I.

President of the European Commission arrives tomorrow in the United States. Jean-Claude Juncker will meet with Donald Trump and try to find solutions to the trade dispute between Washington and Brussels.

New European Commission fine for Google. It is 4.3 billion euros that the information technology giant will have to pay for practices of unfair competition.

Still on today's program: Most European water bodies still no quality, alert report.

II.

Welcome to the Europe Magazine!

The President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, will be received tomorrow by the American leader Donald Trump.
The meeting is taking place in Washington at a difficult time for relations between the European Union and the United States. The trade conflict between Brussels and Washington should be on the table.
Last week was Donald Trump who was in Europe.
Following the visit, Jean-Claude Juncker said he was surprised when the US president said Europe is the enemy of the United States.
In Helsinki, Donald Trump was still harsh with the US secret services and the FBI and also defended Vladimir Putin in the case of Russian interference in the US elections.

Donald Trump, President of The USA
It was a shame for the FBI, it was a shame for our country, and it must be said that it was a real witch hunt.

And with us on the phone is Victor Ângelo, international consultant and commentator resident of Magazine Europe, based in Brussels.

Victor, let's start with Jean-Claude Juncker's visit to the United States. What can we expect from this meeting?
It's hard to say because with Donald Trump everything is unexpected. However, Jean-Claude Juncker's main objective is to talk about trade and in particular to prevent new tariffs from being imposed by the United States on goods and goods coming from Europe. And in particular Jean-Claude Juncker is very concerned about the tariffs on automobiles. The import of European cars in the United States currently has a rate of 2.5%. Donald Trump speaks of a new tax on European vehicles and the rate would be 25%. This would of course have a huge impact on the export of European vehicles to the United States, and in particular German vehicles.

But what position can or should Jean Claude Juncker have in Washington? What is expected in this phase of tension between the two sides?

At the moment in Brussels, the main concern is to show in relation to Donald Trump that there is no hostility. One of Jean-Claude Juncker's concerns - after the agreements and visits to Beijing and Tokyo - is to try to explain to the American president that there will not be an alliance between the European Union and China against the United States and will also point out that the agreement with Japan is a politically very important agreement and it is vital that the United States also enter into a trade agreement with Japan in the sense that it will strengthen international trade relations.

Victor, I wanted to go back a week, or almost a week. Let's look at the meeting between Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin. Commentators seem unanimous in saying that everything was in favor of the Russian leader. Trump accepted Russia's denial of any involvement in the United States elections. Here is a statement by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who accused the president of accepting whatever counterpart from Russia decided. Let's listen:

Hillary Clinton, Former US Secretary of State
Usually in this type of meetings, we need someone to take notes so that there can be no misunderstanding about what was said. And what has happened now is that we have Putin telling the world what was decided. The White House is silent. Nothing is advanced in any way that can contradict or replace Putin's agenda with whatever Trump has been doing. It is alarming and alarming on several levels.

How does Europe look at this meeting between the two leaders?
For the Europeans, what was really important was, on the one hand, that there was no reference on the part of the US president to the situation in the Crimea, which is a situation considered absolutely unacceptable in European terms; there has also been no reference, no mention of the situation in Eastern Ukraine, as well as other issues that have to do with Russia's relatively hostile actions towards countries of the European Union and countries of the Atlantic Alliance. The Europeans were waiting for a firm stance on the part of Donald Trump towards the Russians and saw in fact a position of great submission. Moreover, they saw on the one hand an extremely shrewd, strategic president with a very clear agenda of gaining more influence, gaining more weight both in Europe and international relations, and on the other hand saw a president - the American president - little prepared and especially fascinated, let's say, by the personality of Vladimir Putin.

Hillary Clinton was even talking about this issue of not having official notes of this meeting.
This is unacceptable in terms of diplomatic relations at the highest level. No president meets another president without having around him a set of advisers and a set of personalities who not only take note of what is being said but help in the discussion itself. Donald Trump's decision to go to the meeting with Vladimir Putin alone with an interpreter seems extremely strange. It is a way of doing things that is not in the manuals of diplomacy and which, moreover, gives the impression that they had personal affairs to deal with and not affairs of state.

We also have Trump's controversial statements about Montenegro. He said the country could lead to a third world war. Words barely received, Victor.
Indeed, this is in line with the other concerns that have been felt here in Europe - that this meeting between the two presidents served to weaken NATO. President Donald

Trump has, to a certain extent, sent the message to the Russians that if the Russians attack a small Atlantic Alliance country, Americans will not necessarily be willing to commit to military aid to that country. Donald Trump's comment about Montenegro weakens the Atlantic Alliance, calls into question the fundamental principle of the all-for-all alliance, serves the interests of the Russian president, in that by weakening NATO, he is helping to realize one of the great political lines of President Putin that is to try to end NATO.

III.

Donald Trump's controversial statements about Montenegro.

And the European Commission has announced that it will fine Google with a record value of 4.3 billion euros due to anti-competitive practices in the Android mobile operating system. More with the journalist Lina Ferreira.

The American giant is accused of abuse of the dominant position of its operating system for smartphone, Android to turn away competitors and ensure the predominance of the applications themselves - especially the Chrome navigation service.
According to Brussels, Google has required Android device makers to pre-install the Google Search search application and navigation application as a condition for licensing their app store.
The amount of the fine exceeds the previous penalty of 2.42 billion, also attributed to the company in 2017.
However, Google has already said it will appeal the fine. "Android has created more choice for everyone, not less," the company's official source said.

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Lina Ferreira to account for the European Union's 4.3 billion euro fine for Google.

Victor, there are those who agree that the American giant has taken advantage of having the most used operating system of the European Union to benefit its services and sales, but there are also those who see in this decision of the European Union an act of persecution. What can be said about this fine?
It is a relatively heavy fine because it accounts for 40% of Google's profits in 2017. The truth is that such fines are seen in the United States, and in particular in the current climate of trade and tension between the United States and the United States. Europe as an ax, so to speak, of American interests in Europe. For President Donald Trump this is yet another stone in the trade war between the two sides and he will certainly press for this fine to be toned down, even nullified, and will try to make that happen and probably use that as a barter in the sense that he himself will be willing to make one or another concession.

Like for example?
As, for example, in car fares. The 25% hypothesis he has in mind could be reduced to 10%.

It would be interesting also to talk a little about Margrethe Vestager, the woman behind this process, whom Trump says "hates the US" and who calls her even "tax woman"
Former Danish minister, she was at the head of the education portfolio at the age of 29. Perhaps with ambition for higher flights within the commission ..
She is a woman who has established herself on the European political stage, there are many, many people who support her, she is also a person who has an excellent presentation and certainly has political ambitions. The only problem she has is that her party on the political stage in Denmark is a relatively small party - it's the sixth party in terms of voting - and this is likely to make the Danish government very difficult next year to continue to support Margrethe Vestager as European Commissioner. She, however, because of the prestige she has achieved, is likely to gain some support in Danish public opinion, it may be that at that time the Danish government will maintain her as a European Commissioner. But I think she can not have bigger ambitions than that. Margrethe Vestager was spoken of as a possible candidate for the presidency of the European Commission, but I do not see any kind of hypothesis at the moment.

IV.

We're back to the conversation with Victor Angelo.

And in the European Union, water quality is still not satisfactory. This is what a report released by the European Environment Agency says, as journalist Marta Melo tells us.

Progress has been made in the last few decades, but most European water bodies still do not meet the minimum "good condition" objective. This is the conclusion of a report published this month by the European Environment Agency.
The study "European Waters: Assessing the State and Pressures 2018" points out that there are threats to water quality in the long term, such as contamination, construction of structures such as dams, or over-extraction.
The report indicates that most groundwater is in good condition but leaves the warning: only 40% of the lakes, rivers, estuaries and monitored coastal waters have achieved a "good" or "very good" ecological status.
Portugal appears well positioned. In the Iberian Peninsula, the water with the highest quality is in the North. On the other hand, the interior of South is the region with the worst results in Portugal.
Northern Scandinavia, the United Kingdom, Estonia, Slovakia, Romania and several river basins in the Mediterranean region are those with the highest quality surface water bodies.
With worse results, there are countries in Central Europe, such as Germany, Holland and Belgium, with more population density and intensive agriculture.

Some data from the report published by the European Environment Agency. Victor, what about these results?
Surface water in some regions of Europe is under considerable environmental pressure and is presently at levels of mercury, lead, nickel or other very high minerals. They also have many micro-pollutants. There is a great loss of biodiversity of these surface waters. On the other hand, there is the question of groundwater which, in general, in the European space are within the normal parameters. I think that, at this

level, we still do not have big problems. The truth is that in recent years there has been great vigilance regarding the problem of water and the treatment of water and water in general. There has certainly been a very important increase in the treatment of waste water and sewage. This has been one of the great areas of progress in the European area. But it is also true that air pollution and industrial pollution play a very important role in water quality.

What can be done more?
It is essential to continue to insist on the treatment of waste water, the maintenance of biodiversity and, therefore, the fact that rivers must flow unimpeded. That is, when there are dams or when there are dams, this has to be done in such a way that the fish and other living things that live in the water can circulate. On the other hand, it is also true, and when one speaks of water, there is a great tendency for the development of aquaculture. This has great advantages, but it also brings major problems by using pesticides and other chemicals to keep production levels relatively high.

And before we finish, we look quickly at this week's European news. We have a new UK minister for Brexit. It is called Dominic Raab, who has already said that the country will pay the invoice of Brexit if there is no trade agreement with the European Union. At stake are almost EUR 44 billion.
These payments, of these 44 billion - and the number is not yet a definitive figure - are values that have to do with commitments made by the United Kingdom during its stay in the European Union. In other words, to link the issue of the final payment of the commitments made by the United Kingdom to the question of whether or not there is an agreement seems to me to be a bad idea, because in reality this is two completely separate things and it is crucial that the United Kingdom , on the one hand, to make its financial commitments, but it is also very important that the United Kingdom and the European Union can reach an agreement.

In Spain, we also have a new successor to Mariano Rajoy. Pablo Casado is the new president of the Spanish PP. He is 37 years old.
What priority tasks for this young politician?
There are big challenges ahead. One of the great challenges is to restore the credibility of his party, badly damaged by the various financial scandals and corruption that have taken place in recent years. It was also to some extent hampered by the malleability and flexibility of President Mariano Rajoy and who appeared as an extremely hard and malleable man and not very adaptable to the current challenges of Spain, namely the challenges of regionalism and independence. Pablo Casado will have to deal with these things, but he will also have to regain part of the traditional constituency of the Popular Party, which has since moved in the direction of the Partido Ciudadanos. It is also true that Pablo Casados is a conservative, has expressed extremely conservative ideas about certain values, and especially regarding marriage, abortion and divorce. This, to a certain extent, will have to be rethought because Spain 2018 is no longer Spain from 20 or 30 years ago.

V.
Victor Ângelo every week here in the Europe Magazine. And before we finish, we still have our cultural note.

The alternative Nobel Prize for Literature has 47 candidates for voting. There are no Portuguese, but writers from several countries are on the list. Online voting is running until August 14.
The United States tops the list of nominees with 13 authors: Joyce Carol Oates, Don DeLillo, are two examples.
Sweden is represented by 12 writers, including Sara Stridsberg. We also have Haruki Murakami from Japan and Elena Ferrante from Italy.
The New Academy was founded this year by several Swedish figures. It came as a protest against the cancellation of the Nobel Prize for Literature due to a sexual scandal within the Swedish Academy.
This new gym will be disbanded on December 11, the day after the formal ceremony.
See you next week!

[Datasheet]

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