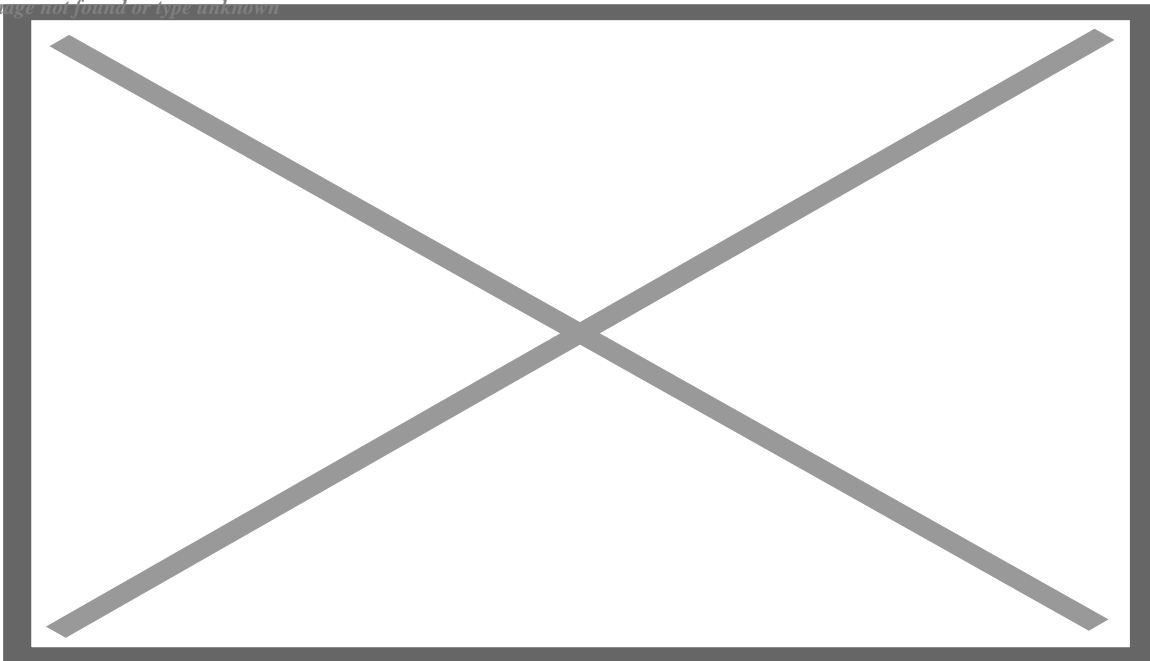


Nicaragua refuses to sign Final Declaration of III EU-CELAC Summit

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Managua, July 19 (RHC)-- The Government of Nicaragua reported today that it did not sign, approve or accompany the Final Declaration of the III Summit of the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held in Belgium earlier this week.

Through a communiqué signed by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Denis Moncada and released in Managua, the Sandinista Executive pointed out that the declaration was announced in a pompous and lying manner. He emphasized that the EU, as it usually does, broke the procedures and mechanisms established by democratic organizations, and stepped all over "the rules that are the basis for the functioning of our own entities."

"From free and sovereign Nicaragua, we ratify our vocation for peace, based on the struggles that dignify our peoples and are the strength of victories," he concluded.

The EU-CELAC Summit, representing 60 countries and some one billion inhabitants, was held for two days in Brussels, Belgium, with the presence of more than 50 heads of state and government.

Speaking at the meeting, Moncada demanded the suspension of the unjust coercive and unilateral measures applied against several nations, because they violate human rights.

The head of Nicaraguan diplomacy stressed the need to eliminate such policies if the EU really wants to strengthen bi-regional relations.

Moncada demanded the fulfillment of the commitments of the developed countries of the EU to guarantee climate justice and the policy of reparations to compensate for losses and damages, and to promote direct, respectful and unconditional cooperation.

In addition, the Nicaraguan foreign minister urged the EU to reflect and act in good faith with a vision of the present and future, taking into account the common people of Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions that yearn for peace, security, stability, progress, sustainable development and respectful relations without interference.

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