

Brussels, 24 July 2026
(OR. en)

11823/26
ADD 1
LIMITE
PV CONS 46
RELEX 1006
PARLNAT

DRAFT MINUTES
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
(Foreign Affairs)
13 July 2026

Non-legislative activities

3. Current affairs

The Council discussed EU-UN relations in view of the UN General Assembly high-level week (22-28 September 2026) and the current state of play of the appointment of the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

4. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine¹

Exchange of views

The Council held an exchange of views with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. It subsequently discussed the EU's response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

5. Situation in the Middle East

Exchange of views

The Council held an exchange of views on the situation in the Middle East, including Iran, Gaza and Lebanon.

6. Black Sea

Exchange of views

The Council held an exchange of views on the Black Sea.

7. Any other business

- a) Humanitarian situation in Sudan 11692/26
*Information from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland
and the Netherlands*

The Council took note of the information provided by the Commission and the High Representative at the request of Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands on the humanitarian situation in Sudan.

- b) China's support for Russia's war of aggression against 11814/26
Ukraine
*Information from France, Germany, the Netherlands and
Poland*

The Council took note of the information provided by France, Germany, the Netherlands and Poland on China's support for Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

- c) Natural gas pipeline 11816/26
Information from Cyprus

The Council took note of the information provided by Cyprus on a "Memorandum of Understanding" for the development of an undersea natural gas pipeline between Türkiye and the areas of the Republic of Cyprus in which the Government of Cyprus does not exercise effective control.

¹ In the presence of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

Statements to the non-legislative "A" items set out in doc. 11629/1/26 REV 1**Ad "A" item 4:**

Council Decision on an assistance measure under the European Peace Facility to support the Armed Forces of the Republic of Moldova with military equipment designed to deliver lethal force

Adoption

approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 08.07.2026

STATEMENT BY MALTA

“In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 31(1) of the Treaty on European Union, Malta hereby notifies the Council of its decision to abstain from adopting the Council Decision on an assistance measure under the European Peace Facility to support the Armed Forces of the Republic of Moldova with military equipment designed to deliver lethal force.

As stated at the time of adoption of the Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/509 of 22 March 2021 establishing the European Peace Facility, Malta reserves its right to constructively abstain from assistance measures under the European Peace Facility that allow for the supply of military equipment, or platforms, designed to deliver lethal force.

In the spirit of mutual EU solidarity, MT will refrain from any action likely to conflict with or impede Union action based on that decision.

Recalling Article 27 and Article 57(3) of Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/509 establishing the EPF, through our voluntary elective commitment, Malta signals its intention to make a corresponding contribution to the budget for another Assistance Measure not designed to supply military equipment, or platforms, designed to deliver lethal force.”

STATEMENT BY IRELAND

“Ireland refers to the Proposal of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to the Council of 19 May 2026.

In accordance with the second subparagraph of Article 31(1) of the Treaty on European Union, Ireland hereby makes a formal declaration and notifies the Council of its decision to abstain from Council Decision 2026/XX on an assistance measure under the European Peace Facility to support the Armed Forces of the Republic of Moldova with military equipment designed to deliver lethal force.

Accordingly, Ireland will not be contributing to the costs of that Assistance Measure.

Ireland recalls and reiterates in full its statement of 17 March 2021 to the minutes of COREPER and to the Council at the time of adoption of Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/509 of 22 March 2021 establishing a European Peace Facility.

Ireland further recalls Recital 22, Article 27 and Article 57(3) of that Council Decision and hereby signals its intention to contribute an additional amount to an assistance measure other than

those concerning the supply of military equipment designed to deliver lethal force, which will be identified at a later date.”

Ad "A" item 14:

Conclusions on EU priorities at the United Nations during the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, September 2026 - September 2027

Approval

approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 08.07.2026

STATEMENT BY SLOVAKIA

“Slovakia reiterates its national position on the notion “gender identity” in the context of EU priorities at the United Nations during the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, September 2026 - September 2027 (paragraph 14) as follows:

- Slovakia attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of human rights, including protection against violence and discrimination. Slovakia strongly supports the equality agenda through all international fora and is against any form of discrimination;
- Article 12 of the Slovak Constitution prohibits all kinds of discrimination. At the same time, the Constitution recognises objective biological reality as the determining factor. Therefore, we do not see a need to highlight the term “gender identity” in the context of paragraph 14 of the Council Conclusions on EU priorities at the United Nations during the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly, September 2026 - September 2027.

The above represents the position of Slovakia on all issues related to the use of the notion “gender identity” in this context.”

STATEMENT BY BULGARIA

“The Republic of Bulgaria attaches great importance to the promotion and protection of human rights. The country is and will remain dedicated to its human rights commitments.

As per Decision No 13/2018 and Decision No 15/2021 of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Bulgaria, the term “gender” in the national legal system refers to the two sexes – female and male – that are biologically defined.

Therefore, in line with the above-mentioned Decisions of the Constitutional Court, the Republic of Bulgaria declares that the country cannot accept the use of “gender identity” or gender-related terminology within the meaning of the Council of Europe’s Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence that intends to differentiate between “sex” as a biological (women and men) category and “gender” as a social construct.”

Ad "A" item 16:

Common Understanding of threats and challenges

Approval

approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 08.07.2026

STATEMENT BY HUNGARY

“We are witnessing significant political and security developments, which have direct consequences on European security. Therefore, Hungary welcomes the intention to reflect on geopolitical changes in a new European Security Strategy (ESS) and considers the common understanding as a good basis for further discussions.

Hungary welcomes the fact that the document deals with the important issue of migration. However, we would like to recall that Hungary did not adopt the Global Compact on Migration and does not participate in its implementation either. Therefore, we cannot accept any reference to the Compact and we consider the Agenda 2030 framework to be the guiding principle in this regard.”

STATEMENT BY FRANCE

“La France a pleinement soutenu l’objectif d’actualiser la compréhension commune des menaces et des défis, afin de refléter les profonds changements intervenus ces dernières années dans notre environnement géopolitique.

Le souci de garantir la pertinence de cette compréhension commune, qui engage le Conseil vis-à-vis de nos partenaires, de nos adversaires et de nos opinions publiques, devait conduire à la fonder sur une évaluation objective et précise des menaces et des défis auxquels l’Union doit faire face. C’est la raison pour laquelle le Conseil européen avait prescrit que cet exercice soit fondé sur l’analyse approfondie des menaces réalisée par le SIAC. Le travail effectué par la SIAC, à partir des contributions des services nationaux, est de grande qualité et témoigne, au fond, du degré important de convergence des analyses expertes au sein des Etats membres.

La France regrette le choix qui a été fait de ne pas fonder la compréhension commune sur cette analyse de la menace, ce qui a conduit à un document mêlant choix de politique étrangère et recensement de certaines des menaces. Cette méthode ôte à ce document sa base objective et fait courir le risque d’une fragilisation de la SIAC, à laquelle la France réaffirme sa confiance.

Sur le fond, même si le texte obtenu est acceptable en l’état, certains défis restent insuffisamment caractérisés, comme l’illustre à nouveau l’actualité internationale.

Pour l’ensemble de ces raisons, la France considère que ce document ne peut pas servir de fondement aux travaux sur une future stratégie européenne de sécurité et à sa mise en œuvre.”

Ad "A" item 17:

EU-CELAC roadmap 2026-2027
Approval of a non-binding instrument
approved by Coreper, Part 2, on 08.07.2026

STATEMENT BY HUNGARY

“Hungary welcomes the deepening cooperation between the European Union and the CELAC region and supports the adoption of EU-CELAC Roadmap 2026-2027 document.

However, in relation to paragraph 50 of EU-CELAC Roadmap 2026-2027, Hungary notes that a national statement was attached to the Santa Marta’s Declaration with regard to the migration part upon its adoption.

We would like to recall that Hungary did not adopt the Global Compact on Migration and does not participate in its implementation either.”
