



Foreign Affairs Council **14 October 2024 - Luxembourg**

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 **9.30**.

After a short intervention via videoconference by the **Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine** Andrii Sybiha, the Council will discuss the latest developments related to **Russian aggression against Ukraine**.

Over lunch, EU Foreign Affairs Ministers will have an informal exchange with the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, **David Lammy**. This will be the first FAC interaction with a UK Foreign Secretary since Brexit.

The Council will then discuss the worsening security and humanitarian **situation in the Middle East**.

Under **current affairs**, the Council will refer to the latest developments in **Armenia/Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Horn of Africa and Venezuela**.

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Joint doorstep by High Representative Josep Borrell and UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy: +/- 8.00

Doorstep by the High Representative: +/- 9.15

Press conference on FAC: +/- 17.15

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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 the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Andrii Sybiha**, who will join at the beginning of the meeting via videoconference to provide updates on the latest developments on the ground and Ukraine's current priorities. This is the first time Minister Sybiha participates in a formal Foreign Affairs Council since his appointment in September 2024.

Ministers are expected to exchange views on the EU and its member states' **military support to Ukraine**, especially in terms of air defence, artillery, and ammunition and the prolongation of the mandate of the EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine).

The Council will also discuss **sanctions**, with a focus both on the recent adoption of a new sanctions framework targeting Russia's hybrid actions abroad, and the implementation of EU sanctions and efforts to counter **circumvention**. EU Special Envoy David O'Sullivan will provide a short overview on this point.

The FAC is also expected to adopt a first package of sanctions designations in the context of Iran's delivery of ballistic missiles to Russia.

Another important topic addressed by ministers will be the EU and member states' **support to Ukraine's energy sector**. Ministers will touch upon the urgency of the matter and the worrying state of Ukraine's energy grid ahead of winter.

Ministers will also touch on other work strands such as: the use of windfall profits from **immobilised Russian assets**, and the follow up to the **outreach efforts** in support of Ukraine's Peace Formula conducted during the 79th session of the **United Nations General Assembly** that took place in New York at the end of September.

In its conclusions of June 2024, the European Council called for the delivery of military support to Ukraine to be stepped up, in particular air defence systems, ammunition and missiles being urgently needed to protect Ukraine's population and critical energy infrastructure. It also called on the Council to swiftly finalise work on the European Peace Facility assistance measures that will further incentivise the delivery of military support to Ukraine.

- [Immobilised assets: Council agrees on up to €35 billion in macro-financial assistance to Ukraine and new loan mechanism implementing G7 commitment, 9 October 2024](#)
- [Russia: New sanctions framework against those responsible for destabilising activities against the EU and its member states, 8 October 2024](#)
- [European Council conclusions, 27 June 2024](#)
- [EU response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine \(background information\)](#)

Informal exchange of views with the UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, David Lammy

Ministers will have an informal exchange of views, first of its kind since Brexit, with the **UK Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, David Lammy** to evaluate jointly a number of key foreign, security and defence issues in the current geopolitical context, including respective support for Ukraine, and the conflict in the Middle East.

Situation in the Middle East

The Foreign Affairs Council will discuss the most recent developments in the Middle East.

Ministers will address the extension of the war and humanitarian catastrophe across the region, from **Gaza** and the **West Bank** now to **Lebanon**, in the absence of short-term perspective for a ceasefire. Given recent developments, the **EU support** for both UNRWA and for the Palestinian Authority will also be central.

Furthermore, ministers are expected to discuss the overall regional situation, including regarding **Iran**.

The High Representative is expected to touch upon the issue of **restrictive measures**, and the need to assess the possible consequences of the **Advisory Opinion** of the International Court of Justice (**ICJ**) on the EU's relations with Israel.

In its conclusions of 27 June, the European Council welcomed the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2735, and called for the full implementation of the terms of the ceasefire proposal without delay and without conditions, which would lead to an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, the release of all hostages, a significant and sustained increase in the flow of humanitarian assistance throughout Gaza, and an enduring ceasefire and end to the crisis, with Israel's security interests and safety for Palestinian civilians assured. It also condemned the ongoing extremist settler violence in the West Bank and expressed its concern about increasing tensions in the region.

- [Iran: Statement by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the Iranian attack against Israel, 1 October 2024](#)
- [Lebanon: Press statement by High Representative Josep Borrell after the extraordinary meeting with EU Foreign Ministers \(EEAS website\)](#)
- [Statement by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on the military escalation between Israel and Hezbollah, 26 September 2024](#)
- [European Council conclusions, 27 June 2024](#)
- [Extremist Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, as well as violent activists, blocking humanitarian aid to Gaza: five individuals and three entities sanctioned under the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime, 15 July 2024](#)
- [Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad: Council adds six individuals and three entities to the sanctions list, 28 June 2024](#)
- [EU humanitarian support for Palestinians \(background information\)](#)

Current Affairs

Under Current Affairs, the High Representative is expected to refer to:

- **Armenia-Azerbaijan** normalisation process
 - **Georgia** ahead of the parliamentary elections on 26 October
 - the Republic of **Moldova** ahead of the presidential elections and referendum on EU accession on 20 October
 - the **Horn of Africa** with a focus on Sudan and Somalia, and
 - **Venezuela** in the aftermath of the elections of 28 July.
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- [Georgia \(background information\)](#)
 - [EU relations with the Republic of Moldova \(background information\)](#)
 - [Horn of Africa: EU to deepen strategic relationship with the region \(press release, 10 May 2021\)](#)
 - [Timeline - EU response to the crisis in Venezuela \(background information\)](#)
 - [Venezuela: Statement by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on recent post-election developments \(press release, 24 August 2024\)](#)
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In the margins of the Council meeting:

[21st meeting of the EU - Kazakhstan Cooperation Council](#)