



PRESIDENCIA
DEL GOBIERNO

SECRETARÍA DE ESTADO DE
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TRANSCRIPCIÓN

**RUEDA DE PRENSA DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO, PEDRO
SÁNCHEZ, JUNTO AL PRESIDENTE DE UCRANIA, VOLODÍMIR
ZELENSKI**

Kiev, 1 de julio de 2023

INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ

First of all, I would like to thank President Zelenski for your invitation to host me once again here in Kyiv.

Thank you all of you for being here today too.

As you know, today is the first day of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In the next few months, we will make progress on issues that are essential for the future of the European Union. Yet, Ukraine is going to be at the center of all our debates.

This is our first day at the job, and I wanted to dedicate it to send a strong message of support, both from the European and the Spanish perspectives.

Ukraine is fighting to recover their country against an illegal, unjustified invasion, which has already caused unnecessary suffering. Of course, we are closely monitoring the recent internal events in Russia, but they don't change the situation on the ground here in Ukraine. Still today, the civil population are surviving a constant rain of air attacks and the criminal destruction of infrastructure.

And they are doing so to protect crucial international principles like sovereignty, independence or territorial integrity. What happens in Ukraine, my friend Volodímir, will shape the European debates in the future. That is why I am here today.

President Zelenski and I had another very fruitful meeting. This is my third time here in Kiev. I continue to commend him and the Ukrainian people for their heroic struggle against the aggressor. We have discussed a wide variety of issues. This morning, I addressed the Ukrainian Parliament, the Rada, because it is very important that our message is also conveyed to the brave people of Ukraine, through its parliamentary representatives.

First, if you allow me, I would like to explain the status of our intense bilateral cooperation.

President Zelenski and I myself have adopted a comprehensive joint declaration that contains our shared positions in many fields.

On the military side, on top of an already long and intense cooperation, Spain will soon deliver new heavy materials to help in the war effort, including 4 Leopard tanks and armored personnel carriers.

We are also about to deliver a portable field hospital with surgical capacity. This element should enhance Ukraine's capacity to heal wounded soldiers and civilians near the front line.

On the field of health care, in the last few months, we have flown into Spain and provided different kinds of care to more than 650 Ukrainian nationals. Many of them were wounded in battle or suffered from serious conditions.

I am also glad to inform that, following our bilateral conversations in my last trip to Kyiv, Ukrainian therapists have already been receiving advanced training in the city of Zaragoza in modern techniques and the use of prosthesis. More specialists will continue to come to Spain to receive this training every 3 weeks. This allows them to provide better treatment and rehab.

On the humanitarian and economic side, we have also reacted quickly to the latest developments. As you all know, last week we committed 24 metric tons of humanitarian aid, to cope with the disastrous consequences of the criminal destruction of the Kajovka dam. We will also contribute with another 7 M€ to build shelters in Ukrainian schools, buy portable incubators, and provide support to victims of sexual violence.

Today, President Zelenski I am glad to announce that Spain will offer another 55M€ to help in the reconstruction of Ukraine.

51M€ will be managed through the World Bank and will aim to helping small and medium enterprises.

The other 4M€ will be managed through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and will be used to install autonomous systems of renewable energy in Ukrainian schools. This will provide those schools with more resilience and will make them more sustainable.

Finally, we continue to host in Spain more than 180.000 Ukrainian displaced people. They have been all provided with full and free access to our health and education systems as well as other facilities like free railway transportation within the Spain.

While we hope that Ukraine will be enjoying a just peace that will allow them to return safely, we remain committed to take care of them for as long as necessary.

Second, I will explain our collaboration at the European Union level and the perspectives for the following months.

The position of the EU has been very clear since the beginning: all Member States condemn the Russian aggression, and the European Union has put all its mechanisms in motion to help.

On the military cooperation, the European Union continues to coordinate to facilitate the response to Ukrainian defensive needs. Important stocks of ammunition and weaponry have been provided through the European Peace Facility, a powerful tool with a financial ceiling that, with the decision adopted this week at the European Council, now totals more than €12 billion euros.

Last week, we approved the eleventh sanctions package against Russia, which includes a mechanism to prevent elusion. This will help the long list of bans and restrictions become more effective. Sanctions may not have a visible, immediate impact, but they impose heavy long-term costs on Russia. Also, they underline that we remain united against Putin, and that we are determined to stand firm until a just peace is reached.

The European Union is also very active in the field of financial aid. In 2023 it is contributing with 18 billion euros of financial assistance, so that Ukraine can continue to provide basic services to its citizens. In addition, a few days ago the European Union proposed a package of 50 billion for the next 4 years, that will be devoted to reconstruction. This should, on the one hand, contribute to close the gap that the war of aggression has created in the Ukrainian economy. On the other hand, this is yet another clear message to Putin: Europe will stand with Ukraine, “for as long as it takes”, an expression we use all the time that is now realized in this multi-year approach. As I said before, a package of 50 billions for the next 4 years, that Will be devoted to reconstruction.

A lot of work is also taking place in the field of accountability —which is something I always president Zelenski and myself speak in our conversations— to make sure that those responsible of the atrocities Ukraine is suffering are taken to justice. Also, we are studying ways to address the question of Russian frozen funds in Europe, which is a challenging endeavor in legal terms.

Finally, the European Commission has recently issued an interim assessment on the status of Ukraine’s candidacy to join the European Union. The report is positive, is positive, and shows significant progress. I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate you, president Zelenski, Volodomir, and of course, the Rada, your government, to congratulate Ukraine for the positive trend, and to encourage it to continue its path of reforms. We will be awaiting the written report that the European Commission will introduce in the fall. It will be the basis for further steps and decisions.

Last, I would like to say a few words on the global perspective.

The extraordinary level of international support to the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly speaks for itself: a vast international majority condemns the Russian aggression and the phony annexations.

Yet, I do believe it is important to continue our efforts to reach out to other regions and countries. And we must listen to other countries' concerns and fears, especially about the consequences of the war on issues like food and energy security.

Let me conclude by wishing success to Ukraine in its counter-offensive. We hope it will lead you to a just and lasting peace. Europe and Spain remain by your side.

Thank you.

P.- [Fran Sevilla, RNE] Muchas gracias. Thank you so much.

Presidente Sánchez, el presidente Zelenski pide más armas, artillería y aviones de combate. ¿Tiene la Unión Europea planes de incrementar esa aportación? Sobre todo hablando de los aviones de combate, de los F16. Y ya que estamos con la Unión Europea y con esa Presidencia semestral que hoy iniciamos, el presidente Zelenski cree que esta Presidencia española, que este semestre, va a servir para acelerar el proceso de adhesión de Ucrania. ¿Con qué celeridad se puede lograr ese proceso de adhesión para Ucrania?

Y bueno, hablamos de la Unión Europea y va a haber una cumbre de Unión Europea - América Latina. ¿Cómo puede Europa convencer a algunos países latinoamericanos algo más reacios a apoyar a Ucrania de que esa es la decisión correcta, de que esa es la decisión en línea con el derecho internacional y con las resoluciones de la ONU?

Muchas gracias.

Presidente.- Muchas gracias por sus preguntas.

En relación con la primera de las cuestiones que hacía sobre la Unión Europea y la ayuda financiera para la compra de armamento y de munición, quiero recordarle que en la primera de las intervenciones ya he dicho que el Consejo Europeo ha elevado el techo a 12.000 millones de euros precisamente para, a través del European Peace Facility, poder proveer de recursos y de armamento a Ucrania.

Y creo que además también es muy relevante el anuncio que hemos hecho antes de que sean 50.000 millones de euros para los próximos cuatro años los que se van a destinar a través de la Unión Europea, que están ahora mismo fijados en la revisión del marco financiero plurianual durante los cuatro años a Ucrania, porque esto, si demuestra algo, es el compromiso europeo en el corto y en el medio plazo con Ucrania.

Y, en ese sentido, hablando de la perspectiva de la Unión Europea de acceso de Ucrania a la Unión Europea, yo creo que el primer día de la Presidencia en el semestre en el que se va a dar a conocer el informe sobre la evaluación de los progresos que está haciendo Ucrania a lo largo de este otoño, pues esté hoy aquí demuestra yo creo que un compromiso político claro, inequívoco, por parte de las instituciones comunitarias al respecto.

Cuestión distinta es que, efectivamente, pues como presidente rotatorio del Consejo de la Unión Europea tengo que guardar una cierta neutralidad. Es una neutralidad obligada y que tenga que ser el criterio de la Comisión quien realice esa evaluación en este próximo otoño.

En todo caso, los, en fin, las informaciones que han ya emitido la Comisión Europea es de un reconocimiento a las reformas que está haciendo el presidente Zelenski, su Gobierno y la Rada en este aspecto.

Y, sobre la segunda de las cuestiones, que lo hemos hablado además mucho el presidente Zelenski y yo mismo, creo que es muy relevante la acción y el liderazgo diplomático que está desarrollando y desplegando el presidente Zelenski, y que además tenga la ocasión de poder hablar personalmente con muchos de estos líderes del llamado Sur Global.

Y, en el caso de la América Latina y el Caribe, igual. Porque algunos de estos países que ciertamente pueden tener dudas, no tanto por lo que está haciendo Putin, que claramente es absolutamente injustificable, quizá tengan algunas relaciones históricas y tradicionales con Rusia. Lo que resulta evidente es que nadie, cuando digo nadie es nadie, está de acuerdo con esta vulneración de la soberanía nacional, de la integridad territorial de Ucrania y, en consecuencia, con esta pulsión imperialista que Putin está demostrando, no solamente en Ucrania, sino en otros muchos de sus mensajes con países bálticos o con Moldavia, por poner el caso.

Con lo cual, lo que quiero decir con esto es que son buenas oportunidades para que el presidente Zelenski hable con estos líderes, y yo creo que la Cumbre Unión Europea-CELAC será también una gran oportunidad para que, también desde Europa, expliquemos a nuestros aliados en América Latina y el Caribe la necesidad de continuar con ese apoyo que se está dando por parte de esta región. Y lo hemos visto, por ejemplo, las resoluciones de las Asamblea de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas a la posición de condena de la agresión rusa.

Y en eso, en eso está el Gobierno de España.

P.- [Fran Sevilla, RNE] Si me permite presidente, about F-16 fighters, sobre los aviones de combate, que es probablemente en estos momentos la petición más importante que está haciendo Ucrania.

Presidente.- En ese tema hemos hablado ya, y se ha posicionado la ministra de Defensa en reiteradas ocasiones cuando ha sido preguntada.

P.- [Periodista ucraniana. Sin interpretación]

Presidente.- Allow me to be cautious in my response. I think that what we need, as president Zelensky said, is not to scale up this war and to enter into a dimension which, of course, it could be, you know , very, very difficult for all nations.

Thank you very much.

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