I.

Davos forum starts today. For the second time in history, the world economic forum in Switzerland has the participation of a US president. Reuters reports on an "epic clash" between European leaders and Donald Trump.

Brexit has already entered the last legislative phase. Once approved by the British Parliament, the bill goes to the House of Representatives until the end of January.

And in this edition still: Carles Puigdemont, deposed president of the Catalan government, insists that he can govern the region at a distance.

II.

Welcome to the Europe Magazine!

The World Economic Forum opens today in Davos, Switzerland. The German chancellor will be able to join the French president in an "epic confrontation" with Donald Trump. More with the journalist Marta Melo.

Now that Germany is close to forming a government, Chancellor Angela Merkel can breathe a sigh of relief and look back at the world.
Everything indicates that this return to the international stages will start in Davos, Switzerland, where the World Economic Forum is taking place today.
Taking this trip will allow the German chancellor to join French President Emmanuel Macron in what the Reuters agency says will be an "epic confrontation" of worldviews with President Donald Trump.
It should be recalled that Trump took office about a year ago, the same week as the Davos Forum in 2017.
Since then, the leader has announced the departure of the Paris Agreement on climate; withdrew the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership - free trade agreement with Asian countries. He recently upset the world by referring to Haiti and other countries with offensive words.
This year in Davos will be attended more than 70 heads of state and government. With the theme "Creating a shared future in a fractured world", developments in the labor market, economy and finance, cybersecurity, energy and climate, and the refugee crisis are some of the issues under discussion.

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. First of all, what can we expect from this forum that brings together the elite of world politics and finance in Switzerland?
This forum is a very important forum for both political leaders and business leaders. And in reality, during the days they are in Davos they do dozens and dozens of

meetings-it's a networking forum-that would only be possible if they walked all year round from airplane to airplane to make that kind of contact, that is, they do for a week all the networking that is necessary for the whole year. And that is the great advantage of going to the Davos Forum. In fact, this year the presence at the Davos Forum is very strong not only by businessmen and representatives of high international finance, but also by political leaders from the most different corners of the world.

There are those who speak of a clash between protectionism of Donald Trump and the opening of Macron and other leaders of the European Union. Can this conflict and this forum in any way define the future relationship between Washington and Brussels?
In the forum we will have, on the one hand, who is in favor of globalism and positions, let us say, international trade very open and very liberal and certainly Emmanuel Macron and the representatives of Europe will go in that direction. And then we will have at the end of the week - if the presence of President Donald Trump materializes - a completely contrary statement: protectionism, looking inside, closing the borders to international trade, which is in fact the position of the current American administration. There will be no confrontation in the sense that these two opinions are in the same room debating the issue, because in reality what will happen is that, for example, Emmanuel Macron will speak to the forum on Wednesday and the American president, if he comes, will speak on Friday. Anyway, for those in Davos it is important to have the presence of the Americans in the forum, because besides the president comes many people from the North American administration. Another very important fact this year in the forum is the presence of French President Macron. Macron marks a new kind of agenda, represents the new generation of international politicians and, moreover, Macron, to some extent will represent a very strong competition with the organizers of the Davos Forum. The Davos Forum is a success in terms of the number of participants and the type of people who come to Davos each year. But this year Macron, on the eve of the Davos Forum, has managed to gather at the Palace of Versailles in France 140 world leaders from the largest companies in the area of finance, industry and cybernetics. And in reality, he had in France, in Versailles, a mini Davos before the great Davos in Switzerland and this to some extent puts France at the forefront of international relations and in particular at the forefront of the discussion on global issues.

At the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos in January 2017, only 18 percent of the participants were women. This year, seven women will be co-chairs of the event. Victor, is this good news?
Of course, I think that this year's Forum will be heavily influenced by all the ongoing debate on gender issues, on inequalities between men and women, on sexual harassment and all these issues are important issues and it is very significant that the panels will be chaired by women this year. That is, we will finally have, say, a situation in which the direction of global affairs is also seen as shared between men and women. In the past, there was a lot of talk in the "Davos Man", that is, the Davos man, who was a global man, educated in the best schools, extremely liberal, happy in life and a world elite. I think this year we will talk about "Davos Woman", the Davos woman, because in fact

the presence at the front of the extremely important panels of women on the international scene will show that there are also very liberal women educated in the best schools which exist in the world and are also capable of dealing with major global issues, from cybernetics, to climate issues, to artificial intelligence issues and to international security issues, for example.

III.

The British Parliament has approved a bill that legally limits the departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union. This is the last legislative step of the Brexit process, as the journalist of Antena 1 Nuno Carvalho tells us.

[The Act repeals the United Kingdom's accession to the EEC in 1973 and passes all European standards into British law. The government of Theresa May explains that the country will not be left in a legal vacuum the day after the exit, which will be smooth and orderly for citizens and businesses in the UK. The Government's proposal was crucial for leaving the European Union. House of Commons approval is a victory for Theresa May, but the diploma has yet to go to the House of Lords, where Brexit's defenders are in the minority.
The law passed results from more than 80 hours of discussion in Parliament. It had more than 500 changes in relation to what the government proposed. Even so, not even all the Conservatives of the Prime Minister's party. Hopefully the lords will approve major changes to the diploma. Changes by the lords need the agreement of the commons and so the legislative process can drag on a few more months. Opponents of Brexit expect a second referendum to end the divorce between London and Brussels, allowing Britain to stay in the single market.]

Victor, as we heard in this “play”, Brexit's opponents still believe in a referendum. What are the real possibilities of this coming to pass?
I think that at this stage the idea of a second referendum is an idea that has few wings to fly, that is, there is little chance of a second referendum. What the debate shows is that in reality, as time goes by, a good part of the British population is aware that leaving the European Union is a bad decision, but right now they will have to live with it. And that is why the number two of the British government, the minister who is the deputy of Prime minister, already speaks in the hypothesis that in a generation the British will again consider the question and probably at that time-but only within a generation, that is , within 25 to 30 years-think again about returning to Europe.

Despite this distancing from the United Kingdom of the European Union, we saw last week the France-United Kingdom summit and an approximation of the two countries. Boris Johnson, the foreign Minister has proposed the construction of a bridge to connect the two nations. The partnership has been strengthened, notably in the area of security. What reading do the approach of London and Paris?
The British government itself believes that the Brexit will have many negative aspects

and will therefore try to invest in bilateral relations with some very important countries within the European Union. The most important neighbor of Britain is France and hence this very strong bet of the government of Theresa May on an approximation with France. An approximation which will certainly benefit the French and which may not fully respond to the negative aspects of the Brexit, but to some extent allow Britain to maintain some bridges – economic, foreign-policy bridges, in terms of Foreign and security policy-with a country that is fundamental and which will be increasingly important in the process of European integration which is France. They decided during the summit last week to support the French military forces that are in operation in the Sahel. On the other hand, the British will invest even more in the security of the French border in Calais. There will be much more cooperation between the two countries in terms of the exchange of intelligence and security information. There will also obviously be a much closer relationship in cultural matters and exchange between the young French and the British youth.

IV.

Carles Puidgemont, president deposed from Catalonia and a member elected in the elections of 21 December insists that it is possible to continue to govern the Spanish region through Brussels.

In an interview with Radio Catalunya, Puidgemont pointed out that new technologies make all this possible. From the prison is that it would not be feasible to exercise the position of President of Generalitat, added the deposed leader.

Also, in Catalonia, the independenceists insist that Puidgemont is the candidate for the presidency. Eduardo Pujol, congressman and spokesman for Catalonia together, says the law is on the side of Puidgemont.

Eduardo Pujol, spokesman "Together for Catalonia"

The regulation provides for the investiture of Puidgemont and we will do so by complying with the regulation. No one should worry more than they should; We're going to do it and we're going to do it right.

However, Mariano Rajoy's executive has already guaranteed that Puigdemont will not be re-elected president of Generalitat. The spokesman for the Madrid government, Íñigo Méndez de Vigo, has assured that Madrid will be governed directly to Catalonia for an indefinite period.

Victor, regarding the situation in Catalonia, what can we expect in the next few weeks?

We are at a standstill in terms of Catalonia. The elections on 21 December did not resolve the issue, we remain in a situation that seems like a dead end, which does not have a solution at this point. The second point is that, if Puidgemont is invested as president of the regional government at a distance, through the Internet, this will worsen the situation in Catalonia again and certainly cause a hardening of the positions of the Government of Madrid. Of course, all this will greatly increase the tensions that already exist throughout the Catalan region, which are very strong tensions. Now, the population resident in Catalonia is extremely divided. The other major problem and the

third big question I would see in relation to Catalonia is that, both the European Union-and the institutions in Brussels-whether the Madrid government are looking at all costs to prevent the Catalan issue from becoming a European problem. In Brussels it continues to look at the Catalan question through the corner of the eye and fundamentally to adopt the following position: This must be a Spanish problem, it must be resolved by Spanish constitutional means, do not bring this problem to Europe, do not bring this problem To Brussels, because we already have enough problems.

And this long stay of Puidgemont in Brussels does not create discomfort in Madrid, is that in relation to Belgium?
It creates some uneasiness. By the way, Carles Puidgemont has a very specific problem that will have to be resolved in the next day. He is practically completing 90 days of stay in Belgium. Any European citizen who remains 90 days or more in Belgium has to sign up as a resident in the Kingdom of Belgium and he will have to choose to enroll as a resident in the Kingdom of Belgium or leave Belgium. Most likely he will be enrolled as a citizen if he stays here. In fact, you have no choice but to sign up as a citizen. From there it will give a new argument to the government of Madrid saying: How is it possible that a person resident abroad, resident in a country far away from the Catalan region has the claim that it is the President and the governor of the Catalan region. In other words, this idea of remote government through computing, through the Internet is an idea that can in no way be accepted, nor by the Government of Madrid, nor was it accepted by the legal advisers of the Catalan parliament who clearly said that a government to Distance by computer means is not possible, it is not legally acceptable and can in no way be considered a constitutional solution within the legal principles of Catalonia.

This possibility of governing Catalonia through videoconferencing. Do you know other cases in the world?
I believe that no, I believe that there is another case where the president of a country, or the President of a region is ruling from a distance. The only case in which one can speak of this is the case of Yemen, where the president considered legitimate by some of the neighboring countries of Yemen governs from Saudi Arabia. But, it does not govern, in reality what happens in Yemen is a civil war in which the former president of Yemen controls some troops and then the rebels control other troops and other parts of the country. But to rule at a distance under normal conditions and without being in situations of war is unthinkable, even in today's world where it is possible to be in contact with people instantaneously through computerized means.

V.

Victor Angelo, resident commentator for the Magazine Europa.
In conclusion, we have an exhibition that has been spent this month by the Maritime Community Centre in Brussels.
"Is It my fault?" brought together clothes that women and young people wore on the

day they suffered sexual attacks: from trousers and blouses, through pajamas and even baggy shirts.
With the exhibition, the organization, which oversaw the support group of victims CAW East Brabant, intended to lay down the myth that clothes considered provocative are one of the reasons that leads to sex crimes.
We'll stay here until next week!

[Technical Sheet]

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