

BACKGROUND¹
Brussels, 17 April 2024

**Special European Council
Brussels, 17-18 April 2024**

The Special European Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 April** in Brussels, Belgium. On Wednesday, EU leaders will hold an exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola followed by a working dinner. President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy will also address leaders via videoconference.

EU leaders will meet on Thursday Enrico Letta who will present the high-level report on the future of the single market.

During the meeting, EU leaders will discuss:

- Competitiveness and the single market
- Ukraine
- Middle East
- Türkiye

[Invitation letter by President Charles Michel to the members of the European Council](#)

Indicative schedule

Wednesday, 17 April 2024

18:30 Arrivals and doorsteps

19:00 Exchange of views with the President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola

19:45 Session with Ukrainian President Zelenskyy via VTC

20:00 Working dinner of the Special European Council

TBC Press Conference by the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen

Thursday, 18 April 2024

8:45 Arrivals

9:30 Session with Enrico Letta

10:30 Working session and working lunch of the Special European Council

TTBC Press conference by the President of the European Council Charles Michel and the President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen

Competitiveness and Single Market

EU leaders will discuss how to enhance Europe's economic, industrial and technological base. Leaders will focus on the single market and the capital markets union.

At their meetings in March and June 2023, EU leaders discussed how to build a robust and future-proof economy that will secure prosperity. In this context, they called for ambitious action to complete the single market and to harness its full potential.

President of the Jacques Delors Institute Enrico Letta will present to leaders a high-level report on the future of the EU's single market.

["Much more than a market", a report by Enrico Letta](#)

[EU industrial policy \(background information\)](#)

[EU single market \(background information\)](#)

[Circular economy \(background information\)](#)

[European capital markets \(background information\)](#)

[Common agricultural policy 2023-2027 \(background information\)](#)

Ukraine

The European Council will discuss the latest developments in Ukraine and will reiterate the EU's unwavering commitment to providing continued political, financial, economic, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support to Ukraine and its people for as long as it takes. In this context, they will address Russia's continued air and missile attacks against Ukraine's civilians and against its critical infrastructure, including the recent intensified targeting of the energy sector.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will address leaders via videoconference.

[EU solidarity with Ukraine](#)

Middle East

EU leaders will discuss the latest developments in the Middle East, including in Lebanon.

In the wake of Iran's drone and missile attacks against Israel, the EU has strongly condemned the attacks and stated that they are an unprecedented escalation and a threat to regional security. In this highly tense regional situation, the EU has called on all parties to exercise the utmost restraint and has expressed its full commitment to contribute to de-escalation and to the security of the region. To this end, the EU is in contact with all sides.

EU leaders will continue their efforts to work towards a de-escalation of the tensions in Middle East.

[Statement by the High Representative on behalf of the EU on humanitarian pauses in Gaza](#)

[EU sanctions against Iran \(background information\)](#)

[European Council, 21-22 March 2024](#)

Türkiye

EU leaders will have a strategic debate on EU-Türkiye relations, in view of the report of the High Representative and the Commission on the state of play of political, economic and trade relations.

[EU-Türkiye relations \(background information\)](#)

[Joint communication on the state of play of EU-Türkiye political, economic and trade relations 2023 \(European Commission\)](#)

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