

EU Update: February 2025

European Council

EU leaders [met informally](#) on 3 February to discuss **European defense**, including the development of collective capabilities, and how to mobilize funding and strengthen strategic partnerships. In response to the recent developments in the EU-US relationship and the US positioning on Russia's military aggression, a [Special European Council](#) will take place on 6 March.

Council of the EU

The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) [met on 24 February](#) in Brussels. EU Foreign Affairs Ministers adopted a [16th package of economic and individual sanctions](#) in response to **Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine**. Ministers also discussed the situation in the **Middle East**, including **Syria**, **Lebanon**, and **UNRWA**, the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, and **Georgia**.

In February, the Council also [suspended](#) a number of sanctions on key economic sectors in view of the situation in **Syria**, and [updated sanctions](#) on Zimbabwe.

The Council also [adopted an assistance measure](#) worth €6 million under the European Peace Facility in support of the **Armed Forces of Montenegro**.

EU Special Representatives (EUSRs)

On 24 February, the Council [appointed](#) Eduardo Stiprais (previously Permanent Representative of Latvia to the EU) as EUSR for **Central Asia** and extended the mandate of EUSR for the **Gulf region** Luigi Di Maio for further 2 years.

Common Security and Defence Policy

On 14 February, the Council [prolonged the mandate](#) of the EU maritime security operation to safeguard freedom of navigation in relation to the Red Sea crisis (**EUNAVFOR ASPIDES**) until 28 February 2026.

European Parliament

The European Parliament held a plenary session on 10-13 February 2025 in Strasbourg. MEPs adopted resolutions on recent dismissals and arrests of mayors in **Türkiye**, on the repression by the Ortega-Murillo regime in **Nicaragua**, the further deterioration of the political situation in **Georgia**, and the escalation of violence in eastern **Democratic Republic of Congo**.

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