

Chronology of Major Conflicts and Political Events

January 2011

The year begins on the wave of revolts against various regimes of the Arab world. In Tunisia, the Jasmine Revolution that began in December 2010, leads to the fall of the Ben Ali regime and is quick to spread to Egypt. In Lebanon, the international investigation into the assassination of Rafiq Hariri leads to the break-up of the coalition government. In Albania, the resignation of the Foreign Minister Ilir Meta intensifies the government crisis. In Kosovo, Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi faces investigation by the European Council over his possible involvement in an organ trafficking network. Widespread disappointment with governments is also reflected in Portugal, where Anibal Cavaco Silva is re-elected with the lowest turnout in Portuguese history; in Greece, where protests continue against the government's austerity measures; or in Albania, where violent anti-government protests leave three dead.

Portugal

- On 23 January Anibal Cavaco Silva, from the Social Democratic Party (PSD, conservative) is re-elected as President with 52.9% of the votes and the lowest turnout in Portuguese history at 46.6%.

Spain

- On 8 January the terrorist group *Euskadi ta Askatasuna* (ETA) announces a ceasefire in exchange for a definitive solution based on the right of self-determination. The news is not well received since it makes no mention of a definitive disarmament.

- On 17 January a total of 10 people are arrested accused of belonging to the banned organisations *Ekin*, *Segi*, *Batasuna* and *Askatasuna*.

France

- On 12 January Jean Marimbert, director general of the French Public Health Agency resigns under pressure from the opposition over his failure to withdraw the pharmaceutical *Mediator* until 2009, which had killed 500 patients since 1976.

Monaco

- On 1 January Jose Badia replaces Franck Biancheri as Foreign Affairs Minister. On 14 January Monaco completes its government reshuffle with the appointment of Marco Piccini as Finance Minister and Marie-Pierre Gramaglia as Minister for Public Works, the Environment and Urban Development.

Italy

- On 13 January the Constitutional Court rules that the "legitimate impediment law" was partially invalid. The law was blocking two trials of the *Mediaset* case and one from the *Mills* case against Silvio Berlusconi by granting him judicial immunity.

Malta

- On 10 January Malta protests against Italy's decision to issue tenders for oil exploration in the waters around Pantelleria, Linosa and Lampedusa, part of whose continental shelf Malta considers to be under its sovereignty.

Slovenia

- On 21 January Slovenia protests against the Croatian regulation on fishing areas, which includes disputed territorial waters subject to a signed agreement reached under international mediation.

Croatia

- On 5 January the Bosnian authorities arrest the Croatian Tihomir Purda, wanted in Belgrade for war crimes in Vukovar in 1991. His arrest and the publication of a list of another 340 Croatians wanted by Serbia prompts criticism from Zagreb. Serbia provided Croatia with a list of 40 names, which did not include Purda. On 29 January 1,500 people protest in Vukovar against the arrest.
- On 22 January fishermen stage protests calling for fuel prices to be lowered and an exclusive economic zone of 23,000 km² that "protects them from excessive Italian fishing."

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 20 January Bosnia's War Crimes Court sentences the Bosnian commander Sefik Alic to ten years' imprisonment, for instigating the murder of Croatian Serb soldiers during "Operation Storm" in 1995.

Serbia

- On 28 January a teachers strike demands a 24% pay increase.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 8 January the EU Mission for Kosovo (EULEX) announces its decision

to file charges against Sabit Geci and Riza Alija, former members of the Kosovo Liberation Army (UÇK), for war crimes during the Kosovo conflict against citizens accused of collaboration with Serbia.

- On 9 January the December 2010 elections are repeated in 21 electoral colleges because of irregularities. Victory goes to the governing Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK, social democrat).
- On 25 January the European Council adopts Marty's report, which accuses the Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi of trafficking arms, drugs and human organs. EULEX opens an investigation.

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)

- On 18 January thousands of tobacco producers demonstrate against the low prices of their harvests, leading to clashes with police.
- On 28 January the opposition leaves the Parliament in protest against the inspection of the accounts of television channel A1-TV, describing it as a move against the channel, which is critical of the administration.

Albania

- On 14 January the Finance Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Ilir Meta resigns following his involvement in an influence peddling case. On 17 January Foreign Affairs Minister Edmond Haxhinasto is appointed Deputy Prime Minister and the Deputy Parliament Speaker Nasip Naco becomes the new Finance Minister.
- On 21 January three demonstrators are killed in clashes outside the government headquarters. On 22 January the General Prosecutor orders the arrest of six senior members of the Republican Guard for murder and abuse of power. The dispute deepens between the government and the opposition, which has paralysed the Parliament since the contested June 2009 electoral results, following calls for widespread demonstrations for 26 and 28 January.

Greece

- On 4 January the Public Order Minister Christos Papoutsis confirms the decision to close 12.5 kilometres of Greece's

border with Turkey following the increase in illegal entries via the Evros River.

- On 19 January the railway, pharmaceutical and legal sectors go on strike against a government proposal to open traditionally restricted sectors to the competition.
- On 31 January public transport workers go on strike against the sector's restructuring.

Turkey

- On 13 January thousands of demonstrators clash with police in several cities, marking the start of a trial in Diyarbakir of 151 people accused of having links with the terrorist organisation the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). On 16 January another demonstration in Istanbul also ends in violence.
- On 27 January the press reports the Supreme Court's decision to sentence 16 members of the Turkish Hezbollah, nine *in absentia*, to life imprisonment for around hundred murders in the 1990s.

Cyprus

- On 28 January 10,000 Turkish-Cypriots demonstrate in Northern Cyprus against their government's austerity programme.

Syria

- On 16 January Robert Ford arrives in Syria. He is the first US ambassador in the country since 2005.

Lebanon

- On 12 January as a protest against the Prime Minister Saad Hariri's rapprochement with Washington, the withdrawal of 11 Hezbollah Ministers and other forces from the March 14-led coalition government forces the government's downfall. Hezbollah and its allies accuse the US of frustrating the Syrian-Saudi initiative to "mitigate the negative effects for Lebanon" of the investigation of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) into the assassination of Rafiq Hariri. On 18 January the Prosecutor Daniel Bellemare issues charges that implicate several Hezbollah members. On 24 January the opposition obtains a parliamentary majority to replace Hariri with the entrepreneur Najib Mikati. Hari-

ri's fall prompts calls for a "Day of Rage," which leaves 50 people injured. On 28 January the pro-Western bloc, led by Hariri, rules out its participation in the new government.

Jordan

- On 14 and 21 January thousands of demonstrators protest in Amman demanding democratic and economic improvements and the resignation of the Prime Minister Samir Rifai. On 26 January Abdullah II promises reforms. On 28 January thousands of Jordanians demonstrate in several cities. The government announces 125 million dollars in social benefits.

Egypt

- On 1 January a bomb planted by the Palestinian Army of Islam in the church of Saint Mark and Saint Peter, in Alexandria, leaves 23 dead. The attack leads Christians to burst into a mosque sparking violent clashes.
- On 17 January a citizen sets himself on fire in front of the Parliament in protest against the country's political and living conditions. On 25 January the largest demonstrations in three decades, responding to the call for a "Day of Rage," demand political reforms, the end to the Emergency Law in effect since 1981 and measures against unemployment, inflation and low salaries. The government accuses the Muslim Brotherhood of fuelling the unrest. On 26 January the police disperse thousands of people gathered in Tahrir Square, injuring 150 and making 400 arrests. On 28 January telephone and Internet communication is suspended and 20 members of the Muslim Brotherhood are arrested in Cairo, hours before the "Friday of Rage," called throughout Egypt. On 29 January Mubarak sacks his cabinet and appoints Intelligence Chief Omar Suleiman as vice-President. On 30 January Mubarak asks the new Prime Minister Ahmed Shafiq to begin urgent reforms and meets with military chiefs. The army pledges its protection of the right to freedom of expression.
- On 29 January clashes in el-Arish, Sinai, between the police and Bedouin groups protesting against poor living conditions leave 12 dead.

Libya

- On 16 January protests in favour of democratic reforms end in clashes with police in Tripoli, Benghazi and Darna.

Tunisia

- On 8, 9 and 10 January dozens of people are killed in clashes between students and the police in Tala and Kasserine, as part of a wave of protests sweeping the country since December 2010, known as the Jasmine Revolution. On 10 January Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali promises the creation of 300,000 jobs. The government orders the closure of schools and universities. On 11 January the clashes intensify prompting the government to order a curfew. Rafik Belhaj Kacem, the Interior Minister, is sacked and the government announces the release of those arrested during the clashes. On 13 January Ben Ali promises political and economic changes and announces that he will not run in the 2014 elections. On 14 January the government is ousted and a state of emergency is called. Ben Ali flees to Saudi Arabia. The Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi takes over the interim presidency. The army takes control of the country. On 15 January the Constitutional Council removes Ben Ali from power appointing Fouad Mebazaa as interim President of the parliament. Mebazaa asks Ghannouchi to form a unity government. On 18 January four ministers resign due to the presence in the new government of six members of Ben Ali's Constitutional Democratic Rally (RCD). Mebazaa and Ghannouchi leave the RCD. On 20 and 21 January police in Tunisia try to stop thousands of demonstrators demanding the resignation of the ministers of the previous regime. On 22 January the police join demonstrators demanding the resignation of Ghannouchi. On 26 January the Justice Minister Lazhar Karoui Chebbi issues an international arrest warrant for Ben Ali and his wife, Leila Trabelsi. On 27 January Ghannouchi announces the resignation of the ministers connected with the deposed regime. The Tunisian General Labour Union (UGTT) pledges its support for the new government.

Algeria

- On 8 January the government announces a decrease in the price of basic

goods to halt the protests that have rocked Algeria since 5 January and which have left five dead and over 800 injured.

- On 8 January two gendarmes are injured in an attack in Sahel Bouberak. On 9 January a member of the Self-Defence Group (SDG) is killed after being shot on 2 January by AQIM terrorists. On 28 January a communal guard is killed in a terrorist attack in Assi Youcef.
- On 22 January hundreds of demonstrators clash with police in Algiers. Throughout the month there are dozens of self-immolations in protest against the poor living conditions.
- On 28 January a court in Constantine sentences six AQIM terrorists to death for the murder of 20 people in June 2009 in el-Mansoura.
- On 29 January 10,000 people called by the Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD, Berber nationalist) demonstrate in Bejaia demanding democratic changes.

Morocco

- On 25 January a man attempts to set fire to himself in protest against the precarious living conditions, in the fourth action of this nature in the last year. The same day, the Communications Minister Khalid Naciri announces that the State will maintain subsidies on basic goods.

Mauritania

- On 17 January a man self-immolates in front of the Senate in protest against the precarious living conditions.

European Union

- On 1 January Hungary takes over the European Presidency with the priority of concluding negotiations over the eurozone's permanent rescue fund, improving the coordination of financial policy and strengthening the energy and innovation sectors.

Arab League

- On 19 January the Secretary General of the Arab League Amr Moussa calls Arab leaders to respond to the "unprecedented anger and frustration" of their people due to the declining development levels.

February 2011

Northern Africa continues to dominate the news, setting the political agenda of countries like France, where the links between the Foreign Minister and Ben Ali's regime prompt a cabinet reshuffle, or in Italy where the government fears a massive influx of immigrants from the Maghreb. In Egypt, the army's position beside the people forces Hosni Mubarak to resign, and marks the beginning of a transition administered by a military council. Libya is the next regime to be threatened where revolution soon takes the shape of a civil war. In Croatia, thousands demand early elections. In Serbia, MPs resign from the cabinet. In Kosovo, Hashim Thaçi is re-elected Prime Minister and the magnate Behgjet Pacolli becomes the new President. In Turkey, the terrorist organisation PKK ends the unilateral truce announced in August 2010. In Jordan, the social protests bring down the government.

Spain

- On 1 February the National High Court sentences the former *Askatasuna* spokesperson Ohiana Agirre to eight years' imprisonment for his involvement with ETA.
- On 8 February the political party *Sortu* (*Arise*, abertzale left) is officially founded. The new party aspires to compete in the Basque local elections.

France

- On 8 February the Prime Minister François Fillon admits to having spent his holidays in Aswan at the invitation of Mubarak, thus increasing the controversy sparked after it was discovered that Michele Alliot-Marie, the Foreign Affairs Minister, spent last Christmas in Tunisia at the invitation of circles close to Ben Ali. On 27 February Alliot-Marie resigns and is replaced by Alain Juppe, who is replaced by Gerard Longuet as Defence Minister. Claude Gueant replaces Brice Hortefeux as Interior Minister.
- On 10 February a week of protests by the judiciary culminates in a strike over the lack of resources in the judicial system.

Italy

- On 3 February the Northern League's (Padanian nationalist, liberal)

Law on Fiscal Federalism, whose approval has been set by the League as a requisite to remaining in the coalition government, is rejected by Parliament. The same day the Council of Ministers approves the project by decree. The President Giorgio Napolitano refuses to ratify it.

- On 12 February the government decrees a humanitarian state of emergency after the recent arrival of thousands of refugees in Lampedusa and Pantelleria from Tunisia.

Malta

- On 21 February two Libyan Air Force fighter jets land in La Valletta. The pilots request asylum after refusing to bomb Benghazi.

Slovenia

- On 1 February the Parliament approves the right of minorities in the former Yugoslavia to form groups according to their ethnic origins and preserve their culture and language.

Croatia

- On 22, 25, 26 and 28 February protests are staged demanding the government's resignation, the nationalisation of the banks and pay increases, coinciding with demonstrations in support of war veterans and Tihomir Purda.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 7 February Bosnian Serb railway workers launch a strike after two years without receiving full pay.

Serbia

- On 5 February the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS, conservative) leads a large demonstration demanding early elections over the government's failure to tackle the crisis and unemployment and its pro-Western stance.
- On 23 February the former assistant Interior Minister Vlastimir Dordevic is sentenced to 27 years' imprisonment by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the murder of 724 Kosovo Albanians and the deportation of a further 200,000 during the conflict in Kosovo.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 14 February the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK, liberal-conservative), appoints Behgjet Pacolli, the leader of the New Kosovo Alliance (AKR, liberal), as the new President. On 22 February the Parliament appoints him President and re-elects Hashim Thaçi as Prime Minister in a vote that is boycotted by the opposition.
- On 21 February the EU extends the mandate of the EU Special Representative in Kosovo Pieter Feith by two months.

FYROM

- On 13 February clashes erupt over plans to build a church-museum in the fort of Skopje.
- On 21 February Branko Crvenkovski, the leader of the Social Democratic Union (SDSM), accepts the government's offer to hold early elections putting an end to the prevailing parliamentary boycott.

Albania

- On 4 and 18 February fresh anti-government demonstrations paralyse Tirana, Lezha, Korçe and Valona.

Greece

- On 9 February a demonstration against the public spending cuts end in clashes with police.
- On 15 February a public transport strike brings Greece to a standstill coinciding with the Parliament's approval to restructure the sector.
- On 23 February the year's first general strike is held against the government's austerity measures. In Athens, 33,000 demonstrate sparking unrest.

Turkey

- On 15 February clashes break out between the police and Kurdish demonstrators in 12 cities during the commemoration of the 12th anniversary of Abdullah Ocalan's arrest.
- On 28 February the terrorist organisation PKK ends the unilateral truce declared on 13 August 2010.

Cyprus

- On 7 February a demonstration is held in Northern Cyprus against the reduction in benefits imposed by Ankara

Syria

- On 2, 4 and 5 February demonstrations are held in the major cities demanding more freedoms and an end to the 1963 Emergency Law.
- On 9 February after being blocked for three years, Syria restores access to *Facebook* and *YouTube*.
- On 17 February the government announces a reduction in the price of basic goods.

Lebanon

- On 10 February a major protest against Hezbollah accuses the group of appointing the new Prime Minister.

Jordan

- On 1 February growing protests force Abdullah II to sack the government of Samir Rifai, who is replaced by the former Prime Minister Marouf al-Bakhit. On 2 February thousands of Jordanians demand the resignation of al-Bakhit. On 3 February Abdullah II pledges to improve anti-corruption measures and develop national dialogue, meeting with the Muslim Brotherhood for the first time in a decade.
- On 6 February 36 tribal leaders condemn the "interference in executive decisions by those who have no constitutional powers" and describe Queen Rania, of Palestinian origin, as "a danger to national interests."
- On 24 February 6,000 demonstrate in Amman demanding democratic reforms.

Egypt

- On 1 February the "Million Man March" calls for Mubarak to step down from the power. Mubarak asks Omar Suleiman to initiate talks with the opposition but refuses to resign. Clashes break out in Alexandria. On 2 February the Parliament suspends its sessions until the allegations of irregularities in the 2010 elections are

investigated. Mubarak supporters attack demonstrators gathered in Tahrir Square in Cairo leaving three dead and 639 injured. On 3 February Mohamed el-Baradei and the Muslim Brotherhood refuse the offer to open dialogue with Mubarak.

- On 4 February Bedouin rebels attack a police station in el-Arish. On 9 February new clashes erupt between the army and members of the Islamist group Takfir wal-Hijra, after it is discovered that the explosion on 5 February in a gas terminal was the result of an attack led by Bedouin rebels. On 16 February the press reports Jerusalem's approval to deploy more Egyptian troops in the Sinai to protect the supply.
- On 6 February Omar Suleiman offers the opposition greater freedoms and lifts the state of emergency, but his refusal to offer Mubarak's resignation causes the meeting to end without an agreement. On 8 February Mubarak promises pay and pension increases. On 10 February the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces confirms its position beside the people. On 11 February thousands of demonstrators take over Alexandria and Cairo. Suleiman announces Mubarak's resignation and the transfer of power to the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF), which on 13 February announces the dissolution of the Parliament, the suspension of the Constitution and the formation of a committee for its reform. Demonstrators announce that they will not leave Tahrir Square until deadlines are set for the transition to civilian rule and the end of the Emergency Laws. On 25 February the Muslim Brotherhood lead a new "Million Man March" against Ahmed Shafiq and other members of the previous regime that continue in the government. On 28 February an order issued by the General Prosecutor prohibits Mubarak and his family from leaving Egypt and freezes his funds.

Libya

- On 15 and 16 February mass protests against the regime end in clashes and multiple arrests in Benghazi. On 16 February 213 prominent Libyan figures sign a petition for Gaddafi's resignation. On 17 February 24 people are killed during the "Day of Rage," which commemorates the death of 14 members of

the opposition in February 2006. On 21 February fighter jets shoot at demonstrators in Tripoli leaving 250 dead. The majority of imams call for revolution. The Justice Minister and the Arab League representative resign. On 22 February the Interior Minister Abdul Fatah Younis resigns, calling for people to join the revolution. On 25 February the government announces pay increases. Mercenaries of the regime shoot at demonstrators in Tripoli. On 26 February the UN Security Council approves Resolution 1970 that demands an end to the violence, approves an arms embargo on Libya, bans Gaddafi and his family from leaving the country and freezes his foreign assets. Rebels take Zawiya.

Tunisia

- On 1 February the former Interior Minister Rafik Belhaj Kacem is arrested. On 2 February the government replaces the 24 regional governors. On 6 February the Interior Minister suspends the activities of the RCD. On 11 February for the first time in 30 years the police pull out from the universities. On 15 February the government lifts the curfew instated on 12 January, although it maintains the state of emergency. 28 parties and organisations demand the constitution of a National Council to protect the principles of the revolution. On 17 February the former President Ben Ali is reported to have fallen into a coma in Saudi Arabia. On 18 February a general amnesty for political prisoners comes into force. On 20 February Tunisia demands that Riyadh extradite Ben Ali. On 21 February Mouldi Kefi replaces Ahmed Ounaies as the Foreign Minister. On 27 February public pressure forces Mohamed Ghannouchi to resign, who is replaced by Beji Caid el Sebsi.

Algeria

- On 22 February the government announces the "imminent" end to the state of emergency, in effect since February 1992.
- On 6 February the Algerian security forces report the death of Burihan Kamel, the AQIM lieutenant behind the 2007 attacks in Algiers, in a military operation in Bouira. In Batna, 15 AQIM terrorists are arrested, accused of planning attacks in Europe.

- On 7 February a young man attempts to set himself on fire in Sidi Benbada. Since mid-January there have already been 20 suicide attempts in protest over the poor living conditions.

- On 12 February some 3,000 people attempt to demonstrate in several cities, in the largest protest in 10 years. The security forces deploy 30,000 officers and make 400 arrests. On 19 February the army again represses the opposition called to protest by the National Coordination for Change and Democracy (CNCD). On 28 February thousands of students demonstrate in Bejaia demanding democratic and education reforms.

Morocco

- On 1 February two unemployed teachers self-immolate in the Ministry of Education. The police prevent a further 38 teachers from doing the same.
- On 9 February the civil service stages a general strike to protest against low wages and the slow progress in the social dialogue initiated in 2008.
- On 10 February the government announces a revision of the Labour Market law to reduce unemployment and increase wages. On 15 February over 1.33 billion euros are announced to halt inflation in basic goods.
- On 20 February the "Day of Dignity" brings thousands of protestors together to demand democratic reforms and the resignation of the Prime Minister. Clashes erupt in the major cities following the resignation on 21 February of Mohamed Boudra, the President of the Regional Council of al-Hoceima and member of the Authenticity and Modernity Party (AMP). Mustapha Ramid also resigns from the cabinet of the Justice and Development Party (JDP), due to disagreements with its President Abdelilah Benkirane, who opposes the participation of young members of the JDP in the protests. On 26 February around a thousand people demand a new constitution in Casablanca in a move organised by the February 20 Movement.

Mauritania

- On 26 February thousands of young people in Nouakchott demand political, economic and social reforms and announce the formation of a Joint Action Coordinator.

European Union

- On 4 February France and Germany present their proposal on the Competitiveness Pact, which includes increasing the retirement age to 67, true economic union, harmonised wage indexation systems and limits on public debt.
- On 4 February the European Council approves the action plan for a domestic energy market to reduce EU dependence.

Arab League

- On 21 February, at the request of Qatar, the Arab League holds an extraordinary session to debate the Libyan crisis and condemn Gaddafi's use of force.

March 2011

The economic crisis prompts Portugal to call early elections. In Spain the abertzale party Sortu is banned because of its ties to the terrorist group ETA. The Socialist Party wins in the French cantonal elections. In Italy, tensions rise on the island of Lampedusa. Anti-government protests take place in Croatia, Montenegro, Albania and also in Bosnia, a country where there are also ongoing complications over the appointment of a new government. Serbia reshuffles its cabinet coinciding with the start of talks with Kosovo, where EULEX arrests the former Minister Fatmir Limaj for war crimes. In Turkey, new arrests are made over the Ergenekon plot and tensions rise in the majority Kurdish southeast. In Arab countries the wave of protests continues, with the outbreak of a popular revolution in Syria and with Libya entering a civil war, which forces the approval of United Nations Resolution 1973 and the start of NATO involvement. Protests also intensify in Algeria, Jordan and Mauritania, as well as in Morocco where Mohammed VI announces a far-reaching constitutional reform. In Egypt, the constitutional reform proposal is approved in a referendum.

Portugal

- On 23 March Jose Socrates resigns after the opposition rejects measures to reduce the public deficit

announced on 11 March and responded to on 12 with mass demonstrations. On 31 March the President Anibal Cavaco Silva calls early elections for June.

Spain

- On 23 March the Supreme Court bans Sortu, the party of the abertzale left, on the grounds that it is a continuation of Batasuna.

France

- On 27 March the Socialist Party (PS) wins the second round of the cantonal elections with 35.05% of the vote, followed by the UMP with 18.89%.

Italy

- On 6 March the Interior Minister Roberto Maroni urges a joint European effort to deal with the arrival en masse of immigrants to Lampedusa, where the inhabitants stage a protest on 20 March. On 25 March FRONTEX extends its mission in Italian waters until August.
- On 10 March the government approves a controversial reform of the judiciary that divides judges and prosecutors into two institutions, allows Parliament to set the priorities of the judicial system and limits the prosecutors' powers to appeal.

Malta

- On 27 March 535 immigrants arrive in Malta from Libya.

Croatia

- On 8, 17 and 19 March thousands demonstrate in Zagreb against the government of the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ, conservative) and the opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP).
- On 25 March the President of the national oil company INA Bojan Milkovic is arrested on charges of bribery.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 3 March the former Bosnian general Jovan Divjak is arrested in Vienna, wanted in Serbia for the attack in 1992 on a Yugoslavian army convoy in Sarajevo. On 9 March Bosnia announces

that it will appeal against his extradition.

- On 14 March the meeting between representatives of the Bosnian and Croatian parties of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ends without an agreement on the constitution of a government for the entity, five months after the general elections. On 17 March the Constituent Assembly approves the formation of the new government despite the Bosnian Croat boycott. Zivko Budimir, from the Croatian Party of Rights (HSP, conservative) is elected President and Nermin Niksic (SDP) Prime Minister. On 24 March the Central Election Commission (CIK) declares that the government is not legitimate as several Croatian delegates had not yet been appointed. On 28 March the High Representative of the International Community Valentin Inzko suspends the decision of the CIK.
- On 19 March a demonstration takes place in Banja Luka in protest against the country's poor socio-economic situation.

Montenegro

- On 21 and 30 March two demonstrations against the crisis, corruption and unemployment call for the resignations of the Prime Minister Igor Luksic, the General Prosecutor Ranka Carapic and the chief of police Veselin Veljovic.

Serbia

- On 6 March the Prime Minister Mirko Cvejkovic reshuffles the cabinet and takes the position of Finance Minister.
- On 25 March 10,000 civil servants demonstrate in Belgrade demanding improvements in working conditions and salaries.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 8-9 March EU-brokered talks between Serbia and Kosovo conclude without any advances. On 28 March a second round of negotiations begins.
- On 17 March the media reports the arrest of 11 former members of the UÇK accused of war crimes during the Kosovo conflict, among them the former Transport Minister Fatmir Limaj. On 23 and 29 March protests are held against the arrests.

- On 28 March the Constitutional Court rules that the election of Beqhet Pacolli as President is against the constitution. On 30 March Pacolli resigns.

FYROM

- On 8 March the government approves a redrafted electoral law, one of the central opposition demands to end the parliamentary boycott.

Albania

- On 15 March thousands of demonstrators in Gerdec demand the resignation of the government during the commemoration of the arms dump explosion which killed 26 people in 2008.
- On 21 March 25 socialist MPs file charges against the Interior Minister Lulzim Basha for the death of four demonstrators during the anti-government protests in January.

Greece

- On 14 March the IMF announces the release of a fourth tranche of 4 billion euros as part of the rescue package of the Greek economy.
- On 18 March a bomb explodes in front of the Health Ministry. On 23 March the police deactivate a new device in Athens.

Turkey

- On 3 March ten people are arrested in Ankara and Istanbul over their alleged involvement in the "Er-genekon" plot. On 4 and 13 March thousands of people protest against the arrests.
- On 15 March three members of the PKK are killed in Simak in the first skirmishes with the army since the terrorist organisation announced the end of the truce on 28 February.
- On 23 March the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP, social democrat, Kurdish nationalist) calls for civil disobedience to demand education in Kurdish, the release of prisoners, the end of military operations in Kurdistan and the lowering of the 10% electoral threshold to obtain representation in Parliament.

Cyprus

- On 2 March 25,000 Turkish Cypriots demonstrate in Nicosia against the benefit cuts in Northern Cyprus imposed by Turkey.

Syria

- On 20 March Bashar al-Assad sacks the governor of Daraa Faisal Kolthoum for his poor handling of the month's unrest. On 24 March 20,000 people participate in an anti-government sit-in in Daraa. Parallel to this, the government announces "important measures" including the end of the state of emergency that began in 1963, salary increases and better health cover for public workers. Despite the announcement, the demonstrations and unrest continue in Daraa, Hama and Damascus, spreading on 27 March to Latakia.
- On 29 March the government resigns.

Lebanon

- On 13 March thousands of supporters of the pro-Western bloc demonstrate in Beirut demanding that Hezbollah hand over its arms.
- On 27 March a demonstration in Jbeil calls for the end of the sectarian political system, the creation of a secular state and an electoral law based on a single constituency and proportional representation.

Jordan

- On 24 March clashes break out between police, supporters of the regime and demonstrators camped in Amman's Gamal Abdel Nasser Square demanding political reforms and the closure of the Israeli embassy. On 25 March thousands of monarchists show their loyalty to Abdullah II.
- On 26 March the opposition calls for the resignation of the Prime Minister Marouf al-Bakhit, electoral reforms, the Parliament's appointment of the government and general elections to elect the Prime Minister.
- On 27 March Abdullah II announces political and economic reforms. The same day, the Parliament rejects a proposal to limit the powers of the monarch.

Egypt

- On 3 March popular pressure forces the resignation of the Prime Minister Ahmed Shafiq, who is replaced by Essam Sharaf.
- On 8 March ten people are killed and 110 injured in Cairo's Moqqatam quarter in clashes between Christians and Muslims during the Christian protest against the burning of a church in Helwan on 5 March.
- On 15 March the Interior Ministry dissolves the State Security Investigations Service.
- On 19 March the referendum is held to reform the constitution. The "yes" vote wins by 77.2%.
- On 30 March the SCAF adopts the Constitutional declaration that will replace the Fundamental Law during the transition.

Libya

- On 10 March the EU Council ratifies new sanctions that include freezing the assets of five Libyan banks in Europe. France recognises the National Transitional Council (NTC), formed by opposition forces to the Libyan regime, as the country's legitimate interlocutor.
- On 17 March the United Nations Security Council approves the Resolution 1973/2011 that authorises the enforcement of an aerial exclusion zone, imposes an arms embargo and allows the use of force to protect civilians.
- On 19 March the EU, USA, Arab League and the AU agree to comply with Resolution 1973/2011. On the same day operation "Odyssey Dawn," is put into action, which on 20 March forces the Libyan army to end its offensive on Benghazi.
- On 21 March NATO decides to enforce the arms embargo on Libya as of 25 March.
- On 29 March 36 countries and five international organisations agree in London to constitute a contact group for Libya.
- On 30 March the Libyan Foreign Minister Moussa Koussa arrives in the United Kingdom after resigning from his post.
- On 30 March NATO takes over the command of operation "Odyssey Dawn."

Tunisia

- On 1 March the Higher Education Minister and head of the *Ettajdid* party Ahmed Ibrahim, the Regional Development Minister Ahmed Nejib Chebbi, the Minister for Social and Economic Reforms Elyes Jouini, the State Secretary for Higher Education Faouzia Charfi and the State Secretary for Industry and Technology Sami Zaoui all resign.
- On 1 March the Interior Minister legalises the Islamist movement *Ennahda*, whose leader, Rachid Ghannouchi returned from exile in London on 30 January.
- On 7 March the interim President appoints the third transitional government since the fall of Ben Ali, with Beji Caid Essebsi, as the new Prime Minister.
- On 7 March Ben Ali's political police force is dissolved.
- On 24-25 March clashes erupt in Sidi Bouzid when thousands of people demand the dismissal of RCD members working in the government.
- On 28 March Habib Essid replaces Farhat Rajhi as the Interior Minister.

Algeria

- On 1 March 5,000 students protest in Tizi Ouzou demanding democratic changes and changes in the education system.
- On 7 March 7,000 communal guards protesting against low salaries and staff cuts clash with police in Algiers.
- On 12, 19 and 26 March the police disperse crowds gathered by the CNCD in Algiers to demand democratic reforms.
- On 13 March the Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD) and the Algerian National Front (FNA) walk out of the Parliament amid discussions to lift the state of emergency to demand, respectively, the freedom to demonstrate and the approval of laws previously agreed upon in parliament.
- On 23-24 March clashes break out in Climat de France and Bab el-Oued, Algiers, between police and demonstrators protesting over the lack of access to housing.

Morocco

- On 6 March the February 20 Movement organises demonstrations in the

major cities calling for democratic reforms. On 9 March Mohammed VI announces a constitutional reform that includes strengthening the role of the Parliament, the Prime Minister and the parties, as well as a regionalisation plan that includes the Western Sahara. On 20 March new protests by the February 20 Movement accuse the commission studying the reforms of not representing the people.

- On 15 March three people are killed in Khouribga in clashes between police and workers, who have been protesting since 2009 against the Cherifien Phosphates Company's policy on recruiting and dismissing staff.
- On 24 March the new Independent Mediator Institution (Defender of the People) begins its activity, which is added to the creation on 3 March of the National Human Rights Council.

Mauritania

- On 1 March thousands of Mauritians in Nouakchott call for constitutional reforms and measures against inflation, unemployment, tribalisation and slavery. On 8, 11 and 18 March protests take place by the Joint Action Coordinator calling for the resignation of the government.

European Union

- On 25 March the European Council authorises a reform of the Lisbon Treaty that allows the introduction of the community's permanent rescue fund with a sum of 700 billion euros from 2013. This measure includes the French-German demand for the "Stability Pact." Thousand of demonstrators protest in Brussels against the plans to cut public spending.

Arab League

- On 2 March the Arab League considers sending an Egyptian-Algerian delegation to negotiate Gaddafi's departure from power and postpones the summit of Heads of State until 15 May, when Libya is to hand over the presidency to Iraq.
- On 12 March the Arab League supports the establishment of a no-fly zone for Libya enforced by the United Nations.

April 2011

The economic crisis worsens in the EU with the Portuguese request for an economic bailout. In Spain, the abertzale left presents Bildu, the alternative to the banned Sortu. In Italy a controversial law is passed that reduces trial time-limits. Croatia witnesses the sentence of Ante Gotovina by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). Albania and Serbia continue to face successive anti-government protests. In Kosovo, Atifete Jahjaga is appointed President following the resignation of Behgjet Pacolli. In Libya, despite international intervention, the Gaddafi regime forces the rebels to retreat. In Syria, the government alternates violent repression with reform promises in response to country-wide protests against Bashar al-Assad's regime, particularly by the large crowds gathered after Friday prayers. In Egypt, Mubarak is placed under arrest. In Tunisia the General Prosecutor files multiple charges against Ben Ali.

Portugal

- On 6 April Portugal asks the EU for an 80 billion-euro economic bailout. On 18 April the negotiations begin with the European Commission, the European Central Bank (ECB) and the IMF.

Spain

- On 3 April the independent Basque coalition *Bildu* announces that it will run in May's local elections. On 9 April 20,000 people demonstrate in Madrid against the coalition, which they believe has ties with ETA.
- On 19 April the High Court revokes its decision to release the ETA-member Antonio Troitiño after it reviewed his sentence on 13 April and ordered his release after serving 24 of the 2,232-year sentence. An arrest warrant has been issued for Troitiño, whose whereabouts are unknown.
- On 11 April the Supreme Court opens the trial against the National Court judge Baltasar Garzon, accused of abusing his authority in the Gürtel corruption case. On 19 April the General Council of the Judiciary suspends the magistrate from judicial activity.

France

- On 11 April use of the full Islamic veil in public spaces is banned.

Italy

- On 6 April in Milan the trial begins against Silvio Berlusconi for the *Ruby-gate* case.
- On 7 April the government approves a decree by which temporary residence permits are granted for 20,000 immigrants who have arrived from Tunisia since January, allowing them to move freely throughout the Schengen Area. France's reluctance to allow the legal immigrants into its territory opens a dispute with Italy which is partially settled by an agreement reached on 8 April.
- On 13 April the Lower House approves the controversial bill that shortens trial times for people with no previous convictions. The law will allow Berlusconi to escape trial for the *Mills* and *Mediaset* cases.
- On 20 April 818 immigrants arrive from Libya and Tunisia in Lampedusa and Pantelleria adding to the 307 that arrived on 12 April.

Malta

- On 8 April Malta accuses Italy of refusing the entry of 171 immigrants rescued in Italian waters by a Maltese patrol boat, and which are added to the 850 arrivals over the last week in Malta. On 12 April another 116 refugees arrive in Malta, which once again reports a lack of cooperation.

Slovenia

- On 10 April, in a referendum, the Slovenes reject the Law on Temporary Work presented by the government as an urgent measure to slow down unemployment.

Croatia

- On 15 April the former generals Ante Gotovina and Mladen Markac are sentenced to 24 and 18 years' imprisonment by the ICTY for war crimes against Serbs in Krajina during Operation Storm, in 1995.
- On 19 April Croatia closes the chapters on agriculture and rural develop-

ment and regional policy and coordination of structural instruments, in the EU accession negotiations.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 13 April the Bosnian Serb parliament approves a referendum on the legitimacy of rulings made by the High Representative of the International Community. The EU warns that the attempts to subvert federal regulations violate the Dayton Accords.
- On 18 April the leaders of the main Bosnian Croat parties in Mostar call for a constitutional amendment that allows the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to be split into two separate entities.

Serbia

- On 4 April Serbian police arrest Bozidar Vucurevic, the former Mayor of Trebinje, wanted by Croatia for war crimes during the bombing of Dubrovnik in 1991. On 12 April Bosnia's State Prosecutor requests his extradition.
- On 16 April around 50,000 people called by the opposition SNS protest in Belgrade demanding early elections and the end of pro-Western policies and the public deficit limit.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 1 April the Kosovo authorities begin the population census in all its territory except the Serbian enclaves in the north, which demand that the UN carry out the count.
- On 7 April the deputy director of the police force Atifete Jahjaga is appointed President.
- On 27 April the government approves a ministerial reform to avoid the New Kosovo Alliance (AKR, liberal) of Behgjet Pacolli leaving the coalition. The party obtains two additional ministries.

FYROM

- On 15 April the President of the Parliament Trajko Veljanoski calls early legislative elections for June.

Albania

- On 10 April clashes break out in two simultaneous demonstrations in Kashar

and Bathore between supporters of the Socialist Party (PS) and the governing Democratic Party of Albania (PDS, conservative). On 17 April a bomb explodes in the PS headquarters in Pogradec.

- On 25 April Bujar Nishani takes over as Interior Minister, replacing Lulzim Basha, who steps down to run in the local elections in May for the Mayor of Tirana.

Greece

- On 7 April the press trade unions hold two consecutive 48-hour strikes against the pay and job cuts made by the main media groups.
- On 13 April the former Transport Minister Anastasios Mantelis is given a three-year suspended prison sentence for tax fraud.
- On 16 April clashes break out in Thessaloniki between the police and anarchist demonstrators demanding the release of prisoners.

Turkey

- On 1 April seven PKK terrorists are killed in clashes with the army in Hassa.
- On 18 April the Electoral Board vetoes the lists of the Freedom and Solidarity Party (ÖDP, socialist) for the 12 June elections and 12 independent candidates, seven of whom are backed by the pro-Kurdish BDP, which announces that it will boycott the elections. During the following days demonstrations and clashes break out in Istanbul, Van, Yuksekova, Diyarbakir and Bismil.
- On 25 April 35 people are arrested in Hakkari for belonging to the Union of Communities in Kurdistan (KCK), affiliated with the terrorist organisation PKK.

Cyprus

- On 7 April clashes break out in Northern Cyprus between the police and 3,000 demonstrators against Turkey's benefit cuts.

Syria

- On 3 April Bashar al-Assad asks the former Agriculture Minister Adel Safar to form a new government, which is approved by the President on 14 April.
- On 7 April Bashar al-Assad dismiss-

es the governor of Homs, Mohammed Iyad Ghazal.

- On 13 April the protests spread for the first time to Aleppo, the country's second biggest city.
- On 19 April the government agrees to lift the state of emergency and abolishes the State Security Court. A new law will replace the Emergency Law, allowing "peaceful" demonstrations with prior authorisation.
- On 20 April Bashar al-Assad sacks the police chief in Baniyas.
- On 22 April thousands of Syrians take to the streets on "Large Friday," the largest anti-government protest to date and the most bloody, with over a hundred deaths.
- On 23 April the parliamentary representatives of Daraa, Nasser al-Hariri and Jalil Rifai, together with the city's mufti Abdulrahman Abazeid protest against the repressive measures taken against civilians. On 27 April 203 members of the Baath Party in Huran and a further 28 in Baniyas stage their own protests.

Lebanon

- On 5 April a four-day riot in Roumieh comes to an end, leaving two prisoners dead. The prisoners were protesting against poor prison conditions and for a general amnesty.

Jordan

- On 1 April hundreds of Jordanians demonstrate in Amman demanding constitutional reforms.
- On 10 April Abdullah II asks the President of the Senate Ahmad Lozi to form a committee to revise the constitution.
- On 15 April clashes erupt in Zarqa between Salafist demonstrators and monarchists.

Egypt

- On 1 and 8 April thousands return to Tahrir Square calling Hosni Mubarak to meet their demands.
- On 11 April the former Secretary General of the NDP and Speaker of the Shura Council Safwat al-Sharif is remanded in custody by the Egyptian authorities for embezzlement of funds.
- On 13 April Hosni Mubarak, his sons Gamal and Alaa and the former Prime

Minister Ahmed Nazif are remanded in custody.

- On 17 April the Military Junta orders the dissolution of the NDP.
- On 17 April the State Prosecutor begins the oral hearing in which he questions the former vice-President Omar Suleiman over the police interventions carried out against the Tahrir Square demonstrators.
- On 18 and 20 April two people are killed and another six injured in clashes in Abu Qurqas, Minya, between Coptic Christians and Muslims.
- On 19 April the newly appointed Christian Governor of Qena Emad Mikhail submits his resignation after several days of protests demanding he be replaced by a Muslim. On 20 April the Interior Minister reaffirms his appointment.
- On 19 April the official committee set up to investigate Hosni Mubarak concludes that the former President is responsible for the death of 846 demonstrators during the January Revolution.
- On 27 April an explosion in the al-Sabil terminal of the main gas pipeline in the Sinai cuts gas exports to Israel and Jordan.

Libya

- On 1 April the former Libyan Energy Minister Omar Fathi Bin Shatwan arrives in Malta from Misrata after resigning from his post.
- On 5 April Abdul Ati al-Obeidi is appointed Foreign Minister to replace Moussa Koussa.
- On 11 April NATO bombings halt the advance of Gaddafi's troops towards Ajdabiya.
- On 12 April the EU widens sanctions on Libya freezing the assets of 26 of the country's companies.
- On 13 April the contact group on Libya agrees in Doha to set up a "trust fund" that will provide resources for the rebels.

Tunisia

- On 8 April a Tunisian court issues an arrest warrant for the former Head of the General Directorate of National Security.
- On 10 April the brother of former President Ben Ali Slah Ben Ali is arrested in Sousse.

- On 11 April the High Commission for the Realisation of Revolution Objectives announces its decision to ban RCD members from running in elections for 23 years. The government later reduces this time period to ten years.
- On 11 April an arrest warrant is issued for the former RCD Secretary General Mohamed Ghariani.
- On 13 April the Justice Minister Lazhar Karoui Chebbi announces 44 charges to be filed against Ben Ali, his family and collaborators.

Algeria

- On 6 April public workers hold a day of strikes to demand pay rises and improvements in working conditions.
- On 12 April thousands of university students demonstrate in Algiers demanding improvements in the education system and the resignation of the Minister of Higher Education.
- On 15 April the President Abdelaziz Bouteflika announces plans to amend the constitution with the appointment of a constitutional commission that will draw up proposals that will be accepted by the Parliament or "through a popular referendum."
- On 15 April 14 soldiers are killed in a terrorist attack in Azazga. On the same day the army kills four AQIM terrorists in Tizi Ouzou. On 17 April five gendarmes are killed in two attacks in Bouira and Doukane. On 29 April four soldiers are killed in an attack in Damous.

Morocco

- On 14 April Mohammed VI pardons 148 prisoners and reduces the sentence of a further 42.
- On 24 April 27,000 people called by the February 20 Movement demonstrate to demand democratising measures, the creation of employment and the fight against corruption.
- On 26 April the government announces increases in civil service wages, the national minimum wage and pensions.
- On 28 April an AQIM bomb in the Café Argana in the Jemaa el-Fna Square in Marrakech leaves 16 dead.

Mauritania

- On 7 April the government postpones the elections scheduled for 24

April to replace a third of the 56 members of the Senate. On 3 April the Coordinator of the Democratic Opposition (COD) demands the measure be taken while there is no agreement between political parties to ensure electoral transparency.

- On 25 April the February 25 Movement calls for a "Day of Rage" in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou to condemn the lack of measures taken to improve the country's socio-economic situation.

European Union

- On 6 April the Parliament's Budget Committee approves the Parliament's budget for 2012 which increases by 2.3% compared with 2011, standing at 1.725 billion euros.
- On 13 April the European Commission adopts the Single Market Act, which contemplates the implementation of twelve strategies for its reactivation in 2012.
- On 26 April France and Italy present a common proposal to modify the Schengen Treaty that seeks to "adapt the Treaty to new needs" through the reinstatement of internal border controls in the Union.

Arab League

- On 20 April the Arab League delays its annual summit for the second time due to the problems of stability faced by a large number of its member countries.

May 2011

Spain holds local and regional elections which are won by the People's Party, in the same month that the social indignation over cuts in public spending comes to a head in the 15-M Movement. Italy holds regional elections, which end in defeat for the incumbent People of Freedom Party (PDL, liberal conservative). Local elections in Albania fuel tensions after the Democratic Party narrowly defeats the Socialist Party to win the mayoral office of Tirana. The Democratic Rally (DISY, liberal Christian democrat) wins the Cypriot legislative elections. In Malta, the right to divorce is approved in a referendum. The long-awaited arrest of Ratko Mladic puts Serbia on the path

to EU membership. In Greece, the demonstrations and unrest intensify following fresh cuts. In the Arab world, the bloody repression of the Syrian regime faces its first international sanctions. In Egypt, the trials against Mubarak and his family begin while the country attempts to resolve conflicts arising from the fall of the regime, particularly clashes between Muslims and Christians. The interim government in Tunisia decides to postpone the legislative elections scheduled for July until October.

Portugal

- On 3 May Portugal reaches an agreement with the EU and the IMF to receive 78 million euros over three years, as a financial rescue package. On 21 May the first part of the rescue is approved.

Spain

- On 1 May the Supreme Court bans the 254 candidate lists of the *Bildu* coalition deeming that there is sufficient evidence to connect the party with the terrorist group ETA. The decision means the party will be unable to participate in the May elections. On 5 May the Constitutional Court revokes the order from the Supreme Court allowing *Bildu* to run in the elections.
- On 15 May a demonstration is held in 50 Spanish cities called by the 15 May Movement, known as the "indignants," which demands a radical change in Spanish politics. In the days that follow, camps are set up in different cities.
- On 22 May Spain holds local and regional elections. The People's Party (PP, liberal-conservative) wins most votes in the local elections with a total of 37.5% against the PSOE's 27.5% and takes most of the provincial capitals. The legalised *Bildu* becomes the second most voted party in the Basque local elections, behind the Basque Nationalist Party (PNV, nationalist Christian democrat). In the regional elections, the PP wins in 13 of the 15 autonomous communities.

France

- On 14 May the managing director of the IMF Dominique Strauss-Kahn is ar-

rested in New York, accused of sexual assault. On 19 May Strauss-Kahn submits his resignation.

Italy

- On 15-16 May Italy holds the first round of its partial local elections to renew 11 provincial governments and 1,315 town councils. On 30 May the second round confirms the defeat of the PDL, which loses in major cities like Milan, Turin, Bologna, Naples, Cagliari, Trieste, Siena, Ravenna and Novara.
- On 31 May a boat carrying 900 people arrives in Sicily from Libya, adding to the 1,856 immigrants rescued in the Strait of Sicily on 28 May and the 210 rescued on 29. Including these rescues, over 4,600 immigrants have arrived on Italian shores throughout May.

Malta

- On 28 May Malta holds a national referendum on legalising divorce, which had been approved on 16 March. 53.2% of the population votes in favour of its legalisation.

Slovenia

- On 16 May the Party of Pensioners of Slovenia (DeSUS) leaves the coalition government in disagreement over the pension cuts proposed by the government of Borut Pahor. The departure leaves SD as a minority to push forward with its reform programme.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 13 May the Bosnian War Crimes Court sentences the former Bosnian Serb police officer Dragan Crnogorac to 13 years' imprisonment for his involvement in the death of ten Bosnians in Srebrenica in 1995.
- On 20 May six months after the general elections, the social democrat Denis Becirovic is voted the new Chairman of the lower house, and the committee entrusted with choosing the new federal government is appointed.
- On 25 May a Bosnian court sentences the former Bosnian general Enes Handzic to eight years' imprisonment for war crimes against Bosnian Croats in Bugojno in 1993.

Serbia

- On 26 May the former Bosnian Serb general Ratko Mladic, who stands accused of the Srebrenica massacre and has been on the run for 15 years, is arrested in Lazarevo. On 29 May thousands of people protest against the arrest in Belgrade and Bozanovici. On 31 May Mladic is extradited to The Hague.
- On 27 May Serbia and Romania boycott the 17th Summit of Central and Eastern European Countries in protest over the participation of the Kosovo President Atifete Jahjaga.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 12 May clashes are reported between police and Kosovo-Albanian citizens protesting over the presence in Kosovo of the chief Serbian negotiator Borko Stefanovic, who has travelled to Pristina for an informal meeting with Kosovo's negotiators.
- On 24 May the road block between Riberice and Zubin Potok reaches its sixth day. The block has been implemented by Kosovo-Serbs calling for the International Security Force in Kosovo (KFOR) to release the businessman Jevrem Pantelic, accused of tax fraud by Pristina after refusing to pay taxes to Kosovo.

FYROM

- On 1 May the coalition government, the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organisation- Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE, Christian democrat) announces that it will run in the early elections on 5 June together with the Democratic Renewal of Macedonia (DOM, social democrat), from the For a Better Macedonia coalition.

Albania

- On 8 May local elections are held. The decision to delay publishing the definitive results until the votes for the Mayor of Tirana are counted gives rise to clashes over the ensuing days between supporters of the PDS and the PS. On 23 May the election results in Tirana give victory to Lulzim Basha (PDS) sparking accusations of fraud from the PS.

Greece

- On 1 May thousands of Greeks protest against the government's austerity policies, on a day that coincides with a rail and sea transport strike.
- On 11 May 20,000 people demonstrate in Athens on the day of the general strike against the economic cuts. The protests coincide with a new EU and IMF audit mission prior to releasing the second tranche of the financial rescue package.
- On 24 May the parliamentary opposition rejects the government's new package of privatisations and tax increases.
- On 25 May 7,000 people gather in Syntagma Square in Athens and other cities to protest against the austerity measures. On 29 May new mobilisations take place coinciding with a new EU and IMF assessment mission.

Turkey

- On 4 May the convoy of the Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan is attacked by the PKK terrorist organisation in Kastamonu.
- On 6 May police arrest 22 suspected members of the PKK who may have been preparing terrorist actions for the June elections.
- On 12 May 12 terrorists and a soldier are killed in clashes between the army and PKK members attempting to enter Sirnak from Iraq.

Cyprus

- On 21 May the main opposition party, the Democratic Rally (DISY, liberal Christian democrat), wins the legislative elections, obtaining 34.3% of the votes, followed by the governing Progressive Party of Working People (AKEL, communist) with 32.7%.

Syria

- On 6 May despite the mass arrests ordered by the government, protests take place on the so-called "Friday of Challenge." Throughout the month, the army takes control of cities like Baniyas, Homs, Daraa, Deir al-Zur, Rastan and Talbiseh to quell the daily demonstrations.
- On 9 May the EU approves its first sanctions against Syria that include an

arms embargo, a foreign assets freeze and a travel ban for 13 senior officials.

- On 18 May the US announces sanctions against the Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and most of his ministers.

Jordan

- On 26 May the Justice and Health Ministers resign because of their involvement, together with the Interior Minister, in Khalid Shaheen's escape to London in February. The magnate was to serve three years in prison after being found guilty of corruption and bribery.
- On 27 May demonstrations are staged in the cities of Maan and Tafileh demanding reforms in the political system, economic improvements and the end of corruption.

Egypt

- On 5 May the Giza Criminal Court sentences the former Interior Minister Habib el-Adly to 12 years' imprisonment for money laundering, abuse of power and misappropriation of funds.
- On 10 May the former Tourism Minister Zuheir Garranah is sentenced to five years' imprisonment for corruption.
- On 13 May thousands of Egyptians gather in Tahrir Square calling for national unity after clashes between Muslims and Coptic Christians on 7 May, which left 12 dead, 230 injured and 190 arrested. The protesters also demand that democratic reforms continue. On 15 May at least 50 people are injured in fresh clashes between Muslims and Copts.
- On 27 May crowds gather in Tahrir Square for the "second Friday of Rage," demanding that the trials of the old regime's leaders be accelerated, the end of corruption, the postponement of the elections scheduled for September and the formation of a civilian presidential council to replace the current military junta.

Libya

- On 1 May the Gaddafi troops' siege on Misrata is stepped up with new attacks aimed at disabling the city's port.
- On 5 May the Libya Contact Group meet in Rome to approve a "Temporary Financial Mechanism" to provide the NTC with financial support.

- On 8 May the rebels, with NATO support, manage to break the weeks-long pro-Gaddafi forces' siege of Misrata.
- On 17 May representatives of 25 local councils meet in Benghazi to reiterate their support for the NTC.
- On 24 May NATO launches its biggest offensive on Tripoli, reaching the presidential complex of Bab al-Azizia.

Tunisia

- On 4 May the Sousse Court charges the deposed President Ben Ali, his wife and nephew Kais Ben Ali with plotting against internal security and several deaths during the revolution.
- On 6-7 May police quell demonstrations in the capital calling for the resignation of the interim government.
- On 19 May representatives of all the political parties demonstrate in the capital to defend stability and national unity and condemn the first AQIM attack after the fall of Ben Ali, which took place the previous day in the border town of Rouhia and left two soldiers and two terrorists dead.
- On 22 May the President of the Independent Electoral Commission Kamel Jendoubi announces that the elections scheduled for 24 July have been postponed until the 16 October.

Algeria

- On 2 May Abdelaziz Bouteflika asks the Speaker of the Senate Abdelkader Bensalah to form a committee to carry out the constitutional reforms announced in April.
- On 6 May a bomb in el-Kennar, Jijel, kills five soldiers of the People's National Army (ANP). On the same day, the journalist Rabah Nezzar is killed in a terrorist ambush in Boumerdes. On 8 May a terrorist protected by the 2005 Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation is found dead in Dellys. On 13 May seven soldiers and three terrorists are killed in an attack on a barracks in Tizarane, Jijel.
- On 17 May port workers go on strike demanding salary and contractual improvements.
- On 20 May Algeria, Mauritania, Mali and Niger agree in Bamako on the creation of a joint security force of 75,000 soldiers under the mandate of the Joint

Military Staff Committee of the Sahel Region (CEMOC), to step up the fight against AQIM and illegal trafficking.

- On 22 May in Tizi Ouzou a general strike is called to protest against the kidnapping of a young man in Beni Douala on 12 May, which takes the AQIM's civilian kidnappings to 63 since 2001.
- On 30 May rail workers go on strike bringing Algiers to a standstill and demanding pay and contractual improvements.

Morocco

- On 1 May 10,000 people participate in a march in Rabat calling for greater political and economic reforms.
- On 8 May over 5,000 people gather in Marrakech called by the February 20 Movement to demand a democratic constitution, the dissolution of the current Parliament and the release of political prisoners, as well as to condemn the attack on the Jemaa el-Fna Square.
- On 15 May Fouad Ali Himma, the founder of the Authenticity and Modernity Party (PAM) announces that he will step down from his positions in the party, one of the demands of the February 20 Movement.
- On 22 May the police disperse two large gatherings in Rabat and Casablanca which have not been authorised by the Interior Minister, against corruption and in favour of greater democratic reforms.
- On 29 May new demonstrations called by the February 20 Movement are dispersed in Casablanca and Sale.

Mauritania

- On 6 May the University of Nouakchott has to interrupt its activity after violent ethnic clashes between Arabic and French speakers, in a repeat of events that took place between 23 April and 2 May.
- On 8 May secondary school teachers begin a three-day strike to demand health cover, salary increases and access to housing. On 22 May teachers go on strike again over the Education Ministry's failure to act.
- On 17 May public health workers end the strike that had been ongoing since the beginning of April after reaching an agreement with the Health Ministry.

European Union

- On 4 May the European Commission proposes modifying the Schengen Treaty as a temporary and extraordinary measure in order to allow greater freedom to control the Union's internal borders should this be needed. On 11 May Denmark announces that it will permanently reintroduce customs inspections at its borders. On 13 May the European Home Affairs Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom threatens Denmark with sanctions for infringing the Schengen Treaty.

Arab League

- On 15 May the Arab League unanimously elects the Egyptian Foreign Minister Nabil el-Arabi as its new Secretary General.

June 2011

Portugal holds early elections which are won by the PSD. The French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde is appointed managing director of the IMF. New deficit reduction measures are approved in Spain and Italy, where the PDL government also lose the national referendum on the "legitimate impediment" law, the return of nuclear energy and the public water supply. Croatia finalises the EU accession negotiations. In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia the coalition government VMRO-DPMNE confirms its victory in the parliamentary elections. The climate of strikes and demonstrations continues uninterrupted in Greece, where a request for a second bailout is already being outlined. In Turkey, the Justice and Development Party (AKP, conservative liberal) wins the parliamentary elections with an absolute majority. In Syria, army operations in Idlib force a mass exodus towards Turkey. In Libya, diplomatic talks are stepped up to achieve a resolution for the conflict. In Egypt, new protests take place in Tahrir Square.

Portugal

- On 5 June the PSD wins the early parliamentary elections with 38% of the votes and 105 MPs. Pedro Passos

Coelho succeeds the socialist Jose Socrates as Prime Minister, who announces his departure from the PS.

Spain

- On 9 June protests take place organised by the 15-M Movement and clashes break out in front of the national Parliament in Madrid and the regional parliaments in Valencia and Barcelona. On 19 June thousands demonstrate in the major cities against the political system.
- On 27 June the pension reform is approved which increases the retirement age and the number of years of contribution.

France

- On 14 June the National Assembly rejects a law proposal from the socialist opposition to approve gay marriage.
- On 20 June the former State Secretary of Public Affairs Georges Tron is arrested for questioning over the accusations of rape that led to his resignation in May.
- On 28 June the Finance Minister Christine Lagarde is appointed the new managing director of the International Monetary Fund.

Monaco

- On 16 June Monaco launches the Strategic Council for Investment Attractiveness, which is added to a further two new entities created in 2011 to increase the competitiveness of the principality, the Monaco Business Office and the Monaco Institute of Statistics.

Italy

- On 8 June police arrest 142 people suspected of belonging to the *Ndrangheta* in Turin, Milan, Modena and Reggio Calabria.
- On 12-13 June Italy votes in a referendum on four key issues: the public votes to revoke the "Legitimate Impediment" Law, against the return of nuclear energy, against privatisation of the water supply and the possibility that private water companies can add 7% of invested capital onto the bills.
- On 15 June the *faccendiere* (intermediary) Luigi Bisignani is placed under house arrest accused of leading an il-

legal corruption network known as *P4*, whose ramifications reach the highest levels of power.

- On 21 June the government wins a motion of confidence proposed in Parliament in its economic stimulus measures.
- On 30 June a new crisis caused by the accumulation of rubbish in Naples and its subsequent protests forces the government to approve a decree that allows the refuse to be moved to other regions.
- On 30 June the Council of Ministers approves a new public spending austerity package that will mean cuts of 2 billion euros in 2011 and 5 billion in 2012.
- On 30 June the Coast Guard reports that 1,164 immigrants fleeing from Libya have arrived in Lampedusa in the last two days.

Slovenia

- On 5 June in a referendum 70% of the voters reject the government's plans to increase the retirement age from 60 to 65.
- On 27 June the second largest party of Borut Pahor's coalition government, the Zares Party (centre-left), abandons the cabinet over its disagreement with the austerity measures proposed by the SD.

Croatia

- On 24 June the European Council approves the closure of negotiations with Croatia making its accession possible for 2013.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 30 June the lack of support from Bosnian Serb MPs prevents Slavo Kucic from being appointed as Chairman of the Council of Ministers as was recommended by the collegial presidency on 14 June.

Serbia

- On 3 June the trial begins in The Hague of Ratko Mladic, for the Srebrenica massacre.

FYROM

- On 5 June the early parliamentary elections end with victory for the

VMRO-DPMNE, despite the governing coalition losing the absolute majority, with 56 seats down from 63, while the SDSM increases its representation from 18 to 43 seats.

- On 20 June thousands of people demonstrate in Skopje against police brutality, in one of many acts of protest since the death of the young Martin Neskovski in a protest during the 5 June elections.

Greece

- On 5 June nearly 50,000 people demonstrate in Athens against the government's austerity programme. The protests come a day before the approval of deficit reduction measures, which include new privatisations and tax increases, laws for cheaper dismissals and salary reductions.
- On 15 June Greece's third general strike of the year brings the country to a halt and sparks clashes and mass demonstrations in Athens. Added to the protests is the movement of the Greek "indignants" which have been camped in Syntagma Square for 21 days.
- On 17 June George Papandreou announces a cabinet reshuffle. The Defence Minister Evangelos Venizelos moves to Finance Minister replacing Giorgos Papakonstantinou, who in turn moves to occupy the position of Environment and Energy Minister.
- On 22 June George Papandreou wins a confidence vote to implement the austerity measures package which would allow the country to access a new part of the bailout. In Syntagma Square, 10,000 people demonstrate against the government.
- On 28-29 June the fourth general strike paralyses transport, hospitals, banks and the Public Administration.
- On 30 June clashes continue between demonstrators and the police in Syntagma Square. On the same day Parliament ratifies the bill allowing the government's austerity measures to be applied as of 1 July, with 155 votes in favour, 136 against and five abstentions.

Turkey

- On 12 June Turkey holds parliamentary elections in which the AKP obtain an absolute majority with 49.9% of the

votes. In second place the Republican People's Party (CHP, Kemalist) obtain 25.9%.

- On 14 June three PKK terrorists are killed in clashes with the army in Imrali, a day before the end of the deadline set by the PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan for Ankara to begin talks with the group.
- On 26 June clashes are reported in Istanbul between the police and demonstrators protesting against the Election Board's decision to remove the seat of the imprisoned MP Hatip Dicle, accused of spreading terrorist propaganda. Two CHP MPs and another from the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP, Turkish nationalist), are also removed from their positions. On 29 June the CHP and the BDP boycott the parliament's opening session.

Cyprus

- On 22 June Andreas Moleskis, who is going to be in charge of Cypriot EU Presidency in 2012, resigns over his alleged involvement in a corruption scandal.

Syria

- On 6 June the Prime Minister Adel Safar orders the creation of a committee to draft a new law proposal authorising the formation of new parties.
- On 6 June 120 demonstrators are killed in clashes with police in Jisr al-Shughour. On 20 June the number of people fleeing from the province of Idlib to Turkey to protect themselves from the army stands at 10,000.
- On 20 June Bashar al-Assad assures that the revolution is fruit of a "foreign conspiracy," and once again offers a range of democratising measures. In response, thousands of Syrians take to the streets demanding his resignation, while the violent repression continues throughout the month.
- On 21 June Bashar al-Assad decrees a new general amnesty.
- On 22 June the EU widens its sanctions against Syria.

Lebanon

- On 13 June the formation of the new government of the Prime Minister Najib Mikati is announced after five months of political disputes since Mikati was ap-

pointed in January with Hezbollah's backing. Key members of the 30-strong government include: Mohammed Safadi who returns as Finance Minister, Fayez Ghun as Defence Minister and Marwan Charbel as Interior Minister.

- On 30 June an STL delegation in Beirut delivered the indictment to the Lebanese State Prosecutor against four senior members of Hezbollah for the assassination of the President Rafiq Hariri.

Jordan

- On 7 June the Opposition Parties Higher Coordination Committee rejects the proposal of a new electoral law, deeming it insufficient. The bill, submitted by the National Dialogue Committee, includes a single-member constituency system in which each voter votes for their province, increases the number of seats, at national level, from 120 to 130 and stipulates the formation of an independent commission to oversee the electoral processes.
- On 27 June the Parliament votes against trying the Prime Minister Marouf al-Bakhit and 17 ministers of his first cabinet – with the exception of the former Tourism Minister Osama Dabas – for abuse of power and corruption after authorising the construction of a casino in 2007. The project was brought to a halt when it was discovered that the contract violated legislation. The cancellation of the contract led to state losses of some 2 billion dollars. This decision prompts several MPs to resign.

Egypt

- On 12 June the Salafist party Al-Nour ("the light") is legalised.
- On 14 June 13 political forces, among them the Muslim Brotherhood and the platform of Mohamed ElBaradei, create an alliance to present a unified list for the September elections with a view to creating a national unity government.
- On 15 June the Military Junta lifts the curfew, which has been in effect since January.
- On 25 June the former Trade and Industry Minister Rachid Mohamed Rachid is sentenced to five years' imprisonment for embezzlement and misappropriation of funds.

- On 28-29 June there is further unrest in Tahrir Square when the army disperses crowds calling for those responsible for the deaths during the Revolution to be tried more quickly and demanding the transference of power from the Military Junta.

Libya

- On 7 June the Labour Minister Al-Amin Manfour confirms in Geneva that he is defecting from the regime.
- On 9 June Abu Dhabi hosts the third meeting of the Libya Contact Group, which discusses the concession of funds and humanitarian aid to the NTC and a transition plan for after the Gaddafi regime. Meanwhile, fighting continues throughout the month between the Libyan regime and the NATO-supported rebels.
- On 12-13 June the United Arab Emirates and Germany recognise the NTC as a legitimate representative of the Libyan people, thereby joining France, Qatar, the United Kingdom, Italy, Gambia, Malta, Jordan, Senegal, Spain, Australia and the US.
- On 27 June the International Penal Court orders the arrest of Muammar el-Gaddafi, his son Saif al-Islam and his brother-in-law and military intelligence chief Abdullah el-Senussi, for crimes against humanity.

Tunisia

- On 4 June five people are killed in fresh clashes in Metlaoui during protests by employees of the phosphate company Gafsa, which began in March over the company's recruitment policy.
- On 8 June the 23 October is announced as the official date for the constituent assembly elections.
- On 20 June Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali and Leila Trabelsi are sentenced *in absentia* to 35 years' imprisonment for the embezzlement of public funds and the illegal possession of jewels and money.
- On 26 June the government announces its decision not to allow members of the dissolved RCD to run or vote in the upcoming elections.
- On 27 June the President of the Islamist movement *Ennahda* ("Renaissance"), Rachid Ghannouchi, confirms his party's withdrawal from the commit-

tee overseeing the democratic reforms, declaring that it lacks legitimacy.

Algeria

- On 3-4 June security forces arrest four members of the el-Ansar Brigades, with links to AQIM, in Boumerdes.
- On 4 June four police officers are killed when a bomb explodes on the road between Naciria and Bordj Me-naïel.
- On 7 June clashes break out in Ouargla between police and the local population during a youth protest against the high levels of unemployment.
- On 21 June two AQIM terrorists are killed and another two are captured during an army operation in Illizi.
- On 25 June two soldiers are killed when a device of the AQIM explodes in Beni Zid.

Morocco

- On 17 June Mohammed VI presents the constitutional reform proposal that: reduces the King's powers giving greater authority to the government and the Parliament; guarantees freedom of religious belief; and makes Berber an official language.

Mauritania

- On 6 and 15 June employees of the state-run media in Nouakchott demand the payment of delayed pay rises, approved in 2009.

European Union

- On 8 June the European Commission presents a proposal of 210 million euros in compensation for European farmers' losses in the so-called "cucumber crisis," which began when the authorities of Hamburg wrongly claimed that imports of cucumbers and other agricultural products were the source of an outbreak of E. coli-0104 bacteria, which caused 25 deaths in May.
- On 23-24 June the European Council gives the green light to Croatia's EU accession, approves the revision of the European Neighbourhood Policy, appoints Mario Draghi as President of the ECB as of 1 November 2011, approves the guidelines for a European immigra-

tion policy and the adaptation of the Schengen Space in exceptional circumstances, and agrees to draft a second rescue package for Greece.

- On 27 June Iceland begins accession negotiations.

July 2011

In Spain there is a major cabinet reshuffle the same month that early elections are called. The Italian Parliament approves an ambitious package of measures to reduce public spending by 7.9 billion euros. In Croatia, the former President Ivo Sanader is sent to prison on charges of corruption. Serbia overcomes one of its last obstacles to start EU accession negotiations with the arrest of Goran Hadzic, the last fugitive from the Bosnia War wanted by the ICTY. The other major stumbling block, the resolution of the Kosovo issue, suffers a major setback over the border crisis in Brnjak and Jarinje. Greece receives the fifth tranche of its rescue package. In Cyprus, the explosion of an arsenal in the Evangelos Florakis Naval Base prompts protests and government resignations. Tunisia decrees curfews in Gafsa and Sidi Bouzid due to the instability there. In Egypt, protestors continue to gather in Tahrir Square. In Libya, the NTC rebels slowly consolidate their advance towards Tripoli supported by NATO. In Syria, fierce repression of the Baath Party and the mass arrests continue but without abating the protests. In Jordan, the protests are stepped up over Abdullah II's failure to carry out the announced reforms, while in Morocco the constitutional reform proposal is approved in a national referendum.

Portugal

- On 24 July the PS elects Antonio Jose Seguro as its new Secretary General to succeed Jose Socrates.

Spain

- On 8 July the first vice-President, Interior Minister and government spokesperson Alfredo Perez Rubalcaba, announces his departure from the government a day before being announced as a candidate in the presidential elections. On 11 July a reshuffle of the main positions in the cabinet is announced.

▪ On 20 July Francisco Camps resigns as President of the Valencian Community to stand trial in the *Gürtel* corruption case.

- On 24 July a new demonstration by the "indignants" is organised in Madrid demanding changes in the country's political and economic situation.
- On 29 July Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero calls early elections for 20 November 2011.

France

- On 12 July on a visit to Afghanistan, Nicolas Sarkozy announces that France will withdraw a quarter of its troops by the end of 2012.
- On 13 July the deadline is up for presenting candidates for the socialist party's primary elections to vote for the candidate for the 2012 presidential elections. The six candidates are Martine Aubry, François Hollande, Segolene Royal, Arnaud Montebourg, Manuel Valls and Jean-Michel Baylet.

Monaco

- On 2 July Alberto II is married to the South African Charlene Wittstock.
- On 7 July Monaco approves a reform of the Real Estate Property Law, with tax cuts of 7.5 to 4.5%.

Italy

- On 1 July Gaetano Riina, the brother of Toto Riina, is arrested in Sicily, suspected of being the new head of the Corleone clan.
- On 14 July 45 members of the Aquino-Coluccio clan from the *'Ndrangheta* are arrested in Italy, Spain and the Netherlands.
- On 15 July the Parliament approves the austerity package presented by the government that foresees a 7.9-billion reduction in public spending over the next three years.
- On 20 July the Parliament approves the request of the Neapolitan State Prosecutor to arrest PDL MP Alfonso Papa, in connection with the *P4* corruption scandal.

Malta

- On 25 July the Parliament approves the law that legalises divorce.

Croatia

- On 18 July Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia hold their first three-way summit to strengthen cooperation within the European accession process.
- On 18 July the former President Ivo Sanader is sent to Remetinec prison after being extradited from Austria, where he had been under arrest since December 2010 pending his trial for corruption.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 5 July the ICC Appeals chamber rules that the Netherlands is responsible for the death in 1995 of three Bosnians in Srebrenica, while the town was under the protection of Dutch UN troops.

Montenegro

- On 12 July the results are published of the Montenegrin census. The Serbian community rejects them, believing them to be manipulated.
- On 18 July Svetozar Marovic, the vice-President of the governing DPS, submits his resignation on discovering that the National Security Agency was monitoring his family's movements because of his brother's involvement in the "Zavala" property development scandal.

Serbia

- On 5 July Serbia and Albania sign visa liberalisation agreements.
- On 6 July Boris Tadic makes his first visit to Bosnia, which is decisive in the normalisation of bilateral relations.
- On 10 July the OSCE adopts the resolution presented by Serbia requesting the opening of an international investigation into the trafficking of organs during the conflict in Kosovo.
- On 20 July Serbia arrests the former Croatian Serb general Goran Hadzic, who was extradited to The Hague on 22 July.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 2 July after five months of negotiations, Serbia and Kosovo sign an agreement that allows border crossings with identity documents and Kosovo number plates and the issue of prop-

erty deeds and academic qualifications recognised by both parties.

- On 20 July Kosovo announces the prohibition of all Serbian imports and the introduction of a 10% tax on Bosnian imports in response to Belgrade and Sarajevo's block on Kosovo exports. On 26 July Kosovo security forces intervene to take back control of the Jarinje and Brnjak border posts, taken by Kosovo Serbs demonstrators to allow the entry of Serbian goods. On 27 July the situation requires the involvement of the KFOR.

FYROM

- On 19 July the Parliament approves the official closure of four war crimes cases during the 2001 conflict that were handed over to the ICTY.
- On 26 July the Court of Skopje pronounces the television channel A1-TV bankrupt.

Albania

- On 8 July after two months of disputes, the Central Election Commission confirms Lulzim Basha as the new Mayor of Tirana after rejecting the fifth and last appeal by the PS.
- On 19 July Sali Berisha announces a cabinet reshuffle.

Greece

- On 8 July the IMF concludes the fourth audit of Greece's economic results, which prompts the release of 3.2 billion euros, in what constitutes the fifth tranche of the first rescue package of the Greek economy.

Turkey

- On 6 July Recep Tayyip Erdogan announces the composition of the new government, which includes 26 ministries, nine more than the previous one.
- On 11 July after almost two weeks of boycott, the CHP MPs are sworn into their seats after reaching an agreement with the governing AKP on the arrests of elected CHP members.
- On 14 July 13 soldiers are killed in a PKK ambush in Diyarbakir.
- On 30 July military chiefs resign over a dispute caused by the government's refusal to promote any officer allegedly involved in plotting a coup.

Cyprus

- On 7 July the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon meets in Geneva with the President of Cyprus and the leader of Northern Cyprus to reactivate negotiations after "the three worst months" since it began in September 2008.
- On 11 July a fire sets light to a shipment of gunpowder confiscated in February 2009 from the ship *Monchegorsk*, suspected of supplying arms and other material to Syria from Iran, causing an explosion in the Evangelos Florakis Naval Base that kills 13 people and damages the country's main power station. On 12 July the Defence Minister Costas Papacostas and the general Petros Tsalikides resign and 10,000 people demonstrate in Nicosia calling for the government's resignation. On 18 June the Foreign Minister Markos Kyprianou resigns. On 28 July Demetris Christofias forces the government's resignation.
- On 19 July, during a visit to Northern Cyprus, Recep Tayyip Erdogan confirms that Turkey will freeze its relations with the EU if no agreement has been reached regarding the division of the island before the Cypriot six-month EU Presidency.

Syria

- On 4 July the army enters Hama.
- On 10 July the government opens national dialogue in Damascus. The main opposition groups boycott the talks because of the ongoing violent repression.
- On 15 July the "Prisoner of Freedom" Friday in Damascus becomes the largest protest against the regime since the start of the revolution.
- On 25-26 July the government adopts two new laws regarding the electoral system and the formation of political parties in an attempt to pacify the protests, which continue on a daily basis and which by the end of July have left 1,600 dead.

Lebanon

- On 14 July seven Estonian tourists kidnapped in March in Zahle, the Valley of Bekaa, by the Movement for Renewal and Reform, are handed over to the French embassy in Beirut.
- On 26 July six French peacekeepers from the United Nations Interim Force

in Lebanon (UNIFIL) are injured in an attack in Sidon.

Jordan

- On 2 July, a day after the “Friday of Shame” protests, Abdullah II approves a cabinet reshuffle that affects the main ministries. Despite the changes, the demonstrations continue, such as that on 15 July which ended with violent clashes.

Egypt

- On 8 July a large-scale “Friday of Determination” takes place in Tahrir Square urging the Military Junta to accelerate the reforms demanded by the revolution and to put an end to the military trials against civilians. The protests continue throughout the month despite the successive resignations of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Foreign Affairs and Industry and Finance Ministers.
- On 12 July the Penal Court of Cairo sentences the former Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif to one year in prison for embezzlement of public funds. On the same charges, the former Interior Minister Habib el-Adly and Finance Minister Youssef Boutros-Ghali are sentenced to five and ten years respectively.
- On 20 July the High Council of the Armed Forces announces the approval of a new electoral law, which is opposed by most parties.
- On 21 July the 18 members of the new government take up their positions. On 23-24 July violent protests erupt in Cairo against the new government.

Libya

- On 7 July the rebels take control of all the mountainous western area and come within 50 kilometres of Tripoli.
- On 15 July Istanbul hosts the fourth meeting of the Libya Contact Group, which decides to step up the military pressure on the regime and transfer control of political negotiations to the UN Special Envoy to Libya Abdelilah al-Khatib. The countries in the meeting declare the NTC as the legitimate government of Libya.
- On 18 July the Libyan rebels claim to have broken Gaddafi’s defensive lines in Brega, which has been under the regime’s control since March.

- On 28 July the Chairman of the NTC Mustafa Abdul Jalil announces that the commander in chief leader of the rebel forces Abdul Fatah Younis has been assassinated.

Tunisia

- On 4 July Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali is sentenced *in absentia* for the second time to another 15 years in prison for possession of arms, narcotics and archaeological artefacts. On 28 July he is sentenced for a third time to a further 16 years’ imprisonment for two cases of property fraud.
- On 11 July the former Justice Minister Bechir Tekkari is charged with corruption and abuse of power.
- On 13 July the government enforces an indefinite curfew on Gafsa.
- On 16 July security forces stop a demonstration in Tunisia demanding the resignation of the Justice and Interior Ministers and the re-establishment of the High Commission for the Realisation of Revolution Objectives.
- On 18 July a curfew is decreed in Sidi Bouzid to put an end to the anti-government protests.

Algeria

- On 6 July temporary teachers demonstrate in Algiers demanding more permanent posts in public education.
- On 11 July the workers of *Air Algérie* go on strike demanding pay rises, the second in a month. On 17 July, facing huge losses, the company initiates talks with trade unions.
- On 12 July Tunisia and Algeria sign an important agreement that establishes their sea border.
- On 16 July two AQIM terrorists are killed in two suicide attacks on a police station in Bordj Menaïel, in which two other people are killed. On 18 July seven AQIM terrorists are killed in an army operation in Tisdrine.

Morocco

- On 1 July Morocco holds a national referendum on the proposal for a new constitution that supports the political reforms announced by Mohammed VI. The “yes” vote wins with 98.5% of the votes, in a referendum with a notably high turnout at 72%. Throughout the

month, demonstrations called by the February 20 Movement or the Justice and Charity movement continue to condemn the result of the referendum and its irregularities.

Mauritania

- On 1 July a demonstration called by the February 25 Movement takes place in Nouakchott, in protest against the national census, which is considered as discriminatory against the black population.
- On 4 July 15 AQIM terrorists are killed in an attack on an army garrison in Bassiknou.

European Union

- On 1 July Poland assumes the six-month rotating EU presidency. The challenges it faces include: tightening fiscal discipline to stabilise the eurozone and accelerate the economic recovery; strengthening the common market; building relations with the EU’s Eastern neighbours; advancing in EU enlargement towards the Balkans; and improving European immigration policy.
- On 1 July Denmark becomes the first state of the Schengen Space to reintroduce permanent border controls.
- On 11 July the Finance Ministers of the eurozone agree to increase the flexibility of the European Financial Stability Facility. On 21 July the Heads of State and government of the eurozone agree on the second rescue package for Greece, with the participation of the IMF.

Arab League

- On 14 July the Arab League approves the PNA’s plans to request full membership before the United Nations.

August 2011

Portugal, Spain, France and Italy approve new measures in August to tackle the crisis. In Kosovo the situation worsens in the Serbian majority north. The former Kosovo Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj appears again before the ICTY. In Turkey the attacks of the PKK terrorist organisation intensify. In Egypt the trial against Hosni Mubarak and his sons,

Alaa and Gamal begins. In Tunisia, demonstrations take place calling for the resignation of the government, accused of sluggishness and indecisiveness in the trials against the former regime and in the protection of the goals of the Revolution. In Libya, after a final month of fighting, NTC troops enter Tripoli. In Syria, the decrees aimed at legalising political parties and holding free elections seem to have come too late to counteract the revolution that is spreading throughout the country.

Portugal

- On 2 August Portugal re-privatises the BPN with its sale to the International Credit Bank, after stabilising the entity's accounts with 2.4 billion euros – 1.4% of GDP.
- On 12 August Portugal's 6 to 23% VAT increase on electricity and gas forecast for 2012 is brought forward to October. The move aims to collect an additional 100 million euros, which will help to reduce the deficit to the projected 5.9% by the end of 2011. The measure coincides with the end of the European Commission, IMF and ECB's review mission, which concludes with the release of the second tranche of the Portuguese rescue package of 11.5 billion euros.

Spain

- On 19 August the government announces a decrease in VAT on the purchase of new housing and additional austerity measures that seek to save 5 billion euros.

France

- On 4 August the Court of Justice of the Republic orders an investigation into the current IMF director and former French Finance Minister Christine Lagarde over alleged abuse of authority and misuse of public funds in the arbitration of the Tapie case against *Crédit Lyonnais* in 2007.
- On 23 August the Agriculture Minister Bruno Le Maire pledges millions in aid to help deal with the serious crisis that is affecting the agricultural sector.
- On 24 August the government approves the creation of a temporary 3% tax on annual incomes above 500,000

euros, which will be removed when France reduces its deficit to 3% of the GDP in 2013.

Italy

- On 3 August a draft law is approved in a parliamentary committee that punishes anyone wearing face-covering items in public spaces.
- On 3 August a boat from Libya with 300 people aboard is taken to Lampedusa by the Coast Guard. According to Interior Ministry sources, the boat had asked for help from a nearby NATO ship but received no response.
- On 12 August the government approves a new austerity package of 45.5 billion euros aimed at balancing the budget by 2013. This is added to the first package, which came to a total of 79 billion euros. It includes a reduction of 54,000 local government jobs, territorial reorganisation, privatising certain public services, a tax increase on high earners and anti-fraud measures.

Malta

- On 3 August the priests Charles Pulis and Godwin Scerri are sentenced to five and six years' imprisonment for sexually abusing eleven minors from an orphanage in the 1980s. The ruling prompts the Archbishop of Malta to apologise to the victims.
- On 16 August a group of illegal immigrants clash with the police leaving 19 injured in a detention centre.

Slovenia

- On 10 August the Prime Minister Borut Pahor accepts the resignation of the Interior Minister and President of the Liberal-Democrats (LDS) Katarina Kresal, after the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption announces that it suspects Kresal of illegally leasing a building to house the National Bureau of Investigation.

Croatia

- On 5 August the commemorative acts for Operation Storm, which led in 1995 to the extradition of some 250,000 Serbs, ignite tensions between Zagreb and Belgrade.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 8 August Bosnian farmers go on protest blocking the country's major roads to demand more help from the government.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 2 August NATO announces that it is sending troops to help the KFOR deal with the escalation of violence in Kosovska Mitrovica over the Serbian border controls.
- On 10 August Sabit Geci, former commander of the KLA, is sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment by the Court of Mitrovica for war crimes against Kosovo Albanians accused of collaborating with Serbia during the Kosovo conflict.

FYROM

- On 5 August, at the request of the Democratic Union for Integration (DUI, Albanian nationalist) and in virtue of the Ohrid Agreement's Amnesty Law, a parliamentary majority votes in favour of not taking legal action against four members of the National Liberation Army, involved in war crimes during the 2001 conflict.

Albania

- On 22 August the *Albanian Chrome* mine and its workers reach an agreement that puts an end to the near month-long strike demanding better working conditions.

Greece

- On 16 August Finland announces an agreement with Greece by which Athens will offer collateral, which, together with its interests, covers Finland's part of the Greek economy's second rescue package. Austria, the Netherlands and Slovakia, announce that they will ask for a similar agreement.
- On 29 August *Eurobank* and *Alpha*, the two largest Greek banks, announce that they are merging, with the participation of the Qatari fund *Paramount*.

Turkey

- On 11 August the PKK terrorist organisation blows up a section of the gas

pipeline that connects Turkey with Iran in Agri. The attack follows a similar act of sabotage committed on 3 August.

- On 17 August 12 soldiers are killed in four PKK attacks in Cucurka. The Turkish air force responds by bombing PKK positions in northern Iraq. On 29 August 13 days of bombing sets the death toll at 160.

Cyprus

- On 5 August Demetris Christofias forms a new government in response to the ongoing protests over the explosion at the Evangelos Florakis Naval Base in Juy.

- On 10 August the Finance Minister Kikis Kazamias announces a second deficit reduction package aimed at saving 600 million euros, which is approved by Parliament on 26 August. The first package, announced on 22 July, already outlined major spending cuts and the privatisation of the Cypriot stock exchange.

Syria

- On 2 August the EU imposes new sanctions on key figures of the Syrian regime. On 3 August the United Nations Security Council approves a non-binding declaration that condemns the violation of human rights in Syria and demands an immediate end to be put to the violence.

- On 4 August Bashar al-Assad approves two legislative decrees on Party Law and on the General Elections Law, to "open the way to a multi-party system." The legalisation of religious, regional or tribal parties is excluded. Both Western governments and the opposition reject the measure as long as there is no end to the violence which continues throughout the country.

- On 5 August a large-scale "Solidarity with Hama Friday," which takes place in different cities, condemns the over 200 recent deaths in Hama.

- On 18 August the US approves new sanctions which freeze financial assets and prohibit the import of Syrian crude oil.

- On 22 August during a visit of the UN evaluation mission to Homs, Syrian security forces kill three demonstrators, breaking the promise made four days before to put an end to the violence. On 23 August the Human Rights Council

agrees on to dispatch an independent commission of inquiry.

- On 31 August the attorney general of Hama Adnan Bakkour resigns in protest against the repression of the regime. At the end of August the number of people killed in the protests that began in March has risen to 2,200.

Lebanon

- On 17 August the STL lifts the gagging order on the accusation against four members of Hezbollah, for the assassination in 2005 of the President Rafiq Hariri.

- On 30 August the United Nations Security Council unanimously approves the one-year extension of the UNIFIL mandate.

Jordan

- On 10 August the Prime Minister Marouf al-Bakhit and 13 members of his cabinet between 2005 and 2007, are cleared of all charges related to a controversial Casino deal by the Parliament's anti-corruption Committee.

Egypt

- On 3 August the trial begins against Hosni Mubarak charged with corruption, fraud, abuse of power and murder. Mubarak, who risks being sentenced to death, denies all charges.

- On 5 August the Egyptian Trade Union Federation, one of the central pillars of the Mubarak regime, is dismantled.

Libya

- On 1 August with NATO support, the rebels take control of Zintan.

- On 10 August the EU approves a fifth package of sanctions measures against the Libyan regime.

- On 20 August the rebels arrive at the outskirts of Tripoli. Gaddafi sends a recorded message urging his followers to resist. The NTC says it has taken control of the oil facilities in Brega and Zawiya.

- On 21 August the rebels enter Tripoli in the so-called "final offensive," supported by NATO. At the last minute, members of Gaddafi's personal guard and various high ranking military offices give themselves in.

- On 25 August the United Nations Security Council unblocks 1 billion euros of Gaddafi's foreign assets, for the reconstruction of the State.

Tunisia

- On 12 August a Tunisian court convicts 25 family members of Ben Ali, sentencing them to between 4 months and 6 years' imprisonment for crimes of forgery, aiding the deposed President to escape, illegal possession of currency and possessing and dealing in narcotics.

- On 15 August the police use force to quell a demonstration in Tunisia demanding that the revolutionary objectives be fulfilled and the resignation of the current government, following the release of the former Justice and Transport Ministers Bechir Tekkari and Abderrahim Zouari and the flight of Saida Agrebi, Leila Trabelsi's right arm, to Paris.

Algeria

- On 8 August the Algerian press reports four suicide attempts in 48 hours in protest against the economic instability.

- On 26 August 16 people are killed in a suicide attack on the Cherchell Military Academy. The incident is added to two other similar terrorist attacks in Cabilia, on 23 and 24, in which five people are killed.

- On 28 August the Council of Ministers approves a new law that establishes a minimum quota of a third for female candidates in the electoral lists.

Morocco

- On 9 August in Casablanca Hamid Kanuni dies from burns received in an attempted self-immolation in a police station in Berkane two days previous, in protest against the confiscation of his market stall.

- On 16 August the Interior Minister Taieb Cherkaoui announces that the legislative elections scheduled for September are delayed until 25 November 2011.

Mauritania

- On 24 August the Council of Ministers announces its decision to postpone

the legislative and local elections scheduled for 16 October, until 24 March 2012, following the pact reached between different political forces, in order to stabilise the country and its tribal organisation system and consolidate democratising reforms before calling new elections.

European Union

- On 15 August Nicolas Sarkozy and Angela Merkel announce the French-German proposal to create “a true European economic government” that “restores financial market confidence.”
- On 11 August the European Commission announces infringement proceedings against ten states that have still not introduced the 2004 European Directive on the free movement of persons.

Arab League

- On 28 August the Arab League Member States agree to send its Secretary General Nabil el-Arabi to Damascus to negotiate an immediate resolution to the violence.

September 2011

The IMF releases its second tranche of the Portuguese bailout package. Spain approves a constitutional reform to put a cap on public debt. In France, the Socialist Party obtains an absolute majority in the senatorial elections. The Italian government faces new protests against the deficit reduction measures. The Slovenian government loses a motion of confidence in the Parliament. Border unrest causes Serbia to withdraw from talks with Kosovo. Tensions mount in Greece while the government pushes ahead with austerity measures. Cyprus's exploitation of energy resources in the Eastern Mediterranean and Turkish pressure to reach an agreement on the reunification of the island before the Cypriot Presidency of the EU in 2012 puts a strain on relations between Ankara, Nicosia, Brussels and Athens. In Syria the repression worsens, despite international pressure. In Egypt, the people continue to put pressure on the Military Junta over its approval of the controversial Election Law and its continued enforcement of the Emergency Law. In Libya,

those loyal to Muammar el-Gaddafi resist in Sirte and Bani Walid following the fall of Sabha. In Mauritania, tensions rise as protests take place against the population census.

Portugal

- On 13 September the IMF announces the release of 3.9 billion euros. This is the second tranche of its 27.7 billion euro contribution to the rescue package of the Portuguese economy, which, with the EU's part, totals 78 billion euros over three years.
- On 15 September the government presents public administration reforms that foresees a 27% reduction in high ranking posts.
- On 16 September Portugal announces that Madeira has an unreported 1 billion euro debt, which has been accumulating since 2004, prompting moves to investigate the Portuguese deficit.

Spain

- On 2 September the Congress of Deputies approves the constitutional reform that puts a cap on public debt.
- On 16 September the government approves plans to reinstate the wealth tax to collect an additional 1.08 billion euros.
- On 16 September the Supreme Court sentences the Batasuna spokesman Arnaldo Otegi to ten years' imprisonment for being part of a terrorist group. The former leader of the LAB trade union Rafael Diaz receives the same sentence for attempting to rebuild the banned Batasuna.

France

- On 14 September the Paris Appeal Court clears the former Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin in the Clearstream case.
- On 25 September the PS obtains an absolute majority in the senatorial elections for the first time since the proclamation of the 5th Republic in 1958.

Monaco

- On 29 September the Monaco Pensioners' Union demonstrates calling for a 3% increase in pensions.

Italy

- On 6 September a general strike protests against the new austerity measures presented in August.
- On 8 September the government announces a constitutional modification to cap public debt.
- On 14 September clashes break out in front of the Chamber of Deputies where spending cuts of 54 billion euros were approved to reduce the deficit. The plan foresees a VAT increase aimed at collecting 4 billion euros a year.
- On 20 September the Lampedusa Centre for Identification and Expulsion of immigrants is destroyed by a fire during protests by a group of immigrants against their repatriation.

Malta

- On 21 September Victory Day is commemorated without the participation of the Maltese magistrates, in protest against the scarcity of resources and poor working conditions.

Slovenia

- On 5 September the trial begins in Ljubljana of the corruption scandal over the purchase of war tanks from a Finnish company, which had bribed high government officials and the army during the Janez Jansa government.
- On 20 September after months of conflict between the members of the coalition government, Borut Pahor's cabinet loses a confidence vote in the Parliament.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 1 September Peter Sorensen replaces Valentin Inzko as the EU Special Representative in Bosnia.
- On 5 and 15 September in Mostar and on 26 September in Brcko, the representatives of the main political forces fail to reach an agreement to form a new government, eleven months after the elections.

Montenegro

- On 9 September after months of stalemate, the government and the opposition reach an agreement to grant equal status to the Serbian and Monte-

negrin languages in the education system. This agreement prompts the opposition to raise its block on the approval of the electoral law, needed to advance in the European accession process.

Serbia

- On 6 September the ICTY sentences Momcilo Perisic, the former chief of the general staff of the Yugoslav army, to 27 years in jail for crimes against humanity during the Bosnia war.
- On 13 and 15 September the Albanian majority of Presevo, Bujanovac and Medveda, which border with Kosovo, demand greater protection for the Albanian language, the right to work in public institutions and the end of discrimination. Tensions also rise in Sandzak, where the national council makes similar demands for Bosnians.
- On 26 September the Parliament approves the Public Property and Property Restitution laws, the last two required to comply with the conditions for an accession candidate country.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 2 September Serbia and Kosovo reach agreements on customs stamps and cadastral records.
- On 2 September EULEX accuses ten former members of the UÇK, among them the former Minister Fatmir Limaj, of war crimes during the 1999 Kosovo conflict.
- On 13 September Kosovo Serb activists block the Mitrovica bridge in protest against Kosovo's imminent move to take control of the border posts with Serbia. On 16 September the Kosovo police and the KFOR take control of the border posts with Serbia. Increased tensions arising from these events prompt Serbia to withdraw from negotiations with Kosovo in Brussels on 28 September.

Albania

- On 5 September the PS returns to Parliament after three months of endless boycotts sparked by the election results for the mayor of Tirana.
- On 9 September the judge Skerdilajd Konomi is assassinated by the Albanian mafia.

- On 23 September the Parliament fails to approve modifications to the penal and civil codes and to rail and sea transport legislation, as the PS demands a review of the laws to be reformed before they are signed, thereby delaying their approval, demanded by Brussels for advances to be made in the accession dossier.

Greece

- On 2 September Greece puts talks with the EU and the IMF on hold refusing to adopt the deficit reduction measures, causing a slump in the European stock exchanges.
- On 10 September Thessaloniki joins the chaos when a demonstration of 20,000 people against the government's austerity measures coincides with other protests.
- On 22 September a new general transport strike brings Greece to a halt in protest over the new austerity measures announced by the government the previous day, which include more pension cuts, the prolongation of wealth tax to 2014 and the transference of 30,000 public workers to labour reserve.
- On 27 September the Parliament approves the controversial wealth tax to collect some 2 billion euros by the end of the year.
- On 27 September tax and customs officials strike against salary reductions.
- On 28 September Athens is brought to a halt by a new transport strike against moves to reduce staff by 10% to counteract the losses caused by the sector in the public purse. The situation is worsened by the taxi strike against the government's plans to open up the industry.

Turkey

- On 4 September PKK terrorists open fire in Tunceli on a Turkish police football match, killing two people. On the same day the Turkish air force bombs PKK positions in the Qandil Mountains in Iraq. Further PKK attacks throughout the month leave eight more dead.
- On 12 September Recep Tayyip Erdogan begins a tour of some of the Arab Spring countries in Egypt.
- On 28 September the BDP announces the end of its parliamentary boycott, begun in June.

- On 29 September three teachers are kidnapped in Diyarbakir by PKK terrorists, adding to a further nine kidnapped on 24.

Cyprus

- On 5 September a new demonstration calls for the resignation of the government over its responsibility in the explosion at the Evangelos Florakis Naval Base in July.
- On 8 September the European Commission asks Turkey to change its position against Cypriot plans to exploit hydrocarbon reserves in the Exclusive Economic Zone. On 19 September the US company *Noble Energy* begins drilling work in Cypriot waters. On 21 September three Turkish warships leave for Cyprus and Turkey and Northern Cyprus sign an agreement to cooperate in the exploitation of energy resources.
- On 27 September teachers go on strike in protests against measures announced by the government to freeze salaries.

Syria

- On 11 September the Golf Cooperation Council (GCC) calls for Syria to immediately end the violence and begin democratic reforms. Clashes continue throughout the month, especially in Homs, Idlib and Hama.
- On 23 September the EU approves the ban on European companies making new investments in the Syrian oil industry.
- On 24 September the army strengthens its presence in Qusayr and on 27 it enters al-Rastan.

Lebanon

- On 5 September the Foreign Minister Adnan Mansour sends a letter to the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon informing him that Lebanon rejects the Israeli proposal for the maritime border between the two states.

Jordan

- On 12 September the GCC proposes aid to Jordan to the value of 2 billion dollars to accelerate its accession process.
- On 15 September Israel evacuates its embassy in Jordan coinciding with the "Million man march" against Israel.

Egypt

- On 5 September the trial resumes against Hosni Mubarak, his two sons, the former Interior Minister and six senior members of the NDP.
- On 9 September the Friday of “correcting the path” in Tahrir Square calls for a clear roadmap for the transition process and the end of military trials against civilians. The Muslim Brotherhood do not participate in the protests.
- On 9 September the Israeli embassy to Cairo is assaulted by demonstrators protesting over the deaths of six Egyptian police officers in Gaza in August. The incident causes the government to consider its resignation, which is not accepted by the Military Junta. On 10 September the Military Junta announces that it will enforce the 1981 Emergency Law again, to avoid clashes like those at the Israeli embassy. On 16 September crowds gather in Tahrir Square to protest against the measure.
- On 26 September the Military Junta approves the Election Law, which allows elections to be scheduled for November.
- On 28 September the former Information Minister Anas el-Fiqqi is sentenced to seven years’ imprisonment for corruption.
- On 29 September Tahrir Square is once again the scene of a mass demonstration against the Military Junta.

Libya

- On 11 September Niger reports the arrest of Saadi Gaddafi.
- On 12 September China recognises the NTC as the governing authority in Libya, joining Russia, which recognised it on 1 September.
- On 16 September the United Nations Security Council approves the 2009 resolution that allows a partial lifting of the arms embargo, the no-fly zone and the freeze on the Gaddafi regime funds. It also hands Libyan representation to the NTC and tasks the UN support mission in Libya (UNSMIL) with restoring public security, consolidating the rule of law and national reconciliation.
- On 22 September the NTC takes control of Sebha, one of the three bastions of the Gaddafi regime, together with Bani Walid and Sirte, which are still resisting rebel sieges.

Tunisia

- On 5 September the Tunisian authorities enforce a curfew in Metlaoui, Gafsa, following tribal unrest over the recruitment policy of the Gafsa Phosphate Company.
- On 5 September the violent scenes that Jbeniana has witnessed since the beginning of the month worsen during a general strike calling for the arrest of members of the deposed regime.
- On 20 September the former Defence Minister Ridha Grira is arrested charged with corruption.

Algeria

- On 5 September clashes erupt in the suburbs of Algiers over the relocation of families to new housing considered to be of poor quality.
- On 8 September clashes erupt in Tizi n’Ali n’Slimane when hundreds of demonstrators try to stop the reopening of a landfill site.
- On 12 September the government approves an Information Law bill that opens up broadcasting media. On the same day the Party Financing Law bill is also approved.
- On 13 September over 5,000 soldiers launch an offensive in Kabylie against AQIM cells.
- On 19 September civil servants strike against low salaries.

Morocco

- On 18 and 25 September protest marches are held in different cities called by the February 20 Movement to condemn corruption and the lack of democracy.
- On 23 September three AQIM terrorists are arrested accused of preparing attacks against Western interests in Morocco. The arrests come a day after the trial begins against nine men accused of the attack at Café Argana in Marrakesh.

Mauritania

- On 10 September clashes erupt in Nouakchott against the national census, branded discriminatory against the black population. On 25 September unrest is reported in Kaedi, in Gorgol. On 26 September the governor of Gor-

gol is dismissed. On 27 September demonstrators set fire to the government building in Maghama.

European Union

- On 22 September Finland and the Netherlands veto Romania and Bulgaria’s bid to enter the Schengen Space. The council also rejects the modification proposal of the Schengen Agreement, under which the European Commission would decide if the border controls can be temporarily re-established for security reasons.

Arab League

- On 13 September the Foreign Ministers of the Arab League reiterate calls for Damascus to immediately end the violence in Syria.

October 2011

In Spain the terrorist group ETA announces a definitive end to armed activity. Italy reaches a government agreement on the pension reform demanded by Brussels. Slovenia and Croatia call early elections for December. Border tensions between Serbia and Kosovo continue. Greece approves new deficit reduction measures which open the door to the sixth tranche of the EU and IMF’s rescue package, coinciding with two general strikes. Turkey executes a major operation against the terrorist group PKK on the Iraqi border. The Cypriot government approves a Russian loan to rescue the economy. The Arab League presents a roadmap to end the violence in Syria which is now in its sixth month. In Jordan, the Prime Minister Marouf al-Bakhit resigns. In Egypt the people continue to put pressure on the military leadership to accelerate the transition and new clashes break out in Cairo between Muslims and Christians. In Libya the last two of Gaddafi’s bastions in Bani Walid and Sirte fall and Muammar el-Gaddafi is captured and executed. Tunisia holds constituent elections won by the Islamist Ennahda. The EU adopts measures to strengthen and stabilise its economy.

Portugal

- On 13 October the government presents the budgets for 2012 which in-

clude reductions in salaries and annual holiday and increases in working hours in the private sector.

Spain

- On 2 October in Pamplona *Amaiur* is officially launched. The new coalition formed by the abertzale left, Eusko Alkartasuna, Aralar and Alternatiba will run in the November elections.
- On 5 October Spain announces its participation in NATO's anti-missile defence system.
- On 17 October San Sebastian hosts an international conference without the participation of the Spanish or French governments which calls on ETA to "end armed activity" and urges Madrid and Paris to establish dialogue "exclusively to tackle the consequences of the conflict." Madrid and Paris insist that ETA just has to give up its arms. On 20 October the terrorist group ETA announces the "end of armed activity" asking for "direct dialogue" to resolve the "consequences of the conflict." On 22 October thousands of Basques in Bilbao call for independence. On 29 October thousands of Spaniards demonstrate in solidarity with the victims of terrorism.

France

- On 16 October François Hollande wins the primaries of the PS with 56.6% of the votes becoming the socialist candidate for the presidential elections in 2012.
- On 19 October clashes break out in Mamoudzou, in Mayotte, where strikes have been ongoing for weeks against rising prices since the island was granted departmental status in March.

Italy

- On 14 October Silvio Berlusconi scrapes through a new parliamentary vote of confidence after the government fails to approve the public accounts from 2010. The results spark unrest in several cities.
- On 18 October the Court of Milan clears Silvio Berlusconi of all charges in the *Mediastade* case.
- On 24 October the Council of Ministers fails to reach an agreement on deficit reduction measures because of the Northern League's re-

fusal to support the pension reform. On 25 October Berlusconi reaches an agreement on this reform, demanded by Brussels, just before the eurozone summit.

Slovenia

- On 21 October the President Danilo Turk dissolves the Parliament to call early elections for 4 December.

Croatia

- On 7 October a law that would annul sentences handed down in Serbia against Croatian citizens for crimes committed in Croatia during the disintegration of Yugoslavia, is not approved due to the absence of a quorum. The opposition did not appear, describing the bill as damaging for relations with Serbia and for the Croatian justice system.
- On 28 October the Parliament votes with a majority to dissolve and schedule early elections for 4 December.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 3 October seven civil servants from Brcko are arrested in the Bingo anti-corruption operation.
- On 28 October the Serbian Wahhabi Muslim Mevlid Jasarevic is arrested after attacking the US embassy in Sarajevo. After the incident, Serb police arrest 20 people belonging to a Wahhabi cell that has connections with Jasarevic.

Serbia

- On 10 October the Police Union of Serbia stages a strike until 25 October demanding pay increases and a new collective agreement.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 20 October clashes break out between the KFOR and Kosovo Serb demonstrators trying to stop Kosovo's control over the border crossings with Serbia. On 27 October the demonstrators dismantle barricades after an agreement is reached between the KFOR and the governors of the Kosovo Serb municipalities.

FYROM

- On 11 October the committed appointed to manage the population census resigns delaying proceedings for at least six months. The division among the members of the committee lies in whether or not to include the Diaspora.

Albania

- On 7 October Ramiz Alia, the last communist President and first of the democratic government dies.
- On 20 October Albania ratifies an agreement with Kosovo to unify its consulate services.

Greece

- On 5 October Greece sees its fifth general strike of the year with mass demonstrations and unrest in Athens.
- On 12 October the municipal refuse collectors decide to continue a strike that over two weeks has led to the accumulation of 7,000 tonnes of rubbish in Athens.
- On 19-20 October Greece sees its sixth general strike of the year, the largest demonstration since the fall of the dictatorship of the Colonels.
- On 20 October despite dissent in the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK), the Parliament approves the government's latest package of cuts which enables the release of the sixth tranche of the rescue package.

Turkey

- On 18 October the terrorist organisation PKK carries out a bomb attack that kills eight people in Bitlis.
- On 19 October around a hundred PKK members attack border posts in Cucurka and Yuksekova, killing 24 soldiers. The army responds with an offensive on PKK positions in the Kazan Valley, which ends on 27 October leaving 270 terrorists dead.
- On 29 October three people are killed in a suicide bomb attack by the Kurdistan Freedom Falcons (TAK) in front of the AKP offices in Bingol.

Cyprus

- On 5 October the Council of Ministers gives the green light to the agree-

ment negotiated with Russia for the concession of a 2.5 billion euro loan to help Cyprus survive the effects of the crisis.

- On 31 October a meeting concludes in New York between the Cypriot President, the leader of Northern Cyprus and the UN Secretary General, to speed up reunification before the Cypriot Presidency of the EU in 2012.

Syria

- On 2 October the Syrian National Council (SNC) is formed, which reunites the opposition with the Bashar al-Assad regime.
- On 3 October the army steps up its offensive to control the Homs region.
- On 4 October Russia and China veto the resolution condemning the Syrian regime presented before the United Nations Security Council.
- On 16 October Bashar al-Assad issues a presidential decree for the formation of a commission tasked with drafting a new constitution.
- On 27 October a mass demonstration takes place in Latakia in support of the regime. This is the fourth pro-Bashar al-Assad demonstration so far this month, after two that were held in Damascus and Aleppo.
- On 30 October the Arab League presents Syria with a roadmap to overcome the political crisis. Throughout the month daily protests continue while the death toll by the end of October exceeds 3,000.

Jordan

- On 17 October Abdullah II appoints Awn al-Khasawneh, a judge of the International Court of Justice, as Prime Minister, to replace Marouf al-Bakhit, who resigned after losing a parliamentary motion of censure. Parallel to this, small demonstrations continue, calling for economic and democratic reforms.

Egypt

- On 1 October the SCAF amends the Election Law, allowing political parties to compete for seats reserved for independent candidates.
- On 9-10 October a march of Coptic Christians protesting in Cairo over the demolition of a church in Edfu, Aswan,

degenerates into clashes that force the Military Junta to order a curfew. On 10 October the Prime Minister calls a meeting for the Council of Ministers, which announces a bill to legalise unlicensed temples.

- On 10 October the Supreme Administrative Court approves the legalisation of Jemaah al-Islamiyah, the Building and Development Party (Islamist) and the New Ghad Party ("Tomorrow Party," liberal secular).
- On 12 October the Cairo Criminal Court sentences *in absentia* the magnate Hussein Salem to seven years' imprisonment, who has been under arrest since June in Spain, for money laundering. The former Minister of Petroleum Sameh Fahmy has also been charged in the case.
- On 16 October 20,000 students from the University of Mansoura demonstrate to demand the resignation of all deans and university leaders associated with the old regime.
- On 31 October thousands of Egyptians demonstrate in Cairo to call for the release of the activist Alaa Abdel Fattah and to condemn the military trials against a further 12,000 participants of the revolution.

Libya

- On 17 October the NTC forces manage to take total control of Bani Walid, while in Tripoli the demolition begins of the Bab al-Azizia complex, a symbol of the Gaddafi regime.
- On 20 October Sirte falls definitively into the hands of the NTC coinciding with the localisation and immediate execution of Muammar Gaddafi and his son Mutassim.
- On 24 October the President of the NTC Mostafa Abdeljalil, proclaims in Benghazi the "total liberation of Libya" and appeals to *Sharia Law* as the basic source of legislation.
- On 27 October the UN Security Council approves resolution 2016 that puts an end to the embargo against Libya, with the exception of arms.
- On 31 October the NATO mission in Libya comes to an end.

Tunisia

- On 23 October Tunisia holds constituent assembly elections, won by the

Islamist party *Ennahda*, which obtains 89 of the 217 seats of the National Assembly. The second most voted party is the Congress for the Republic (CPR, liberal secular), with 29 seats.

- On 27-28 October protests take place in Sidi Bouzid between security forces and some 2,000 demonstrators protesting against the disqualification of six lists of al-Aridha ("Popular Petition") for not observing the electoral silence day and for the illegal financing of its campaign. On 28 October the unrest spreads to other cities.

Algeria

- On 2 October 12 members of the terrorist cell el-Taref are arrested in Ain Assel, a week after the arrest of another 20 members of this group with connections to the AQIM.
- On 9 October the Algiers security forces arrest 20 CNCD activists in order to prevent a gathering in the vicinity of the Presidential Palace. A further seven demonstrators are arrested in Dar el-Beida.
- On 9 October 50 teachers begin a hunger strike in front of the Ministry of Education to protest against the situation of some 7,000 teachers which have still not received notification of their renewal for the present academic year.
- On 11 October four people are injured by a bomb blast near Tizi Ouzou.
- On 17 October a woman is killed by the explosion of an AQIM bomb near Ait Slimane, Boumerdes.
- On 22 October three volunteers, two Spanish and one Italian, are kidnapped in the Sahrawi Rabouni Refugee camp. On 31 October four AQIM members are arrested in connection with the kidnapping in Bechar and Tamanrasset.

Morocco

- On 5 October eight Moroccan parties present the Coalition for Democracy in Rabat, a bloc with a mostly liberal standpoint but open to centre-left and environmental options, although they announce that they will not run on joint lists in the elections on 25 November.
- On 10 October the Islamist Justice and Charity movement announces that it will boycott the legislative elections on 25 November and offers its support to the February 20 Movement.

- On 21 October Morocco is elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the biennium 2012-2013.
- On 28 October the Court of Sale sentences Adel Othmani to death and Hakim Dah to life imprisonment for the attack on the Argana café in Marrakech on 28 April 2011.

European Union

- On 4 October the European Council approves the package of six measures approved on 29 September by the Parliament, which increases the community's control mechanisms over national budgets and accounts.
- On 5 October the Commission adopts a series of legislative proposals related to the future of the Cohesion Funds for the period 2014-2020, which includes the controversial possibility of suspending aid to regions whose budget policies are not adjusted to the Stability and Growth Pact.
- On 12 October the government and opposition in Slovakia close an agreement to approve the European Financial Stability Fund (EFSF). This means the Fund has the approval of the entire eurozone.
- On 10 October the European Council gives its backing to the Commission's proposal, approved by the Parliament, to strengthen the Frontex borders agency.
- On 12 October the Commission presents its annual Enlargement package. It grants Croatia the status of accession State, recommends the opening of accession talks with Montenegro and FYROM and grants Serbia candidate status. It also expresses concern for the political stalemate in Bosnia and Albania and for the difficulties in relations with Turkey over the Cyprus issue.
- On 12 October the commission presents its radical reform proposal of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). The proposal, as of 2014, gives more weight to environmental aspects, limits direct aid and draws a distinction between "active farmers" and the rest. Spain and France announces their opposition to the reform.
- On 23 October the European Council commits to recapitalising the European banking system. For their part, the eurozone states agree on appointing the

President of the European Council Herman Van Rompuy as President of the new economic government.

Arab League

- On 16 October the Foreign Ministers of the Arab League hold an emergency meeting and unanimously agree – with the exception of Syria – to call for Damascus and the opposition to initiate dialogue within 15 days under the auspices of a committee from the League.

November 2011

The economic crisis leads to government changes in Spain, where early general elections are won by the People's Party; in Italy, where Silvio Berlusconi resigns opening the door to a new technocratic government; and Greece, where the departure of George Papandreou's government gives way to one of national unity. In Croatia the trial begins against the former Prime Minister Ivo Sanader. In Kosovo clashes break out between KFOR soldiers and Kosovo Serb demonstrators. The two main Albanian parties reach an agreement to put an end to the parliamentary boycott in place since 2010. In Syria the violence continues despite the announcement of new international sanctions. Egypt witnesses tense days of protest before the start of the parliamentary elections. In Libya Saif el-Islam Gaddafi is arrested and the interim government is established with the difficult task of putting in motion a complex transition period. Tunisia forms a new coalition. In Morocco, the Islamist Justice and Development Party wins the parliamentary elections.

Portugal

- On 11 November the Parliament gives the go-ahead to the restrictive general budget for 2012. On 16 November the EU, the IMF and the ECB approve the concession of the third tranche of the Portuguese rescue fund.
- On 24 November a general strike paralyses Portugal in protest against the three-year plan of public spending cuts.
- On 30 November the Portuguese military stages a demonstration in front of the Parliament for the second time in November, against the austerity budget for 2012.

Spain

- On 16 November the former ETA military chief Miguel Garcia "Txapote", currently serving a prison term, is sentenced to a further 60 years' imprisonment for the murder in 2001 of the Navarrese People's Union Councillor Jose Javier Mugica.
- On 20 November Spain holds early general elections. With a turnout of 71.7%, in the Congress of Deputies, the People's Party wins with an absolute majority with 44.6% of the votes. The PSOE moves over to the opposition obtaining 28.7% of the vote. In the Senate, the PP obtains 136 of the 208 seats, with PSOE in second place with 48 senators.

France

- On 7 November the Prime Minister François Fillon presents the new plan to "balance public finances," which aims to save 100 billion euros before 2016 and which includes, among other measures, a reduction in tax exemptions, bringing forward the increase in retirement age to 2017, a 5% increase in corporate tax, an increase in reduced VAT rates from 5.5% to 7%, and a freeze on income-tax thresholds.

Italy

- On 5 November thousands of Italians in Rome call for the resignation of Silvio Berlusconi's government, which on 8 November loses the parliamentary majority in a new confidence vote.
- On 11-12 November the Senate and the Parliament respectively approve the budget for 2012 which includes new austerity measures. After the approval, Berlusconi presents his resignation.
- On 13 November the Senator Mario Monti is appointed the new Prime Minister and Finance Minister of a technocrat government announced on 16 November, which is aimed at putting the Italian economy back on track. On 18 November the new government wins a confidence vote in the Parliament with an absolute majority allowing it to start its reforms programme.
- On 30 November the Chamber of Deputies approves the bill to introduce a budget balancing clause into the Constitution.

Croatia

- On 3 November the trial begins against the former Prime Minister Ivo Sanader, accused of accepting a 665,000-dollar bribe from the financial entity Hypo Bank in 1995.
- On 25 November the former Croatian general Mirko Norac is released on probation after serving two thirds of his 15-year sentence for war crimes against Serbian citizens.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 16 November the United Nations Security Council extends the EUFOR mandate by one year.

Montenegro

- On 8 November the healthcare workers' strike for increased salaries enters its second week.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 21 and 30 November after two months of stalemate following the border incidents, Belgrade and Pristina resume talks on the status of Kosovo.
- On 23 November the former KLA member Fahredin Gashi is sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment for war crimes during the Kosovo conflict in 1999.
- On 24 and 30 November clashes break out in Zvecan and Zubin Potok between the KFOR and Bosnian Serb demonstrators trying to stop the Kosovar Albanian authorities from taking control of the area.

FYROM

- On 17 November 65,000 people and 170 institutions sign a manifesto to demand that the European Commission stop avoiding the adjective "Macedonian" to refer to the country's inhabitants without upsetting Greece.

Albania

- On 15 November the Democratic Party and the Socialist Party reach an agreement to put an end to the parliamentary boycott ongoing since June 2010.

Greece

- On 1 November six PASOK members demand the resignation of George Papandreou over his announcement to call a referendum on the European agreement to cancel 50% of the Greek debt in exchange for bigger cuts. Germany and France will make the payment of the next 8-million euro tranche of the rescue package depending on the result of the referendum. On 3 November Papandreou announces that he will not call the referendum.
- On 5 November the government overcomes a confidence motion to begin talks for the constitution of a national unity government. On 6 November the government and the opposition agree on a new unity government without Papandreou that will set in motion the agreement reached with the EU in October until the early elections in April 2012.
- On 11 November the former vice-President of the ECB Lucas Papademos is appointed Prime Minister.
- On 17 November thousands of Greeks protest against the new government, approved by Parliament the day before with an absolute majority, and the ongoing austerity measures.
- On 29 November European Finance Ministers approve the sixth tranche of the first financial bailout.

Turkey

- On 22 November the Turkish police arrest 15 people in Konya accused of belonging to al-Qaeda, which add to a further 65 arrested in April and July on the same grounds.

Cyprus

- On 23 November the government approves a second round of licensing for the exploitation of oil and gas in waters south of Cyprus, despite Turkish opposition.

Syria

- On 6 November, the day of the Festival of Sacrifice, at least nine people are killed in acts of general protest. In response, the Free Syrian Army (FSA), formed mostly by defected Syrian armed forces personnel, declares an end to the

unilateral truce announced four days before. The truce honoured the agreement in principle reached at the beginning of the month between Damascus and the Arab League to put an end to the violence, which since the beginning of the daily protests has left over 3,500 dead. On 12 November the Arab League expels Syria.

- On 14 November the EU widens sanctions against Syria.
- On 29 November the Arab League agrees with 19 out of 22 votes in favour of imposing sanctions against Syria after failing to reach an agreement with Damascus for an observation mission to be carried out in the country.
- On 30 November in an attempt to alleviate international pressure, the Syrian regime releases 912 revolution prisoners adding to a further 1,800 that have been released during November.
- On 30 November Turkey announces economic sanctions against Syria.

Lebanon

- On 29 November for the first time since 2009, two rockets launched from Lebanon land in Galilee. The attack is countered by Israel with attacks in the area between Aita Shaab and Rmeish.
- On 30 November the Prime Minister Najib Mikati announces the payment of the Lebanese contribution to the STL, despite opposition from Hezbollah. Mikati had threatened to resign if Lebanon were not to comply with its international commitments.

Jordan

- On 18 November hundreds of demonstrators called by the Islamic Action Front protest in Amman asking for greater democratising and anti-corruption measures.
- On 25 November thousands of Jordanians and Palestinian refugees demonstrate in Sweme calling for the liberation of Jerusalem and the end of the peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.

Egypt

- On 10 November a double attack in Bir al-Abd, Sinai, cuts off the gas supply to Jordan and Israel.
- On 14 November the Supreme Administrative Court of Cairo issues a rul-

ing allowing members of the dissolved NDP to run in the legislative elections.

- On 18 November the Muslim Brotherhood and the April 6 Movement join a large demonstration in Tahrir Square rejecting the proposal for a new constitution, on the grounds that it “enshrines a military dictatorship.” During the following days major clashes with security forces are reported. On 20 November the Military Junta insists on transferring power to a civilian authority. The parliamentary elections that start on 28 November are the first step in the process. On 21 November the unrest forces the cabinet to resign. The Military Junta reaches an agreement with the political parties to hold presidential elections before July 2012 and to constitute a new unity government while the mass demonstrations continue. On 25 November a large-scale “Friday of the Last Chance” again calls Cairo to transfer the power to a civilian authority, this time the main political forces do not participate, with the exception of al-Nour and the Building and Development Party.
- On 25 November Kamal Ganzouri, the former Planning Minister known for his dissident policies within the Mubarak government, is appointed the new interim Prime Minister. The appointment is regarded with suspicion by large sectors of the population, such as the April 6 Movement, which believes that his ties with the deposed regime carry greater weight than his personal interests.
- On 28-29 November the elections for the People’s Assembly (lower house) begin with the first of the three phases of two rounds each, which will conclude in January 2012.

Libya

- On 8 November the Berber leader Ben Khalifa, exiled during the Gaddafi regime and member of the NTC until 20 August when he decided to leave because of “insurmountable differences,” denounces that the constitutional bill presented at the beginning of August excludes the Berber language and culture.
- On 15 November representatives of the interim government and the army meet in Benghazi to elect a new Armed Forces chief.
- On 18 November the UN Human Rights Council readmits Libya, sus-

pending from membership since March 2011.

- On 19 November Saif el-Islam el-Gaddafi is arrested while trying to flee to Niger.
- On 22 November the NTC gives the green light to the interim government proposed by the Prime Minister Abdurrahim al-Keib.
- On 23-24 November at least 23 people are killed in Bani Walid during clashes between the Martyr Brigades of Souq al-Juma and Gaddafi militia.
- On 25 November the Appeal Court of Tunisia refuses the appeal of Gaddafi’s former Prime Minister Baghdadi el-Mahmudi not to be extradited to Libya.
- On 26 November the Libyan Prime Minister Abdurrahim al-Keib escapes unhurt from an assassination attempt in Tripoli.

Tunisia

- On 2 November the offices of the satirical newspaper *Charlie Hebdo* are burnt down after launching a special issue in which it changed its name to “*Charia Hebdo*” and “appoints” Muhammad as “editor,” an ironic comment on the electoral victory of *Ennahda*.
- On 2 November hundreds of women demonstrate in the Tunisian capital demanding that *Ennahda* respect their rights and freedoms.
- On 19 November *Ennahda*, the CPR and *Ettakatol* (social democrat, secular) reach an agreement to appoint the key positions of the new cabinet. Hamadi Jebali will be the new Prime Minister and the leader of the CPR Moncef Marzouki will occupy the position of President of the Republic. Mustapha Ben Jafar, from *Ettakatol*, will be the Speaker of Parliament.

Algeria

- On 15 November the doctor Noun Djellal is kidnapped in Tala Bounane by members of AQIM. This takes the number of kidnappings in Kabylie since 2005 to 65.
- On 17 November the President Abdelaziz Bouteflika sacks Nouredine Cherouati, the President of *Sonatrach*, the national oil company, and replaces him with Abdelhamid Zerguine.

- On 19 November a former member of the Legitimate Defence Group is assassinated by members of a terrorist cell in Boumerdes. On the same day, also in Boumerdes, a bomb blast injures two police officers.
- On 24 November eight members of AQIM are killed and 12 arrested in clashes with the army in el-Mazraa.
- On 25 November Abdullah Djaballah, former Islamist candidate for the presidency of the Republic in 1999 and 2004, announces his intention to launch the Front for Justice and Development (FJD), a new opposition political party to the governing National Liberation Front (FLN).

Morocco

- On 25 November Morocco holds parliamentary elections in which the Islamist Justice and Development Party obtains 107 of the 395 seats. The nationalist *Istiqlal* (“Independence”) loses the power finishing second and obtaining 60 seats.
- On 27 November thousands of Moroccans demonstrate in different cities around the country called by the February 20 Movement to condemn the results of the elections on 25 November, which they believe to be “false and fraudulent.”
- On 28 November Mohammed VI asks Abdelilah Benkirane, leader of the JDP to form the new government.

Mauritania

- On 28 November a new demonstration against the population census led by the “Don’t touch my nationality” group is quelled by police. The country’s sub-Saharan population – between 30 and 40% – continues to brand the government’s policies as “racist” and condemns the fact that they are asked to bring documents that prove their nationality to be registered in the census, which is not a requisite for the rest of the population.

European Union

- On 8 November the Finance Ministers from the eurozone adopt the package of six measures to strengthen the economic governance of the EU which on 28 September was approved by the

European Parliament. In virtue of these measures, states with excessive deficit and which do not respect the stability criteria may receive automatic sanctions.

- On 15 November Jose Manuel Durao Barroso, presents to the European Parliament the Commission's work programme for 2012, which aims to coordinate the actions of the commission to support the economic reforms in progress and strengthen the international role of the EU.
- On 18 November the European Council and Parliament agree on the EU budget for 2012 of 129 billion euros, which represents a 1.86% increase.
- On 30 November the 27 Finance Ministers approve the budget for 2012: 129,088 billion euros, representing a 1.86% increase with respect to 2011's budget.

December 2011

The year ends for the EU and its Member States with efforts to ensure financial stability and budget constraint. Slovenia and Croatia hold parliamentary elections. Croatia signs its EU membership. Bosnia achieves its long-awaited agreement to form a government. Serbia sees its European aspirations delayed. Turkey breaks diplomatic ties with France over the "Armenian genocide" issue. In Syria the year ends with the revolution against the regime, which is far from being resolved, while in Egypt, in full electoral process, the Islamists come together as the future force of the government. In Libya, internal security problems arise, due to the rebel guerrillas' control of strategic points. Tunisia approves its new constitution.

Portugal

- On 22 December Portugal sells its participation in the country's main electricity company EDP to the Chinese *Three Gorges*, in the first major privatisation carried out by the government of Passos Coelho.

Spain

- On 23 December the President of the government Mariano Rajoy announces the composition of the new cabinet. Among those appointed are

Soraya Saenz de Santamaria as vice-President, Alberto Ruiz-Gallardon as Justice Minister, Pedro Morenes as Defence Minister, Jorge Fernandez Diaz as Interior Minister, Cristobal Montoro as Treasurer, Luis de Guindos as Finance Minister, Miguel Arias Cañete as Agriculture Minister and Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo as Foreign Minister.

France

- On 15 December the Paris Correctional Court gives the former President of the Republic Jacques Chirac a two-year suspended sentence for embezzlement of public funds while he was the Mayor of the French capital.
- On 15 December the French justice system hands down a second life sentence to the Venezuelan terrorist Ilich Ramirez, "Carlos the Jackal," for four attacks committed in France in 1982 and 1983 that left 11 dead.
- On 27 December France adopts the budgets for 2012 with the aim of lowering the public deficit to 4.5% of GDP and which provides for a 3% tax increase on high earners and reductions of 15% in tax breaks.

Monaco

- On 22 December the update of the 2001 monetary agreement is signed in Brussels, which allows the use of the euro in Monaco.

Italy

- On 4 December the Council of Ministers approves a new austerity plan of 20 billion euros that foresees tax increases, pension reductions and an increase in the retirement age. Another 10 billion will be reinvested in actions aimed at reactivating the economy and employment.
- On 5 December 81 immigrants from Libya are intercepted 65 miles from Roccella Ionica.
- On 14 December a police operation ends with 22 people arrested in Palermo charged with belonging to Cosa Nostra.
- On 15 December an explosive device planted by the Informal Anarchist Federation is intercepted in an office of *Equitalia*, the national tax collection agency, in Rome.

- On 22 December the Senate approves the emergency austerity plan presented by the government by 257 votes in favour and 41 against.

Slovenia

- On 4 December Slovenia holds early parliamentary elections. "Positive Slovenia" (LZJ-PS, centre-left) led by the Mayor of Ljubljana Zoran Jankovic wins with 28.5% of the votes, giving them 28 of the 90 seats. The SDS of Janez Jansa, obtains 26.3% of the votes and 26 members of parliament. The social democrats of the outgoing Prime Minister Borut Pahor obtain 10 seats.

Croatia

- On 4 December Croatia holds early parliamentary elections in which *Kukuriku*, the coalition led by the Social Democratic Party of Zoran Milanovic, removes the conservative HDZ, gaining 44.5% of the votes and 80 seats. The HDZ of the Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor obtains 22.1% of the votes and 47 seats. On 23 December the Parliament swears in the new government of Zoran Milanovic.
- On 9 December Croatia signs the EU Accession Treaty.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 28 December the leaders of the three communities agree on the formation of the federal government – after more than 14 months of political stalemate – and the enforcement of the law on the census and on public subsidies, demanded by Brussels to advance the accession process. On 12 January the Parliament appoints Vjekoslav Bevanda as Prime Minister.

Montenegro

- On 17 December the World Trade Organisation Ministerial Conference approves Montenegro's accession in Geneva.

Serbia

- On 9 December the European Commission decides to delay its decision on granting Serbia official accession candidate status until March 2012. The

decision leads to the resignation of the deputy Minister of European Integration Bozidar Delic.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 2 December Serbia and Kosovo sign the Integrated Border Management agreement.

FYROM

- On 5 December the International Court of Justice (ICJ) rules in favour of FYROM over its claim in November 2008 against Greece accusing it of violating the 1995 interim accord that stated that Greece would not oppose the accession of its neighbour to any international organisation that refers to it as FYROM.

Greece

- On 1 December Greece is brought to a halt by the first general strike with Lukas Papademos at the head of the government.
- On 7 December the Parliament approves the budgets for 2012, marked by tax increases and a drastic reduction in public spending.

Turkey

- On 22 December Turkey suspends diplomatic ties with France in response to the approval in the French National Assembly of a law that brands the massacre of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire between 1915 and 1917 as genocide.

Cyprus

- On 2 December the government and opposition close an austerity agreement that includes tax increases for salaries above 2,500 euros, an increase in VAT from 15 to 17%, a salary freeze for civil servants and 200 million euros in cuts on family benefits and education grants.
- On 14 December the UN Security Council extends the mandate of the UN-FICYP to 19 July 2012 and urges the two sides to accelerate reunification talks.
- On 15 December a 12-hour air traffic controllers strike brings Cypriot air

space to a halt, in protest against the inclusion of this collective in the austerity measures that the Parliament is voting on the next day.

- On 18 December Cyprus holds local elections in which the main opposition party DISY wins 26 of the 38 town councils including those of Nicosia and the capital district of Strovolos and Larnaca.

Syria

- On 2 December the UN Human Rights Council approves a resolution condemning the Syrian regime for the violence against the demonstrators. According to the UN, the death toll now exceeds 4,000, over 14,000 arrests have been made and more than 12,400 have fled.
- On 3 December the Arab League gives Syria an ultimatum and approves sanctions against senior government officials.
- On 12 December local elections take place despite the climate of violence reigning in Syria and the opposition's call for a boycott.
- On 15 December Russia presents a draft resolution before the UN Security Council which is considered insufficient by the US and Europe who criticise the absence of a firm condemnation of the Syrian regime and Moscow's equal treatment of the government and its opposition.
- On 19 December the UN General Assembly adopts a resolution condemning the Syrian regime proposed by Germany, by 133 votes in favour, 11 against and 43 abstentions.
- On 19 December Syria gives the green light to the Arab League's observation mission to confirm whether or not Damascus is complying with the League's roadmap to end the violence.
- On 22 December the first observers arrive in Syria.
- On 28 December the government announces the release of 775 people arrested during the protests that began in March.

Lebanon

- On 9 December at least five French peacekeepers and a Lebanese civilian are injured in an attack on a UNIFIL patrol in Tyre.

- On 11 December a missile fired from Majdal Silim into Israel does not reach its target and explodes in the Lebanese town of Houla injuring a woman.

Egypt

- On 5-6 December the second round of the first phase of the parliamentary elections confirms victory for the Islamist parties, which obtain 113 of the 168 seats: 80 seats go to the Liberty and Justice Party and 33 for *al-Nour*.
- On 16 December new clashes break out in front of the government offices in Cairo between the army and demonstrators who have been camped there since 25 November in protest against the appointment of the former Minister of Mubarak Kamal Ganzouri as interim Prime Minister.
- On 19 December the clashes enter their fourth consecutive day leaving 14 dead. The US and the EU express their concern over a Military Junta that warns that the country is in danger and accuses groups of individuals of using the protests to destabilise the democratic transition.
- On 20 December the "Million Woman March" crosses Cairo demanding an end to the repression and the transfer of power to a civilian authority.
- On 21-22 December the second round of the second phase of the Egyptian elections takes place. The Freedom and Justice Party leads the results with 36.6% of the votes and 71 seats, followed by the Salafist party *al-Nour* (28.8%, 41 seats). The third most voted force is the liberal *al-Wafd* Party (9.6%, 11 seats).
- On 23 December the "Friday of regaining honour" gathers thousands of Egyptians in Tahrir Square against the violent repression of the demonstrations which began the previous Friday leaving 17 dead and around a thousand injured.

Libya

- On 2 December the Security Council extends the mandate of the UNSMIL until March 2012 and widens its scope.
- On 10 December rebel militants from Zintan, who have control over Tripoli airport, attack the convoy carrying the commander of the New Libyan Army Khalifa Hiftar, believing that the military deployment was aimed at taking over the airport.

Groups of guerrillas that fought against the Gaddafi regime, continue to control key points of the country. One of the main challenges of the new government is to take control of these points from the former fighters and prevent revenge attacks in areas that were loyal to Gaddafi.

- On 12-13 December days of protest take place in Benghazi against the NTC in which demonstrators demand greater transparency in decision-making and that the composition of all the senior government positions be made public.
- On 16 December the UN Security Council lifts financial sanctions against Libya because of the lack of currency in the country, although it upholds the embargo on all assets of the Gaddafi family.

Tunisia

- On 11 December after five days of debate, the National Assembly approves the provisional Constitution of 26 articles, with 141 votes in favour, 37 against and 39 abstentions. The first law that the Constituent Assembly approves will regulate the powers of the Republic's Presidents, the government and the Assembly itself.
- On 12 December the National Assembly elects Moncef Marzouki, the leaders of the CPR, as the new Tunisian President.

Algeria

- On 16 December the Parliament approves the controversial Media Law, which according to the opposition will damage the freedom of the press by including sanctions on journalists that undermine Algeria's national identity, sovereignty, security and economy.

Morocco

- On 19 December, after the results of the parliamentary elections are announced, the Islamist Justice and Charity Party suspends its connection with the February 20 Movement.
- On 20 December Karim Ghellab, from *Istiqlal*, is elected President of the lower house of the Parliament.

Mauritania

- On 18 December the process of national dialogue, launched in Novem-

ber by the President Mohamed Ould Abdelaziz, concludes with the presentation of the amendments to the 1991 Constitution to create an independent electoral commission and to criminalize coup d'états. The document also includes respect for cultural diversity, Arabic as the official language and condemns slavery. The COD rejects the document claiming that it leaves all the power in the hands of the President.

European Union

- On 9 December the European Council agrees, with the exception of the United Kingdom, to extend the EFSF to mid-2013 and bring the European Stability Mechanism forward to July 2012.
- On 14 December the European Council gives the green light to the Commission to begin talks with Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia to constitute areas of free trade.

Arab League

- On 7 December the Secretary General of the Arab League, Nabil el-Arabi announces his refusal to transfer the Syrian issue over to the UN Security Council.

Western Sahara

- On 21 January, talks between Morocco and the Polisario Front resume after the unrest in 2010 over the dismantling of a protest camp close to El Aaiun. This is the fifth round of informal talks under the auspices of the United Nations.
- On 26-27 February the city of Dakhla witnesses serious clashes between Sahrawis and Moroccans during the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Polisario Front.
- On 2 March the Moroccan police clashed with around 500 former workers of the Bou Craa phosphate company demonstrating in front of the delegation of the Ministry of Mines and Energy in El Aaiun.
- On 8 March fresh talks are held in Mellieha, Malta, between Morocco and the Polisario, mediated by the United Nations. The talks continue those held in Geneva on 10 February during which

"significant progress" was made concerning the Tindouf refugee camps.

- On 27 April the United Nations Security Council unanimously approves a resolution that recognises the need to improve the human rights situation in the Western Sahara and in Tindouf. It also renews the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) until 30 April 2012.
- On 6 June the seventh round of talks begin in Manhasset between Morocco and the Polisario, which comes to a close without advances.
- On 20 July the eighth round of talks in Manhasset begins, which closes without agreements on the organisation of a referendum for independence.
- On 25-26 September two people are killed after a football match in Dakhla, in clashes between Sahrawi separatists and Moroccan nationalists.
- On 31 October the last 24 Sahrawi activists held in connection with the dismantling of the Gdeim Izik protest camp, in November 2010, begin a hunger strike to demand a civilian, rather than military, trial.
- On 15 December the 13th Congress of the Polisario Front is held in Tifariti, Algeria, during which Mohamed Abdelaziz, leader of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), condemns the Moroccan regime as tyrannical, and appeals to the new Spanish government for a stronger commitment.

Gibraltar

- On 24 April seven vessels in the service of the customs authority of the British Navy intercept two Civil Guard patrol boats in Spanish waters in the Bay of Algeciras, whilst they are arresting the occupants on suspicion of drug-trafficking. The event prompts the Spanish Foreign Office to complain to the United Kingdom.
- On 18 July London announces that it will appeal the decision of the EU Court of Justice that confirms the European Commission's decision, as proposed by Spain, to consider an area that encompasses part of the waters surrounding Gibraltar to be under environmental protection, alleging that this is a violation of British sovereignty and damages the economic interests of the colony.

- On 4 July the Chief Minister Peter Caruana announces the creation of a Borders and Coastguard agency at the presentation of the budget for the island.
- On 8 December Gibraltar holds parliamentary elections in which the alliance of the Labour and Liberal parties wins 48.8% of the votes.

More information

For a detailed chronology of the wave of changes in the Arab world:

www.iemed.org/dossiers-en/dossiers-iemed/mon-arab-i-mediterrani/onada-de-canvis-al-mon-arab?set_language=en

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