

Beat: Politics

## **"NATO IS THE CORNERSTONE OF EUROPE'S STABILITY & SECURITY" SAID CHARLES MICHEL**

**IN PRESS CONF EU COUNCIL MEETING 24 FEB**

Paris, Washington DC, 26.02.2022, 02:08 Time

**USPA NEWS** - President of the European Council, Charles Michel has urgently convened a special meeting of the European Council to discuss the situation in Ukraine following Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military actions that grossly violate international law and undermine European and global security and stability. We strongly condemn Russia's unjustified attack on Ukraine. « We will hold Kremlin accountable ». Charles Michel, President of European Council, stated. The three leaders, Ursula Von Der Leyen, European Commission Chief, Charles Michel, President of European Council, and French President Macron, held a press conference, at 3 am, 25 February, in Brussels after a very tense and long meeting, during this extraordinary summit.

**"WE AFFIRM THE UNITY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, OF THE MEMBER STATES AND WITH OUR PARTNERS" DECLARED CHARLES MICHEL**

"During his opening remarks, Charles MICHEL, President of the European Council explains that "the European continent is under attack in an extremely painful way. It was an opportunity for us to affirm the strong condemnation of this military aggression of this war which was started by abusing and using false pretenses and false excuses. He insisted on the affirmation of "the unity of the European Union, the unity of the Member States, the unity with its partners, with its allies, with our friends all over the world, to defend international law, to defend those rules-based times that offer the greatest guarantees for peace, security and stability. »

**A NEW PACKAGE OF MASSIVE SANCTIONS HAVE BEEN DECIDED AGAINST RUSSIA**

Charles Michel then unveiled "The additional package of massive sanctions and painful sanctions against the Russian regime. He adds that "It will be up to the Council of the Union to legally implement the political guidelines that have been adopted this evening. We also raised the issue of support for the Ukrainian people, for Ukraine, to mobilize both funding capacities for humanitarian support. »

**CHARLES MICHEL SALUTES THE DIGNITY AND RESISTANCE OF PRESIDENT ZELENSKY AND AFFIRMS THE SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE**

The President of the European Council, Michel then saluted the dignity and resistance of Ukrainian President Zelenskyy, in this ordeal of attack on his country by the Russian neighbor and affirmed the support for Ukraine and its people "We also had the opportunity to hear an address by the Ukrainian President on the occasion of this European Council. It was a moment of seriousness, a moment of dignity, a moment of composure too when, with frankness, he told us the message he wanted to send to us in the extremely difficult and painful circumstances that we know currently in Ukraine. We want to emphasize and salute all the dignity and courage of the Ukrainian people who are facing, at this very moment, a tragic situation. »

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Finally, Charles Michel, recalled "the importance of mobilizing support for the eastern flank of the European Union, of course in close collaboration with NATO. There will be a summit tomorrow, this issue can be discussed again. But we are also preparing solidarity with the countries most directly concerned in order to be able to mobilize the humanitarian aid that is necessary and also mobilize the means to ensure that refugees can be received in a dignified and suitable manner. »

Regarding the energy component, Charles Michel, underlined the importance of "reducing our dependencies, to increase our capacities for strategic independence in this area, we also intend, it was a direction that has been taken since some time to have an in-depth debate in March at the European Council which will take place in Brussels on this subject, on the basis of proposals which will be drawn up by the European Commission, this point was obviously addressed this evening. Ditto for "strengthening security capabilities, defense capabilities." Of course, NATO is the cornerstone of our security. " He concludes by insisting on the exceptional character of this European Council, faced with the war in Ukraine, at the gates of Europe "It is a European Council which was not a trivial European Council, it was not a banal meeting, it was a meeting where we clearly measured the seriousness of the awareness of living at a moment which perhaps represents a turning point and for which it will be up to our generation, in Europe, with our partners all over the world, to make the right choices, the wise choices, to show courage in the short term but also in the medium and long term.

» Source: Elysee, European Council

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