



Foreign Affairs Council

15 July 2025, Brussels

The July Foreign Affairs Council will start at 9.30 in Brussels, and be chaired by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, **Kaja Kallas**.

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

The Council will then exchange views on the situation in **Georgia** and consider possible measures in response to the growing repression by the authorities.

In the afternoon, EU ministers are expected to discuss the latest developments in the **Middle East**, including on Israel and Gaza, as well as Iran.

Lastly, the Council will exchange views on '**Mediterranean 2025: the Pact and the reform of the Union for the Mediterranean**'.

Under **current affairs**, the ministers will be informed about EU-CELAC relations, Somalia, Japan and China.

In the margins of the Council

On 14 July 2025 the EU will host the 1st ever **EU-Central America Association Council**, followed by the **EU-Southern Neighbourhood Ministerial Meeting** in the evening.

Before the Council meeting on 15 July, the High Representative will chair an informal discussion over **breakfast with the Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs**, Mihai Popșoi.

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[Doorstep of the High Representative](#): +/- 7.45

[Press conference on FAC](#): +/- 16.45

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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](#)

¹ This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the Council press office.

Russian aggression against Ukraine

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

During the ensuing EU27 discussion, the Council will hold a strategic discussion on **all strands** of EU's support to Ukraine.

The High Representative intends to focus the discussion on how to further enhance **military support** to Ukraine and its defence industry at a critical juncture, including through her ammunition initiative.

EU ministers will also focus on further **global outreach** to key global players **in support of a full and unconditional ceasefire**, including with a view to the upcoming United Nations General Assembly High-Level week in New York in September.

The Council will also elaborate on how to **increase pressure on Russia** through different sanctions regimes, including through the forthcoming adoption of the 18th sanctions package and new listings in view of Russia's hybrid activities and violations of human rights. The ministerial discussion is also likely to touch on the issue of Ukrainian children unlawfully abducted and transferred to Russia.

As stated in the text supported by 26 Heads of State or Government on the occasion of the latest European Council on 26 June, the EU reiterates its support for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine based on the principles of the UN Charter and international law and on the principles set out on 6 March 2025:

- a) there can be no negotiations on Ukraine without Ukraine;
- b) there can be no negotiations that affect European security without Europe's involvement. Ukraine's, Europe's, transatlantic and global security are intertwined;
- c) any truce or ceasefire can only take place as part of the process leading to a comprehensive peace agreement;
- d) any such agreement needs to be accompanied by robust and credible security guarantees for Ukraine that contribute to deterring future Russian aggression;
- e) peace must respect Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity

The EU welcomes all efforts towards achieving such a peace, including those led by the United States and, together with its member states, will continue to contribute to all these peace efforts, including by intensifying their global outreach.

The EU reaffirms its continued and unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders. In line with the 'peace through strength' approach, which requires Ukraine to be in the strongest possible position, with its own robust military and defence capabilities as an essential component, the EU 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.

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

[European Council conclusions on European defence and security, 26 June 2025](#)

[Text on Ukraine supported by 26 Heads of State or Government on the occasion of the Special European Council on 6 March 2025](#)

[EU response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine \(background information\)](#)

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

Georgia

The Council will discuss the situation in Georgia, where the **repression by the authorities** to suppress dissent, imprison opposition leaders, restrict freedoms, and further shrink the space for activists, civil society, and independent media, is growing.

The High Representative will focus the exchange on considering **possible future measures**, including restrictive measures on individuals responsible for human rights violations.

In its conclusion dated 17 October 2024, the European Council reaffirmed the EU's readiness to support the Georgian people on their European path. At the same time, it reiterated the EU's serious concern regarding the course of action taken by the Georgian government, which runs counter to the values and principles upon which the European Union is founded.

[Georgia \(background information\)](#)

Situation in the Middle East

The Foreign Affairs Council will exchange views on the situation in the Middle East, starting with a discussion on developments in **Gaza**. The High Representative will debrief EU ministers on her continued outreach to the Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Sa'ar, as well as on the mission of the EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, the EEAS and the Commission to Israel to take forward the dialogue on humanitarian issues with a view to improving the situation on the ground.

Following up on the FAC discussion of 23 June on the review of **Israel's** compliance with Article 2 of the EU-Israel Association Agreement, and the related tasking by the June 2025 European Council, the Council will look into an inventory of possible follow-up measures. The High Representative is also expected to once more urge EU ministers to find a consensus on further sanctions against extremist settlers and entities and organisations which support them, as well as against Hamas.

In its conclusion of 26 June 2025, the European Council called for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the unconditional release of all hostages, leading to a permanent end to hostilities. It deplored the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, the unacceptable number of civilian casualties and the levels of starvation. The European Council called on Israel to fully lift its blockade on Gaza, to allow immediate, unimpeded access and sustained distribution of humanitarian assistance at scale into and throughout Gaza and to enable the UN and its agencies, and humanitarian organisations, to work independently and impartially to save lives and reduce suffering.

The European Council reiterated its strong condemnation of the escalation in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and reiterated its call on the Council to take work forward on further restrictive measures against extremist settlers and entities and organisations which support them, as well as against Hamas.

The EU remains firmly committed to a lasting and sustainable peace based on the two-state solution, and is ready to contribute to all efforts towards this solution and calls on all parties to refrain from actions that undermine its viability.

The Council is also due to take stock of the latest events regarding **Iran**, including EU outreach and further diplomatic engagement in support of the International Atomic Energy Agency in its monitoring and verification of Iran's nuclear programme.

In its conclusion of 26 June 2025, the European Council welcomed the cessation of hostilities and urged all parties to abide by international law, show restraint, and refrain from taking action which could lead to a new escalation. Iran must never be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon and that it must comply with its legally binding nuclear safeguard obligations under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The EU will continue to contribute to all diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions and to bring about a lasting solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, which can only be achieved through negotiations.

[European Council conclusions, 26 June 2025](#)

[European Council conclusions on the Middle East, 26 June 2025](#)

[Israel/Palestine: Statement by the High Representative/Vice President Kaja Kallas | EEAS](#)

[Statement by the High Representative on the Arab Plan for Gaza \(EEAS website\)](#)

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

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

Mediterranean 2025: the Pact and the reform of the Union for the Mediterranean

The Council will hold a discussion on 'Mediterranean 2025: the Pact and the reform of the Union for the Mediterranean'.

EU ministers will first follow-up on the **EU-Southern Neighbourhood Ministerial Meeting** that will have taken place on the eve of the Council.

They will then hold a discussion on the new **Pact for the Mediterranean**, which will aim at providing a new impetus to the EU engagement in the Mediterranean region. The Pact is currently in preparation by the Commission and the European External Action Service in consultation with partner countries, EU member states, and local authorities, civil society, academia, research institutions, the business sector, and other interested parties from both the EU and the Southern Mediterranean region. It is due to be presented in autumn 2025.

Lastly, the Council will exchange views on the **reform process of the Union for the Mediterranean** (UfM), ahead of the planned adoption of its new Strategic Vision at the next UfM Regional Forum that will take place in November, on the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Declaration.

[The New Pact for the Mediterranean – European Commission website](#)

Current affairs

Under current affairs, the High Representative will refer to **EU-CELAC relations**, as a follow up to the meeting of the EU-Central America Association Council of 14 July, and with a view to the EU-CELAC Ministerial Meeting she will host during the UNGA week in September, and the EU-CELAC Summit scheduled for November.

Foreign Ministers will also discuss EU's support to strengthen **Moldova's** resilience, following the first-ever EU-Moldova Summit.

The Council will be informed about the deteriorating situation in **Somalia** as well as EU relations with **Japan** and **China** ahead of the respective upcoming Summits.

[EU-CELAC relations \(background information\)](#)

[Joint declaration following the first Republic of Moldova – EU Summit \(press release, 26 June 2025\)](#)

[Moldova \(background information\)](#)

[Somalia \(European Commission website\)](#)

In the margins of the Council meeting

On 14 July 2025 the EU will host the 1st ever **EU-Central America Association Council**, followed by the **EU-Southern Neighbourhood Ministerial Meeting** in the evening.

[EU-Central America Association Council, 14 July 2025](#)

Before the beginning of the Council meeting on 15 July, the High Representative will chair an informal discussion over breakfast with the Moldovan Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Mihai Popșoi.
