

EU Update: January 2025

European Council

The European Council met on 19 December in Brussels. EU leaders [adopted Conclusions](#) on **Ukraine**, the **Middle East**, the **EU in the world**, **resilience and preparedness**, **migration** and other foreign policy issues. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy attended the meeting.

Council of the EU

The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) met on 16 December in Brussels. EU Foreign Affairs ministers [discussed](#) **Russia's war of aggression against** Ukraine, and adopted the [15th package of sanctions](#) in response to the war. The Council also discussed the situation in the **Middle East**, including **Syria**, and [approved conclusions](#) on reinforcing external-internal links in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. Finally, the Council also concluded the mid-term review of the **European Peace Facility**. The FAC also met on 27 January, and [discussed](#), among other things EU-US relations, the Middle East, Moldova, Georgia, and DRC.

In December, the Council renewed or adopted new sanctions in relations to [Russian hybrid threats](#), [Sudan](#), [Belarus](#), [Haiti](#), and [Guatemala](#). In January, the Council extended sanctions against [Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad](#), and [renewed](#) existing sanctions against Russia.

On 17 December, the General Affairs Council (GAC) [adopted Conclusions](#) on **EU enlargement**.

On 21 January, the Council adopted an [assistance measure](#) in support of the **Lebanese Armed Forces** worth €60 million.

Common Security and Defence Policy

On 16 December, the Council adopted a [decision](#) extending the mandate of the EU Naval Force **Operation ATALANTA**, the EU military training mission in Somalia (**EUTM Somalia**), and the EU civilian capacity-building mission (**EUCAP Somalia**) until 28 February 2027.

On 30 January, the Council [extended](#) the mandate of the EU Mission in **Armenia (EUMA)** until February 2027.

European External Action Service

On 22 January, HRVP Kaja Kallas [announced](#) the appointment of Belen Martinez Carbonell as **Secretary General** for the EEAS and Olof Skoog as **Deputy Secretary General for Political Affairs**. Belén Martinez Carbonell is currently Managing Director for the Global Agenda and Multilateral Relations within the EEAS, while Olof Skoog is currently EU Special Representative for Human Rights.

On 27 January the Council [appointed](#) Peter Sorensen as EU Special Representative for the **Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue**. Mr Sorensen is a Danish diplomat with experience as EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Head of Delegation in Skopje and Geneva.

European Parliament

The European Parliament held plenary sessions on 16-19 December 2024 and 21-24 January 2025 in Strasbourg. In December, the EP adopted resolutions on the human right situation in **Kyrgyzstan**, and the continued repression of civil society and independent media in **Azerbaijan**. In January, the EP adopted resolutions on the oppression and fake elections in **Belarus**, the systematic repression of human rights in **Iran**, **Russia's** disinformation and historical falsification to justify its war of aggression against **Ukraine**, and the situation in **Venezuela**. MEPs also [held a discussion](#) on EU funding for NGOs.

All texts adopted are available [here](#).