

Background brief*Brussels, 12 June 2026*

Foreign Affairs Council

15 June 2026, Luxembourg

PRESS**EN****Chair:** Kaja Kallas, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**Starting time:** 9:45**Media opportunities:**

- Doorstep of the High Representative: +/- 7:45
- Press conference on FAC: +/- 15:00

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Main agenda topics:

The June Foreign Affairs Council will be preceded by an informal breakfast with Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ararat Mirzoyan on **EU-Armenia relations**.

EU foreign affairs ministers will then discuss **Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine**. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Andrii **Sybiha** will address EU ministers via VTC, ahead of the EU27 discussion.

The Council will then focus on the situation in the **Middle East** in light of the most recent developments and its effects across the region and beyond.

Over lunch, EU foreign affairs ministers will discuss **EU-China relations**.

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Related events:

After the Council meeting, High Representative Kaja **Kallas** and Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr **Abdelatty** will co-chair the 11th meeting of the **EU-Egypt Association Council**, starting at 16:00.

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[Foreign Affairs Council, 15 June 2026 – meeting page](#)[High quality photo and video material of the event](#)[Press conferences, doorsteps and other public events in video streaming](#)

Informal discussion with Armenian Foreign Minister

Ahead of the June FAC meeting, EU foreign affairs ministers will have an **informal exchange over breakfast** with the Armenian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ararat **Mirzoyan**.

The breakfast will take place after the **parliamentary elections** of 7 June and will build on the outcome of the first **EU-Armenia summit**, which took place in Yerevan on 4-5 May 2026. The discussion is expected to focus on the outcome of the elections, which took place in a context of unprecedented interference, pressure and persistent hybrid attacks from Russia, but ultimately reflected Armenia's democratic resilience and progress on its reform path, as well as Armenian people's commitment to peace, enhanced cooperation in the region and closer ties with Europe. The follow up to the EU-Armenia summit will also be discussed.

On 9 June 2026, the Council appointed Cosmin Dinescu as the first Head of Mission of the newly established European Union Partnership Mission in Armenia (**EUPM Armenia**).

[Armenia: Statement by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the outcome of parliamentary elections \(8 June 2026\)](#)

[Armenia: Council appoints Head of Mission for European Union Partnership Mission \(press release, 9 June 2026\)](#)

[EU-Armenia summit, 4-5 May 2026](#)

[EU relations with Armenia \(background information\)](#)

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

The Council will have a discussion on **Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine**, following an initial address by the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Andrii **Sybiha**, who will give an overview of the situation on the ground and Ukraine's most urgent needs via videoconference.

Then, EU27 ministers will discuss ways to **increase pressure on Russia**, including accountability, actions to counter Russia's destabilising international influence and increase its isolation, as well as through further sanctions and actions to counter Russia's shadow fleet. The FAC is expected to adopt new listings related to several sanctions regimes.

Furthermore, ministers will exchange views on **support for Ukraine**, with particular focus on the implementation of the EU-Ukraine joint security commitments, support to Ukraine's EU accession process, energy support and support in countering Russian disinformation. The **diplomatic process** and the EU's role are also likely to feature high in the ministerial discussion.

[Informal meeting of Defence Ministers: Press conference by High Representative Kaja Kallas, 28 June 2026](#)

[European Council, 19 March 2026, Ukraine](#)

[Russia's war against Ukraine \(background information\)](#)

[EU military support for Ukraine \(background information\)](#)

Situation in the Middle East

The session on the situation in the Middle East is expected to focus on the situation in the **Gulf** and **Iran**, as well as support to **Lebanon**, and will continue the discussion on **Israel/Palestine**.

Following the FAC discussions on 11 May and the informal meeting of foreign affairs ministers in Gymnich format on 28 May 2026, the Council will discuss the **state-of-play of hostilities** in Iran and the Gulf region and take stock of **outreach to and coordination with partner countries**. In this context, the High Representative is expected to brief EU ministers on her recent visit to Pakistan and outreach efforts with the **Gulf countries**.

The Council will also discuss EU support for **Lebanon**, including through the recently adopted bilateral assistance measure for the Lebanese Armed Forces under the **European Peace Facility** (EPF) worth **EUR 100 million**.

On **Israel/Palestine**, the exchange will touch upon the critical **humanitarian situation and early recovery efforts in Gaza**, as well as the **EU support for the reform process of the Palestinian Authority** ahead of the Palestine Donor Group in July. The Council will also take stock of the situation in Gaza and the West Bank, and discuss **EU policy options**, including possible measures, following the adoption of additional restrictive measures on 28 May 2026.

[Extremist Israeli settlers: EU lists four entities and three individuals \(press release, 28 May 2026\)](#)

[Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad: Council expands the legal framework and adds ten individuals to the sanctions list \(press release, 28 May 2026\)](#)

[Statement by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on Israel and Lebanon, 6 June 2026](#)

[European Peace Facility: Council adopts EUR 100 million assistance measure in support of the Lebanese Armed Forces \(press release, 4 June 2026\)](#)

[Timeline - Iran and the Middle East \(background information\)](#)

[EU sanctions against Iran \(background brief\)](#)

[European Council conclusions, 19 March 2026](#)

[EU position on the situation in the Middle East \(background information\)](#)

[EU humanitarian support for Palestinians \(background information\)](#)

EU-China relations

Over lunch EU foreign affairs ministers will discuss the state of play of relations between the EU and **China** against the background of the current geopolitical situation.

The FAC discussion is expected to focus on the **foreign and security aspects** of EU relations with China, ahead of the European Council of 18-19 June 2026.

EU foreign affairs ministers previously discussed EU relations with China in **June** and **December 2025**, and the High Representative held a call with the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the beginning of April.

[China: High Representative/Vice-President speaks to State Councillor/Foreign Minister Wang Yi, 3 April 2026 \(EEAS website\)](#)

[EU-China summit, 24 July 2025 \(meeting page\)](#)

[4th EEAS Annual Report on Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference Threats](#)

[EU-China trade: facts and figures \(background information\)](#)

Current affairs

Under current affairs:

- The Council will touch on the process of appointing a new High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, after the resignation of Christian Schmidt.
- Ministers will be updated on resurgence of Ebola virus disease in the Kivu region of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Any other business and other decisions

Under other business:

- Poland will brief Ministers on the recent White Paper on Russian Acts of Sabotage and Subversion against Members of the Council of the Baltic Sea States.
- Romania will inform Ministers on the priorities of the incoming Romanian Chairmanship-in-Office of the South-East European Cooperation Process (SEECp).
- Romania and Bulgaria will brief Ministers on the Black Sea Maritime Security Hub.

The Council is also expected to approve **conclusions on Global Gateway**.

Related events

EU-Egypt Association Council

At around 16:00, following the conclusion of FAC, High Representative Kaja **Kallas** and Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr **Abdelatty** will co-chair the 11th meeting of the **EU-Egypt Association Council**.

The Association Council will build on the first EU-Egypt summit held in October 2025 and will review the **implementation of the EU-Egypt Strategic and Comprehensive Partnership**, launched in March 2024. Parties are expected to discuss avenues for further strengthening bilateral cooperation.

[EU-Egypt Association Council, 15 June 2026 \(meeting page\)](#)

[The European Union and Egypt \(EEAS\)](#)

[EU-Egypt summit \(22 October 2025\)](#)

[EU-Egypt partnership priorities 2021-2027](#)

[EU-Egypt Association Agreement](#)

[EU-Egypt relations: facts and figures](#)