

Background brief*Brussels, 12 December 2025*

Foreign Affairs Council

15 December 2025, Brussels

PRESS**EN****Chair:** Kaja Kallas, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy**Starting time:** 9:30**Media opportunities:**

- Doorstep of the High Representative: +/- 7.30
- Press conference on FAC: +/- 16.00

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Main agenda topics:

The December Foreign Affairs Council will cover the following exchanges:

An exchange of views with the **Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine**, Andrii Sybiha, who will participate via VTC as well as an internal discussion on the **Russian war of aggression against Ukraine**.

The Council will discuss the state of play of relations between the EU and **China**.

EU Foreign Affairs Ministers will exchange views on the situation in the **Middle East**, including on **Syria, Israel/Palestine** and **Lebanon**.

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Related events:

Ahead of the Foreign Affairs Council on 15 December, EU foreign affairs ministers will have an informal exchange over **breakfast with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia**, Ararat Mirzoyan.

Following the Foreign Affairs Council on 15 December, the High Representative will be chairing the **EU-Lebanon Association Council**, starting at 17:00.

The **Ministerial meeting with Angola**, chaired by the Danish Presidency on behalf of the High Representative, will take place in the evening of the same day, beginning at 18:45.

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[Foreign Affairs Council 15 December 2025 – meeting page](#)

[High quality photo and video material of the event](#)

[Press conferences, doorsteps and other public events in video streaming](#)

Russian aggression against Ukraine

The discussion on the Russian aggression against Ukraine will include an intervention of the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Andrii Sybiha**, who will join the meeting via VTC to provide an overview of the situation on the ground, the diplomatic process, and Ukraine's most urgent priorities.

During the internal EU27 discussion, the Council is expected to discuss developments in the US-led diplomatic process. The High Representative is expected to focus on how to build on EU-Ukraine joint security commitments, signed in June 2024, to contribute to robust and credible future **security guarantees for Ukraine**, with the objective of putting Ukraine in a position of strength in the ongoing diplomatic negotiations. The exchange will focus on long-term military assistance and training, and support for Ukraine's resilience and its defence industry, and other forms of security assistance, also building on the G7+ Ukraine energy coordination ministerial of 12 December.

EU Foreign Ministers will exchange on ways to **further increase pressure on Russia**, notably through measures to disrupt the **shadow fleet and its enablers**, and consequently Russian energy revenues. The Council may also discuss the work towards **future restrictive measures against the Russian Federation**, as well as against Belarus.

In view of the upcoming discussion at the December European Council, ministers are also likely to touch on the issue of **financing for Ukraine in 2026-2027**.

Lastly, the FAC will touch on the issue of **accountability**. In this context the Council is expected to adopt a decision on the signing of the Convention establishing the International Claims Commission for Ukraine. Furthermore, ministers may touch on the **return of Ukrainian children** who have been forcibly transferred or deported by the Russian Federation since the start of the war, and how the EU can favour diplomatic engagement and financial support in this matter.

[Ukraine Facility: Council approves sixth payment of around €2.3 billion to Kyiv, 11 December 2025 \(to be published\)](#)

[Commission unveils two solutions to support Ukraine's financing needs in 2026-2027 \(European Commission website\)](#)

[Text on Ukraine supported by 26 Head of State and Government on the occasion of the European Council on 23 October 2025](#)

[19th package of sanctions against Russia: EU targets Russian energy, third-country banks and crypto providers, 23 October 2025](#)

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

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

[EU solidarity with Ukraine \(background information\)](#)

China

Over lunch, the Foreign Affairs Council will exchange views on **EU-China relations**. The High Representative is expected to focus on the bilateral relationship in all its aspects, in light of recent **geoeconomic** and **geopolitical developments**.

Some EU ministers are also expected to debrief on recent high-level official visits to China.

The EU-China relations have become more challenging recently as China has used critical dependencies for its own benefit. EU's trade deficit with China is approaching EUR 1 billion a day. In this context the EU stresses its concerns about ongoing systemic distortions and growing manufacturing overcapacity and reiterates its call on China for progress on longstanding market access issues.

Foreign Ministers will discuss China's support to Russia's war against Ukraine, following the call by EU leaders at the EU-China Summit in July this year for China to use its influence to support a just and lasting peace in Ukraine, based on the principles of the UN Charter, as well as not to enable Russia's war against Ukraine in any way.

[EU-China summit, 24 July 2025 \(background information\)](#)

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

[EU-China – A strategic outlook \(12 March 2019, European Commission website\)](#)

[European Council conclusions, 29-30 June 2023](#)

Situation in the Middle East

The Foreign Affairs Council will exchange views on the **situation in the Middle East**.

On **Syria**, EU Foreign Ministers are expected to discuss developments in the country one year after the fall of the Assad regime and the wider geopolitical context. The FAC discussion will build on the Council conclusions adopted in June and will take stock of the work done at EU level on **diplomatic presence and humanitarian support**, but also focus on the **challenges** of the transition and on whether key EU asks were met. The Council will discuss the **way forward** in cooperation with the Syrian transition authorities.

EU Foreign Ministers are expected to discuss the EU contribution to the implementation of the **Comprehensive Plan to end the Gaza Conflict** as endorsed by the UN Security Council Resolution 2803 (2025) of 17 November. They will focus on EU support for the **Palestinian Authority, humanitarian needs, governance and security**. The High Representative is expected to raise the issue of enhanced CSDP engagement, including a coordinated EU and member states' engagement in the **Civil Military Coordination Centre** (CMCC) with the aim to expand EU participation and increase EU's political weight. The Council will also discuss how to reinforce **EUBAM Rafah** and **EUPOL COPPS** and how the EU could provide support for the **training of Palestinian police**.

Lastly, ministers are expected to touch on **Lebanon** and discuss EU support for the Lebanese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces.

[European Council conclusions, 23 October 2025](#)

[Israel/Palestine: statement by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union on the Comprehensive Plan to end the Gaza Conflict, 10 October 2025](#)

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

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

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

[Syria: Council approves conclusions \(23 June 2025\)](#)

[Joint statement by High Representative Kallas and Commissioners Šuica and Lahbib on the first anniversary of the fall of the Assad regime \(8 December 2025, European Commission website\)](#)

Current Affairs and other topics and decisions

Under current affairs, the High Representative will refer to the further deteriorating situation in the Eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (**DRC**).

Under 'Any other business':

- Cyprus brief the Council on **Cyprus' candidature for the OSCE chairmanship**
- Slovenia will raise the recent **meeting with West African states**, which Slovenia chaired on behalf of the High Representative, in the margins of the EU-AU summit.
- Austria will raise the recent **meeting of the Friends of the Western Balkans** in Vienna.

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Related events

Breakfast with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

Ahead of the Foreign Affairs Council on 15 December, EU foreign affairs ministers will have an informal exchange over **breakfast with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Armenia**, Ararat Mirzoyan, on EU's support for Armenia in enhancing resilience against hybrid threats.

EU-Lebanon Association Council

On 15 December 2025, the High Representative will be chairing the **EU-Lebanon Association Council**, starting at 17:00.

[EU-Lebanon Association Council](#)

Ministerial meeting with Angola

On 15 December 2025 the Foreign Affairs Council will be followed by the **7th 'Joint way forward' Ministerial meeting with Angola**, beginning at 18:45. The meeting will be co-chaired by the Minister for External Relations of Angola, **Téte António**, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark, **Lars Løkke Rasmussen**, on behalf of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

[EU-Angola Ministerial meeting](#)

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