



Extraordinary meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council

4 March 2022

An extraordinary meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council will take place on Friday **4 March** at **15.40**, and be chaired by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, **Josep Borrell**.

The Council will discuss the latest developments with regard to **Russia's aggression against Ukraine** and the next steps.

In the context of this discussion, EU Foreign Affairs Ministers will hold an informal exchange with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro **Kuleba**, who will join via video conference, and US Secretary of State Antony **Blinken**, NATO Secretary General Jens **Stoltenberg**, Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom Liz **Truss** and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada Mélanie **Joly** - all present in Brussels.

Doorstep High Representative: +/- 15h30

Press conference: +/- 18.00 in hybrid format

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[Foreign Affairs Council - meeting page](#)

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

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

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

Russian aggression against Ukraine

The Foreign Affairs Council will hold a discussion on Russia's unprovoked and unjustified military invasion of Ukraine.

The Council will discuss in particular the latest developments on the ground, the response brought by the EU as well as transatlantic and like-minded partners so far, and future steps.

EU Foreign Affairs Ministers will be joined for an informal exchange by Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro **Kuleba** via video conference as well as US Secretary of State Antony **Blinken**, NATO Secretary General Jens **Stoltenberg**, Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom Liz **Truss** and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada Mélanie **Joly** - all present in Brussels.

The EU condemns in the strongest possible terms the Russian Federation's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine. By its illegal military actions, Russia is grossly violating international law and the principles of the UN Charter and undermining European and global peace and security. This includes the right of Ukraine to choose its own foreign policy and security arrangements. Russia bears full responsibility for this act of aggression and all the destruction and loss of life it will cause. It will be held accountable for its actions.

The EU demands that Russia immediately ceases its military actions, unconditionally withdraws all forces and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respects Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders. Russia and Russia-backed armed formations must respect international humanitarian law and stop their disinformation campaign and cyber-attacks.

- [European Council conclusions, 24 February 2022](#)
- [Ukraine: Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union on the invasion of Ukraine by armed forces of the Russian Federation, 24 February 2022](#)

Since the Russian recognition of the non-government controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine as independent entities, and following that Russian military aggression against Ukraine, the EU has imposed three packages of restrictive measures, in close coordination with partners and allies:

1) Targeted restrictive measures, restrictions on economic relations with the non-government controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts, and financial restrictions on 23 February;

- [EU adopts package of sanctions in response to Russian recognition of the non-government controlled areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts of Ukraine and sending of troops into the region, 23 February 2022](#)

2) Individual sanctions against, among others Vladimir Putin and Sergey Lavrov, and economic sanctions on 25 February;

- [Russia's military aggression against Ukraine: EU imposes sanctions against President Putin and Foreign Minister Lavrov and adopts wide ranging individual and economic sanctions, 25 February 2022](#)

3) A third package including a ban on the overflight of EU airspace and on access to EU airports by Russian carriers of all kinds, a ban on the transactions with the Russian Central Bank, SWIFT ban for certain Russian banks, and the prohibition for state-owned media Russia Today and Sputnik' to broadcast in the EU. Following clear involvement of Belarus in the Russian military aggression against Ukraine, Individual and economic sanctions against Belarus were adopted.

- [Belarus' role in the Russian military aggression of Ukraine: Council imposes sanctions on additional 22 individuals and further restrictions on trade, 2 March 2022](#)
- [EU imposes sanctions on state-owned outlets RT/Russia Today and Sputnik's broadcasting in the EU, 2 March 2022](#)
- [Russia's military aggression against Ukraine: EU bans certain Russian banks from SWIFT system and introduces further restrictions, 2 March 2022](#)

- [EU adopts new set of measures to respond to Russia's military aggression against Ukraine \(press release, 28 February 2022\)](#)
 - [Russia's military aggression against Ukraine: Council imposes sanctions on 26 persons and one entity \(press release, 28 February 2022\)](#)
 - [Informal video conference of foreign affairs ministers, 27 February 2022](#)
 - [EU restrictive measures in response to the crisis in Ukraine \(background information\).](#)
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