I.

In Germany, Social Democrats are back, saying they are willing to negotiate a new government with Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The International Day for the Eradication of Violence against Women was marked on a global scale. Brussels calls for more effective government, police and courts to combat this type of violence.

Also in this issue: on the eve of the EU-Africa Summit, the European Parliament calls for the implementation of a Marshall Plan for the African continent.

II.

Welcome to the Europe Magazine!

German Chancellor Angela Merkel had already said she did not want to dialogue with either the extreme right or the far left. New elections seemed to be the most likely scenario.

Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany
A minority government is not in my plans, but we'll have to wait for the next few days. New elections are one way. I do not want to say "no" and "never", but I am very skeptical and I think that new elections are the best solution.

Two months after the legislative elections on 24 September, the German chancellor did not reach a coalition agreement with either the Liberal Party or the Greens. And when everything was predicting new elections in Germany, the Social Democrats of the SPD backed down. That is, in the face of what they initially defended: they wanted to move from coalition partners to the opposition.
Now SPD leader Martin Schulz met with the party and said he reconsidered after a meeting with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier.
The president appealed to all parties, excluding the far right and the extreme left, to show willingness for dialogue to form a government.

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

Victor, what could have led to this change of strategy by the Social Democrats?
I think it's the concern for stability. Germany is a society that gives precedence to stability. In the last almost 40 years, there have been only four foreign ministers in Germany, that is, there is too much public pressure on the part of the electorate to reach a political agreement. It has been a tradition in Germany to have coalition governments. The truth is that this coalition to the center is the coalition that the Germans prefer,

because it is a coalition that excludes both extremes.

What would happen if there was a new ballot, for example?
Two things, on the one hand, gave the impression to the Germans and also to Europe that there were not conditions in Germany at this time to find an agreement when tradition has traditionally always had an agreement. On the other hand, new elections in three or four months would probably yield the same results. That is, only the impasse would be postponed.

Does this political impasse in Germany weaken the country's position as one of the leaders of the European Union, Victor?
Germany is considered to be the European Union's pivotal country. In fact, many Europeans, a good majority of Europeans, look to Germany as the leading country, even though it is demographically the country with the most inhabitants, it is the country from afar that has a larger population. That is why Germany plays an important role, although there is clearly in Europe who does not like this role played by the Germans. But they play an important role and the truth is that the Paris-Berlin Axis is a key axis for advancing the European Union and we have noticed in recent days that the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, was extremely concerned that there was no agreement in Berlin. And he even went so far as to say this publicly, that is, in addition to the pressure of German internal public opinion, there was also political pressure, particularly from Paris.

III.

This Saturday marked the International Day for the Eradication of Violence against Women. Brussels says the situation has begun to change, but recalls that there is violence against women every day, inside and outside the European Union. More with Antena1.

[One in three women in Europe has ever been the victim of physical or sexual violence. 80% of victims of human trafficking within the European Union are women. In developing countries, one in three young women is married before the age of 18. One in two women who were victims of violence never told anyone. From Brussels comes the warning, there are situations of violence against women of all ages, every day, inside and outside the European Union and happens in different contexts and sectors, at home, at work, at school, on the street, in sports and online.
On the day that the eradication of violence against women is mentioned, the European Union says that the situation will finally begin to change. Over the past 30 years, the incidence of female genital mutilation has decreased by 50% in Africa. In South Asia, the percentage of married girls under the age of 15 has dropped by half and the community is encouraging women to talk.
47% of women who were victims of violence never told anyone, nor the police, the health services, or a friend. The report of the Institute for Gender Equality states that in

societies that tolerate violence, they do not punish perpetrators and even blame victims. Women are less likely to talk about what happened to them. The European Commission wants legislation to be adequate and education and awareness raising should be extended. And it wants firmer responses from the police, the courts and the government.]

Progress has been made, but more needs to be invested in education, legislation and changing social norms, says Brussels. In practice, Victor, I asked him, what impact can initiatives such as Spotlight have, is an initiative that was launched by the European Union and that will support with a fund of 500 million euros victims and contribute to the creation of societies healthier, safer and more free.
In practice there are two messages that should be emphasized and should be repeated. On the one hand, violence against women and girls is one of the most serious violations of human rights, not only in other parts of the world, but also in several European countries. And the second great message is that this issue of the eradication of violence should be a priority on the global agenda and I think that if we continue to insist on human rights and the priority nature of this struggle, it will be possible in the coming years to make very, very important progress on violence against women. And so the European Union Spotlight initiative, which is a joint initiative with the United Nations, is a very important initiative.

Within this Spotlight Initiative program, 25 million are channeled to help migrant workers in Southeast Asia in a new program called "Safe and Fair", which aims, as the name implies, to improve the working conditions of these women. Can the EU play an important role in curbing violence and, above all, trafficking in Southeast Asia?
Essentially, the role of the European Union will have to be a funding role, on the one hand, and the fact that it has approved 25 million euros is important, it is a first contribution to the fight against discrimination against women in South East Asia and to reaffirm the rights that these women have to equality. On the other hand, the EU should continue at its summit with Southeast Asia and other parts of the world, but in particular with that part of Asia. At its political summit, it should continue to include the issue of human rights and the issue of violence against women as key issues on the political agenda. These issues should continue to be highly visible, should remain part of summits and political contacts and should also be treated in the media. That is, on the one hand, money is needed, and on the other hand it is necessary to keep public opinion alive on these issues and to maintain political pressure on the leaders of these countries.

IV.
The launching of a Marshall plan for the African continent is one of the proposals launched shortly before the European Union-Africa summit, which runs in Côte d'ivoire, as tells us the journalist Sonia Nunes.

It takes place for the first time in sub-Saharan Africa. Abidjan, the economic capital of Côte d'ivoire, is the host of the fifth European Union-Africa summit, which runs this

week between Wednesday and Thursday.
83 Heads of State and Government, 55 African countries and 28 Europeans will be represented in the event, which has as a theme ' Investing in youth for a sustainable future '.
The African continent and the European will have the opportunity to discuss investment in youth and themes such as democracy, peace and security, employment, human rights, migration and mobility, among others.
On the eve of the summit, the President of the European Parliament advocated the implementation of a "Marshall plan" for Africa. Antonio Tajani referred to Europe's economic recovery programme at the end of World War II.
The leader pointed out that the current investment plan "is far from sufficient".
The first EU-Africa summit was held in Cairo, capital of Egypt, in 2000. Lisbon hosted the second edition in 2007, following Libya in 2010 and Brussels in 2014.

Victor, the issue of migrants will be at the top of the EU-Africa Summit agenda. It is worth mentioning a study of the International Organisation of Migrations, which concluded that more than 33000 people drowned in the last 17 years, when they were trying to reach Europe, which makes the Mediterranean the most Mortíferia frontier in the world. Other issues to be addressed are youth. In a communiqué, Brussels wrote that this is one of the main priorities for Africa and the EU, because 60% of the African population is less than 25 years old. What else can we expect from this meeting between the European Union and the African Union?
For many years, perhaps even for decades, it has been thought in Africa as a relatively distant continent and at the moment there is a perfect conscience at the political, European level and not only in certain countries of the European Union, at the level of the populations that Africa is one of the Our neighbors are very close, so it's important that you pay attention to what happens at the neighbor's house. And what is happening in the neighbor's house, and in particular what is happening in the areas of Africa that are closer to Europe are very serious problems of poverty, insecurity, poor governance and lack of prospects. And these issues have to be on the table and, therefore, it speaks in particular in adopting a Marshall plan in relation to Africa. This issue of the Marshall plan is not a whole new issue and also cannot make it forget that for tens of years Europe has been the main supplier of development aid and humanitarian assistance in Africa. The question is: what are the main obstacles to African development? And I think this has to be put on the table. There are very important issues of corruption, bad governance, but there are also other issues that have to do with the demographic explosion in the African continent and how it responds to employment needs – first to education needs and then to employment needs – Of an extremely young, extremely dynamic population and today is no longer content to go to the large African urban centers, because it knows perfectly that African cities do not offer prospects of employment, do not offer prospects of life and that the only solution is Try to emigrate to other parts of the world and especially to the nearest neighbor who is the European neighbor. We must also not forget that there is a very strong historical link between most African countries and several European countries, as many European countries have had colonies on the

African continent.

And one of the countries that has historical relations with Africa is France and is precisely Emmanuel Macron, French president, who is also visiting Africa, even before this EU-Africa summit. What role can France and its young president have in the relationship of the European Union with this continent?
France is a very important actor in several African countries and in particular in the Africa area that is most interested in the European Union, namely North Africa and all West Africa. and therefore the presence of macron on the African continent and Macron's interest on the African continent are to praise. Macron can in the European context try to keep the African question on the top of the European political agenda, because the truth is that in addition to this summit in Abidjan, the African question is a relatively lateral issue with regard to political discussions in Europe and France can Play an important role in turning this issue into a central issue. On the other hand, France plays an important role in security in some African spaces. At this time, France has about 4000 soldiers highlighted in the African continent. These detachments are very important to maintain a certain stability and a certain security in the regions where they operate, are not sufficient evidently, but they are important. France can try that other European countries in the framework of permanent structured defence cooperation also contribute soldiers and military aid and police help to strengthen security in the areas of Africa where this security is practically not There is.

And before we finish today's programme, I would ask you, Victor will be in Macau for the week to participate in two days of conference on the European Union. Could you here for those who hear us raise the veil a little bit about what will be discussed in Macau?
On the 4th end of the afternoon I will speak at the University of Macao on defence issues, namely the way Europe is facing the new threats and the way it responds or seeks to respond to these new dangers. Therefore, defence as a fundamental issue at this point in the European political agenda. And on Tuesday, the 5th, at the end of the afternoon, I will be at the Rui Cunha Foundation to discuss issues related to the great choices of future, the transformation agenda of Europe, as this agenda is seen by the most important European leaders, i.e. by Jean-Claude Juncker By Emmanuel Macron, by Angela Markel and other leaders, and also, to some extent, leaders with a negative impact on Europe can derail this transformation agenda, i.e., for example, what can happen in the relationship between Brussels and Hungary , given that Viktor Orban, the prime Minister of Hungary, has a position that is not very favorable to European integration.

V.
Statements by Victor Angelos, which accompanies us here in the Magazine Europe and which will be Macau next week. On Monday, the 4th, at 5:30 p.m. at the University of Macao and on Tuesday, the 5th, at the Rui Cunha Foundation at 6:30 p.m.
Time still for our usual cultural suggestion.

Exhibition at the Tate Modern Gallery in London shows the works of Italian painter and sculptor Amedeo Modigliani.
The artist was born in Italy in 1884, moved to Paris in 1906 and was influenced by Picasso, Matisse and Cézanne.
He had a short life and excesses; He died at 35 years. Modigliani sought to undress the human being, wanted to show the soul. The nudes, mainly feminine, form an important part of the work they have developed. In this exhibition you can see 12. It is the largest nude group of this artist who has been assembled until today.
We'll stay here till next week!

[Technical Sheet]
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