

Remarks by President Charles Michel after the meeting with President of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdoan in Brussels

We had tonight a meeting with President Erdoan. A few days after my visit in Ankara, it was important to have this occasion to exchange our views on different topics related to the relationship between Turkey and the European Union. And of course, the first topic we discussed is the implementation of the deal between the European Union and Turkey on migration. We had the occasion to share our different opinions about the implementation of this deal a few years after this agreement.

Nous avons eu l'occasion de discuter avec le president Erdoan un certain nombre de sujets. Le premier qui a ete discute est bien sur la question de la migration. Et cela a ete l'occasion pour nous de tenter de clarifier un certain nombre de positions, d'interpretations, de commentaires, en lien avec la mise en œuvre de cet accord qui lie l'Union europeenne avec la Turquie. En particulier, on a eu l'occasion de montrer de quelle maniere l'Union europeenne a mis en œuvre des engagements financiers, la promesse de mobiliser au total 6 milliards d'euros afin de venir en soutien aux refugies qui se situent en Turquie. Et c'est l'occasion aussi de reconnatre la responsabilite qui a ete prise par la Turquie quant a cette prise en charge de migrants sur le sol turc.

Nous avons eu l'occasion d'expliquer aussi la difference pour l'Union europeenne entre les moyens qui sont payes et debourses, parce que les procedures sont accomplies et les projets realises, et les moyens qui sont engages, c'est a dire reserves dans le cas de l'enveloppe de 6 milliards d'euros qui a ete mobilisee en lien avec cet accord. C'est un premier point.

Deuxieme point: on a eu l'occasion aussi de discuter les questions de securite dans la region, specialement en Syrie, et de mettre en exergue notre mobilisation en soutien a toute solution politique pour amener plus de stabilite, mais surtout de mettre en exergue la preoccupation tres grande que nous avons sur le plan humanitaire a Idlib, ainsi qu' a la frontiere entre la Turquie et la Syrie. Et la mobilisation possible de l'Union europeenne pour tenter d'apporter du soutien sur ce terrain-la.

We had also the occasion to discuss other topics related to the relationship between Turkey and the European Union and to try to exchange our views, our opinions in order to make progress and to have the occasion with this meeting in Brussels to consider that it's a first step in order to have a stronger political dialogue in the short term, in the mid-term and in the longer term with Turkey.

Finally, we decided and it is very concrete and very important for the next

days and for the next weeks, we decided to task Josep Borrell, the High Representative, with his counterpart in Turkey, the minister of foreign affairs, each of them with a team, to work in the next days in order to clarify the implementation of the deal between Turkey and the European Union. This is to be certain that we are on the same page, that we have the same interpretation about what we do in Turkey at the level of the European Union in order to implement the deal. We will keep the political dialogue with Erdoan in the next days.

It is also very important to share with you that we will debrief the member states. We consulted a lot the member states the last days. It was, of course, necessary in order to inform them, in order to listen to the member states and to their concern regarding the different topics we have to discuss with Turkey. We will debrief the member states and it will also be the occasion later with the member states, after this process, this High-Level Political and technical process, between Turkey and the European Union through Josep Borrell and his counterpart in Turkey. It will also be the occasion to have, again, a political dialogue at the level of president Erdoan in the next days and in the next weeks in order to continue this process of information and consultation of the different member states.

En rsum, cette runion est un pas important, je pense que c'est un pas dans la bonne direction. Mais il y a du travail encore que nous devons `a accomplir sur le plan turc et sur le plan europen, ensemble pour tenter de bonne foi, et avec bonne volonte de faire le monitoring de cet accord entre l'Union europeenne et la Turquie, en terme de migration et voir comment on peut `a l'avenir continuer `a progresser et veiller `a ce qu'il y ait une desescalade, `a ce qu'il y ait de la moderation dans cette capacite de cooperer ensemble sur les differents sujets.