I.

Italy will invest at least € 1 billion in North Africa in order to strengthen the security of that region and contain the migration to Europe.

Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of Hungary, is criticized after saying that it is his non-liberal model of democracy that will revitalize Europe and the European People's Party.

And in this edition: in the United Kingdom, international trade minister says that London can leave the European Union without agreement due to the "intransigence" of Brussels.

II.

Welcome to the Europe Magazine.

Contain the migration and bet on security. It is the objectives of the Italian interior minister, Matteo Salvini, who announced a plan of at least € 1 billion for North Africa. More with the journalist Sofia Jesus.

Italy wants to invest at least € 1 billion in North African countries in order to contain the migration flows of the region.
The announcement was made by Italian Interior Minister Matteo Salvini in an interview with Sky TG 24, an Italian news channel.
Salvini said that it is no longer enough to close ports. It is necessary to create growth and work prospects for these countries.
This initiative is part of a broader effort to address other security issues, which relate to the mafia, drug trafficking and even terrorism.
The Italian interior minister also defended a law repealing the right of an immigrant to seek asylum in cases where he has committed a crime.
Salvini also called on the European Union to include a "repatriation clause" in any future trade agreements with African countries.
During this interview, Salvini stressed that this new investment is a response to all those who see him as "Satan."
I remember that one day before announcing the plan, the minister was declared persona non-grata in Majorca, Spain, due to the rhetoric against immigrants and refugees.

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Sofia Jesus here to give a motion of censure of the We can. Aurora Ribot, a spokesman for the left-wing Spanish party, said the policies and rhetoric of the Italian interior minister "distil a very worrying and serious xenophobia as well as an obvious disrespect for human life and dignity."

Victor Ângelo, international consultant and commentator resident of Magazine Europe, is with us this week here as usual.

Victor, is it possible to believe in these measures of Matteo Salvini, a man notoriously far right?
I do not think so, I believe that believing in Salvini is a big mistake. In reality, he is a man of social communication, he is a man of the `soundbites', and this was more a` soundbite', that is, he came to announce anything that had not yet been discussed with either the prime minister nor with the Minister of Finance. In fact, there is a big problem at the moment in Italy, which is to set the state budget for 2019 and the discussions around this budget are very complicated, since Salvini's priorities are not exactly identical to the priorities of Movement 5 Stars. So, when he announces a special EUR 1 billion in aid for agricultural projects, fishing and trade in Africa, he is simply trying to mark the media agenda again.
On the other hand, he did not say that Africa was speaking, and I think he was referring only to the three countries that concern Italy in North Africa: Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. The problem of migration is much deeper than the economic situation and employment situation in these three North African countries.

We have already been talking about this program on this issue in Africa, that is, the European Union calls for greater cooperation between the two continents to address the issue of migration. This is the way?
In reality, the European Union is extremely concerned about the lack of development in West Africa, from the region of Senegal to the region of Nigeria. And it is also extremely concerned about the exponential population growth that is taking place in the Sahel, demographic growth which puts enormous pressure on the labor market and the very weak economic market.
On the other hand, we must also bear in mind that the European Union is already the main actor of development in Africa, that is to say, for decades Africa's development has as main financier the common market, the European Union. What really needs to be done is to rethink the way in which development aid has been done and to undertake other types of projects, another type of program, which takes account of youth unemployment, which takes account of population growth and taking into account also the major environmental changes that have taken place in these African territories, particularly in the increasingly dry West Africa, are increasingly feeling the effects of climate change and desertification.

III.

We're back to the conversation with Victor Angelo.

And yet the Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who has also been challenging European migration policy, is involved in another controversy.
The legacy of German statesman Helmut Kohl was celebrated, and the Hungarian prime

minister has said that his non-liberal model of democracy will revitalize Europe and the European People's Party. This is what Sweden's Anna Maria Corazza Bildt, the representative of the European People's Party, wrote in an article published in the journal Politico Europe (politico.eu). Bildt says Orbán has gone too far. "This perspective is deeply troubling. While Kohl has united Europe by bringing the East to the West, Orbán is polarizing the continent," the representative wrote.
Statements that have since been denied by Viktor Orbán's cabinet.

First, in relation to this controversy. Is it time to say Orban enough?
For some time, Viktor Orbán should have been told that the type of policies he is pursuing in Hungary and also the kind of policies he proposes for the European Union, particularly with regard to immigration, are not appropriate and should therefore be set aside. I think it is very important that your political family - the European People's Party - take up their responsibilities and make it clear that such statements are unacceptable in a Europe of democratic values, in a Europe that is diverse and in a Europe that wants an example in terms of tolerance. The truth is that Viktor Orbán at this moment considers himself as the advocate of muscular democracy, that is, a democracy that limits freedom of expression, but above all, Viktor Orbán considers himself the politician who is destined to revive Christian democracy in Europe.

With regard to the European People's Party itself, Corazza Bildt says that there are several European citizens who should be questioning at the moment in which this party is standing. I ask you the same question.
The EPP does not want any divisions within its political family to arise because those divisions will weaken the European People's Party in a very great way and this weakening will mean that the European People's Party will not win the elections of May 2019 for the European Parliament and, following this electoral failure, cannot be re-elected president of the European Commission.

And what about Hungary's decision not to be part of the UN Global Compact for Migration, which is due to be implemented this year and to which the United States has also resigned, Victor?
This decision of Viktor Orbán and the decision of the Hungarian government are in line with the line taken recently by these governments, ie to avoid at all costs that non-European immigrants, and especially immigrants from Islam, that is to say, from regions where the Islamic religion is practiced, that these candidates for migration can enter Europe. It continues to see Europe as an area of Christian cultural unity and there is a clear political agenda at the level of Viktor Orbán that is to fight the penetration of Islam into the European political and social space.

On the other hand, we have also witnessed Orbán approaching Israel and the Israeli government. I remember that last month the Hungarian prime minister was in Israel. What is Orbán's objectives with this proximity?
Here, above all, there is an expression of opportunism which Orbán has expressed over

the last few years. And this approach to the Israeli government allows him at the same time to attack George Soros, a Jew of Hungarian origin who has contributed immensely to the democratization and strengthening of civil society in Eastern Europe and especially in Hungary. Viktor Orbán has transformed Soros into a main enemy, but so that no one says that he is attacking Soros, because Soros is a Jew, he simultaneously makes a double game of approach with Israel, that is, the approach with Israel allows Viktor Orbán to attack not only a very prominent Jew, but also allows the internal level of Hungary to follow a policy that has many anti-Semitic traits.

IV.

In the Brexit chapter, however, the chances of reaching an agreement with the European Union on the future trade relationship are now at 60%. Statements from the British minister of International Trade, as the journalist Fátima Valente tells us.

The British prime minister has been in France to raise support for the plan she has for Brexit. Plan advocating a common market for goods between the United Kingdom and the European Union with some harmonization of regulations.
The visit is part of a series of trips that the conservative leader has scheduled during the summer to several European countries to give voice to this position.
For about two hours, Macron and May held a working meeting at the Brégançon fort, the French president's official summer residence.
Meanwhile, in the United Kingdom, International Trade Minister Liam Fox said the country could leave the European Union in March 2019 without agreement because of Brussels' "intransigence."
The chances of not reaching a deal with the bloc on the future trade relationship between the two parties are currently 60% to 40%, despite the insistence of London and Brussels in wanting a Brexit agreement, Fox said this weekend. - a week in an interview published in The Sunday Times.

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Magazine Europe to follow up on the negotiations for Brexit. Negotiations facing difficulties, especially the problem of the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, as the aim is to remain invisible.

Victor, first of all a balance of this meeting between Macron and May.
Not totally positive. Theresa May sought to influence Emmanuel Macron's position so that Emmanuel Macron could then tell Michel Barnier that he is the European negotiator for a more flexible position, but in fact Michel Barnier already has - and especially in the last few days after published an opinion piece in several European newspapers - has already shown some flexibility in relation to Brexit issues. On the other hand, it can also be said that the meeting between May and Macron was not wholly beneficial to the British, since Macron is currently the UK's most important

competitor in financial services,
Macron sees with the exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union a great opportunity for Paris to become the new financial capital of Europe. Macron will try to make it harder to continue London as the financial capital of Europe and this is of course more important to Macron than finding a solution that will allow Theresa May to have a relatively smooth Brexit. But it is also true that for European leaders, including the French president, it is very important that Theresa May continues as UK Prime Minister. It is also Theresa May who appears as the most moderate candidate and closest to European positions.

Victor spoke of Michel Barnier's article that if, on the one hand, the European Union is willing to give in to the Irish border, then it says that Theresa May's proposals jeopardize the very foundations of the European Union itself. I asked him, who can give in what?
I would say that in recent days there has been a shift to greater flexibility at the level of Brussels and European capitals. The European Union will adopt a very open stance towards Northern Ireland in the sense that if Europeans accept that Northern Ireland continues to follow European Union rules and which concerns the movement of persons between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, the European Union will be prepared to accept this as a possible solution. More and more Brussels is talking about the possibility of a free trade agreement between the United Kingdom and the European Union and there is also talk of the need not to weaken the position and without weakening the fundamental principles or rules of the European Union, an agreement should be found to maintain close political and economic proximity between the European Union and the United Kingdom.
I think we are going to have an agreement with the UK in the Norwegian way, but without saying that it is in the Norwegian way, it will be said to be in the British manner, but in reality it will be a twin agreement of the agreement already existing with Norway .

Victor, and before we finish, we will also talk about a meeting between ASEAN - Association of Southeast Asian Nations - and the European Union where there was a reaffirmation of the defense of free markets. I asked you, what other moments do you stress here?
With regard to Southeast Asia, there are two major concerns in Brussels. On the one hand, to intensify economic and commercial relations. and in particular to have a joint position with regard to free trade, but also to the reform of the World Trade Organization. The second major concern is the situation in Myanmar and in particular the issue of the Rohingya. And for the European Union, this remains a very important issue, and in relation to which the European Union counts on the support and partnerships with the countries of Southeast Asia to put pressure on the government of Myanmar so that the Rohingya can return to their land and can acquire the rights that any citizen of Myanmar should have.

And this pressure, what form can it have?

The truth is that several Southeast Asian countries are major investors in Myanmar. They have great investments in Myanmar, namely Malaysia, Singapore and also ...

The China.
China too, of course. And the point is to ensure that the political discussions between the European Union and these countries - the bilateral discussions and then the joint discussions, therefore between organizations - do not fail to focus on the great capacity that these neighboring Myanmar countries have to to influence the policy, to make the Myanmar government change its opinion, and in particular to ensure that Myanmar's military leaders have a democratic and modern attitude towards issues of nationality and, in particular, acceptance of a non-Buddhist population of the social fabric of Myanmar.

V.

We were with Victor Angelo, Magazine Europe's resident commentator.

Time for our cultural note: The remains of the country's oldest public library, a two-thousand-year-old building that may have saved more than 20,000 scrolls, were discovered in Cologne, Germany. The walls were exposed in 2017, during an excavation in the basement of a protestant church in the center of the city. At the time it was not realized what it was.

See you next week!

[Datasheet]

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