

EU Update: May 2025

Council of the EU

The Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) [met in its development configuration](#) on 26 May. EU development ministers discussed **financing for development**, **EU-Africa** relations, and **Ukraine**.

On 28 May, the Council [adopted](#) legal acts **lifting all economic sanctions on Syria**. Over the course of the month, the Council also adopted a series of additional sanctions in relation to Russian entities involved in the development and use of [chemical weapons](#), [Russian hybrid threats](#), [human rights in Russia](#), and [Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine](#).

In May, EU Member States also [endorsed](#) the **Security Action fore Europe (SAFE) Instrument**, a defence loan instrument to boost defence capabilities part of the ReArm Europe Plan / Readiness 2030.

Common Security and Defence Policy

In May, the Council [adopted a decision](#) extending the **EU Partnership Mission in Moldova** (EUPM) until 31 may 2027.

EU Special Representatives

On 20 May, the Council [appointed](#) French diplomat Christophe Bigot as new EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process. He previously served as Director of African and Indian Ocean in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and as French ambassador to Israel, Senegal and Gambia.

European Commission

On 15 May, the EC [pledged](#) €120 million in humanitarian aid for 2025 for several Latin American and Caribbean countries.

On 21 May, the EC [announced](#) €80 million in humanitarian funding to support people in need in **Yemen**.

European Parliament

The European Parliament held a plenary session on 6-8 May in Strasbourg. MEPs adopted resolutions on **Tanzania**, religious freedom in **Tibet**, and the return of **Ukrainian children** forcibly transferred and deported to Russia.

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