



European Council
Council of the European Union

European Council

Informal meeting of heads of state or government, Granada, 6 October 2023

Main results



[Path to the Strategic Agenda 2024-2029 \(infographic\)](#)



Highlighting achievements to date, EU leaders discussed long-term priorities with regard to enhancing the EU's strategic autonomy. They adopted **the Granada declaration**, in which they outlined key priorities and actions to make

Europe a strong, dynamic and competitive power. The President of the European Council adopted a declaration on migration.

[The Granada declaration, 6 October 2023](#)

[Declaration by the President of the European Council, 6 October 2023](#)

Discussions on the EU's future priorities will continue in the coming months, ahead of the adoption of the **strategic agenda** in June 2024. This is a policy plan to be defined and agreed by EU leaders, providing the EU with general political guidelines and direction.

[EU strategic agenda 2024-2029 \(background information\)](#)

The informal European Council meeting took place following the third meeting of the European Political Community.

[Meeting of the European Political Community, 5 October 2023](#)

A strong and resilient EU

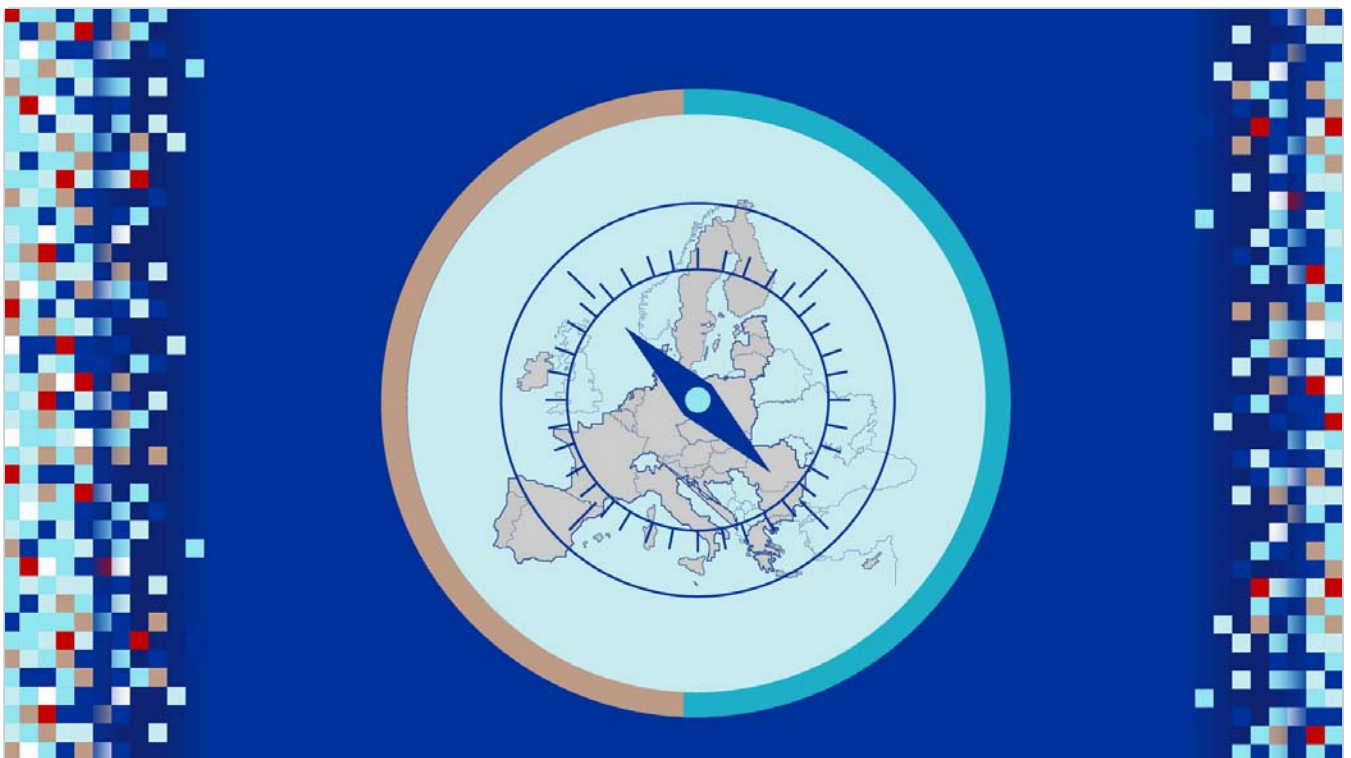
In recent years, the EU has faced several crises from which it has emerged stronger and more united. From the **global COVID-19 pandemic** and its socio-economic fallout to **Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine**, the EU has taken decisive action that has strengthened its strategic capabilities while also protecting its citizens and economies.

Drawing on its past work, the previous strategic agenda and guidance from the informal meeting in Versailles in March 2022, the EU has made progress on enhancing its strategic autonomy while fully supporting Ukraine.

Informal meeting of heads of state or government, Versailles, 10-11 March 2022

EU solidarity with Ukraine (background information)

Security and defence



[The Strategic Compass one year on: an assessment \(infographic\)](#)



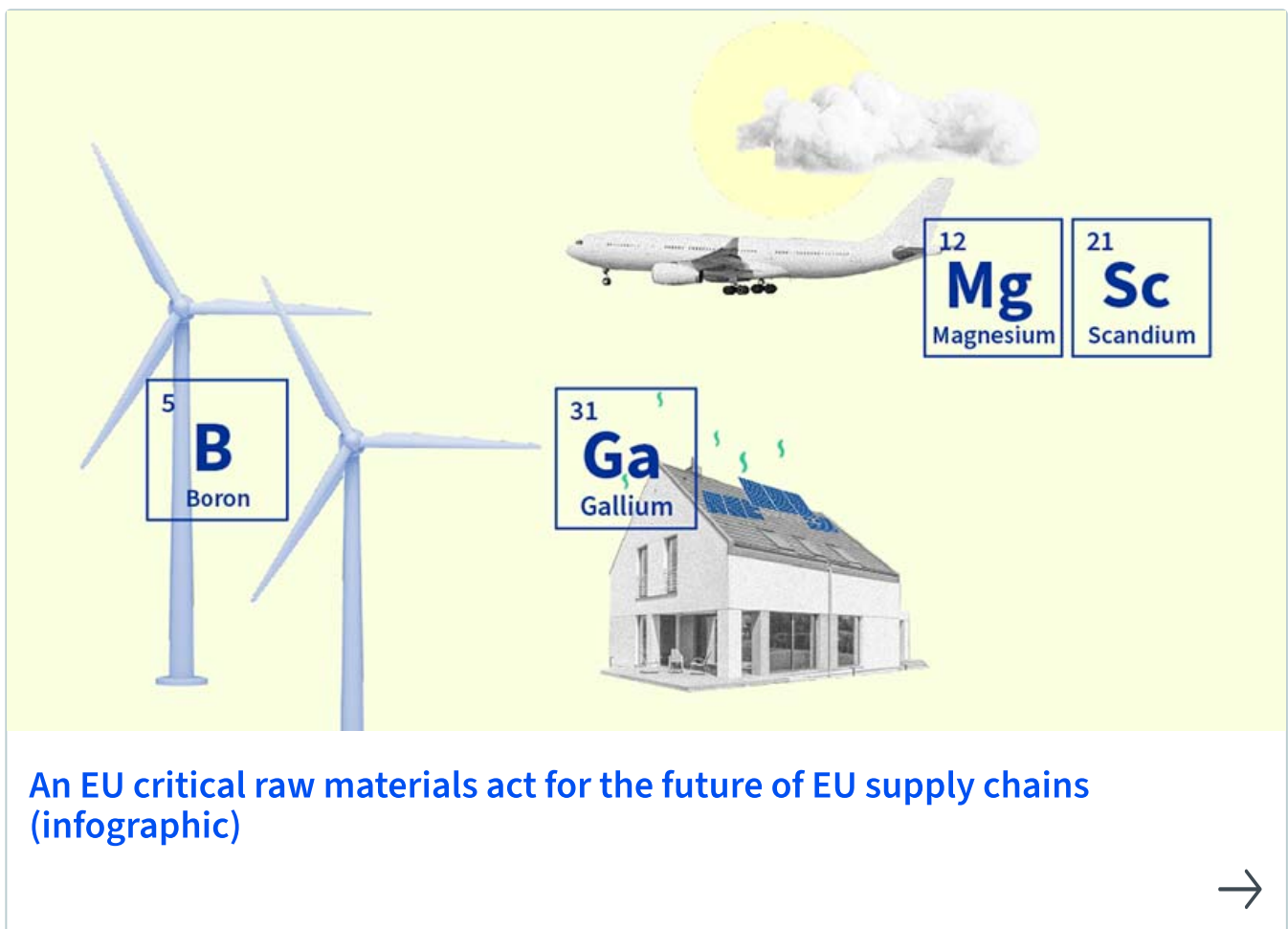
Building on the **Strategic Compass** for security and defence, an initiative that outlines a common understanding of key threats and challenges to Europe in the short and medium term, EU leaders committed to **strengthening the EU's defence readiness** and further developing its technological and industrial base.

To this end, they will focus on:

- military mobility
- resilience in space
- countering cyber and hybrid threats
- countering foreign information manipulation

[EU cooperation on security and defence \(background information\)](#)

Competitiveness and the EU single market



EU leaders are committed to strengthening the **EU's resilience** and **long-term competitiveness** and to making the EU's single market more cohesive, innovation-driven and interconnected.

At the informal meeting, they committed to maintaining their efforts and focusing on areas such as:

- crisis preparedness
- the green and digital transitions
- energy and resource efficiency
- adaptation to climate change
- critical medicines and raw materials

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

[Climate change: what the EU is doing \(background information\)](#)

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

Multilateralism and global partnerships

The EU is committed to a **rules-based international order** with the United Nations at its core, and to bringing **more fairness** to the multilateral system. To this end, EU leaders underlined the importance of fostering global partnerships and trade, and of enhancing cooperation on:

- diversification of supply chains
- trade and investment agreements
- sustainable development needs
- health emergency preparedness

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

Enlargement and absorption capacity

“ Enlargement is a geo-strategic investment in peace, security, stability and prosperity.

Granada declaration, 6 October 2023

EU leaders discussed the prospect of an enlarged EU and stressed that both the EU and future members need to be ready.

As EU accession is a **merit-based process**, the leaders underlined that the aspiring members need to step up their reform efforts, notably in the area of the rule of law. In parallel, the EU needs to lay the necessary internal groundwork and carry out reforms.

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

Migration

EU leaders discussed migration. The President of the European Council, Charles Michel, stressed in a declaration that **irregular migration** needs to be addressed immediately in a resolute manner.

“ We will not allow smugglers to decide who enters the EU.

European Council President Charles Michel, 6 October 2023

To pursue a **comprehensive approach to migration**, in compliance with international law and EU principles and values, he called for a focus on:

- increased external action
- effective protection of EU external borders
- partnerships with countries of origin and transit
- addressing root causes of migration
- opportunities for legal migration

The EU is further committed to **fighting organised crime, human trafficking** and **smuggling**, as well as the instrumentalisation of migration as a hybrid threat.

[EU migration and asylum policy \(background information\)](#)

[Refugee inflow from Ukraine \(background information\)](#)

[Migration and asylum pact \(background information\)](#)

Meeting files

Outcome documents

[List of participants](#)

Press releases

06/10/2023

[Remarks by President Charles Michel after the informal European Council meeting in Granada](#)

06/10/2023

[The Granada declaration](#)

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[Declaration by the President of the European Council](#)

02/10/2023

[Invitation letter by President Charles Michel to the members of the European Council ahead of their informal meeting on 6 October 2023](#)

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Last review: 3 February 2025