

## Chronologies

# Chronology of Major Conflicts and Political Events

## January 2014

*In Spain, the implementation of the new education bill finds opposition from five autonomous regions. In France, thousands demonstrate against the President François Hollande the same month that the government approves fresh cuts. Monaco experiences the longest strike in its history. In Italy, the Agriculture Minister resigns. Malta and the European Commission reach an agreement on the Maltese Nationality Law. Croatia extradites Josip Perkovic. Serbia begins EU accession negotiations. The crisis in the government coalitions of Montenegro, Serbia and FYROM forces the governments to consider early elections. In Kosovo, the former Serbian Minister for Kosovo is arrested accused of war crimes. Greece imprisons three members of the Golden Dawn party for belonging to a criminal organisation. In Turkey, the crisis between the government and the courts continues over a corruption case involving the leadership of the governing AKP. In Syria, the regime continues its advance to recover control of areas in rebel hands, while the Geneva II talks are in progress. In The Hague, the trial begins for the murder of the Lebanese President Rafiq Hariri. Egypt approves the new constitution in a referendum. In Libya, there are fresh outbreaks of violence in Sebha. Tunisia approves the new constitution and names the interim government.*

### Portugal

- On 9 January Portugal issues long-term debt for the first time in eight

months. On 21 January the Portuguese debt drops from 5% for the first time since August 2010.

### Spain

- On 8 January the Civil Guard arrests eight people accused of coordinating and carrying out orders from outside the country from the Euskadi ta Askatasuna terrorist group (ETA) for their imprisoned members.
- On 15 January the Spanish Wind Energy Association announces that, during 2013, Spain became the first and only country to have wind as its main source of energy.
- On 29 January five autonomous regions express their opposition to the application of the Education Reform Bill approved in November 2013 by the parliamentary majority of the ruling People's Party (PP, centre-right).

### France

- On 1 January Mayotte officially becomes the ninth ultra-peripheral region of the EU.
- On 9 January, at the request of the Interior Minister Manuel Valls, the Council of State cancels a performance in Nantes by Dieudonné, an anti-Semitic singer of Cameroon origin, saying that it would incite racial hatred.
- On 14 January the President François Hollande announces a long process to lower its national debt and public deficit, with budget cuts amounting to 65 billion euros.
- On 26 January thousands demonstrate in Paris calling for the resignation of the government.

### Monaco

- On 8 January the staff at the Hotel de Paris end an eight-day strike, the longest in Monaco's history, after agreeing with the management to renegotiate their salaries and contracts.

### Italy

- On 11-12 January the Italian navy rescues more than 400 immigrants.
- On 16 January the press reports the Northern League's (Padanian separatist) latest move in its racist campaign against the Integration Minister Cecile Kyenge, of Congolese origin, consisting in the League's newspaper, La Padania, publishing Kyenge's daily itinerary so that its readers can harass her.
- On 22 January 90 people are arrested in an operation against the Camorra Contini clan in Campania, Lazio and Tuscany.
- On 26 January the Agriculture Minister Nunzia De Girolamo (New Centre-Right) resigns over the government's failure to defend her honour in relation to a court investigation into influence peddling.

### Malta

- On 29 January Malta and the European Commission reach an agreement on the Maltese citizenship law under which nationality can be bought for 650,000 euros, introducing an additional requisite of uninterrupted residency for a minimum of 15 months.

### Croatia

- On 9 January the Court of Velika Gorica refuses to extradite the former head

of the Yugoslav secret service Zdravko Mustac to Germany for the 1983 murder in Munich of dissident Stjepan Djurekovic. The decision contrasts with that taken the previous day by a court in Zagreb, and confirmed on 21 January by the Supreme Court, which approves the extradition of former Yugoslavian intelligence chief Josip Perkovic, in the same case.

#### Montenegro

- On 25 January the Social Democratic Party (SDP) traditional ally of the governing Democratic Party of Socialists (DPS) agrees to collaborate with the opposition Positive Montenegro Party, also social democratic, accelerating the possibility of a split in the coalition government.

#### Serbia

- On 21 January Serbia initiates EU accession negotiations.
- On 25 January the Economy Minister Sasa Radulovic (Serbian Progressive Party, SNS, conservative) resigns over his failure to reach an agreement with trade unions to liberalise the labour market. His departure intensifies the crisis in the coalition government and increases the chances of early elections.
- On 29 January the former President Boris Tadic leaves the Democratic Party (DS, social democratic) because of disagreements with the leadership.

#### Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 11 January Albania and Kosovo hold their first bilateral summit in Prizren to advance together on their respective European accession processes.
- On 15 January radical Kosovo Serbs, opposed to the agreement between Belgrade and Kosovo to normalise bilateral relations, murder Dimitrije Janicijevic, the Kosovo Serb municipal councillor in Mitrovica and member of the Kosovo coalition government.
- On 27 January the Parliament fails to agree on a constitutional modification proposed by the ruling Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK, centre-right) to reserve 20 seats for Montenegrin and Croatian minorities.

- On 28 January the former Serbian Minister for Kosovo Affairs Oliver Ivanovic is arrested in Kosovo suspected of committing war crimes between 1999 and 2000. His arrest sparks protests in Belgrade and Mitrovica, where Ivanovic is emerging as a favourite in the city's mayoral elections scheduled for 23 February, after, on 11 January, the winner of the November 2013 elections, Krstimir Pantic, turns down the post, in a tacit refusal to recognise Kosovo's sovereignty.

#### FYROM

- On 30 January the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation – Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE, conservative) and its coalition partner the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI, Albanian nationalist) agree to hold early presidential elections.

#### Greece

- On 6 January Greece files a complaint against the Troika to the European Parliament for making incorrect calculations on the implementation of the required austerity measures and the effects they would have on the Greek economy. The country urges the EU to extend the repayment deadlines and lower the interests of the economic bailout.
- On 11 January three Golden Dawn members are jailed pending trial for belonging to a criminal organisation. With this ruling from the Greek judiciary, five of the 19 MPs from the neo-Nazi party are behind bars.

#### Turkey

- On 7 January the government sacks the police chiefs of 15 provinces. The dismissals add to those carried out since December 2013 and affect around a thousand police officers investigating a possible corruption case that involves the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP, Islamist).
- On 9 January the government presents a draft bill to limit access to the Internet and monitor what pages users are visiting, as part of a new block of conservative regulations presented by the Ministry of Family and Social Policy.

#### Cyprus

- On 22 January the government approves the draft bill to create a dispute tribunal.
- On 28 January Northern Cyprus abolishes the law that criminalises homosexuality.

#### Syria

- On 3 January a major offensive begins, which continues throughout the month, led by the Free Syrian Army (FSA) and the Islamic Front against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS).
- On 9 January the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (NCSROF) announces its decision to re-elect Ahmad Jarba as its president.
- On 22 January the Geneva II Peace Conference begins, marked by the controversial absence of Iran and aimed at deciding on a transitional government. On 30 January the talks end without reaching an agreement.

#### Lebanon

- On 16 January the trial in absentia begins at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon in The Hague against four members of Hezbollah for the murder in 2005 of the Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri and another 21 people.
- On 16 January five people are killed in an attack in Hermel, a Hezbollah stronghold. On 21 January another four people are killed in a fresh attack in Haret Hreik. This brings the number of attacks against Hezbollah to five since the group announced its participation in the Syrian conflict in June 2013.
- On 17 January seven people are killed by mortar shells fired from Syria into Arsal. With a majority Sunni population in favour of the Syrian revolution, Arsal has virtually been shelled on a daily basis.

#### Egypt

- On 9 January 113 Muslim Brotherhood members are handed down sentences of up to three years' imprisonment.
- On 14-15 January Egypt holds the referendum for the new constitution.

Confrontations and clashes break out between Muslim Brotherhood supporters and security forces leaving at least nine dead and 444 arrested. On 18 January the Electoral Commission announces that 98.1% of voters have approved the new constitution with a 38.6% turnout.

- On 22 January the Muslim Brotherhood and the Alliance to Support Legitimacy, call for 19 days of protest against the government sparking unrest throughout the month.
- On 27 January the social democrat deputy Prime Minister and International Cooperation Minister Ziad Baha el-Din announces his resignation, saying that his decision is coherent with the transitional process.
- On 27 January the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces authorises the vice President and Defence Minister Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi to run in the next presidential elections.
- On 28 January Mohammad Saeed, head of the Technical Office of the Interior Minister is assassinated in Giza.
- On 31 January Saudi Arabia announces a new 4-billion-dollar aid package for Egypt.

#### Libya

- On 8 January the self-declared autonomous government of Cyrenaica announces that it will resume oil exports outside of state control.
- On 9 January clashes break out in Sabha, Fezzan, between the Toubou community and the Awlad Suleiman militias. On 20 January the situation worsens with the capture of the Tamenhet military base by Gaddafist militias. On 18 January the General National Congress (GNC, Parliament) declares a state of emergency and approves military intervention. On 27 January the death toll rises to 99. On 29 January the army and Misrata Battalion take back the Tamenhet base.
- On 12 January Abd-Rabbo al-Barassi, Prime Minister of the self-declared autonomous region of Cyrenaica, survives an assassination attempt in Bayda.
- On 12 January the deputy Minister of Industry Hasan al-Droui is assassinated in Sirte.

- On 21 January the Interior Minister submits a report to the GNC that documents 643 political assassinations during 2013 and reveals serious breaches in domestic security.
- On 29 January the deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Seddik Abdelkarim survives an assassination attempt in Tripoli.

#### Tunisia

- On 9 January the Prime Minister Ali Larayedh resigns to make way for the new interim government of Mehdi Jomaa, who was elected the new Prime Minister in December 2013. Larayedh also cancels the new taxation on agricultural vehicles from the 2014 Finance Law, which has sparked protests since December.
- On 10 January the US adds Ansar al-Sharia to its list of terrorist organisations.
- On 15 January the members of the High Electoral Commission take their posts after being elected on 8 January.
- On 26 January the National Assembly approves the new constitution with 200 votes in favour, 12 against and four abstentions.
- On 29 January the new government is approved by the National Assembly.

#### Algeria

- On 7 January an agreement between Algeria, Statoil and British Petroleum is announced to resume gas production in Tiguentourine, a year after the terrorist attack and kidnapping carried out by the el-Moulathamine Brigade.
- On 17 January Algeria calls presidential elections for 17 April.
- On 13 January the government deploys 3,000 soldiers and police officers to control unrest between Malikis and Ibadis in Ghardaia.

#### Morocco

- On 17 January the government announces the suspension of gasoline and fuel oil subsidies.
- On 22 January the Parliament approves the deletion of a paragraph from the Penal Code that absolves the rapist of a minor if he marries his victim.

#### Mauritania

- On 2 January the journalist Mohamed Cheikh Ould Mohamed is arrested in Nouadhibou accused of apostasy.

#### EU

- On 1 January Greece takes over the EU Presidency with priorities of fighting against youth unemployment, reducing illegal immigration, strengthening the monetary and banking union and promoting a safety-focused European maritime policy.
- On 1 January Latvia officially adopts the euro as its currency.
- On 16 January the European Parliament approves the requirement for all members to respect the right to free movement, including for Romanians and Bulgarians, for who restrictions were lifted on 1 January.

#### February 2014

*Spain faces an immigration crisis at the Melilla border. In France a new demonstration is held in protest against the policies of François Hollande. In Italy, Matteo Renzi becomes the new Prime Minister. Switzerland caps the number of Croatian citizens allowed entry into the country. In Bosnia a wave of protests erupts against government mismanagement and corruption. The second round of international negotiations on Syria ends without an agreement. Lebanon forms a new government. In Egypt, the government resigns and Ibrahim Mahlab is appointed the new Prime Minister. In Libya, new protests denounce the extension of the General National Congress' mandate in the same month that the country elects the Constituent Assembly. In Algeria, the Islamist parties announce that they will boycott the presidential elections. In Mauritania, a new government is formed. Tension mounts in Ukraine over whether the country should align with the European expansion process or remain in the Russian orbit.*

### Portugal

- On 7 February the Parliament amends the 2014 budget with cuts on pensions, amounting to over 1,000 euros per month, and an increase in health insurance contributions for civil servants to mitigate the effects of miscalculations made by the Constitutional Court in December 2013 regarding the reduction in civil servant pensions.
- On 12 February the IMF authorises a new aid tranche for Portugal of 910 million euros.

### Spain

- On 6 February nine sub-Saharan die trying to swim across the Spanish-Moroccan border into Ceuta in the area of Tarajal, on a day on which a further 300 illegal immigrants try unsuccessfully to enter Spanish territory. On 28 February 214 sub-Saharan successfully enter Melilla in a mass assault on the border fence, the fifth since the year began.

### France

- On 2 February a large conservative demonstration in Paris protests against the government's policies, particularly the same-sex marriage and adoption law.

### Monaco

- On 12 February the company Borg-Warner announces the closure of its Monaco factory, which will lead to the dismissal of 153 workers. This adds to the closure of the Mercaplast factory, which resulted in 85 dismissals in 2013.

### Italy

- On 4 February Mariano Riccio is arrested in Naples, head of the Amato-Pagano Camorra clan.
- On 5 February the Italian navy rescues 1,123 sub-Saharan in waters around Lampedusa.
- On 14 February Enrico Letta resigns after losing the support of his party and other groups that supported his government. The move leads the secretary general of the Democratic Party (PD social democrat), Matteo Renzi, to form

a new reformist government, which he presents to the President Giorgio Napolitano on 17 February.

- On 20 February the Parliament approves the new party financing law which will end public financing of parties between now and 2017.
- On 25 February Matteo Renzi consolidates his position in the government after winning a parliamentary confidence vote.

### Slovenia

- On 24 February the Parliament approves the appointment of Metod Draginja as Minister of the Economy, Alenka Trop Skaza as Health Minister and Gorazd Zmavc as Minister for the Diaspora.

### Croatia

- On 16 February Switzerland announces that it will not grant freedom of residence to Croatian nationals. On 18 February Switzerland reaches an agreement with the EU under German mediation to establish a cap, after the EU suspends Switzerland's involvement in the Erasmus and Horizon 2020 programmes on 17 February.

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 5-6 February unrest erupts in Tuzla between police and demonstrators protesting against job losses after the privatisation of several public companies. As of 8 February the protests and unrest, the worst in 20 years, spread to several areas of Bosnia demanding political reform and measures to be taken against corruption, to create jobs and improve the governability of this fragmented country.

### Montenegro

- On 15 February clashes break out in Podgorica between the police and anti-government protesters.
- On 19 February the opposition Democratic Front announces a parliamentary boycott against the decision taken by the ruling DPS to vote against the electoral law reform required to advance in the EU accession process.

### Serbia

- On 13 February Dragan Tomic, MP in the ruling Serbian Progressive Party, is arrested for financial wrongdoings related to affairs of Univerzal Banka.
- On 15 February thousands gather in Nis and Novi Sad to demand that measures be taken against the increase in violence in the country.

### Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 5 February the Transport Minister and vice-President of the ruling PDK Fatmir Limaj and the Parliament Speaker Jakup Krasniqi leave their party to join the opposition over disagreements with the leadership.
- On 5 February Uke Rugova, son of the former President Ibrahim Rugova is arrested at the request of the EU rule-of-law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) for his involvement in organised crime.
- On 11 February Serbia's war crimes court sentences nine members of the paramilitary group The Jackals to between two and 20 years in prison for the murder of more than 120 ethnic Albanians during the Kosovo conflict.
- On 20 February EULEX presses fresh charges against Fatmir Limaj for corruption and involvement in organised crime.
- On 23 February the pro-Serbian candidate Goran Rakic wins Mitrovica's municipal elections.

### FYROM

- On 1 February Albania and FYROM fail to reach an agreement in the negotiations over Skopje's plans to build a dam in Radika River, cause for concern in Tirana due to the project's possible repercussions on water levels of the Drin River that generates Albania's electricity.
- On 18 February unrest erupts in Skopje between police and demonstrators protesting against the cuts and privatisations.

### Albania

- On 20 February the Democratic Party (DP, centre-right) leads a dem-

onstration against the ruling Socialist Party, which it accuses of failing to keep electoral promises and authoritarianism.

*Greece*

- On 5 February the former President of the defunct Hellenic Postbank Angelos Filippidis is arrested for tax fraud.
- On 17 February the government announces that, without taking into account the interest on its debt, Greece registered a financial surplus in 2013 of over 1.5 billion euros, although the unemployment rate continued to grow, reaching 28% in November 2013.
- On 26 February dock workers go on strike and demonstrate in Athens against the partial privatisation of the Port of Piraeus. On the same day, farmers also protest against the increase in taxes on agricultural production.

*Turkey*

- On 6 February the mayor of Istanbul Kadir Topbas presents the redevelopment project for Taksim Square which preserves Gezi Park in its entirety. The previous project included the removal of the latter triggering the largest wave of protests seen against the government in ten years.
- On 8 February protests and unrest erupt in Istanbul over laws that would tighten control of the Internet, approved on 5 February by the Parliament.
- On 15 February the AKP obtains parliamentary approval of a law giving the government greater power over prosecutors and judges, in a session that ends in a brawl.

*Cyprus*

- On 11 February reunification negotiations resume after an 18-month break, provoking the Democratic Party's (DIKO, centre-right) departure from the government coalition on 26 February.
- On 27 February the Parliament rejects the law to privatise state companies, set as a prerequisite by the Troika for the fourth tranche of the financial bail-out.

*Syria*

- On 3 February at least 36 people are killed in Syrian air strikes on Aleppo, adding to the 120 people killed on the previous two days.
- On 3 February Nasser al-Qudwa, vice-President of the international team leading the Syria peace talks is dismissed, in accordance with demands made by Damascus.
- On 10 February a second round of Geneva II peace talks begins in Montreux, which ends without an agreement.
- On 12 February the Syrian army and Hezbollah force the FSA to withdraw from Yabroud.
- On 16 February the FSA replaces its current army chief Selim Idriss with Abdelilah al-Bashir.
- On 26 February an ambush by the Syrian army and Hezbollah leaves 175 rebels dead from the al-Nusra Front in Damascus.
- On 28 February the FSA force ISIS to pull out of Azaz five months after the group took control there.

*Lebanon*

- On 15 February after a 10-month power vacuum, the Prime Minister Tammam Salam succeeds in forming a national unity government.
- On 19 February the jihadist group the Abdullah Azzam Brigades claims responsibility for the double suicide bombing in an Iranian cultural centre in Beirut, which leaves at least five dead.

*Egypt*

- On 6 February the Court of Cassation in Cairo overrules the decision made by the Port Said Criminal Court, which sentenced 21 people to death for the massacre at the Port Said football stadium in February 2012.
- On 7 February at least three people are killed in al-Fayum, Minia and Giza in protests called by the Muslim Brotherhood.
- On 24 February the Prime Minister Hazem el-Beblawi and his government resign. On 25 February the President Adly Mansour names the Housing Minister Ibrahim Mahlab, from the banned Democratic National Party (PND) as the new Prime Minister.

*Libya*

- On 3 February the Prime Minister Ali Zeidan urges pro-autonomy demonstrators who have been blocking ports in Cyrenaica to put an end to their actions, threatening them with military intervention.
- On 3 February the GNC extends its mandate, which was due to end on 7 February, to be able to finish drafting the constitution before August and hold elections at the end of 2014.
- On 5 February the GNC approves an amendment to the penal code under which anyone publicly undermining the power of the State can be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison.
- On 7 February a demonstration in Tripoli protests against the decision to extend the current GNC mandate.
- On 14 February general Khalifa Haftar, one of the revolution leaders, issues a statement in which he calls the army to take control of the country and dissolve the GNC.
- On 20 February Libya holds elections to choose the 60 members of the Constituent Assembly that will draft the new constitution.
- On 26 February the murder of two security agents in Benghazi sparks new protests that end in clashes.

*Tunisia*

- On 4 February the Interior Minister Lotfi Ben Jeddou announces the death, the previous day, of Kamel Gadhgadi, one of the top leaders of Ansar al-Sharia and prime suspect in the murder of Chokri Belaïd in February 2013.
- On 8 February security forces capture Ahmed Melki in Borj Louzir, suspected of murdering Mohamed Brahmi in July 2013.
- On 10 February the Religious Affairs Minister Mounir Tlili announces the government's plans to stop imams interfering in the nation's political affairs.
- On 14 February the Interior Minister announces stricter controls on people wearing the full veil (niqab).
- On 17 February a demonstration in Jendouba condemns the murder of four people at the hands of Islamist militants on 15 February.

### Algeria

- On 15 February the Islamist Front of Justice and Development, Ennahdha and the Movement of Society for Peace announce that they will boycott the presidential elections in April.

### Morocco

- On 19 February a court in Casablanca orders the Takfiri imam Abdelhamid Abounaim to pay 45 euros and gives him a month's suspended prison sentence for defamation against Driss Lachgar, member of the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP), who he accused of apostasy in December 2013 for calling for a ban on polygamy.

### Mauritania

- On 12 February the Prime Minister Moulaye Ould Mohamed Laghdaf announces the composition of the new government, following the victory of the Union of Democratic Forces (UFD, socialist) in the November and December elections. The Defence, Interior, Foreign, Finance and Justice Ministers retain their posts.

### EU

- On 11 February the EU warns Switzerland that bilateral relations will suffer if Berne sets quotas for EU workers or limits the free movement of people, measures called for by the ultra-conservative Democratic Union of the Centre and approved in a referendum.
- On 21 February the EU agrees to impose sanctions on the government of Ukraine for the use of violence against demonstrators who, since November 2014, have been calling for Kiev to leave Russia's orbit and move towards the EU. On the same day, the Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich announces his resignation and calls early elections for 2014 after reaching an agreement with the opposition, and the Verkhovna Rada votes to release the former Prime Minister and opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko. On 24 February the Rada appoints Tymoshenko's right hand Oleksandr Turchynov the acting President. Turchynov announces a change in direc-

tion in EU relations towards signing the Stabilisation and Association Agreement. The new government issues an arrest warrant for Yanukovich, who flees first to secessionist and pro-Russian Crimea and then Russia. Moscow recalls its ambassador to Ukraine and says the new government is not legitimate. NATO promises to defend Ukraine if tensions heighten in Crimea, where pro-Russian militants take over the regional government on 27 February and the main airports the following day.

### March 2014

*Police in Portugal go on strike. In Spain, the former Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez dies. France holds municipal elections. In Italy, the government approves new anti-crisis measures and the high court confirms Silvio Berlusconi's ban from public office. In Bosnia, the Interior Minister is sacked by the Parliament. In Serbia, the Progressive Party wins in the parliamentary elections. Kosovo announces plans to create its own army. In Turkey, the AKP wins the municipal elections, the same month that the government tries to block the social network Twitter and closes down a network of Hizmet schools, which is critical of government policies. In Cyprus there are changes in the cabinet and the management of the Central Bank. In Syria, the army makes fresh advances. In Egypt, the new government takes over and Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi announces his candidacy in the presidential elections in May, while an Egyptian court hands down death sentences to 529 members of the Muslim Brotherhood. In Libya, the Prime Minister Ali Zeidan is dismissed. In Tunisia, the government lifts the nationwide state of emergency. Algeria prepares for presidential elections in April, in which Abdelaziz Bouteflika will run for re-election, who also approves changes in his cabinet. The EU is largely focused on Crimea's secession from Ukraine.*

### Portugal

- On 7 March thousands of police officers protest in Lisbon against the government's austerity measures.

### Spain

- On 22 March the so-called Dignity Marches arrive in Madrid which set off from different parts of the country in February to protest against the austerity policies. The protests end in violent clashes with police.
- On 23 March Adolfo Suarez, the first Prime Minister of Spain's current democracy and a key figure in the transition, dies.
- On 25 March the Constitutional Court confirms that the Catalanian government's decision to hold a referendum on self-determination is unconstitutional.

### France

- On 11 March the Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault admits that both he and the Justice Minister Christiane Taubira knew that telephone conversations between the former President Nicolas Sarkozy and his lawyer Thierry Herzog were being tapped in February 2013 on the orders of judges 6 months earlier, in the investigation into the Karachi corruption case.
- On 23 and 30 March France holds municipal elections with a record abstention rate of 38.5%. The Socialist Party (PS), with 40.5% of the votes, is defeated by the centre-right parties who obtain 45.1%. The PS retains control in Paris but loses 151 towns while the Union for a Popular Movement (UMP, centre-right) wins 142 and the National Front (FN, far-right) finishes in third position with 6.85% and winning 11 towns.

### Monaco

- On 18 March public city maintenance workers go on strike against the reduction of their weekly working hours from 40 to 37.5 hours and to demand that retirement age be raised from 60 to 65.

### Italy

- On 4 March the Undersecretary for Infrastructure Antonio Gentile resigns accused of pressuring the newspaper *L'Ora della Calabria* not to publish in-

formation implicating his son in a corruption scandal.

- On 12 March the Chamber of Deputies approves the election reform law presented by the government aimed at ending Italy's history of political instability.
- On 18 March the Supreme Court confirms the former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's two-year ban from public office over the Mediaset corruption case.
- On 21 March over 4,000 illegal immigrants are rescued in the Strait of Sicily after four days of operations.

#### *Slovenia*

- On 12 March the European Court of Human Rights orders Slovenia to pay compensation of between 29,400 and 72,770 euros to six Yugoslavs whose residency rights were illegally removed after failing to apply for Slovenian citizenship in 1991.

#### *Croatia*

- On 3 March Croatia asks the United Nations International Court of Justice to come to a decision on whether Serbia committed Genocide in Vukovar, Slavonia, during the Balkans War. Serbia, for its part, accuses Croatia of the same acts in Vukovar when it launched Operation Storm.

#### *Bosnia and Herzegovina*

- On 12 March the European Commission urges Bosnia to pass the law on money laundering and financing terrorism, blocked until now by Bosnian Serb MPs who demand that these matters be dealt with by the entities and not the Federal Parliament.
- On 14 March the Federal Parliament dismisses the Interior Minister Fahrudin Radoncic for failing to prevent the violence triggered by anti-government protests in February.

#### *Serbia*

- On 16 March Serbia holds a general election. The conservative SNS of deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic wins with 48.8% of the votes. On 19 March Vojislav Kostunica and Mladjan Dinkic step down as leaders of the

Democratic Party of Serbia (DSS, conservative) and United Regions of Serbia (URS, liberal) respectively.

#### *Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 4 March the Prime Minister Hashim Thaci announces plans to transform the current security forces into a full-fledged army. He also announces that the Ministry of Security will become the Ministry of Defence.
- On 10 March the OSCE confirms that Serb residents in Kosovo will be able to vote in the Serbian elections on 16 March.
- On 20 March a demonstration in Prizren calls for the resignation of its mayor Ramadan Muja after being found guilty by a EULEX court for abuse of office.

#### *FYROM*

- On 5 March the Parliament is dissolved after the main parties agree to hold early parliamentary elections in April.

#### *Greece*

- On 31 March the Parliament approves fresh cuts to guarantee the continuation of the EU and IMF bailout. The reform also includes, however, 527 million euros to be spent on the country's poorest, funded by 2013's budget surplus.

#### *Turkey*

- On 12 March the President Abdullah Gul passes a bill to close down the Hizmet school network, which follows the doctrine of Fethullah Gülen, Islamist cleric and former ally of the Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and which has great influence over wide sectors of the State. The decision comes after an alleged corruption scandal involving the AKP instigated by supporters of Gülen.
- On 13 March two people are killed in clashes that erupt in several cities between police and opposing demonstrators, Islamists and leftists, sparked by the funeral of Berkin Elvan, who has died nine months after falling into a

coma after being hit by a tear-gas canister during anti-government protests in June 2013.

- On 20 March the government blocks access to Twitter alleging that the social network has been used by its political enemies, after recordings are posted pointing to the Prime Minister's possible involvement in a corruption scandal.
- On 30 March the AKP wins in the municipal elections with 45.6% of the votes. The Republican People's Party (CHP, Kemalist) obtains 28%, the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP, far-right) 15.3% and the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP, social democrat, Kurdish nationalist) 6%.

#### *Cyprus*

- On 11 March Chrystalla Georgiadji is appointed Governor of the Central Bank of Cyprus.
- On 4 March the Parliament passes a bill to privatise the main public services, set as a condition by the EU and IMF for the disbursement of fresh aid.
- On 12 March the President Nicos Anastasiades appoints Costas Kadis, Philippos Patsalis and Tasos Mitsopoulos the Ministers of Education, Health and Defence respectively to replace three ministers from the DIKO party, which abandoned the government coalition in February.

#### *Syria*

- On 13 March the Parliament passes a new election law which, in practice, excludes practically all opposition candidates from running for the presidency.
- On 14 March the besieged rebels in Barzeh reach a ceasefire agreement with the government.
- On 16 March the army takes back Yabroud, the last rebel stronghold on the Lebanese border.
- On 20 March the army takes back control of the Krac des Chevaliers Castle.
- On 22 March the Turkish air force shoots down a Syrian fighter-bomber allegedly violating Turkish airspace.
- On 25 March the Ansar al-Sham Brigade take Samra, Latakia.

### Lebanon

- On 5 March Syria again fires mortar shells at the border town of Aarsal.
- On 16 March four people are killed in a suicide bomb attack in Nabi Othman, under Hezbollah control.
- On 27 March a soldier is murdered in Tripoli during clashes between Sunnis and Alawites, which have already left 28 dead over the past two weeks.

### Egypt

- On 1 March the new caretaker government is sworn into office, with 20 of the 31 ministers remaining in office.
- On 4 March the Cairo Court for Urgent Matters outlaws Hamas' activities in Egypt.
- On 8 March the President Adly Mansour passes the law that will regulate the upcoming presidential elections thus protecting the Electoral Commission's decisions.
- On 19 March a demonstrator is killed in clashes during a protest in Beni Suef in support of Mohamed Morsi, on the third anniversary of the first constitutional referendum. Protests also take place in the universities of Cairo and al-Azhar.
- On 24 March 529 Muslim Brotherhood members are sentenced to death for the clashes following the dispersal of the Islamist protest camps in August 2013. On 25 March two new mass trials are opened against 919 people on the same charges, among them the Brotherhood's Supreme Guide Mohammed Badie.
- On 25 March Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi steps down from his post to present his candidacy for the presidential elections.

### Libya

- On 2 March two GNC members are injured by demonstrators opposed to the extension of the current Parliament's mandate.
- On 7 March several hundred Benghazi residents take to the streets again to demand improvements in internal security, a day after the international meeting held in Rome to monitor the Libyan transition.

- On 11 March the GNC dismisses the Prime Minister Ali Zeidan replacing him with the Defence Minister Abdullah al-Thani. The move comes after the Libyan navy's failure to stop a North Korean tanker loaded with oil supplied by Cyrenaica's federalists from breaking the naval blockade imposed by Tripoli, and in response to the rejection of the extension of the Parliament's mandate, which expired on 7 February.
- On 17 March a bomb attack on an army academy in Benghazi kills eight people.
- On 19 March Libya asks the United Nations for international aid to re-establish internal security.

### Tunisia

- On 6 March the President Moncef Marzouki announces the end of the state of emergency.
- On 28 March Rachid Barauni is named general manager of the National Social Security Fund.

### Algeria

- On 3 March the President Abdelaziz Bouteflika registers his candidacy for the presidential elections in the Constitutional Council.
- On 13 March the Energy and Mines Minister Youcef Yousfi is appointed the new Prime Minister to replace Abdelmalek Sellal, who will lead Bouteflika's election campaign replacing Ahmed Ouyahia, who is named the presidency's cabinet director replacing Mohamed Moulay Guendil. Another former Prime Minister, Abdelaziz Belkhadem, is appointed adviser to Bouteflika.
- On 15 March the Prime Minister Youcef Yousfi and Interior Minister Tayeb Belaiz visit Ghardaia hours after three people are killed in ethnic clashes in the city.

### Morocco

- On 25 March the President of the National Human Rights Council Driss el-Yazami praises the government's proposal to exclude civilians from being tried by military courts.

### EU

- On 2 March NATO, the US and the EU urge Russia to halt its military mobilisation in Crimea. Ukraine calls up its military reserves. The G7 cancels its July G8 summit in Sochi. On 3 March Russia accepts Germany's proposal to create a contact group to initiate political dialogue on Ukraine. On 4 March in response to Russia's military deployment, the US suspends its military and trade cooperation with the country. On 6 March the Tartar population in the region is mobilised to keep Crimea in Ukraine. In Donetsk, the Ukrainian police recover control of the town hall from the pro-Russian militants that had taken over the building. The EU approves 11 billion euros in aid to Ukraine and accelerates the association process with Kiev, and NATO suspends its relations with Russia. On 13 March the OCDE suspends membership negotiations with Russia. On 15 March violent clashes break out in Donetsk between pro-Russians and pro-Ukrainians. On 16 March Crimea votes in favour of independence from Ukraine and to join Russia with an absolute majority in a public referendum recognised only by Moscow. On 17 March Vladimir Putin ratifies Crimea's accession request despite international sanctions. On 21 March the EU and Ukraine sign the Stabilisation and Association agreement. On 25 March Russia is expelled from the G8.
- On 13 March the European Parliament gives the green light to the EU's Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, endowed with 3.1 billion euros up to 2020.
- On 20 March the European Council, Parliament and Commission agree on a mechanism to manage bankruptcies in financial institutions, ahead of the definitive Banking Union.

### Arab League

- On 25 March Kuwait hosts the 25th Arab League Summit overshadowed by political tensions between the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the death sentences given to 529 Islamists in Egypt, a country that is requesting the help of the pan-Arab organisation in the fight against terrorism. The meeting



ends without reaching any decisive resolutions on Syria despite the urgent call for help from Bashar al-Assad's political opposition.

#### April 2014

*Portugal receives a new financial aid package after announcing fresh cuts. Italy and Croatia also approve new austerity measures. Spain appoints a new Agriculture Minister. France shuffles its cabinet and Manuel Valls is named Prime Minister. Malta elects its President. In Slovenia, the change in the leadership of Positive Slovenia endangers the government coalition. Kosovo approves the War Veterans law and a special court for war crimes committed during the Kosovo conflict. In FYROM, the conservatives win both the parliamentary and presidential elections. In Syria, the army launches new offensives in Dara, Aleppo and Homs forcing more withdrawals from the armed opposition and Bashar al-Assad announces that he will run in the presidential elections of 3 June. In Lebanon, the negotiations between the political forces are yet to find a candidate with the necessary consensus to assume the presidency. Jordan opens a new camp for Syrian refugees. In Egypt, protests led by the Muslim Brotherhood continue amid further arrests of the organisation's members, in the same month that the judiciary confirms death or life sentences for hundreds of Islamists. In Libya, the recently appointed caretaker Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thani submits his resignation. Algeria holds presidential elections which are won again by Abdelaziz Bouteflika. The EU approves new sanctions against Russia for its responsibility in Ukraine's internal crisis.*

#### Portugal

- On 15 April the government adopts new austerity measures to save 1.4 billion euros and reduce the public deficit to 2.5% of GDP for 2015.
- On 17 April the IMF authorises the release of Portugal's penultimate 851-million-euro aid tranche.

#### Spain

- On 28 April Isabel Garcia Tejerina is named Agriculture Minister to replace Miguel Arias Cañete, who will head the People's Party list in the European elections.

#### France

- On 1 April after the disastrous municipal elections the government resigns and the President François Hollande appoints the Interior Minister Manuel Valls as the new Prime Minister, who presents his cabinet on 2 April, which includes Segolene Royal in charge of Ecology, Arnaud Montebourg in Economy, Michel Sapin in Finances, Bernard Cazeneuve in the Interior and Benoît Hamon in Education. Laurent Fabius, Jean-Yves Le Drian and Christiane Taubira retain their positions as the Foreign, Defence and Justice Ministers respectively.
- On 8 April Manuel Valls announces an austerity plan that includes simplifying administrative procedures and cuts of 50 billion euros, which, despite internal disagreements in the Socialist Party, are approved by the National Assembly on 29 April.

#### Monaco

- On 11 April France released a decree that reinterprets the 1963 Franco-Monegasque Fiscal Convention and exempts French citizens born and residing in Monaco from paying taxes on income earned in the principality.
- On 25 April the owner of the French telecommunications company Free Xavier Niel acquires 55% of Monaco Telecom.

#### Italy

- On 8 April the government expands measures to reactivate economic growth, which include reducing tax deductions on low incomes, increasing taxes on bank deposits to 26%, selling 1,500 official cars, reducing salaries of public sector managers, abolishing superfluous public entities, privatising goods and public companies, simplifying administration procedures, abolishing

ing the provinces and reforming the Senate.

- On 9 April over 4,000 immigrants are intercepted by Italy in just 48 hours in the Strait of Sicily. The Interior Minister Angelino Alfano declares that the situation is critical.
- On 15 April a Court in Milan orders Silvio Berlusconi to perform at least four hours of community service a week in a residence for the elderly during the course of one year, in the Mediaset case.

#### Malta

- On 4 April Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca, from the Labour Party, is elected President of Malta by the Parliament.

#### Slovenia

- On 25 April the Prime Minister Alenka Bratusek loses the presidency of Positive Slovenia, the main party of the government coalition, to the mayor of Ljubljana Zoran Jankovic. The return of Jankovic, who had to hand the presidency of the party over to Bratusek after being accused of corruption, endangers the government coalition.

#### Croatia

- On 17 April the government adopts new measures to reduce the budget deficit from 4.5% to 0.4% of the GDP and which include new taxes on petrol and telecommunications.

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 15 April the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia rejects a move to drop some of the most serious genocide charges against the former Bosnian Serb military leader Ratko Mladic.
- On 21 April four former Bosnian Croatian paramilitary fighters are arrested by the Bosnian authorities accused of war crimes against the Serbian population of Odzak in 1992.

#### Serbia

- On 14 April a court in Belgrade rehabilitates the deceased Queen Maria of Yugoslavia ruling that she was ille-

gally stripped her of her citizenship and all her assets in 1947.

- On 24 April Sinisa Mali, from the Progressive Party, is elected mayor of Belgrade by the city assembly.
- On 27 April the Parliament voted in the new government of Aleksandar Vucic whose main goal will be economic recovery. The 18-member cabinet, will include three deputy Prime Ministers, Zorana Mihajlovic, also Public Works and Transport Minister; Rasim Ljajic, also Trade, Telecommunications and Tourism Minister; and Kori Udovicki, also Public Administration and Local Self-government Minister. Ivica Dacic, will be the new Minister of Foreign Affairs.

#### *Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 3 April the Parliament passes the War Veterans Law which is boycotted by the Democratic League of Kosovo, in protest against the former guerrilla group the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kosovo (FARK) not benefitting from the law.
- On 23 April the Parliament approves the constitution of a special tribunal for war crimes set up to investigate allegations against the Kosovo Liberation Army (UÇK) during the 1998-1999 Kosovo conflict.

#### *FYROM*

- On 9 April the Constitutional Court rules that the Lustration Law, under which the State can investigate people suspected of spying or collaborating with Yugoslavia's socialist regime, is legal.
- On 13 and 26 April the first and second rounds of presidential elections are held, the latter coinciding with the parliamentary elections. In both elections the ruling conservative VMRO-DPMNE wins, with 43.29% of the votes in the parliamentary elections ahead of the Social Democratic Union of Macedonia's (SDSM) 24.78%, and with 55.93% in the presidential elections for the current President Gjorge Ivanov, ahead of Stevo Pendarovski's 40.4%.

#### *Albania*

- On 24 April the dissident anti-communist Kujtim Gaziu sets himself alight

outside the Parliament to denounce his precarious economic situation, after 20 years waiting for compensation for the abuses he suffered under the communist dictatorship.

#### *Greece*

- On 9 April the year's first general strike is staged against the austerity measures demanded by the EU and IMF.
- On 10 April a car bomb explodes outside the Central Bank of Greece in Athens, on the same day that Greece returns to the bond markets, following a four-year absence, with the issue of government bonds valued at 2.5 billion euros.

#### *Turkey*

- On 3 April the Constitutional Court lifts the ban on Twitter in force since 20 March under a government decree. Despite the ruling, the government upholds the ban.
- On 15 April at least three people are killed in Istanbul when a car carrying the former MP Adnan Yildiz from the Anavatan party (centre-right, Turkish nationalist) comes under fire.
- On 23 April the Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan offers his condolences to the descendants of the thousands of Armenians massacred in 1915 by the Ottoman Empire. Although not an apology, this is the first time that the Turkish State has expressed its condolences.

#### *Cyprus*

- On 3 April Christoforos Fokaides is appointed Defence Minister to replace Tasos Mitsopoulos, who died on 22 March.
- On 15 April dock workers in Limasoll accept the Labour Ministry's offer in the negotiations, ending their strike over salary cuts and working hours.

#### *Syria*

- On 13 April the army launches an offensive to take back control of several rebel positions in Rif Dimashq, Duma and Hama. In the latter, the

town of Kafr Zita is victim to a poisonous gas attack.

- On 16 April the Syrian army steps up its offensive on the main rebel stronghold, the city of Homs.
- On 22 April the MP Maher Abd al-Hafiz Hajjar, member of the opposition party tolerated by the Syrian regime, has presented the first candidacy to the presidential elections, scheduled for 3 June.
- On 27 April the joint mission of the United Nations and Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) reports that the Syrian regime still holds 7.8% of their chemical arsenal, on the same day that the deadline expires for its complete removal.
- On 28 April Bashar al-Assad announces that he will run in the upcoming presidential elections.

#### *Lebanon*

- On 23 and 30 April the Parliament fails to elect a new President after none of the candidates obtain the minimum of 86 votes – two-thirds of the house – in the first round.

#### *Jordan*

- On 30 April the Azraq refugee camp opens, with a capacity for 130,000 people. The camp will have to absorb the excess of Syrian refugees from the Zaatari camp, which is already housing 93,000 people and is stretched to the limit of its capacity.

#### *Egypt*

- On 4 April the government amends the Penal Code to toughen sentences for terrorism and expand its reach.
- On 15 April the Alexandria Court for Urgent Matters bans the Muslim Brotherhood from running in elections.
- On 20 April Egypt's Central Election Commission announces the only two candidates to the presidency, field-marshal Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, and Hamdeen Sabahi, the leader of the Egyptian left.
- On 25 April Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Yasser Mehrez is arrested amid large-scale Islamist protests, mainly in Fayum and Cairo.

- On 28 April the National Alliance to Support Legitimacy, the Muslim Brotherhood-led coalition, calls for a boycott of the presidential elections, scheduled for 26 and 27 May.
- On 28 April the judge Said Youssef confirms death sentences for 37 of the 529 Muslim Brotherhood supporters handed down on 24 March. The other 492 receive life sentences. On the same day a further 683 of the 919 Islamists are sentenced to death under the same charges in a second trial initiated on 25 March, including Mohammed Badie, the spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood.

#### Libya

- On 7 April the government and the Cyrenaican federalists agree to immediately reopen two oil facilities, and hand over the other oil-exporting ports to the Tripoli authorities. The Justice Minister, however, will investigate the sales of hydrocarbons since the fall of Gaddafi, study the removal of decree 42, according to which a special security force was formed to lift the blockade imposed by the rebels on oil wells, and all arrest warrants will be lifted against leaders or members of the militias that took control of the oil docks in the summer of 2013.
- On 13 April the caretaker Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thani, resigns a day after a failed terrorist attack on his life.
- On 29 April two gunmen burst into the GNC causing the MPs to flee, interrupting attempts to elect a new Prime Minister to replace Abdullah al-Thani.

#### Tunisia

- On 9 April the President Moncef Marzouki pardons 467 prisoners and commutes death sentences given to two others to mark Martyrs' Day.
- On 18 April Moncef Marzouki announces that he will reduce his own salary by two-thirds in line with the austerity programme being carried out by the current government to reduce the country's severe budget deficit, estimated at around 2.25 billion euros. One of the most controversial measures is the removal of subsidies on fuel and certain basic food products.

#### Algeria

- On 17 April Algeria holds presidential elections in which Abdelaziz Bouteflika achieves his fifth consecutive victory obtaining 81.53% of the votes.

#### Morocco

- On 11 April the candidate of the parliamentary majority Rachid Talbi Alami is elected President of the House of Representatives (lower house).
- On 29 April the government, employers' associations and trade unions agree to raise the minimum wage, increase pensions and scholarships and expand state medical coverage.

#### EU

- On 3 April Brussels hosts the 4th EU-Africa Summit, in which an Action Plan is agreed to combat irregular migration and favour legal mobility between 2014 and 2017. The EU also commits to spending 28 billion euros in aid between 2014 and 2020 throughout Africa.
- On 14 April Ukraine's ultimatum expires for the pro-Russian mutineers and the Ukrainian army advances to take back control of various secessionist positions. Ukraine again accuses Russia of being behind the destabilisation by taking control of the east and south of the country. Russia warns that Ukraine's military movements are leading the country to civil war. On 17 April Ukraine, Russia, the EU and US agree in Geneva on the disarmament of the illegal armed groups and the evacuation of buildings occupied by pro-Russians. NATO strengthens its defences in Eastern Europe. On 22 April the Ukrainian President Oleksandr Turchynov announces an anti-terrorist campaign against the pro-Russian uprising. On 29 April the US and EU expand sanctions on Russia faced with the country's failure to comply with agreements reached in Geneva.
- On 30 April Switzerland lifts restrictions on the entry of Croatian workers into Swiss territory to reactivate relations with the EU, which have been frozen as a consequence of Berna's approval of the aforementioned veto, approved in a public referendum.

#### May 2014

*Portugal brings its international financial assistance to an end. Spain and Italy face mass immigrant arrivals. In France, the UMP Secretary General resigns. The Slovenian Prime Minister resigns. Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia are hit by severe flooding. In Turkey there are new anti-government protests following the collapse of a mine. The Syrian army continues to advance and forces the rebels to withdraw from Homs. The Lebanese Parliament fails to elect a new President for the country. Security in Libya continues to worsen with clashes between the army, Islamists and the forces of Khalifa Haftar in the same month that a controversial caretaker government is announced. In Egypt, Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi wins the presidential elections. Tunisia passes the new election law. Algeria forms a new government. The EU holds parliamentary elections.*

#### Portugal

- On 17 May Portugal ends its Troika surveillance after successfully concluding the last inspection of its public accounts.
- On 25 May the Socialist Party wins in the European elections (31.46%) ahead of the Portugal Alliance formed by the two major centre-right parties (27.71%). The communist-green alliance comes third (12.68%).

#### Spain

- On 12 May the President of Leon's provincial government, Isabel Carrasco, is shot dead by two members of her party, the PP, in a personal revenge attack.
- On 25 May the PP wins in the European elections (26.1%), followed by the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE, 23%), United Left (IU, 10%) and the new far-left party, Podemos (8%).
- On 26 May the eviction of a squat in Barcelona triggers a week of unrest in the streets.
- On 28 May some 1,000 illegal immigrants storm the Melilla border, half of them succeeding in entering Spain,

in the biggest coordinated assault to date, amid mounting tension in the city.

- On 28 May the former Councillor of the Valencian government's department of Solidarity and Citizenship Rafael Blasco is sentenced to eight years in prison for embezzling 1.8 million euros, earmarked for aid projects in Nicaragua.
- On 30 May the police dismantle a jihadist cell in Melilla, which was planning attacks in Morocco using fighters returned from Syria.

#### France

- On 19 May Jerome Kerviel is handed over at the French-Italian border, the rogue trader sentenced to three years' imprisonment for causing losses of 4.9 billion euros for Societe Generale in 2008, in the biggest fraud in history.
- On 25 May the FN wins the European elections (25%) ahead of the conservative UMP (20.8%) and the ruling PS (14%).
- On 27 May Jean-François Cope resigns as President of the UMP owing to the poor results in the European elections and over fresh evidence of corruption in the Bygmalion case, on the financing of Nicolas Sarkozy's 2012 election campaign.
- On 28 May the police dismantle two camps holding 650 irregular migrants in Calais.

#### Monaco

- On 21 May Helene Pastor, a member of Monaco's second dynasty after the Grimaldis, dies from injuries suffered on 6 May after being shot in Nice.

#### Italy

- On 8 May the former Industry Minister Claudio Scajola is arrested as part of a court investigation into the mafia association of a former colleague from his party, the People of Freedom (PDL, centre-right).
- On 25 May the PD wins in the European elections with a historic 40.9% of the vote, followed by the Five Star Movement (populist, 21.15%) and Forza Italia (centre-right, 16.81%).
- On 31 May more than 3,600 immigrants are intercepted in Sicilian waters

ending a month of mass arrivals. Since the beginning of 2014, more than 43,000 immigrants have arrived in Italy.

#### Malta

- On 25 May the Labour Party wins in the European elections (PL, 53%) against the conservative Nationalist Party (PN, Christian democracy, 40%).

#### Slovenia

- On 5 May the Prime Minister Alenka Bratusek resigns due to a lack of support from her party Positive Slovenia.
- On 25 May the Democratic Party (SDS, centre-right) wins in the European elections (24.86%) followed by the New Slovenia-People's Party coalition (16.46%) and the new reformist party Verjamem (centre-left, green 10.5%).

#### Croatia

- On 25 May the centre-right coalition led by the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ, conservative) wins in the European elections (41.42%) ahead of Kukuriku, a social democratic-liberal coalition (29.93%) and the new left-wing green party, ORAH (9.42%).

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 19 May a million Bosnians are left without drinking water after the largest floods in 120 years, which leave more than 100,000 houses destroyed, 70,000 people evacuated and at least 24 dead.

#### Montenegro

- On 25 May the ruling Democratic Party of Socialists wins in 11 out of 12 municipalities in local elections described by the opposition and observers as highly irregular, leading the State Prosecutor to open an investigation.

#### Serbia

- On 9 May the chief editor of the state-owned newspaper *Vecernje Novosti*, Srdjan Skoro, is sacked for criticising the government.

- On 29 May the death toll in Serbia reaches 51 as a result of severe floods that have also affected Bosnia, Croatia and Romania this month.

#### Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 2 May the EU and Kosovo conclude negotiations on the Stabilisation and Association Agreement, considered a prelude to accession negotiations, which will begin in July.
- On 7 May the Parliament is dissolved to allow early elections to be held on 8 June, due to the block by the Serbian minority on the law to create a Kosovo army.
- On 23 May three former Kosovo Liberation Army (UÇK) fighters surrender to the police after escaping from a hospital in Pristina two days earlier to avoid being transferred to Mitrovica and tried by EULEX.

#### FYROM

- On 1 May the Social Democratic Party refuses to take up the 34 seats won in the April elections in protest against the victory of VMRO-DPMNE, which it considers to be fraudulent.
- On 19 May the death of a young Macedonian at the hands of an Albanian in Gjorce Petrov, Skopje, sparks two days of unrest in the capital.

#### Greece

- On 4 May NERIT begins broadcasting, the new public television channel that succeeds ERT.
- On 7 May the Parliament lifts immunity from Golden Dawn members Giorgos Germentis and Nikos Michos, and a further two lawmakers who abandoned the neo-Nazi party.
- On 12 May the Supreme Court allows Golden Dawn to run in the European elections.
- On 18 and 25 May Greece holds the first and second round of its municipal and regional elections. On the national level, New Democracy (ND, centre-right) wins most votes and takes control in all regions except Attica and Central Macedonia, where Syriza (far-left) wins, the second most voted party on a national level and also the victor in the European elections.

*Turkey*

- On 1 May rallies held on International Workers' Day in Istanbul end in clashes between police and anti-government protestors.
- On 13 May more than 300 miners are killed in an explosion in a coal mine in Soma, in the biggest mining accident in Turkish history. The incident sparks unrest and widespread protests against the government. 24 Soma Holding executives are arrested for their responsibility in the disaster.
- On 16 May, despite the ceasefire between the government and the terrorist organisation the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), members of the latter attack a military checkpoint in Tunceli.
- On 22 May two people are killed in Istanbul when police shoot at Alevi demonstrators denouncing the persecution and discrimination they suffer.
- On 29 May the Constitutional Court orders that the government lift the ban on YouTube, issued in March.

*Cyprus*

- On 2 May Cyprus removes the restrictions on cashing bank cheques, enforced to avoid capital flight during the international financial bailout.
- On 12 May the European Court of Human Rights rules that Turkey should pay 30 million euros in compensation to the families of the 1,456 people that went missing in Turkey's 1974 military intervention and 60 million to the residents of the Karpas peninsula for moral damages.
- On 21 May the US vice-President Joe Biden arrives in Cyprus to relaunch reunification talks.
- On 25 May the coalition formed by the Democratic Rally (DYSY, conservative) and the new European Party (EK, centrist) wins in the European elections (37.7%) followed by the Progressive Party of Working People (AKEL, Marxist-Leninist, 26.9%) and the social democratic DIKO (10.8%).

*Syria*

- On 7 May the rebels begin their withdrawal from Homs, which was agreed with the regime on 2 May. Meanwhile,

the regime's bombing raids continue throughout the month in several provinces, as well as its fighting with the FSA and Islamist militias, leaving hundreds dead.

- On 13 May the United Nations and Arab League envoy to Syria Lakhdar Brahimi resigns over the lack of international commitment to stop the Syrian conflict.
- On 17 May the Air Defence Chief Hussein Ishaq is killed in Damascus in an FSA attack.
- On 22 May Russia vetoes a French proposal in the Security Council for the International Criminal Court to investigate those responsible for war crimes committed in Syria.
- On 25 May Fauzi Ayub, one of Hezbollah's head strategists, is shot dead in Aleppo.

*Lebanon*

- On 25 May after five unsuccessful attempts in April and May to elect a successor to the President Michel Suleiman due to a lack of a quorum, the cabinet assumes provisional control of presidential duties.

*Egypt*

- On 2 May new Muslim Brotherhood protests in Alexandria end in clashes with the security forces and anti-Islamist militants.
- On 3 May the Cairo Criminal Court hands down ten-year prison sentences to 102 Muslim Brotherhood members for violent acts committed after the coup on 3 July.
- On 6 May the Egyptian judiciary bans the leaders of the Democratic National Party from running in the elections.
- On 18 May 163 Islamists are given 10 to 15-year prison sentences for acts of violence.
- On 23 May Hosni Mubarak and his two sons are sentenced to three and four years' imprisonment for corruption in the Presidential Palaces case.
- On 22 May Shadi al-Menei, head of Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, is killed in fighting with the army in Sinai.
- On 26-27 May Egypt holds presidential elections. With a 44.4% turnout, Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi wins 96.91% of the

votes. His only rival Hamdeen Sabahi obtains 3.09%.

*Libya*

- On 1 May violent clashes break out in Benghazi between the army, Islamist militias and troops of general Khalifa Haftar which spread to Tripoli and continue throughout May leaving hundreds dead.
- On 6 May Ahmed al-Maiteeq is confirmed as Prime Minister by the Parliament Speaker.
- On 8 May Ibrahim Senussi, head of Intelligence Services in Cyrenaica, is murdered in Benghazi by Ansar al-Sharia.
- On 13 May the Jordanian ambassador Fawaz al-Aitan, who was abducted in April in Tripoli, is freed in exchange for the release of the terrorist Mohamed Dersi.
- On 18 May the al-Qaqa and as-Sawaiq brigades, allied with general Khalifa Haftar, attack the National Congress. Their main aim is to oust the Islamist militias from Libya and the Islamist camp that dominates the Parliament and which supported the appointment of Ahmed al-Maiteeq.
- On 20 May the National Congress agrees to hold early elections on 25 June.
- On 27 May the new Prime Minister Ahmed al-Maiteeq survives an attempt on his life in Tripoli.
- On 28 May the outgoing government of Abdullah al-Thani refuses to hand power over to Ahmed al-Maiteeq until the judiciary issues a ruling on the legitimacy of his election, which failed to attain the minimum quorum of 120 votes.

*Tunisia*

- On 2 May the National Assembly approves the new electoral law with an absolute majority.
- On 26 May the Tunisian Court of First Instance orders the dissolution of the Islamist National League for the Protection of the Revolution.
- On 27 May four police officers are killed in an attack against the Interior Minister Lotfi Ben Jeddou believed to have been carried out by Ansar al-Sh

aria in response to an anti-terrorist operation underway in the Chaambi Mountains.

#### Algeria

- On 5 May the 30 ministries of Abdelmalek Sellal's new cabinet are revealed, which include just 13 new faces and no major ministerial changes.
- On 16 May the government unveils the details of the constitutional reform package, which includes delegating some of the presidential powers to the Prime Minister, increased rights for the opposition, the separation of powers and social freedoms. On 19 May the Forces for Change coalition, formed by 13 opposition parties, announces that it will not participate in a reform that it believes is a farce.

#### Morocco

- On 6 May the government gives the security forces authorisation to enter university campuses if public order is under threat following the death of a student on 24 April during clashes between Islamists and leftists at the University of Fez.

#### Mauritania

- On 3 May the parties of the National Forum for Democracy and Unity (FNDU) decide to boycott the presidential elections in June and accuse the government of blocking the electoral reform law.

#### EU

- On 1 May the European Stability Mechanism reaches its target level of paid-in capital: 80 billion euros, the highest among all international financial institutions worldwide.
- On 12 May independence referendums are held in Donetsk and Lugansk with both provinces declaring independence from Ukraine and intentions to join Russia. Meanwhile, the anti-terrorist operation launched by Kiev to recover control of pro-Russian areas, on 25 May Ukraine holds early presidential elections in which the magnate Petro Poroshenko (55%) wins with promises to restore peace in Ukraine and keep the

country together, as well as continue the rapprochement process with the EU.

- On 27 May the EU holds parliamentary elections. The European People's Party (centre-right) wins with 212 seats, followed by the Socialist Party (186) and the Liberals and Democrats (70). The three parliamentary groups lose their weight in the European Parliament because of the widespread discontent over the economic crisis. The sharp rise in Eurosceptic, populist and extremist parties is cause for concern.

#### June 2014

*In Spain, Felipe VI succeeds Juan Carlos I to the throne. Italy continues to struggle with mass immigrant arrivals. Serbia and Montenegro are unable to reach an agreement on dual nationality. Kosovo holds early elections. In FYROM the new government assumes office. Albania becomes a candidate for EU accession. Greece reshuffles its cabinet. In Turkey clashes break out between the police and PKK demonstrators, parallel to the development of the negotiating process. In Syria, after taking back Homs, the army focuses on ousting the rebels from Aleppo, faced with the rapid advance of ISIS, which already has control of large areas of Syria and Iraq. Jordan reaches a defence agreement with Israel. In Egypt, the results of the presidential elections see Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi take victory with 96.91% of the vote. In Libya, the Supreme Court rejects the appointment of Ahmed al-Maiteeq and an early general election is held. Mauritania holds presidential elections.*

#### Portugal

- On 5 June the government adopts a draft law to reform pensions, which raises social security payments as of 2015 to guarantee the continuity of pensions and reduce the public deficit.

#### Spain

- On 2 June Juan Carlos I abdicates. On 11 June the Parliament approves the abdication law. On 19 June the Prince of Asturias is proclaimed King Felipe VI.

- On 16 June nine people are arrested in Madrid in a police operation that dismantles an international recruitment network sending jihadists to Syria.
- On 20 June the government approves income and corporate tax cuts as of 2015, resisting EU pressure to raise VAT.
- On 25 June the Supreme Court authorises oil prospecting in the Canary Islands.
- On 26 June the reform bill on Judicial Power is approved, which gives immunity to emeritus and reigning kings and queens, the Prince and Princess of Asturias and their respective consorts and allows them to be tried only by the Supreme Court.
- On 26 June the judge overseeing the Noos corruption case upholds charges against Princess Cristina de Borbon.
- On 26 June the PSOE Secretary General, former minister and opposition leader Alfredo Perez-Rubalcaba announces that he is retiring from active politics.

#### France

- On 2 June the police arrest four people in the Paris area and in Provence in an anti-jihadist operation, a day after the arrest in Marseille of a French Arab jihadist accused of killing four people in the Jewish Museum in Brussels on 24 May.
- On 3 June over a thousand pensioners protest in Paris to demand their pensions be increased.
- On 10 June French railway workers stage a strike, which, after eight consecutive days of protest against the sector's liberalisation, becomes indefinite.
- On 11 June the UMP announces that the former Minister of Education Luc Chatel will become the party's new acting Secretary General and the former Prime Ministers Alain Juppé, François Fillon and Jean-Pierre Raffarin will jointly lead the government until a general congress is held in November.
- On 26 June the National Liberation Front of Corsica gives up its armed struggle.

#### Italy

- On 4 June the mayor of Venice Giorgio Orsoni and a further 34 people are

arrested for corruption in the Moses Dam construction project, designed to protect the city from the Adriatic Sea.

- On 5 June 31 members of Cosa Nostra are arrested in the Bagheria district.
- On 13 June the former Senator Marcello Dell'Utri is sent to prison for his links with the mafia.
- On 13 June the government adopts a law-decree that gives the National Anti-Corruption Agency the power to approve and oversee public contracts and services.

#### *Slovenia*

- On 24 June the EU gives Ljubljana the 2016 Green Capital award.

#### *Croatia*

- On 2 June after negotiations between Croatia and Montenegro fail over the sovereignty of the Prevlaka Peninsula, both countries agree to resolve the issue through international arbitration.

#### *Bosnia and Herzegovina*

- On 18 June the Serbian Democratic Party announces that Sonja Karadzic-Jovicevic, the daughter of the former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic, will run as a candidate for Pale in the upcoming parliamentary elections.
- On 18 June the police arrest 30 officials of the taxation authority suspected of organised crime in the biggest anti-fraud operation since Bosnian independence.

#### *Montenegro*

- On 17 June six years of negotiations between Serbia and Montenegro over their respective citizens' rights to dual nationality end without an agreement.
- On 24 June the EU and Montenegro open three accession negotiation chapters.
- On 25 June NATO refuses to offer Montenegro membership at the Newport Summit.

#### *Serbia*

- On 6 June a demonstration in Belgrade calls for the resignation of the

Interior Minister Nebojsa Stefanovic, accused of plagiarising parts of his PhD thesis.

#### *Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 8 June Kosovo holds early elections. The ruling PDK wins with 30.38% of the votes ahead of the Democratic League (LDK, conservative, 25.24%) and pro-independence Vetëvendosje party (13.59%).
- On 15 June Elvis Pista, the Democratic Party candidate in the recent elections, is murdered in Pristina.
- On 18 June Kosovo Serbs remove the concrete barricade from the Mitrovica bridge, which had been in place since 2011 to stop Kosovo Albanians from crossing. It is replaced hours later by another consisting of large plant pots containing bushes. On 22 June there are clashes on the bridge between Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Albanians.

#### *FYROM*

- On 8 June the new government is announced in which most ministries remain unchanged. Abdilqajm Ademi from the coalition DUI party, moves from Environment to Education, Zoran Jolevski (VMRO-DPMNE) takes over in Defence, Nurhan Izairi and Adnan Jashari, both from DUI, become the Environment and Justice ministers respectively and Mihail Cvetkov (Socialist Party) becomes Agriculture Minister. The opposition Social Democratic Party continues to consider the electoral results as fraudulent and maintains its parliamentary boycott.
- On 30 June six ethnic Albanians are imprisoned for the murder of five Macedonians in 2012, which triggered an escalation in ethnic tensions.

#### *Albania*

- On 16 June the police launch an operation to enter Lazarat, a village controlled by organised crime and one of Europe's largest cannabis producers. Three days of fighting ensue.
- On 24 June Albania is granted official candidate status for EU accession.
- On 26 June Artan Santo, CEO of Credins Bank, is murdered in Tirana.

#### *Greece*

- On 9 June the Prime Minister Antonis Samaras announces a cabinet reshuffle following New Democracy's poor results in the European elections. Gikas Hardouvelis replaces Yannis Stournaras as Finance Minister. The Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) increases its presence in the coalition government.

#### *Turkey*

- On 4 June security forces disperse Kurdish demonstrators blocking several roads in Diyarbakir and Mus to put an end to protests that have spread throughout the southeast of the country since May against the government's plans to construct military outposts in the area.
- On 18 June a court in Ankara gives life sentences to the two surviving leaders of the 1980 coup, general Tahsin Sahinkaya and general Kenan Evren.
- On 26 June the government submits a draft law to the Parliament that would provide a legal framework for the peace negotiations with the PKK terrorist organisation, which are currently at an impasse. The document maintains that measures will be adopted to reintegrate PKK members who lay down their arms.

#### *Cyprus*

- On 6 June the Securities and Exchange Commission imposes huge fines on the Bank of Cyprus, the People's Bank of Cyprus and several former board members and executives for giving misleading information over investments in Greek bonds during the contagion of the Greek crisis in Cyprus.

#### *Syria*

- On 3 June Syria holds its first presidential elections in more than 50 years. The official results give victory to Bashar al-Assad with 88.7% of the votes.
- On 16 June the Syrian and Iraqi governments join forces to fight against the ISIS militias, whose lightning offensive carried out throughout June from its strongholds on Syria's eastern border has already given it control of Mosul, and other towns.

- On 22 June a missile launched from the Syrian border leaves one dead in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights. In response, the Israeli army attacks rebel positions in Syria and strengthens its presence in the area.
- On 25 June a faction of the al-Nusra Front, a wing of al-Qaeda, pledges allegiance to ISIS in Abu Kamal, on the Iraqi border.
- On 27 June the interim Prime Minister of NCSROF Ahmad Tumah orders the dissolution of the FSA high command and dismissal of its leader Abdelilah al-Bashir for corruption.
- On 29 June to mark the beginning of Ramadan, the ISIS spokesman Abu Mohamed al-Adnani declares the group's intention to create a caliphate that will spread throughout the Muslim world, with Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as its leader. The group thereby changes its name to Islamic State (IS).

#### *Lebanon*

- On 23 June at least one national security inspector is killed and 20 civilians injured in a bomb attack in Tayuneh, a Hezbollah bastion in Beirut.

#### *Jordan*

- On 26 June the State Security Court finds the radical preacher Abu Qatada not guilty of terrorism offences for his alleged involvement in a terrorist plot in 1998, in a ruling that causes commotion in the United Kingdom, which agreed to deport him in July 2013 after a decade-long legal battle.
- On 28 June Jordan and Israel reach a defence agreement faced with the jihadist threat from Syria and Iraq.

#### *Egypt*

- On 3 June the Election Commission reveals the definitive results of the presidential elections on 26, 27 and 28 June, which confirms victory for Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi with 96.91% of the votes.
- On 6 June the acting President Adly Mansour enacts the law approved by the Council of Ministers on 4 June, which criminalises sexual harassment for the first time.

- On 11 June the activist Alaa Abdel Fattah and 24 others are sentenced to 15 years in prison for disrupting public order.
- On 17 June the 34 members of the new cabinet, headed by Ibrahim Mehleb, are sworn into their posts. Just 13 of the 34 members are new, including Foreign Minister Sameh Shukri; Investments Minister Ashraf Salman; and Antiquities Minister Mamduh al-Damati.
- On 19 June the Muslim Brotherhood's spiritual leader Mohammed Badie is sentenced to death, together with another 13 Islamist leaders, including Mohammed Beltagy and Essam el-Erian, Safwat el-Hegazy, Bassem Ouda and Assem Abdel Maged.
- On 24 June Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi announces the start of a period of austerity to balance the national economy.

#### *Libya*

- On 2 June eight people are killed in fighting between the army and forces of general Khalifa Haftar and Ansar al-Sharia Islamist militias in Benghazi.
- On 4 June four soldiers are killed in a suicide bomb attack at a military base controlled by Khalifa Haftar.
- On 5 June the intelligence chief Saleem al-Hassi resigns.
- On 9 June in virtue of its ruling on 5 June the Supreme Court rejects the appointment of the Prime Minister Ahmed Maiteeq as unconstitutional.
- On 15 June the US captures Ahmed Abu Kattalah, a prominent leader of Ansar al-Sharia and main suspect for the attack on the US embassy in Benghazi on 11 September 2012.
- On 22 June the GNC approves the state budget for 2014, issued by the government in January. The budget is worth 47 billion dollars, a figure that continues the trend to lower the national budget since the revolution, owing to the constant strikes and protests that have systematically paralysed production and exports of crude oil.
- On 25 June Libya holds early parliamentary elections to elect the 200 deputies of the new legislative power, which will be known as the House of Representatives and will be based in Benghazi as of 1 August.
- On 26 June the lawyer and activist Salwa Bughaigis is murdered in Benghazi.

#### *Tunisia*

- On 25 June the Interior Minister Lotfi Ben Jeddou acknowledges that 2,400 Tunisian jihadists are fighting in Syria and 80% of them form part of IS.
- On 29 June two Tunisian diplomats abducted in Tripoli in April by armed militias operating outside of the Libyan State are released.

#### *Mauritania*

- On 21 June Mauritania holds early presidential elections which are boycotted by the National Forum for Democracy and Unity, the main opposition party. The current President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz wins with 82% of the votes.

#### *EU*

- On 5 June Brussels hosts the G7 Summit, which replaces the meeting scheduled in Sochi following the expulsion of Russia from the group of the world's most industrially developed nations, over its role in the Ukrainian crisis. The G7 rules out new sanctions on Russia and opts instead for diplomatic dialogue.
- On 5 June Belgium, France, Spain, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, the United Kingdom, Ireland and the Netherlands agree in Luxembourg to increase the collaboration of their intelligence services and police forces faced with the threat of radical Islamist fighters returning to Europe.
- On 16 June two days of EU-mediated negotiations between Russia and Ukraine end without an agreement, after which Moscow cuts Ukraine's gas supply over its failure to meet payments. Meanwhile, Kiev's offensive to take back control of areas held by pro-Russian rebels in the east and south of the country continues. On 18 June Vladimir Putin and Petro Poroshenko schedule talks to look for a solution to the Ukrainian crisis.
- On 18 June the agreement between the populist British UKIP and Italian Five Star Movement enables the formation of a Eurosceptic parliamentary group in the European Parliament.
- On 25 June the former Public Works Minister and former member of the Andalusian Regional Government Magda-



lena Alvarez resigns as vice-President of the European Investment Bank after being charged in the ERE corruption trial, which affects several political and trade union figures in Andalusia.

- On 26 June Ukraine, Moldavia and Georgia sign association agreements with the EU.

## July 2014

*In Portugal, Banco Espirito Santo is declared bankrupt. In Spain, a major corruption scandal is uncovered involving the former Catalanian President Jordi Pujol. France approves a far-reaching territorial reform plan and new measures to reduce the public deficit. Italy assumes the EU Presidency. Slovenia holds early parliamentary elections. In Serbia, the Finance Minister resigns. Cyprus receives a new tranche of its economic rescue package. In Syria, IS continues to advance and the army prepares to launch an offensive on Aleppo. Lebanon continues its struggle to elect a new President, and the country warns of its incapacity to cope with the continuing inflow of Syrian refugees. In Egypt, the violence in Sinai intensifies in connection with the conflict between Gaza and Israel. In Libya, there is a surge in the violence between Islamist militias, government forces and paramilitary groups loyal to Khalifa Haftar. Tunisia launches a large-scale anti-jihadist operation and suffers its worst attack since independence. Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia tighten security measures faced with increasing jihadist activity in the Maghreb.*

### Portugal

- On 18 July Banco Espirito Santo requests to be placed under controlled management, unable to make debt repayments which expire at the end of the month. On 24 July Ricardo Salgado, former President of Banco Espirito Santo bank, is arrested on charges of money laundering.

### Spain

- On 23 July around a thousand sub-Saharan unsuccessfully attempt to jump the Melilla border fence.

- On 23 July the former President of Castellon Carlos Fabra is sentenced by the Supreme Court to four years in prison on four separate corruption charges.

- On 25 July the former President and historic figure of Catalanian nationalism Jordi Pujol issues a statement in which he admits to possessing millions of euros worth of undeclared funds in different tax havens.

- On 27 July Pedro Sanchez is elected Secretary General of PSOE.

### France

- On 1 July the European Court of Human Rights upholds the French ban on wearing the full Islamic veil in public spaces in force since 2011, ruling that it does not violate any human rights.

- On 2 July the former President Nicolas Sarkozy, his lawyer Thierry Herzog and the Supreme Court magistrate Gilbert Azibert are charged with corruption, influence peddling and violation of professional secrecy in a court investigation into the irregular financing of the 2007 election campaign.

- On 8 July the National Assembly approves the government's proposal to save 50 billion euros in three years through widespread cuts on social security payments and taxes for companies and a pension freeze. Trade unions announce a boycott on a labour forum launched by the government and 33 socialist MPs abstain from the parliamentary vote.

- On 19 and 23 July two large demonstrations in Paris protest against the Israeli offensive in Gaza. The protests end in several days of clashes between pro-Palestinians and pro-Israelis in Paris and Sarcelles.

- On 23 July the National Assembly approves the government proposal to reduce the number of French regions from 22 to 13. The territorial reform is part of a move to simplify administrative layers and reduce public spending. It maintains the departments but removes their general councils, joining municipalities so that they have a minimum of 20,000 inhabitants.

### Italy

- On 1 July Italy assumes the six-month EU Presidency with the priorities of generating economic growth and employment, reinforcing citizens' rights and strengthening Europe's international role.

- On 7 July the number of immigrants intercepted in Italian waters in the last two days exceeds 2,600.

- On 18 July the Milan Court of Appeal overturned the seven-year prison sentence for abuse of power and soliciting minors for sex given to the former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi in June 2013 in the Ruby case.

- On 22 July the police arrest five men accused of murdering and throwing overboard dozens of immigrants on their way from Libya.

### Slovenia

- On 13 July Miro Cerar, the head of his self-named party formed six weeks earlier, wins the early legislative elections.

### Croatia

- On 16 July the Parliament approves the civil union law, which could benefit same-sex couples.

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 16 July a Dutch court rules that the Netherlands is partly liable for their blue helmets failing to prevent the murder of some 300 Bosnians at the hands of Bosnian Serbs in Srebrenica in July 1995.

- On 20 July 284 people murdered by Bosnian Serb forces in July 1992 in Prijedor are buried in Kozarac. Their bodies were found in the war's biggest mass grave in Tomasica.

### Serbia

- On 12 July the Finance Minister Lazar Krstic resigns due to disagreements with the Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic over the economic reforms. Krstic is replaced by Dusan Vujovic.

### *Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 28 July the EU Special Investigative Task Force for Kosovo accuses UÇK high commands of war crimes against humanity after the war ended in 1999, against Serbs, Roma and other ethnic minorities and rival ethnic Albanians.

### *Turkey*

- On 22 July at least 67 police officers participating in an investigation into alleged government corruption are arrested under suspicion of espionage.
- On 23 July at least two Turkish soldiers and six militants from the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union party (PYD) and the PKK are killed in clashes in Ceylanpinar.

### *Cyprus*

- On 25 July the EU and IMF recommend the disbursement of a 436-million-euro tranche of Cyprus' 10-billion-euro rescue package after confirming that Nicosia has undertaken the required adjustments.

### *Syria*

- On 3 July the al-Nusra Front withdraws from two towns in Deir al-Zour leaving most of the province under IS control.
- On 6 July the Syrian army takes Kifr Saghir in Aleppo.
- On 7 July the US ship Cape Ryan begins its task of neutralising 600 tonnes of chemical materials from the Syrian arsenal.
- On 8 July NCSROF elects its chief negotiator at the Geneva Summit Hadi al-Bahra as its President.
- On 9 July the armed forces secures positions around Aleppo before launching its final offensive on the city. Fighting in the city intensifies throughout the month.
- On 9 July at least 20 IS militants are killed in an air strike by the Syrian army on al-Talae, Raqqa.
- On 10 July the UN Secretary General Ban ki-Moon names Staffan de Mistura to succeed Lakhdar Brahimi as mediator for Syria.

- On 17 July Hezbollah and the al-Nusra Front wage a five-day battle on the Syrian-Lebanese border leaving dozens dead.
- On 20 July Bashar al-Assad reappoints Najah al-Attar as vice-President.
- On 21 July rebel fighters force IS withdrawals in several areas around Damascus.
- On 22 July la NCSROF announces its decision to dissolve its interim government and form a new one within a month.
- On 24 July the UN reports the arrival in Syria of the first humanitarian aid convoy, which enters the country from Turkey.
- On 27 July the army retakes the Shaar gas field in Homs, captured by IS mid-month.
- On 29 July the EU approves additional aid of 175 million euros for Syria, faced with the deterioration of the situation there.

### *Lebanon*

- On 2 and 29 July the eighth and ninth parliamentary sessions to elect a new President fail.
- On 3 July the Social Affairs Minister Rashid Derbas warns that Lebanon may be heading for economic and political collapse faced with the number of Syrian refugees, which already amounts to a third of the country's population.
- On 7 July 28 people are charged with belonging to IS.
- On 17 July the Foreign Ministry files a complaint to the United Nations Security Council over 516 Israeli violations of its national sovereignty in 2014.
- On 19 July security forces carry out a raid in Bab al-Tabaneh, Tripoli, to capture Hussam al-Sabbagh, accused of planning attacks on the Alawite neighbourhood of Jabal Mohsen. The raid ends in clashes with Sunni militias.

### *Jordan*

- On 12 July a Syrian rebel commander is murdered in Amman, in the first incident of this kind on Jordanian soil.
- On 23 July the youth wing of the Jordanian Salafi Jihadist Movement describes al-Qaeda as illegitimate and swears allegiance to IS.

### *Egypt*

- On 1 July the armed group Ajnad Misr claims responsibility for the bomb blasts near the presidential palace, which left two police officers dead.
- On 3 July at least five demonstrators are killed in Cairo during the first anniversary of the fall of President Mohamed Morsi.
- On 3 July at least 17 Islamist militants are killed in an army operation in the north of the Sinai Peninsula. A further 12 people are arrested.
- On 4 July fuel prices rise by up to 78% to lower the State's budget deficit.
- On 13 July a court in Cairo overturns the one-year prison sentence given to former Prime Minister Hesham Qandil for refusing to implement a court order to renationalise the Tanta Flax and Oil Company.
- On 21 July an Egyptian court sentences three Mohamed Morsi supporters to 25 years' imprisonment for rioting after Morsi's ousting.
- On 23 July the army announces the death of two militants and the arrest of a further 15 during an operation in Sinai, a day after Ansar Bait al-Maqdis claims responsibility for an attack on 19 July on a border checkpoint in al-Wadi al-Gedid, in which 22 police officers were killed.
- On 29 July the army announces the death of seven militants and arrest of four others during an operation in Sinai after the murder, on 25 July, of two brigadier generals in Sheikh Zuwaid.

### *Libya*

- On 13 July the Tripoli International Airport is closed to traffic due to fighting over control of the area between Zintan militias and an alliance of Islamist militias under the name of Operation Fajr (dawn). The UN and several states withdraw their staff from the country. On 18 July a ceasefire is declared which only lasts until 20 July. On 30 July both sides agree to a temporary ceasefire.
- On 17 July the former MP from the Justice and Construction Party Fariha al-Berkawi is assassinated in Derna.
- On 17 July the government asks the United Nations Security Council for help to protect its oil facilities, exports and

civilian airports, warning that the country could become a failed state.

- On 21 July army special forces and fighters loyal to general Khalifa Haftar repel an attack by militiamen connected with Ansar al-Sharia to take control of an air base in Benghazi. On 22 July Ansar al-Sharia launches a counter-offensive, which on 28 July retakes the air base.
- On 23 July a day after the results of the parliamentary elections are announced, the GNC declares that it will transfer power over to the House of Representatives on 4 August.
- On 28 July the Libyan government is revealed to be the legal defence of the alleged al-Qaeda member Abu Anas al-Libi, accused of terrorism by the US.
- On 30 July the former Prime Minister Mustafa Abushagur, abducted the previous day in Tripoli, is released unharmed and seemingly without payment of a ransom.

#### Tunisia

- On 3 July the Defence Minister Ghazi Jeribi announces a large-scale anti-terrorism operation in Kef and Jendouba to halt the growing activity of jihadist groups, a day after a bomb blast injures four soldiers and two National Guards in Ksar Ghilane.
- On 19 July the government announces the closure of mosques and “unauthorised” media as part of a series of measures against radical Islamist cells. The move follows the bomb attack on 16 July by the Katibet Okba Ibn Nafaa brigade, a splinter group of Ansar al-Sharia, in the Chaambi Mountains, which left at least 15 soldiers dead, in the worst attack since Tunisian independence.
- On 30 July the army chief-of-staff Mohammed Salah al-Hamedi resigns citing personal reasons. The announcement comes during the anti-terrorism operation being carried out in Mount Chaambi. General Mohssen al-Farissi will replace al-Hamedi.

#### Algeria

- On 12 July a bomb attack on a military convoy in Sidi Bel Abbes claims the

lives of three soldiers and four municipal guards.

- On 17 July soldiers kill two AQIM members in Beni Milleuk, Tipaza.

#### Morocco

- On 26 July Mohammed VI signs a decree approved by the Parliament in June banning imams and preachers from participating in any form of political activity.
- On 30 July Mohammed VI pardons 13,218 people to mark Throne Day.

#### EU

- On 15 July the Luxembourgger Jean-Claude Juncker is elected by the European Parliament as President of the European Commission with 422 votes in favour, 250 against and 47 abstentions

#### August 2014

*Portugal bails out one of its biggest banks. France carries out far-reaching government reforms. Spain and Italy deal with new immigrant arrivals. In Slovenia a new coalition government is formed. Croatia announces fresh cuts and tax hikes. The Constitutional Court of Kosovo suspends the election of Isa Mustafa as Parliamentary Speaker. FYROM approves constitutional amendments. Greece receives a new tranche of its bailout package. Turkey holds presidential elections. In Cyprus, protests are staged against the foreclosures bill. In Syria, IS continues its advance. In Egypt, new sentences are handed down to Muslim Brotherhood supporters. In Libya, fighting continues between rival militias and government forces and two parallel governments and parliaments are formed.*

#### Portugal

- On 4 August the government bails out Banco Espirito Santo with 4.5 billion euros from EU and IMF funds. The rescue means that shareholders have to cover the debt, thereby losing all their invested capital.

#### Spain

- On 5 August Angel Ojeda, former Head of the Andalusian Tax Office, is arrested for his alleged involvement in the embezzlement of millions in funds earmarked for training courses for the unemployed.
- On 12 August 836 immigrants are intercepted in waters of the Bay of Gibraltar on the same day that 700 immigrants attempt a coordinated assault on the Melilla border fence. Throughout the month, hundreds of immigrants attempt to enter the Spanish city.

#### France

- On 25 August the Prime Minister Manuel Valls and his cabinet resign to form a new government which is more consistent with the direction chosen for economic recovery and following resignations from the Economy, Education and Culture ministers. On 27 August the changes are announced: Emmanuel Macron replaces Arnaud Montebourg at the helm of the Economy, Najat Vallaud-Belkacem replaces Benoit Hamon in Education and Fleur Pellerin replaces Aurelie Filippetti as Culture Minister. Laurent Fabius retains his position as Foreign Minister and Segolene Royal and Christiane Taubira retain their posts in the Environment and Justice ministries respectively.

#### Italy

- On 20 August the EU turns its back on Italy, declaring that Frontex will not assume control of Operation Mare Nostrum, which costs the country 9 million euros each month and has already rescued 103,659 people since January. It considers the waves of immigration that Italy experiences on a daily basis to be Rome's problem.

#### Malta

- On 25 August the first private migrant rescue mission begins operating from Vittoriosa.
- On 27 August the government announces that it will hold a public referendum on whether to postpone the municipal elections until 2019, so that

they coincide with the European elections.

#### *Slovenia*

- On 21 August the new Prime Minister Milo Cerar announces that his party will form a coalition government with the Pensioners' Party (DeSUS) and the Social Democrats.

#### *Croatia*

- On 7 August the new labour act enters into effect under which companies can renew temporary contracts indefinitely and transfer workers to other companies with the same owner. The law also facilitates dismissals and increases flexibility for going on strike over unpaid wages.
- On 14 August the Constitutional Court rejects a request to hold a referendum to tighten restrictions on language use for minorities, faced with the refusal of the people of Vukovar to accept bilingual signs in Croatian and Serbian.
- On 28 August the government announces tax increases on bank savings and cuts to public sector bonuses in 2016 to reduce the public deficit.

#### *Bosnia and Herzegovina*

- On 5 August the Supreme Court annuls the war crimes sentence handed down to former Bosnian commander Sefik Alic, as the Bosnian criminal code was applied to his trial instead of that of the former Yugoslavia, which was still in force in January 2011.
- On 20 August the government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina rejects calls by the Pensioners' Association to increase pensions citing the high costs of damages caused by the floods in May.
- On 29 August Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia and Montenegro sign a declaration in Mostar ensuring their commitment to increase efforts to find the more than 13,000 people still missing after the Balkans conflict.

#### *Montenegro*

- On 21 August Montenegro and Bosnia reach a joint border demarcation

agreement, the first between the two former Yugoslavian countries.

#### *Serbia*

- On 5 August the War Crimes Prosecutor opens an investigation into the former Yugoslav general Dragan Zivanovic over the murder of 118 ethnic Albanians in Kosovo in 1999.
- On 13 August Oliver Ivanovic, leader of the Citizens Initiative Freedom, Democracy, Justice is accused of war crimes against ethnic Albanians during the Kosovo conflict by the EULEX prosecutor.

#### *Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 22 August the Constitutional Court overturns the appointment of Isa Mustafa as Parliament Spokesman on 17 July, since it was not proposed by the largest parliamentary group, the PDK, but rather an alliance of another three parties.

#### *FYROM*

- On 19 August the government announces a plan to cancel the bank debts of the population's poorest segments.
- On 26 August the parliamentary debate on the State's general budget ends in fighting between the MPs of the two biggest parties of the Albanian minority, the opposition DPA, which is against the cuts proposed by the cabinet, and DUI, a member of the government coalition.
- On 27 August the Parliament approves, with an opposition boycott, seven amendments to the constitution, which include the definition of marriage as the exclusive union between a man and woman; the opening of an international financial zone with fiscal advantages to attract foreign investment; the removal of the Justice Minister from the Court Council, a limit on the rate of public debt to 60% of GDP and on the budget deficit to 3% of GDP; and the so-called "constitutional complaint" mechanism, whereby people and institutions can file complaints against the authorities.

#### *Albania*

- On 1 August seven employees of the central Bank of Albania are arrested for stealing 7 million dollars. The news triggers calls for the bank's governor Adrian Fullani to resign.
- On 6 August the government orders the closure of 18 higher education institutions that were issuing dubious qualifications.
- On 22 August a police operation destroys more than 86,000 cannabis plants in Dukagjin.
- On 28 August a businessman from Vlora is killed by a car bomb attributed to organised crime.

#### *Greece*

- On 13 August the eurozone approves the disbursement of a 1-billion-euro aid tranche for Greece after Athens legislates in favour of unifying the public sector pension funds and allows more construction and business activities to be carried out along its coastline.
- On 29 August Ilias Kasidiaris, a prominent member of Golden Dawn, is sworn in as a member of Athens' City Council from prison, where he is being held in custody, accused of illegally possessing arms.

#### *Turkey*

- On 10 August Turkey holds the first direct presidential elections in its history. The current Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan (AKP) wins with an absolute majority, 51.79% of the votes. One of the main pillars of Erdogan's campaign is the modification of the constitution to expand presidential powers. Secularists fear the Republic's Islamisation. On 28 August Erdogan is sworn in as the nation's 12th President.

#### *Cyprus*

- On 27 August the government names Makis Constantinides, former Secretary General of Communications and Public Works, the new chairman of Cyprus Airways, to replace Tony Antoniou, who resigned following accusations that he charged personal expenses to the airline.

- On 27 August a demonstration outside the Parliament protests against the government's plans to pass a law on foreclosures, required by the Troika to disburse the next tranche of the Cypriot rescue package.

#### *Syria*

- On 7 August IS takes control of the Brigade 93 base in Ain Isa, al-Raqqa.
- On 10 August Bashar al-Assad reappoints Wael al-Halaqi as Prime Minister, who had replaced Riad Hijab in the position in 2012, after the latter fled Syria to join the political opposition in exile.
- On 13 August IS expands its control in the north and east of Syria taking Turkmen Bareh and Akhtarín, in Aleppo.
- On 14 August government troops, supported by Hezbollah, take back control of the town of Mleiha, which had been in rebel hands for over a year.
- On 24 August IS takes over the Tabqa airport, the government's only stronghold in the province of Raqqa.

#### *Lebanon*

- On 5 August the army and Syrian Islamist militants agree to a 24-hour ceasefire after four days of fighting for control of Aarsal. On 7 August the jihadists withdraw from Aarsal taking a group of soldiers hostage, some of who are freed on 17 August.

#### *Egypt*

- On 5 August Egypt announces plans to construct a new Suez canal, which will run parallel to the current one and is predicted to generate 10.1 billion euros a year for the Egyptian economy.
- On 6 August 12 supporters of the defeated President Mohammed Morsi are sentenced to death and a further ten given life sentences for the assassination of Giza's security chief in Kerdasa during the Islamist protests before the coup on 3 July 2013.
- On 7 August the Cairo Criminal Court sentences two Egyptian citizens to life imprisonment and a third to 20 years in prison for sexually assaulting, raping and stealing from women in Tahrir Square during the swearing in of President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi.

- On 20 August the decapitated bodies are found of four civilians abducted and accused by Ansar Bait al-Maqdis of collaborating with Israel.

- On 30 August the Giza Criminal Court sentences the leader of the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood Mohamed Badie to life imprisonment. The ruling modifies the provisional death sentence given to Badie and six other defendants.

#### *Libya*

- On 4 August the new House of Representatives elects Aguila Saleh Issa as President of the council in a vote boycotted by the Islamists.
- On 6 August Ansar al-Sharia and its allies from the Central Shield Brigade and the 17 February Brigade launch an attack on Benghazi Airport.
- On 13 August the House of Representatives orders the dismantling in Tobruk of all militias operating outside of the State's control.
- On 14 August the EU Special Representative for the Southern Mediterranean, Spanish diplomat Bernardino Leon, is appointed the new UN Special Representative in Libya.
- On 16 August new fighting erupts in Tripoli between rival militias from Misrata and Zintan. In Benghazi, the offensive launched on 6 August by the alliance between Ansar al-Sharia and other Islamist militias succeeds in ousting the government forces from the city.
- On 24 August the House of Representatives elects Abdel Razzak Madhuri as new army chief-of-staff to replace the dismissed Abdessalam Jadallah al-Obeidi.
- On 25 August the US press reveals that Egypt and the United Arab Emirates have repeatedly bombed several Islamist militia positions fighting for control of Tripoli.
- On 25 August the Islamist majority of the outgoing National Congress meets in Tripoli saying it will not dissolve and calling Omar al-Hasi to form a national salvation government.
- On 27 August the UN Security Council approves a resolution that calls for an immediate ceasefire in Libya.
- On 28 August the acting Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thani and his cabinet resign so that the House of Repre-

sentatives in Tobruk can elect a new government.

#### *Tunisia*

- On 21 August the Constituent Assembly votes against the approval of the new law against terrorism and money laundering, which consists of 163 articles, most of which are yet to be ratified, and which is to replace the 2003 law, established during the Ben Ali regime.

#### *Morocco*

- On 7 August the government approves a Pensions Law reform which increases the retirement age to 62 for 2015 and 65 for 2021.
- On 14 August Morocco steps up security faced with the destabilisation in Libya.
- On 14 August nine jihadists linked with IS are arrested in Morocco in a joint operation between the Moroccan and Spanish security forces.

#### *Mauritania*

- On 2 August the President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz is sworn into his post for a second mandate after winning the early elections held on 21 July.

#### *EU*

- On 7 August Russia imposes a one-year ban on imports of fresh food products from the EU, Norway, the US, Australia and Canada, in response to sanctions imposed by the West over Russia's support of the pro-Russian insurgents in Ukraine. During August, the situation in Ukraine worsens with clashes between the Ukrainian army and pro-Russian militants trying to advance from the east of the country. The US and EU accuse Russia of intervening militarily in the conflict.
- On 28 August Berlin hosts an EU Summit with the Western Balkan countries to relaunch their European accession processes.
- On 30 August the Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk is elected President of the European Council and the Italian Foreign Minister Federica Mogherini, head of Foreign Affairs.

## September 2014

*In Spain the Justice Minister resigns and the Constitutional Court suspends the application of the decree approved by the Catalanian President to hold a referendum on Catalanian self-determination. In France, the socialist government wins a confidence vote but its party suffers defeat in the elections for the senate at the hands of the centre-right. In Bosnia, several senior figures of the Bosnian Croat entity are arrested for tax fraud. Greece agrees to outsource the management of its public hospitals. In Turkey, more police officers linked with Fetullah Gülen are arrested and a controversial law tightening control of the Internet is passed. Cyprus passes its controversial foreclosures bill. The US-led international coalition begins its military intervention in Syria and Iraq against IS and the al-Qaeda-linked Khorasan cell. In Jordan, the Salafi preacher Abu Qatada is cleared of terrorism charges in a second trial. In Egypt, Alaa Abdel Fattah, one of the secular protest movement leaders from the 2011 Revolution, is released on bail. In Libya, the Islamist-dominated outgoing Parliament's refusal to dissolve and give way to the new Parliament's mandate elected in June leaves the country with two parallel parliaments and governments. In Tunisia, Ennahdha announces that it will not run in the November presidential elections. In Algeria, a new IS-linked terrorist group emerges known as the Soldiers of the Caliphate. Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia step up their anti-terrorist operations.*

### Portugal

- On 4 September the Parliament approves an amending budget for 2014 that respects the budget deficit cap of 4% of GDP, but which does not include new austerity measures thanks to the 1.6-billion-euro revenue surplus obtained from those already adopted.
- On 28 September the mayor of Lisbon Antonio Costa wins the Socialist Party's primary elections.

### Spain

- On 23 September the Justice Minister Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon resigns after

the Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy scraps plans to make the abortion law stricter, due to a lack of consensus. On 29 September Rafael Catala succeeds Ruiz-Gallardon.

- On 27 September the Catalanian President Artur Mas signs the decree approved by the regional parliament allowing a referendum to be held on Catalonia's self-determination. On 28 September the Constitutional Court provisionally suspends the application of the decree, accepting two appeals filed by the Spanish government claiming it is unconstitutional.

### France

- On 1 September the Paris Correctional Court hands down prison sentences of eight years to Jon Etxebarria, seven to Ruben Rivero and six to Iñigo Sancho, members of ETA's logistical apparatus who were arrested in January 2012 in Auxerre.
- On 9 September the Secretary of State for Foreign Trade Thomas Thevenoud, who resigned on 4 September over his failure to pay his taxes properly over several years, leaves the Socialist Party but remains an MP.
- On 16 September the government wins a parliamentary confidence vote on its programme of cuts, but loses its absolute majority.
- On 18 September Air France pilots extend their strike that began on 15 August against the conditions offered for working for Transavia, a low-cost subsidiary of the airline, to 28 August.
- On 19 September the former President Nicolas Sarkozy announces his return to politics.
- On 28 September the centre-right parties win the elections to the senate, in a new election defeat for the PS. The extreme-right FN party gains two seats.

### Italy

- On 3 September the Public Administration Minister Marianna Madia announces that the public sector salary freeze will continue in 2015.
- On 9 September Adamo Pisapia, member of the D'Agostino-Panella clan of the Camorra is arrested in Ibiza, Spain.

- On 29 September the Prime Minister Matteo Renzi receives the Democratic Party's backing for his labour market reforms.

### Malta

- On 21 September Malta celebrates the 50th anniversary of its independence from the United Kingdom, once again sparking the debate between the government and the opposition over unifying the country's five national days.

### Slovenia

- On 15 September the journalist from the newspaper *Delo*, Anuska Delic, stands trial for publishing classified documents that link the opposition SDS with the neo-Nazi movement Blood and Honour.
- On 18 September the coalition government announces cuts in public spending and tax hikes.

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 3 September the police arrest 16 people in separate raids throughout the country for recruiting jihadists for Syria and Iraq.
- On 4 September the former police officers Miodrag Josipovic and Branimir Tesic are arrested, accused of committing genocide against Bosnian civilians in Bratunac in 1995.
- On 10 September 14 people are arrested for tax fraud amounting to over 6 million euros, including the vice-President and Agriculture Minister Jerko Lijanovic, Trade Minister Milorad Bahilj and the MP Mladen Lijanovic, all officials of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### Montenegro

- On 2 September after negotiations with the Education Minister break down, teachers stage a strike to demand pay rises and better contracts.

### Serbia

- On 17 September the Public Prosecutor orders a police investigation into the creators and members of different

social network pages known as the Army of Sandzak, which call for action to be taken against Serbia's control over the Bosniak-majority region.

- On 19 September the government presents new austerity measures that foresee cuts to pension and public sector wages exceeding 211 euros per month.
- On 28 September clashes erupt between police and demonstrators protesting against the Gay Pride march in Belgrade.

#### *Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 1 September EULEX issues arrest warrants for the mayor of Zubin Potok, Stevan Vulovic, suspected of organising the escape of Kosovo Serb prisoners; and for his predecessor Slavisa Ristic, suspected for murder and endangering the security of UN staff in Kosovo, after both men fail to show up for questioning. The decision sparks Kosovo Serb protest marches.
- On 17 September 15 influential Muslim clerics are arrested accused of recruiting jihadists for the al-Nusra Front.

#### *FYROM*

- On 18 September a symbolic ceremony in Skopje declares the Republic of Ilirida, the Albanian-majority western part of the country, independent.

#### *Greece*

- On 4 September Greece requests urgent European funds faced with the significant rise in Syrian and Iraqi migrants.
- On 11 September the Parliament approves the outsourcing of hospitals management. Doctors, who have staged repeated strikes throughout the year, condemn the measure as the first step towards complete privatisation of the health service.

#### *Turkey*

- On 1 September 33 police officers are arrested for their links with the network founded by the preacher Fethullah

Gülen, accused of plotting to overthrow the AKP government.

- On 2 September the Public Prosecutor drops charges against Bilal Erdogan, the President's son, and around a hundred others accused of corruption following police operations in December 2013.
- On 7 September thousands protest in Istanbul against poor safety conditions for workers in Turkey after ten workmen die on the construction site of a skyscraper.
- On 17 September the Parliament passes a law allowing web pages to be blocked without a prior court order and under which Internet providers are obliged to keep a record of user activity for two years, which must be made available to the authorities on request.
- On 22 September the government lifts the ban on wearing the Islamic veil in public institutes.

#### *Cyprus*

- On 6 September the Parliament approves the foreclosures bill proposed by the government and required by the EU and IMF for the release of the next tranche of the financial rescue package. The Troika, nevertheless, withholds the next payment, describing the law as too permissive.
- On 17 September Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders announce their willingness to accelerate reunification negotiations.

#### *Syria*

- On 2 September the army launches its biggest offensive since the beginning of the war on Jobar, on the outskirts of Damascus, which has been under rebel control for the past year.
- On 4 September 10 NATO states agree at the Newport Summit to form an alliance to defeat IS in Syria and Iraq. On 11 September nine Arab countries join the alliance.
- On 11 September the al-Nusra Front releases 45 Fijian UN peacekeepers captured in the Golan Heights in August.
- On 18 September IS takes 16 villages on the Turkish border, in its advance to control the town of Kobane.

- On 19 September Russia presents a proposal before the United Nations to remove the issue of Syria's chemical weapons' arsenal from the meetings' agenda. The proposal, backed by China, is rejected.
- On 22 September around 130,000 Syrian Kurds have crossed the border into Turkey in just three days, fleeing from IS.
- On 23 September at least 50 people, mostly IS and al-Nusra jihadists are killed in Raqqa, Deir al-Zour, Hasaka and Aleppo, in the first air strike by the US-led international coalition.
- On 25 September the US-led coalition bombs oil refineries controlled by IS.
- On 25 September the US describes the, until recently little known, al-Qaeda-linked Khorasan cell as the greatest threat to its security, alongside IS.

#### *Lebanon*

- On 30 September Iran announces that it will lend military support to Lebanon in its fight against IS, which has been ongoing for the last three months on the Syrian border. This is the first time that Beirut has accepted Iranian help, which it has always rejected due to the non-Shiite sector's distrust of Teheran.

#### *Jordan*

- On 8 September a US jury finds the largest banking entity in Jordan, Arab Bank, guilty of financing Hamas terrorist attacks.
- On 24 September the Salafi preacher Abu Qatada is cleared by the State Security Court in the second of two trials for terrorism.

#### *Egypt*

- On 15 September Alaa Abd el-Fattah, leader of the secular protest movements against Mubarak in 2011, is released on bail by the Cairo Criminal Court, which in June sentenced him to 15 years' imprisonment for organising an unauthorised demonstration.
- On 17 September Karim Taha, member of the April 6 Movement, which fought against the Mubarak regime and

was banned by the courts in April 2014, joins the hunger strike started in January by the reporter Abdullah al-Shami, jailed in June, and the journalist Mohamed Soltan, the son of a Muslim Brotherhood leader. Some 80 prisoners in Egyptian jails and around 200 families and sympathisers have been supporting the so-called “Battle of empty stomachs,” which demands the release of political prisoners and that the law regulating the right to gatherings and demonstration be repealed.

- On 21 September at least four police officers are killed by a bomb blast in Cairo.
- On 22 September IS calls on its supporters in Sinai to continue their attacks on the security forces.
- On 25 September a court sentences six men to two years in prison with labour for “debauchery,” in yet another case of homosexual persecution in Egypt.

#### Libya

- On 17 September Madrid hosts an international conference on Libya, where a road map is drawn up for a process of national dialogue. Meanwhile, fighting continues on a daily basis between government forces and paramilitary groups and Ansar al-Sharia and different Islamist brigades for control of Tripoli and Benghazi.
- On 17 September Omar al-Hasi – the Prime Minister elected by the GNC, the outgoing Islamist Parliament refusing to hand power over to the new Parliament in Tobruk – forms a parallel government.
- On 28 September Abdullah al-Thani’s new government is sworn in after the Tobruk Parliament approves its 12 ministers with 110 of the 112 votes of the house. The new cabinet lacks a Defence Minister.

#### Tunisia

- On 7 September the main Islamist party Ennahdha announces that it will not run in the November presidential elections.
- On 17 September the police shoot down two Islamist militants in the Chaambi Mountains, close to the Algerian border, after the authorities raise

the level of national alert in view of the parliamentary elections.

- On 17 September the interim Prime Minister Mehdi Jomaa announces that he will not run in the November elections.
- On 29 September the Okba Ibn Nafaa terrorist cell, until now affiliated with al-Qaeda, declares allegiance with IS from the Chaambi Mountains.

#### Algeria

- On 15 September reports are released on a new terrorist group founded in Algeria, the Soldiers of the Caliphate. A splinter group of al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) led by AQIM’s hitherto regional head Abdelmalek Gouri, and which has sworn allegiance with IS.

#### Morocco

- On 12 September the Interior Minister reports that a recruitment cell sending jihadists to Syria and Iraq has been dismantled in Fez, Nador and Ouat el-Haj.
- On 13 September a new party is created in Bouznika, the Neo Democrats, led by Mohamed Darif under the slogan “less ideology, more action and impact.”

#### EU

- On 5 September the EU approves new economic sanctions against Russia for threatening Ukraine’s sovereignty, despite the ceasefire agreement reached between the Ukrainian and pro-Russian forces.
- On 17 September the European and Ukrainian parliaments ratify the Association Agreement with a view to Ukraine’s EU accession.
- On 18 September Scotland holds a historic referendum on its independence, with an 84.59% turnout. The result is for the country to continue as part of the United Kingdom with 55.3% of the votes in favour of this direction.

#### Arab League

- On 8 September the Arab Foreign Ministers agree on joint defensive meas-

ures to fight against IS and other jihadist groups.

#### October 2014

*In Spain, major corruption scandals are uncovered. In France and Italy, economic reforms proposed by their governments are met with criticism in their respective parties. Bosnia holds a general election. In Kosovo, EULEX comes under scrutiny after reports of bribery. The Greek government survives a confidence vote. Tensions between Turkey, Cyprus and Greece mount over gas reserves. Turkey allows Kurdish-Iraqi militants to cross its borders to help defend Kobane. Lebanon announces that it is closing its borders to more Syrian refugees. Egypt declares a state of emergency, heightens security in Sinai and approves new anti-Islamist and anti-terrorist legislation. In Libya, IS takes control of Derna. Tunisia holds parliamentary elections. In Algeria, the police stage a one-day strike. In Morocco there is a national strike.*

#### Portugal

- On 15 October the government submits the budget for 2015 which foresees a reduction in the public deficit to 2.7% of GDP, with no tax adjustments and including a rise in the minimum wage.

#### Spain

- On 11 October the National Court reports that the former deputy Prime Minister, former World Bank chairman and former chairman of Bankia, Rodrigo Rato and another 82 senior figures in Caja Madrid and Bankia – which was rescued with 22.424 billion euros of European funds in 2012 – diverted 15.5 million euros in undeclared funds for private use between 2003 and 2012.
- On 16 October Spain is elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for 2015-2016.
- On 20 October 200 sub-Saharanans storm the Melilla border fence.
- On 21 October the former People’s Party Secretary General and Minister Angel Acebes is charged in the Barceñas corruption scandal.



- On 27 October 51 politicians, civil servants and businessmen are arrested in the Civil Guard's so-called Operation Punic, for their involvement in a corruption plot affecting Madrid, Murcia, Leon and Valencia. Among the accused is Francisco Granados, former People's Party Secretary General in Madrid, former member of the Madrid regional government and former senator.
- On 29 October the former Minister of Territorial Policy of the Catalanian regional government Joaquim Nadal is charged with fraud.

#### France

- On 1 October the government presents the budget for 2015 which includes public spending cuts 50 billion euros below what is required by Brussels to reduce the budget deficit to 3% of GDP.
- On 5 October the group *La Manif pour Tous* gathers thousands in Paris again in protest against the law on same-sex marriage.
- On 14 October the National Assembly adopts the draft law that foresees a 50% reduction in nuclear energy over the next ten years.
- On 16 October France and Germany reach an historic agreement to fuse their embassies.
- On 20 October the former Socialist Party Secretary General Martine Aubry joins other party members opposed to the economic policy of François Hollande and Manuel Valls.
- On 22 October the satirical weekly *Le Canard Enchaîné* publishes confidential documents from the Economy Ministry according to which more than 60 deputies and senators are guilty of tax fraud.
- On 24 October the Senate approves a law allowing the President of the Republic to be automatically dismissed if his duties are breached.
- On 20 October the former managing director of the IMF Dominique Strauss-Kahn steps down as chairman of the investment bank LSK Partners, which is undergoing insolvency proceedings. Three days later, his partner Thierry Leyne commits suicide in Tel-Aviv.

#### Italy

- On 8 October the government is given the Senate's backing for major labour market reforms, despite opposition from the trade unions and part of the ruling Democratic Party.
- On 9 October the Interior Minister announces that he will annul all marriages between same-sex couples registered and performed outside of the country, as Italian law does not allow such a union.
- On 15 October the government presents the budget for 2015, which foresees 18-billion-euro tax cuts and a deficit of 2.9% of GDP for 2015.
- On 16 October Silvio Berlusconi's acquittal in the Ruby case is confirmed. The judge presiding over the case resigns over his disagreement with the sentence.
- On 28 October Giorgio Napolitano becomes the first Italian President to appear as a witness before the courts by testifying in the trial of the State-Mafia negotiations in the nineties.

#### Malta

- On 12 October Air Malta forecasts 16-million-euro losses for March 2015, and will therefore have to renegotiate its restructuring plan, which was agreed with the EU in 2011.
- On 18 October following Greece's example in 2012, Malta reforms the Animal Welfare Act, banning circuses that use animals and imposing prison sentences for animal cruelty.
- On 22 October Eurostat announces that the number of first residence permits issued by Malta to foreigners in 2013 – 10,187 – is by far the highest in the EU in relation to the country's population – 24.1/1,000 residents –. Cyprus is next in line with 13.3/1,000 residents.

#### Slovenia

- On 15 October the Parliament expels the former Prime Minister Janez Jansa deeming it incompatible for him to retain his seat while serving his two-year prison sentence for corruption.
- On 19 October the former Prime Minister Alenka Bratusek steps down from her post as European Commis-

sioner after the European Parliament rejects her for being underqualified. On 15 October the hitherto vice-President Violeta Bulc becomes the new Slovenian commissioner, at the helm of Transport.

#### Croatia

- On 19 October the mayor of Zagreb Milan Bandic is arrested for corruption and abuse of power.

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 12 October Bosnia holds elections. The election for the federal tripartite presidency is won by Bakir Izetbegovic (Party of Democratic Action, SDA, Bosnian nationalist conservative), Dragan Covic (Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina, HDZ, Bosnian Croat nationalist conservative) and Zeljka Cvijanovic (Alliance of Independent Social Democrats, SNSD, Bosnian Serb nationalist social democrat). SDA gains most votes in the elections to the House of Representatives (lower house) of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the elections to the House of Representatives (lower house) of the entity of the federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina SDA wins. In the elections to the National Assembly of the Srpska Republic SNSD wins and its President Milorad Dodik renews his term in the entity's presidential election. The canton assemblies of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina are also elected. The results and high rate of abstention reveal people's fatigue with respect to the complex power balance established in the Dayton Agreement.
- On 22 October workers from public companies in the process of bankruptcy or privatisation demonstrate again in Tuzla.

#### Montenegro

- On 7 October, after 18 months of parliamentary negotiations, Ivica Stankovic, magistrate at the Supreme Court, is named Chief Public Prosecutor.
- On 13 October at least 20 people are arrested following clashes between Bosnians and Kosovans in the Konic refugee camp in Podgorica.

### Serbia

- On 14 October the football match between Serbia and Albania in Belgrade to classify for the 2016 European Cup is suspended after fights break out between players and fans from both sides. Among the arrested is Olsi Rama, the brother of the Albanian Prime Minister. The clashes at the stadium are followed by attacks on Albanian businesses in Belgrade.
- On 15 October the former Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica leaves the DS after accusing the new leadership of abandoning its policy not to join the EU.

### *Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 21 October Kosovo, Albania and FYROM announce the definitive demarcation of their borders.
- On 28 October Maria Bamieh, the EULEX prosecutor recently dismissed for controversial declarations about the integrity of the mission heads, reveals that certain judges of the body accepted bribes to drop problematic trials. The European Parliament announces the opening of an investigation.

### *FYROM*

- On 6 October 17 police officers and intelligence agents are sentenced to up to 15 years' imprisonment in the country's first espionage trial.

### Greece

- On 11 October the government avoids early elections winning a confidence vote called for by the Syriza-led opposition, whose voting intention is almost an absolute majority.

### Turkey

- On 14 October Turkish fighter jets attack enclaves of the PKK terrorist organisation in Daglica after several days of siege imposed by the PKK on a military barracks. This is the first serious incident since the ceasefire in March 2013 and a symptom of the faltering peace negotiations.

- On 20 October Turkey gives in to pressure at home and abroad and confirms that it will allow the Kurdish-Iraqi Peshmerga to enter Turkey in order to reach the Kurdish-Syrian border town of Kobane and join the fight against IS.
- On 29 October the official reception for Republic Day, which was going to be held in the recently finished White Palace, the world's biggest presidential palace, is cancelled as a mark of respect for the miners trapped in a mine in Ermenek since 27 October.

### Cyprus

- On 3 October the opposition parties come together to demand the renegotiation of the terms of the Cypriot rescue package.
- On 8 October Kudret Ozersay, the Turkish Cypriot in charge of reunification negotiations, resigns in order to run in the 2015 Turkish-Cypriot presidential elections.
- On 20 October Cyprus threatens to veto Turkey's accession process after a Turkish survey vessel enters its Exclusive Economic Zone. On 24 October, the European Council issues Turkey a warning and adds that its recognition by all Member States is a "necessary component" for the accession process.
- On 27 October Christodoulos Christodoulou, the former governor of the Central Bank, is sentenced to five years in prison for tax evasion.
- On 31 October the Supreme Court rules that the foreclosures law, adopted by the Parliament in September, is unconstitutional, as it does not respect the conditions agreed with the Troika to receive the economic rescue package. The court's decision should allow Cyprus to receive the next tranche of its bailout.

### Syria

- On 3 October the Syrian army takes back control of al-Mudafah, Handarat and Sifat, in Aleppo.
- On 5 October the British Royal Air Force locates Abdel Majed Abdel Bary in Raqqa, the British-Egyptian terrorist responsible for the executions of James Foley, Steven Sotloff, David Haines and Alan Henning posted by IS.

- On 19 October US planes drop arms and medicine provided by Iraqi Kurdistan for the Syrian-Kurdish fighters.
- On 30 October IS takes control of the Shaar gas field in Homs.

### Lebanon

- On 18 October Lebanon declares that it will not accept any more Syrian refugees. Meanwhile the border fighting against al-Nusra and IS continues.
- On 27 October the army takes Tripoli after four days of fighting with Sunni groups from Bab el-Tabaneh.

### Egypt

- On 2 October the army kills Mohamed Abu Shatiya, commander of Ansar Beit al Maqdis.
- On 24 October Egypt declares a state of emergency in Sinai after 28 soldiers are killed in attacks carried out by Ansar Beit al-Maqdis. On 29 October, Egypt creates a militarised zone on the border between Sinai and Gaza.
- On 27 October Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi undersigns a law allowing the army to take control of vital state facilities in case of threat and under which anyone carrying out an attack on these sites can be tried before a military court.
- On 30 October the government orders the dissolution of the National Alliance Supporting Legitimacy, which calls for the reinstatement of Mohamed Morsi.

### Libya

- On 4 October IS takes control of Derna through the Islamic Youth Council.
- On 8 October the Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thani, accepts Egypt's help in the reconstruction of the Libyan armed forces.
- On 20 October the Tobruk Parliament announces a formal alliance with the former general Khalifa Haftar. Meanwhile, throughout the month, Operation Dignity continues against Islamist positions.

### Tunisia

- On 26 October Tunisia holds parliamentary elections. The secularist party

Nidaa Tounes wins with 85 of the 217 seats. Ennahdha (Islamist) wins 69 seats. The Free Patriotic Union (liberal), the Popular Front (far-left) and Afek Tounes (liberal), obtain 16, 15 and 8 seats respectively.

#### Algeria

- On 14 October the police stage a large-scale, peaceful protest march for the first time in Algiers to call for better wages and a trade union.
- On 15 October the Mauritanian Safiedine al-Mauritani and another member of Okba Bin Nafaa, affiliated with IS, are arrested on their way to Mali.

#### Morocco

- On 28 October Morocco announces that it will support the United Arab Emirates in its fight against terrorism, but will not join the US-led coalition in Syria and Iraq.
- On 29 October the country's four main trade unions stage a 24-hour national strike against the pension reform, increases in the price of fuel, electricity and water and the resulting deterioration of Moroccans' purchasing power. The demonstration also calls for a rise in the minimum wage.

#### Mauritania

- On 12 October four IS members are arrested in Zouerate.

#### EU

- On 7 October the Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt announces that Denmark will hold a referendum on whether or not to opt out of the EU's justice and interior policies.
- On 17 October British MPs approve a referendum to be held between now and 2017 on the United Kingdom's continued membership of the EU.
- On 20 October the European Council approves Germany's proposal to appoint a coordinator to head a joint mission to combat Ebola. It also approves Britain's proposal to donate 1 billion euros to the fight against the epidemic that, since December 2013, has already caused more than 4,500 deaths and

9,000 cases, mostly in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea-Conakry and Nigeria and isolated cases in Senegal, Mali, the US, Spain, the United Kingdom, Norway, Germany and France.

- On 22 October the Juncker Commission is given the green light by the Parliament.
- On 30 October Russia and Ukraine, under European mediation, sign a 3.65-billion-euro deal guaranteeing the supply of Russian gas through Ukraine, amid tension between Moscow and Kiev over the secessionist war in eastern Ukraine and after the pro-Europeans win a landslide victory in the Ukrainian elections on 26 November.

#### November 2014

*In Portugal, the Internal Administration Minister resigns, the former Prime Minister Jose Socrates is arrested and a 24-hour national strike is staged. In Spain, the Public Prosecutor files a complaint against the President of the Catalanian government. In France, the UMP and FN elect their respective presidents. The two main Italian parties agree on the election reform law. The ICTY releases the Serbian war criminal Vojislav Seselj. In Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo the coalition governments are announced. In Greece there is another general strike. The FSA withdraws from Aleppo. The Lebanese Parliament extends its mandate. In Egypt, the former President Hosni Mubarak is found not guilty for the deaths in the 2011 revolution and Ansar Beit al-Maqdis pledges allegiance to IS. In Libya, the Supreme Court declares the Parliament formed after the June elections unconstitutional. Tunisia holds the first round of its presidential elections.*

#### Portugal

- On 12 November Portugal receives the last tranche of 400 million euros from the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism.
- On 13 November thousands of workers demonstrate in different cities calling for the minimum wage and 35-hour working week to be increased and

the reinstatement of the four eliminated bank holidays.

- On 16 November the Internal Administration Minister Miguel Macedo resigns following his involvement in the Operation Labyrinth court investigation, in which 11 people were arrested for corruption on 13 November, in connection with the Golden Visa programme, set up in 2012 to attract foreign investment. On 18 November Anabela Rodrigues replaces Macedo.
- On 24 November the former Prime Minister Jose Socrates is jailed for tax fraud, money laundering and corruption.
- On 27 November Together for the People is presented, a citizen movement inspired by the Spanish Podemos (We can), which aspires to become a political party.

#### Spain

- On 7 November Cristina de Borbon is charged in the Noos corruption case.
- On 11 November 32 high-ranking civil servants and members of the People's Party, Canarian Coalition and United Left are arrested in Operation Madeja, accused of accepting bribes.
- On 17 November some 400 immigrants attempt to storm the Melilla border fence.
- On 21 November the Public Prosecutor files a complaint against Catalonia's regional President Artur Mas, his vice-President and Education Minister for disobedience, prevarication, embezzlement and usurpation of power for organising a region-wide referendum on 9 November on Catalanian secession, contravening a Constitutional Court ruling.

#### France

- On 18 November the National Assembly adopts the austerity budget for 2015.
- On 29 November Nicolas Sarkozy is elected President of the UMP with 64.5% of the votes.
- On 30 November Marine Le Pen is re-elected President of the FN with 100% of the votes and presents her candidacy to the Elysee with the economic and political support of the Russian President, Vladimir Putin.

*Italy*

- On 11 November a court of appeal overturns the six-year prison sentence handed down to seven members of the High Risk Commission for failing to predict the 2009 earthquake in L'Aquila.
- On 12 November the Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and the leader of Forza Italia Silvio Berlusconi reach an electoral reform agreement under which 40% of the votes in the first round will represent a majority.

*Malta*

- On 12 November Lawrence Fenech and Ian Falzon, former officials of Malta Air Traffic Services are each given a two-year suspended prison sentence for corruption.

*Bosnia and Herzegovina*

- On 9 November the Bosnian Party of Democratic Action agrees to form a coalition with the Democratic Front and the Alliance for Changes.
- On 12 November farmers block border crossings after failing to reach an agreement with the government to increase taxes on dairy imports.
- On 13 November the Bosnian Air Navigation Services Agency assumes control of its national airspace for the first time since Bosnian Independence, which until now has been managed by Croatia and Serbia.
- On 13 November the Chief Prosecutor Goran Salihovic says that around a hundred people will have been charged for war crimes committed during the Bosnian War by the end of 2014, compared to 56 in 2013.

*Montenegro*

- On 17 November the Democratic Party of Socialists and Social Democratic Party reach an agreement in principle over economic policy, European integration and the fight against corruption and organised crime after months of disagreements within the ruling coalition.
- On 18 November the Health Minister Miodrag Radunovic resigns faced with growing protests against the poor state

of the health system following the death of a baby in a hospital in Bijelo Polje.

*Serbia*

- On 2 November Veljko Kadijevic, last Defence Minister of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, who stood accused of war crimes during the Croatian War, dies in Moscow.
- On 3 November the Parliament in Vojvodina approves the reshuffle of the government led by the Democratic Party, in a vote boycotted by the coalition member Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians, which disagrees with the change.
- On 9 November Balkan drug lord Dragoslav Kosmajac is arrested.
- On 15 November the leader of the ultra-nationalist Radical Party Vojislav Seselj is welcomed in Belgrade by more than 3,000 people following his release by the ICTY on 6 November after receiving treatment for cancer and serving 11 years in prison for war crimes. In response, on 28 November the Croatian Prime Minister Zoran Milanovic cancels an official visit to Serbia, scheduled for December.
- On 24 November the former Serb fighter Petar Ciric is sentenced to 15 years in prison for the massacre of 200 Croats in Ovcar in 1991.

*Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 10 November the EU High Representative Federica Mogherini appoints the French legal expert Jean-Paul Jacque to investigate reports made in October of alleged corruption in EULEX.
- On 19 November the President Atifete Jahjaga announces that Isa Mustafa's Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) will form a coalition government with Hashim Thaçi's Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK). The agreement puts an end to a period of political stalemate ongoing since the June elections.

*FYROM*

- On 10 November the Parliament revokes the seats of 31 SDSM MPs, six months after their refusal to assume their posts in protest against the April

election results, which the party believes to be fraudulent.

- On 12 November Greece and FYROM resume talks in New York to resolve the Name Dispute, ongoing now for 23 years.
- On 21 November the former mayor of Ohrid Aleksandar Petreski is arrested for organised crime and bribery.

*Albania*

- On 6 November the socialist MP Luiza Xhuvani gives up her seat following the arrest of her son in connection with the death of four people in a nightclub in Tirana.

*Greece*

- On 12 November Konstandinos Kiu-sisis, a civil servant given three life sentences in absentia in 2004 for stealing 9 million euros of public funds, is arrested in Karyes after eight years hiding in different monasteries on Mount Athos, where he pretended to be a novice monk.
- On 27 November the Greek authorities rescue more than 700 immigrants adrift off the shores of Crete.
- On 27 November Greece is paralysed by a national strike called by the main trade unions against the cuts negotiated with the Troika to avoid a third bailout.

*Turkey*

- On 3 November a boat carrying around 40 illegal migrants sinks in Bosphorous killing at least 24.
- On 27 November seven Galatasaray supporters are arrested for stabbing a Red Star Belgrade fan to death during violence before the Euroleague basketball match between both teams in Istanbul. The tension between Serbs and Turks also forces the cancellation of a waterpolo match in Belgrade between Galatasaray and Partizan.

*Syria*

- On 3 November IS takes control of its second gas field, the Jahar gas field in Homs, after taking over the Shaar gas field on 30 October.

- On 4 November IS releases 93 Kurds abducted in February in Kobane.
- On 12 November the Israeli edition of *Forbes* reports that, with revenues of around 2 billion dollars, IS is the world's wealthiest terrorist group.
- On 16 November IS posts a video in which it claims responsibility for the decapitation of 18 Syrian soldiers and that of the US aid worker Peter Kassig.
- On 18 November Hurriyet reports that the FSA has given up fighting in Aleppo and withdrawn more than 14,000 militias.

#### *Lebanon*

- On 5 November the Parliament extends its mandate to 2017 in view of its inability to hold elections without being able to elect a new President and the dangers posed by the situation in Syria and Iraq. Protests in Beirut denounce the decision as unconstitutional.

#### *Egypt*

- On 4 November Ansar Beit al-Maqdis pledges allegiance to IS.
- On 5 November the President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi appoints the former Mubarak minister Fayza Abul Naga, national security adviser.
- On 28 November there are serious clashes between Islamist demonstrators and security forces in Cairo, in a day of protests throughout Egypt, called by the Salafi Front and supported by the Muslim Brotherhood.
- On 29 November the former President Hosni Mubarak and his Interior Minister Habib el-Adly are cleared of conspiring to kill protesters during the 2011 Revolution.

#### *Libya*

- On 6 November the Supreme Court declares the Parliament formed after the elections on 25 June and recognised by the international community as unconstitutional, along with the government of Abdullah al-Thani.
- On 10 November clashes erupt in Ain Mara, Derna, between the army and the militias of Khalifa Haftar and IS and Ansar al-Sharia. This government of-

fensive runs parallel with another launched on Benghazi.

- On 24 November two attacks on the Mitiga airport in Tripoli, for which the Tobruk government claims responsibility, forces its closure. The attack comes after the Tobruk government's announcement on the previous day of an imminent offensive on Tripoli.

#### *Tunisia*

- On 18 November Slim Chiboub, the son-in-law of the former President Ben Ali, is jailed on his arrival in Tunisia from his exile in Abu Dabi for possession of illegal arms, a crime for which he was sentenced in absentia to six years in prison.
- On 23 November Beji Caid Essebsi wins in the first round of presidential elections with 39.46% of the votes, beating the current President Moncef Marzuki.

#### *Algeria*

- On 2 November the National Coordination of Freedoms and Democratic Transition, formed by el-Islah, Ennahdha, the Movement of Society for Peace and the Rally for Culture and Democracy, meets in Algiers to present proposals for the government's constitutional reform.
- On 14 November the government authorises Algerian companies to invest abroad, a privilege that until now was reserved for the state-owned oil and gas company, Sonatrach.
- On 15 November Abdelaziz Bouteflika is admitted to a hospital in Grenoble for 48 hours.
- On 28 November two demonstrators are killed in Touggourt, in Ouargla, by shots fired by police during a demonstration against the delays in various social projects.

#### *Morocco*

- On 19 November the Moroccan Association of Human Rights announces that it will boycott the World Forum on Human Rights II, hosted by Morocco, to denounce the government's repeated obstruction of its activities.
- On 27 November Morocco ratifies the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

#### *Mauritania*

- On 4 November the Education Ministry passes a law making Islamic and religious education in secondary schools compulsory, to "initiate young people into a moderate middle-ground form of Islam to prevent extremism."
- On 18 November two AQIM-linked Mauritians are sentenced to death for the murder in Aleg of four French tourists in 2007.
- On 19 November two members of the Initiative for the Resurgence of the Abolitionist Movement (IRA) are found guilty by a court in Nouakchott for belonging to a non-authorised organisation, after, on 14 November, 14 of their fellow members are jailed in Rosso.

#### *EU*

- On 2 November the Prime Ministers of the self-proclaimed republics of Donetsk and Luhansk, Alexander Zakharchenko and Igor Plotnitsky, win their regional elections with 70% and 63.8% of the votes respectively. Ukraine and the EU do not recognise these elections, whose results would imply each region's leaving Ukraine to join Russia. After the elections, fighting resumes in Donbass.
- On 4 November the German Chancellor Angela Merkel, an advocate of shared legislation throughout the EU on immigration and internal migration, warns her British counterpart David Cameron that London's proposal to limit the entry of citizens from the rest of the Union into the UK represents a point of no return and would virtually mean the United Kingdom's exit from the EU.
- On 6 November the LuxLeaks scandal is made public, an investigation into secret agreements signed between around 340 multinationals and the government of Luxembourg under the current President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker, for the purposes of tax evasion.
- On 9 November Europe commemorates the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, which precipitated the fall of the Iron Curtain.
- On 10 November the Philae spacecraft of the European Space Agency's Rosetta Mission performs the first-ever

soft landing on the nucleus of a comet, the 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko.

- On 13 November the European Parliament adopts the EU-Moldavia Association Agreement.
- On 27 November for the first time in EU history, a group of MEPs brings a motion of censure against the Commission's President Jean-Claude Juncker, which is defeated.

## December 2014

*Spain passes the controversial Citizen Security Law. France raises its anti-terrorist alert. In Italy, there is a national strike, the government approves the criminal code reform, toughening sentences for corruption, and there are further mass migrant arrivals. Croatia holds the first round of presidential elections. In Montenegro a new political party emerges. Kosovo forms a coalition government and is recognised by the International Olympic Committee. The political crisis in Greece leads to early elections scheduled for January 2015. In Egypt, further death sentences are handed down to members of the Muslim Brotherhood. The internal split in Libya continues, where the two parallel power centres lead the EU and UN to threaten to impose fresh sanctions. In Tunisia, Beji Caid Essebsi wins the presidential elections.*

### Spain

- On 3 December the People's Party parliamentary spokesman Alfonso Alonso is appointed Health Minister to replace Ana Mato, who resigned on 27 November after being cited by a judge in the Gürtel corruption trial.
- On 11 December the PP's parliamentary majority approves the Citizen Security Law, which has been criticised by the other political parties.
- On 18 December the Public Prosecutor Eduardo Torres-Dulce resigns "for personal reasons." The next day Consuelo Madrigal is appointed the new Chief Public Prosecutor.
- On 30-31 December 156 illegal immigrants succeed in jumping the Melilla border fence. In 2014, some 2,254

people have entered the Spanish city this way.

### France

- On 4 December Faouzi Lamdaoui, personal adviser to François Hollande, resigns accused by the court of "misusing corporate assets."
- On 23 December France steps up its military deployment throughout the country under the anti-terrorist Vigipirate plan, following three separate attacks over the past three days, which leave one dead and almost 30 injured.

### Monaco

- On 11 December Alberto II's wife Charlene of Monaco gives birth to twins, Gabriela and Jacobo. The latter is heir to the throne.

### Italy

- On 2 December a mafia network is dismantled in Rome with the arrest of 37 people, some of them members of different political parties. Another hundred or so people are under investigation, including the former mayor of Rome and former Berlusconi minister Gianni Alemanno, who on 3 December leaves the Brothers of Italy party (centre-right).
- On 11 December the government approves a reform of the criminal code that imposes tougher laws against corruption. It includes raising the minimum prison sentence for corruption from 4 to 6 years, simplifying the process for confiscating assets, ensuring that those found guilty return everything they have stolen, right down to the last cent, and extending the statute of limitations for such a crime.
- On 12 December Italy is paralysed by a general strike against the government's economic policy, labour and public administration reform and budget cuts.
- On 18 December the police arrest 52 people in Reggio Calabria for their links with the 'Ndrangheta.
- On 30 December 970 illegal migrants aboard a Moldovan-flagged ship, abandoned by its crew near Corfu, disembark in Gallipoli after being

rescued by the coast guard. This is yet another mass arrival after, on 25 and 26 December, around 1,300 migrants were rescued in the Strait of Sicily. In 2014, 167,462 migrants have reached Italy by sea.

- On 31 December Giorgio Napolitano confirms his resignation as President in his end-of-year speech citing his age.

### Malta

- On 9 December Carmelo Abela is appointed Interior Minister to replace Manuel Mallia, who was forced to resign by the Prime Minister Joseph Muscat after being implicated in an investigation into his driver in connection with a shooting incident on 19 November.

### Croatia

- On 28 December Croatia holds the first round of its presidential elections. The incumbent President, the independent Ivo Josipovic, and the HDZ candidate Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, pass through to the second round, which will be held on 11 January 2015.

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 6 December the SDP elects Nermin Niksic as party leader to replace Zlatko Lagumdžija, who resigned following the poor election results in October.
- On 9 December Sefik Džaferovic (SDA) is elected Chairman of the House of Representatives (federal lower house) and Borjana Kristo (HDZ) and Mladen Bosic, (SDS) are appointed first and second deputy Chairs.
- On 12 December 15 former Bosnian Serb fighters and officers are sentenced to prison for the massacre of 150 Bosnians in Zecovi in 1992.
- On 17 December the social democrat leader Hamdija Lipovaca, the Prime Minister of the Una-Sana canton, is arrested over irregularities in the construction of sports facilities in Bihać, while he served as the mayor there.
- On 18 December the SDS elects Bosnian Denis Zvizdic to head the tripartite presidency of the federal Council of Ministers.

*Montenegro*

- On 9 December the secret service chief Boro Vucinic resigns.
- On 22 December the new Civic Movement party presents its leadership, headed by former vice-President Zarko Rakcevic, and programme, based on Euro-Atlantic values and democratic regeneration.

*Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 9 December the meeting of the International Olympic Committee in Monaco recognises the Kosovan Olympic Committee, whose team will participate for the first time in the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.
- On 9 December Isa Mustafa, leader of the Democratic League (LDK) is sworn in as Prime Minister, in accordance with the agreement signed on 8 December between Kosovo's two main parties (LDK and PDK). The outgoing Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi (PDK) will be deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister.

*FYROM*

- On 9 December there are bomb attacks in the Tetovo and Kumanovo police stations, in an attack the likes of which have not been seen since the ethnic conflict in 2001.
- On 10 December 12,000 students protest in Skopje, in the country's biggest student demonstration since independence, against the higher education reform bill which foresees the introduction of exams written by the government in addition to the university exams.
- On 7 December the government presents the country's new coat of arms to the Parliament – a rampant lion on a yellow shield, topped with a crown – which will replace the current coat of arms, which dates back to the communist era.
- On 22 December thousands of temporary, construction and service workers demonstrate in Skopje against the government's plans to increase their taxes in 2015.

*Albania*

- On 8 December the head of the Societe Generale bank Gent Sejko is named the new governor of the Central Bank to replace Ardian Fullani, sacked in July for failing to prevent the theft of five million euros.
- On 17 December the deputy Environment Minister Diana Bejko is sacked over her failure to pay the electricity bills for her summer home.

*Greece*

- On 6 December a demonstration organised in Athens in memory of the protester Alexis Grigoropoulos who was killed by the police six years ago ends in clashes with the police and dozens of arrests.
- On 8 December the government announces that the first round of the presidential elections scheduled for 2015 are being moved forward to 17 December. The announcement comes a day after the Eurogroup gives Greece a two-month extension on its economic rescue and amid a crisis in the government coalition and economic uncertainty in the international markets over the government's difficulties to continue applying the reforms agreed with the Troika. On the same day, the Parliament narrowly succeeds in passing the general budget for 2015, widely rejected by the Greek people, despite its exclusion of the new measures required by the Troika.
- On 17 December Antonis Samaras' cabinet fails to gain the parliamentary support needed to ensure the election of his candidate Stavros Dimas to the Presidency of the Republic. On 21 December Samaras proposes a national coalition government in order to get Dimas elected and thereby avoid early legislative elections being held, in which Syriza is a clear favourite to win. On 29 December the presidential elections fail and early legislative elections are therefore called for 25 January 2015.

*Turkey*

- On 1 December the Russian President Vladimir Putin announces the

suspension of the South Stream gas pipeline project and instead named Turkey as an alternative for a Russian gas pipeline into southern Europe, after the sanctions imposed by Brussels on Moscow over the conflict in Ukraine.

- On 6 December the government announces the introduction of religion as a compulsory subject in public primary school education.
- On 15 December the President Recep Tayyip Erdogan rejects the EU's criticism of the previous day's arrest of 27 journalists connected with the Islamist preacher Fethullah Gülen and accused of threatening state security.
- On 20 December over a hundred members of the Turkish teaching union (Egitim-Is) are arrested in Ankara during a demonstration calling for secular education and improved working conditions and salaries.

*Cyprus*

- On 22 December the Larnaca District Court sentences five public figures, including a politician, trade unionist and businessmen, for the purchase of property in Dromolaxia at above-market prices using the pension fund of the CyTA telecommunications company.

*Syria*

- On 1 December the World Food Programme (WFP) announces that it has run out of funds and has to cancel the delivery of 1.7 million euros in aid to Syrian refugees. By 9 December the WFP's appeal raises 6 million euros and it reactivates its aid plan.
- On 2 December the NATO headquarters hosts the first major meeting of the international coalition against IS. The 60 countries at the meeting agree to support the coalition's military operations; halt the flow of foreign terrorists to Syria and Iraq; cut access to the financing and funds of IS; help the civilian population with humanitarian aid and spread information about the true nature of IS in order to delegitimise it. During the meeting a group of Arab countries forwards a request, dis-

missed by the other members, to begin talks with the part of the Syrian army that, although loyal to the Bashar el-Assad regime, has not committed any kind of war crime.

- On 14 December at least 100 Syrian soldiers and 80 Islamist rebels are killed in fighting for control of the strategic military bases of Wadi al-Dif and al-Hamadiya, Idlib, constituting a victory for the al-Nusra Front.
- On 15 December the Syrian army takes back control of a strategic area of the north of Aleppo city from the al-Nusra Front.
- On 17 December the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights announces the discovery of a mass grave in Kashkiya, Deir al-Zour, in which 230 members of the Sheitat tribe are buried, killed by IS.
- On 25 December army shelling leaves more than 45 dead in al-Bab and Qabaseen, in Aleppo. In the last three days, the Bashar al-Assad regime has stepped up its offensive against the insurgents in Rif Dimashq, Homs, Hama, Hasakah, Idlib, Raqqa and Deir az-Zour.

#### *Jordan*

- On 21 December, following a ruling confirmed by the Supreme Court, 11 people found guilty of murder are executed at Swaqa prison. The death penalty has not been used in Jordan since March 2006.
- On 24 December the army announces that one of its planes has crashed in the north of Syria and its pilot captured by IS.

#### *Egypt*

- On 2 December the Public Prosecutor appeals the court's decision to clear the former President Hosni Mubarak, former Interior Minister Habib el-Adly and six collaborators of the murder of demonstrators during the 2011 revolution.
- On 2 December the criminal court of Giza sentences 188 people to death for the murder of 11 police officers in the attack on the Kirdasa police station, on the outskirts of Cairo on 14 August 2013.

#### *Libya*

- On 3 December the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the US, Spain, France, Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom and EU and UN representatives meet at the NATO headquarters to draw up a road map to end the political dispute dividing Libya. On 16 December the EU and UN threatens Libya with economic sanctions if the country does not take effective steps towards political dialogue.

#### *Tunisia*

- On 2 December the inaugural ceremony for the new Tunisian Parliament takes place. Mohamed Ennaceur (Nidaa Tounes) is elected Speaker of the house.
- On 11 December the former Prime Minister and founder of Ennhada Hamadi Jebali leaves the party over differences with the current leadership.
- On 17 December the IS-linked jihadist Abou Bakr al-Hakim claims responsibility for the murders in 2013 of the politicians Chokri Belaïd and Mohamed Brahmi.
- On 21 December the second round of presidential elections is held with a turnout of 59.04%. Beji Caid Essebsi wins with 55.68% of the votes.

#### *Algeria*

- On 23 December the army kills Abdelmalek al-Gouri, in Boumerdes, the leader of the terrorist group Soldiers of the Caliphate, an IS-affiliated group in Algeria.

#### *Morocco*

- On 8 December Abdellah Baha, Morocco's Minister of State, is hit by a train and killed in Bouznika, in the same place where the socialist MP Ahmed Zaidi died in November, from the Socialist Union of Popular Forces party (USFP).
- On 15-16 December Marrakech hosts the Global Counterterrorism Forum.

#### *EU*

- On 1 December Poland's former Prime Minister Donald Tusk is sworn in

as President of the European Council, to replace the Belgian Herman Van Rompuy

#### **Gibraltar**

- On 7 January the 'Alejandra' is the first Spanish fishing boat of 2014 to be expelled from Spanish waters in the Bay of Gibraltar, by Gibraltar patrol boats. On 19 February the United Kingdom announces a "high-level formal protest" over the incursion of a Spanish naval ship in Spanish-controlled waters close to Gibraltar, during a British navy training exercise. On 2 April the Spanish ambassador in London and British ambassador in Madrid, Federico Trillo and Simon Manley, are summoned respectively by the Foreign Ministries of the United Kingdom and Spain over Gibraltar's report of an alleged violation of its sovereignty by the incursion of a Spanish research vessel in the Bay of Gibraltar. Throughout the year there are repeated incidences, hostilities and confrontations in Spanish-controlled waters in the Bay of Gibraltar, involving patrols from the Spanish and Gibraltar authorities, the Spanish and British navies, fishing boats, Spanish research vessels and smuggling vessels. As a result of these incidents, Spanish and British diplomats are regularly summoned in London and Madrid by the respective Foreign Ministries and formal protests are issued before the EU.
- On 2 January the Spanish Supreme Court confirms the 1.7-million-euro fine imposed by the government on Jyske Bank Gibraltar Limited for refusing to reveal the identity of its clients to Spain, protecting them under the banking secrecy law in force on the Rock.
- On 2 July the European Commission sends a fact-finding mission to the Spanish-Gibraltar border to monitor whether or not the recommendations made by Brussels in 2013 to resolve the issue of vehicles and people being held up by Spanish anti-smuggling checks have been applied.
- On 25 July the European Commission considers that Gibraltar has not breached environmental regulations, as



alleged by Spain, with its bunkering activities, land reclaimed from the sea by the Rock and its construction of artificial reefs.

- On 29 July the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) concludes, after a year of investigations, that there are sufficient motives to investigate the Rock's alleged role as a base for smuggling and tax evasion and recommends that both Spain and the United Kingdom initiate judicial proceedings.
- On 13 August OLAF reports that tobacco smuggling in Gibraltar cost EU tax authorities around 700 million euros between 2010 and 2013.
- On 22 October Spain, the United Kingdom and Gibraltar agree to set up a new forum with its headquarters in Brussels to replace the Tripartite Forum, which will include the participation of the Council Association of Campo de Gibraltar and the Andalusian regional government.
- On 2 December the Spanish Public Works Minister Ana Pastor forces the exclusion of Gibraltar's airport, built on the isthmus illegally occupied by the United Kingdom, from the Single European Sky regulations.

### Western Sahara

- On 8 January the Moroccan security forces disperse an unauthorised gathering organised by the Coordination Committee for the Refusal of Moroccan Nationality in El Aaiun.

- On 26 February Morocco suspends its judicial cooperation with France in reaction to declarations allegedly made by the French Representative to the UN Gerard Araud about France's deliberate disengagement from the Sahara issue, attributed to the diplomat by the actor Javier Bardem during the presentation of his pro-Saharawi independence film: *Sons of the Clouds*. Paris flatly denies the allegation. The incident comes three days after the French ambassador in Morocco Charles Fries is summoned to the Moroccan Foreign Ministry in protest over a lawsuit filed in France accusing the Moroccan spy chief Abdelatif Hammouchi of torture.
- On 29 April the United Nations Security Council extends the mandate for the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), but once again excluding human rights monitoring from its competences.
- On 13 May the Canadian diplomat Kim Bolduc is appointed the new head of MINURSO to replace Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber.
- On 15 October Human Rights Watch reports serious restrictions on fundamental rights in the Polisario-managed Tindouf camps.
- On 6 November, in a speech to mark the 39th anniversary of the Green March, Mohammed VI announces the need to review the subsidised economic system of the Western Sahara to promote the region's socio-economic growth.

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