the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark and Malta, one of the few Member States which has not yet signed the notification. What are the reservations? Should Portugal do it?
Portugal has not yet signed because it has not actually been able to schedule the discussion of its participation in the permanent structured cooperation in the European

Parliament, the Assembly of the Republic. I think you will succeed and will certainly have enough votes in the Assembly of the Republic, the socialist and right-wing votes. The truth is that so many European countries were not expected to participate in the permanent structured cooperation mechanism. And some people say that there are countries that have entered the mechanism with the intention of sabotaging it to a certain extent, that is, with the aim of not letting him move on the way, for example, the Germans and the French-who are the two nations behind this initiative – such as these Nations would like to move forward. Poland is probably the country within the mechanism that has many reservations about this mechanism and it would certainly bet on NATO and would not wager on a European defence. Poland while watching and listening to European defence, listens and sees the Germans and at this moment the old resentment between Poland and Germany are again on the surface in the media and in Polish politics.

And since we are talking about defence and security, we look at a CNN investigation, which denounces the case of several African migrants who pass through Libya towards Europe and are sold by smugglers as slaves for about 400 dollars. Victor, is it so that the European Union can work to help prevent a slavery situation like this?
The question of the sale of slaves is very close to the situation in Europe and the relations of Europe with Libya in the sense that Europe has been investing-in the last year-especially in the development of the security forces and political structures of Libya and has been trying to ref. Luffing the capacity of Libya to prevent migrants from crossing the Atlantic. At the moment there is a very strong partnership between Libya and the European Union, a partnership which is mainly conducted by Italy and what is found is that this partnership is an incomplete partnership, i.e., strengthens the capacity of the Libyan authorities to avoid the other Air passage by sea, but, on the other hand, it does not take into account that the same Libyan authorities will allow the inside of their country to carry out slave markets. Moreover, the United Nations has just launched an appeal to the European Union by saying fundamentally that what Europe has been doing with Libya is unacceptable as it does not only do not solve the problem of migrants, but it is also creating this kind of absolute situations. NTE unacceptable from the human point of view.

IV.

The European Parliament advocates greater integration between the European Union and Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova for the accession of these three countries to the Schengen area and the single market.
A resolution approved by the body paves the way for new reforms in these three eastern nations and an application to the 28 block.
For the Eastern Partnership Summit, which is held on 24 November, MEPs left a number of recommendations:
The establishment of a fund for these three countries and should be channelled into public and private investments in social or economic infrastructures.
MEPs also recommend supporting economic reforms that progressively eliminate monopolies, limit the role of the oligarchs, fight money laundering and tax evasion.
The resolution was approved by MEPs with 519 votes in favour, 114 against and 47 abstentions.

Victor, how do you look at the European Union for this eastward enlargement?

And how is Russia in the face of this European onslaught?
The European Union currently has little appetite in terms of enlargement, but nevertheless has to continue to promise that there is the possibility of new adhesions to the European area and that is what is being done, namely, it is not fully closing the door But in fact the truth is very clear, the truth is that in the next few years we will not see new countries integrating the EU and certainly will not see either Ukraine or Georgia nor Moldova entering the European Union. They are not even candidates for accession to the European Union. The candidate countries are now five: Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. But the European Union must continue to wave at the possibility of integrating these countries into the European Union because, on the one hand, this causes the process of political and institutional reforms to continue to move forward in these countries. On the other hand, it allows to invest some money and give some help to these reform processes, i.e., if there is a deadline the possibility of initiating an accession process, it is possible since already earmarking some money for these countries and, on the other hand, also sends a very message for You to Russia that Europe does not fear Russia and will continue sooner or later to admit new members, including countries that are at the borders of Russia and that have been in the past part of the Soviet empire.

V.

Victor Angelo, weekly commentator for the Magazine Europa.
And we're going to end up as usual with a cultural note. This week we propose an exhibition in Portugal at the Berardo Collection Museum in Lisbon.
"Lu Nan. Trilogy, Photographs "presents a selection of works by Chinese photographer Lu Nan. The images comprise a trilogy that began in 1989 and that was completed fifteen years later, in 2004.
The first part depicts the life of hospitals of mental illness, the other accompanies Catholic communities in rural areas of China and the third addresses the everyday Tibetan. The work of the Chinese artist can be seen until January 14th of next year.
The Magazine Europa is coming back next week!

[Technical Sheet]

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