I.

CDU and SPD reach a principle of agreement to negotiate a governmental coalition in Germany. Could end a political impasse that lasted more than 100 days.

In China, the French president proposed to relaunch the climate battle. In this Europe Magazine, we look at the official visit of Emmanuel Macron, who also rejected giving lessons to Beijing on human rights.

Leaders from southern European countries gathered in Rome and called for a more balanced distribution of the migratory flow at the community level.

II.

Welcome to the Europe Magazine!

More than three months later, there is agreement in Germany. German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Social Democrat leader Martin Schulz have reached a principle in line with the goal of forming a new government.

The German chancellor expressed optimism about a possible coalition.

Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany
The CDU unanimously endorsed these documents, these results of the many-part talks, with a broad base. We also recommend that our party initiate talks for the formation of a stable government.

Martin Schulz, SPD leader, praised the outcome of the talks.

Martin Schulz, Leader SPD
In this spirit, I think we have achieved a good result. For us, what we write in these preliminary talks is not rhetorical.

It is recalled that in the elections of September 2017, the SPD said that in case of losing would pass the opposition.
Angela Merkel's CDU, which won without a sufficient majority, initially tried to form a coalition with liberals and ecologists, but without success.
The chancellor then stood in an impasse, remaining the SPD, with whom he ruled the previous executive.

And with us 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 CDU and the SPD reached an agreement principle last Friday, an agreement

that will be submitted to the approval of the SPD bases. Is it okay to pass?
At the moment there are many doubts, although one may think that it will eventually pass, but the truth is that many leaders of the SPD and also the young wing of the party think that this agreement is not favorable to the future of the party and take into account the previous coalition and they think that, based on past experience, any new coalition with Mrs. Merkel's Party will bring further losses of votes on the German Social Democrats.

But it is the agreement that suits Europe ...
This agreement is an agreement that may raise many reservations in Germany and many people in Germany is against a new coalition between the Conservatives and the Social Democrats, but the truth is that in Europe this agreement is seen very positively, especially since the agreement is of paramount importance to the positioning in Germany of the European Union and is aimed at strengthening German participation in both budgetary and political matters and this is clearly excellent news for other European countries. On the other hand, it was also clear in the negotiations between Merkel and Schulz that one of the objectives will be the creation of a European Monetary Fund, a fund that will be instrumental in helping certain countries overcome financial crisis situations. if it goes ahead it will have enormous democratic advantages, enormous advantages in terms of the union of the European countries and also in terms of the economic and financial stability of the weaker countries.

"The world does not wait for us," said the German chancellor who, during these three months has been absent from the European arena. Victor, let's hear the statements:

Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany
We have seen that during the long period that passed after the elections, that the world does not wait for us. And as far as Europe is concerned, we are convinced that Europe needs a push.

What was the German chancellor talking about when she was talking about a push?
I think that when she says that the world does not expect, she is mainly thinking about Emmanuel Macron because Emmanuel Macron has during the last months and during the last days continued a series of initiatives that position of very strong France in the European Union and which, on the other hand, make Macron the champion, so to speak, of unification in Europe. So she thinks that the continuation of a situation of indecision in Germany is not in favor of a more balanced Europe in which France and Germany would be the two pillars. At the moment, she thinks only the French pillar is working. On the other hand, she sees with great concern the fact that in Germany there will be no government for six or seven months, at a time when there are major international political changes, at a time when American policy is shrinking with respect to its global presence and also at a time when China decided to assert itself in a much more visible way on the international stage. And she thinks that Germany, as a great country and as an economy with many global interests, has to be present and has to have a strong

government that represents it in the international arena.

III.

In China, the French president proposed relaunching the climate battle. During an official visit to the country, Emanuel Macron also defended that the European Union should define strategic economic sectors and close them to foreign investment. More with the journalist Sofia Jesus.

Emmanuel Macron offered Xi Jinping an elite horse named Vesuvius; tried his luck in Mandarin; and chose Xian, capital of ancient dynasties, to begin the visit to China.
The French Head of State was between January 8 and 10 in the country and launched a charm offensive. He promised to return to China at least once a year,
To the Chinese president, Macron proposed to re-launch the climate battle and increase commitments against global warming. He also called on Europe to cooperate in Xi Jinping's mega project, "A Track, A Route," a project that aims to recreate new land and sea links across 65 countries.
But Emmanuel Macron has shown that he wants to combine Beijing on a number of other fronts: in the fight against terrorism, in supporting the G5 force in the Sahel and in the development of renewable energy in Africa.
During the visit, the young leader also stressed that the European Union should have a common policy goal towards China. Brussels, he said, should define which economic sectors are strategic for its sovereignty and lock them in to foreign investment.
This is not a measure against China, says Macron, but for European sovereignty.

Xi Jinping and Emmanuel Macron have revealed an alignment of ideas on the need for free trade and the fight against climate change, which are opposed to what US President Donald Trump defends. What is the first reading of this meeting?
I think both presidents want to play a more prominent global role. Certainly, China is now in a political phase where it thinks that its economic power, its demographic power must also translate into a much more visible and much more proactive global intervention. And on the other hand, in the French case, we have a president who also has international ambitions, that is, a president who thinks that France is a country that can play a very important role in the international political order and in matters of global interest, such as climate issues or issues related to international security. And so we have both sides, two presidents who have a global ambition and an ambition that can be complementary, especially at a time when we watch from the American side to President Donald Trump turned to the domestic problems of the United States and increasingly alien and less interested in international issues.

Africa was also on the agenda. What role can cooperation between these two countries play in the African continent?
China in 2011 was picked barefoot during the Libyan crisis, that is, China was not prepared to defend its economic interests and to contribute to the resolution of a serious

crisis like the one that happened around the fall of Colonel Gaddafi. After 2011 and having learned the lesson in Libya, China decided to strengthen its military presence and its presence of security in Africa, in parallel, of course, with a strong commercial and economic presence. And we have at this point, and above all from 2013, a much more security-related China in the African continent. And it is that kind of presence that Emmanuel Macron would like to see allied to the French presence, because either side or the other have many interests in various bridges of Africa and notably in West Africa and a political alliance and a security alliance could allow stabilize an area that is today very unstable. The President of France has enormous concerns about the security situation in the Sahel area, the West African area and Central Africa, and is looking for allies to help France and the countries of that area stabilize the situation.

On the other hand, we also have the question of human rights. Prior to the visit, human rights association called on Emmanuel Macron to ask Beijing to improve the human rights situation. The French president refused to give lessons to China – these are macron words – because that would be "totally ineffective". What does this silence reveal?
I think that the visit of Macron, which had political objectives, of course, and also very important commercial objectives, also passed a series of political messages. He passed messages about, for example, the new silk route, in order to say clearly to the Chinese that Europe-and in particular France-support President Xi's project with regard to this new silk route, if that route and these paths are used to promote Trade relations between both parties and not just a route used for political domination of China. On the other hand, it also sent a very strong message about the growing political interference of the Chinese Communist Party in the large European companies that are already installed in China. He thinks that this interference is not conducive to the commercial and economic development of these companies. And I think these were the big concerns he had in mind. And not to pass too many messages, the message of human rights-which was a relatively important message also for President Macron and certainly a message he will never forget-this message also has a lot to do with the internal situation in China and he thought that at this point it might be less opportune to insist on human rights, but rather to insist on other equally important political messages.

IV.

The countries of the south of the European Union met last week in Rome and called for the migratory flow to be shared at Community level.

"The management of migratory flows will be a fundamental challenge for the European Union in the coming years," said the fourth summit of the Southern European Union countries, which was attended by Cyprus, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Malta and Portugal.

The document also pointed out that Brussels should intensify the fight against

trafficking in human beings and new forms of slavery, protecting more vulnerable groups.

Victor, the Heads of State and Government present signed this statement in which they committed themselves to defending a common European policy on immigration. But one of the greatest difficulties in putting this policy into practice is not only in southern Europe. What can you see from this situation?
At the moment, we must fully revise the immigration policy, we must also revise asylum policy and reach an agreement with regard to new common policies in these two areas, immigration policy and asylum matters. It is a message that is very difficult to hear from other countries, because at the moment there are two major issues: on the one hand, countries that are not on the front lines and in particular the countries of Eastern Europe are perfectly satisfied with the current situation, i.e. , with the so-called Dublin agreement, which says that immigrants and candidates for political refuge should be treated in the first country of the European Union to which they arrive and of course these countries of entry are certainly not the countries of Eastern Europe or the countries of Northern Europe Are the countries that border the Mediterranean and in particular with North Africa and the Middle East.
On the other hand, the issue of immigration is a very important issue, in that the costs of managing immigration and in particular the costs of managing immigrants ' fields, the processing of those candidates for immigration and also the costs related to the protection of Borders of the European Union, cannot simply be supported only by the countries of the South. There must be costs shared by all the Member States of the European Union, as this is a problem of all and not just a problem of Italy, Greece or Spain.

In fact, according to the European Agency of the Border and Coastal Guard (Frontex) The number of migrants arriving by boat to Italy went down almost 35% could this be related to the agreement signed by Italy and Libyan militias?
Yes, it certainly is. Italy for several months has made contacts with tribal leaders and militia leaders in Libya, taking into account the fact that Italy has very deep and historical links with Libya and the truth is that at this time Italy, although not to say publicly , is supporting with weapons, is supporting with money these militias and these tribal leaders, to use them as a kind of police that avoid the passage of candidates to immigration, is of people who sooner or later would cross the Mediterranean and get to the Coast Italia In. It is a known fact that these agreements are in force, agreements have been made in a totally hidden way, are agreements that do not always correspond to the major concerns that must be related to human rights, but the truth is that Italy was starting to have a huge problem Politician with the issue of the mass arrival of immigrants and found this solution under the table, a solution which at this time allowed to some extent to stabilize the internal political climate in Italy.

V.

Victor Angelo every week here in the Europe Magazine.
And before we finish, one cultural note.
Seven years later, Austria was once again the theme country of the House of Music in Porto. From Bruckner to Shubert, through Schoenberg, you will hear in 2018 the best Austrian composers.
The party began on the 12th of this month with the music festival in the heart, in honor of the 1965 musical.
You can consult the program on the Internet on the home page of the song. We'll stay here until next week!

[Technical Sheet]

With the edition and presentation of Catarina Domingues, analysis of Victor Angêlo and coordination of Rui Flores, Magazine Europa results from a collaboration between Radio Macau and the University of Macau under the project Jean Monnet Magazine Europe.

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. We're on Facebook in Europe Magazine.