

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Study Guide

*Şahinkaya Model United
Nations Conference 2018
April 28 - May 1*

**Agenda Item: European Union's Global
Strategy on its Foreign and Security Policy**

Letter from the Secretary-General

Most distinguished participants,

It is an overwhelming honour for me to welcome you all to the fifth annual session of Şahinkaya Model United Nations Conference in the name of the most honourable Deputy Secretary-General Gökhan Şeheri, Director-General Kenan Bora Bulun and all other members of academic and organisation teams. My name is Egemen Büyükkaya and I will be serving as Secretary-General. Witnessing the birth and the evolution of this conference then seeing the particular escalation of it is a distinct feeling for all of us working day and night to bring this conference to reality again this year.

For the last six years, we have achieved a lot with the fellow members of Şahinkaya MUN Club by our utmost compliance and sincerity among us and now we are a huge family with members all around Turkey. In understanding MUN, a full comprehension of the United Nations is initial. The UN is founded on the most important principle of communication, a communication that is able to prevent wars, resolve problems through peace. Notwithstanding the obscure atmosphere of politics in today's world that resolutions are not reached through communication, but through battalions and attritions. MUN is the only way to apprehend the right ways to resolve these international problems in a theatre of diplomacy by you, the leaders of the future. As Şahinkaya MUN we are working diligently with all of our enthusiasm to bring the most realistic committees to the participants as the previous years.

In the fifth year of our conference, we have five committees that not only you can alter the past but also you can shape the present and the future for delegates, the leaders of the future.

A conference without its delegates is nothing, as the team of Şahinkaya MUN, our ultimate wish is to organise a conference that you will enjoy and have the most glorious memories. I wish that with this experience you will gain the skills that is necessary to be a part of the globalisation, and you will be aware that the more united we are, the stronger we will become. We are all looking forward to meeting you in April.

Sincerely,

Egemen Büyükkaya

Secretary-General of Şahinkaya MUN 2018

Letter from the Under-Secretary-General

Honourable participants,

It is my privilege and pleasure to welcome you all to Şahinkaya Model United Nations Conference 2018. My name is Eren MERMER and I am a prep student at Boğaziçi University department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering. I have been attending MUN conferences for five years as a delegate or a committee director and this year I will be the Under-Secretary-General responsible for European Council at Şahinkaya MUN 2018.

This year European Council has the agenda item of “*European Union’s Global Strategy on its Foreign and Security Policy*”. This broad agenda item will harbor three important topics: *The trade relations of the EU and the US*, *Risk of Measles Transmission in the EU*, and *Relations with DPRK*. I am sure that you will enjoy the challenge while discussing these topics of importance.

I would like to thank to our Secretary-General Mr. Egemen Büyükkaya and our Deputy-Secretary-General Mr. Gökhan Şeheri for their amazing efforts and guidance throughout the process.

I also would like to my colleagues Mr. Ahmet Zafer Sağlık and Ms. Ayşe Karışman for their efforts and assistance on this study guide.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at mermereren1@gmail.com for any of your questions or inquiries about the study guide, the committee, or the conference.

Best regards,

Eren MERMER, Under-Secretary-General responsible for European Council.

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL

1.1. The Brief History of The European Council

Following the Copenhagen summit (December 1973), which made provision for summits to be held whenever necessary, the Paris summit of December 1974, hosted by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, created the European Council.¹ At first, it was an informal forum for discussion between heads of state or government of the EU member states. It soon developed a role as the body responsible for fixing EU's goals and priorities. Its first meeting was in March 1975 in Dublin².

The Maastricht Treaty, which was signed on 7 February 1992, came into force on 1 November 1993 and created the European Union, based on enlarged Community Pillar, covering among other things the creation of economic and monetary union, and two new pillars: common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and cooperation in the fields of justice and home affairs (JHA).

In addition, the Treaty addressed the European Council's role in inter-institutional relations. It formalized the practice by which the European Council was presided over by the Head of State or Government of the country holding the Presidency of the Council. Furthermore, in keeping with the increase in the European Parliament's powers, the Treaty provided that the European Council must submit a report to the Parliament following each of its meetings and an annual written report on the progress made by the Union. Finally, the Maastricht Treaty began to clarify the powers of the European Council: "The European Council shall provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development and shall define the general political guidelines thereof." The definition by the European Council of broad economic policy guidelines is an expression of this role³

The Lisbon Treaty amending the existing treaties came into force on 1 December 2009. Among other things, it gives the European Council an institution status, which means that it is subject to all the provisions applicable to the Union's institutions. The Treaty also provided a

¹ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/31035/qc3111406enc.pdf>

² <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/31035/qc3111406enc.pdf>

³ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/31035/qc3111406enc.pdf>

stable Presidency for the European Council, including a President elected by its members for two and a half years, renewable once.⁴

Since the Lisbon Treaty came into force, the European Council, under the Presidency of Herman Van Rompuy, its first elected President, has been the source of all the major decisions the Union has taken to address international and internal challenges in the economic, financial and monetary fields, in asylum and immigration, enlargement, development, cooperation and international relations. It has therefore taken on the strategic role that was assigned to it by the Maastricht Treaty and confirmed by the Lisbon Treaty in the development of the Union [4].

1.2 The Functions of The European Council

The European Council is the driving force behind the European Union, setting its course and its political priorities. Its policy orientations feed into the work of the Council and the European Parliament. European Council meetings set the agenda for future policy making and therefore are central to the life of the EU.⁵

The members of the European Council are the **heads of state or government** of the 28 EU member states, the **European Council President** and the **President of the European Commission**. The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy also takes part in European Council meetings when foreign affairs issues are discussed.⁶

European Council meetings usually take place four times a year, with two meetings scheduled per period of six months, but the President is free to convene meetings to address urgent issues. Meetings are usually convened in Brussels and are preceded by a meeting with the President of the European Parliament.

European Council does not adopt legislations. It agrees conclusions, which reflect the main results of the discussions. The conclusions identify major issues to be dealt with by the Council and the European Parliament as co-legislators, or they may invite the European Commission to put forward proposals on specific issues.

The European Council takes most of its decisions by **consensus**. In a number of cases, however, qualified majority applies, such as the election of its President, and the appointment

⁴ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/31035/qc3111406enc.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/30180/qc0714062enn.pdf>

⁶ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/european-council/>

of the members of the Commission and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

When the European Council decides by vote, neither its President, nor the President of the Commission nor the High Representative take part in the vote.

The work of the European Council is coordinated by its President, who prepares, chairs and leads the meetings and seeks general agreement among its members. Together with the President of the European Commission, he represents the EU at the top level. The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy represents Union interests in foreign affairs and security matters.⁷

2. THE EU-US TRADE RELATIONS

The EU market is the largest market in the world with the United States as its largest trading partner. The US is the main destination of exports of the EU and the third largest source of the EU imports. As for the US, the EU represents the second most important export market as well as the second most important source of imports.

The trade relations between these markets is a matter of the utmost importance in the world. Together they contribute to the world trade with goods by 33% and by 42% to the world trade with services, constituting almost 60% of global GDP and supporting more than 13 million jobs on both sides of the Atlantic. They represent the largest and the richest market in the world, constituting more than three-quarters of the world financial market.⁸

2.1 The Brief History of the Economical Cooperation Between the EU and US

U.S. cooperation with the EU is based on the Transatlantic Declaration of 1990 and the New Transatlantic Agenda (NTA), adopted in 1995. This cooperation, which has been gradually deepened and broadened, takes place on many levels and includes summit meetings at the level of heads of state and government between the U.S., the European Commission and the country holding the EU Presidency⁹, aiming to promote peace and stability, democracy and development around the world, respond the global challenges, contribute to the expansion

⁷ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/30180/qc0714062enn.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.degruyter.com/downloadpdf/j/stcb.2016.9.issue-34/stcb-2016-0020/stcb-2016-0020.pdf>

⁹ <https://useu.usmission.gov/our-relationship/policy-history/io/>

of the world trade and closer economic relations¹⁰. Within this framework and to accomplish the goals set out in the NTA, extensive Joint EU-US Action Plan was developed as follows;

•Promoting Peace, Stability, Democracy and Development Around the World

This goal aims to work towards an increasingly stable and prosperous Europe; foster democracy and economic reform in Central and Eastern Europe as well as Russia, Ukraine and other new independent states; secure peace in the Middle East; advance human rights; promote nonproliferation and cooperation on development and humanitarian assistance.

•Responding to Global Challenges

This goal is focused on fighting international crime, drug-trafficking and terrorism, addressing the needs of refugees and displaced persons, protecting the environment and combatting disease.

•Contributing to the Expansion of World Trade and Closer Economic Relations

This important objective involves strengthening the multilateral trading system and taking concrete, practical steps to promote closer economic relations between the EU and the US.

•Building Bridges Across the Atlantic

This goal involves working with business groups, scientists, educators and others to improve communication and to ensure that future generations remain committed to developing a full and equal partnership. This objective aims to broaden the process of transatlantic relations and seeks to enhance transatlantic connections in the business, educational and non-governmental sectors.

The NTA resulted in a common agenda and deeper commitments for the US and the EU to work together. The Transatlantic Declaration was designed to be a relationship of consultation, whereas the NTA is a relationship of joint action. The NTA reaffirmed the importance of the transatlantic relationship to both parties and made clear the expanding scope of the relationship. A regular political dialogue between the U.S. and the EC was thereby initiated at various levels, including regular summit meetings.

¹⁰ http://www.usicd.org/doc/10_01_15_The_New_Transatlantic_Agenda_and_the_UNCRPD_AP_RevisedVersion.pdf

As an extension of the NTA efforts, an agreement was reached at the 1998 London summit to intensify cooperation in the area of trade, which resulted in the Transatlantic Economic Partnership (TEP). The TEP covers both bilateral and multilateral trade. Bilaterally, TEP addresses various types of obstacles to trade and strives for establishing agreements on mutual recognition in the areas of goods and services.¹¹

Then for the further cooperation, The Transatlantic Economic Council was set up in 2007 to guide the work on transatlantic economic convergence. The TEC is the only EU-US high level forum in which economic issues can be discussed in a coherent and coordinated manner. It brings together a range of ongoing economic cooperation activities in issues of mutual interest and provides a platform to give political guidance to this work. It also provides a political forum for discussing strategic global economic questions.¹²

The TEC works to facilitate agreement on a wide range of economically important issues managed through its current work plan. Meeting at least once per year, the co-chairs of the TEC – the White House Deputy National Security Advisor for International Economic Affairs and the EU Commissioner for Trade – promote dialogue and agreement to further integrate the transatlantic economies. Across a spectrum of interrelated issues, the TEC seeks to eliminate trade barriers, implement best practices, harmonise standards, and develop market access.¹³

At the EU-US Summit in 28 November 2011, Leaders directed the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) to establish a High-Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth, led by the US Trade Representative Ron Kirk and EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht. The Working Group is tasked to identify policies and measures to increase US-EU trade and investments to support mutually beneficial job creation, economic growth, and international competitiveness. Leaders asked the Working Group to work closely with all public and private sector stakeholder groups and to draw on existing dialogues and mechanisms appropriately.¹⁴

¹¹ <https://useu.usmission.gov/our-relationship/policy-history/io/>

¹² <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/united-states/>

¹³ <https://useu.usmission.gov/business/>

¹⁴ http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2011/november/tradoc_148387.pdf

In the beginning of 2013 the EU and the US formally launched negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).¹⁵ The proposed Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) is a comprehensive trade deal between the European Union (EU) and the United States with the aim of promoting trade and economic growth. The TTIP is a companion agreement to the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) which the United States has withdrew from. This deal was expected to be the biggest trade agreement ever negotiated [8,9]. However following 15 rounds of talks negotiations were stopped without conclusion at the end of 2016, following the change of Administration in Washington. The logic for a further deepening of the transatlantic trade and investment relationship remains compelling but it is premature to anticipate whether or when negotiations could resume.¹⁶

Inevitably for two economies of such size with such a high volume of trade, the EU and the US encounter a number of trade disputes which are handled through the dispute settlement mechanism of the WTO.¹⁷

2.2 Remarkable Trade Disputes Between the EU and the US

The EU-US trade concerns focus on labour and capital-intensive sectors, characterised by economies of scale and intra-industry trade. In the past, agricultural products have been the subject of several disputes. And with different public preferences, the greatest divergences are still found in areas of consumer and food safety, environmental protection and subsidies.

a) Settled Disputes

•Beef Hormone (1989-2009)

The beef hormone dispute concerned EU restrictions limiting the use of natural hormones, banning synthetic hormones, and prohibiting imports of animals and meat from animals that have been given hormones. In 1996, the US commenced a WTO case.

In 1997, the dispute settlement panel found against the EU, ruling that the ban had not been based on science, (i.e. on adequate risk assessment or according to relevant

¹⁵ <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/t/transatlantic-trade-and-investment-partnership-ttip.asp>

¹⁶ <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/united-states/>

¹⁷ <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/united-states/>

international standards). On appeal, the appellate body upheld this, deciding that the EU had not scientifically proven that the hormones posed a cancer risk to consumers, but nonetheless acknowledging that countries may adopt more strict standards provided they were supported by an adequate risk assessment. As the EU rules had been introduced in response to consumer concerns about hormones, the EU decided not to comply with the WTO ruling and, instead, accepted retaliatory measures.

In 2009, a Memorandum on Beef Hormones was signed but it was only in 2012, when the Council modified the applicable rules that the dispute finally ended.

•Bananas (1999 to 2009)

The bananas dispute concerned the two-tier tariff rate quota systems based on the country of origin of bananas in the line with the Lome Convention. The US contested this regime as it affected US producers with operations with Latin America. The dispute, caused by specific EU commitments, was resolved by the 2009 Geneva Agreement on Trade in Bananas.

•Byrd Amendment (2000-2007)

The Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act provided for the proceeds of anti-dumping cases to be paid to the US companies that had brought the case. The EU and other WTO members argued that such reimbursement would entail an additional remedy and double protection.

•Steel Safeguard Measures (2002-2003)

In some cases, the reason for introducing measures can be the desire and need to protect a specific industry. While GATT and WTO allow some such measures, it is nevertheless necessary to show that imports are the primary cause of injury to such an industry. The WTO dispute panel concluded that was not the case regarding US measures in the steel industry.

b)Ongoing Disputes**•Aeroplanes (since 2004)**

The Airbus and Boeing disputes concern subsidies to the respective companies. In 1992 the EU and the US concluded a bilateral EU-US Agreement on Trade in Large Civil Aircraft, which regulated the granting of subsidies in this area.

In October 2004, the US announced its withdrawal from the 1992 Agreement and challenged public subsidies granted to Airbus. In response, the EU challenged public support granted to Boeing. The WTO ruled that both sides had infringed the rules on subsidies, and so both parties then asked the WTO to allow counter-measures, with the EU doing so on 27 September 2012. While imposition of such measures could lead to a trade war involving other sectors, it is expected that the dispute will eventually be settled.

•Poultry Dispute (since 1997)

Under the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) all measures aimed at protecting human, animal and plant health must be based on scientific principles, and not discriminate arbitrarily or unjustifiably. The ongoing poultry dispute, as well as the earlier beef and GMO disputes, highlight the significant divergence in understandings of scientific evidence, scientifically proven risk and the precautionary principle between the US and the EU.¹⁸

3. RISK OF MEASLES TRANSMISSION IN THE EU

“Given the current extent of measles circulation in the EU/EEA, the trend in recent years, and the fact that vaccination coverage for the first and second dose is suboptimal, there is a high risk of continued measles transmission with mutual exportation and importation between EU/EEA Member States and third countries.” European Centre for Disease Transmission and Control (ECDC) (21 March 2018)

¹⁸ [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/bibliotheque/briefing/2013/130518/LDM_BRI\(2013\)130518_REV1_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/bibliotheque/briefing/2013/130518/LDM_BRI(2013)130518_REV1_EN.pdf)

This section of the study guide will examine the recent increase of the reported measles cases. Unless explicitly stated, all of the information given below is provided from ECDC's rapid risk assessment on current measles transmission in the EU/EEA in March 2018.¹⁹

3.1. Disease Background Information

Measles is an acute illness caused by *morbillivirus*. The disease is transmitted via airborne respiratory droplets, or by direct contact with nasal and throat secretions of infected individuals. Measles is highly infectious and it is estimated that 90% of non-immune people exposed to an infectious individual will contract the disease. Measles frequently results in widespread outbreaks, mainly among unvaccinated individuals. The disease is preventable by vaccination, which provides lifelong immunity in most recipients. Vaccine uptake of at least 95% with two doses of measles-containing vaccine is necessary to ensure the level of immunity in the population required to interrupt disease circulation and achieve elimination (ECDC).

3.2. Event Background Information

According to the European Centre for Disease Transmission and Control (ECDC), between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2017, 14 600 cases of measles were reported by EU/EEA Member States to the European surveillance system (TESSy). The total number of cases was more than triple the number of reported cases in 2016 (4 642) and 2015 (4 000). Furthermore, 2 239 cases have been reported by the Romanian Institute of Public Health for 2017 which are not yet submitted to TESSy.²⁰ More than 75% of all reported cases in 2017 were recorded in the first half of the year, with the highest numbers in the months of March (2802), April (2474) and May (2244). Following a sharp decline in the number of cases in the summer months, a steady increase was observed towards the end of the year. The number of cases by country and the subnational notification rate per million population per country for the calendar year 2017 are presented in Figures 2 (left panel) and 3 respectively. For January 2018, the number of cases (n=1 073) by country is presented in Figure 2 (right panel). All but one (Malta) EU/EEA country reported measles cases in 2017 and January 2018. In 2017, most cases were reported by Romania (5 608), Italy (5 098), Greece (967), Germany (929) and

¹⁹ European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Risk of measles transmission in the EU/EEA, 21 March 2018. Stockholm, ECDC. 2018.

²⁰ National Institute of Public Health Romania. Measles situation reports in Romania 2018: [Weekly measles reports in Romania p.]. Available from: <http://www.cnsrb.ro/index.php/informari-saptamanale/rujeola-1/>.

France (518), accounting for, respectively 38%, 35%, 7%, 6% and 4% of all cases reported by EU/EEA countries. Since the end of 2017, Greece and France have reported a notable increase in cases.

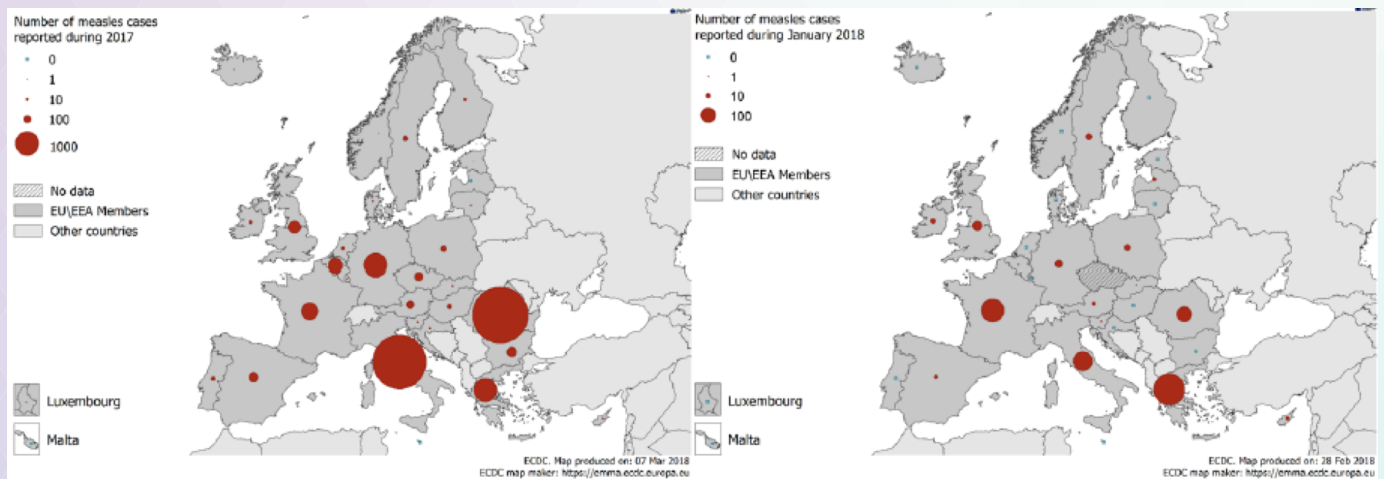


Figure 1. Subnational distribution of measles cases per million population by place of notification, EU/EEA, 1 January 2017–31 December 2017

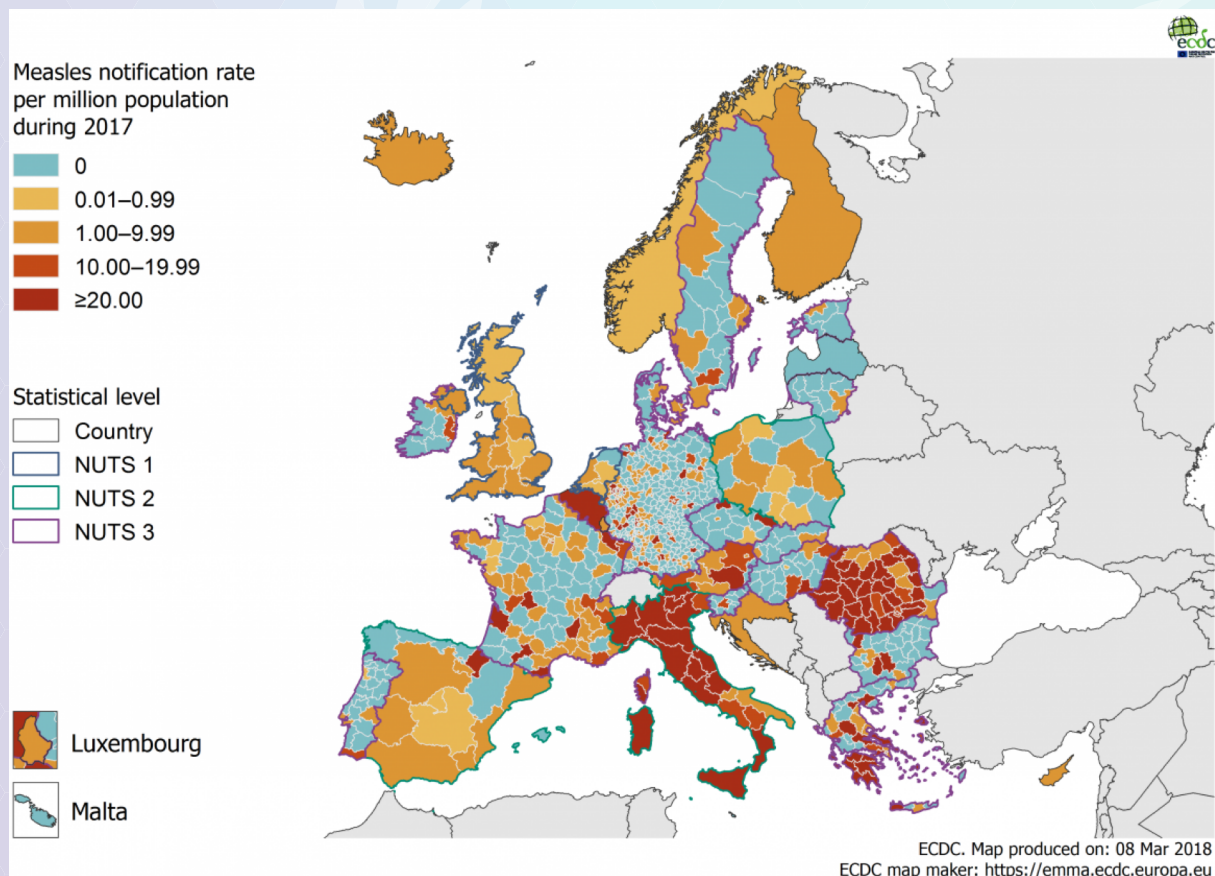


Figure 2. Distribution of measles cases by country, EU/EEA, 1 January–31 December 2017 (n=14 600) (left panel) and January 2018 (n=1 073) (right panel)

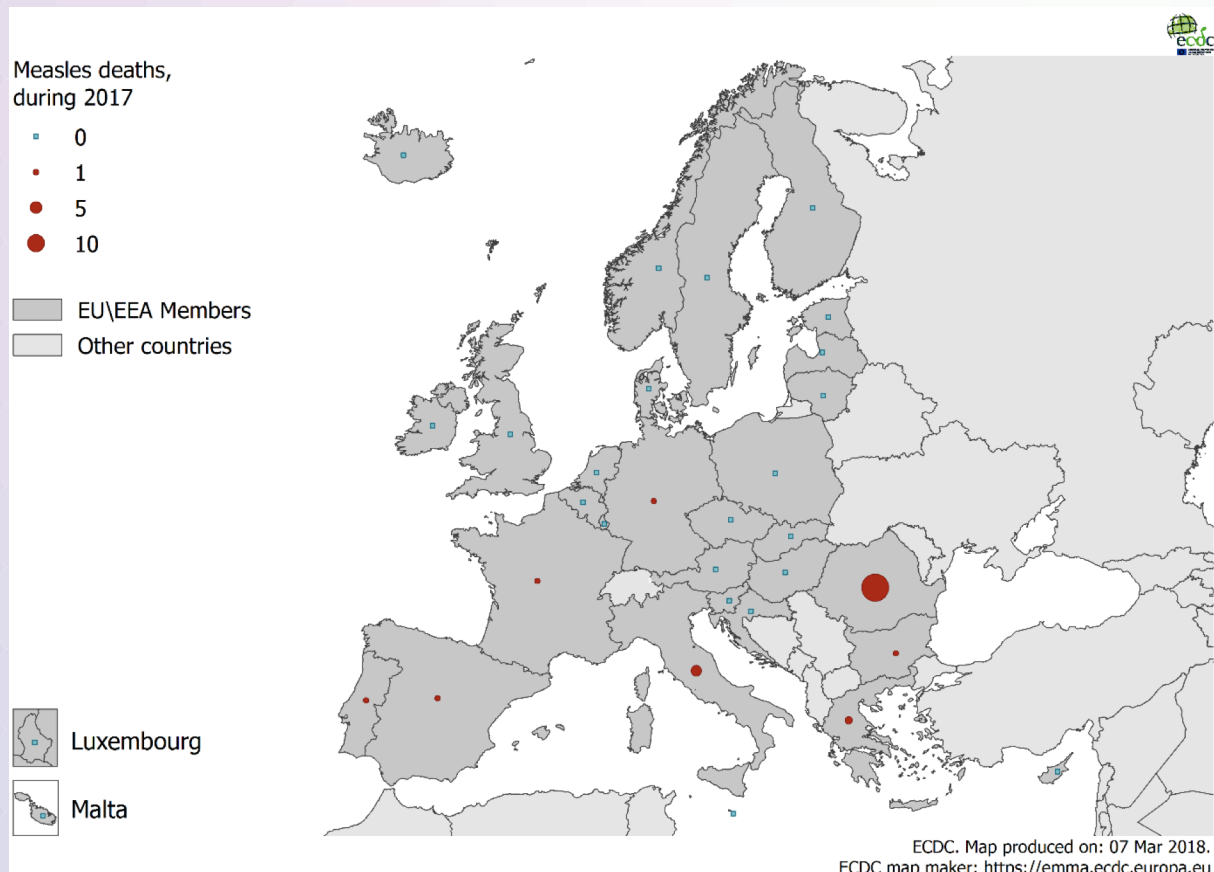


Figure 3. Distribution of measles deaths by country, EU/EEA, 1 January 2017–31 December 2017 (n=37)

In 2017, 37 deaths due to measles were reported across the EU/EEA; with 26 in Romania, four in Italy, two in Greece, and one each in Bulgaria, France, Germany, Portugal and Spain [3] (Figure 3). A further seven deaths have been reported in 2018; three in Romania, two in Italy, and one each in Greece and France.²¹

In 2017, among 13 716 cases with known importation status, 12 160 (89%) were reported to be endemic, 1 173 (9%) import-related and 383 (3%) imported. Of 14 600 cases with known age, 5 284 (37%) were in children less than five years of age, while 6 656 (45%) were aged 15 years or older. The highest incidence was reported in children below one year of age (365.9 cases per million), followed by children from 1 to 4 years of age (164.4 cases per million). Among 13 753 cases with known vaccination status, 87% were unvaccinated, 8% were vaccinated with one dose of measles-containing vaccine, 3% were vaccinated with two or more doses, and 2% were vaccinated with an unknown number of doses. Of all cases, 6% had an unknown vaccination status. The proportion of cases with unknown vaccination status was

²¹ European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Communicable disease threats report : CDTR Stockholm: ECDC; 2018 [updated 2018 Mar. 9]. Available from: <https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publicationsdata/communicable-disease-threats-report-4-10-march-2018-week-10>.

highest in adults aged 25–29 years (13%). The proportion of unvaccinated cases among the age groups targeted for vaccination ranged from 72% (25–29 year olds) to 86% (1–4 year olds). Among cases below one year of age, the proportion of unvaccinated cases was 96% as most vaccination programmes only target vaccination from one year of age. Infants below the age of one year are particularly vulnerable to complications from measles and are best protected by herd immunity. Herd immunity is achieved when population coverage for the second dose of a measles-containing vaccine is at least 95%. Measles continues to spread across Europe as the vaccination coverage in many EU/EEA countries is suboptimal. The latest available data on national vaccination coverage for the first and second doses of measles-containing vaccine are presented in Figure 5.²² The vaccination coverage in 2016 for the second dose of measles-containing vaccine was below 95% in 22 of 29 EU/EEA countries with data (Figure 4). If the elimination goal is to be reached, vaccination coverage needs to increase in a number of countries as, operationally, the vaccination coverage target for the second dose has to be at least 95% to interrupt measles circulation.

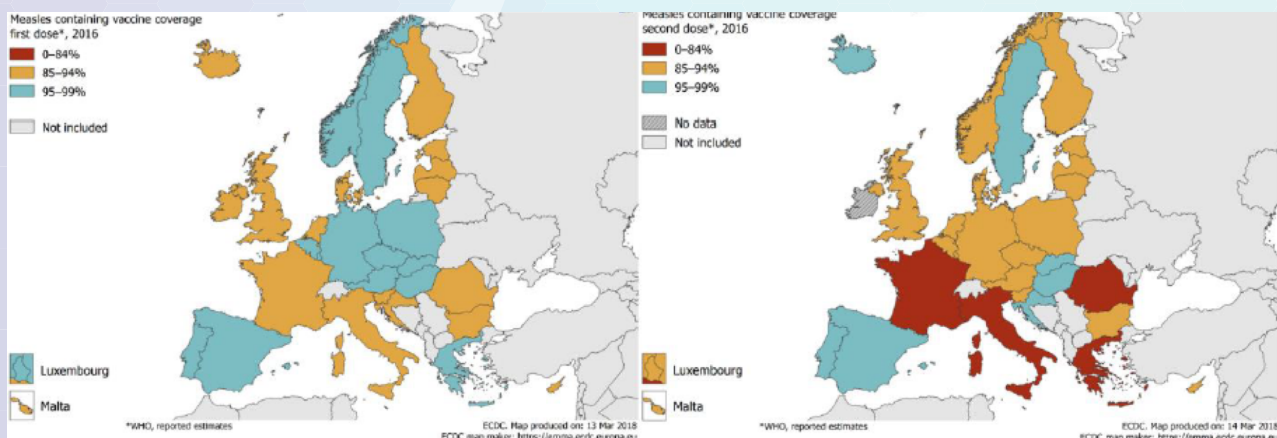


Figure 4. Vaccination coverage for the first (left panel) and second (right panel) doses of measles-containing vaccine by country, EU/EEA, 2016, WHO

Since the beginning of 2018, large outbreaks of measles continue to be reported from Greece (1 131), Romania (757), France (429), Italy (168) and Portugal (145). Smaller outbreaks of measles were also reported in other EU/EEA countries: Belgium (5), Czech Republic (23), Germany (33), Ireland (44), Latvia (9), Norway (4), Poland (17), Sweden (28) and the United Kingdom (42).

3.3. Healthcare Workers

In the EU/EEA, several measles outbreaks reported in 2017 and at the start of 2018 involved healthcare workers, including Belgium (35 cases), Czech Republic (20 cases), Italy (315

²² World Health Organization. WHO/UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage.

cases), Greece (67 cases), and Norway (2 cases). Transmission in healthcare settings has also been seen in countries with high vaccination coverage, e.g. Sweden (one case in healthcare workers) and Portugal (28 cases). As healthcare workers are prone to be in contact both with measles cases and with susceptible infants and immunocompromised patients, they have the potential to amplify measles transmission. The Scandinavian Verification Committee for Measles and Rubella Elimination has called for provision of easy access to vaccination against measles, free of charge, to non-immune health-care workers. In Sweden (Göteborg), public health authorities have taken specific measures to facilitate access to vaccination for unimmunized adults and for healthcare workers.

3.4. Romania

ECDC has previously published a Rapid Risk Assessment on the outbreak in Romania. According to the Romanian National Institute of Public Health (INSP), 11 123 confirmed cases of measles and 40 deaths have been registered since the beginning of the outbreak in early 2016 to 9 March 2018. The outbreak reached a peak of 1 315 cases in May 2017. The case count then dropped from around 300 cases per week between April and June, to 50 cases per week since the summer of 2017. Young children were the most affected, with 55% of the 5 608 cases reported to TESSy in 2017 aged under 5 years. Despite the decreasing number of cases reported, Romania is still experiencing large case counts. In the first two months of 2018, 757 confirmed cases of measles were reported, including three deaths. The vaccination coverage estimates for measles-containing vaccine in Romania submitted to WHO for 2016 were 86% and 76% for the first and second doses respectively.

3.5. Italy

Since January 2017, the monthly case count in Italy increased through late winter to early spring, peaking in March 2017 with 943 cases reported. For 2017, Italy reported a total of 5 098 cases and four deaths. Adults were the most affected, with 68% of reported cases aged above 20 years. However, the highest incidence was recorded in infants below one year of age. In 2017, 88% (4 146) of cases with known vaccination status were reported to be unvaccinated and 7% were vaccinated with only one dose. In January 2018, Italy reported 168 cases of measles, including two deaths. The median age of the cases is 25 years (range 2 days to 62 years), and 15 cases were children under one year of age. Among cases with known vaccination status, 93% were unvaccinated or had received one dose of measles-containing

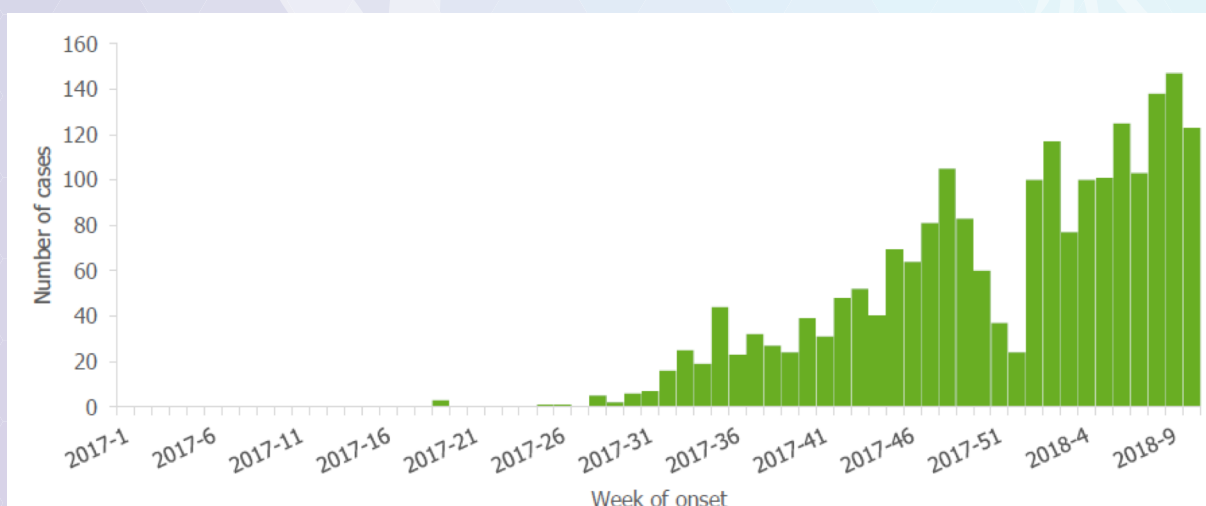
vaccine. The vaccination coverage estimates for measles-containing vaccine in Italy submitted to WHO for 2016 were 85% and 83% for the first and second doses respectively.²³

3.6. France

In 2017, France reported a total of 518 cases, including one death. There was an increasing number of cases from the beginning of the year with an early peak in May (114 cases), followed by a sharp decline with fewer cases in the summer and autumn. In December 2017, France reported a new increase with 65 cases, compared with 13 and 11 cases in October and November respectively. Adults and children were equally affected. Since 6 November 2017, and as of 12 March 2018, 913 cases were reported including one death in February. Of 201 hospitalized patients, 78 had complications and nine required resuscitative care. Almost 90% of cases with known vaccination status occurred in persons who were incompletely vaccinated or unvaccinated.²⁴ The vaccination coverage estimates for measles-containing vaccine in France submitted to WHO for 2016 were 90% and 79% for the first and second doses respectively.

3.7. Greece

In Greece, a total of 2 099 measles cases have been reported since the beginning of the outbreak in May 2017 to 15 March 2018 to the Hellenic Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (HCDCP). Of these cases, 1 131 were reported from January 2018 onwards [27]. During the previous three years (2014–2016) only two cases were reported. Three deaths were reported resulting from complications from measles. Of the 2 099 cases that were reported, 1 225 cases were laboratory confirmed, 728 cases were epidemiologically linked to laboratory-confirmed cases and 146 cases were classified as clinically compatible (Figure 5).



²⁴ Institute of Public Health of Macedonia. Information for measles situation in the Republic of Macedonia [internet]. 2018 [cited 2018 Mar. 13]. Available from: <http://www.iph.mk/en/information-for-measlessituation-in-the-republic-of-macedonia-up-to-november-3-2017/>.

Figure 5. Distribution of measles cases by week of onset, Greece, 2017-2018²⁵

the total number, 69% (n=1 373) were children aged up to 14 years of age. Adults aged 20 years and older constituted 31% (n=503) of the total reported cases, mainly 25–44 years old. According to annual coverage reports submitted to WHO, estimated national immunization coverage for measles-containing vaccine in 2016 was 97% and 83% for the first and second doses respectively.

3.8 Portugal

A recent measles outbreak in the northern region of Portugal was reported to include 145 suspected cases of which 53 have been confirmed. Twenty-eight of the confirmed cases are healthcare workers. Portugal reported 34 measles cases between February and May 2017. No cases were reported for 2016, nor for the period between June 2017 and January 2018. The vaccination coverage estimates for measles-containing vaccine in Portugal submitted to WHO for 2016 were 98% and 95% for the first and second doses respectively.

3.9 Neighbouring Countries

3.9.1 Ukraine

In European countries outside the EU, the largest outbreak of measles continues in Ukraine, with 6 484 cases in 2018 as of 6 March, including seven deaths (five children and two adults). Among the cases, 66% were children and 34% adults. In 2017, Ukraine reported 4 782 cases and seven deaths (four children and three adults). Vaccination coverage with measles-containing vaccines in Ukraine in 2017 doubled compared with 2016, with 93.3% of children under one year of age and 90.7% of six year-olds vaccinated.

3.9.2 Balkan Region

Outbreaks of measles were reported from the Balkan region in 2018. As of 12 March, 3 442 measles cases, of which 1 778 were laboratory confirmed, were detected in Serbia and from Kosovo. The majority of cases are below five years of age and over 30 years of age.

Of all cases in Serbia, 95% were unvaccinated or had unknown vaccination status, 32% were hospitalized and 383 cases developed neurological or pulmonary complications. Since the beginning of the outbreak, nine people have died of pulmonary measles complications, including two children aged four and two years. Between 23 October 2017 and 12 March 2018, Kosovo and Metohija reported 334 cases of measles [29].

²⁵ HCDPC as of 15 March 2018

Vaccination coverage for the first and second dose of measles-containing vaccine in Serbia has been around or below 90% for several years, with 82% for the first and 90% for the second dose in 2016.

Albania has been experiencing a measles outbreak since December 2017. As of 23 February 2018, 162 cases have been confirmed in the country.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia reported 19 cases of measles at the end of 2017, and Bosnia and Herzegovina experienced an outbreak of measles in 2014 and 2015 with 3 000 and 1 677 cases, respectively.²⁶

3.10 ECDC Threat Assessment for the EU

Measles cases in the EU/EEA principally occur in unvaccinated populations, affecting both adults and children. Large outbreaks with fatalities are ongoing in countries that had previously eliminated or interrupted endemic transmission as outlined below.

The progress towards elimination of measles in the European Region of WHO is assessed by The European Regional Verification Commission for Measles and Rubella Elimination (RVC). At the sixth meeting of the RVC for Measles and Rubella in June 2017, of the 53 countries in the WHO European Region, 33 (22 of which are in EU/EEA) were declared to have reached the elimination goal for measles. Additionally, four EU/EEA countries were assessed to have interrupted endemic transmission for less than 36 months, meaning that they are on their way to achieving the elimination goal. However, four EU/EEA countries were judged to still have endemic transmission of measles: Belgium, France, Italy and Romania (Table 1).

Elimination status	Country
EU/EEA Member States judged to have eliminated the disease (≥36 months without endemic transmission)	Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom
EU/EEA Member States judged to have interrupted endemic transmission for 24 months	Ireland
EU/EEA Member States judged to have interrupted endemic transmission for 12 months	Austria, Germany, Poland
EU/EEA Member States judged to have endemic transmission	Belgium, France, Italy, Romania

Table.1 Elimination status of EU/EEA Member States, based on the 2016 data review by the Regional Verification Commission meeting in June 2017.

²⁶ Institute of Public Health of Macedonia. Information for measles situation in the Republic of Macedonia [internet]. 2018 [cited 2018 Mar. 13]. Available from: <http://www.iph.mk/en/information-for-measlessituation-in-the-republic-of-macedonia-up-to-november-3-2017/>.

3.11 Conclusion of the ECDC

“Immunization is the only effective preventive measure against acquiring measles. All countries in the EU/EEA have measles vaccination policies in place with two doses using a measles-containing vaccine. Catch-up programmes for individuals having missed vaccination or for those who were too old to have been targeted by routine programmes exist in a number of countries. In response to ongoing outbreaks, several countries have taken exceptional measures to reinforce measles vaccination, including Greece, who have lowered the age of the second dose to the second year of life (instead of the second dose being given between 4 and 6 years in normal circumstances), Denmark, who will offer free MMR vaccination to non-immune adults from 1 April 2018, and Sweden, who has facilitated vaccination of healthcare workers in addition to increased communication awareness campaigns.

Given the current extent of measles circulation in the EU/EEA, the trend in the recent years, and the fact that vaccination coverage for the first and second dose is suboptimal, there is a high risk of continued measles transmission with mutual exportation and importation between EU/EEA Member States and third countries.

Vaccination coverage and occurrence of cases are unequal within countries and demographic groups. Even if a country has an overall coverage of 95%, there is still the potential for outbreaks in subnational zones or communities with low coverage (i.e. they may be delimited either geographically or socio-demographically).

The high proportion of cases with unknown vaccination status among young adults (13% among 25–29 year-olds), highlights the importance of registration tools, in particular electronic registers to document vaccination status of individuals. Such registers have the potential to provide timely vaccination coverage data even at subnational level, something lacking in a number of Member States.

Lastly, the frequent occurrence of measles among healthcare workers in several EU/EEA countries is a matter of concern, and Member States may consider specific interventions such as ensuring all healthcare workers are immune to measles, with proof/documentation of immunity or immunization as a condition of enrollment into training and employment.”²⁷

²⁷ World Health Organization. Summary of WHO Position Papers – Immunization of Health Care Workers 2017 [cited 2018 Mar. 15]. Available from: http://www.who.int/immunization/policy/Immunization_routine_table4.pdf.

DPRK and the EU²⁸

The European Union (EU) has a policy of critical engagement towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK, commonly known as North Korea). Its goals are to support a lasting diminution of tensions in the Korean peninsula and in the region, to uphold the international non-proliferation regime and to improve the situation of human rights in the DPRK.

Political relations

The EU supports international efforts to promote peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, in particular through support for international efforts to promote denuclearisation and improvement of the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Since 1998, the EU has been conducting regular political dialogue with the DPRK. The 14th session of this dialogue was held in Pyongyang between 19 and 24 June 2015.

The European Community established diplomatic relations in May 2001 and most EU countries have diplomatic relations with the DPRK. This provides an opportunity to discuss issues of importance to the EU including non-proliferation and human rights. The EU has regularly raised the human rights situation in the DPRK bilaterally and through United Nations (UN) bodies, including co-sponsoring country resolutions.

Humanitarian assistance

Since 1995, the EU has been involved in providing assistance to some of the most vulnerable communities in the DPRK.

Current activities are mainly oriented towards support for the agricultural sector and are financed under the Food Security Thematic Programme of the Development Cooperation Instrument. Projects are implemented by European teams working with DPRK partner organisations.

²⁸ https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/4186/dprk-and-eu_en

Economic and trade relations

The DPRK is not a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and does not benefit from privileges granted to imported goods from developing countries under the EU's General System of Preferences (GSP).

Background Information with European Council

EU restrictive measures against North Korea

The European Union sees the activities of the DPRK as undermining the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime of which the EU has been a steadfast supporter for decades.

In this context, the EU has implemented the restrictive measures imposed through resolutions of the UN Security Council and has reinforced them through its own measures.

The EU first introduced restrictive measures against the DPRK in December 2006. Those measures implemented the United Nations' sanctions regime, which was adopted following the DPRK's claim that it had conducted a nuclear weapon test.

The EU also reinforced the UN's sanctions regime by adopting autonomous measures complementing and reinforcing the UN Security Council resolutions.

The timeline below provides an overview of the restrictive measures adopted by the EU against the DPRK since 2006.

Some Actions Taken by the European Union

February 26, 2018

Additional sanctions against the DPRK: Transposition of UN listings (UNSC resolution 2397)

The Council finalised the transposition into EU law of the measures imposed by the latest UN Security Council resolution 2397 (2017).

The measures transposed included:

- The strengthening of the export ban to the DPRK of all refined petroleum products by reducing the amount of barrels that may be exported from 2 million barrels to 500,000 barrels per year.

- A ban on imports from the DPRK of food and agricultural products, machinery, electrical equipment, earth and stone, and wood.
- A ban on exports to the DPRK of all industrial machinery, transportation vehicles, and expansion to all iron, steel and other metals.
- Further maritime restrictive measures against vessels where there are reasonable grounds to believe that the vessel has been involved in the breach of UN sanctions.
- The requirement to repatriate all DPRK workers abroad within 24 months, subject to applicable national and international law.

January 22, 2018

European Council adds 17 persons to sanctions list (EU autonomous sanctions)

The Council has added 17 citizens of the DPRK to its list of those subject to an asset freeze and travel restrictions.

They were added to the list because of their involvement in illegal trade activities and activities aimed at facilitating the evasion of sanctions imposed by the UN.

58 persons and 10 entities were then designated by the EU autonomously. In addition, 79 individuals and 54 entities were listed by the UN.

July 27, 2009^{29 30}

Adoption of additional restrictive measures against the DPRK: Transposition of UN sanctions (UNSC resolution 1874) and further EU autonomous measures

The Council adopted common position 2009/573/CFSP and regulation 1283/2009 introducing additional restrictive measures against the DPRK, including notably:

UN prohibition to enter into new commitments for grants, financial assistance, or concessional loans to the DPRK combined with enhanced vigilance with a view to reducing current commitments,

UN prohibition to provide public financial support for trade, financial services or any other assets or resources that could contribute DPRK's nuclear or ballistic missile-related

²⁹ Common position 2009/573/CFSP of 27 July 2009

³⁰ Council regulation (EU) No 1283/2009 of 22 December 2009

programmes, reinforced by an EU measure of enhanced monitoring over the activities of financial institutions with certain banks and financial entities linked to the DPRK,

UN obligation to inspect all cargoes to and from DPRK, in the territories of the Member States, including seaports and airports, if the State concerned has information that provides reasonable grounds to believe that the cargo contains items whose supply, sale, transfer or export is prohibited under UNSCRs, supplemented by an EU measure of prior pre-arrival or pre-departure information requirement on all cargoes to and from the DPRK,

UN obligation to inspect vessels on the high seas, if a Member State has information that provides reasonable grounds to believe that the cargo of such vessels contains items whose supply, sale, transfer or export is prohibited under UNSC resolutions (UNSCRs),

UN obligation to seize and dispose of items whose supply, sale, transfer or export is prohibited under UNSCRs. UN prohibition to provide bunkering services, or other servicing of vessels, to DPRK vessels if they have information that provides reasonable grounds to believe that they are carrying items whose supply, sale, transfer or export is prohibited under UNSCRs,

An EU ban on exports of further items which could contribute to DPRK's nuclear or ballistic missile-related programmes.

November 20, 2006³¹

First adoption of restrictive measures against the DPRK: transposition of UN sanctions (UNSC resolution 1718)

The Council adopted common position 2006/795/CFSP and regulation 329/2007 transposing the UN sanctions regime against the DPRK, as outlined in UN Security Council resolution 1718 of 14 October 2006, as well as imposing additional EU autonomous measures. The sanctions include:

- An arms embargo
- Freezing of assets and a travel ban on persons involved in the DPRK's nuclear programme
- A ban on a range of imports and exports that could contribute to the DPRK's nuclear or ballistic missile-related programmes

³¹ <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/sanctions/history-north-korea/>

- Export and import ban on luxury goods

Example Press Release

1. The Council strongly condemns the nuclear tests and multiple ballistic missile launches conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in 2016. They represent a serious threat to international peace and security and undermine the global non-proliferation and disarmament regime of which the EU has been a steadfast supporter for decades. The DPRK's ongoing nuclear and ballistic missile-related activities are in clear violation of its international obligations under multiple UN Security Council Resolutions, including Resolution 2270 (2016), imposing further sanctions on the DPRK after its 4th nuclear test on 6 January 2016.
2. The Council underlines that these irresponsible and illegal actions increase tensions on the Korean Peninsula to the detriment of all. The Council is concerned by the DPRK's development of nuclear weapons which is bound to seriously aggravate the security situation in Asia and beyond. These actions also underline the necessity of universalization of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT).
3. The Council calls again on the DPRK to re-engage in a credible and meaningful dialogue with the international community, in particular in the framework of the 6 Party Talks, and to cease its provocations.
4. The Council expresses grave concern at the DPRK's diversion of resources toward developing its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes without regard for humanitarian situation and the hardship that the DPRK people are subjected to.
5. The Council urges the DPRK to abide by all its international obligations and abandon its nuclear weapons, other WMD and existing nuclear and ballistic missiles programmes, in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner, and cease immediately all related activities.
6. In light of the above, the Council welcomes the unanimous adoption by the UNSC of Resolution 2321 (2016) condemning the DPRK's 5th nuclear test on 9 September 2016 and imposing new restrictive measures. The Council stands ready to enhance coordination with international partners on the full implementation of relevant UNSC resolutions.

7. The Council recalls the Union's determination to combat proliferation and remains fully committed to the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula, including through the consideration of new restrictive measures.

Conclusion on the North Korean Threat

Since 2006 this problem continues to be a headache for the EU. Being away from a territory does not mean being away from danger. This is the problem of Europe as a whole. As we understand from above the sanctions that have been taken above are not enough. In European Council, we are expecting from you to find new and efficient solutions for the benefit of all European countries.

The topic must be revised with all sides. Strategies must be provided by taking economic and military factors into consideration. And keep in mind that peace comes first.

For possible solutions it is essential and recommended that looking for official UN and EU reports, news and resolutions addressed upon this topic many times over the years.