



Foreign Affairs Council 13 July 2020

The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) meeting, chaired by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep **Borrell**, will take place in Brussels and start at **9.30** with a discussion on **current affairs**. This discussion item will provide foreign ministers with updates and an opportunity to comment on a number of recent developments on the international scene.

The Council will then exchange views on relations with **Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic**. The discussion will focus on how the EU can best support a sustainable recovery in the region in light of the severe socio-economic consequences of the crisis.

Next the Council will have a comprehensive strategic discussion on **Turkey**, including key aspects of EU-Turkey relations.

Finally ministers will be informed under 'Any other business' about the joint communication '**Tackling COVID-19 disinformation** – Getting the facts right'.

The Council is also due to adopt **conclusions** on EU priorities for the 75th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 75) and on EU priorities for cooperation with the Council of Europe for 2020-2022.

Press conference: +/- 14.00 in a virtual format

[Foreign Affairs Council meeting page](#)

[Press conferences and public events via video streaming](#)

[Video coverage of the event in broadcast quality \(MPEG4\) and photo gallery](#)

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the Council press office.

Current affairs

The Foreign Affairs Council will start with a discussion on current affairs, during which ministers will have the opportunity to be updated on a number of recent developments.

In this context, the High Representative is expected to address Libya, the Middle East Peace Process, India, Africa and the post-Cotonou negotiations, Hong Kong and Venezuela.

As concerns **Libya**, ministers will take stock of the rapidly changing situation on the ground. The discussion will provide an opportunity to restate the importance of a political solution to the Libyan crisis within the framework of UN-led efforts (Berlin process), for which the EU will host the next senior officials' meeting on 23 July.

The High Representative will follow up on the foreign affairs ministers' video conference on 15 May, and refer to the latest developments in the **Middle East Process** and in relation to a possible Israeli annexation of parts of the West Bank.

Ministers will then be briefly informed about preparations for the **15th EU-India summit**, which will take place on 15 July via video conference, and for the **EU-AU summit** planned for October 2020. In this context the HR, together with Commissioner Urpilainen, will provide information on the progress achieved in the **post-Cotonou negotiations** (negotiations on the partnership agreement between the EU and its member states and African, Caribbean and Pacific states).

Finally, the High Representative will raise **Hong Kong**, where the national security law entered into force on 1 July, and **Venezuela**.

[Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on Libya](#)

[Video conference of foreign affairs ministers, 15 May 2020](#)

[Future Africa-Caribbean-Pacific States/EU Partnership: "Post-Cotonou" negotiations resume at ministerial level \(Commission\)](#)

[Middle East Peace Process \(EEAS\)](#)

[Declaration of the High Representative on behalf of the European Union on the adoption by China's National People's Congress of a National Security Legislation on Hong Kong](#)

[Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the latest developments in Venezuela](#)

Latin America and the Caribbean

Foreign affairs ministers will have a broad discussion on the impact of COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), touching on health and humanitarian, socio-economic, political and security issues.

The region is currently one of the hardest hit by the pandemic with over 2.5 million reported cases.

Ministers are expected to discuss how the EU can best support the LAC region during the current crisis, and towards a longer-term, sustainable recovery. In this context, ministers are also likely to raise issues such as the environment/climate change, social cohesion, inequality, governance and multilateralism.

The ministerial debate is the latest in a series of FAC discussions on the impact of the pandemic in different regions of the world, including Africa and Asia, and the EU response in the context of the 'Team Europe' package.

The package was launched on 8 April 2020 to support EU partner countries in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences. The financial support initially pledged amounted to around €20 billion and combined resources from the EU, its member states, and financial institutions, in particular the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Of the €36 billion mobilised to date, just over €1.5 billion has been directed to the LAC region (€1 537 million as of 5 June).

Video conferences of foreign affairs ministers on [29 May 2020](#) and [3 April 2020](#)

['Team Europe' global response to COVID-19: Council welcomes the mobilisation of almost €36 billion and approves conclusions \(press release, 8 June 2020\)](#)

Turkey

In a restricted session, ministers will be informed about the High Representative's recent trip to Ankara where he held meetings with the minister for foreign affairs, Mevlut Çavuşoğlu, and the minister for defence, Hulusi Akar.

They will then have a comprehensive and forward-looking discussion on Turkey and EU-Turkey relations.

The exchange of views is expected to focus on three areas: the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean; bilateral cooperation, including on migration; and foreign and security issues (Libya and Syria).

[Statement of the EU Foreign Ministers on the situation in the Eastern Mediterranean \(press release, 15 May 2020\)](#)

[Turkey \(Council website\)](#)

Other items

AoB item on disinformation

Ministers will be informed about the joint communication '[Tackling COVID-19 disinformation – Getting the facts right](#)'.

The communication describes the unprecedented 'infodemic' brought about by COVID-19, and focuses on the immediate response to disinformation around the pandemic, looking at the steps already taken and the concrete action needed. Its aim is to further strengthen the EU's work to counter disinformation and adapt to evolving threats and manipulation tactics, as well as to support free and independent media.

Council conclusions

The Council is expected to adopt conclusions on:

- EU priorities as regards the United Nations and the 75th United Nations General Assembly, September 2020 – September 2021
- EU priorities for cooperation with the Council of Europe in 2020-2022