



Foreign Affairs Council **Luxembourg, 26 June 2023**

The Foreign Affairs Council, chaired by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, **Josep Borrell**, will take place in Luxembourg starting at **9.15**.

The Council will discuss the **Russian aggression against Ukraine**, after a short intervention via videoconference by the **Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine** Dmytro Kuleba.

EU ministers will then exchange views on **EU-Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) relations** ahead of the EU-CELAC summit on 17-18 July, and **digital diplomacy**, on which the Council is expected to approve conclusions.

Under **current affairs** the Council will touch on, amongst others, **Tunisia**, the **Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue**, and **Armenia and Azerbaijan**.

The Foreign Affairs Council is expected to also approve conclusions on **Somalia** and the **International Criminal Court** on the 25th anniversary of the Rome Statute.

The Council is expected to adopt a 9th package of **sanctions under the Iran human rights regime**.

Doorstep of the High Representative: +/- 8.15

Press conference on FAC: +/- 16.00 in a 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 discuss the Russian aggression against Ukraine, after an exchange of views with Ukraine's Minister of Foreign Affairs Dmytro Kuleba via videoconference at the beginning of the meeting.

Minister Kuleba is expected to update the Council on the situation on the ground, and Ukraine's current needs and priorities.

The ensuing ministerial discussion will focus on the following work strands:

- EU military support: the High Representative will among others inform ministers on the training activities of the EU Military Assistance Mission to Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine), and EU support through the European Peace Facility (EPF),
- accountability for war crimes and the other most serious crimes committed in connection with Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine: the Council will take stock of ongoing work on the type of tribunal to be created for the crime of aggression,
- global outreach: ministers are expected to focus on President Zelenskyy's Peace Formula.

In the European Council conclusions of 23 March 2023, the EU reiterated its resolute condemnation of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a manifest violation of the UN Charter, and recalled its unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders and its inherent right of self-defence against the Russian aggression.

Russia must stop its aggression and immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces and proxies from the entire territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.

The EU stands firmly and fully with Ukraine and will continue to provide strong political, economic, military, financial and humanitarian support to Ukraine and its people for as long as it takes.

- [Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine: EU adopts 11th package of economic and individual sanctions \(press release, 23 June 2023\)](#)
- [EU joint procurement of ammunition and missiles for Ukraine: Council agrees €1 billion support under the European Peace Facility \(press release, 5 May 2023\)](#)
- [Ammunition for Ukraine: Council agrees €1 billion support under the European Peace Facility \(press release, 13 April 2023\)](#)
- [European Council conclusions, 23 March 2023](#)
- [EU response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine \(background information\)](#)

EU-Latin America and the Caribbean relations

The Foreign Affairs Council will hold a discussion on the EU-Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) relations, a few weeks ahead of the EU-CELAC summit taking place on 17-18 July in Brussels. The summit presents a unique opportunity to strengthen and modernise the bi-regional relationship and overall EU-LAC agenda.

EU Foreign Affairs Ministers will be invited in particular to give their initial views on the proposals and priorities set out in the joint communication “New agenda for relations between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean”, put forward by the Commission and the High Representative on 7 June 2023.

The discussion will then touch on the priorities and key issues for the upcoming summit and beyond.

The last FAC discussion on the Latin American and Caribbean region took place in July 2022. Since then, a CELAC-EU ministerial meeting was held in Buenos Aires on 27 October 2022, marking the resumption of a high-level bi-regional dialogue and closer political engagement with the region.

- [Joint communication “New agenda for relations between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean”](#)
- [EU - CELAC Ministerial meeting, 27 October 2022](#)
- [Foreign Affairs Council, 18 July 2022](#)

Digital diplomacy

In July 2022, the Foreign Affairs Council approved conclusions stressing that digital diplomacy should be a core component and an integral part of the EU external action, in view of the fact that the digital and technological space is becoming an increasingly important part of the geopolitical discussion. Previous conclusions had been approved in 2020.

Following those conclusions, the Council will have a strategic discussion on next steps to take to make further progress on the EU’s digital diplomacy and to guide the implementation of the priority actions outlined in the Council Conclusions to be adopted by this FAC. Ministers will reflect on developing further the EU’s influence in global digital governance, building and deepening partnerships, and supporting the EU’s role as a shaper of the global digital rulebook.

The Council is expected to approve updated conclusions on the matter confirming the EU’s human-centric approach to digital technologies based on universal human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and democratic principles in the digital space, and set out priority actions for the future.

- [EU digital diplomacy: Council agrees a more concerted European approach to the challenges posed by new digital technologies, 18 July 2022](#)
- [Foreign Affairs Council 18 July 2022](#)
- [Council conclusions on Digital Diplomacy, 17 November 2020](#)

Current Affairs

The Foreign Affairs Council will discuss current affairs during which ministers will be able to exchange views on recent events and on fast-moving developments in external relations.

Following the visit of the President of the European Commission and the Prime Ministers of Italy and the Netherlands to **Tunisia**, the Council will exchange views on the situation in the country, also in relation to the discussion on Tunisia foreseen at the European Council on 29-30 June.

EU ministers will then have an opportunity to exchange views on the **Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue**, in light of the ongoing and increasingly tense situation in the north of Kosovo*. On 22 June, the High Representative held high-level crisis management meetings with Serbian President Vucic and Kosovo Prime Minister Kurti in this regard.

Then the High Representative will refer to the ongoing work of the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, towards the normalisation of relations between **Armenia and Azerbaijan**. The President of the European Council hosted the latest trilateral meeting with Azeri President Aliyev and Armenian Prime Minister Pashinyan in the so-called "Brussels format" on 14 May. The leaders of Armenia and Azerbaijan also met together with President Michel, the French President Macron and the German Chancellor Scholz in the margins of the 2nd summit of the European Political Community on 1 June. Lastly, the President of the European Council will host the next trilateral meeting on 21 July in Brussels.

- [Press statement by President von der Leyen with Italian Prime Minister Meloni, Dutch Prime Minister Rutte and Tunisian President Saied \(European Commission website\)](#)
- [Kosovo* - Statement by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the latest developments, 3 June 2023](#)
- [Press remarks by President Charles Michel following the trilateral meeting with President Aliyev of Azerbaijan and Prime Minister Pashinyan of Armenia, 14 May 2023](#)
- [Kosovo-Serbia: Press Remarks by High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell after the crisis management meetings with Prime Minister Kurti and President Vučić, 22 June 2023](#)

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

Council conclusions

The Council is expected to approve conclusions on **digital diplomacy**, **Somalia**, the **International Criminal Court** on the 25th anniversary of the Rome Statute.

In the margins of the Council meeting

EU-Tajikistan Cooperation Council
