I.

Mario Centeno is the new president of the Eurogroup. Portuguese Finance Minister was elected to the second round.

Europe and Africa want a joint intervention force to combat slavery and trafficking in human beings.

Still on this program: President of the European Council calls for acceptable settlement of the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland after Brexit.

II.

Welcome to the Europe Magazine!

Mario Centeno is the new president of the Eurogroup. The election of the Portuguese finance minister took place yesterday in Brussels.

It took two rounds to elect the successor of Jeroen Dijsselbloem.

Latvian Dana Reizniece-Ozola retired on the first lap and Slovakian Peter Kazimir gave up on Monday. There was still the Luxembourger Pierre Gramegna in the race.

Centeno takes office in January. The term of office is two and a half years.

And this week, Victor Ângelo, Magazine Europe's resident commentator and international consultant based in Brussels, is in Macao to attend a series of conferences.

Victor, in relation to the election of the Eurogroup president, was this expected? What strategic importance does this position of Mario Centeno have in the EU? What is the added value of having this election?

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and Italian Prime Minister Gentiloni met on the fringes of the Europe-Africa summit in Abijan, discussed the Eurogroup presidency and came to the conclusion that they would recommend the minister's candidacy Portuguese of Finances. These three people have a decisive influence on the choice of the next President of the Eurogroup. But beyond this agreement between these three leaders, it is clear that the Eurogroup needed to find new balances and the election of Mário Centeno goes in that direction. New balances in terms of political families, as all other places of management in the European institutions are occupied by people from the right center - Mário Centeno

would represent and represent the left center - so this balance in terms of political families is very important in Europe. Also a geographical balance, in the sense that it would be important for someone from South Europe to lead this Eurogroup - Mario Centeno evidently represents South Europe - and also balance in terms of finding someone who can turn page, someone who does not represent the austerity program that was to be followed by Europe, the austerity option that was being followed by Europe, but someone who can, on the one hand, have sufficient credentials to say that he has managed to turn the situation around financial situation in Portugal, but on the other hand it has a very large opening in relation to public expenditure and budgets, that is, someone who is not identified with the pure and hard policy of austerity.

Who was identified to this policy of austerity was the predecessor of Mário Centeno. What is left of Jeroen Dijsselbloem's work?
Jeroen Dijsselbloem was for many years an uncompromising public expenditure and, in particular, absolute obedience to the 3% deficit criterion. Clearly, it represented the most orthodox line within the European Union, a line very close to the German position, of Mr Schäuble's position, a line very close to the position of certain Nordic countries, in particular a very strict budgetary country, which is Finland, but it is also true that Dijsselbloem took a certain type of initiatives, which allowed Portugal, on the one hand, despite the vestment of forces of austerity, to find financing and settle its financial situation, and it was also the lord Dijsselbloem who was at the helm of the Greek program. So to a certain extent, his image is closely associated with the issues of austerity, but he has, nonetheless, some successes.

I was already interested here also to address an issue that has been widely spoken in recent times. Victor, does it make sense or not that there should be a finance minister in the European Union. What will be the position of Mario Centeno here?
At the moment, I do not think there are any political conditions for an agreement to be reached on the appointment of a finance minister for the euro zone. The Eurozone will certainly be aware of some changes, notably the creation of a European Monetary Fund, and this will certainly be one of the issues that will be on the agenda of Mario Centeno. On the other hand, Mario Centeno will continue to work on the issue of the Greek ransom and probably its goal will be to get Greece out of the situation it is in and to enter into a situation of normalcy and more access to markets, he will certainly

have a very favorable attitude towards Greece. These two questions will occupy Mário Centeno a lot. He will, on the other hand, be able to explain that it is possible to turn around public budgets and still be able to maintain a certain level of social expenditure. That is to say, it will have a very busy agenda and will certainly not insist too much on the issue of the European finance minister, because at the moment I do not think there is the minimum of political conditions for this to happen.

III.

The European Union and the African Union want to create a joint intervention force to combat the problem of slavery and trafficking in human beings. This proposal came out of the European Union-Africa Summit, held last week in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. More with the journalist Marta Melo.

Migration was at the top of the agenda of the EU-Africa Summit, held last week in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

At the meeting, the leaders of both continents made a commitment to fight against human trafficking and the slave markets in Libya.

In the plans, there is the creation of a joint intervention force to combat these crimes. On the European side, four countries showed interest. They are Italy, France, Germany and Spain. Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Morocco, Niger and Libya are on the African side.

Moussa Faki Mahamat, chair of the African Union Commission, said at the time that some 700,000 people are living in refugee camps in Libya and often in inhumane conditions.

Recently, a CNN job has revealed the existence of auctions of immigrants, who are sold as slaves in Libya, where they are on their way to the European dream.

The Africa-Europe summit was marked by the situation in Libya, with the recent exposure of human trafficking cases by CNN as we heard in the play. Can a joint intervention force be one of the solutions to stop the buying and selling of people in the 21st century?

The question, for example, of the African force, which is called the G5 Sahel force, would be the force that would allow to control the borders and avoid the passage, for example, of the traffickers of people and to avoid all type of violence against the candidates to the emigration. This G5 Sahel force, which is already on the ground, has

a lot of difficulties to run. On the one hand, it does not have sufficient funding. We are talking about five countries that are among the poorest countries on the globe, we are saying that these countries will provide each one thousand thousand, but one thousand militaries that are not equipped, that do not have logistical conditions to operate, they also do not have preparation to work. This is a very serious problem of funding that is not resolved and there is also a very serious problem of vocational training of these military personnel, because many of these military personnel are themselves agents of human rights violations. That is, this issue was indeed dealt with in Abidjan, it was a central issue during the summit, but it is an issue that has to be re-considered, has to be discussed again and has to be seen very seriously.

And Victor, can we talk about Libya as an isolated case or is it just one of several cases in Africa?

Slavery exists in other countries in the region, notably in Mauritania. In fact, Mauritania is often said to be the most anti-slavery country in the world, because it has already abolished slavery for some ten times and the truth is that there is still slavery in Mauritania, not with the intensity that is happening in Libya , but there is. The Libyan problem is that Libya is at present a state in deep crisis, that is, a state that does not have a Central Government with sufficient authority over the entire national territory, is a state that is now shared between armed groups, with difficulties in bringing the different tribes to a national unity project, and therefore, since there is no law or rock, as there is no public order, in Libya a little is done what the armed groups can do and can impose, or we are talking about a country that is a very important corridor in the transition of migrants fleeing poverty and conflicts from sub-Saharan Africa towards Europe. It is an important country as a corridor and is also a country in an extremely chaotic situation.

IV.

European Council President Donald Tusk said that Britain's proposal on the future of the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland should please the Irish government and the EU partners.

"If the UK proposal is unacceptable to Ireland, it will also be unacceptable to the European Union," Tusk said after a meeting in Dublin with the Irish prime minister.This is a message of support for Ireland, which wants to know which it is London's plans to keep the Northern Ireland border as open as possible when it leaves the customs union. Tusk considers that the UK has a responsibility to make a credible commitment to avoid a strict border.

Victor, about Brexit, what scenarios do you think are possible here at the frontier level?

Donald Tusk's statement is a very important statement. I had been on the eve of this declaration in contact with Irish leaders and they were extremely concerned that they were afraid that Europe would drop them, ie that Europe would consider Ireland to be only a remote corner of the European Union and that the other matters relating to Brexit are more important than the question of the border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. When Donald Tusk makes the statement he made, the Irish were extremely pleased because, in fact, for them is an extremely important problem, it is a problem that has to do with trade and economic development in virtually all of Ireland, because Ireland and Northern Ireland are now an integrated economic region and any obstacle to the transition or transfer of goods and the transfer of workers from one side to the other would have a very negative impact on Ireland's economic growth. On the other hand, the fact that Donald Tusk had said that, without the agreement of Ireland, there would be no agreement with the United Kingdom as regards Brexit and, in particular as regards the frontier issue, that question was seen by others countries, because in the European Union some say that smaller countries do not count and the message that the President of the European Council Donald Tusk sent was exactly a message that these countries count.

And at the start of the week, Theresa May will meet with the president of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, to present the final proposals for two other fundamental aspects, in addition to the border issue, which are the rights of the citizens, financial means to consummate the exit from the EU. What to expect from this new round of negotiations?

I believe that the United Kingdom will give way and understand that it needs to reach an agreement in the next few days on the three major issues, namely the question of payment and its financial contributions to the common budget, the question of European citizens living in Britain and also the British living in the rest of the European Union. I think that in these two areas we will certainly move quickly with the proposal, in fact, there is already a very clear indication that Theresa May will be willing to speak and discuss an amount close to 50 to 55 billion euros, when there is even little talked about only 20 billion euros. And also the issue of the border with the Republic of Ireland, I think she will also find a solution. And the solution will probably be a green-to-Portuguese solution, that is, there will be an indicator on the cars that will allow cars to move from one side of the border to the other side of the border

V.

Victor Ângelo, a commentator resident of Magazine Europe, based in Brussels, and this week is in Macau. Today at 6:30 pm the Rui Cunha Foundation, the former representative of the United Nations Secretary-General will take part in the lecture: "The Future of the European Union: Who Assumes Leadership?" This is a joint initiative of the University of Macau and the The European Institute of Macao Studies, and the Portuguese and English Press Association (AIPIM), which will be moderated by the president of the association, José Carlos Matias.

And before we finish, we have a movie suggestion today.

"Darkest Hour" is a movie about Winston Churchil. It premiered in Canada and the United States and arrives in the British and Portuguese markets in early 2018. Joe Wright's work focuses on the early days of World War II. It is also the final participation of the British actor John Hurt, who died earlier this year. Hurt played the role of Neville Chamberlain, predecessor to British Prime Minister Churchill.

We stay here. For the week Magazine Europe goes on vacation. He returns on the 19th of December. Until then.

[Datasheet]

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