



Foreign Affairs Council

14 April 2025, Luxembourg

The April Foreign Affairs Council will start at 8.00 in Luxembourg, 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**.

Ministers are then expected to discuss the situation in the **Middle East**, including the latest developments in **Syria**.

Lastly, the Council will exchange views on **EU-Africa relations** and **Western Balkans**.

The Council is due to approve the review of the EU Common Position **on arms export control**.

In the margins:

On 13 April, the High Representative will host an informal dinner with the EU Foreign Affairs Ministers and their six Western Balkans counterparts.

After the FAC on 14 April, the first ever High-Level Dialogue between the European Union and the Palestinian Authority will be held, starting at 16.00.

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

[Press conference on FAC:](#) +/- 15.00

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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 Foreign Affairs Council will first discuss the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

As customary, the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs, **Andrii Sybiha**, will join at the beginning of the meeting via videoconference to provide updates on the latest political developments and the situation on the ground, as well as Ukraine's most urgent priorities.

The ensuing EU27 discussion will take place few days after the EU-Ukraine Association Council of 9 April, and will follow up on the discussions held at the Special European Council of 6 March, the European Council of 20 March and the informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers on 3 April.

Ministers will discuss the latest developments concerning the interim 30-day **ceasefire and peace talks** mediated by the United States, in light of increasing Russian attacks on civilian targets in Ukraine.

They are also expected to discuss **enhanced EU military support**, including the High Representative's initiative on ammunition, and **EU security guarantees** for Ukraine.

European countries have so far committed over 23 billion euros (\$26.13 billion) for Ukraine military aid this year.

Lastly, the Council will examine the state of play of **sanctions** against Russia including on further measures in response to Russia's campaign of hybrid activities..

As stated in the text supported by 26 Heads of State or Government on the occasion of the Special European Council on 6 March, in view of the new momentum for negotiations that should lead to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace, the European Council underlines the importance of the following principles:

- 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

Achieving 'peace through strength' requires Ukraine to be in the strongest possible position, with Ukraine's own robust military and defence capabilities as an essential component. This applies before, during and after negotiations to end the war. To that end, the European Union remains committed, in coordination with like-minded partners and allies, to providing enhanced political, financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support to Ukraine and its people, and to stepping up pressure on Russia, including through further sanctions and by strengthening the enforcement of existing measures, in order to weaken its ability to continue waging its war of aggression.

[Ukraine: Statement by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union following the Ukraine-U.S. meeting in Saudi Arabia, 11 March 2025](#)

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

[European Council conclusions, 19 December 2024](#)

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

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

Situation in the Middle East, including Syria

The Foreign Affairs Council will exchange views on the situation in the Middle East, including developments in Syria.

The High Representative will update ministers about her recent visit to the region, where she met with the President of **Israel** Herzog, the Minister of Foreign Affairs Sa'ar, and the Israeli opposition leader Lapid. She also met with the President of the **Palestinian Authority** Abbas, and the Palestinian Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Mustafa.

In the light of her recent meeting with the Arab Islamic Ministerial Committee on Palestine, to discuss the **crisis in Gaza** and other regional security challenges, High Representative Kallas is expected to revert to discussions on the Arab Recovery and Reconstruction Plan presented at the Cairo Summit on 4 March. The ensuing discussion will likely restate the EU concerns about the situation in Gaza and the **West Bank**, and unwavering commitment to a **Two-State solution**.

As to **Syria**, the High Representative will touch on the **Brussels ninth conference** "Standing with Syria", which took successfully place on 17 March. The Council will then take stock of developments since the formation of the **new transitional government** at the end of March. Discussions are expected to touch on the possible gradual easing of **restrictive measures**, also in light of the annual review of the regime due by 1 June.

In the European Council conclusions of 20 March, the EU underlined the importance of a peaceful and inclusive transition in Syria, free from harmful foreign interference, and the protection of the rights of Syrians from all ethnic and religious backgrounds without discrimination. Syria's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity within secure borders should be fully respected, in accordance with international law. It welcomes the agreement reached on 10 March 2025 between the transitional authorities and the Syrian Democratic Forces.

The European Council recalled the EU's recent suspension of restrictive measures as part of a gradual, reversible approach. The European Union will continue to examine possible further suspensions of restrictive measures on the basis of close monitoring of the situation in Syria.

[European Council conclusions of 20 March 2025](#)

[Standing with Syria - Brussels ninth conference, 17 March 2025](#)

[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 \(background information\)](#)

EU-Africa relations: immediate priorities and strategic outlook

The Foreign Affairs Council will discuss relations between the EU and the African Union (AU), whose partnership celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2025.

The discussion is taking place ahead of the 3rd EU-AU ministerial meeting scheduled for 21 May in Brussels, and will focus on **immediate priorities and strategic outlook**.

The High Representative and other ministers will inform the Council about their recent meetings with African partners, and then touch on topics of key importance in the relations with the AU, such as mutual **cooperation, Global Gateway, security and defence**. The Council will also work to identify new trends and opportunities of cooperation ahead of the upcoming ministerial meeting and of a possible Summit later in the year.

Lastly, the Council will hold a discussion on **Sudan**, which is facing an unprecedented humanitarian crisis two years after the beginning of the war. The discussion will touch on the humanitarian conference co-hosted by the EU, France, Germany and the United Kingdom foreseen to take place in London on 15 April, the importance of protecting civilian and critical infrastructure and the need for the EU to use its diplomatic tools and instruments, including restrictive measures, to seek a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

Ministers may also raise other regional crises, such as the one in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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

Western Balkans

Over a working lunch, the Council will exchange views on the EU relations with Western Balkan partners, focusing on how to further enhance **security and defence cooperation** in the face political challenges, and how to promote **regional stability and security**.

The High Representative will debrief ministers on her recent visit to Montenegro, Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and on latest development in the **Belgrade-Pristina dialogue**.

The ensuing discussion is expected to focus on various aspects of the relation, notably regional stability and security, developments in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** and **Serbia**, and cooperation with key actors in the region

[EU-Western Balkans \(background information\)](#)

Current affairs

Under current affairs, the High Representative will refer to **Armenia/Azerbaijan**, in light of recent developments, including the announcement on 13 March of a peace agreement.

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

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

In the margins of the Council meeting

On the eve of the Foreign Affairs Council, the High Representative will host an informal dinner with the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the **six Western Balkans partner countries**. The exchange is expected to focus on security and defence.

The Foreign Affairs Council on 14 April will be followed by the first ever **High-Level Dialogue between the European Union and the Palestinian Authority**, will be co-chaired by the High Representative, Kaja **Kallas**, and the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Palestinian Authority, Mohammad **Mustafa**.

[EU relations with the Western Balkans partners \(background information\)](#)

[1st EU-Palestine High-Level Political Dialogue](#)

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