



## **Foreign Affairs Council**

### **10 January 2020**

The extraordinary session of the Foreign Affairs Council, chaired by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Josep Borrell, will start at 15.00 with a discussion on **current affairs**.

Under this item, the Council will consider the evolving situation in **Libya**. In the margins of the meeting, ministers will be informally briefed on the same subject by the UN Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Mr Ghassan **Salamé**.

The Council will then have an exchange of views on recent events in **Iraq**, focusing on ways to de-escalate tensions in the region. In the context of this discussion, ministers will also have an opportunity to be briefed by the Secretary General of NATO, Mr Jens **Stoltenberg**.

#### Press opportunities:

+/- 14.45	Doorstep by High Representative Josep Borrell
+/- 18.00 (tbc)	Press conference following the Foreign Affairs Council meeting

[Council meeting page](#)

[Press conferences and public events via video streaming](#)

[Video coverage in broadcast quality \(MPEG4\) and photo gallery](#)

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<sup>1</sup> This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the Council press office.

## Current affairs

The Foreign Affairs Council will start with a discussion on current affairs, with a focus on **recent developments in Libya**, including a military escalation around Tripoli.

Ministers are likely to exchange views on the latest events, and take stock of the meeting between the HRVP and the ministers of foreign affairs of France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom held on 7 January, as well as of the meeting of the president of the European Council, Charles Michel, with the Prime Minister of the Libyan Government of National Accord Fayez al-Sarraj on the following day.

In the margins of the meeting, ministers will also be informally briefed on Libya by the UN Special Representative and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), Mr Ghassan Salamé.

[The European Union will step up efforts towards a peaceful and political solution in Libya](#) (press release, 8 January 2020)

[Joint Statement by the High Representative of the EU for Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom](#)

[Statement by High Representative/Vice President Josep Borrell on recent developments in Libya](#)

## Recent developments in Iraq and ways to de-escalate tensions in the region

The Council will be briefed on the latest developments in Iraq.

Ministers will be invited to assess the consequences of the recent escalation of tension and major security incidents in Iraq and in the wider region as well as the impact thereof on the international coalition engaged in the continuing fight against Da'esh. Ministers will exchange views on possible ways to de-escalate tensions both in the short and longer term.

In the context of this discussion, ministers will also have an opportunity to be briefed by the Secretary General of NATO, Mr Jens Stoltenberg.

[Statement by Charles Michel, President of the European Council, on the situation in Iraq](#)

[Statement by President von der Leyen on recent developments related to Iran and Iraq](#)

[Statement by the High Representative Josep Borrell on the recent developments in Iraq](#)

[EU delegation to Iraq](#)

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