

EU Update: July 2023

Council of the EU

The General Affairs Council (GAC) [met on 10 July](#). The Council held a policy debate on the mid-term revision of the **Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027**. The **Spanish Presidency** presented to the ministers its plans for work on the evaluation of the Council's annual rule of law dialogue as well as the priorities for its term of office.

Under the European Peace Facility (EPF), the Council [adopted an assistance measure](#) worth €8.25 million to support the **Ghana Armed Forces**.

The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) [met on 20 July](#). EU foreign affairs ministers exchanged views on the **Russian aggression against Ukraine**, **EU-Türkiye relations**, and the **foreign policy dimension of economic security**.

The Council approved conclusions on [EU priorities at the United Nations during the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly](#) and adopted a decision on [the signature and provisional application of the European Union and Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States \(OACPS\) Partnership Agreement](#).

The Council agreed on a [seventh round of sanctions](#) against six individuals and one entity in view of the situation in **Myanmar/Burma**, [renewed sanctions](#) over **Russia's military aggression against Ukraine**, [extended the framework for targeted sanctions](#) to address the **situation in Lebanon** by one year, and established [a new sanctions regime](#) allowing the EU to list **Iranian people and entities** responsible for providing military support through drones to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The Council also [listed 18 individuals and five entities](#) responsible for gender-based violence and linked to the **Navalny and Kara-Murza** cases.

Under the European Peace Facility (EPF), the Council [adopted an assistance measure](#), worth €20 million, to support the 31st Rapid Reaction Brigade of the **Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo** (FARDC).

On 28 July, the Council set up an [autonomous framework](#) for the EU to impose restrictive measures on individuals and entities responsible for **threatening the peace, security or stability of Haiti**, or for **undermining democracy or the rule of law** in Haiti. The Council also [listed nine individuals](#) responsible for human rights violations and abuses and for sustaining armed conflict, instability and insecurity in the **Democratic Republic of Congo**.

EU Special Representatives (EUSRs)

On 20 July, the Council extended the mandates of the following [three EU Special Representatives \(EUSRs\)](#) for one year: the EU Special Representative for **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the EU Special Representative **Kosovo**, and the EU Special Representative **South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia**.

European External Action Service (EEAS)

On 4 July, the EU decided to deploy an [Election Observation Mission \(EOM\) to the Maldives](#) to observe the Presidential Elections scheduled for 9 September.

On 31 July, the EU Head of Delegation Ambassador Belen Calvo Uyarra and Rwanda's Minister of Finance and Economic Planning Dr Uzziel Ndagijimana [signed an agreement](#) of €19.5 million in grants to the Government of **Rwanda** and partner institutions, including civil society, in a bid to strengthen the justice sector and propel reconciliation and human rights efforts in the country.

European Commission (EC)

In July, the EC allocated **humanitarian aid** to [Chad](#), [Haiti](#), [Latin America and the Caribbean](#), [Myanmar and Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh](#), and [Pakistan](#).

On 3 July, the [International Centre for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression against Ukraine \(ICPA\)](#), set up with the EC's support, started its operations in the Hague.

On 26 July, the EC approved a [€5 billion Czech scheme](#) to support energy producers in the context of **Russia's war against Ukraine**.

European Parliament (EP)

The EP had a plenary session on 10-13 July in Strasbourg. Members [adopted](#) resolutions on the protection of journalists and human rights defenders from manifestly unfounded or abusive court proceedings; the situation in Lebanon; relations with the Palestinian Authority; the political disqualifications in Venezuela; the situation in Manipur, India; the crackdown on the media and freedom of expression in Kyrgyzstan; the act in Support of Ammunition Production; the need for EU action on search and rescue in the Mediterranean; and more.