

Background brief*Brussels, 27 November 2025*

Foreign Affairs Council (Defence)

1 December 2025, Brussels

PRESS**EN**

Chair: Kaja Kallas, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

Starting time: 9:00

Media opportunities:

- Doorstep of the High Representative: +/- 8.30
- Press conference on FAC: +/- 14.30

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Main agenda topics:

The December Foreign Affairs Council with EU defence ministers will start with a discussion on **EU military support for Ukraine**. This will include an exchange of views with the **Minister of Defence of Ukraine**, Denys Shmyhal, and **NATO Deputy Secretary General**, Radmila Shekerinska.

Next, the Council will discuss **EU defence readiness**, focusing on the implementation of the Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030, that was adopted on 16 October 2025.

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Related events:

Following the FAC Defence meeting, the High Representative will host a **meeting with the European Defence Agency (EDA) Steering Board**, in her capacity as the head of agency. The main focus agenda is how to further strengthening the Agency.

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[Foreign Affairs Council \(Defence\) 1 December 2025 – meeting page](#)

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

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

Military Support for Ukraine

The Foreign Affairs Council in its defence configuration will discuss EU support for Ukraine against the background of the latest developments on the ground and ongoing diplomatic negotiations to end the war.

Ministers are expected to discuss **funding options** for military support to Ukraine, **enhancing defence-industrial cooperation** and efforts to counter the **Russian shadow fleet**. The High Representative also update on ongoing work on EU's contribution to **security guarantees** for Ukraine.

The Ukrainian Minister of Defence, **Denys Shmyhal**, is invited to address the Council at the beginning of the discussion. Furthermore, NATO Deputy Secretary General, **Radmila Shekerinska** will join the session in person, for an informal exchange.

As stated in the text supported by 26 Heads of State or Government on the occasion of the European Council on 23 October, the European Council reaffirms its continued and unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. The European Union will continue to provide, in coordination with like-minded partners and allies, comprehensive political, financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support to Ukraine and its people.

[Remarks by President António Costa following the informal EU Leaders' meeting of 24 November 2025 in Luanda](#)

[Ukraine Facility: Council approves fifth payment of over €1.8 billion to Kyiv, 4 November 2025](#)

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

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

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

Defence Readiness

The Foreign Affairs Council in its defence configuration will discuss EU defence readiness against the backdrop of the implementation of the October European Council conclusions, and of a series of initiatives that have been recently launched.

The Council will focus on the implementation of the joint communication on “**Preserving Peace - Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030**” presented on 16 October, and the following taskings of the October European Council meeting, with a particular focus on priority capability areas and concrete projects.

Ministers will discuss work in the nine priority capability areas and also touch on the “**defence package**” which the Commission and the High Representative presented on 19 November, consisting of a **joint communication** and a proposal for a **regulation on military mobility**, as well as a “roadmap” on the transformation of the EU defence industry.

At the Council meeting, ministers will have an opportunity to exchange views on implementation of **SAFE** and the “**package**” and other initiatives, put forward concrete proposals regarding the implementation of the roadmap, and provide guidance on the way forward.

In the conclusions of the 23 October European Council, heads of states and government confirmed their determination to deliver at pace and at scale on the objective to strengthen EU defence readiness, so that the EU is better equipped to act and deal autonomously with immediate and future threats in a coordinated manner. This includes reducing its strategic dependencies, addressing its critical capability gaps and strengthening the European defence technological and industrial base, with a specific focus on concrete projects to reinforce Member States' joint efforts to enhance their anti-drone and air defence capabilities.

[Commission moves towards 'Military Schengen' and transformation of defence industry, 19 November 2025 \(European Commission website\)](#)

[Joint Communication “Preserving Peace - Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030”](#)

[European Council conclusions on European defence and security, 23 October 2025](#)

[European defence readiness \(background information\)](#)

[Common defence procurement \(background information\)](#)

[EU funding for defence \(background information\)](#)

[EU defence in numbers \(background information\)](#)

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Related events

European Defence Agency Steering Board

After the Council meeting, EU ministers of defence will meet in the European Defence Agency (EDA) Steering Board under the chairwomanship of High Representative Kallas in her capacity as Head of EDA.

In addition to EDA's 2026 General Budget, staff establishment plan, and three-year planning framework, ministers will provide further guidance on how to strengthen EDA in line with the October European Council conclusions. Ministers will also be presented with a synthesis of mid- to long-term collaborative capability development project proposals.

[European Defence Agency website](#)
