

Beat: Politics

## **PRESIDENT MACRON MAKES HIS 1ST OFFICIAL VISIT TO QATAR WITH A STRONG DELEGATION**

### **SIGNING OF MANY VALUABLE CONTRACTS**

Paris, Washington DC, Doha, 07.12.2017, 16:00 Time

**USPA NEWS** - President Macron made his first official trip to Qatar to Doha, accompanied by a large delegation, in force, composed mainly of senior civil, military and police executives to conclude bilateral contracts to sign, in defence, armed and transport, as well as letters of intent on scientific, educational and technical cooperation projects between the two friendly countries. President Macron took advantage of his very short one-day visit to reach the Doha military base, and addressed the thirty soldiers, "Operation Chammal" and their officers, whom he thanked for their commitment "Determined to fight Terrorism and ensure the political stability of the Middle East region. He added that he is aware that the army is "stealing their families' time" when they are so far away from their relatives in France. The Doha military base is essentially composed of members of the US Army, up to 10,000 men (and women), soldiers engaged in this military coalition.

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President Macron and the Emir of Qatar, Tamim Khalifa, then spoke and President Macron recalled the great appealing of Sheikh Qatari for the French language that he masters perfectly (he studied in France at a younger age) and recalled that the "Francophile of HE Sheikh Tamim showed his love of the Francophonie that he was able to transmit to his children also"

After the visit of Al Udeid military base, and exchange with French soldiers based on this area of "Qatar, President Macron addressed this thirty French soldiers, as well as some members of the General Staff and their commanding officer Christophe Oursel, commander of the French detachment at the base of Al Udeid, Doha.-----

The Head of State and Head of the French Armed Forces recalled the importance and the aspect "Determinant of their mission, to fight against terrorism". Emmanuel Macron also thanked those soldiers "stealing their family's time" and the approach of the next chances of elections next spring in Iraq that will ensue elections also in Syria. France explained President Macron "Is under observation and decisive support for peace and political stability to be installed, after the end of the war in this area of "the Middle East," explained President Macron as an introduction of his statement that preceded the Doha press conference. This press conference was short and in a very official tone, with the installation of the European flag, which nowadays always accompanies that of France, during the official journeys, by Emmanuel Macron. This is the choice imposed by the French Prayer itself, recalling that when he was in the presidential campaign, just before his election, was the only most fervent candidate "Pro Europe". He then imposed that the EU flag be installed in the hemicycle of the French Parliament, recalling that every French citizen "must feel as much European as French"-----

It was also planned to continue the recent success of Qatar's purchase of 12 Rafale and other business deals to be concluded from the point of view of strengthening the bilateral relationship between the two countries. are France and Qatar. It is also about the big project of the Metro and Lusail Tramway, which would be operated and maintained by the French SNCF and RATP. Numerous contracts and letter of intent were thus signed in the morning at the Diwan Palace of Sheikh Tamim Khalifa. President Macron had recently accustomed us to express himself in English during certain official trips to English-speaking countries, this time in Doha, expressed in French, given the current practice of the Frenchman of Sheikh Tamim Khalifa, who rest is unpublished.

## TWO PRESTIGIOUS DELEGATIONS OF MINISTERS, CEO OF THE BILATERAL MEETING OF FRANCE & QATAR

They were present at the bilateral goal-level meeting, devoted to the fight against terrorism, financing and radicalization. The respective delegations involved several of their ministers to make official signatures of future letters of intent.

On the French side, under the guidance of the National Intelligence Coordinator and the fight against terrorism, Pierre Roussel, the Foreign Ministers, Jean Yves Le Drian, and the Minister of Armed Forces, Florence Parly, as well as senior officials of the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Justice. The rest of the delegation was made up of other cadres of internal and external services, as well as civilians, policemen, and French soldiers, who also made the trip to Doha.

The meeting allowed for a concerted exchange on the assessment of the terrorist threat and bilateral dialogue-based cooperation armed with tools to combat the financing of terrorism. The aspect of both legal and judicial cooperation with axes of cooperation still on the same theme of the fight against terrorism.-----

Finally, exchanges on technical cooperation through the police services of the respective countries as well as the French gendarmerie, have marked a striking aspect of the exchange of information between Qatar and France to stop terrorists. A blacklist will be edited and transmitted between the two respective countries. A road map has also been established, today to anticipate future actions and a clear traceability of the agenda, which will be punctuated by biannual meetings in Paris and Doha.

## MANY VALUABLE CONTRACTS SIGNED BY THE QATAR WITH GREAT FRENCH COMPANIES INCLUDING THE 36 RAFALE OPTION

Qatar signed contracts with France on several billion euros Thursday, including the purchase of 12 Rafale (Dassault) with an option for 36 more, and 490 armored vehicles type VBCI (Nexter Group). The latter was signed, in the form of a Letter of Intent, between Stephane Mayer CEO of NEXter Systems and Nasser Al Naimmi of the Ministry of Defense Barzan.

These contracts, signed in the presence of the French President, Emmanuel Macron and HE, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, Emir of Qatar, also include the Doha metro concession and the Lusail tramway, entrusted to a SNCF / RATP consortium, as well as than the purchase by Qatar Airways of 50 Airbus 321 with an option on 30 others. The contract for the operation and maintenance of the Doha metro and the Lusail tramway for € 5Million, signed by Guillaume Pepy, President of SNCF, and Catherine Guillouard President and General Director of RATP (French Metro), members of the SNCF / RATP Consortium and Jassim Al Sulaiti Minister of Transport & Communication of Qatar. The contract for the fifty Airbus A321 Neo with Safran engine was signed between Fabrice Bregier, CEO of Airbus Commercial Aircraft and Akbar Al Baker, CEO of Qatar Airways, for € 5 million.-----

Regarding the agreement lifting the option for the twelve additional Rafale and opening on an option of thirty-six Rafale, the signing has farted between Eric Trappier CEO of Dassault Aviation and Salem Al Dosari, General of Air Brigade of Qatar . The amount of the contract is estimated at € 1,1Bn. Another type of contract was signed between Jean Louis Chaussade CEO of Generale Suez and Mohamed Bin Abdullah Al Rumaihi, Minister of Municipalities or Saad Al Mouhanadi CEO of Ashghal for a soil remediation mission in the AL Karaana lagoons. amounting to € 100 million. The total fo all contracts signed with € 12Bn.

## DECLARATIONS OF INTENT FOR THE ARMY, EDUCATION AND SCIENTIST OF FRANCE AND QATAR

Two letters of intent involving the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defense, and two memoranda of understanding between the BNF and the QNL for development and in the scientific, technical and cultural fields. This latest protocol was signed between Eric Chevallier, Ambassador of France to Qatar and Cheikha Hind Bint Hamad Al Thani, Vice President and General Director of the Qatar Foundation. Letters of intent were signed between Foreign Minister Jean Yves le Drian and Sheikh Mohamed Bi Abdurrahman Al Thani, Qatar's Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, on the theme of "Bilateral Cooperation as Mayor of the Struggle". Terrorism, Terrorist Financing and Radicalization. "The second letter of intent was signed between Florence Parly, the Minister of Armed Forces, and Dr. Khaled AL Attiyah, Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defense. Finally, the seventh executive program in the field of education and higher education was signed between Jean Yves Le Drian and Mohamed Al-Hammadi, Minister of Education and Higher Education of Qatar.

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