I.

European Union will advance to the second phase of negotiations of Brexit with the United Kingdom. Issues related to trade and security should be discussed as of March.

The decision was taken at the last European Council of the year, which was also marked by divisions in European migration policy. Germany calls for more solidarity.

In this edition still: European Block formally establishes the mechanism of Permanent Structured Cooperation. Three Member States remain outside this union in the area of defense and security.

II.

Welcome to the Europe Magazine.
The European Union has approved the opening of the second phase of the Brexit negotiations. The green light was given on the second day of the European Council, which took place late last week in Brussels.
The Council agreed to negotiate the British proposal for a transitional period of about two years. He stressed, however, that London will no longer be able to participate, appoint or elect members of the institutions of the European Union and that during this transitional period it will continue to be part of the customs union and the single European market.
Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, spoke on the occasion of a difficult road.

Donald Tusk, President of the European Council
Of course it's dramatically difficult. No doubt the second phase will be even more demanding and difficult than the first phase.

Following a pre-agreed agreement on the values of Brexit's bill and citizens' rights, the new round of negotiations will focus on the bilateral relationship for the transitional period, the terms of which remain to be defined, and also on the future commercial relationship with the United Kingdom.

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

Victor, Donald Tusk and Angela Merkel have warned that the next round of negotiations will be even more demanding and tough. What do these words mean in this context?
The next theme is a very complex theme, with a lot of detail, a lot of detail. It is the question of trade relations and financial relations between the United Kingdom and the European Union. And all that is trade and foreign trade negotiations, so everything that

is relations of this type, are extremely meticulous, very time consuming and very complicated, because it is a matter of discussing product by product sometimes and this will of course be complicated, because economic interests are at stake and, on the other hand, it is tedious.

Theresa May believes that the UK will leave the European Union in March 2019, with the process of negotiations having a happy outcome there. Is this scenario more realistic?
I think everything is open this time. The truth is that recent opinion polls in the UK show that British public opinion is turning against Brexit. This means, on the one hand, that public opinion is now in a completely different situation and has a completely different position compared to last year's position. On the other hand, there are movements at this time and some of them with enough popular rooting towards a second referendum on Brexit. Everything will obviously depend on the position of the Labor Party. If the Labor Party decides to continue to support Brexit, it is clear that there will be no new referendum, but it may also happen that a good deal of opinion within the Labor Party evolves towards a new referendum, especially if they feel that public opinion is changing. On the other hand, it is noted that very important personalities, including former Prime Minister Tony Blair, are currently launching campaigns to keep Britain in the European Union. And it is true that the British Parliament will vote again next autumn on Brexit's terms and it is very likely that around this vote in Westminster there will be a whole stream of public opinion that sooner or later be necessary to hold a new referendum.

But what does that mean, that there is still a chance of contradicting Brexit?
My analysis is that no, is that when a process of this type comes into motion, it is very difficult to counteract such a situation. But it is also true that at this time there is an understanding - at the level of many economic sectors, in many sectors of British public opinion and especially in urban populations and in the younger population - that Brexit is a situation and is a decision unfavorable to the Kingdom United Kingdom, is a situation that will jeopardize the economic, social development and European integration of the United Kingdom and, therefore, it is very likely that we will see a boom in 2018 in the sense that this issue of Brexit should be called into question.

III.

One of the issues that continues to divide the member states of the European Union is migration. During the European Council, German Chancellor Angela Merkel called for more solidarity.

Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany
Solidarity should not only apply externally but also in internal solidarity. This has to be worked out. There can be no members who are in solidarity and others who refuse solidarity. That does not fit for me.

Meanwhile, European Council President Donald Tusk said the issue of quotas for refugee reception will be worked through until March and decided in June.

Victor, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia oppose the current quota scheme to receive migrants. This is one of the problems that goes to 2018. How should the European Union deal with this internal division?
The issue of immigration policy is a very delicate issue and one that can fracture the European Union. In fact, there is already a certain gap between the traditional and western countries of the European Union and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. It is a very delicate issue, it is a question that revolves around the following point: should there be a common migration policy or should the issue of migration be an issue that must be decided state by state? At the moment, the official position of the European Union is that there must be a common migration policy. However, there are a number of countries that continue to think - and in particular the countries just mentioned - that this is a purely national issue and that in these countries there is no tradition of accepting immigrants from different cultures and this issue is a very sensitive issue country. What will happen during the year 2018? On the one hand, there is a clear desire on the part of European leaders to reach an agreement on this issue. It is a question that has dragged on, which has created many tensions. The last tension was between the president of the European Council, Donald Tusk, and the Commissioner of the European Commission responsible for migration, Dimitris Avramopoulos. This tension was a very visible tension, in which the European commissioner openly criticized in the media the positions of Donald Tusk. Donald Tusk's positions are positions that are now closer to the Polish, Hungarian or Czech positions than to the Brussels position. This, therefore, creates many divisions, but on the other hand, as I said, there is a certain desire to find a common position. I believe, however, that it will be very difficult.

IV.

Members of the European bloc have taken another step towards establishing a defence union. The fishing was formally released and Portugal is a member. More with the journalist Sofia Jesus.

The mechanism of permanent structured cooperation in the field of security and defence, also known as fishing, was introduced by the Lisbon Treaty in 2007.
Last week-ten years later-the creation of this defence network was approved by the Council of the European Union.
The framework provides for the possibility for several Member States of the European Union to cooperate more closely in the field of security and defence. It will allow nations willing and able to jointly develop defence capacities, invest in joint projects and improve operational availability and the contribution of their armed forces.
Of the 28 members of the European bloc, three chose not to participate. They are Malta,

Denmark and the United Kingdom.
Federica Mogherini, High Representative for the European Union's foreign and security policy, has said that this is an historic decision. The President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, wrote on Twitter that the sleeping beauty of the Lisbon Treaty is awake. "

Victor, what effective importance can this new defense mechanism have?
There are issues of coordination here that are fundamental issues. I always remember what happened in Somalia a short time ago when the European Union had a military mission to support the legitimate government of Somalia, it was a military mission consisting of 12 European nations and this meant that there were 12 types of rifles, 12 types of ammunition, various types of spare parts, that is, a total discoordination that created immense problems, not only of logistics, but also of joint operations. The fish, which is a permanent structured cooperation between the countries of the European Union, will allow a certain harmonization, not only of armaments, but also of the professional training of the military and it is in this sense that it will move forward in the first phase. The big question is whether this is the embryo of a future European army. For some it will be and I think that Jean-Claude Juncker is certainly in favor of the creation in the term of a European army. I also believe that French President Emmanuel Macron is also in favor of a European army. But there are other European countries which are not, in particular, Portugal and also very important countries from a military standpoint, such as Poland. Poland has a great deal of difficulty in accepting that there is a European army, because it believes that a European army would fundamentally mean that it would be an army subordinate to the leadership and command of the forces of Germany and the forces of France. And that of course for the Poles reminds old ghosts that history has not yet managed to kill and ghosts those who will never allow the Polish army to feel under the control, for example, of the Germans.

Portugal eventually joined this group of 25 Member States who decided to join. However, Denmark and Malta, besides the United Kingdom, which is leaving the European Union, have decided to stay out of it. Why?
These countries-Denmark and Malta-have a very unique, very special defense policy where they think they should not be part of any kind of European alliance. Denmark is already part of NATO and believes that within NATO it plays a relatively important role, taking into account its size, but does not want to enter into the construction of a European army because it wants to maintain a great independence from the rest of Europe. Probably in the sense that sooner or later can play a bridge role between, for example, the rest of Europe and external enemies or outside opponents. The truth is also that this type of permanent structured cooperation, fish, does not have much to do with the collective defense of Europe. The collective defense of Europe will continue to be ensured by NATO. It has more to do with cooperation between European countries in the field of training, as I was saying, and in terms of armaments and investment in new military techniques. It mainly has to do with the projection of the European Union's role in other parts of the world. In other words, this fish will allow the European Union,

it is thought to be, to intervene more quickly in peace missions, whether in Mali, Niger or other parts of the world, which is not very agile at the moment. The European Union has been relatively slow in terms of ensuring a global role in peacekeeping issues.

Victor mentioned NATO. And in the formal release of the mechanism, Donald Tusk said that for many years the main argument against the fish was precisely the weakening of NATO. However, it highlighted that what is happening is exactly the opposite, that a strong European defense strengthens in a natural way NATO. " Is this reading correct? The reading of Donald Tusk has to be a reading that goes to say that the fish will strengthen the role of NATO in the collective defense of Europe. If that did not happen or if he did not say so clearly, it is clear that several European countries would not be willing to contribute to this permanent structured cooperation. For many European countries, including Poland, Portugal and the Baltic countries, for example, NATO is a key issue. They think that, in fact, the defense of Europe goes through participation and strengthening NATO. And this strengthening of NATO passes-in the words of Donald Tusk, and in what has now been said around this new European defense Initiative-by a certain harmonization of the operationality of the European forces. If this is the case, it is clear that the two initiatives are complementary. The fishing initiative is complementary to the initiative aimed at strengthening the collective defense capacity of NATO's North Atlantic Treaty.

V.

On the phone, Victor Angelo, a commentator for the Magazine Europa, based in Brussels.

And before we finish, our cultural note.
The "Book of restlessness" Digital file has been released and is online. It is also called "LdoD file" and presents images of autographed documents, transcripts of these documents and transcriptions of the four editions of the work of Fernando Pessoa.
This file also allows users to collaborate on creating virtual editions of the Book of restlessness. Can be found at: https://ldod.uc.pt/

We'll stay here. See you next week.

[Technical Sheet]

With the edition and presentation of Catherine de Lara, analysis of Victor Angelo and coordination of Helder Beja, Magazine Europa is the result of a collaboration between Radio Macau and the University of Macau under the project Jean Monnet Magazine Europa.

The views expressed here do not necessarily represent the official positions of the various institutions of the European Union.

The project Jean Monnet Magazine Europa is a partnership between the University of Macau and the Institute for European Studies in Macau, financed by the European Union in the framework of the Erasmus + programme.

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