

Prise de parole du Président de la République en ouverture de la session plénière du Sommet de la Communauté politique européenne.

Emmanuel MACRON

Thanks Nikos, thank you very much colleagues and Nicole, thank you very much for hosting us and organizing this CPC. Look, I really believe that when we speak about strategic autonomy, it was perfectly phrased by Mark in his speech with a list of sectors. When we speak about strategic autonomy, it's not just dealing with defense and security and energy, but these components are critical and food.

But now we have to speak about space, we have to speak about semiconductors and so on because it's impossible to have a sustainable strategic autonomy on defense if you are 100% dependent when you speak about semiconductors to some other countries. So we clearly see, given the integration of global economy and our innovation system, that building and strengthening our strategic autonomy requires much more focus on these key pillars where we have over-dependencies and we experienced the cost of over-dependencies during the past few years in Covid time when we spoke about masks and some medical devices. The Russian war against Ukraine revealed our over-dependencies regarding gas and Russian gas. We are experiencing the cost of our over-dependencies when we speak about the American umbrella in terms of defense and security. Let's be honest, this is the elephant in the room. But if Mark is here as well, this is because he feels closer to the Europeans and because we are all together and we consider we have to be more united because there is a sort of a doubt or a question mark when we speak about the fact that no doubt about the American solidarity on all these fields.

We will probably experience the cost of our over-dependency *vis-à-vis* China, no doubt. So, the big issue, we have a lot of beyond the wars and beyond the crisis, we have a big derisking strategy to deliver which will request much more investment and coordination amongst the Europeans. Let's be clear, it needs more solidarity, more investment, better organization in order to better integrate our value chain together and derisk our value chains from the major political risks we identify.

Which means sometimes deciding to relocalize some productions amongst all of us, diversifying our partnerships in order to derisk the over-dependencies. But this is the approach we will have to complete in the years to come. One of the main risks we have is an acceleration of the confrontation, especially between China and US, which could reveal much more rapidly some of these dependencies and put us in a corner.

Having said that, I think we have a series of, I would say assets, probably we underestimate which are the main links we have beyond geography. But I really believe that believing in the democracy, rule-based order, respect of an open and free trade, believing in climate change through innovation and reasonable approach creates a lot of links amongst us. And our predictability in order to deliver this agenda is a big advantage *vis-à-vis* a lot of non-European players.

When I look at the Gulf, when I look at Asian countries, when I look at Latin America or Africa, they just want to have predictable partners. They can disagree with us sometimes our interests will not be aligned. But as long as we deliver our agenda, being predictable makes sense. If we go to Hormuz strait, I think we have a very important role to play. A lot of us were around this VTC, we co-organized with Keir, and Georgia was with us in Paris with Friedrich. We had a lot of Asian countries, a lot of African countries and Gulf countries. It was very impressive to see that everybody was aligned. I think the role we can play is precisely, obviously we are trusted by the US but we are respected and trusted by the Iranian, we are not naive *vis-à-vis* Iranian, but we are not at war with them, which creates a context where we can be this altogether. We can provide, I would say services from diplomatic, military and economic and financial side in order to facilitate a free reopening of Hormuz strait.

This is exactly the strategy we are preparing. The planification work was made last week in London. So now we are in a situation clearly to facilitate such a reopening, which puts us in this situation to be this reliable partner and to open this free road. This is I really believe, one of the assets we have. But beyond that, I really believe that our interest is to decrease the tensions in a lot of situations, to remain coordinated and full solidarity. Ukraine is by far the hottest topic. But to work all together on this agenda of strategic autonomy.

By the way, I think the work made during the past few years by Nikol on Armenia is very impressive. Let's be honest. I mean, 8 years ago, I mean nobody would come here. The fact that you have so many first visits in your country is a good signal because 8 years ago, this country was seen by a lot of countries around the table as a sort of *de facto* satellite of Russia. Nikol organized this velvet revolution and decided to derisk his country from Russia. He was and he still attacked on a daily basis because of that. The fact that he decided both peace and Europe is a very strong signal. And the resistance war in Ukraine, the Armenian strategy, what is done in Moldova, plus what is done by a lot of countries around this table is as well as the fact that as Europeans, we decided during the past few years to have a collective wakeup call and not to be dependent on any big power. And this is as well, one of the preconditions of this strategic autonomy.