

## [Forward look: 18 to 31 January 2021](#)



### **Informal video conference of European affairs ministers, 18 January 2021**

European affairs ministers will take stock of the discussions on the Conference on the Future of Europe, and prepare the informal video conference of heads of state or government on COVID-19 coordination to be held on 21 January. The Portuguese presidency will present its priorities for the next six months.

### **Informal video conference of economics and finance ministers, 19 January 2021**

Ministers will discuss the implementation of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, non-performing loans and the European Semester. They will also hear presentations on the presidency work programme, state of play of financial services legislative proposals and the latest EIB Investment Survey.

### **Informal video conference of the members of the European Council, 21 January 2021**

EU leaders will meet via videoconference to discuss coordination of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Agriculture and Fisheries Council, 25 January 2021**

Ministers will discuss the 2021 fishing opportunities for fish stocks shared with the UK, the current state of play of the post 2020 CAP reform package and trade-related agricultural issues.

### **Foreign Affairs Council, 25 January 2021**

EU ministers of foreign affairs will be briefed about current affairs and exchange views on Climate and Energy Diplomacy.

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## [Weekly schedule of President Charles](#)

# Michel



## **Monday 18 January 2021**

11.00 Meeting with Judge Mohamed Abdelsalam, Secretary General of the Higher Committee on Human Fraternity

15.30 Meeting with President of the Republic of Moldova Maia Sandu

16.45 Video conference with FIFA President Gianni Infantino

## **Tuesday 19 January 2021**

18.30 Meeting with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and EU High Representative Josep Borrell

## **Wednesday 20 January 2020**

12.30 Meeting with COREPER II Ambassadors

## **Thursday 21 January 2021**

09.30 Meeting with President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili

18.00 Video conference of the members of the European Council

## **Friday 22 January 2021**

14.00 Meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu

16.45 Closing remarks at the virtual EIB Annual Economics Conference

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# Media advisory – Informal video conference of European affairs ministers of 18 January 2021



## **Indicative programme**

**Chair:** Ana Paula Zacarias, Portuguese Secretary of State for European Affairs

10.00 – beginning of the informal video conference of European affairs ministers

Priorities of the Portuguese presidency

Conference on the Future of Europe

COVID-19: EU coordination – preparation for the informal video conference of the members of the European Council on 21 January 2021

Any other business

At the end of the meeting – press conference in [live streaming](#).

## Arrangements for the press

Please note that the press conference after the meeting will take place **remotely**. In order to participate and ask questions, EU accredited journalists should register using [this link](#).

Those who already registered for the previous video conferences and press briefings of European affairs ministers do not need to do it again.

- **Deadline for the registration: Monday 18 January, 12.00**

Further instructions will be sent to all registered participants after the respective deadlines.

[Visit the meeting page](#)

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## [Declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union on the alignment of certain countries concerning restrictive measures against Belarus](#)



On 17 December 2020, the Council adopted Council Decision (CFSP) 2020/2130[1] implementing Council Decision 2012/642/CFSP.

The Council Decision adds 29 persons and 7 entities to the list of persons and entities subject to restrictive measures set out in the Annex to Decision 2012/642/CFSP.

The Candidate Countries the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania[2] and the EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this Council Decision.

They will ensure that their national policies conform to this Council Decision.

The European Union takes note of this commitment and welcomes it.

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[1] Published on 17.12.2020 in the Official Journal of the European Union no. L1 426, p. 14.

[2] The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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## Syrian foreign affairs minister added to EU sanctions list



The Council today decided to add Faisal Mekdad to the list of persons subject to EU restrictive measures on Syria, in light of his recent appointment as Minister of Foreign Affairs.

This decision brings to **289** the total number of persons targeted by a **travel ban** and an **asset freeze**. **70 entities** are also subject to an **asset freeze**.

The sanctions currently in place against the Syrian regime were introduced in 2011, in response to the **violent repression** of the Syrian civilian population. Companies and prominent business people who benefit from their ties with the regime and from the war economy are also subject to sanctions. Additional restrictive measures adopted by the EU include a **ban on the import of oil**, restrictions on certain investments, the freezing of assets held by the Syrian central bank in the EU, and **export restrictions on equipment and technology** that could be used for internal repression or for the monitoring or interception of internet or telephone communications.

The Council keeps developments in the Syrian conflict under constant review. Any decision to prolong the sanctions is for the Council to take on an annual basis.

The EU remains committed to finding a lasting and credible political solution to the conflict in Syria on the basis of UN Security Council resolution 2254 and the 2012 Geneva Communiqué.

The relevant legal acts, including the names of the person concerned, have been published in the Official Journal.