

Media advisory – EU-Kazakhstan Cooperation Council of 10 May 2021



Indicative programme

+/- 16.30

Beginning of the EU-Kazakhstan Cooperation Council

- the state of play and next steps concerning the EU-Kazakhstan Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement
- political, economic and trade matters, including internal reforms, regional trade, the rule of law and human rights
- regional and international developments and cooperation, including security

At the end of the meeting (+/- 19.50) press conference in [live streaming](#).

Arrangements for the press conference

Please note that there will be no physical press conference. EU accredited journalists will be able to ask questions remotely using [this link](#).

Journalists who already registered for previous Foreign Affairs Council press conferences do not need to register again.

Deadline: Monday, 10 May 2021, 18.30

Further instructions will be sent to all registered participants approximately half an hour after the deadline.

[Visit the meeting page](#)

Council complements EU research legislative framework



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[Security and defence: EU to move forward on common security and defence](#)



The Council today approved conclusions affirming its determination to move forward on implementing the EU's security and defence agenda, enabling the EU to take more responsibility for its own security.

In line with its Strategic Agenda 2019-2024, the Council calls for the EU to pursue a **more strategic course of action** and to increase its **capacity to act autonomously**. The EU should promote its interests and values and be able to tackle global security threats and challenges.

Against this background, an ambitious and actionable **Strategic Compass** will enhance and guide the implementation of the level of ambition on security and defence. The Council therefore calls on the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to **present a first draft of the Strategic Compass** for discussion at the Council **meeting in November 2021**.

The Council calls for further work to enhance the EU's capacity to undertake CSDP missions and operations across the whole spectrum of different crisis management tasks. The Council also encourages further reflection on a **timely and efficient decision-making process**, possibly using Article 44 of the TEU. More work should be done on ways to incentivise member states to improve force generation and provide sufficient means and personnel for CSDP missions and operations.

The conclusions underline the importance of **strengthening EU defence initiatives**, like Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO), the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP), and other initiatives such as the Action Plan on synergies between civil, defence and space industries, while ensuring **coherence** in the use of the various tools.

The need to further strengthen the EU's resilience and ability to counter **hybrid threats** is also strongly emphasised.

A strong EU in terms of security and defence will bring tangible benefits to

transatlantic and global cooperation. The Council reaffirms the centrality of international **partnerships with** multilateral organisations such as **the UN** and **NATO**, in line with the statement of the members of the European Council of 26 February 2021.

[Visit the meeting page](#)

Trade of dual-use items: new EU rules adopted

The EU has upgraded its legislation on the export controls applicable to sensitive dual-use goods and technologies such as cyber-surveillance tools.

Today the Council adopted a regulation modernising the EU system for the **control of exports, brokering, technical assistance, transit and transfer of dual-use items**. These are goods, software and technology that can be used for both civilian and military applications.



We welcome the new EU rules on exports of dual-use items that give human rights the prominence they deserve. Strong controls will allow us to prevent human rights violations and abuses, while keeping up with the latest technological developments.

João Leão, Portuguese Minister of Finance and President of the Council

The new regulation strengthens controls on a wider range of emerging dual-use technologies, and the coordination between member states and the Commission in support of the effective enforcement of controls throughout the EU. By introducing due diligence obligations for producers, the new rules also give companies an important role in addressing the risks to international security sometimes posed by dual-use items.

Finally, the dual-use regulation paves the way for better coordination between the EU and partner countries in enhancing international security through more convergent approaches to export controls at global level.

Next steps

After the European Parliament and the Council sign the adopted regulation, it will be published in the EU Official Journal and enter into force 90 days later.

[SDGs as a Framework for Covid-19 Recovery in Cities and Regions – A CoR/OECD survey](#)



□□□□□□□□ The European Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) invite representatives of local and regional authorities across Europe to participate in a survey on the Sustainable Development Goals. The consultation is open until Friday 11 June 2021.

In 2019, the UN launched the [Decade of Action](#) for Sustainable Development to accelerate efforts, scale up projects and mobilize contributions across all levels of governments and society for the realization of the SDGs. Regional and local authorities remain essential partners in the process of localization and effective implementation of the SDGs.

Today, the engagement and commitment of local and regional governments to the SDGs is more relevant than ever in a European Union harshly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. The recovery is an opportunity to build back better, following the roadmap traced by the SDGs, to design and implement long-term recovery strategies.

In this scenario, the survey is expected to gather evidence on the progress achieved by local and regional authorities in the two years following the [first survey](#) launched by the CoR and the OECD and to highlight the additional difficulties they are facing after the outbreak of the pandemic.

The insights captured by the survey will be used to identify the challenges faced by local and regional authorities in the effort to localize the Agenda 2030 during the pandemic and devise solutions to support them in this endeavour. Moreover, the survey is essential to make your voice heard at the EU level and give your opinion on the place that the SDGs should occupy among EU priorities and within the upcoming plans for recovery.

- □ The survey is available in all EU languages; to select your preferred language, click on the drop down menu on the right of the screen
- The survey is open until Friday 11 June 2021 midnight
- All responses will be kept confidential□