The European Union is willing to stop tariffs on cars imported from the United States if Washington does the same. Donald Trump says that proposal "is not good enough".

Brussels is examining the report released by the United Nations, which calls for the trial of military leaders in Myanmar for genocide against the Muslim Rohingya minority.

Also, in this issue: French President Emmanuel Macron assumes the role of "main adversary" of the European "nationalists".

# II.

Welcome to the Europe Magazine!

Brussels is willing to do away with the tariffs imposed on cars imported from the United States if Donald Trump agrees to do the same to the European cars that are sold in the largest economy in the world. The US president has already said no. More with the journalist Lina Ferreira.

"Not good enough." That is how Donald Trump reacted to the European proposal to end tariffs on cars imported from the United States. That is if Washington does the same. In an interview with Bloomberg, Donald Trump went further: "The European Union is almost as bad as China, only smaller," he said.

US cars in Europe currently impose a 10% tariff, higher than the 2.5% imposed on European cars sold on the other side of the Atlantic. But the United States has a special rate of 25% for trucks and pick-ups.

Yet during the interview, the White House leader threatened to withdraw the United States from the World Trade Organization if the agency continues to treat the country badly.

It is recalled that recently the United States has also filed a complaint against Russia in that organization, as they consider that they are being harmed. Russia has issued a special protective measure to imports from the United States of America in response to the Trump administration's steel and aluminum tariffs.

Washington says that Moscow is violating WTO rules because these additional duties apply only to US imports and not to products from any other country.

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Moscow now has 60 days to resolve the dispute. After this deadline the United States can request that the WTO establish a panel to try this case.

I.

And we'll talk to Victor Angelo. On the phone, the international consultant and commentator resident of Magazine Europe, based in Brussels.

Victor, after this interview with Trump to Bloomberg, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said that Brussels will react to a possible strengthening of US auto rates. It seems like a war with no end in sight.

Well, we have two different agendas here. For Europeans it is crucial that the US market opens up and remains open for cars produced in Europe. For Americans, the issue of automobiles is not the central issue. They know - and President Donald Trump said it clearly a few days ago - that the chances of exporting American cars to Europe are very small. There is no tradition of buying American cars in Europe. What is fundamental for the US president is that Europe accepts American agricultural products, that is, we are in a situation where Donald Trump would like to accept European cars against the possibility of selling European corn and chicken, for example.

And how should the European Union face this threat of Donald Trump leaving the World Trade Organization?

The US president has the policy to oppose the work of multilateral agencies, and in particular United Nations agencies. This new attack by President Trump against the World Trade Organization goes along this line, in line with ending multilateral policies. Europe has every interest in putting itself in the other position, that is, in defending the United Nations system, and in particular in this case the World Trade Organization. The second issue is that for the US president, China is the main adversary from an economic and commercial point of view. And China joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, had a relatively privileged status, but the United States still considers China not only a developing country, but a country of state capitalism, that is, where the economy is not based on free enterprise but on the permanent intervention of the state, and of course the presence of China in the World Trade Organization creates much irritation at the level of Washington. But not only, one notes behind these trade accusations against China is a growing geostrategic rivalry between Washington and Beijing. Europe can not be seen as allying itself against China against the United States or as an ally of the United States against China. Europe must maintain a neutral position and negotiate with both Beijing and Washington, what European economic and trade interests are in fact.

#### What consequences would the United States leave the WTO?

It would have a relatively significant impact on the functioning of the World Trade Organization. And it would cause other countries to question the interest in continuing to be members of this world organization, given that the most economically powerful country has ceased to be. That is to say, this would call into question, to a certain extent, not only the functioning of the World Trade Organization, but also the future of that organization. And so at this point, here in Europe, the reform of the World Trade Organization, the continuation of the existence and the work and functions of the mandate that this organization has are fundamental issues.

# III.

And across the Asia Pacific region: In Myanmar, military leaders are expected to stand trial for genocide against the Rohingya. That's exactly what it calls for a new UN report, as journalist Marta Melo tells us.

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN

Last month I visited Cox Bazaar in Bangladesh, and I heard stories of terrible persecution and suffering. A father went downstairs when he told me that he saw his son being killed in front of him, his mother was brutally murdered, and the house burned. He sought refuge in a mosque but was discovered by soldiers who abused him and burned him to the Koran.

The UN Secretary-General reports on the situation of the Rwandan minority, a refugee in Bangladesh.

António Guterres spoke following the publication of a UN report calling for aid to international justice to investigate and prosecute the Burmese army chief and five other senior officers for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes against this Muslim minority in Myanmar.

The European Union is examining this report, which it considered "very timely and crucial".

At a press conference, the spokeswoman for the European Commission and the European External Action Service warned that this conflict deserves full attention from the European Union.

Meanwhile, Facebook also revealed that dozens of accounts, including that of Armed Forces chief Min Aung Hlaing, were blocked by the social network.

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Marta Melo on a United Nations report that draws attention to the persecution and genocide of the Rohingya.

Victor, the Foreign Ministers of the European Union met. How should the Union position itself in the face of this case, which seems to be taking on increasing proportions?

Europe must be seen as a region of principles, as a union that accepts and implements universal principles and in particular the principles that have to do with safeguarding human rights and all that is to fight against impunity. That is, Europe has to take and has to be seen as acting against the leadership of Myanmar. But the truth is that last week's meeting of European foreign ministers did not discuss the issue in sufficient depth and the communiqué that was published later points to a clearer European Union position with regard to Myanmar.

But what is holding back this decision?

The European Union wants to continue to maintain a close relationship with Mrs. Suu Kyi and the democratic political leadership of Myanmar. That is, there is an ambiguity here. On the one hand, it recognizes that you have not taken the positions that you should have taken, but on the other hand you remain the standard-bearer of the democratic process in Myanmar. There is also the question that if the relations between the European Union and Myanmar become sour, if they aggravate, the European Union thinks that China will take advantage of this situation. China has vast economic interests in Myanmar, it is anxious to expand these interests and especially for the construction in the state of Rakhine, which is the state where the Rohingyas are, where the Rohingyas were, the construction of a deep-water port there. An exit or a cooling off of relations between the European Union and Myanmar would mean leaving room for the continued expansion of Chinese influence and this for Brussels is a concern that whether or not there is a silent rivalry between Brussels and Beijing in certain parts of the world and in particular in Southeast Asia.

There are also reports that the Uighurs, one of the Muslim minorities here in China, are being sent to re-education camps. We are talking about China, an interlocutor, which is a country with other power and relevance ...

Yes, relations between the European Union and China are extremely complex relations. They have dimensions that have a lot to do with the economic and commercial interests of both parties, but they also have to do with dimensions related to human rights. In reality, Brussels is striving to find a balance between the continuation of the fight for human rights but, on the other hand, Brussels is also very concerned about the market that China represents, both in terms of consumers and in terms of production and investment.

I also wanted to address the issue of Facebook having taken a position and blocked the account of several generals. Was it important to do so?

It was very important. I think the closure of the Facebook accounts of the main generals in Myanmar is even more important than the UN report itself, as Myanmar generals used Facebook pages to influence a large majority of their population. parents. Many accounts in Myanmar on Facebook are used to promote a hostile and racist reaction against the country's Rohingya minority. In fact, according to me and according to some information I have, the generals have already opened with other names and with other appearances, say, new accounts on Facebook, because in fact Facebook is fundamental as a means of propaganda.

### IV.

We are back to the conversation with Victor Ângelo.

And still in Europe, the French president, Emmanuel Macron, has assumed the role of "main adversary" of the "nationalists". A role that was attributed to him by the Hungarian Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, who classified him as leader of the migrants

supporting parties.

"There are currently two sides in Europe and one of them is led by Macron. He leads the political forces that support immigration", said the head of the Hungarian government.

"On the other side, we want to end the illegal immigration," added Orbán, referring also to Matteo Salvini, Deputy Prime Minister and Italian Interior Minister.

Faced with these statements, Emmanuel Macron said that there is structuring a strong opposition between nationalists and progressives in Europe.

Victor, these two fronts have one thing in common: they want to make migration a mark in European elections. Is this then one of the important points of this campaign?

Of course, although I do not think the elections can, in any way, only reduce the European problems to the issues of immigration. Emmanuel Macron also wants to broaden the agenda and seeks to broaden the debate. He has already realized that if he continues to insist on immigration, he loses points there, because both Salvini and Orbán are specialists in exploring the immigration issue. That is to say, Macron has every interest - and I believe he already understands this, but he will surely understand it even better - in raising other issues for which neither Victor Orbán nor Matteo Salvini have concrete proposals. This has to do with, for example, defense Europe, the reform of the European Union, the values that the European Union must defend as a space of values and democracy, but also as a geopolitical space and also with many other aspects linked to the security of the European area.

And how were these statements received from Macron in Brussels?

At this moment in Brussels, it looks at the European elections of 2019 with many question marks. We are in a period that there are many political changes in several European countries and the disappearance of certain political forces, which were traditional forces. For example, let's think about the case of the French Socialist Party that has virtually disappeared from the French political scene after having spent decades very close to power or in power. And the fact is, Emmanuel Macron seeks to take advantage of this dynamic transformation that Europe is going through to create a new type of politics and a new type of political family that would neither be the European Popular Party nor the family of the socialist or social-democratic parties, that is, he is trying to situate himself in a political space between both. At this moment, he is trying to find allies outside France in other European countries, including in countries like Spain and Portugal. It will be a very difficult task, but the reality is that the electoral struggle in future will be a very close fight between, on the one hand, those who continue to dream of a generous European project based on values and based on the progressive enrichment of the populations and, on the other hand, those who continue to bet on old nationalist policies and the old issues of identity and history of the past.

Meanwhile, in the German city of Chemnitz, there are extreme right-wing demonstrations, with strong figures on participation, as well as violent acts. How can we frame this reappearance of the far right in Germany?

There is a visible growth of the party that represents the most extreme and closest ideas of Nazism that exist in Germany and this is extremely worrying. This party in recent elections had about 11%, 12% of the electorate. At present the polls already shows between 20% and 25% and this progression means that, on the one hand, there is a radicalization of a part of the public opinion and the German electorate and we must also realize another very worrying situation that is the The German political center is disappearing, that is to say, it has already disappeared to a certain extent with the very visible weakening of the German social democratic party and is now disappearing with the weakening of the brother party of the CSU, which is the party of Angela Merkel with the brother party that governs Bavaria, which will likely lose a part of its constituency and also I think that the party of Angela Merkel will also lose voters. We are, on the other hand, also attending to ideas that promote a sense of fear and the feeling that there is public disorder. And when the idea of fear begins to prevail in a part of the electorate and when it is thought that there is public disorder, it allows the emergence of strong leaders and, in particular, authoritarian leaders, that is, leaders very close to the far right parties.

### V.

And before we say goodbye, we still have time for our cultural note.

We suggest the unfinished film by Orson Wells, which will finally hit the screens. Filmed in the 70's of last century, "The other side of the wind has world premiere in Venice at the Film festival, has commercial debut on November 2 on Netflix.

The film brings together stars and friends of Wells, such as John Huston, Norman Foster, Susan Strasberg and Lilli Palmer.

The film tells the story of director J.J. "Jake" Hannaford, who returns to Los Angeles with plans to complete an innovative film after years of self-exile in Europe. Today we stop here, see you next week.

### [Datasheet]

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