

Eastern Partnership

- The fourth Eastern Partnership Summit (EaP) was held in Riga, Latvia, on May 21 and 22
- It was the fourth in a series of such meetings, held every second year, between the EU and members of the EaP – countries that are wedged in between Russia and the European Union: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine
- It was at the last EaP summit – held in Vilnius, Lithuania, in November 2013 – that Ukraine's then-president Viktor Yanukovich triggered an East-West crisis. He rejected an agreement with the EU which sparked the Euromaidan protests in Kiev. Mr Yanukovich fled to Russia, the Crimean peninsula was seized by Russia, and the Kremlin then backed pro-Moscow fighters fighting a separatist war in the east of Ukraine
- The Eastern Partnership, initiated by Poland and Sweden, was launched in 2009 with the aim of improving EU ties with Ukraine as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and Moldova
- The EaP was meant to check the Kremlin's ambitions in what Moscow regards as its 'near abroad', and came in the wake of Russia's military conflict with Georgia in 2008
- Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia signed political and trade agreements with the EU in 2014 and want to join the bloc