

# Chronology of Major Conflicts and Political Events

## January 2013

*Portugal and Greece receive a second aid tranche from the EU and the IMF. In Spain, the ruling People's Party is involved in a corruption scandal. France carries out a military intervention in Mali and expels the radical Islamists from Ansar el-Dine and MOJWA from Azawad. In Italy, the People of Freedom and the Northern League agree on a coalition for the February elections and the Prime Minister Mario Monti announces that he will lead a centre-right coalition. In Turkey, the negotiations between Ankara and the PKK are endangered by the murder in Paris of three militants from the terrorist organisation. In Syria, there are rising fears that the country's chemical weapons may fall into the hands of extremist groups. In the north, clashes continue between Islamist rebels and Kurdish militia. Parliamentary elections are held in Jordan. Egypt reshuffles its cabinet in a month which marks the second anniversary of the revolution with new protests, fuelled in part by the court ruling over the deaths at the Port Said football stadium in February 2012. The hostage crisis at the Tigantourine gas plant in Algeria ends with the death of the terrorists from the Masked Men Brigade and dozens of hostages.*

### Portugal

- On 2 January the President Anibal Cavaco Silva presents the budgets approved by the Constitutional Court for 2013 to decide on the legality of the austerity measures they contain.
- On 16 January the IMF unblocks the sixth tranche of the Portuguese bailout package, 838.8 million euros.

### Spain

- On 8 January the Pallerols corruption trial is brought to its conclusion with the admission of the Democratic Union of Catalonia (UDC, Christian democrat) that it illegally used European funds in the nineties.
- On 16 January it is revealed that the former treasurer of the People's Party (PP, centre-right), Luis Barcenas, had 22 million euros in a Swiss bank account, which he emptied when he was charged in 2009 in the *Gürtel* corruption scandal. On 18 January it is reported that Barcenas and his predecessor, Alvaro Lapuerta, had been handing out illegal monthly bonuses of between 5,000 and 15,000 euros to senior officials of the PP, deepening the general crisis in Spanish politics.
- On 15 January the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) rules in favour of Spain upholding its ban on the Basque Nationalist Action party (ANV) in 2008.
- On 18 January Gozton Vizan Gonzalez, a fugitive since 1991, is arrested in Rio de Janeiro for belonging to ETA's disbanded Biscay unit.

### France

- On 3 January the separatist party Batasuna announces its dissolution in Bayonne.
- On 11 January France carries out a military intervention in Mali responding to the United Nations and Bamako's call to retake control of Azawad from the hands of extremist Islamist militants. On 30 January the French-Mali Operation frees Kidal, after having done so in Timbuktu and Gao.

- On 13 January hundreds of thousands of people demonstrate in Paris against the legalisation of same-sex marriage.
- On 22 January the Council of Ministers approves the bill to reform Republican Schools, which foresees the recruitment of 60,000 new teachers.

### Italy

- On 4 January the Prime Minister Mario Monti announces that he will head the electoral list *Civic Choice, With Monti for Italy*, in the upcoming February elections.
- On 7 January the People of Freedom (PDL) and the Northern League (Padanian nationalist) agree to run together in the February elections. Silvio Berlusconi, on the other hand, withdraws his presidential candidacy.
- On 22 January Vittorio Maglione, from the Camorra Ferrara-Cacciapuoti clan and one of Italy's most wanted fugitives, is arrested in Mijas, Spain.

### Slovenia

- On 8 January the anti-corruption commission announces that it will investigate all political party leaders after finding irregularities in the accounts of Prime Minister Janez Jansa and the Mayor of Ljubljana Zoran Jankovic.
- On 23 January the Civic List party, which demands the resignation of Janez Jansa, who it accuses of corruption, abandons the government coalition leaving behind a minority government.
- On 23 January a public sector strike against spending cuts, paralyses health and education services.

*Croatia*

- On 17 January the President Ivo Josipovic calls upon Bosnians who fled from Croatia during the Balkans War to return to their homes.

*Montenegro*

- On 28 January a demonstration organised by the country's main trade unions protests against the 3% tax increase on salaries of over 400 euros.

*Serbia*

- On 21 January Kosovo condemns Serbia's removal of a monument to the Liberation Army of Presevo, Medveda and Bujanovac, which Belgrade says promotes separatism.

*Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 17 January the Serbian and Kosovo Prime Ministers, Ivica Dacic and Hashim Thaci reach a provisional agreement in Brussels on the collection of customs duties.
- On 24 January the Kosovo government assures that it will pay compensation for recent attacks on Serbian graves and monuments.

*Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)*

- On 23 January the social democratic opposition announces moves against Nikola Grevski's government following a meeting between Grevski and the social democrat leader Branko Crvenkovski, which ends without an agreement on calling early elections, a demand that came after the approval without consensus of the 2013 budgets in 2012.

*Albania*

- On 14 January the Socialist Party (PS) accuses the governing Democratic Party (DPS, centre-right) of giving refuge to Peru's former Foreign Minister Augusto Blacker Miller, wanted by Peru for his participation in the Alberto Fujimori coup in 1992 and who currently controls the Albanian

waste management company Apolonia Investments.

- On 17 January the Foreign Minister Edmond Panariti asks Greece to repeal the law under which both countries are technically still in a state of war. The law has been in force since Italian forces attacked Greece from Albania in October 1940.

*Greece*

- On 1 January Athens metro workers strike in protests against plans for a uniform public-sector wage scale, which would imply 20% wage cuts for metro workers.
- On 16 January the IMF announces the release of 3.24 billion euros of its bailout package after reviewing the public deficit reduction programme undertaken by Greece, where Parliament approves a new tax hike two days earlier to raise an additional 2.5 billion until 2014.
- On 18 January the Parliament approves the creation of a committee to investigate various politicians, including the former Finance Minister Yorgos Papaconstantinou, over the disappearance of the so-called Lagarde List, which contains the names of more than 2,000 Greeks with accounts in the British bank HSBC.
- On 22 January the Council of Europe ratifies the credentials of MP Eleni Zoroulia, from the neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn.
- On 25 January the government issues a civil mobilisation order and approves the use of riot police to end another nine-day metro strike in Athens.

*Turkey*

- On 3 January the general and former Chief-of-Staff Ismail Hakki Karadayi is arrested in the investigation into the 1997 Post-Modern Coup.
- On 4 January NATO deploys Patriot missiles on the Turkish-Syrian border.
- On 9 January three members of the terrorist organisation the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), are murdered in Paris, jeopardising the talks opened between Turkey and the imprisoned leader Abdullah Ocalan on the disarmament of the PKK.

*Syria*

- On 11 January rebel sources confirm they have taken control of the strategic Taftanaz Military Airbase.
- On 15 January over 100 people are killed in Basatin al-Hasawiya, Homs, in an attack led by the army.
- On 22 January at least 56 people are killed in Ras al-Ayn, in clashes between the Free Syrian Army (FSA) and the Kurdish People's Protection Units, fighting against both the regime and the Islamist sectors of the FSA, in defence of Kurdish autonomy.
- On 28 January the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (NCSROF) asks for the arms embargo on Syria to be lifted to allow it to defend against regime aggression and strengthen its dominion in areas under its control.
- On 30 January Kuwait hosts the UN International Donors Conference for Syria with the aim of raising 1.5 billion dollars.

*Jordan*

- On 23 January Jordan holds legislative elections. The pro-monarchy candidates win against the Islamist and left-wing opposition, most of whom boycotted the elections, claiming they are rigged. This is the first time the Parliament will have the authority to elect the Prime Minister.

*Egypt*

- On 6 January a partial cabinet reshuffle comes into effect, ordered the previous day by the President Mohamed Morsi. The government renewal affects the ministries of the Interior, Transport, Energy, Local Development, Civil Aviation, Environmental Affairs, Supply, Communication and Parliamentary Affairs.
- On 13 January the Court of Cassation accepts Hosni Mubarak's appeal and orders the trial to be repeated, in which the deposed Egyptian President and his Interior Minister Habib el-Adly were handed life sentences for the repression of the Egyptian Revolution.
- On 24 January the Black Bloc makes its first appearance in reaction to "the

fascist tyrants, the Muslim Brotherhood.”

- On 25 January Egypt commemorates the second anniversary of the revolution with gatherings of crowds in the country's main cities.
- On 26 January the Egyptian authorities sentence 21 people to death accused of participating in the Port Said football stadium massacre in February 2012. The verdict sparks clashes in Port Said, Cairo, Alexandria, Ismailia and Suez. After three days of unrest, on 28 January the government extends the powers of the army. On 30 January faced with rising tensions, the opposition National Salvation Front (NSF) agrees to participate in a national dialogue process proposed by Mohamed Morsi.

#### *Libya*

- On 4 January Mohamed Magariaf, President of the Libyan National Congress (Parliament), escapes unharmed from an attack in Sebha.
- On 15 January Italy temporarily closes its consulate in Benghazi after the city's Italian consul Guido de Sanctis escapes unharmed from an assassination attempt. On 24 January the United Kingdom, Germany and the Netherlands tell their citizens to leave the city.
- On 26 January Sheikh Mohamed Ben Othman, member of the Misrata Local Council is murdered. This is the fourth murder in a fortnight of a local authority member. On 28 January a curfew is enforced.

#### *Tunisia*

- On 16 and 19 January there is unrest in El Kef over the lack of progress in the improvement of living conditions.
- On 17 January Ettakatol (social democrat) announces that it may leave the government coalition unless its participation in the cabinet is increased and a greater number of political parties take part.
- On 19 January three of the secular opposition parties, Nidaa Tounis, al-Joumhouri and al-Massar contemplate running as a coalition in the next elections.
- On 26 January thousands of police officers and members of the National

Guard protest to demand that the Interior Ministry offers better working conditions.

- On 26 January the Prime Minister Hamadi Jebali announces that talks between the political forces to reshuffle the cabinet have ended without an agreement.

#### *Algeria*

- On 16 January militia of the pro-Katibat al-Mulathameen (The Masked Brigade), an offshoot of the AQIM and led by the Algerian terrorist Mokhtar Belmokhtar, attack the Tigantourine gas facility, 40 kilometres from In Amenas, demanding an end to the French intervention in Mali and the release of Islamist extremists held prisoner in Algeria. On 17 January, the Algerian army launches an attack in which several of the terrorists and hostages are killed. On 19 January the special forces raid the complex killing all the assailants. On 21 January the Prime Minister Abdelmalek Sellal, confirms the death of 37 hostages of eight different nationalities.

#### *Morocco*

- On 22 January the Justice Ministry announces that it will reform article 475 of the Penal Code, which allows the rapist of a minor to marry his victim.

#### *European Union*

- On 1 January Ireland assumes the EU Presidency with fiscal stability, economic recovery and job creation as priorities.
- On 24 January the British Prime Minister David Cameron declares his intention to call a national referendum between 2015 and 2017 to renegotiate the United Kingdom's relationship with the EU, which could lead to the country leaving the Union.

#### *Arab League*

- On 31 January the Arab League and Russia condemn Israel's attack the previous day on a Syrian military research centre, claiming that it constitutes a “clear violation of the sovereignty of an Arab state.”

## **February 2013**

*Portugal, Spain and Montenegro adopt new anti-crisis measures. France passes the law legalising same-sex marriage. Italy, Monaco and Cyprus hold elections. The Slovenian government falls. The political crisis in FYROM deepens. Greece has its first general strike of the year. The Free Syrian Army makes important progress in terms of its strategic positioning and steps up its military activity in Damascus. In Egypt, new protests take place and clashes break out in the major cities against the President Mohamed Morsi. In Tunisia, the murder of Chokri Belaïd, leader of the Democratic Patriots' Movement (PPDU) triggers new demonstrations against the government and the dismissal of the Prime Minister Hamadi Jebali.*

#### *Portugal*

- On 8 February the Parliament adopts the fiscal stability rule outlined in the European Fiscal Compact.
- On 16 February thousands of people from the General Confederation of Portuguese Workers (CGTP), the country's biggest union, gather to demonstrate against the austerity measures.

#### *Spain*

- On 15 February the government announces a reform of local government to save 7 billion euros between now and 2015.
- On 20 February judges and public prosecutors protest against the law reform of the General Council of the Judiciary (CGPJ) law.
- On 26 February the Parliament rejects a motion from Convergence and Union (CiU, right-wing, Catalan nationalist) and the United Left (IU) on a public referendum for Catalan self-determination. 14 members of the Socialists' Party of Catalonia (PSC), the Catalan federation of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE), are fined by their own party for ignoring the PSC's line to vote in favour, revealing the internal divisions of the PSOE and PSC over the sovereignty issue.

*France*

- On 12 February the National Assembly passes the law that allows for same-sex marriage and adoption.
- On 26 February France says that it will not negotiate with terrorists over the kidnapping of the Moulin-Fournier family in Cameroon on 19 February. A further eight French people are still held by kidnapers from Islamic terrorist groups in Africa.
- On 26 February Segolene Royal is appointed vice-President of the Public Investment Bank created by the government of François Hollande.
- On 23 February, unable to reduce the public deficit to 3% of its GDP, as agreed with Brussels, France announces measures to cut public spending for 2014.

*Monaco*

- On 10 February Monaco holds a general election in which the Horizon Monaco alliance wins 20 of the 24 seats. The Union Monegasque alliance wins three seats and the new *Renaissance* party, composed of employees of the Société des Bains de Mer, wins one seat.

*Italy*

- On 24 - 25 February Italy holds an early general election. In the Chamber of Deputies (lower house) the centre-left Italy Common Good alliance led by Pier-Luigi Bersani's Democratic Party (PD) wins 345 of the 630 seats. The centre-right alliance led by Silvio Berlusconi's PDL takes second place with 125 seats. The Five Star Movement of comic Beppe Grillo wins 109 seats and the centrist coalition With Monti for Italy wins 47 seats. In the Senate (upper house), Bersani's coalition wins 113 of the 315 seats, against Berlusconi's 116.

*Slovenia*

- On 27 February after months of citizen demonstrations, the Parliament approves a no-confidence vote over allegations of corruption against the conservative government of Janez Jansa and asks Alenka Bratusek, from Positive Slovenia (PS, centre-left), to form a government.

*Croatia*

- On 20 February Croatian veterans of the Balkans War protest against the decision to include the Cyrillic transcription on public roads in Vukovar in a climate of rising tensions between Croats and Serbs.

*Bosnia and Herzegovina*

- On 12 February the House of Representatives (lower house) approves a no-confidence vote against the entity's government, tabled by the new alliance of parties which holds a parliamentary majority. On 15 February the motion is blocked in the House of Peoples (upper house) after claims by the Bosnian opposition that it endangers the interests of their community.
- On 15 February the Bosnian Appeals Court sentences four Bosnian Serb police officers to a total of 79 years' imprisonment for the murder of more than 150 civilians in Koricanske Stijene during the Bosnian War.
- On 26 February the House of Peoples of the Federal Parliament approves the return of properties and financial compensation for refugees and displaced persons from the Bosnian War.
- On 27 February the President of the Republika Srpska Milorad Dodik reshuffles the government and appoints Zeljka Cvijanovic as Prime Minister.

*Montenegro*

- On 8 February the government increases income tax on salaries above the country's average – 720 euros gross – to reduce the deficit.

*Serbia*

- On 20 February the Parliament sacks Nata Mesarovic, the President of the Supreme Court of Cassation, following a ruling from the Constitutional Court, which considers the regulation used to appoint Mesarovic to be unconstitutional.
- On 28 February the former Yugoslavian Chief-of-Staff Momcilo Perisic is acquitted, in an appeal lodged by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), of the 27-

year sentence handed down in September 2011 for war crimes between 1993 and 1995.

*Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 13 February the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (AAK, centre-right) announces that it will continue giving support to the governing Democratic Party (PDK, social democrat) on issues of national interest.

*FYROM*

- On 20 February the appointment of the Albanian-Macedonian Talat Xhaferi as Defence Minister is shunned by the Dignity Party, which comprises veterans from the conflict against the Albanian guerrillas in 2001.
- On 24 February the opposition led by the Social Democratic Union (USDM) agrees not to recognise the results of the upcoming local elections in protest against the approval by the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization - Democratic Party for Macedonian National Unity (VMRO-DPMNE, right-wing) of the controversial budgets for 2013, in December 2012, after expelling the opposition MPs from the Parliament.

*Albania*

- On 7 February two officers of the Republican Guard are acquitted of the murder of three demonstrators in the anti-government protests in January 2011. On 11 February there is a demonstration in protest against the verdict.
- On 24 February the Chief of Police Dritan Lamaj is murdered in Tirana. This is the third murder of a senior police officer in eight months.

*Greece*

- On 1 February the Economic Crimes Prosecutor announces the opening of an investigation into New Democracy (ND, centre-right) and the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) accused of misusing public funds and fraud after it is reported that they have debts to the value of 250 million euros from loans requested in 2001 and 2002.

- On 1 February four anarchists are arrested accused of robbing 200,000 euros to finance the group Conspiracy of Fire Nuclei.
- On 20 February Greece has its first general strike of the year, called by the GSEE and ADEDY trade unions, to protest against the austerity measures and high levels of unemployment.
- On 26 February the former mayor of Thessaloniki, Dimitris Papageorgopoulos is given a life sentence for embezzling 18 million euros of public funds.

#### Turkey

- On 1 February two people are killed in an attack outside the US embassy in Ankara by the radical left-wing group Revolutionary People's Liberation Party-Front (DHKP/C). On 19 February 167 people linked with the DHKP/C are arrested.
- On 21 February the army bombs 12 hideouts of the PKK terrorist organisation in the Qandil mountains in Iraq.

#### Cyprus

- On 4 February the President Demetris Christofias, appoints Spyros Stavrinakis as deputy governor of the central bank, a position reserved by the Constitution for Turkish-Cypriot citizens and which has been vacant for the last 50 years. The government justifies the controversial decision claiming that it needs extra help to cope with the bank's increased responsibilities following negotiations with Brussels for a bailout package.
- On 5 February a nine-day national builders' strike ends with unrest in Paphos.
- On 17 February Cyprus holds the first round of its presidential elections. Nicos Anastasiades, the Democratic Alliance (DISY, conservative) candidate, the Democratic Party (DIKO, centrist) and the pro-European Evroko and Stavros Malas, supported by the Progressive Party of Working People (AKEL, communist) reach the second round, held on 24 February, in which Anastasiades wins with 57.4% of the votes.

#### Syria

- On 9 February Bashar al-Assad reshuffles the government. The Labour

and Social Affairs Ministries are created, led by Hassan Hijazi and Kinda Shmat respectively. Hussein Farzat takes over at the Ministry of Housing, Ahmad Qadiri at the Agriculture Ministry, Suleiman Abbas is appointed Oil Minister, Ismail Ismail Finance Minister and Hussein Arnous Minister of Public Works.

- On 11 February the FSA confirms that it has taken control of the al-Furat Hydroelectric Dam, the biggest in the country. This major advance adds to the prior success in November 2012, when FSA took control of the Tishrin Dam.
- On 12 February after weeks under siege the Jarrah Military Airbase in Aleppo is captured by the FSA, in a new strategic advance. Opposition sources report tank manoeuvres by the Syrian army in Abbasid Square in Damascus to protect the capital from the increasingly frequent FSA incursions.
- On 17 February the UN and Arab League Special Envoy for Syria Lakhdar Brahimi proposes that the UN host an eventual dialogue between the regime and the opposition.
- On 21 February at least 53 people are killed in an attack close to a building of the Baath Party in Damascus, in the central Shahbandar Square.
- On 25 February the FSA takes control of the nuclear facilities in Deir al-Zor.

#### Lebanon

- On 20 February the military investigative judge Riad Abou Ghaida calls for the death penalty for former Lebanese minister Michel Samaha, and for the Syrian Chief of Intelligence Ali Mamlouk, for planning terrorist attacks in Lebanon.

#### Jordan

- On 21 February Jordan announces that it will open a third refugee camp with an initial capacity of 5,000 refugees in Zarqa.

#### Egypt

- On 1 February thousands of opponents of the President Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood take to the streets in a new Friday of protests in the country's main cities, demanding that the President resign for betraying the revo-

lutionary goals. New demonstrations and clashes erupt throughout the month.

- On 4 February the Culture Minister Mohamed Saber Arab resigns in protest against the crackdown on the recent demonstrations.
- On 12 February the Egyptian Public Prosecutor orders the arrest of Salafist Mahmud Shaaban after he calls for leaders of the opposition coalition NSF to be killed in the name of Islam.
- On 19 February the Attorney General orders the arrest of the Salafi preacher Abu Islam for his misogynist sermons.
- On 24 February Mohamed ElBaradei announces that his party al-Dostour (Constitution, liberal) will boycott the parliamentary elections in April.

#### Libya

- On 7 February representatives of the Tubu and Zuwaya, the two main groups in Kufra, begin peace negotiations in Tripoli, mediated by the government. On 26 February, however, clashes begin again in Kufra between the two communities.

#### Tunisia

- On 6 February the opposition leaves the Constituent Assembly hours after the murder of Chokri Belaïd, Secretary General of the Democratic Patriots' Movement (PPDU, left-wing), a fierce critic of the government and the Salafi League for the Protection of the Revolution. Protests are staged demanding the resignation of the Interior Minister Ali Larayedh. The Prime Minister Hamadi Jebali promises to form a new national unity government composed of technocrats. On 8 February there is a general strike called by the opposition and the Tunisian General Labour Union UGTT), coinciding with Belaïd's funeral. On 19 February Jebali resigns after failing to gain parliamentary support for his proposal for a new cabinet. Unrest continues in different cities. On 22 February Ennahda proposes Larayedh as the new Prime Minister.

#### Algeria

- On 15 February the Interior Ministry denies the legalisation of the Salafi

party the Free Awakening Front, whose founding convention was scheduled for 16 February. The Front had requested its legalisation on 2 January.

- On 24 February the CEO of the hydrocarbon company Sonatrach, Abdelhamid Zerguine, acknowledges cases of corruption in his company. One of the people involved is the former CEO Mohamed Meziane, who has been in prison since 2011.

#### Morocco

- On 4 February the rapper and activist Mouad Belghouat, who has served sentence since May 2012 for insulting the State's security service, begins a hunger strike to demand his release.

#### Mauritania

- On 25 February the police disperse demonstrators from the 25 February Movement who take to the streets in Nouakchott to mark the anniversary of the founding of the movement.

#### European Union

- On 8 February the European Council of Heads of State and Government reaches an agreement on the European Budget for 2014-2020, which is reduced for the first time.

#### Arab League

- On 20 February the Secretary General of the Arab League Nabil Elaraby urges Moscow to negotiate with Damascus for a dialogue-based solution to the Syrian conflict.

### March 2013

*In France, there are changes in the cabinet. The difficulties in forming a government in Italy continue. The elections in Malta bring victory to the Labour Party. In Slovenia the Parliament invests the new government. In Turkey, Abdullah Ocalan calls the PKK to disarm. The EU and IMF agree on the Cypriot rescue package. The Arab League gives Syria's seat to NCSROF, which, mid-month, elects Ghassan*

*Hitto as Prime Minister. Tensions in Lebanon rise with protests in Tripoli, Sidon and Beirut. In Jordan, Abdullah II orders the formation of a government. In Egypt the court ruling against 52 participants in the massacre at the Port Said stadium ignites tensions. In Libya there are new tribal clashes and difficulties continue in integrating the revolutionary militia into the security structures. In Tunisia a new coalition government is formed. In Algeria protests demanding social improvements are staged throughout the month in the south of the country.*

#### Portugal

- On 2 March major protests in several cities call for the resignation of the government, coinciding with the visit of EU and IMF representatives for the seventh review of Portugal's bailout package.

#### Spain

- On 5 March the Chief Prosecutor of Catalonia Martin Rodriguez Sol resigns after proceedings are taken to remove him for showing open support for a Catalanian sovereignty referendum, despite his position.
- On 9 March around a hundred sub-Saharan attempt to jump the Melilla border fence. On 11 March another 50 illegal immigrants storm the fence, some of whom succeed in entering Spanish territory.

#### France

- On 13 March a Paris criminal court sentences ETA members Garikoitz Aspiazu, Mikel Carrera Sarobe, Aitzol Iriondo and Luis Ignacio Iruretagoyena to 20 years in prison. Another six defendants are given prison sentences of between eight and 18 years.
- On 20 March the European Affairs Minister Bernard Cazeneuve is appointed as the Junior Minister for the Budget to replace Jerome Cahuzac, who resigned the previous day after being implicated in an investigation into money laundering and tax fraud. Thierry Rappentin is appointed as the new European Affairs Minister.

#### Monaco

- On 14 March Jean-Sebastien Fiorucci, former head of the cabinet of Jean-François Robillon, is charged for his involvement in the opinion poll scandal in June 2012, which may have violated the respondents' confidentiality.

#### Italy

- On 7 March a Milan court of first instance sentences Silvio Berlusconi to one year in prison for the illegal publication of wiretapped telephone calls, in the Unipol Case.
- On 16 March Piero Grasso (PD) is elected President of the Senate and Laura Boldrini, left-wing environmentalist, President of the Chamber of Deputies.
- On 25 March Marcello Dell'Utri former Senator and co-founder of Forza Italia is sentenced by a Palermo court to seven years in prison for mediating between the Mafia and Berlusconi's business interests.
- On 26 March the Foreign Minister Giulio Terzi resigns over a disagreement with the cabinet on the extradition to India of two Italian marines. The two men are to stand trial for the death of two fishermen they confused for pirates in the Indian Ocean.

#### The Vatican

- On 13 March the Archbishop of Buenos Aires Jorge Mario Bergoglio is elected Pope under the name of Francis after the official resignation on 28 February of Benedict XVI, the first of its kind since Gregory XII in 1415.

#### Malta

- On 9 March the Labour Party (LP) of Joseph Muscat wins the presidential elections with 55% of the votes. On 13 March Muscat announces his new cabinet.

#### Slovenia

- On 5 March the Parliament approves the labour reform drawn up by the outgoing government, which includes relaxing dismissal regulations

and a cap on temporary workers in companies set at 25%.

- On 20 March the Parliament invests the new government formed by the coalition of Positive Slovenia, the Social Democrats, Civic List and the Democratic Party of Pensioners.

#### *Croatia*

- On 1 March the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ, conservative) announces the expulsion of Jadranka Kosor, for the former Prime Minister's criticism of Tomislav Karamarko, the current party leader.
- On 4 March Croatia and Serbia agree to form a joint committee to resolve pending cases from the Yugoslav War.
- On 12 March a court in Rijeka sentences seven former Serb fighters to a total of 125 years in prison for the Bacin Massacre in October 1991.

#### *Bosnia and Herzegovina*

- On 11 March the Party of Democratic Action (SDA, conservative, Bosnian nationalist) rules out participating in the Bosnian-Serb coalition, revealed on 12 March.
- On 25 March the ruling Social Democratic Party (SDP) requests that the High Representative of the International Community for Bosnia Valentin Inzko find a solution to the governing crisis in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina after the entity's Bosnian members, appealing to their community's interests, block the appointment of three judges to the Constitutional Court. The Court has been incomplete since 2008, and therefore incapable of making a decision regarding the no-confidence vote, passed by the parties of the government coalition created in May 2012, to dismiss the Bosnian ministers from the previous government coalition.
- On 27 March the ICTY sentences the former Bosnian-Serb senior officials Mico Stanisić and Stojan Zupljanin to 22 years' imprisonment.

#### *Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 4 March Belgrade and Pristina fail to reach a definitive agreement on

the status of the Serbian territories in Northern Kosovo, due to Kosovo's refusal to grant them autonomy.

- On 14 March a demonstration in Pristina condemns political corruption and rising energy prices and calls for the resignation of the Finance and Interior Ministers Besim Beqaj and Bajram Rexhepi and the executive director of the Kosovo Energy Corporation Arben Gjuka.

#### *FYROM*

- On 1 March clashes erupt in Skopje during a demonstration against the appointment of the Albanian-Macedonian Talat Xhaferi as Defence Minister.
- On 8 March ethnic Albanian demonstrators attempt to storm the government headquarters over the government's anti-Albanian policies.

#### *Albania*

- On 4 March the President Bujar Nishani, blocks the appointment of the former Prosecutor General Ina Rama as judge at the Appeals Court.

#### *Greece*

- On 5 March farmers protest in Athens calling for lower taxes and cuts in fuel prices after negotiations with the Agriculture Minister fail to reach a consensus.
- On 5 March the former Minister Akis Tsochatzopoulos (PASOK) is sentenced to eight years in prison and fined 520,000 euros for failing to properly declare his assets between 2006 and 2009.
- On 12 March the offices of the Minister Kostas Gioulekas, former Minister Yorgos Orfanos and deputy Environment Minister Stavros Kalafatis (ND) are attacked with explosives in Salonica. These acts add to the shooting attack on the Prime Minister's office in January and the letter containing threats sent by the Cretan Revolution in February to the Finance Minister.

#### *Turkey*

- On 19 March two devices explode outside the Ministry of Justice and head-

quarters of the Justice and Development Party (AKP) in Ankara.

- On 21 March, coinciding with the Kurdish new year, Abdullah Ocalan calls for disarmament to allow advances to be made in the talks with Ankara to end almost three decades of PKK terrorist activity.

#### *Cyprus*

- On 16 March the Eurogroup and IMF agree on a 10 billion-euro bailout package. To cover the remaining 7 billion euros of the country's debt it is agreed to apply a one-off tax of 9.9% to bank deposits of over 100,000 euros and 6.75% to those under this amount, Russia is asked to extend its bailout loan and Nicosia is forced to increase corporate tax to 12.5%. On 25 March a second agreement leads to the immediate liquidation of the second biggest Cypriot bank, Laiki Bank, with a haircut that will only affect deposits above 100,000 euros and restrictions on the movement of capital, representing the first *corralito* in the EU. On 28 March bank branches reopen after being closed for 13 days to avoid a mass capital flight.
- On 29 March the media reveals a high number of alleged loan waivers, between 2006 and 2012, to politicians, businessmen and trade unionists by the three main Cypriot Banks. This scandal adds to reports made on 26 March by two former high-level Laiki Bank employees of capital flight to Greece.

#### *Syria*

- On 4 March the armed opposition takes al-Raqqah, the first provincial capital to fall into rebel hands.
- On 4 March at least 35 Syrian soldiers are killed in an attack in Rabiya, Iraq, for which al-Qaeda claims responsibility.
- On 18 March Ia NCSROF elects Ghassan Hitto as the Prime Minister of the Syrian opposition.
- On 24 March the NCSROF President and leader of the moderate opposition Moaz al-Khatib resigns, citing a lack of support. The General Assembly of the NCSROF refuses to accept his resignation.

- On 24 March Israel fires a missile at a Syrian military outpost in response to two attacks launched from Syria. The attacks coincide with advances made by the Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade, which takes control of several military facilities close to the Golan Heights.

#### Lebanon

- On 1 March the army is deployed in Sidon to prevent fighting between Salafis and Hezbollah members. Every Friday of the month Salafis demonstrate in Sidon, Beirut and Tripoli against the Syrian regime and the Lebanese Shiite militia.
- On 23 March Najib Mikati and his government resign, unable to reach a parliamentary agreement on an electoral reform that will allow elections to be held in June.

#### Jordan

- On 10 March Abdullah II orders Abdullah Ensour to form the new government. This is the first time that the head of government has been approved by the Parliament, rather than the King.
- On 27 March the British government loses its appeal at the Special Immigration Appeals Commission to deport the radical preacher Abu Qatada to Jordan.

#### Egypt

- On 6 March Egypt's Administrative Court overturns a presidential decree calling for parliamentary elections on 22 April.
- On 6 March the Giza Criminal Court sentences the steel tycoon Ahmed Ezz to 37 years in prison and fines him 227 million euros for corruption.
- On 9 March the Egyptian judiciary confirms the 21 death penalties and five life sentences handed down in January to those responsible for the 70 deaths at the Port Said stadium in February 2012. The ruling fuels the unrest already in the streets.
- On 27 March the Cairo Appeals Court orders the reinstatement of the Attorney General Abdel Meguid Mahmoud, dismissed in November 2012 by presidential decree.

#### Libya

- On 2 March clashes between militants from Zintan and Zuwara force the

evacuation of the Melita gas and oil facility.

- On 3 March four security agents are injured during the eviction of a group of former revolutionary fighters who have been camped outside the National Congress for the past month demanding financial compensation and medical treatment.
- On 4 March the Mashashiya and Guntrar tribes agree on a ceasefire in Mizdah brokered by the government.
- On 14 March the United Nations extends its mission in Libya, UNSMIL, by a year and eases the arms embargo on the country.
- On 14 March it is reported that Faraj al-Chalabi has been arrested, a Libyan citizen with links to al-Qaeda and the Libyan Islamist Fighting Group, wanted since 1994 for the murder of German nationals in Sirte and since September 2012 for attacking the US consulate in Benghazi.
- On 19 March Libya celebrates its new national day, commemorating the victory of the Revolution. Members of the High Council of Revolutionaries demonstrate in Martyrs' Square against the government's inefficiency, the excessive authority of the National Congress and the unsatisfactory break with the deposed regime.

#### Tunisia

- On 1 March the President Moncef Marzouki extends the state of emergency by three months.
- On 8 March the Prime Minister Ali Larayedh announces the composition of the new government after more than two weeks of negotiations between Ennahda, the Congress for the Republic and Ettakatol. Independent candidates are appointed to head the Interior, Foreign, Defence and Justice Ministries. Ennahda retains just nine of the 30 ministries. On 13 March the Parliament approves the government by an absolute majority.
- On 17 March the Salafi movement Ansar al-Sharia announces its integration into al-Qaeda.

#### Algeria

- On 14 and 23 March crowds gather for the Dignity Marches in Ouargla and

Laghouat respectively, demanding measures against unemployment and recruitment transparency.

#### Morocco

- On 31 March thousands of people demonstrate in Rabat against the lack of progress in reducing unemployment and inflation.

#### European Union

- On 4 March Latvia requests entry to the eurozone.
- On 8 March Germany, Finland and the Netherlands veto the entry of Romania and Bulgaria into the Schengen Area.
- On 11 March the ban comes into effect on selling beauty products in the EU that have been tested on animals.
- On 13 March a European Parliament majority rejects the Multiannual Financial Framework approved by the Council in February.
- On 14 March thousands of people protest in Brussels against the austerity measures and rising unemployment caused by the crisis. The demonstration coincides with the European Council of Heads of State and Government.

#### Arab League

- On 6 March the Arab League agrees to hand Syria's seat in the organisation to the NCSROF.
- On 26-27 March Doha hosts the 24th Arab League Summit with Syria as the central issue.

#### April 2013

*In Portugal, the government approves fresh cuts. In Italy Giorgio Napolitano is reelected as President and Enrico Letta is appointed Prime Minister. Croatia holds European elections and Montenegro holds presidential elections. Serbia and Kosovo reach an agreement to normalise relations. In Albania, the withdrawal of the Socialist Movement for Integration from the government coalition opens a new political crisis. Turkey reforms its anti-terror laws. Cyprus accesses the EU and IMF financial bailout*



package. In Syria, the initiative to send a United Nations observer mission into the country to investigate the use of chemical weapons is rejected by Damascus and the NCSROF elects George Sabra as its new leader. The Lebanese Parliament elects Tammam Salam as its new Prime Minister. In Egypt a new political crisis opens over the judicial reform law. In the south of Algeria protests take place against the lack of measures to promote development in the area.

#### Portugal

- On 3 April the government wins a no-confidence vote tabled by the Socialist Party.
- On 4 April the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Miguel Relvas resigns over irregularities detected in the way in which he obtained his university degree.
- On 5 April the Constitutional Court rejects the removal of the 14th salary, paid to public sector workers and pensioners, and cuts to unemployment and sickness benefits approved by the government. The ruling prompts the cabinet to approve new cuts amounting to 800 million euros on 18 April.
- On 25 April, on the commemoration of the Carnation Revolution, thousands of Portuguese protest against the austerity measures.

#### Spain

- On 5 April the Justice Minister announces that the Royal Family will be included in the Transparency Law, after the *Noos* corruption scandal that affected Princess Cristina de Borbon.
- On 25 April a thousand-strong crowd tries to surround the Parliament in protest against the austerity measures and the political elite.
- On 25 April the National Institute of Statistics publishes the unemployment figures for the third quarter of 2013, which reach an all-time high of 27.16% of the active population.

#### France

- On 15 April the government publishes the asset declarations of its 37 members in reaction to the Cahuzac

scandal. On 16 April Cahuzac announces that he is giving up politics and his seat in the Parliament.

- On 21 April two demonstrations take place, one to defend and the other to reject the same-sex marriage bill, two days before its definitive approval in the National Assembly.
- On 26 April ETA members Mikel Karrera Sarobe and Saioa Sanchez are sentenced to life and 28 years' imprisonment respectively for the murder of two Spanish civil guards in Capbreton in 2007.

#### Italy

- On 21 April Giorgio Napolitano is reelected President by a large parliamentary majority after five failed attempts to appoint other candidates. The Five Star Movement, whose candidate Stefano Rodota is unsuccessful, describes the reelection as a coup and calls for protests in Rome.
- On 26 April Domenico Trimboli "Pasquale", one of the most wanted Ndrangheta members, is arrested in Colombia.
- On 27 April Enrico Letta, the PD vice-Secretary and Prime Minister – appointed by Giorgio Napolitano – succeeds in forming a coalition government. The nine ministers include Angelino Alfano as vice-President and Interior Minister, Fabrizio Saccomanni as Finance Minister, Emma Bonino as Foreign Minister, Anna Maria Cancellieri as Justice Minister and Cecile Kyenge as Minister for Integration.

#### Slovenia

- On 2 April Slovenia ratifies Croatia's accession to the EU after a bilateral agreement reached on 6 February regarding compensation for Croatian citizens after the collapse of the Ljubljanska Banka in 1990.

#### Croatia

- On 7 April some 20,000 Croats protest in Zagreb against the introduction of the Cyrillic script in public spaces and areas where more than a third of the population is Serbian.
- On 14 April Croatia holds elections to elect its European MPs. Victory goes

to the opposition conservative platform led by the HDZ with 32.86% of the votes –six seats-. The coalition led by the governing Social Democratic Party (SDP) wins 32.07% of the votes – five seats –. The Labour Party takes the remaining seat.

- On 17 April the third corruption trial begins against the former Prime Minister Ivo Sanader in which the former Minister Petar Cobankovic and former MP Stjepan Fiolic also stand trial.

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 2 April the Parliament of the Republika Srpska approves the issue of its own identity card after the ruling from the Federal Constitutional Court abolished the current federal law on the national identity card on the grounds that it did not include the correct names of the municipalities.
- On 15 April the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation invites Bosnia to become a full member.

#### Montenegro

- On 7 April Montenegro holds presidential elections in which Filip Vujanovic (Democratic Party of Socialists, DPS) wins for a third term with 51.21% of the votes against the 48.79% of Miodrag Lekic (Democratic Front, DF, conservative).
- On 15 April Montenegro closes the Education and Culture chapter in the EU accession negotiations.

#### Serbia

- On 10 April the former Environment Minister Oliver Dulic and Zoran Drobnjak, Director General of the state road maintenance company, are accused by the anti-corruption prosecutor's office of abuse of authority over illegal concessions made to the Nuba Invest company.
- On 12 April thousands of demonstrators protest in Novi Sad against the separatist agenda of the governing coalition in Voivodina.

#### Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 22 April the Serbian government approves the agreement reached on 19

April in Brussels to normalise relations between Belgrade and Pristina. The agreement determines the extent of the Kosovo Serbian municipalities's autonomy and lays down the commitment not to block their respective European accession processes. Kosovo Serbs reject the agreement deeming it insufficient and decide to create a Regional Assembly, which is not mentioned in the agreement.

- On 29 April five Kosovo doctors are given sentences of up to eight years in prison by a court of the EU Mission in Kosovo (EULEX), in the illegal kidney-trafficking case uncovered in 2008.

#### *FYROM*

- On 7 April the VMRO-DPMNE wins in 16 municipalities, including Skopje, in the second round of the municipal elections. In the first round, on 24 March, it had already won in a further 25. On 15 April, at the request of the VMRO-DPMNE, the Administrative Court annuls the victory of two opposition candidates in Centar and Struga. The decision leads the magistrate Isamedin Limani to resign, citing a violation of the separation of powers.

#### *Albania*

- On 3 April the Socialist Movement for Integration (LSI) withdraws its three ministers from the coalition government to run in the June elections in coalition with the opposition Socialist Party. On 16 April a parliamentary majority approves the dismissal of Ilirjan Muho, a member of the Electoral Commission proposed by the LSI. On 16-17 April a further two members of the Commission resign in protest against the dismissal.

#### *Greece*

- On 4 April the Parliament passes a law to stimulate private investment. It includes the simplification and acceleration of administrative procedures and specific benefits for the tourism sector.
- On 16 April sailors and railway workers strike against the government's austerity measures, a day after Athens and the troika reach an agreement to implement new cuts to allow the disburse-

ment of the next aid tranche. The cuts include the public sector restructuring bill, adopted on 28 April by the Parliament, which foresees dismissals of 15,000 public sector workers by 2014.

#### *Turkey*

- On 11 April the Parliament passes the anti-terrorism law reform in line with ECHR regulations.
- On 25 April Murat Karayilan, military chief of the PKK, announces that the terrorist organisation will begin withdrawing from its bases in Iraq in May.

#### *Cyprus*

- On 2 April the Finance Minister Michael Sarris resigns. On 3 April the Labour Minister Harris Georgiades is appointed as the new Finance Minister and Zeta Emilianidou assumes the post of Labour Minister.
- On 19 April the Parliament approves a 21-million-euro economic stimulation plan to create more than 10,000 jobs.
- On 25 April Cyprus relaxes its restrictions on the movement of capital.
- On 30 April the Parliament approves the package of austerity measures demanded by the troika to access the 10-billion-euro financial bailout package authorised by the eurozone finance ministers on 12 April.

#### *Syria*

- On 8 April Damascus rejects the UN mission to investigate the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian conflict.
- On 9 April Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, leader of the Iraqi branch of al-Qaeda, announces his fusion with the Salafi al-Nusra Front, integrated into the FSA under the name of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).
- On 23 April the NCSROF appoints George Sabra as the new leader to replace Moaz al-Khatib, who resigned in March.
- On 24 April the Syrian army takes control of the strategic town of Otaiba and blocks a major rebel supply route from Jordan. On 25 April the rebels attempt an offensive in Hama to support the militia fighting in the province, harried by the Syrian army, which in recent

months has made major advances in the control of the Lebanese border, the periphery of Damascus and areas in the north of Syria.

- On 29 April the Prime Minister Wael al-Halqi escapes an attack in Damascus unharmed.

#### *Lebanon*

- On 6 April Tammam Salam, the minister linked with Saad Hariri's Future Movement, is appointed as the new Prime Minister thanks to the agreement reached two days previously between Saad Hariri and the Druze leader Walid Jumblatt. The appointment constitutes an attempt to pull the country out of the institutional deadlock, which makes it impossible to reach a political agreement to reform the election law.

#### *Jordan*

- On 10 April the second Syrian refugee camp comes into operation, funded by the United Arab Emirates, in Mrajeeb al-Fhoud.

#### *Egypt*

- On 6 April at least five people are killed in new clashes between Christians and Muslims in Khusus. On 7 April fighting breaks out during the funerals of the victims in Cairo.
- On 11 April the Shura Council (upper house) passes the new election law. The People's Assembly will be composed of 546 seats, two thirds elected from party lists and a third reserved for independent candidates. Parties must include at least one woman, religious slogans and messages are permitted and Egypt is divided into 49 constituencies.
- On 13 April the trial against Hosni Mubarak is adjourned after the judge Mostafa Hassan Abdullah recuses himself from the case, citing embarrassment over the proceedings.
- On 21 April the Justice Minister Ahmed Mekki resigns a day before the Shura Council begins discussions about the judicial reform that foresees lowering the retirement age for judges from 70 to 60. The measure, which will affect around 3,000 judges, is seen by

the opposition and most judges as a way of Islamising the judiciary.

#### Libya

- On 8 April the Prime Minister Ali Zeidan's advisor Mohamed Ali Ghatous is released, after being kidnapped in Tajoura on 31 March.
- On 9 April Yahya Abdel Sayed, commander of Ansar al-Sharia is murdered in Sirte.
- On 15 April the Social Affairs Minister approves the fatwa issued by the Grand Mufti Sadeq al-Ghariani, which bans Libyans from marrying foreigners.
- On 23 April the French embassy in Tripoli is destroyed by a car bomb.

#### Tunisia

- On 11 April the police open fire on Salafi demonstrators attempting to storm a police station in Hergla.
- On 11 April Tunisia receives the first retrieval of the assets of former President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali and his family held abroad, which amounts to 22 million euros.
- On 16 April a court sentences Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali in absentia to five years in prison and to pay 3.5 million euros for corruption and abuse of power.
- On 16 April the Women's Affairs Minister Sihem Badi survives a no-confidence vote over reports of her poor management of the rape case of a girl in a Tunisian nursery in March.

#### Algeria

- On 1 April several activists begin a hunger strike in Ghardaia to denounce the difficult living conditions of the population and demand the release of 17 demonstrators arrested during the protests on 26 March.
- On 3 April the governor of Medea Brahim Merad survives an AQIM attack in Mezghena.
- On 7 April the government creates a committee of experts to draw up the draft bill to modify the current Constitution.
- On 13 April around 1,000 people demonstrate in Ghardaia to protest against the high levels of unemployment and the lack of measures taken for socio-economic development.

#### Mauritania

- On 3 April thousands of women march in Nouakchott to demand justice for Penda Sogue, the young woman who was raped, mutilated and murdered on 28 March.
- On 21 April Irabiha Mint Abdel Wedoud becomes the first woman to be appointed President of the National Human Rights Commission.

#### European Union

- On 24 April Switzerland limits the number of long-term residence permits issued to EU citizens, invoking the safeguard clause of the agreements signed with the Union on the free movement of people.
- On 26 April Croatia's deputy Prime Minister Neven Mimica is appointed European Commissioner for Consumer Protection.

#### May 2013

*Portugal, Italy and Slovenia adopt new austerity and economic recovery measures. In Spain the Council of Ministers passes the controversial state education reform. In France there are protests against the government's austerity policies and against the same-sex marriage law. In Bosnia, the President of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Zivko Budimir resumes his post and the ICTY sentences the former President of Bosnia's old Croatian entity Jadranko Prlic to 25 years in prison. Rising levels of xenophobia are cause for alarm in Greece. The EU lifts its arms embargo on the Syrian opposition, and the US and Russia pledge to convene an international conference on Syria. In Egypt, the crisis intensifies between the President and the judiciary. In Libya, the Parliament approves the Isolation Law. In Tunisia, political parties reach an agreement in principle on the future political system. In Morocco, Mohammed VI intervenes to avoid the breakup of the coalition government.*

#### Portugal

- On 12 May the government announces an agreement with its creditors

on the new austerity programme that allows access to a new 2-billion-euro aid tranche.

- On 23 May the government presents new measures to reactivate the economy, which include a credit line for companies that invest in Portugal in 2013.

#### Spain

- On 8 May the Constitutional Court temporarily suspends the Catalanian Parliament's resolution on 23 January on the "Declaration of Sovereignty."
- On 9 May a public education strike is staged against the draft bill for the education system, presented by the Education Minister Jose Ignacio Wert, and budget cuts in teaching. On 17 May the Council of Ministers passes the Wert Law.
- On 29 May the National Court sentences ETA members Ibon Iparraguirre and Asier Badiola to 299 years' imprisonment for the car bomb attack on a police station in Ondarroa in 2008.

#### France

- On 5 May a mass march called by the Left Front occupies Bastille Square in Paris to protest against the government's austerity policies.
- On 6 May six members of ETA's logistics unit are arrested in Blois, Brive-la-Gaillarde and Montpellier.
- On 15 May the National Institute of Statistics announces France's entry into recession after registering two consecutive quarters of negative economic growth.
- On 25 May a French soldier is stabbed in La Defense, Paris by a convert to Islam, who is arrested on 29 May in La Verriere, Yvelines.
- On 26 May more than 350 people are arrested in clashes during a new demonstration in Paris against the same-sex marriage law.

#### Italy

- On 6 May the seven-time Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti dies in Rome.
- On 8 May the Milan Appeals Court confirms the four-year jail sentence handed down in October 2012 to Silvio Berlusconi in the *Mediaset* case. The

appeal against the ruling transfers the case to the Supreme Court.

- On 17 May the government adopts a decree-law with new anti-crisis measures, which include the suspension of property tax pending an overall redesign of the Italian taxation system and an end to extra salaries to ministers, deputy ministers and under-secretaries.
- On 27 May the trial begins in a court in Palermo to investigate whether or not the Italian State collaborated with the Mafia to stop the wave of mafia-related violence that shook Italy in the nineties.

#### *Malta*

- On 18 May Valletta is designated European Capital of Culture for 2018.

#### *Slovenia*

- On 9 May the government adopts a plan to repair the public finances, which includes the reform of the banking sector, a VAT hike, a property and real estate tax and the privatisation of state-owned companies.
- On 20 May the government and the state trade unions reach an agreement to lower the public debt through salary cuts.
- On 24 May the Parliament approves amendments to the Constitution which include tighter laws on calling a national referendum and applying the budgetary Golden rule, which from 2015 will limit the public indebtedness.

#### *Croatia*

- On 23 May a court in Zagreb clears the former commander of the Pumas Brigade Tihomir Savoric of murdering four Bosnian Serb civilians in Mrkonjik Grad in 1995.

#### *Bosnia and Herzegovina*

- On 17 May the Court of Brcko sentences Monika Karan-lic to four years in prison for torture in Luka during the Bosnian War.
- On 23 May the European Parliament decides not to suspend Bosnia as member of the Council of Europe and not to freeze its access to European funds despite the lack of progress in imple-

menting the ECHR's ruling in 2009 in the Sejdic-Finci case.

- On 27 May the President of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Zivko Budimir resumes his duties. Arrested on 26 April charged with taking bribes, Budimir was freed on 24 May at the request of a Constitutional Court ruling.
- On 29 May the ICTY sentences the former President of Bosnia's former Croatian State Jadranko Prlic to 25 years in prison for ethnic cleansing between 1992 and 1993.
- On 30 May the federal government passes the electoral law reform and the law that establishes the Foreign Trade Chamber. Both form part of the agreement undersigned in October 2012 between the ruling Social Democratic Party and the Alliance of Independent Social Democrats and receive criticism from the opposition parties, which claim they undermine the authority of federal institutions.
- On 30 May in Sarajevo some 5,000 workers from the *Hidrogradnja* hydroelectric plant demand improvements in wages and working conditions.

#### *Serbia*

- On 30 May the ICTY acquits the former Chief of State Security Jovica Stanisic and commander of the Interior Ministry's special operations unit Franko Simatovic of war crimes and the forced deportation of Croats and Bosnians from Bosnia between 1991 and 1995.

#### *Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 23 May the former head of the anti-corruption task force Nazmi Mustafi is sentenced to five years in prison and fined 10,000 euros for extortion and the illegal possession of a firearm.
- On 27 May thousands of people protest in Pristina against the arrest of seven former guerrillas of the Kosovo Liberation Army (UÇK) accused of war crimes.

#### *FYROM*

- On 14 May the Appeals Court confirms the five-year prison sentence for the former Interior Minister Ljube Bosko-

ski for the illegal funding of his party United for Macedonia.

- On 28 May the Lustration Commission announces the opening of an investigation of the former Police Minister Ljubomir Frckovski to clarify whether or not he ordered investigations for ideological reasons.
- On 28 May the Labour Minister Spiro Ristovski is named Education Minister following the resignation of Pance Kraljev. Dime Spasov will replace Ristovski in the Labour Ministry. Another noteworthy change is the appointment of Dzeri Naumov as Minister without Portfolio, in charge of attracting foreign investment.
- On 29 May the President George Ivanov cancels the summit of the South-East European Cooperation Process, scheduled for 1-2 June in Ohrid, after Croatia and Albania boycott the summit in reaction to Kosovo's exclusion, vetoed by Serbia, Greece, Romania, Bosnia and Moldavia.

#### *Albania*

- On 30 May the Parliament passes reform laws of the Public Administration, the Supreme Court and the Parliament, demanded by the EU for Albania to obtain candidate status for EU accession.

#### *Greece*

- On 13 May the publication of photos of a young Afghan brutally beaten in Athens by a group of xenophobes heightens concerns of rising racism in Greece. The incident adds to that which occurred on 18 April when 30 Bengali labourers were shot at after requesting months of unpaid salaries.
- On 30 May ND rejects the approval of an anti-racist law presented by the Justice Minister Antonis Roupakiotis, from the Democratic Left (Dimar). The decision, supposedly taken to avoid racists being turned into martyrs, opens a new rift in the government coalition.
- On 31 May the eurozone transfers 7.2 billion euros to recapitalize the Greek banks and the IMF announces the release of a further 1.7 billion euros.

#### *Turkey*

- On 12 May nine Turkish citizens are arrested for the previous day's bomb

attack in Reyhanli, on the Syrian border, in which 46 people died. The government says that those arrested have ties with Syrian Intelligence.

#### *Cyprus*

- On 6 May Russia lowers the interest rates and extends the maturity of the 2.5-billion-euro loan granted to Cyprus in 2011.
- On 15 May the IMF approves the first one-billion-euro tranche of the Cypriot bailout package.
- On 18 May Pafos is designated the European Capital of Culture for 2017.

#### *Syria*

- On 15 May the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) approves the resolution that condemns the human rights violations of the Syrian regime.
- On 20 and 21 May Madrid hosts a meeting of 86 representatives from different factions of the NCSROF to coordinate positions before drawing up a proposal for a political solution.
- On 22 May the Friends of Syria Group meet in Amman and urge Syria to accept the imminent political negotiations.
- On 26 May the government confirms that it will participate in the International Conference on Syria under the auspices of Washington and Moscow.
- On 29 May the United Nations Human Rights Council approves a resolution condemning the use of foreign fighters – in reference to Hezbollah – and heavy arms against the civilian population in al-Qusayr, which has been the scene of fighting since 19 May.
- On 30 May the NCSROF announces from Istanbul that it will not participate in the International Conference in Geneva if the army does not halt its attacks.
- On 31 May the EU arms embargo on the Syrian opposition comes to an end without the 27 member countries finding a common stand for its renewal.

#### *Lebanon*

- On 20 May tensions rise in Tripoli between supporters and opponents of the Syrian regime after around 30 Hezbollah militants are killed in al-Qusayr.

#### *Egypt*

- On 3 May the Tamarrod campaign (rebellion) led by the April 6 Movement, Kefaya (Enough) and the National Salvation Front (NSF) collects signatures calling for Mohamed Morsi's resignation and early elections to be held.
- On 15 May Egyptian judges abandon dialogue with the presidency to agree on reforming judicial power, after the Shura Council decides to continue discussions to pass a law purging the courts of any magistrate linked with the deposed regime.

#### *Libya*

- On 5 May the National Congress (Parliament), under pressure from the armed militia still operating in Libya, approves the Political Isolation Law that prohibits members of the Gaddafi regime to serve in the administration.
- On 7 May the Defence Minister Mahmoud al-Barghati decides, at the request of the Prime Minister Ali Zeidan, to withdraw his resignation from the cabinet, presented hours before due to the growing pressure from anti-Gaddafi militia.
- On 26 May the Parliament appoints Khalifa al-Sheik the new Interior Minister to replace Ashour Shuail, who resigned citing personal reasons.
- On 28 May the President of the National Congress Mohamed Yousef al-Magariaf resigns in protest against the Isolation Law.

#### *Tunisia*

- On 4 May Rachid al-Ghannouchi, the Ennahda leader, announces the agreement reached on the future political system, within the framework of National Dialogue.
- On 19 May thousands of supporters of Ansar al-Sharia demonstrate against the government for banning the movement's third congress in Kairouan.
- On 19 May Amina Tyler, member of the Femen collective, who in March published nude protest photographs of herself, is arrested in Kairouan for "committing immoral acts" after painting the word "Femen" on the wall of a mosque.

#### *Algeria*

- On 4 May the Movement of Society for Peace (MSP, Islamist) elects Abdelrezak Mokri as its new leader to replace Bouguerra Soltani.
- On 5 May an appeals court in Algiers sentences the terrorists Djilali Kouri and Antar Ali to death for the murder of nearly 500 people between 1996 and 2004.
- On 12 May the government passes the law on religious associations, which aims to cover the current legal vacuum and prevent the spread of fundamentalism.

#### *Morocco*

- On 12 May Mohammed VI dissuades Istiqlal (conservative) from walking out of the government coalition, which also includes the Islamist Justice and Development Party (PJD), the Popular Movement (Berber nationalist) and the Party of Progress and Socialism (former communist), following the previous day's announcement by the party leader Hamid Chabat of the decision of his party's National Council to withdraw its five ministers from the government.
- On 22 May the Socialist Union of Popular Forces, the Labour Party and the Socialist Party announce in Rabat the formation of a left-wing alliance.
- On 31 May the opposition Authenticity and Modernity Party, Union of Popular Forces, National Rally of Independents and Constitutional Union boycott the parliamentary session to demand greater parliamentary rights.

#### *Mauritania*

- On 17 May Abdallahi Ould Mohamed Ghailani, a gendarme at the Salah Eddine Prison is sentenced to 10 years of hard labour accused of spying for AQIM. On the same day, four students from the al-Ayoune University, arrested in January, are sentenced to five years in prison for recruiting militants to fight in Mali.

#### *European Union*

- On 8 May the European Commission presents a proposal that authorises the

Member States to sign the International Arms Trade Treaty.

- On 13 May the European Council adopts the two-pack of regulations aimed at improving the economic governance of the eurozone.

### June 2013

*In Portugal there is a general strike. In Spain the former treasurer of the ruling party is jailed. The French government adopts measures against the rise in neo-Nazi movements. In Italy local elections are held, the Equal Opportunities Minister resigns and Silvio Berlusconi is convicted in the Mediaset and Rubygate cases. The former Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Jansa is convicted for corruption. In Bosnia, demonstrations continue over the freezing of parliamentary negotiations on the national identity card. The EU authorises the beginning of accession negotiations with Serbia and Kosovo to reach an agreement on accession and stabilisation. Albania holds parliamentary elections. In Greece, the closure of the state broadcaster opens a crisis in the government coalition. In Turkey, citizen protests erupt against the AKP. In Syria, the army advances in its offensive to take back control of the country. In Egypt, the controversial appointments of Islamist governors aggravate the climate of political polarisation. In Libya, the government fights to strengthen control over its internal security, the army Chief-of-staff resigns and Cyrenaica advances towards self-government.*

#### Portugal

- On 7 June Parliament rectifies the general budgets with fresh cuts to compensate for those that were rejected by the Constitutional Court in April.
- On 27 June the fourth general strike against the Passos Coelho government's austerity measures brings Portugal to a standstill.

#### Spain

- On 26 June around a hundred sub-Saharaners enter Melilla after storming the border fence.

- On 27 June the former PP treasurer Luis Barcenas is imprisoned by order of the National Court Judge Pablo Ruz, for the slush fund corruption scandal.

#### France

- On 4 June the National Liberation Front of Corsica announces it will take up arms again to force France to recognise "Corsicans' national rights." The announcement comes three days after the eleventh mafia murder in Corsica together with clashes in Bastia between separatists and police.
- On 28 June the Interior Minister orders the dissolution, within 10 days, of all groups in the country with fascist or neo-Nazi ideologies, following the murder in Paris on 6 June of a radical left-wing militant.

#### Monaco

- On 21 June Monaco is elected vice-President of the UNGA session of 17 September 2013.

#### Italy

- On 8-9 June the second round of the local elections confirms victory for the centre-left in the major cities, an eventuality already predicted from the first round -25- 6 May.
- On 19 June the Constitutional Court rejects Silvio Berlusconi's request to block his four-year jail sentence, and ban from holding public office from October, handed down by the Milan court in the *Mediaset* case.
- On 22 June the PD wins in the regional elections in Friuli-Venezia Giulia.
- On 23 - 24 June the second round of the local elections in Sicilia is held. In Siracusa and Catania the centre-left wins and in Ragusa the Five Star Movement wins.
- On 24 June the Minister of Equal Opportunities, Sport and Youth Josefa Idem resigns after it is discovered that she failed to pay real estate tax on one of her properties between 2008 and 2011.
- On 24 June Silvio Berlusconi is sentenced by the Milan Court of first instance to a further seven years in jail and a ban from holding public office in the *Rubygate* case.

#### Malta

- On 10 June the Maltese police conclude that there is not sufficient evidence to incriminate the former European Commissioner for Health John Dalli, who resigned in October 2012 after being implicated in a corruption scandal.

#### Slovenia

- On 5 June the former Prime Minister Janez Jansa is sentenced to two years in prison for accepting bribes in 2006.
- On 21 June the Parliament approves 15 privatisations to avoid a European bailout.

#### Croatia

- On 2 June Croatia holds the second round of its local elections, the first of which was held on 19 May. The results give victory to the conservative HDZ, which wins in 10 out of 21 counties and claims mayoralties such as Zagreb and Zadar. The socialists maintain Rijeka and Vukovar and win Split.
- On 19 June Croatia and Bosnia sign an agreement on the management of their common border.

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 6 June and the ensuing days, mass demonstrations outside the Federal Parliament call for the government and Parliament to pass a new law that allows identity cards to be issued.

#### Serbia

- On 20 June the government announces new austerity measures in the public sector to save 270 million euros.
- On 28 June the EU gives the green light to begin accession negotiations with Serbia.

#### Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 7 June the Pristina court convicts three former UÇK guerrillas for war crimes in Likovc/Likovac in 1998 and 1999.
- On 18 June Bujar Bukoshi, former deputy Prime Minister and former

Healthcare Minister, is cleared in a corruption case.

- On 19 June Lulzim Peci, Kosovo's liaison officer to Serbia, resigns two days after his appointment. The Kosovo representative in Croatia Valdet Sadiku replaces Peci.
- On 28 June the Parliament ratifies the agreement reached with Serbia to normalise bilateral relations with 84 votes against three.
- On 28 June the EU authorises the negotiation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Kosovo.

#### *FYROM*

- On 10 June the parliamentary majority of the VMRO-DPMNE passes the controversial Abortion Law, which has been the object of protests outside the Parliament.
- On 25 June the FYROM and Kosovo sign an agreement to open a new Belanovce-Stancic border crossing, putting an end to the diplomatic incident that arose in May when Pristina submitted a formal complaint to Skopje for not having invited Kosovo to the South-East European Cooperation Process summit in Ohrid.

#### *Albania*

- On 23 June Albania holds legislative elections. The left-wing coalition led by Edi Rama's PS wins with 57.7% of the votes against the 39.9% won by the centre-right coalition, led by Sali Berisha's DP, who announces his resignation as party leader.

#### *Greece*

- On 11 June the government announces the closure of the Greek state broadcaster ERT due to excessive debt and lack of transparency. On 13 June thousands protest over the closure of ERT. On 17 June the Council of State suspends the closure. On 21 June DIMAR leaves the government coalition over the failure of negotiations with ND and PASOK to avoid the closure of ERT. On 24 June Antonis Samaras reshuffles the cabinet and PASOK takes over the ministries previously held by DIMAR.

#### *Turkey*

- On 1 June mass protests erupt in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir calling for the government's resignation. The EU criticises the disproportionate use of force to quell protests against plans to redevelop Istanbul's Gezi Park and which continue throughout the month leaving hundreds injured and thousands under arrest. On 4-5 June the main trade unions and professional organisations stage a strike. On 6 June Erdogan, returning from his tour of the Maghreb, confirms that redevelopment plans will go ahead. On 9 June mass demonstrations against and in favour of the Prime Minister reveal the growing divide between secularists and Islamists. On 14 June, after a meeting with representatives of the demonstrations, the government halts the redevelopment plans pending a court ruling. On 17 June there is a new strike. On 25 June in response to the repression of the protests, the EU freezes accession negotiations.

#### *Syria*

- On 5 June the army takes control of al-Qusayr after a three-week offensive.
- On 10 June the army launches Operation Northern Storm on Aleppo. For its part, the FSA takes control of the Menagh Military Airbase, after more than a year under siege.
- On 15 June Egypt breaks diplomatic ties with Damascus and requests that a no-fly zone be declared over Syria.
- On 16 June the Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad authorises the deployment of 4,000 troops in Syria.
- On 17 June the G8 summit in Enniskillen approves an additional 1.5 billion dollars in humanitarian aid to Syria and the US and Russian Presidents agree to continue working to organise the Geneva II Peace Conference.
- On 19 June the UNHCR reports that the number of people displaced as a result of the Syrian conflict -1.5 million- is already equal to the global figure in 2012.

#### *Lebanon*

- On 2-3 June Hezbollah militants and opponents of the Syrian regime clash in Baalbek and Tripoli.

- On 9 June a Lebanese man is killed in a protest outside the Iranian Embassy in Beirut against Tehran's support of the Syrian regime.
- On 18 June supporters of Hezbollah and Sheikh Ahmed al-Assir clash in Sidon. On 23 June fighting breaks out in Sidon between security forces and al-Assir supporters.

#### *Jordan*

- On 9 June the US army begins military exercises in Jordan with the deployment of 4,500 troops.

#### *Egypt*

- On 2 June the Constitutional Court outlaws the Constituent Assembly, responsible for the Constitution approved in December 2012, and the Shura Council, which has held legislative power since the People's Assembly was banned in June 2012. The controversial reform of the judiciary is thereby frozen, which was under discussion in the Shura.
- On 4 June a criminal court in Cairo sentences 43 employees of four foreign NGOs, 19 of them from the US, to prison terms of between one and five years for illegal fundraising and operating without a license.
- On 16 June Mohamed Morsi appoints 17 new provincial governors with Islamist ideology.
- On 16 June a Misdemeanour court in east Cairo sentences the Salafi cleric Ahmed Abdullah to 11 years in prison for burning a bible outside the US Embassy and his son Islam Abdullah to eight years in prison for blasphemy against Christianity.
- On 18 June the Tourism Minister Hisham Zaazou resigns in protest against the appointment of Adel Mohamed al-Khayat, associated with the Gamaa Islamiya terrorist group, as the new Luxor governor.
- On 21 June thousands of Islamists support Mohamed Morsi in a demonstration in Cairo, in response to calls from the opposition for his resignation. The Salafi party Al-Nour abstains from taking part.
- On 26, 27 and 30 June clashes break out between government supporters and

opponents in several provinces during protests called by the non-Islamist opposition, which claims to have 22 million signatures from April's Tamarod campaign calling for Morsi's resignation.

#### Libya

- On 1 June Ahmed Zubeir al-Senusi, President of the Cyrenaica Transitional Council, declares the region's self-governance.
- On 9 June army Chief-of-Staff Yousef al-Mangoush resigns following clashes in Benghazi the previous day, in which at least 31 people were killed during a demonstration calling for the dissolution of the Libya Shield Brigade.
- On 17 June the Attorney General announces that Saif al-Islam Gaddafi will be tried in Libya along with other senior officials from the Gaddafi regime, despite the International Criminal Court's rejection on 31 May of Libya's appeal for Saif al-Islam to be tried by the Libyan judicial system and not the High Court.
- On 25 June Nouri Ali Abu Sahmein is elected President of the National Congress to replace Mohamed Magariaf.
- On 25 and 26 June clashes break out in Tripoli between rival factions, in which at least 10 people are killed and a further 117 injured. The incidents arise following an assault led by the pro-government Zintan militia, working in the Defence Ministry, on the headquarters of the national body set up to guard oil facilities, in protest over the government's decision to hand control of security of the oil facilities in the south of the country over to Tubu and Tuareg militia.

#### Tunisia

- On 5 June the trial is held against three activists from the feminist Femen movement arrested on 29 May while protesting against the trial of Amina Tyler. They are released on 26 June.
- On 6 June two soldiers are killed in Jebel Chaambi during an operation launched against Ansar al-Sharia at the end of April, and which ends in more than 40 arrests.
- On 13 June a Tunisian court sentences the rapper Ala Yaacoub to two

years in prison for his song *The Police are Dogs*.

- On 18 June Ennahda and another six associated parties walk out of the National Conference Against Violence and Terrorism in which 70 parties and 300 civil society groups take part, deeming the debates to be excessively partisan.
- On 25 June the Chief-of-Staff of the Tunisian Armed Forces Rachid Ammar resigns.

#### Algeria

- On 12 June the APS agency releases the first images of the President Abdelaziz Bouteflika convalescing, since he was admitted to hospital in Paris on 27 April after suffering a mini stroke.

#### Mauritania

- On 20 June the Council of Ministers approves tougher penalties for money laundering and funding terrorism, with prison sentences doubling from 5 to 10 years.

#### European Union

- On 14 June the Council approves the agreement concluded with the Parliament on 29 May 2013 on Eurosur, the surveillance system of the EU's external borders.
- On 27-28 June the European Council adopts measures to favour employment, professional mobility, access to credit, investment and financial stability.

#### Arab League

- On 5 June the Arab League condemns the presence of foreign military forces in Syria.

#### July 2013

*In Portugal the government coalition enters in crisis. In Spain, the government approves the reform of local government. In Italy, the Interior Minister wins a confidence vote. Croatia becomes an EU Member State. New strikes are staged in Greece against government cuts. In Turkey, the anti-government protests continue. In Syria, the army continues its*

*advance to recover control of Homs province supported by the Shiite Hezbollah militia, whose armed wing is now included in the EU list of terrorist organisations. In Egypt, the growing division between supporters and opponents of Islamist Mohamed Morsi ends with his ousting at the hands of the army and the appointment of a new interim government. Libya approves the Constitutional Commission that has to draw up the new constitution. In Tunisia, protests are stepped up against the Islamist government, especially in the wake of the murder of Mohamed al-Brahimi. Morocco enters a new crisis in the government coalition.*

#### Portugal

- On 2 July the Foreign Minister Paulo Portas resigns over the appointment of Maria Luis Albuquerque to replace the Finance Minister Vitor Gaspar, who resigned on 1 July after Portas' Democratic and Social Centre–People's Party (CDS-PP), criticised his austerity plans. On 19 July the cabinet wins a fifth confidence motion. On 24 July Paulo Portas becomes deputy Prime Minister and head of Economic and State Reform, Rui Machete (PSD) becomes Foreign Minister and Antonio Pires de Lima and Pedro Mota Soares (CDS-PP) take over, respectively, at the Economy and Social Security and Employment Ministries.

#### Spain

- On 2 July the former Public Works Minister Magdalena Alvarez and 20 officials from the Government of Andalusia are charged in the ERE corruption case, which affects PSOE.
- On 24 July the Interior Minister announces investments in security in Ceuta and Melilla in light of an increase in assaults on the border.
- On 26 July the government approves the local government reform bill, which is aimed at streamlining the structure of local governments to avoid overlaps and save over 7 billion euros.

#### France

- On 9 July the National Assembly approves two draft laws aimed at limiting



the number of public posts that can be held by MPs and senators.

#### *Italy*

- On 16 July Giuseppe Procaccini, the chief of staff of Interior Minister Angelino Alfano, resigns over the illegal deportation in May of the wife and daughter of the Kazakh dissident Mukhtar Ablyazov. On 19 July Alfano wins a confidence vote tabled for the case.
- On 26 July around a hundred people are arrested in Rome and Calabria in an operation against the Fasciani, Triassi and D'Agati clans of the Ndrangheta Mafia.
- On 27-28 July a total of 536 immigrants are intercepted in Palermo, the Strait of Sicily and Lampedusa. In Lampedusa a further 31 immigrants die when their boat capsizes.

#### *Malta*

- On 4 July some 290 immigrants are intercepted by the Maltese coastguard, adding to the 100 intercepted by Italy near Siracusa.

#### *Slovenia*

- On 24 July the deadline for claiming government compensation runs out for the "erased," Yugoslav citizens who were unable to obtain Slovenian citizenship after independence and therefore remain without legal status.

#### *Croatia*

- On 1 July Croatia becomes the 28th EU Member State.

#### *Bosnia and Herzegovina*

- On 9 July the ICTY annuls the acquittal of Radovan Karadzic, entered in June 2012, accused of genocide in various Bosnian regions. This case will now be added to the charges held against him for the Srebrenica massacre.
- On 10 July 409 victims of Srebrenica are buried at the Potocari Memorial Centre.
- On 19 July the Bosnian MP Semsudin Mehmedovic is arrested for crimes against Bosnian Serbs during the Bosnian War.

- On 23 July Bosnian MPs again veto the adoption of the National ID numbers law, claiming that the text endangers their national interests. Meanwhile citizen protests continue against the Federal Parliament's failure to approve the bill.

#### *Montenegro*

- On 29 July the Constitutional Court overturns the agreement between the government and the Democratic Front to give the Serbian and Montenegrin languages equal status in the education system.

#### *Serbia*

- On 17 July the Interior Minister Ivica Dacic fires the commander of the gendarmerie Bratislav Dikic.
- On 29 July the ECHR demands that Serbia looks into thousands of reports of babies who went missing from Yugoslavian hospitals in the seventies.

#### *Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 11 July the Parliament approves the controversial Amnesty Law that grants amnesty to a large number of crimes committed during the Kosovo conflict.
- On 17 July the Prime Minister Hashim Thaci announces the end of parallel police structures in northern Kosovo.
- On 29 July clashes break out between the EULEX and Kosovo Serb demonstrators in Zvecan.

#### *FYROM*

- On 15 July the Criminal Court of Skopje sentences the former Interior Minister Ljube Boskoski to 12 years in prison for covering up mafia crimes in 2001.
- On 17 July the Lustration Commission accuses the writer Bozin Pavlovski of spying for the secret police of communist Yugoslavia, days after another well-known intellectual, Slavko Janevski, suffers the same fate.
- On 25 June the OSCE condemns the pre-trial detention of Tomislav Kezaroski, arrested on 28 May in connection with an article published in 2008.

#### *Albania*

- On 23 July the Mayor of Tirana Lulzim Basha takes over from Sali Berisha at the head of the DPS.

#### *Greece*

- On 2 July a day after his appointment, the Health Minister Adonis Georgiadis reinstates the controversial Public Health Decree 39A, which allows the police to forcibly arrest people to carry out HIV tests.
- On 10 July the Ministry of Public Radio and Television announces that the state television company will resume broadcasting.
- On 15 July the Parliament lifts immunity from the former Finance Minister George Papaconstantinou over his responsibility in falsifying the Lagarde List.
- On 15 July protests begin against the government's pending public sector reform, which includes 4,000 direct dismissals, 25% wage cuts for 25,000 public sector workers and widespread layoffs.
- On 29 July the release of the fifth aid tranche -1.72 billion euros- of the Greek bailout package is announced.

#### *Turkey*

- On 6 July new clashes erupt between the police and anti-government demonstrators in Gezi Park, which continue throughout the month.

#### *Cyprus*

- On 9 July the former Defence Minister Costas Papacostas is found guilty of manslaughter over the blast at a munitions deposit in Larnaca, which left 13 dead in July 2011.
- On 28 July Northern Cyprus holds early legislative elections in which the Republican Turkish Party (left-wing) wins with 38.4% of the votes, ahead of the conservative National Unity Party (27.3%), which held the majority until now.

#### *Syria*

- On 6 July the NCSROF elects Ahmad al-Jarba as its new leader.

- On 12 July the FSA announces that it views the commander Kamal Hamami's murder two days earlier, at the hands of the al-Qaeda-linked ISIL, as a declaration of war.
- On 29 July the army, supported by Hezbollah, takes back control of Khaldiya, the main rebel base in Homs.
- On 30 July Issa Hisso, leader of the Kurdish Democratic Unity Party (PYD) is murdered in Qamishli.

#### Lebanon

- On 9 July a car bomb blast in Bir al-Abed, a Hezbollah-controlled neighbourhood in south Beirut, leaves at least fifty injured.
- On 22 July the EU includes Hezbollah's armed wing in its list of terrorist organisations.

#### Jordan

- On 7 July Abu Qatada, leader of al-Qaeda in Europe, arrives in Amman, extradited from the United Kingdom to be tried before the State Security Court.

#### Egypt

- On 1 July hundreds of demonstrators, the majority from the *Tamarrod* movement, gather in Tahrir Square to call for the resignation of Mohamed Morsi.
- On 2 July the army gives Morsi a 48-hour ultimatum to comply with popular demands.
- On 2 July the Foreign Minister Mohamed Kamel Amr resigns. This is the fifth ministerial resignation since the protests began in June.
- On 3 July the Defence Minister Abdul Fattah al-Sisi meets with Mohamed El-Baradei (NSF), Mahmoud Badr (*Tamarrod*), Tawadros II (Coptic patriarch) Ahmed al-Tayyeb (Al-Azhar Grand Sheikh) and a representative from al-Nour. At 17:00 the ultimatum runs out, the army takes control of the country, Mohamed Morsi is arrested and the Constitution is suspended.
- On 4 July Adly Mansour, President of the Constitutional Court, is declared interim President.
- On 5 July the army declares a State of Emergency in the Sinai and Suez after

a rise in bomb attacks, which continue throughout the month.

- On 6 July Adly Mansour dissolves the Shura Council and appoints Mohamed Ahmed Fareed head of the intelligence service.
- On 6 July Khairat el-Shater, the number two in the Muslim Brotherhood, is arrested in Nasr City.
- On 8 July the Public Prosecutor orders the closure of the Freedom and Justice Party headquarters.
- On 8 July Adly Mansour adopts a Constitutional Declaration that provides for a review of the Constitution by two committees of experts. It will then be put to a national referendum before the parliamentary and presidential elections are held in 2014.
- On 9 July Hazem Al Beblawi is appointed Prime Minister and Mohamed ElBaradei vice-President and Foreign Minister.
- On 9-10 July Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait announce aid of 5, 3 and 4 billion dollars respectively for the new government.
- On 10 July the Public Prosecutor orders the arrest of the Muslim Brotherhood's spiritual guide Mohamed Badie, the Freedom and Justice Party's vice-President Essam el-Erian and a further seven members of the organisation, as well as two leaders of the Building and Development Party –the political wing of al-Gamaa al-Islamiyya–.
- On 12 July Ziad Bahaa Eldin is appointed deputy Prime Minister.
- On 15-16 July violent clashes break out near the 6th October Bridge in Cairo between Islamist demonstrators and security forces, in which at least seven are killed, 261 injured and 400 arrested.
- On 16 July the composition of the new cabinet is announced, which does not include any Islamists. Abdul Fattah al-Sisi, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and Defence Minister also assumes one of the three vice-presidencies, the other two being given to the International Cooperation Minister Ziad Bahaa el-Din and the Higher Education Minister Hossam Eisa. The other 35 ministerial positions include Nabil Fahmy (Foreign Affairs); Ahmed Galal (Finance); Mohamed Ibrahim (Interior); Hisham Zaazou (Tourism); Mounir

Fakhry Abdel Nour (Industry and Foreign Trade); Osama Saleh (Investment); Mohamed Ibrahim (Antiquities); and three women at the head of Information, Health and Environment: Dorreya Sharaf El-Din, Maha Al-Rabat and Laila Rashed Iskander.

- On 26 July a court in Cairo accuses Mohamed Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood of conspiring with Hamas, Hezbollah and the Bedouin militia from the Sinai against the security forces, after allowing jihadists to enter Egypt and organising the mass flight of Islamist prisoners, mainly in Wadi el-Natrum, from where 11,171 prisoners escaped in January 2011, including Morsi himself.

#### Libya

- On 16 July Air Force Colonel Fathi al-Ammami is murdered in Derna.
- On 16 July the National Congress approves the creation of the Constitutional Drafting Commission, composed of 20 members from Tripolitania, Cyrenaica and Faizan respectively. Within this group, the minority Tuareg and Tubu groups have two seats respectively, but their members boycott the commission and suspend their parliamentary participation, claiming that the approval criteria of the articles of the Constitution – majority and not by consensus – do not guarantee minority rights.
- On 22 July Salem Abu Rouis, member of Muammar Gaddafi's internal security apparatus in Misrata, is murdered. Since the beginning of Ramadan, 14 officials linked to the Gaddafi regime are murdered.
- On 27 July demonstrations in Tripoli and Benghazi denounce the previous day's murder of activist Abdelsalam al-Mismari in Benghazi, and storm the headquarters of the Justice and Development Party – the political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood–.

#### Tunisia

- On 9 July General Mohamed Salah Hamdi is appointed the new Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces.
- On 25 July Mohamed Brahmi, the former Secretary General of the People's Movement (left-wing) is murdered, three days after stepping down from the

post to join the Popular Front, after his party refused to join the Alliance with Ennahda. Thousands of people demonstrate in protest against the murder and the government.

- On 29 July the Prime Minister Ali Laarayedh announces elections in Tunisia for 17 December.
- On 29 July at least eight soldiers are killed in an AQIM ambush on Mount Chaambi.
- On 31 July the Education Minister Salim Labiadh resigns.

#### Algeria

- On 16 July the President Abdelaziz Bouteflika returns to Algeria after being in hospital in Paris since 27 April.

#### Morocco

- On 9 July the Istiqlal ministers resign citing a lack of agreement with the Freedom and Justice Party.
- On 24 July months of negotiations come to an end between the government, trade unionists and employers to introduce unemployment benefits in 2014.

#### European Union

- On 1 July the President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz asks the US to confirm information published by *Der Spiegel* taken from documents leaked by the fugitive and ex-CIA employee Edward Snowden, which reveal that Washington was spying on the EU.
- On 3 July Emily O'Reilly is elected European Ombudsman.
- On 17 July the European Council approves the 2014 budget: 141.8 billion euros in commitments and 134.8 billion in payments, a 6% reduction on the Commission's proposal.

### August 2013

*Portugal emerges from the recession. Italy faces a mass influx of immigrants; Silvio Berlusconi receives an irrevocable conviction from the Supreme Court. Serbia and Kosovo reach an agreement to set up permanent border crossings, while the Kosovo Serbs announce they will boy-*

*cott the municipal elections in November. Greece enters its fifth year of recession. Turkey convicts 250 people over the Ergenekon coup plot. In Syria, the army continues to advance in Hama and Rif Dimashq, while the US announces a one-off military intervention in response to the possible use of chemical weapons by the Syrian regime. In neighbouring Lebanon, a new attack on a Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut shows the importance of supporting the Lebanese Shiite militia in the advance of Syrian troops on FSA positions. Jordan reshuffles its cabinet. In Egypt, the political and social crisis deepens, sparked by the ousting of Mohamed Morsi on 3 July, and the international community fears that failure to reach an agreement between the two sides will lead to armed conflict. Also in Tunisia, tensions rise between Islamists and the opposition following the assassinations of two opponents in July. In Libya, tensions grow between nationalists from Cyrenaica and the oil workers who maintain a block on oil exports. Mauritania announces elections for October.*

#### Portugal

- On 16 August according to the financial report for the year's second quarter published by the European statistics office (Eurostat), Portugal emerges from the recession with a growth rate of 1.1% during that period.

#### Spain

- On 13-14 August the Secretary General of the PP Maria Dolores de Cospedal and her predecessors, Javier Arenas and Francisco Alvarez Cascos deny having received illegal payments before the National Court, in the investigation of the Barcenas Case, which affects the ruling party.

#### France

- On 19 August a young man is shot dead in Marseille. This is the 13th time the Mafia has settled accounts in the city in the last year.

#### Italy

- On 1 August the Supreme Court confirms the four-year jail sentence

given to Silvio Berlusconi for tax fraud, although the former Prime Minister will not be jailed as he is over 70 years old. On 28 August Berlusconi announces that he will appeal to the ECHR against the decision.

- On 15 August Italy asks the EU to adapt a collective approach to controlling immigration in Lampedusa, faced with an increase in arrivals – over a thousand in August alone.
- On 8 August the government approves a law decree that provides for harsher penalties for gender-based violence.
- On 8 August the mafia boss Domenico Rancadore is captured in London, charged with various crimes between 1987 and 1995 and wanted by the Italian police since 1994.
- On 28 August the Council of Ministers suspends the property tax, under threat of a PdL withdrawal from the government coalition, and announces fresh cuts to compensate its removal.

#### Slovenia

- On 25 August the European Commission opens an investigation into the government's plans to fund a project for a Renault plant in Novo Mesto.

#### Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 15 August Israel extradites the Bosnian-Israeli Aleksandar Cvetkovic to Bosnia-Herzegovina, charged with genocide in Srebrenica.
- On 30 August thousands gather in Pale, Republika Srpska, to greet the war criminal Momcilo Krajisnik after his release.

#### Montenegro

- On 9 August the Albanian parties FORCA and Civic Initiatives threaten to quit the government coalition if a referendum is not called before the autumn on splitting the Podgorica municipality of Tuzi from the capital. The split would create a new electoral constituency, whose voting intentions may not be favourable to the ruling party.

#### Serbia

- On 1 August the Yugoslavian flagged airline Jugoslovenski Aerotransport

(JAT) ceases to exist and is replaced by Air Serbia, owned by the Serbian government -51%- and the Emirati Etihad Airways -49%-.

- On 7 August, for the first time in 10 years, the government approves a financial package to ensure the viability of its two state television broadcasters RTS and RTV, both of which suffer revenue shortfalls.
- On 29 August after two months of negotiations between socialists and progressives, the coalition cabinet is restructured with 11 new ministries.

*Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 16 August despite pressure from Serbia, the Interim Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Kosovo-Metohija votes unanimously in favour of boycotting Kosovo's local elections in November.
- On 7 August Serbia and Kosovo agree on the creation of permanent border checkpoints from 2014.

*FYROM*

- On 25 August the social democrat opposition rejects the government's offer of early elections to settle the political crisis arising from the incidents in December 2012 during the approval of the 2013 budgets.
- On 25 August Albanians from Oktisi protest against the construction of the Saint Demetrius church, fuelling ethnic tensions in the area.
- On 29 August the police report the arrest of a seventh person accused of murdering five ethnic Macedonians, which, in April 2012, inflamed ethnic tensions in the country.

*Albania*

- On 15 August the decision of President Bujar Nishani to transfer the property of the old army headquarters to the opposition Democratic Party for the party's new headquarters opens a crisis between the army and the ruling Socialist Party.

*Greece*

- On 8 August the Greek Statistics Agency (Elstat) announces unemploy-

ment figures for May, which reach record levels of 27.6%, compared with 12% in May 2010, when the country was bailed out by the EU and IMF. On 12 August the GDP figures are released for the second quarter, which show a 4.6% decline compared with the same period in 2012, coinciding with Greece's entry into its fifth consecutive year of recession.

*Turkey*

- On 5 August more than 250 people are given sentences of between two and 49 years in prison in the Ergenekon coup plot, uncovered in 2007. A further 15 defendants are given life sentences, including the former Chief of the General Staff Ilker Basbug. Clashes break out in the vicinity of the court following the announcement of the verdicts.

*Syria*

- On 7 August 62 FSA militants are killed in an army ambush in Adra, near Damascus, as part of the regime's preparations to launch an offensive on the capital and surrounding areas.
- On 13 August 18 FSA members are killed in fighting with the Syrian army in Hama, the control of which, along with Rif Damashq, is the next objective of the government troops in their advance to recover control of the country.
- On 18 August the UN mission set up to investigate the use of chemical weapons in Syria arrives in the country. The mission on the ground is completed on 31 August.
- On 21 August at least 1,300 people are killed in an army attack in Goutha, near Damascus. The rebels declare that the attack was carried out with chemical weapons.
- On 31 August the US confirms that it will launch a one-off attack on the Syrian regime in response to the use of chemical weapons.

*Lebanon*

- On 9 August a group calling itself the Imam al-Ridha Visitors kidnaps two Turkish Airlines pilots in Beirut to demand the immediate release of a group

of Lebanese Shiite pilgrims kidnapped in 2012 in Syria.

- On 16 August a bomb explodes in Beirut's Ruweiss district, in the Hezbollah stronghold of Dahieh. The Brigades of Aisha claim responsibility for the attack which leaves 22 dead and 325 injured.
- On 23 August more than 40 people are killed in a double bomb attack in two mosques in Tripoli.

*Jordan*

- On 13 August Jordan denies allegations made by the UNHCR declaring there is no organised crime in the Zaatari camp, which accommodates more than 130,000 Syria refugees.
- On 21 August Abdullah II approves Abdullah Ensour's government reshuffle, which sees five ministerial changes and the creation of eight new ministries.

*Egypt*

- On 7 August the Egyptian presidency declares that the international diplomatic talks aimed at putting an end to the protest camps against the ousting of Mohamed Morsi are over and issues an ultimatum to the Islamists for them to stop the protests. Coinciding with the announcement, Morsi supporters reiterate their refusal to leave the protest camps and organise new demonstrations.
- On 7 and 9 August the army launches anti-terrorism operations in the Sinai, which claim the lives of at least 64 militants. The fundamentalist group Ansar Beit al-Maqdis attributes the attacks to a combined Egyptian-Israeli operation and threatens retaliation.
- On 13 August the interim government replaces at least 18 of the Islamist provincial governors appointed by Mohamed Morsi.
- On 14 August the police intervene to remove the Islamist demonstrators. At least 638 people are killed. The government declares a state of emergency and enforces a curfew in 11 governorates. The vice-President Mohamed ElBaradei resigns in protest against the police crackdown. At the same time, the international community condemns the violence.

- On 16 August the Muslim Brotherhood lead a “Friday of Rage” with mass demonstrations in Cairo and other cities and which ends in clashes with the security forces that leave more than 170 dead. In response to the deaths, the Muslim Brotherhood calls a “Week of Rage” for the following days. On 16-17 August as many as 1,000 arrests are made.
- On 17 August it is revealed that the government is debating a proposal presented by the Prime Minister Hazem al-Beblawi to outlaw the Muslim Brotherhood.
- On 17 August the Islamist cleric Safwat Hegazi is arrested in Nasr City, Cairo, together with other members of the Muslim Brotherhood. On 20 August Mohamed Badie, Supreme Guide of the Brotherhood, is arrested.
- On 20 August the committee set up to amend the Constitution submits the new text to Adly Mansour.
- On 22 August Hosni Mubarak is placed under house arrest.

#### Libya

- On 1 August the President of the Libyan National Congress Nouri Abu-sahmein names General Abdulsalam Jadallah al-Salihine al-Obeidi new Army Chief-of-Staff, amid a surge in political assassinations in Benghazi and the government’s continued failure to end the activity of anti-Gaddafi militia, operating outside of state control.
- On 19 August Sadiq Abdulkarim, member of the National Forces Alliance, is appointed Interior Minister after Mohammed Khalifa Sheikh’s resignation the previous day, citing an “inability to carry out clear changes” in the country’s security situation.
- On 17 August the Cyrenaica Transitional Council issues a threat to the Libyan army that it will step up the interruption of oil production if Tripoli does not agree to creating a federal state in which Cyrenaica has the same autonomy it enjoyed with the 1951 Constitution. This conflict adds to the oil workers’ protests, which have partially paralysed oil production and exports since the end of July.

#### Tunisia

- On 7 August a demonstration outside the National Assembly calls for the

government’s resignation six months after the murder of the leftist opposition leader Chokri Belaïd. The demonstration is organised around the protest camp set up after the assassination on 25 July of another opposition member Mohamed Brahimi. Government supporters respond by setting up their own camp.

- On 13 August the first round of negotiations, mediated by the Tunisian General Labour Union, between the Ennahda-led Islamist government and the opposition end in failure. The talks aimed to put an end to the political crisis opened by Mohamed Brahmī’s assassination. Meanwhile, more marches are organised by government supporters and the opposition.
- On 19 August new talks between the UGTT, Ennahda and the opposition fail to make any progress.
- On 24 August the government declares Ansar al-Sharia a terrorist organisation and accuses the group of murdering the politicians Chokri Belaïd y Mohamed Brahimi.

#### Algeria

- On 29 August the National Liberation Front elects the former Parliament Speaker Amar Saadani as its new Secretary General, exacerbating the crisis between the two factions of the ruling party regarding Abdelaziz Bouteflika’s successor.

#### Morocco

- On 3 August protests are staged in different cities when it is revealed that one of the 48 Spanish prisoners pardoned by Mohamed VI to mark Throne Day is the paedophile of Iraqi origin Daniel Galvan, who is rearrested on 5 August in Murcia.
- On 7 August the President of the Moroccan Parliament Karim Ghellab, informs the media about a series of new rules of procedure aimed at improving transparency and integrity, in response to citizen demands.
- On 16 August the Interior Ministry announces that an AQIM recruitment cell has been dismantled, which operated in Tiznit, Fez, Meknes and Tawnat.

#### Mauritania

- On 3 August the government announces legislative and local elections for 12 October. The parties of the Coordinator of the Democratic Opposition announce that they will boycott elections called without consensus and which do not allow enough time for their proper development.
- On 20 August Mauritania and Niger sign a military cooperation agreement faced with rising terrorist activity in the Sahel.

#### European Union

- On 16 August the Eurostat publishes the economic figures for the second quarter, which reveal that the eurozone has emerged from the recession with a growth of 0.3%, thanks to growth in France of 0.5% and in Germany of 0.7%.

#### September 2013

*Portugal carries out new cuts and holds municipal elections. In Spain, the autonomous Catalanian government asks for a referendum to be held on self-determination in 2014. The French government approves the pension reform. In Italy, the procedure to remove Silvio Berlusconi from the Senate prompts five PdL Ministers to resign. Problems persist in Bosnia’s governance. Montenegro approves the judicial reform. Negotiations continue between Belgrade and Pristina over the status of Kosovo. In Albania, a new government takes over. The Greek authorities arrest several senior figures of Golden Dawn. The Syrian government accepts the plan agreed by Washington and Moscow to destroy its arsenal of chemical weapons and avoid an imminent international military intervention. In Egypt, the activities of the Muslim Brotherhood are outlawed and the process to amend the Constitution continues. In Tunisia, the coalition government resigns in an agreement reached with the opposition to appoint a non-partisan interim government. Algeria reshuffles its cabinet.*

*Portugal*

- On 12 September the Council of Ministers approves cuts of around 10% for public sector worker pensions of over 600 euros a month.
- On 26 September the Constitutional Court rules that nine of the 15 articles from the Labour Code that came into effect in August 2012 are unconstitutional.
- On 29 September the ruling PSD wins 32% of the votes in the local elections and loses Porto, Sintra and Gaia. The opposition PS wins 38% and maintains its mayoralty in Lisbon.

*Spain*

- On 11 September thousands demonstrate for a referendum to be called in 2014 on Catalanian self-determination. On 15 September the Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy rejects the referendum request deeming it unconstitutional, but says he is willing to initiate a dialogue to review Catalonia's relations with the rest of Spain. The European Commission warns that Catalonia's eventual secession would mean its exit from the EU.
- On 27 September the Council of Ministers approves the budget for 2014 which includes cuts to lower the public debt to below 3% before 2016 and the pension reform.

*France*

- On 9 September French state schools begin to display, alongside the motto of the Republic and the Declaration of Human and Citizen Rights, the new Secularism Charter, which will be taught to students as the foundation of the country's values.
- On 18 September the government approves the pension reform bill, which will increase the contribution period required for a full pension from 41.5 to 43 years.
- On 18 and 27 September the police dismantle two Roma camps in Lille and Roubaix in accordance with a court order. The action coincides with the Interior Minister Manuel Valls' declarations that certain Roma groups are incapable of integration and should be repatriated.

- On 27 September the Finance Minister presents the draft budget for 2014, which foresees a 15-billion-euro saving in public spending.

*Italy*

- On 14 September a total of 491 illegal immigrants arrive at the Sicilian and Calabrian coasts.
- On 17 September the former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi is sentenced by the Supreme Court to four years in prison – which he is exempt from serving – and to pay a fine of 541 million euros, for bribery in the Fininvest case.
- On 28 September five PdL ministers resign in protest against the trial against Silvio Berlusconi to expel him from the Senate, thereby sparking a crisis in the government coalition.

*Slovenia*

- On 7 September, to avoid bailing out Slovenia's banking system, the European Commission temporarily approves Ljubljana's plans to grant state guarantees to Factor Banka and Probanka.

*Croatia*

- On 9 September a week of protests in Vukovar against the use of signs in Cyrillic comes to an end.
- On 17 September Josip Boljkovac, the First Minister of Internal Affairs of Croatia, is accused of the death of 21 civilians in 1945, suspected of collaborating with the Ustase.

*Bosnia and Herzegovina*

- On 5 September the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) and the Alliance of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD) announce an agreement to implement ECHR's decision in the Sejdic-Finci case, which demands constitutional changes to allow citizens who do not belong to the three majority communities to hold political posts.
- On 11 September the two main Bosnian Serb parties – the SNSD and the Serbian Democratic Party (SDS) – end their coalition at federal level. This crisis adds to that of the Bosnian coalition, formed by the Social Democrat Party

(SDP) and the Union of a Better Future (SBB), which is in process of dissolution both in the federal government and in the government of the entity of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

*Montenegro*

- On 24 September the Parliament approves the judicial reform demanded by Brussels to move forward in the European accession process.

*Serbia*

- On 19 September the chief of police in Belgrade Stevan Bijelic is dismissed for nepotism and the obstruction of justice in various corruption investigations.

*Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 8 September Serbia and Kosovo agree the implementation of an autonomous energy supply system for Kosovo, the presence of Serbian energy companies in Kosovo, the issue of its own international dialling code and the organisation of Kosovo municipal elections in November. On 10 September Belgrade agrees to stop funding and dismantle the parallel Kosovo Serb municipal assemblies.
- On 9 September Kosovo bans imports of products from the FYROM in response to Skopje's renewal of its limits on flour and wheat imports from Kosovo and the introduction of a tax for Kosovo citizens entering the FYROM. On 14 September both countries lift their respective restrictions.
- On 19 September a EULEX customs officer is killed in an armed attack in Ballaban.
- On 18 September the Pristina Court clears the former Transport Minister Fatmir Limaj of charges against him for war crimes in Klecka in 1990.

*FYROM*

- On 16 September 17 people, including the personal assistant to the Parliament Speaker, are arrested suspected of spying for a foreign government.
- On 20 September the former Interior Minister Tomislav Cokrevski is

accused by the Lustration Commission of ordering the surveillance of right-wing activists in the nineties.

#### *Albania*

- On 10 September Ilir Meta, from the Socialist Movement for Integration (LSI), is elected Parliament Speaker.
- On 15 September the coalition government of the Socialist Party and the LSI, led by Edi Rama, comes into power.
- On 18 September the Court of Tirana acquits the former judge Nertian Tabaku of accusations of malpractice for his acquittal in 2010 of a criminal who later murdered a police officer.
- On 19 September the Appeals Court of Tirana sentences two Republican Guard officers to one and three years in prison – which they are exempt from serving – for their responsibility in the deaths of demonstrators during the protests in January 2011.

#### *Greece*

- On 16 September Greek trade unions begin a week of strikes to protest against the reforms and cuts approved by the Parliament which will lead to thousands of direct dismissals in the public sector and the creation of a labour reserve, set up to pay public sector workers the minimum wage until they either find other work or are dismissed.
- On 18 September a supporter of the neo-Nazi party Golden Dawn is arrested for the murder of the leftist artist Pavlos Fyssas. The arrest prompts unrest in several cities and government moves to ban Golden Dawn.

#### *Turkey*

- On 9 September the terrorist organisation PKK announces that it is suspending the withdrawal of its fighters from Turkish soil, accusing the government of paralysing the peace process, although it pledges to respect the ceasefire.
- On 30 September the Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan announces a social reform package that includes the partial lifting of the ban on women using

headscarves in public service, reducing the minimum electoral threshold for entering Parliament, allowing education in other languages in private schools and allowing Kurdish place names.

#### *Cyprus*

- On 11 September Noble Energy successfully completes the last preliminary test for initiating gas extraction in the Aphrodite gas field in Cyprus' Exclusive Economic Zone.
- On 12 September teachers demonstrate against the Education Minister's decision to stop giving permanent contracts to teachers in public schools.
- On 13 September the eurozone approves the disbursement of 1.5 billion euros to save the Cypriot banks. On 16 September the IMF announces the release of a further 84.7 million euros.

#### *Syria*

- On 12 September the United Nations says it has received the documents needed for Syria to join the Chemical Weapons Convention.
- On 14 September the NCSROF elects the moderate Islamist Ahmad Toumeh as the interim Prime Minister.
- On 16 September the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon presents the final report submitted by the expert commission on the Ghouta attack on 21 August to the Security Council, which concludes that chemical weapons were used.
- On 19 September serious clashes break out in Azaz, on the Turkish border, between the ISIL and the Northern Storm Brigade.
- On 25 September 13 FSA factions reject the authority of the NCSROF and say their organisation will operate under Sharia principles.
- On 27 September the Security Council unanimously approves Resolution 1950 on the destruction of Syria's chemical arsenal, by virtue of the agreement reached between Washington and Moscow on 14 September and accepted by Damascus.
- On 30 September the UN chemical weapons inspectors complete a second mission, which began on 25 September.

#### *Lebanon*

- On 10 September the European Commission announces a package of 58 million euros to help Lebanon cope with the effects of the Syrian crisis.
- On 23 September Hezbollah denies accusations by the NCSROF that it is receiving chemical weapons from Damascus to elude international plans for their destruction.

#### *Egypt*

- On 1 September the President Adly Mansour announces the formation of a commission to draft a definitive constitutional reform bill based on the proposal presented by a committee of 10 legal experts.
- On 8 September the Public Prosecutor announces that the Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohamed Badie will be tried for his responsibility in the clashes that followed the military coup on 3 July.
- On 11 September at least six soldiers are killed in two bomb attacks in Rafah, after which Egypt closes its borders with Gaza. At the same time, army operations, which began on 7 September, continue against terrorist targets in the Sinai.
- On 15 September the Kamel Gemilak (Complete your Good Deed) campaign official begins, which aims to collect 30 million signatures to call the vice-Prime Minister and Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces Abdel Fattah al-Sisi to run in the next presidential elections.
- On 17 September the spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood Gehad el-Haddad is arrested in Nasr.
- On 19 September the army takes back control of Kerdasa, the last pro-Mohamed Morsi bastion in Cairo. One of those arrested is Essam el-Erian, vice-Chairman of the Freedom and Justice Party, the political wing of the Muslim Brotherhood.
- On 23 September the Court for Urgent Matters in Cairo bans all Muslim Brotherhood activities.
- On 30 September the Cairo Appeals Court upholds the one-year jail sentence handed down in April to Hisham Qandil, former Prime Minister to Mohamed Morsi, for failing to implement a

court order in 2011 to renationalise an oil company sold in 2005 to a Saudi investor.

#### Libya

- On 1 September the authorities in Sirte and the Libyan National Congress call for calm to put an end to the fighting that began in early August when a jihadist group from Derna announced plans to set up in Sirte, after the commander of the al-Farouk Brigade of Ansar al-Sharia died on 4 August in clashes with the Zawiya Martyrs Brigade, affiliated with the army.
- On 19 September around twenty officials from the Muammar el-Gaddafi regime appear before a court in Tripoli for the repression of the 2011 Revolution. Saif el-Islam el-Gaddafi appears before the Zintan Court in the third hearing of the trial against him, which is ongoing since January and which resumes in December.
- On 21 September thousands of Libyans demonstrate in Tripoli and Benghazi to demand improvements in internal security.

#### Tunisia

- On 28 September the Ennahda government resigns after reaching an agreement with the opposition to start talks to appoint a new non-partisan interim cabinet.

#### Algeria

- On 11 September the President Abdelaziz Bouteflika announces changes in the cabinet, with Abdelmalek Sellal remaining at its head. Ahmed Gaid Salah is appointed Chief-of-Staff of the Armed Forces and deputy Defence Minister; the Chairman of the Constitutional Council, Tayeb Belaiz, moves to the Interior Ministry and Ramtane Lamamra assumes the post of Foreign Minister; Tayeb Louh leaves the Labour Ministry to head the Justice Ministry. Mohamed Benmeradi will be the new Labour Minister.

#### Morocco

- On 9 September, Abdelwahed Al-moutawakil, leader of the political wing

of the Islamist movement Justice and Spirituality, calls various leftist groups and the 20 February Movement to establish a broad front to oppose the current political system.

- On 12 September the Ministry of Justice presents the new charter of principles that will guide the judicial reforms.
- On 24 September thousands of people demonstrate in Rabat, called by Istiqlal, to protest against the government's decision to peg fuel prices to the global price.

#### European Union

- On 12 September the European Parliament approves the establishment of a single supervisory mechanism for banks in the eurozone led by the European Central Bank, which will come into effect from September 2014.

#### October 2013

*Portugal announces new cuts in public spending. The ECHR rules against Spain and rejects the use of the Parot doctrine. Italy records mass immigrant arrivals. Croatia changes its legislation to adopt the European Arrest Warrant. Bosnia conducts its first national census since 1991. In Greece, the Golden Dawn leader is remanded in custody. Turkey approves the purchase of a missile defence system from China. Syria initiates its chemical weapons destruction programme overseen by inspectors from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). In Egypt, fighting increases between the security forces and Muslim Brotherhood followers. In Libya, Cyrenaica declares itself autonomous. The political crisis continues in Tunisia. In Morocco Mohammed VI approves a government reshuffle.*

#### Portugal

- On 3 October the troika completes a new visit to Portugal, begun on 16 September. The satisfactory results open the way to the release of a new 5-billion-euro tranche of the country's economic bailout.

#### Spain

- On 8 October the Belgium and Spanish police arrest ETA member Natividad Jauregui in Ghent, a member of the Biscay Cell and on the run since 1979.
- On 15 October the National Court sentences the three members of the Otazua Cell from the ETA terrorist organisation to 485 years in prison for the murder of Sergeant-Major Luis Conde de la Cruz in 2008.
- On 16 October police officers Enrique Pamies and Jose Maria Ballesteros are sentenced to a year and a half in jail for revealing a police network to ETA's extortion ring in the Faisan Case in 2006.
- On 21 October the ECHR rejects Spain's appeal against its ruling to oppose applying the Parot Doctrine for ETA member Ines del Rio and opens the door for other prisoners to be eligible for release. On 22 October London's High Court orders the conditional release of ETA member Antton Troitino, arrested in the United Kingdom in 2012.

#### France

- On 7 October the judges investigating L'Oréal's alleged illegal funding of Nicolas Sarkozy's presidential election campaign decide there is not enough evidence against the former President to prosecute.
- On 17 October clashes break out in Paris during a student demonstration against the deportation of an Armenian and a Kosovar of Roma origin, ordered by the Interior Ministry.

#### Italy

- On 2 October Enrico Letta's government wins a confidence vote tabled by Silvio Berlusconi after receiving support from a large number of MPs from his own party, the PdL, including its leader Angelino Alfano.
- On 14 October Italy triples its military deployment in the Mediterranean with Operation Mare Nostrum, to halt the wave of immigrants. In October alone, more than 2,500 immigrants arrive on Italian shores.



- On 15 October the Council of Ministers approves the budget for 2014, which foresees tax and public spending cuts of 3.5 billion euros.
- On 17 October the former Prime Minister Mario Monti steps down as President of the party Civic Choice over internal divisions regarding the Stability Law approved by the government and opposed by Monti.
- On 19 October protest camps are set up in Rome against the government's austerity measures, which remain for four days.

#### *Malta*

- On 16 October a US ship rescues 128 immigrants in Maltese waters.

#### *Croatia*

- On 4 October the Parliament agrees to change the Perkovic Law passed in June, which limits the application of the European arrest warrant to crimes committed after August 2002, following a warning from the European Commission that it would block Croatia's Access to the Schengen Area.
- On 5 October a police officer is arrested in Vukovar for illegally removing a sign in Cyrillic. Over the following two days, signs in Serbian are illegally removed by radical Croatian nationalists.
- On 29 October Mirela Holy, the former social democratic Environment Minister, presents her new environmental party, Croatian Sustainable Development (ORAH).

#### *Bosnia and Herzegovina*

- On 3 October the Mostar Court sentences the former member of the Bosnian army Zehrudin Scuk to six years in prison for war crimes in Jablanica in 1993.
- On 15 October Bosnia-Herzegovina's first population census since 1991 comes to completion, which began on 1 October. As well as the controversial inclusion of questions on ethnicity, language, religion and nationality, the census raises concerns of rising tensions because of the light it sheds on the demographic impact of the Bosnian War.

#### *Montenegro*

- On 11 October Montenegrin journalists demonstrate against the rising number of attacks against them and to demand that the authorities provide an effective response.
- On 20 October 60 people are arrested in Podgorica in unrest sparked by the country's first Gay Pride March.

#### *Serbia*

- On 20 October the widow of the Marshal Josef Broz "Tito" Jovanka Broz dies in Belgrade.

#### *Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 7 October Serbia and Kosovo agree to allow Serbian politicians to visit Kosovo during the municipal election campaigns.
- On 14 October a series of explosions shakes the Serbian sector of Mitrovica without causing any injuries. The attacks are seen as a warning to ethnic Serbs to abstain from participating in the Kosovo local elections on 3 November.

#### *FYROM*

- On 4 October the social democratic opposition accuses the government of not wanting to carry out a national census so it can manipulate the election results, after the cabinet decides not to set aside funds for this purpose. The Albanian parties claim that the government does not want the number of ethnic Albanians living in the country to be made public.

#### *Albania*

- On 2 October the opposition criticises the government's decision to postpone the application of the civil service reform law by six months, which was due to enter into effect on 1 April and was approved by consensus during the last legislature.
- On 10 October the Prime Minister Edi Rama replaces the police chief Hysni Burgaj with the former special forces commander Artan Didi, as part

of a wider plan to restructure the police force.

#### *Greece*

- On 3 October Nikolaos Michaloliakos, leader of the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn party, is remanded in custody for belonging to a criminal organisation and for his involvement in various bomb attacks and assassinations, the most recent being Pavlos Fyssas on 17 September.
- On 7 October the government presents the draft budget for 2014 based on a 0.6% rise in GDP, putting an end to six years of recession.
- On 8 September the former Minister Akis Tsochatzopoulos is sentenced to 20 years in prison for money laundering and corruption.
- On 23 October the Parliament approves an amendment to the law to put a stop to publicly funding parties if their leadership or a fifth of their members are accused of belonging to a criminal organisation.
- On 26 October some 1,500 people demonstrate in Athens in support of Golden Dawn. A large-scale police deployment prevents them from coming into contact with a counterdemonstration staged by anti-fascists.

#### *Turkey*

- On 24 October NATO and the US express their concerns over the decision taken by Turkey, a member of the Atlantic Alliance, to purchase a missile defence system from China.

#### *Syria*

- On 1 October inspectors from the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) arrive a day after experts leave the country from the UN mission set up to investigate the use of chemical weapons in the Ghouta massacre in August 2013.
- On 11 October the Norwegian Nobel Committee awards the Nobel Peace Prize to the OPCW.
- On 16 October the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reports fighting between Islamist factions and the Kurdish People's Protection Units in Hasaka.

- On 17 October violent clashes break out between the army and the Al-Nusra Front and the ISIL over the control of a power plant and the central prison in Aleppo.
- On 27 October PKK-linked Kurdish militias launch an offensive in Yarubiya, Hasaka and seize control of the border crossing with Iraq from Islamist militia, blocking Syria's oil trade route to outside the country.

#### *Lebanon*

- On 22 October four people are killed in Tripoli during unrest between Sunnis from Bab Tabbaneh and Alawite Shiites from Jabal Mohsen, respectively opponents and supporters of the Syrian regime.

#### *Jordan*

- On 28 October Jordan announces an agreement with the Russian company Rosatom to build two nuclear reactors in Qusayr Amra and put an end to the country's energy crisis.

#### *Egypt*

- On 6 October coinciding with the commemoration of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war and a gathering of supporters of the army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in Tahrir Square, the National Alliance to Support Legitimacy leads new protests throughout the country. The Islamist protests continue throughout October.
- On 9 October the government removes the Muslim Brotherhood from the register of civil society and non-governmental associations.
- On 17 October the army fends off an Islamist attack in al-Arish. Since the fall of Mohamed Morsi, Islamist violence on the peninsula that connects Egypt with Gaza and Israel has been a daily occurrence. As part of its efforts to recover control of the peninsula, the new government has led an intense campaign to destroy the Gaza smuggling tunnels.
- On 20 October four people are killed in gunfire in an attack on a Christian wedding in Giza. On 22 October Coptic demonstrators protest outside the Council of Ministers.

- On 30 October Essam el-Erian, the vice-Chairman of the Freedom and Justice party is arrested in New Cairo.

#### *Libya*

- On 2 October Najib Suleiman al-Hasi and Abd Rabbo Abdul Hamid al-Barasi are appointed respectively Commander-in-Chief of the Cyrenaica Defence Forces and President of the new autonomous government.
- On 5 October, in Tripoli, the US Navy arrests the regional al-Qaeda leader Nazih al-Ruquai -Abu Anas al-Libi. The arrest coincides with that of a prominent ash-Shabaab leader in Somalia, allegedly responsible for the attack on the Westgate shopping centre in Nairobi in September.
- On 10 October the Libyan Prime Minister, Ali Zeidan, is arrested and released shortly after in Tripoli by the Libya Revolutionaries Operations Room.
- On 11 October the International Criminal Court rules that the former chief of intelligence of Muammar el-Gaddafi, Abdullah al-Senoussi, can be tried in Libya.
- On 23 October the head of Benghazi's Air Traffic Control Adel al-Towahni is murdered. This assassination adds to those of Mustapha al-Barghathi, the military police chief, on 18 October and navy colonel Saleh Elhadiri, on 2 October.
- On 24 October Cyrenaica unilaterally declares autonomy.

#### *Tunisia*

- On 5 October the government and opposition agree on a roadmap to end the current political crisis, which foresees the imminent appointment of a new Prime Minister and the formation of a new, non-partisan cabinet, outlines the deadlines for adopting a new constitution and calls for new elections to be held.
- On 18 October the Interior Ministry reports an anti-terrorism operation launched days before in Gbollat, Beja, which claimed the lives of several members of Ansar al-Sharia, including Lotfi Ezzine, the terrorist connected with the assassinations of Chokri Belaïd and Mohamed Brahmi.

- On 24 October the opposition demonstrates again for the umpteenth time in October to call for compliance with the roadmap agreed with the opposition. The Ennahda offices in el-Kef are set on fire prompting an intervention by the riot police. The incident begins during the funeral of one of the seven police officers who were killed during an anti-Islamist raid in Sidi Bouzid the previous day.

#### *Algeria*

- On 7 October the government announces an amendment to the Penal Code –approved on 30 September – for tougher penalties for terrorism.
- On 26 October Sonatrach announces the discovery of an oil field in Ouar-gla, the largest in the last 20 years, with a 1.3-billion-barrel capacity.

#### *Morocco*

- On 10 October Mohammed VI approves a government reshuffle led by the Islamist Justice and Development Party to make room for the National Rally of Independents (RNI, liberal) in the government after the withdrawal of the nationalist Istiqlal. The new appointments include Mohamed Hassad in the Interior Ministry, Salaheddine Mezouar as Foreign Minister and Mohamed Boussaid as the Economy and Finance Minister.

#### *European Union*

- On 16 October the European Commission presents its report on the progress of the accession candidate countries. It recommends reactivating negotiations with Turkey, granting Albania candidate status and, for the fifth time, initiating talks with the FYROM.
- On 24 October France and Germany launch an initiative backed by the rest of the EU calling the US to explain the reports of systematic spying carried out by Washington on at least 35 world leaders, several of them from the EU.

#### *Arab League*

- On 20 October the Arab League announces that the international peace

conference for Syria is scheduled for 23 November.

- On 28 October the UN and Arab League Special Envoy to Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, ends his tour of the Middle East in Damascus to promote the Geneva II peace conference.

## November 2013

*Spain approves the education reform law. In France, a new centre-right coalition emerges. In Italy, Silvio Berlusconi is expelled from the Parliament. The Slovenian Economy Minister resigns. Kosovo's local elections are violently boycotted in Northern Kosovo. The Greek government wins a confidence vote. Turkey and the EU resume accession talks. In Syria, the army continues to gain ground against an armed opposition beset by infighting and registering a rise in radical Islamists. At the same time, the international community agrees to hold the Geneva II peace conference in January 2014. In Egypt, the constitutional reform process moves forward and the government announces plans to call parliamentary and presidential elections for 2014 and lifts the state of emergency days before the new protest law is passed. In Libya, the government's efforts to either dismantle or absorb the militia operating outside of the security forces, demanded by most of the population, seem to be showing progress and Cyrenaica takes new steps to consolidate its self-proclaimed independence. In Tunisia, the government extends its state of emergency by eight months, the struggle against Ansar al-Sharia and the jihadist threat continues and the process of national dialogue continues without an agreement.*

### Portugal

- On 8 November the IMF announces the approval of the release of a new 1.9-billion-euro tranche to Portugal as part of the economic bailout package.
- On 26 November the conservative majority in the Parliament approves the final document for the 2014 budget, which foresees public spending cuts of 3.9 billion euros, amid heavy worker protests.

### Spain

- On 14 November the eurozone Finance Ministers welcome Spain and Ireland's exit from their bailout programmes due to positive trends in both states' economic recovery.
- On 29 November the Secretary General of Andalucia's General Workers Union (UGT), Francisco Fernandez, resigns over his alleged systematic misuse of public money for illegal purposes obtained from the Andalusian regional government.
- On 28 November the PP's parliamentary majority in the lower house definitively approves the controversial education reform law, after receiving the go-ahead from the Senate.

### France

- On 6 November Jean-Louis Borloo, President of the Union of Democrats and Independents (UDI), and François Bayrou, President of the Democratic Movement (MoDem), announce the merger of both parties in a centre-right coalition.
- On 11 November during the commemoration of the armistice which marked the end of World War I, the President François Hollande is booed by demonstrators calling for his resignation over tax hikes. These include the controversial ecotax on lorries, which has sparked social protests, in particular in Brittany. The Interior Minister Manuel Valls accuses the National Front of being behind the protests which also displayed slogans against same-sex marriage.
- On 15 November the 250 prefects draft a report that warns about the deterioration of France's social, moral and political state and about the risks of a popular revolt.
- On 18 November François Collomp, the French engineer captured in December 2012 in Nigeria by Ansaru terrorists, linked with Boko Haram, escapes his captors and is transferred to France.
- On 20 November the far-left activist Abdelhakim Dekhar is arrested for the shots fired in the newsrooms of BMFTV and Libération on 15 and 18 November.

### Monaco

- On 13 November the government announces the creation of an ombudsman.

### Italy

- On 15 November during the Forza Italia national congress, the vice-Chairman, Interior Minister and dauphin of Silvio Berlusconi, Angelino Alfano, leaves the party together with five other ministers from the group, around 30 senators and some 25 deputies, over a disagreement with Berlusconi's political strategy, which seeks to bring down the coalition government.
- On 18 and 19 November Cyclone Cleopatra leaves at least 16 dead and 2,700 evacuated in Sardinia. The abnormality of this phenomenon in the Mediterranean is attributed by some experts to rising water temperatures due to climate change.
- On 26 November the Senate approves the budget law despite Forza Italia's withdrawal from the government coalition.
- On 27 November the Senate approves the expulsion of the former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi from the Parliament with immediate effect. The decision comes in view of the four-year prison sentence, commuted to one year under house arrest, handed down to him in October 2012 for tax fraud in the Mediaset case, and confirmed in May 2013.

### Malta

- On 20 November prompted by citizen protests, the government postpones applying the bill approved by the Parliament on 13 November, which will grant Maltese citizenship to anyone at a cost of 650,000 euros.

### Slovenia

- On 15 November the Parliament approves the budget for 2014, which foresees severe cuts to stabilise the banking system without requesting external aid.
- On 20 November the Economy Minister Stanko Stepisnik resigns after it is discovered that his ministry has granted subsidies to a company partly owned by the Minister.

- On 25 November the Health Minister Tomaz Gantar resigns over his inability to carry out reforms in the health system.

#### *Croatia*

- On 5 November the Vukovar authorities approve the city's exclusion from the law on minority rights and bans signs in Cyrillic, due to the damage suffered by the city in the Serbian siege during the war.

#### *Bosnia and Herzegovina*

- On 27 November the President of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Zivko Budimir and the entity's Justice Minister Zoran Mikulic are accused by the State Prosecutor, together with other senior officials, of approving amnesties in exchange for bribes.
- On 28 November a Bosnian court sentences Zijad Turkovic and Milenko Lakic to forty years in prison and hands sentences of three to 12 years to a further three members of their ring, in the largest trial against organised crime held in Bosnia in 20 years.

#### *Serbia*

- On 6 November two army officers are accused of the death of 27 civilians in Trnje during the Kosovo conflict.
- On 13 November the Vojvodina Assembly votes in favour of not transferring most of its tax revenue to the central government.

#### *Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 3 November Kosovo holds local elections which are violently boycotted by radical Serb and Kosovo Serb activists in majority Serb municipalities, where, on 17 November, the elections are repeated without incident and with just 22.38% turnout.
- On 8 November 15 people linked with the UÇK, including Kosovo's ambassador to Albania, are accused of war crimes against civilians in Likovac in 1998. On 18 November thousands of Kosovars demonstrate in Pristina to call for their release.

#### *FYROM*

- On 12 November the FYROM is elected to the UN Human Rights Council, together with Algeria and Morocco.

#### *Albania*

- On 15 November after days of popular protests, Albania refuses to host the destruction process of Syria's chemical weapons.

#### *Greece*

- On 11 November the ND-PASOK coalition government wins a confidence motion tabled by Syriza, the main opposition party, over the police's eviction on 7 November of the offices of the state broadcaster, formally ERT, now transformed into DT.
- On 16 November the radical leftist group the Militant People's Revolutionary Forces assumes responsibility for the assassination in Athens on 1 November of two Golden Dawn members.

#### *Turkey*

- On 4 November the government announces its intention to intervene in university accommodation to prevent male and female students sharing the same living space. Part of Turkish society views the AKP's interventionist policy in people's private lives with caution.
- On 5 November Turkey and the EU resume accession negotiations after three and a half years of deadlock.

#### *Cyprus*

- On 13 November the European Commission approves 100 million euros in aid to the Cypriot economy as part of its draft amendment of the EU budget for 2014.

#### *Syria*

- On 11 November the PKK-linked Democratic Union Party (PYD) announces in al-Qamishli its intentions to form an interim government in the areas under its control, approve its own constitution and organise elections.

- On 13 November the army takes back control of Hujaira in an offensive to secure control of the area around the south of Damascus.
- On 18 November the leader of the Aleppo-based Islamist al-Tawhid Brigade Abdelqader Saleh dies from injuries suffered on 14 November in a Syrian air strike.
- On 22 November seven of the main rebel Islamist factions operating in Syria merge to form the Islamic Front.
- On 25 November the UN, Arab League, US and Russia agree to hold the International Peace Conference on Syria, known as Geneva II on 22 January 2014. Both the Syrian government and the NCSROF announce their participation, although with radically different standpoints.
- On 28 November seven rebel militants accused of collaborating with the regime are executed in Atareb, Aleppo, by the ISIL.

#### *Lebanon*

- On 12 November Saad Ghieh, the leader of the Lebanese Islamic Labor Front, which supports the Syrian regime, is assassinated in Tripoli.
- On 19 November at least 25 people are killed in a bomb attack by the Abdullah Azzam Brigades, outside the Iranian embassy in Beirut.

#### *Jordan*

- On 3 November Abdullah II once again appeals to the international community for urgent help in dealing with the mass arrival of Syrian refugees.

#### *Egypt*

- On 4 November the trial begins against the former President Mohamed Morsi and a further 14 leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood. The hearing is adjourned to January 2014, after Morsi refuses to recognise the court.
- On 8 November the government announces parliamentary and presidential elections for the first half of 2014.
- On 12 November the government lifts the state of emergency.
- On 12 November the security forces arrest Bassem Auda in Beheira, the former Supply Minister of Mohamed Morsi.

- On 19 November the President Adly Mansour announces that he will not run in the 2014 presidential elections.
- On 19 November unrest erupts when thousands of people occupy Tahrir Square to commemorate the clashes in November 2011, which left fifty dead.
- On 24 November Adly Mansour ratifies the new Security Law that gives the Interior Minister wider powers to ban any protest that poses a threat to security.

#### Libya

- On 3 November the Libyan General National Congress votes in favour of dissolving the Libya Revolutionaries Operations Room over their responsibility in the short-lived kidnapping of the Prime Minister Ali Zeidan, in October.
- On 6 November the government announces that it will stop paying rebel groups as of 31 December 2013 if they do not join the security forces. On 16 and 26 November Tripoli and Benghazi begin three-day general strikes to call for the brigades to end their activities. In response, before the end of the month several militias give up their weapons and barracks.
- On 9 November the 9 November Movement leads a crowd in Tripoli to demand the renewal of the National General Council and for the current assembly's mandate not to be extended.
- On 10 November Ibrahim Said al-Jadhran, President of the autonomous government of Cyrenaica, announces the creation of the Libyan Oil and Gas Corporation.
- On 13 November the Amazigh High Council of Libya announces that it will boycott the drafting of a new constitution and the election of members to the Constitutional Committee claiming that its rights are at risk.

#### Tunisia

- On 3 November the government extends the state of emergency by eight months.
- On 4 November the national dialogue is suspended after a new and fruitless round of talks between Ennahda and the opposition to elect a new Prime Minister and a caretaker government.

- On 12 November the security forces arrest Ansar al-Sharia's number two, Wael Amami, and the spokesperson for the Salafi group, Seifeddine Rais in Kairouan and Sidi Bouzid respectively.
- On 21 November the committee for the defence of Chokri Belaïd, the leader of the Democratic Patriots' Movement murdered in February, prosecutes the Prime Minister Ali Laarayedh, and the Defence Minister Lotfi Ben Jeddou, accusing them of withholding the results of an investigation that would prove that Belaïd was killed by shots fired from a gun belonging to the Ministry.
- On 27 November Ennahda's offices in Gafsa are set alight during a general strike against the government's incapacity to improve living conditions in the governorate.

#### Algeria

- On 7 November 21 people, mostly workers from Naftal, a subsidiary of Sonatrach, are sentenced to between three and six years in prison for fuel trafficking.
- On 16 November Abdelaziz Buteftika is announced as the FLN candidate for the 2014 presidential elections.

#### Morocco

- On 11 November the Immigration Minister announces the regularisation of 40,000 immigrants as part of the new immigration policy approved in September.

#### European Union

- On 29 November the summit between the EU and the countries of the Eastern Partnership comes to its conclusion in Vilnius. Only Moldova and Georgia sign association agreements with Brussels. In the case of Ukraine, the negotiations fail when its President Viktor Yanukovich asks for a greater financial commitment from the EU in exchange for signing the agreement, in a decision that Brussels attributes to pressure from Russia to avoid losing its strategic influence over Ukraine, where large-scale pro-European protests take place.

#### Arab League

- On 10 November the Arab League approves Egypt's initiative for the Middle East to be free from weapons of mass destruction.

#### December 2013

*In Italy, the Constitutional Court partially invalidates the electoral law and new citizen protests are staged. Slovenia announces that it will take responsibility for the bailout of its banking system. Bosnia approves the federal budgets for 2014. Ethnic tensions rise in the FYROM. Greece suspends state aid to Golden Dawn. In Turkey, a corruption plot that affects the AKP sparks a political crisis. In Syria, the regime launches a bloody offensive on Aleppo. In Egypt, the Constitutional Committee endorses the new draft constitution and the Muslim Brotherhood is declared a terrorist group. In Tunisia, Mehdi Jomaa is appointed Prime Minister. In Morocco, the parliamentary opposition blocks the approval of the 2014 budget proposal. In Mauritania, the Union for the Republic wins the elections.*

#### Spain

- On 20 December the Council of Ministers approves the draft bill that allows abortion only in cases of rape or if there is a physical or mental health risk to the mother.

#### France

- On 9 December France initiates its military intervention in the Central African Republic.
- On 17 December Claude Gueant, the former Interior Minister, and Michel Gaudin, the chief of police, are released without charge after being questioned over their involvement in the alleged misuse of public funds between 2002 and 2004.

#### Italy

- On 4 December the Constitutional Court partially invalidates the 2005 electoral law, declaring the closed lists and winner's bonus system unconstitutional.

- On 8 December the mayor of Florence Matteo Renzi is elected the new Secretary General of the Democratic Party.
- On 9 December the popular Forconi (pitchfork) movement that emerged in Sicily in 2012, stages several days of protest throughout Italy against austerity measures, globalisation and the EU.
- On 11 December the Prime Minister Enrico Letta wins a confidence vote in the Parliament after Forza Italia's exit from the coalition government.
- On 13 December 30 relatives of the mafia boss Matteo Messina Denaro are arrested in Trapani in the largest operation carried out against the Mafia in Sicily in years.
- On 18 December the European Commission demands that Italy investigate the living conditions of the Lampedusa immigrants.

*Slovenia*

- On 12 December Slovenia announces that it will take on the 4.758-billion-euro bailout of its banks without external financial assistance.

*Croatia*

- On 1 December 65% of Croats – with a 38% turnout – vote in favour of the Constitution defining marriage as a union exclusively between a man and a woman.
- On 4 December the Parliament adopts the 2014 budget, with a planned deficit of 5.5% of the GDP.
- On 5 December the Serbian government submits a formal complaint to the Croatian government regarding the situation of the Serb minority in Vukovar.
- On 9 December the former police commander Vladimir Milankovic is sentenced to eight years in jail for war crimes against Serbs in Sisak between 1991 and 1992.

*Bosnia and Herzegovina*

- On 20 December Haris Causevic is sentenced to 45 years in prison for the bomb attack in Bugojno in June 2010.
- On 25 December Midhat Osmanovic, member of the Party for Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Parliament of the

Croatian Bosnian entity, is arrested in Tuzla for attempting to take a bribe.

- On 30 December the Federal Parliament urgently adopts the budget for 2014. Its adoption in 2013 will allow Bosnia to access the funds granted by the IMF. However, due to the approval's delay these funds will be released at a later date, endangering the budgets for the Bosnian Serb and Croatian Bosnian entities, which have approved their respective budgets within the deadlines set by the IMF.

*Montenegro*

- On 26 December a bomb explodes in the offices of the Vijesti newspaper, adding to the attacks in August and November. The attacks come amid repeated reports by journalists of a decline in press freedom in Montenegro.
- On 27 December the government announces its support of a proposed legislation to promote the multi-ethnic character of Montenegro and give minorities the freedom to display their own symbols and flags without restrictions.

*Serbia*

- On 17 December the EU Council sets 21 January 2014 as the date for opening Serbia's accession negotiations.

*Kosovo under UN Security Council Resolution 1244*

- On 1 December Kosovo holds the second round of its local elections, which have a low turnout but finish without incidents.
- On 6 December Serbia and Kosovo agree for the regional police of Northern Kosovo to be commanded by a Serb and for a quota of positions in the Kosovo police force to be reserved for ethnic Serbs.

*FYROM*

- On 9 December the authorities call for calm after a group of Macedonian Albanians damage the statue of Tsar Dusan (Stephen IV of Serbia), recently inaugurated in Skopje, deeming it a symbol of Serbia's historical occupation

of the country. On 20 December new clashes break out between ethnic Albanians and police.

- On 25 December the Parliament adopts two laws, by 62 out of 123 votes, which will regulate the media and, according to the opposition and trade unions, represent a major restriction on freedom of expression.

*Albania*

- On 9 December the former Defence Minister Arben Imami is accused of abuse of power and embezzlement of state funds.

*Greece*

- On 7 December the Parliament adopts the 2014 draft budget, which foresees public spending cuts of 3.1 billion euros.
- On 18 December the Parliament approves suspending the public funding of the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn party.
- On 30 December Antonis Kantas, the deputy Armaments Chief at the Defence Ministry between 1997 and 2002, arrested after it was discovered he had 13.7 million euros in a Singapore bank, returns seven million euros to the State.

*Turkey*

- On 3 December Turkey reports it has made 1,100 arrests in 2013 of European citizens heading for Syria to join jihadist groups. On 5 December the European Council Interior Ministers debate formulas to halt this flow.
- On 6 December two people are killed in Yuksekova in clashes between the police and separatist demonstrators. In retaliation, the PKK terrorist group captures four Turkish soldiers on 8 December in Lice. On 9 December they are released under the mediation of the Peace and Democracy Party (BDP).
- On 17 December at least 52 people are arrested in Ankara and Istanbul in connection with a major corruption plot. Among the arrested are the tycoon Ali Agaoglu, the head of the state bank Halkbank Suleyman Aslan, and three sons of the Interior, Economy and City Planning Ministers, who eventually resign on 25 December. Between 18 and

22 December at least 50 senior police officers and prosecutors investigating the case are dismissed by order of the government and on 22 December the Prime Minister denounces a plot to bring down the government. On 26 December Recep Tayyip Erdogan reshuffles his cabinet. The changes include that of the hitherto deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdog, who moves to the Justice Ministry and Mevlut Cavusoglu who replaces Egemen Bagis as European Union Minister. On 27 December, amid protests and unrest in the street, three AKP MPs resign in protest over the corruption scandal and rifts with the leadership. The Council of State blocks a government decree on 21 December that violates the principle of the separation of powers by forcing the officers in charge of the investigation to share information with their superiors.

#### *Cyprus*

- On 5 December the Council of Ministers activates a privatisations programme to raise 1.4 billion euros and which is a requisite for the last tranche of the EU and IMF bailout package.

#### *Syria*

- On 12 December the US and UK suspend aid to Syria's armed opposition – 190 million euros – due to the rise in Islamic fundamentalist groups.
- On 12 December the report from the United Nations experts investigating the use of chemical weapons in Syria ascertains that there is strong evidence to suggest chemical weapons were used on at least five occasions.
  - On 16 December the United Nations launches an appeal for 4.7 billion euros for the humanitarian crisis in Syria, the largest aid appeal the UN has ever made for a single emergency.
  - On 15 December the regime begins indiscriminate air strikes of Aleppo using explosive barrel bombs, as part of an offensive to secure control of the whole province, which continues throughout the month.
  - On 31 December the war in Syria, nearing the end of its third year, has already claimed the lives of 130,433 people, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

#### *Lebanon*

- On 4 December the Hezbollah commander Hassan Hawlo al-Lakis is murdered in Beirut.
- On 27 December former Lebanese Finance Minister Mohammad Shata is assassinated in Beirut. A week earlier, Shata had asked Iran for help to put an end to Hezbollah's participation in the Syrian conflict.
- On 29 December the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon calls on Lebanon and Israel to show "maximum restraint" after the border incident during the day, in which two missiles fired from Lebanese territory land in northern Israel, provoking an Israeli military response.
- On 29 December the Saudi Majid bin Muhammad al-Majid, leader of the al-Qaeda-linked Abdullah Azzam Brigades, is arrested in Lebanon on his way to Syria.
- On 30 December the Lebanese army fires anti-aircraft missiles at Syrian warplanes in response to a Syrian air strike on the border town of Arsal.

#### *Jordan*

- On 28 December Jordan announces that it will not consider banning the Muslim Brotherhood or classifying it as a terrorist group.

#### *Egypt*

- On 1 December the Constitutional Committee concludes its work and endorses the new draft constitution that will be put to a national referendum. The text bans religious parties, protects army powers and allows civilians to be tried in military courts. In the streets, Muslim Brotherhood supporters demonstrating against the new draft constitution are dispersed by security forces.
- On 7 December an appeals court releases 21 women, seven of them minors, sentenced in first instance on 27 November to long jail terms for showing their support for the former Islamist President Mohamed Morsi.
- On 8 December the Salafi party al-Nour announces that it will ask its supporters to vote in favour of the new constitutional text. For its part, the Islamist Independence Party describes any-

one who takes part in the referendum as a "sinner."

- On 9 December the trial begins against Mohamed Badie and a further 14 Muslim Brotherhood leaders. The trial is adjourned to 11 February 2014.
- On 19 December a court in Cairo acquits Mubarak's last Prime Minister Ahmed Shafiq – who fled to the United Arab Emirates –, and Gamal and Alaa Mubarak in a corruption case in which they are accused of purchasing state-owned land below market prices.
- On 21 December the Public Prosecutor announces that Mohamed Morsi and another 132 defendants – members of Hamas, Hezbollah and the Muslim Brotherhood – will be tried for raiding prisons and helping prisoners to escape during the 2011 revolution, which overthrew Mubarak. This new trial against Morsi adds to those already opened against him and 35 Brotherhood leaders on 18 December for inciting the murder of demonstrators and spying.
- On 24 December at least 16 people are killed in a bomb attack in Mansoura on the offices of the Dekelia provincial Security Directorate. The attack leads the government on 25 December to declare the Muslim Brotherhood a terrorist organisation.
- On 28 December Islamist students attack and set fire to two buildings of the al-Azhar University.
- On 30 December security forces arrest Anas el-Beltagi, son of the Muslim Brotherhood leader Mohammed el-Beltagi.

#### *Libya*

- On 2 December two demonstrators are killed in the second consecutive day of protests in Derna against the violence in Libya.
- On 16 December the self-proclaimed autonomous government of Cyrenaica announces a new blockade on the oil supply to the rest of the country to put pressure on Tripoli to recognise greater autonomy and advance towards implementing a federal state model. The blockade, which leaves Tripoli's service stations without petrol and sparks protests in the capital, adds to blockades carried out in December

by the Amazigh and Tubu minorities on the oil terminals under their control, to demand recognition of their national rights.

#### *Tunisia*

- On 14 December political parties and the UGTT trade union agree with an absolute majority on the appointment of the hitherto Industry Minister Mehdi Jomaa as the new Prime Minister.
- On 17 December Tunisia commemorates the third anniversary of its Revolution with a large-scale Day of Rage in Sidi Bouzid against the lack of socio-economic improvements. Another demonstration organised by Ansar al-Sharia and the Salafi party Hizb ut-Tahrir calls for the application of sharia law and establishment of an Islamic caliphate.

#### *Algeria*

- On 5 December Algeria reports the death of the AQIM leader Khalil Ould Addah in a military operation in Taman-rasset.

#### *Morocco*

- On 19 December the parliamentary opposition in the House of Councillors (upper house) blocks the draft finance act presented by Abdelilah Benkirane's government.

#### *Mauritania*

- On 21 December the Union for the Republic party wins in the second round of the parliamentary elections taking 74 of the 147 seats.
- On 31 December Mauritania announces the creation of a special court for crimes of slavery.

#### *European Union*

- On 2 December the EUROSUR border surveillance system comes into operation.
- On 2 December the EU adopts the 2014-2020 financial framework, following its approval in the European Parliament on 19 November and two and a half years of negotiations.

- On 4 December the Commission announces fines of 1.7 billion euros for eight financial institutions for manipulating the financial markets.
- On 15 December after four weeks of mass protests, thousands gather in Kiev's Independence Square to call Ukraine to sign the Association Agreement with the EU and for the pro-Russian government of Viktor Yanukovich to resign.

#### **Gibraltar**

- On 15 January the government of Gibraltar approves legislation to regulate bunkering and ship-to-ship fuel transfers, which have caused numerous spills in the waters of the Bay of Algeciras.
- On 24 May UEFA approves the inclusion of Gibraltar as a full member despite Spanish opposition, given that the colony requested entry in 1997, before the organism's decision in 2001 to only accept countries recognised as UN Member States.
- On 24 July the work carried out by the British tug *Elliot* to create an artificial reef that prevents Spanish vessels from fishing in waters of disputed sovereignty leads to yet another diplomatic conflict between the United Kingdom and Spain. In response to this action and to Gibraltar's territorial expansion into disputed waters, Spain introduces border checks with the aim of intercepting smugglers coming from Gibraltar, which lies outside of the Schengen Area. The high tensions continue throughout August with fishermen protests, Spain's ban on the supply of Spanish sand and rock to Gibraltar and threats between London and Madrid. The two countries present their respective complaints before the EU, which decides to investigate both the Spanish border checks and the legal grounds of Gibraltar's territorial expansion.
- On 29 August the Spanish government announces an urgent reform of the Law on Natural Heritage and Biodiversity, which will allow effective sanctions to be imposed on permanent bunkering on the Spanish coastline and, therefore, in the Bay of Algeciras.
- On 25 September an EC mission investigates on-the-ground complaints

from the queues at the border crossing between Gibraltar and Spain, which have been caused by Spanish smuggling checks.

- On 16 October the European Commission, in response to the complaint lodged by Spain in June 2012, announces that it will open an investigation into the tax regime of companies in Gibraltar, suspecting that the colony may be breaching community regulations by granting selective aid to certain offshore companies.

#### **Western Sahara**

- On 23 January the Polisario Front decides to evacuate all non-essential aid workers due to rising fears over the security in Western Sahara, in the wake of the terrorist attack on the oil refinery in Algeria and the conflict in Mali.
- On 30 January Morocco closes the border between Western Sahara and Mauritania over concerns regarding the effects the conflict in Mali could have for security in the area, specifically the entry of jihadist elements in Sahrawi territory.
- On 17 February the Rabat Military Court hands down sentences to 24 Sahrawi activists, arrested during the dismantling of the Gdeim Izik protest camp in November 2010 and charged with the deaths of 11 Moroccan police officers. Eight of them are given life sentences, four are sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment, eight to 25 years and the remaining two to two years in prison, which have already been served.
- On 19 March the UN Special Envoy to Western Sahara Christopher Ross begins a new tour in which he visits Madrid, Rabat, Laayoune, Dakhla and Algiers. The tour comes amid concerns of instability spreading from nearby Mali and after obtaining renewed support from the Group of Friends of Western Sahara, who meet on 15 March.
- On 16 April Morocco rejects, on grounds of impartiality, the draft resolution that the US plans to submit to the UN Security Council at the end of April, which calls the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) to include monitoring human rights abuses in the territory. The MINURSO is the only United Nations



mission that does not include this competence. On 24 April France, Russia and Spain, who oppose the US proposal, persuade Washington to present a new proposal.

- On 9 May the Moroccan police arrest six Sahrawi accused of vandalism in Laayoune, who participated in a separatist march staged on 4 May.
- On 13 September families of the Sahrawi disappeared call Morocco and Spain for accountability after the discovery of two mass graves close to Esmara containing the remains of Sahrawis who disappeared in 1976.
- On 25 September a young Sahrawi is shot dead by the Moroccan security forces during clashes in the city of Assa-Zag, in the south of Morocco.
- On 19 October five Moroccan police officers are injured in Laayoune in unrest reported during the visit of UN Special Envoy Christopher Ross.
- On 27 December the Polisario Front condemns the fisheries agreement signed between the EU and Morocco on 24 December, which includes territorial waters belonging to Western Sahara. In exchange for signing the agreement, Brussels asks Rabat to provide evidence to show that the Sahrawi population will benefit from the revenues derived from

the agreement and that fundamental rights are not violated. However, the Polisario urges Spain and the EU to recant as the agreement supports "Morocco's illegal occupation of Western Sahara."

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