



Foreign Affairs Council **Luxembourg, 24 June 2024**

*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 **8.30**.*

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

*The Council will then discuss the situation in the **Middle East**.*

*After an EU internal discussion on **Western Balkans**, EU Foreign Affairs Ministers will have an informal exchange with their six Western Balkans counterparts.*

*Lastly, the Council will hold discussions on **Georgia** and the **Great Lakes Region**.*

*Under current affairs, the Council will be informed about recent developments in **Tunisia**.*

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Doorstep of the High Representative: +/- 8.15

Press conference on FAC: +/- 18.15

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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, with Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Dmytro Kuleba**, foreseen to join at the beginning of the meeting via videoconference to provide updates on the latest developments on the ground and Ukraine's current priorities.

The Council meeting will take place following **important international events** - the Ukraine Recovery Conference (URC2024), the G7 Summit, and the Summit on Peace organised by Switzerland -, and ahead of the European Council scheduled for 27-28 June 2024.

Ministers are expected to exchange views on the EU and its Member States' **military support to Ukraine**, including on progress of delivery of military equipment, the European Peace Facility (EPF), and the use of windfall profits from immobilised Russian assets.

Ministers are will also receive an update on progress regarding the **EU's security commitments** for Ukraine, and the way ahead following **the Summit on Peace**.

The Council is foreseen to formally adopt the 14th package of economic and individual **restrictive measures** designed to target high-value sectors of the Russian economy, like energy, finance and trade, and make it ever more difficult to circumvent EU sanctions.

- [Joint Communiqué on a Peace Framework adopted at the Summit on Peace in Ukraine, 16 June 2024](#)
- [G7 Leaders' Communiqué - Borgo Egnazia, Italy, 14 June 2024](#)
- [European Council conclusions, 17-18 April 2024](#)
- [EU response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine \(background information\)](#)

Situation in the Middle East

The Foreign Affairs Council will discuss the situation in the Middle East, following the exchanges from May, including with Arab partners, and in the run-up to the 27-28 June European Council where the matter will also be addressed.

Ministers are expected to focus on **the situation on the ground**, including the **humanitarian situation in Gaza**, and the rising tensions at Israel's northern border - and the ongoing **de-escalation efforts**. The Council is also expected to discuss the "**Day after**", and the **EU support to the Palestinian Authority** and **UNRWA**.

In addition, the High Representative is expected to update the ministers on the prospect of convening an **EU-Israel Association Council**, and the possible future redeployment of **EUBAM Rafah**. Ministers may also touch on the ongoing work on **sanctions**.

On 10 June, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution proposing a comprehensive three-phase ceasefire deal to end the war in Gaza, urging both Israel and Hamas to implement it fully and without delay and condition. A statement by the High Representative on behalf of the EU27 on 4 June also gave full support to the comprehensive roadmap presented by President Biden, that would lead to an enduring ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages and a surge of humanitarian assistance to Gaza.

- [Israel/Palestine: Statement by the HR on behalf of the EU in support of the three-phase roadmap to an enduring ceasefire and release of hostages, 4 June 2024](#)

- [Adopting Resolution 2735 \(2024\) with 14 Votes in Favour, Russian Federation Abstaining, Security Council Welcomes New Gaza Ceasefire Proposal, Urges Full Implementation \(UN website\)](#)
- [European Council conclusions, 17 and 18 April 2024](#)
- [European Council conclusions, 21 and 22 March 2024](#)
- [EU humanitarian support for Palestinians \(background information\)](#)

Western Balkans

After an EU internal discussion on Western Balkans, the EU Ministers will have an **informal exchange with the six Western Balkans Foreign Ministers**.

The exchange is expected to focus on the common **challenges** in Foreign and Security Policy over the next years and the continuing **gradual integration** of Western Balkans' partners **into the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)**.

The Western Balkans are among the closest partners of the EU. Since 2021, the EU has been enhancing its engagement with the region in foreign and security policy, complementary to the re-energised enlargement process. The EU further enhances its engagement with the region in fields such as addressing hybrid and cyber threats, space and military mobility, and support against FIMI.

- [Foreign Affairs Council 14 November 2022](#)
- [Foreign Affairs Council 16 May 2022](#)
- [Council conclusions on enlargement and stabilisation and association process](#)

Georgia

The Council will revert to the situation in Georgia, following the May Foreign Affairs Council and in the run-up to the European Council meeting on 27-28 June 2024 where the issue will be addressed.

- [Statement by High Representative Josep Borrell with the European Commission on the adoption of the “transparency of foreign influence” law in Georgia \(European Commission website\) of 15 May](#)
- [Statement by the High Representative Josep Borrell with the European Commission on the final adoption of the law on transparency of foreign influence of 28 May](#)
- [EU relations with Georgia \(background information\)](#)

Great Lakes Region

The Foreign Affairs Council will exchange views on the Great Lakes Region in Africa, including the **ongoing crisis in Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**, and its regional and **geopolitical implications**.

They will also discuss possible ways the EU and its Member States can encourage parties to engage constructively in **regional peace initiatives**. The Council is also likely to discuss how the EU can improve **outreach and coordination** with key partners in the wider region and like-minded international partners, as well as the **implementation of the EU Great Lakes Strategy**.

The Great Lakes region holds strategic importance for the EU, offering opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships. The Council approved conclusions on the renewed strategy to the region in February 2023, reaffirming the EU's ambition to make a positive, tangible and visible impact. The strategy foresees a combination of peace and stability interventions coupled with medium to long-

term investments to promote the region's sustainable development and economic integration. Since its adoption, the EU has put in place a diverse range of actions for pursuing these overarching goals.

- [A renewed EU Great Lakes strategy: Council approves conclusions, 20 February 2023 \(EEAS website\)](#)

Current Affairs

Under Current Affairs, the Council will exchange about the situation in **Tunisia**.

Council conclusions

The Council is expected to approve conclusions on:

- the Mid-Term Evaluation of the NDICI-Global Europe external financing instrument
 - the update of the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict
 - EU priorities at the United Nations during UNGA79 (September 2023 - September 2024)
 - the Annual Report 2024 to the European Council on EU Development Aid Targets
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