

**EU Update: June 2023**

**Council of the EU**

The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) [met on 22 May](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2023/05/22/) in Brussels.

EU foreign affairs ministers adopted conclusions on the establishment of a [**Civilian CSDP Compact**](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/64515/st09588-en23.pdf), which includes new guidelines and commitments with the objective to “strengthen the civilian side of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and enhance the missions’ effectiveness, impact, flexibility, and robustness”. The FAC also approved conclusions on the [EU Policy on Cyber Defence](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/64526/st09618-en23.pdf), and on [addressing the humanitarian funding gap](https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9598-2023-INIT/en/pdf).

On 5 May, the Council [adopted an additional assistance measure](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/05/05/eu-joint-procurement-of-ammunition-and-missiles-for-ukraine-council-agrees-1-billion-support-under-the-european-peace-facility/?utm_source=dsms-auto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EU+joint+procurement+of+ammunition+and+missiles+for+Ukraine%3a+Council+agrees+%u20ac1+billion+support+under+the+European+Peace+Facility) worth €1 billion under the **European Peace Facility** (EPF) in support of the Ukrainian Armed Forces, bringing the total EU contribution for Ukraine to support the delivery of military equipment under the EPF to €5.6 billion.

On 22 May, the Council also agreed on an [eighth package of sanctions](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/05/22/iran-five-individuals-and-two-entities-targeted-by-eu-s-eighth-package-of-sanctions-for-human-rights-violations/) over violations of human rights in **Iran**.

Other issues that were discussed during the FAC meeting include the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the Horn of Africa, and the Western Balkans.

The FAC met in its Defence configuration on [23 May](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/fac/2023/05/23/). EU defence ministers discussed *inter alia* EU support to Ukraine (including a proposal for a potential 8th support package under the European Peace Facility), CSDP, and cooperation with NATO.

**Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)**

In addition to the adoption of the new Civilian CSDP Compact, the Council formally launched the EU Partnership Mission in the Republic of Moldova ([**EUPM Moldova**](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/05/22/moldova-eu-launches-civilian-mission-to-strengthen-the-resilience-of-the-security-sector-in-the-areas-of-crisis-management-and-countering-hybrid-threats/)) under CSDP. The objective of the mission is to contribute to the strengthening of Moldova’s crisis management structures and to enhance its resilience to hybrid threats, including cybersecurity, and countering foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI).

On 16 May, the Council [appointed new Head of Missions](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/05/16/new-heads-of-mission-appointed-for-euam-ukraine-and-eucap-sahel-niger/?utm_source=dsms-auto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=New+Heads+of+Mission+appointed+for+EUCAP+Sahel+Niger+and+EUAM+Ukraine) (HoM) for two EU’s civilian missions:

* [Katja Dominik](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/64355/cv-katja-dominik.pdf) was appointed HoM of EUCAP Sahel Niger until 30 September 2024.
* [Rolf M. Hay Pereira Holmboe](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/64356/cv-rolf-m-hay-pereira-holmboe.pdf) was appointed HoM of EUAM Ukraine until 31 May 2024.

**European Union Special Representative (EUSR)**

On 15 May, the Council appointed [Luigi Di Maio](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/64310/luigi-di-maio-cv.pdf) as the new [EUSR for the Gulf region](https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/05/15/eu-appoints-a-new-special-representative-for-the-gulf-region/?utm_source=dsms-auto&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=EU+appoints+a+new+Special+Representative+for+the+Gulf+region). The new EUSR will take up his duties on 1 June, with an initial mandate of 21 months. Previously, he served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy from 2019 to 2022.

His tasks will be to “further develop a stronger, comprehensive and more strategic EU partnership with the countries in the Gulf region by supporting the High Representative in the implementation of the foreign policy and security aspects of the EU joint communication on a Strategic Partnership with the Gulf and the related Council conclusions”.

**European Commission (EC)**

In May, the EC adopted humanitarian assistance packages for [the Philippines, Nepal and South-East Asia](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_2625) (€8 million), and [Ethiopia and Kenya](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_2503) (€25 million). It also launched a [Humanitarian Air Bridge](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_2641) to provide essential supplies to humanitarian partners in Port Sudan.

On 3 May, the EC allocated €500 million and adopted the [Act in Support of Ammunition Production](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_2569) (ASAP) to speed up delivery of ammunition and missiles to Ukraine and help Member State refill their stocks.

**European Parliament (EP)**

The EP had a plenary session on 8-11 May in Strasbourg. Members [adopted resolutions](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/texts-adopted.html) on the 2022 Commission Report on Serbia, the 2022 Commission Report on Kosovo, media freedom and freedom of expression in Algeria, Belarus, and Myanmar.

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