



# TRANSCRIPCIÓN

**INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DE GOBIERNO, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ, EN EL PARLAMENTO UCRANIANO**

Kiev, 23 de febrero de 2023

## **INTERVENCIÓN DEL PRESIDENTE DEL GOBIERNO, PEDRO SÁNCHEZ**

Dear Mr. Speaker Ruslan,

Distinguished Members of the Verkhovna Rada,

Excellencies, dear friends, It is an honour to be here, in Kiev.

Thank you very much for inviting me to address this honourable Parliament.

The dignity of a people that are fighting for what is right.

This is the greatest difference between you and the enemy. You understand what you are fighting for.

Ukraine fights for survival. Your enemy fights for power.

Their fight is not dignified. Yours is a cry of freedom.

For that reason, they cannot win; although they certainly can hurt.

You are not alone in this struggle, my dear friends. Spain, the European Union and so many allies and friends across the world support Ukraine. And we will continue to do so for as long as it is necessary.

You fight for your land, for your independence. Your people fight to recover their homes, and their freedom. In doing so, you are also defending something that concerns us all: our rights as citizens.

Russia's illegal and unjustified aggression challenges our most sacred principles: simple rules like 'you shall not invade a neighbour that is not attacking or threatening you' or like 'political differences do not justify the use of force'.

These simple rules make our world habitable. Russia's aggression endangers the international order under which we all coexist. And that is why your fight to defend it is also our fight.

Spain has been by your side since the beginning of the invasion. We have provided all types of support, from high-end weapons or financial aid to the biggest humanitarian package we have ever delivered to a single country.



We have done much, but we know more is needed, more is needed, especially with regards to military needs. This is why, earlier today, I informed President Zelenski that we will scale up our military contribution even further.

Specifically, in addition to other pending supplies, we will soon deliver fully operational Leopard 2A4 tanks for your defence. Additionally, if it is necessary, we could send more of these tanks at a later stage.

As part of the EU Military Assistance Mission, Spain is already training hundreds of Ukrainian soldiers. Last week we began providing the first batch of 55 Ukrainian soldiers with specific training in the use of the Leopards.

We are also planning to increase the supply of ammunition, through a combined European effort to which we are actively advocating.

Unity and close coordination have proved to be very effective. All these new military items will be put together with those provided by our Allies, so as to significantly increase the capacity of your armed forces to defend and recover your territory.

Excellencies,

While we bring our help to the military effort, we also try to do our share to help those who are suffering.

There are more than 3600 kilometres of distance between Madrid and Kyiv. We are at the other end of Europe. Despite that distance, more than 165,000 of your fellow citizens made the long way to my country, Spain.

We are providing them with proper access to health, education and other services. Our commitment is a moral duty.

But it also obeys to the power of memory. 80 years ago, 80 years ago, hundreds of thousands of Spaniards found shelter in other countries of Europe fleeing war. Also here in Ukraine. Now, by giving shelter to your people, we are paying tribute to that lesson of humanity.

Excellencies,

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The reality of what is going on in Ukraine is very clear to us. Unfortunately, not every country sees reality as it is, which is why it is so important to reach out to the rest of the world and let them hear the truth.

Many countries are suffering the global economic consequences of the war and sometimes they are inclined to buy part of Putin's anti-Western propaganda. We cannot allow that. We must fight for the truth to prevail. We are doing all we can to fight Russia's narrative in all our international contacts.

We are also tackling the global economic consequences of the war. A few weeks ago, my country, Spain, launched a specific program against global food insecurity, that will benefit countries in Africa and the Middle East, some of the most affected by the global food crisis.

We commend the efforts of Ukraine in making everything possible to deliver its grains to those in need.

As you know, my country, Spain, will hold the Presidency of the Council of the European Union on the second semester of this year.

We cannot forget that the Maidan uprising and Ukraine's determination to join the European Union have been at the roots of today's situation.

The desire to become an European Union member State implies the acceptance of the principles of democracy, freedom of speech, freedom of movement and the exercise of sovereignty, among others.

That was probably too much for Putin to take, and it triggered his coward reaction in the form of yet another invasion, under false pretexts and propaganda.

Today, we condemn once again in the strongest possible terms that aggression and we welcome your right to seek your European dream, as we ourselves did some decades ago. That is why we firmly supported last June the granting of EU candidate status to Ukraine.

Now Ukraine is following the necessary steps in this process.

Many changes and reforms are necessary. The work of this Rada will be of paramount importance in this roadmap. You have already passed several laws in this regard and we applaud your efforts.



We welcome all the progress that is being made and we will accompany your country in its way towards integration, so that the dream becomes real.

During our Presidency, Ukraine will be very present. You can count on us.

Excellencies,

Some months ago, we had the honour of listening President Zelenski's very moving speech before the Spanish parliament. He reminded us about the history of Picasso's most famous painting: Guernica, a magnificent piece of art that was painted during the Spanish civil war and that became a universal message against the brutality of war.

In life, Pablo Picasso established that the Gernika would only return to a free and democratic Spain. It took time and suffering. But we managed to finally embrace freedom, democracy and European membership. You are now living your own darkest hour.

But, remember, the darkest hour is always before dawn; and you are not alone in the darkness.

We stand with you.

Excellencies,

Yesterday in Spain before coming to Kyiv, I had the opportunity to meet a group of displaced Ukrainian women who found a safe haven for their families in my country, Spain.

I saw strength and determination in their eyes.

I saw pride and resolution in their spirit.

I saw hope and confidence in their smiles.

Through their example, I pay tribute to the courage of all Ukrainian women.

Being with them, I understood that these women are worthy heirs to the legacy of Lesya Ukrainka.

We hope they will be able to return soon, when peace returns to Ukraine. Until that moment, let me tell you that we will take care of your loved ones.

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We will take care of your people with all our strength and all our resources.

And I am not just speaking on behalf of the Spanish government.

I speak on behalf of the entire Spanish society.

I am sure I will be able to come back soon to a peaceful and prosperous Ukraine in which the debates will be about progress and reconstruction.

In the meantime, all of Europe is looking up to your country. Your courage is an inspiration. Your cause is our cause. We stand together.

I would like to end my intervention quoting the famous Ukrainian poet Tarás Shevchenko, who rightly described Ukraine as “the great new family; the family of the free”.

Mui Ukraina! [¡Somos Ucrania!] Slava Ukraini! [¡Viva Ucrania!]

Thank you.

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