

EU Update: December 2023

Council of the EU

On 21 November, the Council [approved conclusions](#) on **EU-LAC** relations including the bi-regional roadmap 2023-2025.

On 20 November, the Council [approved](#) the **EU annual budget for 2024**.

On 15 November, EU and its Member States [signed](#) the **Samoa Agreement**, a new partnership agreement with the members of the organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific states (OACPS) to succeed the Cotonou Agreement.

At the [Foreign Affairs Council](#) (FAC, Defence), on 14 November, the EU military operation in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** [EUFOR ALTHEA](#) was prolonged for another year.

Through the **European Peace Facility** (EPF), the Council approved [additional funding](#) for training of the **Ukrainian Armed Forces** under the EU Military Assistance Mission in support of Ukraine (EUMAM Ukraine) and adopted [assistance measures](#) providing lethal equipment to the **Somali National Army**, as well as [assistance](#) to navies of **Ghana** and **Cameroon**.

European Commission (EC)

The EU [extended](#) the duration of the **Gender Action Plan** (GAP III) from 2025 until 2027 to match the Multiannual Indicative Framework (MFF).

In November, the EC allocated **humanitarian aid** to [Myanmar and Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh](#), [Nepal](#), [Ukraine](#), [Afghanistan and Afghan refugees in Pakistan](#), [Horn of Africa](#), [Syria and Lebanon](#), [Mexico](#) and increased humanitarian aid to [Gaza](#). In addition, the EC finalised the [review of EU aid to Palestine](#) stating that safeguards in place were effective.

European Parliament (EP)

The EP had a plenary session on 20-23 November in Strasbourg. MEPs [adopted three resolutions](#) on **human rights issues** in **Iran**, **Niger** and **Georgia**.