

**BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>**  
Brussels, 19 October 2023

## **EU-US Summit Washington, 20 October 2023**

On **Friday 20 October**, the leaders of the EU and US will hold a summit in Washington.

The EU will be represented by the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen. The US will be represented by President Joe Biden.

The meeting will cover the following topics:

- Israel, Hamas, and the Middle East
- long term support for Ukraine
- trade, with a focus on the Global Arrangement on Sustainable Steel and Aluminium (GSA) and the EU-US Critical Minerals Agreement (CMA)
- the green transition on both sides of Atlantic
- economic resilience
- China
- other Foreign Policy issues, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Western Balkans
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)

At the end of the meeting, leaders are expected to adopt a joint statement.

[EU-US Summit webpage](#)

### **Middle East**

Leaders will address the situation in the region following the terrorist attacks of Hamas, and discuss the way forward, including on preventing further escalation and the humanitarian dimension of the crisis.

### **Support for Ukraine**

The summit is expected to confirm EU-US long-term commitment and support to Ukraine in all aspects:

- security commitments on military assistance
- reconstruction
- accountability for war crimes

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- Ukraine's reform path
- addressing the global consequences of the war.

Leaders are expected to send a strong signal of their continued financial support to Ukraine. [Joint EU-US statement following the EU-US Ministerial Meeting on Justice and Home Affairs](#)  
[EU solidarity with Ukraine](#)

### Climate change

Leaders will continue discussions held at the UN General Assembly in September to help countries battling climate change by **reforming multilateral development banks**. They are expected to consolidate efforts to support climate resilience efforts across the world, especially in the Global South. The EU is the world's top provider of climate finance - providing €23 billion in 2021.

[The EU's contribution to international climate finance](#)  
[Speech by President Charles Michel at the High-level event "Towards a Fair International Financial Architecture" at the UN General Assembly, 2023](#)  
[Climate change: what the EU is doing #](#)

### Trade

The US is by far the EU's largest trading partner in services and investment, and the EU-US relationship is pivotal to the global economy. Leaders are expected to commit to further growing EU-US trade and investment opportunities as well as to uphold and reform the rules-based multilateral trading system, **in accordance with WTO rules**.

Finally, leaders will look to promote the exchange of green technologies to build on the strategic agenda.

[Infographic - EU-US trade](#)

### China

EU and US leaders will look to find synergy in their approaches to working with China in addressing the main challenges to global security, such as climate change and Russia's war against Ukraine.

[European Council conclusions on China, 30 June 2023](#)  
[Readout of the meeting between President Charles Michel and China's Prime Minister Li Qiang, 10 September 2023](#)

### Other topics

EU and US leaders will also take stock of the progress made within the EU-US **Trade and Technology Council** (TTC) and agree to advance on all of its work-strands, including **Artificial Intelligence, semi-conductors**, clean energy and digital trade.

The summit should also upgrade EU-US cooperation to tackle **foreign information manipulation and interference** and encourage further **EU-US cooperation on security and defence**, in compatibility with NATO.

Finally, leaders are expected to reinforce EU-US people-to-people contacts, particularly when it comes to young people, through transatlantic exchanges and by strengthening academic connections.

### Background

This is the second EU-US summit since 2021, when the US President visited Brussels to meet the Presidents of the EU institutions.

[EU-US summit, Brussels, 15 June 2021](#)