



TRANSCRIPCIÓN

**INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DE GOBIERNO EN FUNCIONES,
PEDRO SÁNCHEZ, EN LA SESIÓN INAUGURAL DE LA CUMBRE DE
LÍDERES DEL PROCESO DE BERLÍN**

Tirana, 16 de octubre de 2023

INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ

Thank you Edi, thank you prime minister.

Please let me start by... with my deepest gratitude to you as chair of the Berlin Process for the invitation to attend as Presidency of the Council of the EU, this meeting today.

And I would also like to thank the previous speakers, Olaf, Ursula, Charles, for your interventions. The Berlin Process is playing a key role in the path of the Western Balkans to join the EU family. And this role is even more important now when the enlargement is a high priority of the European Union.

Our meeting today takes place in a very crucial moment.

First, because the challenges of our continent have pushed the enlargement of the EU high on the agenda.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine was a turning point, but it is not the only one. The COVID pandemic and also de digital transformation and the ecological transformation that we all need to face have made it clear that we need to walk the path of the future together.

This requires efforts from all. The meeting of the Heads of State and Government of the EU in the Spanish city of Granada I believe set the ground for the start of the discussion on how to adapt the EU to be prepared for an enlarged Union. We are committed and we will work for a unified Europe that continues to be operational.

The Berlin Process is also an expression of commitment from the region. Regional cooperation is the best step towards progress and I am convinced that we can get a lot of traction from it.

We will witness today a conversation that goes in different directions, as sectorial ministers also did before this Summit. The region has to lead the process by delivering in various fronts, while people feel tangible results from it. We are in the best fora to do so.

Second, we meet at a crucial moment for the International Community. Once again, Europe is an example that dialogue works, that cooperation among neighbours work, that differences can be overcome and that reconciliation is the only way forward.



This is the essence of the Berlin Process, and also of the European Union, and a timely reminder for us all. Especially now when the Middle East, a region also very close to us, is on fire.

Indeed, the language of violence and conflict is the opposite of what we defend. This is why I would like to reiterate our condemnation to Hamas's attack on Israel. Israel has the legitimate right to defend itself within the respect of international and humanitarian law.

And at the same time, protection of civilians is essential, as well as the access of international aid for those in need, especially in the Gaza Strip.

We must work now to avoid an escalation of violence in the region and reinvigorate all our efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution of the conflict between Israel and Palestine, bearing in mind that the only way to definitively resolve the conflict is the recognition of the two states, so that they can coexist in peace and security.

Thank you very much.

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