



Foreign Affairs Council (Development) **20 May 2022**

The Foreign Affairs Council (Development), chaired by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy **Josep Borrell**, will start at 9.30 in Brussels.

Development ministers will begin with a discussion on the **global implications of the Russian aggression against Ukraine** with a focus on **food security and the multilateral response**.

Over lunch, development ministers will have an informal exchange with **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** (UNHCR) **Filippo Grandi**. During this exchange, ministers will discuss globally forced displacement crises and joint challenges.

Under Any Other Business, the Commission will update the Council on the **Commission's roadmap to improve the European Financial Architecture for Development**, as well as on the preparation towards the **UN Transforming Education Summit**.

Joint doorstep High Representative - UN High Commissioner: +/- 11.55

Press conference: +/- 14.30 in a hybrid format

[Foreign Affairs Council \(Development\), 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.

The global implications of the Russian aggression against Ukraine with a focus on food security and the multilateral response

The Russian unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine has caused numbers of EU partner countries to experience **rising food, fertiliser and energy prices** as well as **tightening financial conditions** and **rising debt levels**. These challenges are complex and multidimensional and therefore require a coordinated, multilateral and multi-faceted approach.

During the discussion, development ministers will focus on how to ensure a strong and comprehensive EU response in **support of partner countries**, particularly the **most vulnerable and exposed developing countries**. In this context, they will touch on the main elements of a coordinated and robust Team Europe approach that would allow the EU to demonstrate its commitment to partner countries.

The EU's approach will build on support for the rules-based multilateral order, and the UN Global Crisis Response Group on food, energy and finance, as well as on G7 proposals on the Global Alliance for Food Security. The Council will discuss how to **strengthen the EU's geopolitical engagement with key International Financial Institutions and UN agencies** that are at the heart of the global response to food insecurity.

The discussion will also cover how the EU and member states can jointly **counter the harmful Russian disinformation** falsely alleging that the rising food and energy prices are due to sanctions against Russia.

In the European Council conclusions adopted on 25 March, the European Council clearly stressed the need to **prioritise work on global food security**. Since then, the EU has addressed the cause and consequences of the global food crisis through a Communication adopted on 23 March and important follow-up work to step-up the EU comprehensive solidarity response in close cooperation with multilateral and bilateral partners.

- [European Council conclusions, 24-25 March 2022](#)
- [Commission communication on safeguarding food security and reinforcing the resilience of food systems](#)
- [G7 Leaders' Statement, 8 May 2022](#)

Informal exchange with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Grandi

Ministers will hold an informal exchange of views with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, over lunch. The exchange will be an opportunity to **concretely discuss how to address the current global refugee and internal displacement challenges** in an integrated manner, how to strengthen the collective humanitarian-development-peace approach, and how to find new partnership possibilities with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, while employing a Team Europe approach.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees Grandi will brief the Council on the **importance of development actors** in supporting host countries and communities in the developing world where over 86% of all refugees live, and on EU-UNHCR cooperation. In this context, the exchange will touch on country and regional situations, in particular Ukraine, Afghanistan, Sahel and possibly the Horn of Africa, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Any other business

The Council will be informed about the **Commission's roadmap to improve the European Financial Architecture for Development**.

The Council will also be briefed on the preparations for the UN **Transforming Education Summit**, which will take place in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2022, and on the opportunities for engaging as Team Europe.

Council conclusions

The Council is expected to approve conclusions on:

- EU's renewed partnership with Least Developed Countries
 - 2021 Annual Report on the implementation of the European Union's External Action Instruments in 2020
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