



TRANSCRIPCIÓN

COMPARECENCIA ANTE LOS MEDIOS DE COMUNICACIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DE GOBIERNO, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ, JUNTO AL PRESIDENTE DE UCRANIA, VOLODÍMIR ZELENSKI, Y LA PRIMERA MINISTRA DE DINAMARCA, METTE FREDERIKSEN.

Kiev, 21 de abril de 2022

INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ

Thank you.

Thank you, President Zelenski, for your kind invitation and for helping us to make this trip possible.

This is a special year for Spain and Ukraine as we celebrate the thirty anniversary of diplomatic relations between our two countries. My visit today is the first ever paid by a Spanish Prime Minister of the Government to Ukraine.

And although I would like to come to Kiev in completely different circumstances, I can assure you that this is an honor for me to be here today with you and the Prime Minister of Denmark Mette Frederiksen.

We have come with two main purposes: first, to convey our full support to Ukraine in this very difficult time; and second, to warn President Putin about our firm determination to condemn this unfair and unjustified war.

Since the beginning of the Putin invasion, Kiev and Ukraine have become the heart of Europe, strong symbol of courage and dignity in the defense of the high values and principles upon which Europe is founded.

Being here in person, give me an even more clear perspective of what is at stake and makes me even more determined in my firm commitment to support Ukraine as much as we can in our national capacity.

You have clearly expressed, President Zelenski, your European vocation, making use of your right to choose your own destiny. You have our support in this legitimate aspiration. It is clear that you belong to the European family.

I will bring back with me to Spain your testimony, a testimony of hope, represented by Ukrainians resistance. Both as the testimony of rejection and indignation for atrocities of the war and its perpetrators.

Today from Kiev, I want to say to all the Ukrainian people that you are not alone. Europe is with you; the world, I believe, is with you and we will not abandon you.

Let me be clear: Europe stands united with Ukraine and Europe stands united against this illegal and unfair war initiated by Putin.

We want peace for Ukraine and we want Putin to be held accountable for his crimes.



We will keep on helping Ukraine and Ukrainian people until we reach our goal, which is peace, justice and freedom for Ukraine.

Over the past three weeks, Spain has sent humanitarian aid and significant amounts of military material, medical supplies and weapons. Eleven planes with 170 tons of military equipment has already been sent and we are contributing financially to the European Fund for Peace for the European Union with around €120 million.

We are fully committed with European Union sanctions to Putin's regime.

We have approved the humanitarian package worth €51 million, the largest commitment ever made by Spain to a single country. Spain has activated a reception system to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis. We have already gave international protection to 66,000 refugees, and around 137,000 people have arrived to our country.

The Spanish people have demonstrated once again their solidarity with those in need.

But I am aware that the needs are enormous and Spain is committed to help.

For this reason, we will continue to provide all our political support, humanitarian and financial assistance and military equipment to Ukraine.

In this regard, I would like to make the following announcements.

First, on the military side, I want to announce that a new shipment of military material is on its way to Ukraine. In fact, a ship of the Spanish Navy, The Isabel, is sailing off today from a Spanish port down to Poland, loaded with 200 tons of modern ammunition and other material.

The ship carries thirty trucks, several special heavy transport vehicles, and ten small vehicles loaded with the military material that will be transferred to Ukraine. This is the largest shipment made up till now, more than doubling what we have seen so far.

Second, although the military support is essential to be able to win and end this war, I firmly believe that we must also fight against impunity, especially after visiting Borodianka this morning. The atrocities committed in Ukraine cannot go unpunished.

For this reason, my country, Spain is going to immediately respond to a request of support made by the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, the ICC, to investigate and prosecute those responsible for committing war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity in Ukraine.

Spain is going to make available to the ICC a multidisciplinary team composed of at least of eight agents from the Ministry of the Interior, together with the team of 39 forensic doctors to conduct field work, as well as other experts to conduct laboratory work, from the Ministry of Justice.

The fight against impunity is a priority for Spain and we will continue to cooperate with the ICC in full collaboration with the EU Commission.

Third, we will continue to protect the most vulnerable, the humanitarian aid provided by Spain will give priority to minors and women who are particularly vulnerable in conflict situations.

Out of the 31 million euros we have committed, 7 million euros will fund the work of UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund for this purpose.

And, fourth, Spain is going to reopen the embassy in Kiev.

So, president Zelenski, be sure that Spain is determined to support Ukraine in every way we can. And we will do so both bilaterally and within the framework of European Union.

P.- You were talking about sanctions and in European Union right now you are discussing further sanctions. And I want to ask the prime minister of Spain and Denmark, are you ready to support sanctions also on oil and gas?

Presidente.- Well, thank you very much. Let me say -thank you very much for this question-, but let me say that the most important, I would say, position of the European Union is unity. And in this unity we have been able over these past weeks to approve five packages of economic sanctions. Very, very important packages of economic sanctions. Not only approve, but also starting to deliver these economic sanctions in our countries.

So these are, of course, proposals that some member states already have tabled in the European Council. But it is important that we keep this unity, because this unity is the main asset that we have vis a vis Putin, and regarding this solidarity that we are expressing, the prime minister of Denmark and the prime minister of Spain to the Ukrainian people

But apart from speaking about if we are going to ban the oil or the gas, let me just reinvigorate the economic package that we already passed in the European Council, the one that the Commission is already working and will be presented in the coming days before the Minister of Foreign Affairs and we will debate on these new economic sanctions.

But I believe that the sanctions, the strength of our unity also represents something, a very important message, not only for the Ukrainian people, but also against Putin and of course, regarding our own populations that of course are behind their government.



P.- Another question to Prime Minister of Spain. We know that in June, the European Union is supposed to give us an answer whether the admission of Ukraine is possible, whether Ukraine can be a candidate for accession, and what's the position of Spain? What's the Spain [inaudible] to the EU colleagues of yours. [inaudible] a devastated country, not a very attractive candidate from that point of view, but on the other hand, Ukraine is a shield between Europe and the barbaric world represented by Russia. So what will be the response of Spain? And are you ready to say yes to Ukraine?

Presidente.- Thank you for this question. You know, Spain is not a founder of the former Economic European Union and now the European Union. We entered in the European Union back in the 80s of the 20th century. So this means that for a country like Spain, we are always positive on enlargement procedures and we are always positive on joining other member states the European Union project. This is of course, the philosophy and always how we enter in this debate.

Secondly, the accession of the European Union for a country is a process of adaptation and transformation. And I told president Zelenski that of course, Spain will always support Ukraine in this path. And I'm sure that the outcome this process of adaptation and transformation will be the one that you mentioned.

P.- A question for the Spanish Prime Minister. After what we have seen today in the trip to Borodianka, the surrounding area, the villages. After what you talked with the people, ordinary people on the streets of those areas that has been under Russian control. Do you think that there has been committed war crimes. Even more, what do you think, you can say that there has been a kind of genocide, because there is some kind of polemic about that, the word "genocide". What do you think about that?

And if mister President and madame Prime Minister doesn't care, if they don't mind, after your answer in English - we are the Spanish media, radios, television - if you don't mind to repeat your answer, after English, also in Spanish. Thank you.

Presidente.- First of all, thanks for this question. I think that Prime Minister of Denmark stated in her first intervention, we were so touched in our visit this morning and also with the opportunity to speak with some citizens that told us their experience under the Russian occupation of these cities.

And this is not a question that we should answer. It would be the ICC. But I was, I think, crystal clear in my first intervention when I stated that, of course, it could be a potential genocide in Ukraine.

And sorry if I say it in Spanish.

En primer lugar, muchísimas gracias por la pregunta. Como le decía antes, tanto la primera ministra danesa como yo mismo hemos tenido la ocasión de poder visitar algunas de las zonas afectadas por la invasión rusa, hoy liberadas, y bajo el mando del gobierno ucraniano, y nos hemos conmovido y nos hemos emocionado por los propios testimonios, tanto de los militares, como de los propios vecinos y vecinas que durante días estuvieron bajo la ocupación rusa. Nos hablaron del trato que recibieron por parte de las tropas rusas. También, de la imposibilidad que tuvieron muchos de los militares de poder recoger los cuerpos de sus compatriotas, algunos de ellos, debajo de los escombros tenían la constancia de que estaban vivos pero no pudieron ser capaces de recuperarlos y por tanto murieron. Y en efecto, todo eso es algo que, más allá, como decía la primera ministra, de verlo en los medios de comunicación, y gracias al trabajo que hacen ustedes, poder verlo en primera persona es algo que emociona.

Y en ese sentido, y respondiendo a su pregunta, creo que en mi primera intervención he sido claro: no solamente estamos hablando de crímenes de lesa humanidad, crímenes de guerra, sino que efectivamente tendrá que ser la Corte Penal Internacional la que certifique o no si se han producido un caso de genocidio aquí. Pero yo en mi primera intervención he abierto lógicamente la puerta a ello.

*(Transcripción editada por la Secretaría de Estado de Comunicación)
(Intervención original en inglés y en español)*