

Turkey Threatens European Union with Flood of Refugees



Brussels, February 9 (RHC)-- A newly leaked report has revealed that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had threatened European Union leaders with a flood of refugees unless Ankara was offered better funding to deal with the ongoing crisis.

On Monday, the euro2day.gr financial news website published what it claimed to be minutes of a November meeting between Erdogan, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, and EU President Donald Tusk. The report does not state the exact date of the meeting but, according to Reuters, it was probably held on November 16, 2015 in Antalya on the sidelines of a G-20 summit.

During the meeting, the EU officials were attempting to gain Turkey's support for stemming the flow of Syrian asylum seekers pouring towards Europe, most of whom arrive in Europe after crossing the sea between Turkey and Greek islands. "We can open the doors to Greece and Bulgaria anytime and we can put the refugees on buses... So how will you deal with migrants if you don't get a deal? Kill the refugees?" Erdogan was quoted as saying.

He also demanded some six billion euros over two years. When the amount was denied by Juncker, Erdogan said that his country did not need the money anyway.

In the end, Turkey settled for three billion euros, earmarked for improving asylum seekers' living conditions, revival of the country's accession talks, and acceleration of visa-free travel for Turkish

nationals in exchange for curtailing the number of refugees entering Greece.

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