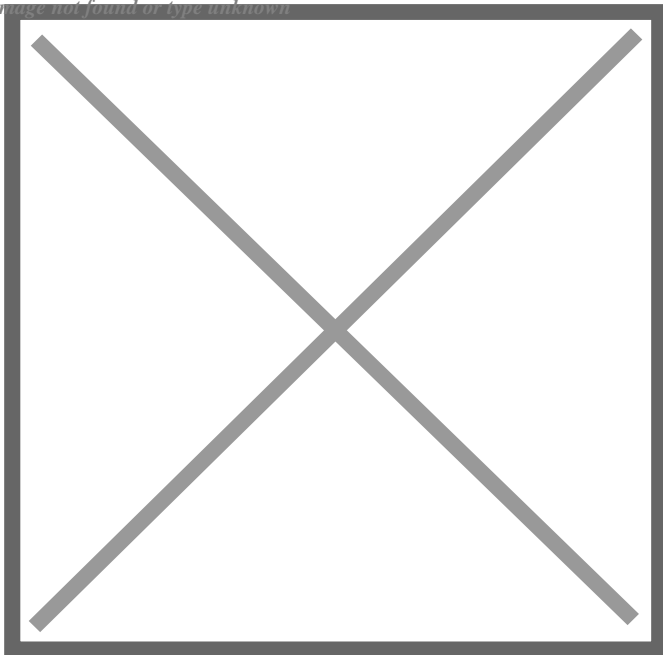


Lula criticizes Chilean president for demanding a tougher stance against Russia

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Brasilia, July 20 (RHC)-- Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on Wednesday criticized his Chilean counterpart, Gabriel Boric, for his obsession regarding the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) countries openly expressing themselves against Russia for its special military operation in Ukraine.

During his speech at the plenary of the summit between CELAC and the European Union (EU) in Brussels, Boric criticized nations that, in his opinion, do not recognize that the referred conflict is against Ukraine. "Possibly, the lack of habit of participating in these meetings makes the young man more thirsty, in a hurry, but things happen that way," Lula said at a press conference after the summit between Celac and the EU.

"We all know what Europe thinks of what is happening between Ukraine and Russia. We all know what Latin America thinks", said the president while stressing that "I don't have to agree with their vision."

In turn, the Brazilian leader stressed that "I have already had Boric's haste" and recalled that during the first months of his first term he was invited to the G7 summit and hoped that everything would be solved in that space.

Lula emphasized that 60 countries participated in the meeting, all of which present particular visions, therefore "not everyone agrees with us and not everyone has the same hurry or the same vision", he said.

He considered that the CELAC-EU Summit was relevant because those 60 countries discussed transcendental issues related to the relationship between the two blocs.

The meeting resulted in a joint declaration in which the nations expressed their "deep concern with the war in Ukraine." However, they omitted any mention of Moscow, as Boric had been pushing.

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