

European Union Foreign Affairs Council
Brussels, Belgium

The European Union is a political and economic union consisting of 27 member states that was established in 1993 after the signing of the Maastricht Treaty. The founding member states of the EU consist of Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands which has now expanded to almost half of Europe. The European Union was formed to foster peace between the European countries after World War II and the Cold War as well as promote economic development. The EU received the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize for turning former adversaries, France and Germany, into cooperative partners.

Foreign Policy Priorities

- Russia's War in Ukraine: The European Union provides financial assistance, military backing through the European Peace Facility, and comprehensive humanitarian support to maintain Ukrainian state sponsored services. It has committed to provide a long term reconstruction plan.
- Middle East Conflict: The EU serves as a principal provider of international humanitarian relief across Palestine, Syria, and Yemen by providing food, medical supplies, and clean water. The EU tries to support the two state solution for regional stability and economic partnerships in neighbouring countries like Jordan, Lebanon, and Egypt.
- Relations with China: The EU tries to be partners with China, but with China being a part of BRICS there's a balancing act that mixes cooperation, economic competition, and systemic rivalry.
- Migration: The European Union has shifted toward a heavily restrictive approach focused on strict border enforcement and launching accelerated asylum screenings**.** It invests heavily in transit and origin countries across North Africa and the Western Balkans to curb irregular migration networks, address socioeconomic causes, and establish legal migration pathways and return agreements.