

Chronologies

Chronology of Major Conflicts and Political Events

January 2025

In France, François Bayrou's government survives a no-confidence vote. Monaco's Minister of State dies. In Italy, the dispute between the government and the judiciary continues over the repatriations to Albania and the release of a senior Libyan official. Croatia holds presidential elections. Protests take place in Montenegro and Serbia, where the Prime Minister resigns. Kosovo takes measures against the Kosovo-Serb parallel institutions. Türkiye resumes contact with the PKK terrorist organization. In Syria, the violence intensifies between armed groups and a new president is appointed. Lebanon elects a president and prime minister. The Tunisian government steps up its repression of the opposition.

Spain

- On 9 January 185 migrants arrive on El Hierro. On 11 January, a further 224 are intercepted in waters surrounding the Canary Islands.

France

- On 16 January François Bayrou's government survives a no-confidence vote tabled by France Unbowed (LFI, left wing) in protest against its economic and budget policy, although it lacks the support of the Socialist Party (PS).

Monaco

- On 17 January the Minister of State since September 2024, Didier Guillaume, passes away. The Foreign Minister, Isabelle Berro-Amadié, assumes the post on an interim basis.

Italy

- On 11 January a demonstration in Rome in memory of Ramy Elgaml, who died on 24 November 2024 while being chased by the Carabinieri in Milan, ends with police charges and clashes.
- On 13 January Italy releases engineer Mohammad Abedini, under arrest since December 2024 at the request of the US, charged with supplying components for drones used by Iran in an attack on US soldiers in Jordan. The decision comes days after the release in Iran of the Italian journalist Cecilia Sala, in an incident interpreted by various media outlets as a prisoner exchange.
- On 21 January Italy releases and repatriates Osama Almasri Najim, the Libyan police chief accused of homicide, torture, abduction and the disappearance of migrants. He was arrested in Turin on 19 January on an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC). The court formally asks Rome to explain why it was not notified before his release.
- On 26 January Italy resumes the transfer of migrants to centres in Albania, after suspending operations for nearly two months by order of the Court of Appeal in Rome, which blocks the deportations again on 31 January.
- On 30 January the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) condemns Italy for failing to address the proliferation of illegal landfill sites, often controlled by organized crime gangs, in Naples and Caserta, describing it as a violation of the right to life.

Malta

- On 17 January Arnold Cassola, the former leader of Alternattiva Demokra-

tika, founds the new centre-left party Momentum.

Slovenia

- On 1 January Nova Gorica officially becomes the European capital of culture for 2025, along with its Italian neighbour, Gorizia, and Chemnitz.

Croatia

- On 12 January President Zoran Milanovic wins the second round of the presidential elections with 74.61% of the vote.
- On 18 January the Agriculture Minister, Josip Dabro resigns after a video surfaces showing him firing from a vehicle. He continues to lead the Homeland Movement (DP, ultranationalist), a minority partner of the governing coalition headed by the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ, conservative).
- On 24 January the Facebook group "Halo, Inspector" launches a boycott against retailers and brands over price hikes, achieving a 44-53% drop in turnover. On 30 January, it begins a new one-week boycott, joined by consumers in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and North Macedonia. The actions continue over the following months.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 24 January the BiH Constitutional Court rules that certain history textbooks from the Republika Srpska contain ethnic bias and violate the education law.
- On 31 January the Republika Srpska approves a minimum wage hike to 1,300 convertible marks, after the in-

crease adopted in December 2024 by the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Montenegro

- On 16 and 25 January thousands gather in Podgorica demanding government resignations and stricter measures on gun ownership following a shooting on 1 January in Cetinje, which left 13 people dead.
- On 21 January the European Commission urges the Montenegrin institutions to respect the Constitution, which gives the Constitutional Court the power to renew its members. The announcement comes after a decision made by the parliamentary majority in December 2024 in support of such a renewal by the government after the retirement of three judges. The move was disputed by the opposition, who called on President Jakov Milatovic to block its promulgation.

Serbia

- On 18 January thousands of teachers and researchers join university protests demanding accountability for the death of 15 people in the November 2024 Novi Sad train station canopy collapse. On 25 January, new protests are held and the Prime Minister, Milos Vucovic, resigns on 28 January.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 8 January the Serbia-backed Srpska Lista party announces its intention to appeal the Central Electoral Commission's ruling on 6 January not to certify its candidacy for February's legislative elections, a decision condemned by the EU, US, UK and the OSCE.
- On 15 January the government of Kosovo announces it has dismantled the "parallel institutions" administered by Serbia with the closure of tax and post offices in 10 municipalities.
- On 20 January the EU designates the Danish diplomat Peter Sorensen as its new envoy for the Belgrade-Pristina Dialogue, to replace the Slovak Miroslav Lajcak.

Albania

- On 15 January Albania, Italy and the UAE sign a billion-euro agreement to develop renewable energy on Albanian territory and export it to Italy via an underwater cable. The pact reinforces the cooperation between Tirana and Abu Dhabi, made evident in 2024 with the "Smart City" deal signed with Presight AI, which was criticized for its opacity and privacy risks.

Greece

- On 5 January the socialist Prime Minister between 1996 and 2004, Kostas Simitis, passes away. It was during Simitis's tenure that Greece entered the eurozone.
- On 15 January the Parliament suspends all public funding for the far-right Spartans party, under investigation for the legality of its participation in the 2023 legislative elections.
- On 24 January the Parliament passes a law on gender-based violence presented by the government, which introduces tougher sentences and is criticized by the left for lacking preventative measures.
- On 30 January Greece expresses its opposition to France's potential sale of Meteor air-to-air missiles to Türkiye.

Türkiye

- On 10 January Hosyar Sariyildiz and Nuriye Aslan, co-mayors of the People's Equality and Democracy Party (DEM, pro-Kurdish) in Akdeniz, Mersin, are arrested together with four other members of the party for alleged links with terrorist groups.
- On 11 January the government announces the arrest of around 150 people during a 10-day operation against the PKK terrorist organization.
- On 12 January President Erdogan describes the resumption of talks with the jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan as a "historic opportunity" to put an end to 40 years of conflict.
- On 13 January the Republican People's Party (CHP, Kemalist) condemns the arrest of the mayor of Besiktas, Riza Akpolat, on corruption charges.

- On 21 January Umit Ozdag, leader of the Victory Party (ZP, far-right), is arrested for insulting the President and inciting hatred in connection with the anti-migrant unrest in Kayseri in 2024.

Syria

- On 5 January the Turkish army says it has neutralized at least 32 members of the PKK terrorist organization within the country's offensive on the organization's positions in Syria and northern Iraq.
- On 5 and 9 January over 150 people are killed in clashes between Türkiye-backed rebels and the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in northern Syria, amid growing violence between opponents of the deposed regime of Bashar al-Assad.
- On 8 January residents in the areas of the Tishrin Dam on the Euphrates River begin protests to demand the end of the Turkish attacks amid fighting between Kurdish forces and Türkiye-backed armed groups for control of the area.
- On 12 January an international summit on Syria concludes in Riyadh with a statement advocating for the gradual lifting of sanctions and respect of territorial integrity.
- On 17 January the EU announces 235 million euros in humanitarian aid for Syria and neighbouring countries for 2025.
- On 20 January Türkiye reopens its consulate in Aleppo after being closed for 12 years.
- On 21 January France issues an arrest warrant for Bashar al-Assad for crimes committed during his mandate.
- On 23 January the Central Bank freezes the accounts of people and companies with ties to Bashar al-Assad's regime.
- On 29 January Ahmed al-Sharaa, leader of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), is appointed the new President of Syria.
- On 31 January the US announces the death in Idlib of Muhammad Salah al-Zabir, a senior member of Hurras al-Din, the Syrian branch of al-Qaeda.
- On 31 January Atef Najib, the former Deraa intelligence chief and cousin of the ousted President Bashar al-Assad, is arrested in Latakia for abuses against civilians.

Lebanon

- On 10 January the Parliament elects the Christian army commander Joseph Aoun as the new President, with the support of the Amal and Hezbollah Shiite parties, ending a two-year presidential vacuum due to the political impasse.
- On 14 January the Sunni Nawaf Salam presents his resignation as president of the ICJ, after being appointed Prime Minister the previous day.
- On 26 January the Health Minister accuses Israel of killing 10 civilians and a soldier and wounding a further 83 people in attacks against communities returning to the country's south. The incident comes amid rising tension over the ceasefire deal with Hezbollah on 27 November, following the Israeli army's failure to withdraw before the scheduled deadline. Mass mobilizations begin on the same day to demand the return to the south, despite the agreement to extend the Israeli military presence until 18 February.

Jordan

- On 29 January Jordan and the EU sign a strategic partnership for a three-billion-euro financial and investment package for between 2025 and 2027.

Libya

- On 16 January the chairman of the National Oil Corporation (NOC), Farhat Bengdara, resigns citing health issues.

Tunisia

- On 18 January hundreds of people demand the release of Abir Moussi, leader of the Free Destourian Party (PDL, Bourguibist), jailed since October 2023 for inciting disorder.
- On 20 January the National Guard arrests around 600 people in large-scale operations to "guarantee security and stability."
- On 23 January the government accuses the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights (FTDES) of damaging the image of the State following a report presented on the same day in the European Parliament, which denounces col-

lective expulsions, abuse and racist rhetoric against migrants.

- On 27 January a court of appeal reduces the two-year prison sentence handed down in October 2024 to Sonia Dahmani for spreading false news to six months.

Algeria

- On 28 January the President Abdelmadjid Tebboune announces that Algeria will review its Association Agreement with the EU in response to growing criticism from Europe over the country's approach to human rights and press freedoms.

Morocco

- On 9 January the Popular Movement (MP), Moroccan Liberal Party (PML) and the National Democratic Party (PDN) announce the creation of the People's Bloc, a centrist liberal alliance, ahead of the 2026 legislative elections.
- On 13 January Said Ait Mehdi, chairman of the 2023 Marrakech-Safi Earthquake Victims Coalition, is sentenced to three months in prison for defamation following his social media criticism of the slow handling of aid to the victims.
- On 15 January the Accounts Court declares more than 400 candidates that ran in the 2021 elections ineligible for future elections due to their failure to submit their campaign accounts.
- On 22 January the Interior Minister reports 14 group attempts to cross the border into Ceuta and Melilla in 2024, involving a total of 4,290 people.

Mauritania

- On 2 January Mauritania and Senegal open the first well of the Greater Tortue Ahmeyim gas project, with an initial production capacity of 2.5 million tonnes of liquid natural gas per year.

EU

- On 1 January Poland assumes the six-month presidency of the EU council with priorities focused on Russia's war on Ukraine, strengthening cooperation with NATO, energy and health security and the aging population.

- On 1 January Romania and Bulgaria's full membership of the Schengen Area comes into effect.

- On 8 January the Commission issues a reminder that Greenland, part of the Kingdom of Denmark, is covered by the collective defence of the EU, faced with the expressed intention of the US President elect Donald Trump to take control of the territory along with the Panama Canal. On 28 January, Denmark calls for support from NATO and the EU.

- On 14 January Frontex reports 239,000 irregular entries in 2024, a 39% decline from 2023.

- On 14 January the former Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki succeeds Giorgia Meloni as leader of the European parliamentary group European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR, far right).

- On 17 January the Commission expands its investigation into the X social network over its lack of moderation and alleged election interference in Germany, attributed to its owner Elon Musk, as part of the ongoing proceedings under the Digital Services Act, which will continue throughout the year.

- On 30 January the Commission launches a strategic dialogue with the European automotive industry to ensure its viability in the face of climate-based and economic challenges.

- On 31 January the EU decides not to renew its natural gas price cap, in effect since the energy crisis that erupted in the aftermath of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

February 2025

In Spain, the Parliament passes a social decree with no provision for Catalan fiscal independence. In France, François Bayrou's government survives two confidence motions. Italy has to deal with a spy scandal. Croatia enters the European Economic Area. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Bosnian Serb President, Milorad Dodik, is convicted for disobedience. The protests continue in Serbia. Kosovo holds elections. Greece has to deal with a seismic crisis and unrest over the anniversary of the Tempi train disaster, and the country elects a new president. Türkiye an-

nounces a possible end to the conflict with the PKK after the terrorist organization's leader calls for it to disarm. Syria accelerates its international dialogue against a backdrop of new episodes of violence. Lebanon forms a government. Tunisia steps up its political and judicial repression.

Portugal

- On 20 February the Public Prosecutor's Office reopens a preliminary corruption investigation into contracts awarded in Madeira between 2020 and 2022, which affects figures from the Social Democratic Party (PSD, conservative).

Spain

- On 12 February the Parliament passes the so-called "omnibus" decree, which includes, among other measures, revaluing pensions, extending the subsidies on public transport and aid to those affected by the 2024 DANA in Valencia. The text replaces the 2024 decree, which was voted down by the Parliament on 22 January, with opposition from the People's Party (PP, conservative), Vox (far right) and Junts ("Together," right wing, Catalan pro-independence). The reworked decree introduces changes like the exclusion of Catalan fiscal independence, thanks to the agreement with the ruling Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) and Junts to negotiate this matter separately.

France

- On 3 February the Prime Minister, François Bayrou, approves the 2025 budget using Article 49.3 of the Constitution. On 5 February, two no-confidence votes tabled by LFI fail due to the abstention of the PS, weakening the New Popular Front (NFP).

Italy

- On 5 February the Italian government claims to have no knowledge of the complaint submitted on 31 January by Meta concerning the infiltration of the Graphite spyware, developed by the

Israeli company Paragon Solutions, in the WhatsApp accounts of at least 90 journalists and activists, including some in Italy. The following day, Paragon suspends its contract with the Italian government citing "ethical reasons."

- On 7 February the Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni decides not to back a joint statement signed by 79 countries in defence of the ICC, in response to the attacks by US President Donald Trump.
- On 26 February the government majority rejects the no-confidence motion tabled by the parliamentary opposition against the Tourism Minister, Daniela Santanche, after she is ordered to stand trial for falsifying the accounts of the firm Visibilia.
- On 28 February the Energy Minister, Gilberto Pichetto Fratin, announces the reintroduction of nuclear energy in Italy.

Croatia

- On 14 February the government approves new measures to halt inflation after weeks of social pressure. On 20 February, a demonstration in Zagreb calls for greater institutional control over the market.
- On 19 February Croatia enters the European Economic Area (EEA).
- On 26 February the government announces restrictions on mass tourism.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 5 February the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina introduces tougher sentences for gender-based violence.
- On 26 February the President of the Republika Srpska, Milorad Dodik, is sentenced to one year in prison and given a six-year ban from holding office for disobeying the High Representative.

Serbia

- On 1 February the demonstrations continue over the Novi Sad train station canopy collapse in November 2024, with the arrival in the Vojvodina capital of a large-scale student march from Belgrade. On 3 February, the Bar Association begins a month-long strike in sup-

port of the demonstrations, which continue throughout the month.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 4 February the Special Court for Kosovo in The Hague sentences three former members of the Kosovo Liberation Army (UÇK) to sentences of between two and three years in prison for witness intimidation and obstructing justice, in a "historic" ruling that marked the first time UÇK defendants have pleaded guilty.
- On 9 February Kosovo holds legislative elections. The ruling Vetevendosje (left wing, nationalist) wins with 42.30% of the vote, falling short of a parliamentary majority.
- On 25 February Fikrim Damka, Regional Development Minister and leader of the Kosovo Democratic Turkish Party (KDTP, centre-right) is placed under house arrest after being accused of physically assaulting members of the rival Turkish Innovative Movement Party (YTHP, centre-left), during election day.

North Macedonia

- On 6 February the Skopje Criminal Court orders a 30-day detention of Pece Mirceski, the former head of the Service for General and Common Affairs, on charges of corruption and negligence.

Albania

- On 10 February the mayor of Tirana, Erion Veliaj, is arrested on corruption charges.

Greece

- On 6 February the government declares a state of emergency in Santorini after registering more than 600 tremors and over 10,000 evacuations.
- On 6 February the Deputy Civil Protection Minister, Christos Triantopoulos, resigns after the proposal of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) to set up a parliamentary investigation into the handling of the Tempi railway disaster in 2023. On 28 February, there is unrest in Athens during the demonstra-

tions and a national strike is staged over the accident.

- On 12 February after three failed attempts, the Parliament elects Konstantinos Tasoulas, the New Democracy (ND, conservative) candidate, as President of the Republic to replace Ekaterini Sakellaropoulou.

Türkiye

- On 5 February 40 organizations and media outlets publish a letter denouncing the escalation of repressive measures taken against journalists and the opposition.
- On 27 February after months of negotiations, the PKK founder Abdullah Ocalan makes a historic call to disarm and dissolve the terrorist organization.

Cyprus

- On 21 February the President, Nikos Christodulides, announces agreements with Egypt to export natural gas to Europe extracted from the Cypriot fields Aphrodite and Cronos and processed in Egypt.

Syria

- On 3 February at least 19 people are killed in a car bomb attack in Manbij. In the last month there have been seven attacks of this nature against a backdrop of clashes between pro-Turkish factions and Kurdish militia.
- On 4 February the Syrian transitional President, Ahmed al-Sharaa, and the Turkish President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, agree on a joint defence deal and the establishment of Turkish air bases in Syria. Al-Sharaa's visit to Ankara comes two days after his visit to Saudi Arabia, as part of the new Syrian authorities' efforts to normalize relations with their Arab neighbours. On 12 February, Türkiye lifts its trade restrictions on Syria.
- On 13 February the International Conference on Syria held in Paris approves a statement recognizing and supporting the transitional government.
- On 25 February Damascus hosts the so-called Syrian National Dialogue conference to lay the foundations for the country's political future following the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad.

Lebanon

- On 8 February the formation of a new government is announced, headed by the Prime Minister Nawaf Salam. On 26 February, the government wins a parliamentary confidence vote.

Jordan

- On 8 February thousands of demonstrators take to the streets in Jordan to denounce the plans of the US President, Donald Trump, to relocate Palestinians in Gaza to other countries.

Libya

- On 10 February the Libyan coast guard intercepts 790 migrants attempting to reach Europe.
- On 14 February the inter-Libyan Charter for Reconciliation is signed during a summit of the African Union's (AU) Peace and Security Council in Addis Ababa, in the context of the efforts made by the UN, which days earlier had announced the creation of an advisory committee to advance in the process of national reconciliation at the request of the Tripoli-based Presidential Council.
- On 16 February the Department for Combating Illegal Migration reports the finding of 62 migrant bodies in mass graves in Kufra during an operation against human trafficking.

Tunisia

- On 5 February the President Kais Saied dismisses the Finance Minister, Sihem Boughdiri Nemsia, replacing her with Michket Slama Khaldi, until now the president of the National Criminal Conciliation Committee.
- On 5 February 41 defendants, including the former Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi, the former Foreign Minister Rafik Abdessalam and the leader of the Ennahda Islamist party, Rached Ghannouchi, are sentenced to between 5 and 54 years' imprisonment in the case against Instalingo, the digital media firm accused of espionage against the State.
- On 19 February after initiating a hunger strike in January, the former president of the Truth and Dignity Commission

(IVD), Sihem Bensedrine, is provisionally released after being arrested on charges of abuse of power and document falsification during her management of the body.

- On 20 February the journalist Mohamed Boughalleb is released after serving almost eight months in prison for denouncing abuses in the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Algeria

- On 12 February Algeria fails to be elected for the African Union's Peace and Security Council.
- On 12 February Algerian teachers begin a two-day strike to demand better working conditions and pay hikes, unsatisfied with the decree of 24 January that regulates the status of education staff.
- On 25 February the Supreme Court upholds the six-year prison sentence handed down to the retired general Ali Ghediri. A candidate for the April 2019 presidential elections, Ghediri was arrested in June of that year and sentenced in 2021 to four years in prison for "damaging the morale of the army," a sentence that was increased to six years in the retrial in 2023.

Morocco

- On 5 February the Parliament approves the organic law that defines the conditions for exercising the right to strike. On 5-6 February, the main unions lead a national strike against the law and to demand measures be taken against unemployment and inflation and for the retirement age to be increased from 63 to 65.

EU

- On 3 February the Commission announces the creation of the new Directorate-General for Enlargement and the Eastern Neighbourhood (ENEST) and the Directorate-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (MENA).
- On 13 February the EU and Ukraine protest against their exclusion from the direct negotiations between the US and Russia on Ukraine.
- On 24 February the EU adopts its 16th sanctions package against Russia, despite Hungary's opposition.

March 2025

In Portugal, the government collapses after losing a no-confidence vote. In Spain, the cabinet is unable to present a budget. In France, Marine Le Pen is convicted of corruption. Italy freezes its talks with Starlink. Bosnia and Herzegovina's institutional crisis worsens. Kosovo announces an increase in defence spending. There are anti-government protests in Serbia and demonstrations in North Macedonia. Türkiye has to deal with protests over the arrest of the mayor of Istanbul and a ceasefire is declared with the PKK terrorist organization. Syria initiates its political transition, agrees to integrate Kurdish militia and registers new episodes of sectarian violence. Lebanon and Syria delineate their maritime border. In Tunisia, Kais Saied replaces the Prime Minister.

Portugal

- On 11 March the government tables a motion of confidence after the revelation of the Prime Minister Luis Montenegro's potential conflicts of interest. The motion is rejected, bringing about the fall of the government and the dissolution of the Parliament by the President, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, on 13 March in order to hold early elections.
- On 23 March Madeira holds regional elections, which the PSD wins one seat short of an outright majority.

Spain

- On 27 March the Prime Minister, Pedro Sanchez, rules out presenting the 2025 General State Budget due to the lack of parliamentary support.

France

- On 31 March the leader of the National Rally (RN, far right), Marine Le Pen, is convicted of embezzling public funds and sentenced to four years in prison and a five-year ban on holding public office.

Italy

- On 15 March more than 50,000 people take part in a pro-European rally in

Rome, in response to the growing concerns over the future of the Union and its global role.

- On 19 March at least six migrants die and 40 go missing in a shipwreck near Lampedusa.
- On 24 March the government freezes talks with Starlink, the satellite communications company owned by Elon Musk, due to concerns about national security and the confidentiality of sensitive data.
- On 31 March the Council of Ministers approves a decree that limits the automatic access to citizenship to people with parents or grandparents born in Italy, excluding more distant ancestors.

Croatia

- On 23 March Croatian teachers carry out a national strike faced with the lack of progress in the negotiations with the government on improved working conditions and better pay.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 6 March the Republika Srpska authorities initiate proceedings to adopt a new Constitution after its Parliament's approval of a law that excludes the federal judiciary and police from its territory. In response, on 8 March, the EU steps up its military presence and on 10 March the NATO secretary general, Mark Rutte, reaffirms his support of Bosnia and Herzegovina's territorial integrity. On 17 March, the President of the entity, Milorad Dodik, announces the creation of an independent border police force. On 27 March, the Court of Bosnia issues an international arrest warrant against Dodik.

Serbia

- On 4 March opposition MPs throw smoke bombs and flares in the Parliament in support of the student protests against the government. On 15 March, more than 100,000 people demonstrate in Belgrade against the corruption of President Aleksandar Vucic, in a series of demonstrations that continues on 25 March with a new mass protest. Meanwhile, on 22 March, Russia acknowl-

edges its intervention in the country's internal affairs to "prevent a people's revolution." Against this backdrop, and in response to university staff supporting the protests, on 24 March, the government passes Regulation 5/35, which increases teaching load and reduces research hours, resulting in an indirect pay cut.

- On 28 March Serbia begins talks with Russia for a 30-year gas supply contract despite the country's aspirations to join the EU.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 26 March Kenya recognizes Kosovo's independence.
- On 26 March the Prime Minister, Albin Kurti, announces a 60% defence budget increase over the next four years.

North Macedonia

- On 18 March thousands gather to demand accountability over the death of 59 young people in a fire at a nightclub in Kocani, an incident the protesters link to corruption in the country.

Albania

- On 12 March the government announces a one-year ban on the TikTok platform to protect minors, after the murder of a teenager in November 2024 in connection with arguments originating on social media.
- On 18 March Albania, Croatia and Kosovo sign a joint statement in Tirana to strengthen defence cooperation.

Greece

- On 11 March journalists stage a 24-hour strike demanding better pay and measures against precarious employment conditions.
- On 31 March torrential rainfall causes floods in Paros and Mykonos.

Türkiye

- On 1 March the PKK terrorist organization declares a ceasefire with Türkiye after almost 40 years of conflict.

- On 19 March the mayor of Istanbul and leader of the opposition party CHP, Ekrem Imamoglu, is arrested on corruption and terrorism charges. The arrest prompts thousands to take to the streets in protest during the following days. On 22 March, 1,100 people are reported to have been arrested and on 24 March, a court in Istanbul orders seven journalists who were covering the protests to be remanded in custody. On 29 March, 250,000 people demonstrate in Istanbul demanding the release of Imamoglu.

Syria

- On 1 March Ahmed al-Sharaa's transitional government assumes the power after more than 50 years of the Assad family dictatorship.
- On 4 March the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports the return of 40,000 refugees from Jordan.
- On 6 March a wave of violence is unleashed in Latakia and Tartus between Alawite supporters of al-Assad and the new government forces, which claims 1,300 lives by the end of the month.
- On 11 March the Kurdish militias sign a historic agreement to return control over the territory to the State, dissolve Kurdish autonomous structures and integrate their fighters into the Syrian army, in exchange for recognition of Kurdish civil and constitutional rights.
- On 15 March demonstrations in Syrian Kurdistan protest against the interim Constitutional Declaration, signed two days earlier by President al-Sharaa and which will remain in force in Syria for five years.
- On 17 March during the 9th Brussels Conference on Syria, the EU announces the mobilization of 5.8 billion euros in financial aid.

Lebanon

- On 3 March the Prime Minister Nawaf Salam calls for the mobilization of support for the Israeli withdrawal from the country's south. On 6 March, the Lebanese army denounces the persistent Israeli violations of the November 2024 ceasefire.

- On 28 March Lebanon and Syria agree to delineate their maritime border.

Jordan

- On 26 March the EU approves a 397-million-euro financial package for the Aqaba-Amman desalination megaproject, which is set to increase the water supply in Jordan, one of the world's driest countries, by 60%.

Libya

- On 3 March the National Oil Company (NOC) launches its first licensing round in 17 years.
- On 17 March the Education Minister, Mussa al-Megarief, is sentenced to three and a half years in prison for corruption.
- On 28 March the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) reports arbitrary arrests and enforced disappearances in Libya.

Tunisia

- On 20 March President Saïed dismisses the Prime Minister, Kamel Madouri, replacing him with the Equipment and Housing Minister, Sara Zaafarani.

Algeria

- On 8 March the former Interior Minister Salah Eddine Dahmoune is arrested on corruption charges.
- On 27 March the French-Algerian writer Boualem Sansal, arrested in 2024 following statements he made questioning the legitimacy of the borders inherited from French colonization and criticizing the Algerian regime, is sentenced to five years in prison for "threatening the integrity of the State." Sansal, who has cancer, initiates a hunger strike.

Morocco

- On 24 March Mohammed VI appoints the left-wing jurist Hassan Tariq as Mediator of the Kingdom.
- On 31 March Abdelkader Belliraj, sentenced to life imprisonment in 2009 for masterminding a terrorist network and accused of six contract murders in

Belgium, is granted a royal pardon for the Eid al-Fitr. His release reignites speculation over his former links with the intelligence service, with whom he is suspected of collaborating while operating in radical Islamist circles.

Mauritania

- On 6 March the government spokesperson, Hussein Ould Meddu, describes the expulsion of migrants as "routine," in response to the alarm expressed by several human rights associations, which have reported a significant increase in recent weeks.
- On 24 March the EU approves a 20-million-euro aid package to help Mauritania's armed forces maintain stability in the Sahel.

EU

- On 6 March EU leaders approve an accelerated rearmament plan despite Hungary's opposition, in line with the proposal made by Ursula von der Leyen on 14 February to make fiscal rules more flexible, extend the EIB mandate and fund military spending.
- On 11 March the Council extends its military operation in the Mediterranean, EUNAVFOR MED IRINI, until 31 March 2027.
- On 12 March the Commission announces countermeasures following the new US tariffs on European steel and aluminium imports. The countermeasures will apply to US exports worth up to 26 billion euros.
- On 15 March the British Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, advocates for closer security and defence cooperation with the EU, reflecting a significant shift in British policy post-Brexit.
- On 22 March thousands protest in Slovakia in the wave of demonstrations held since December 2024 against the pro-Russian policies of the Prime Minister, Robert Fico.
- On 26 March the Armenian Parliament passes a bill enabling Armenia to present its candidacy to EU accession.

Arab League

- On 22 March the Arab League commemorates its 80th anniversary, marked

by growing instability in the Middle East and no sign of a solution to the Palestinian conflict.

April 2025

Spain and Portugal are hit by a massive power outage. In France, there are protests over Marine Le Pen's conviction, attacks on jails linked with drug trafficking and the government announces a stability programme. Italy resumes the transfer of migrants to centres in Albania. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Bosnian Serb police force prevents Milorad Dodik's arrest and the EU suspends funds for the party. Serbia approves a new government. In Türkiye, the protests continue over the arrest of the mayor of Istanbul. Syria suffers sectarian violence against its Alawite and Druze population. Lebanon reaffirms its intention to disarm Hezbollah. Jordan bans the activities of the Muslim Brotherhood. In Tunisia, the protests increase and new sentences are handed down to government opponents. A diplomatic crisis further worsens relations between Algeria and the regimes in the Sahel.

Spain

- On 10 April the Supreme Court upholds the ruling by Judge Pablo Llarena not to apply the amnesty bill relating to the Catalan independence movement to the former regional President Carles Puigdemont and two of his councillors, considering the embezzlement charges against them to fall outside of this law.
- On 13 April 238 migrants reach the Canary Islands from West Africa.
- On 28 April the sudden disappearance of 15 gigawatts from the electricity grid – 60% of the energy demand at that moment – causes a blackout that leaves Spain, Portugal and Andorra without power.

France

- On 6 April RN supporters protest in Paris against its leader Marine Le Pen's conviction and ban from public office for misuse of public funds in the European Parliament. LFI leads a march in response to the rally.

- On 6 April three young radical Islamists plotting a large-scale terrorist attack are arrested in Dunkirk.
- On 14 April the Interior Minister, Bruno Retailleau, announces the creation of a joint working group with Morocco to verify the nationality of undocumented immigrants.
- On 15 April armed individuals attack prisons in Toulon, Aix-en-Provence, Marseille, Valence, Nîmes, Villepinte and Nanterre in response to the large-scale anti-drug operations carried out in February and March and the toughening of the political debate around narcotrafficking.
- On 15 April the Prime Minister, François Bayrou, inaugurates an emergency budget committee to save 40 billion euros until 2026 amid the country's economic crisis.

Italy

- On 6 April the Vice-President Matteo Salvini is re-elected leader of his League party (far right).
- On 11 April Italy resumes migrant transfers to centres in Albania after modifying the plan's operational framework, despite the judicial obstacles since January and the ruling by the EU Court of Justice (CJEU), which questioned the policy's legality.

Malta

- On 3 April the Parliament approves a legal reform that prevents appeals against a magistrate's decision to reject the opening of a judicial inquiry. The measure causes controversy as it is believed to be aimed at blocking an appeal currently underway to investigate the Minister Clint Camilleri for alleged corruption and embezzlement.
- On 21 April Francis Zammit, a member of the Nationalist Party (PN, conservative) who had held a number of different ministerial portfolios between 1992 and 2013, passes away.

Croatia

- On 10 April two large-scale police operations end with 45 arrests for drug trafficking and seizures of illegal shipments in seven counties.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 24 April Republika Srpska police stop the federal police from arresting the President, Milorad Dodik, accused of undermining the constitutional order after pushing through measures to remove the entity from the Bosnian institutional framework. On the same day, the High Representative, Christian Schmidt, suspends political funds to the ruling parties in the Republika Srpska, including Dodik's Alliance of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD).

Montenegro

- On 3 April the Parliament approves the 2025 budget after the government and the opposition agree to put an end to the boycott prompted by December's dismissal of the Constitutional Court judge Dragana Duranovic.
- On 26 April local elections in Budva are reheld in light of the failure to form a government after the last elections in May and November 2024. Nikola Jovanovic, leader of the citizen list Budva Our City (BNG, centrist reformist) claims a narrow victory.

Serbia

- On 6 April the President, Aleksandar Vucic, tasks Djuro Macut with the formation of a new government, amid ongoing protests over the collapse of the canopy at the Novi Sad train station. On 11 April, due to a lack of evidence, the Supreme Court rejects the charges against the former Transport Minister Goran Vesic and another 12 people for the disaster that left 16 people dead. On 16 April, the Parliament approves the new cabinet, seen as a government of continuity.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 12 April Kosovo announces that Sudan has formally recognized its independence.

North Macedonia

- On 29 April thousands demonstrate in Skopje and other cities over the fire in March at a nightclub in Kocani and against political corruption.

Greece

- On 2 April the Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, announces more than 25 billion euros in defence spending faced with a context of international uncertainty.
- On 9 April a general strike brings Greece to a standstill for the third time in three months with both the public and private sector calling for pay increases and measures against the rise in living costs.
- On 10 April the trial begins in Athens for the illegal wiretapping scandal uncovered in 2022, in which former civil servants and business executives stand accused of using Pegasus spyware to intercept private messages between politicians, journalists and other citizens.
- On 11 April a bomb planted by the anarchist group Revolutionary Class Self-Defence explodes outside the Hellenic Train offices in Athens without causing any casualties.
- On 16 April a German court authorizes the return of asylum seekers to Greece, in application of the Dublin Agreement, sparking opposition from Athens, faced with the possible increase in returns.

Türkiye

- On 10 April the journalists Timur Soykan and Murat Agirel are arrested, accused of “blackmail” and “threats,” following an investigation into illegal gambling linked with the Justice and Development Party (AKP, Islamist).
- On 12 April Türkiye announces a regional mechanism with Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan to mitigate Israel’s destabilizing impact in Syria.
- On 19 April the demonstrations continue over the arrest of the mayor of Istanbul, Ekrem Imamoglu. On 26 and 30 April, arrest warrants are issued for a total of 70 people associated with Istanbul City Hall, charged with corruption.

Cyprus

- On 2 April the President, Nikos Christodoulides, and the leader of the north of the island, Ersin Tatar, make progress on four trust-building measures proposed by the UN: demining the

buffer zone, the creation of a Youth Technical Committee, restoring cemeteries and promoting environmental cooperation. These measures are part of the reactivation of reunification talks which began in January and continued in Geneva on 17 and 18 March.

Syria

- On 13 April as part of Syria’s transitional process, the 8th Brigade, which fought alongside Bashar al-Assad’s regime, agrees to its dissolution to allow its integration into a new state military structure, while the President, Ahmed al-Sharaa, strengthens international ties and the United Kingdom announces the lifting of sanctions.
- Between 24 and 28 April sectarian violence in Syria intensifies with attacks against Alawite and Druze communities in Homs and in the country’s south, which leave over a hundred people dead in one of the most serious episodes since the beginning of the transition.

Lebanon

- On 21 April the government reaffirms its commitment to disarming Hezbollah after stepping up its military deployment in April in the south to restore sovereignty and comply with UN Security Council Resolution 1701.

Jordan

- On 24 April after arresting and interrogating 16 of its members, the government announces a ban on the activities of the Muslim Brotherhood, the largest of all Jordan’s parliamentary groupings, accused of plotting to carry out acts of terrorism in the country.

Egypt

- On 9 April Sudan provides Egypt with border security guarantees, faced with the rise in attacks by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) against the backdrop of the Sudanese civil war.
- On 15 April Egypt takes over the chairmanship from Tanzania of the Council of Ministers of Trade of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Libya

- On 2 April Libya announces the closure of ten NGOs, including Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), for “undermining national sovereignty.”
- On 6 April the Central Bank devalues the dinar by 13.3% faced with the fall in oil revenues and the spending commitments of the two rival governments.
- On 28 April General Ali Ramadan al-Rayani is murdered in Tripoli.
- On 30 April the Health Minister Ramadan Abu Janah is dismissed for illegally importing cancer medicine from Iraq.

Tunisia

- On 7 April the authorities dismantle sub-Saharan migrant camps in el-Amra and Jebeniana following a xenophobic campaign on social media. On 24 April, another camp of 2,500 migrants is cleared in Henchir el-Kerkeni, Sfax.
- On 15 April after a school wall collapsed in Mezzouna killing three students, thousands of people protest demanding improvements in education infrastructure.
- On 19 April after the EU’s proposal to consider Tunisia a safe country, 37 government opponents are sentenced to between 13 and 66 years in prison for terrorism and conspiracy, among them the politician Khayam Turki; the former leader of Ennahda, Nouredine Bhiri; the leader of the Republic Party, Issam Chebbi; and the constitutionalist Jawhar Ben Mbarek.
- On 24 April Fouad Mebazaa, the first interim President after the fall of Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, passes away.

Algeria

- On 7 April Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso withdraw their ambassadors in Algeria after accusing the country of shooting down a drone in Malian territory. In response, Algeria recalls its ambassadors and closes its airspace to Mali, sparking a regional diplomatic crisis amid the steady worsening of Algerian ties with the military regimes of the Sahel.
- On 18 April President Abdelmadjid Tebboune dismisses his political advisor

Chafik Mesbah without providing any official grounds.

- On 20 April the Council of Ministers approves a draft law on general mobilization in security crisis contexts, as stipulated in Article 99 of the Constitution.
- On 24 April the Parliament passes a law introducing a friendly recovery procedure for embezzled assets, allowing those involved in corruption to return funds and assets to the State in exchange for reduced sentences, a process subject to strict judicial control.

Morocco

- On 4 April the French-Moroccan historian Maati Monjib begins a hunger strike after being banned from leaving Morocco.
- On 14 April the Prime Minister, Aziz Akhannouch, is accused by the opposition for alleged irregularities in subsidies worth millions of euros in the meat sector. The government denies the accusations.
- On 27 April the Justice and Development Party (PJD, Islamist) re-elects the former Prime Minister Abdelilah Benkirane as the party leader.

Mauritania

- On 11 April the government confirms the recovery of more than 100 migrant bodies from its shores since the beginning of the year.
- On 21 April two opposition MPs are arrested charged with crimes against the State, after denouncing discrimination towards descendants of slaves, in a case that reflects the persistent tension surrounding slavery in Mauritania. The incident comes amid rising pressure on abolitionist activists, including January's arrest of Ahmed Ould Samba.

EU

- On 2 April the suspension expires on tariffs announced by the US President, Donald Trump, reactivating levies on imports, including 25% tariffs on certain products from the EU and other trade partners. Brussels approves counter-measures, which are later suspended after Washington issues a new 90-day suspension.

- On 2 April the EU and India announce a future free trade agreement and security and defence cooperation deal.

- On 3 April after six years of impasse, the High-Level Economic Dialogue between the EU and Türkiye is reconvened with a view to improving bilateral ties.

- On 4 April the first EU-Central Asia summit in Samarcanda raises relations between the two blocs to a strategic partnership and strengthens cooperation in peace, security and international law.

- On 17 April the Commission advances in the application of two key measures of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum, which will enter into force in June 2026: a fast-tracked procedure for asylum seekers from countries with recognition rates equal to or less than 20%, and a first unified list of "safe" countries – Kosovo, Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, India, Morocco and Tunisia – whose nationals will see their applications streamlined.

- On 30 April Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Slovakia, Slovenia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Poland and Portugal formally request the Commission to activate the national escape clause of the Stability and Growth Pact to allow them to increase spending on defence without infringing on the deficit ceiling.

May 2025

Portugal and Albania hold legislative elections. In France, there are protests against the government and a Franco-German Defence and Security council is announced. The constitutional crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina worsens. Kosovo accepts compensation claims from UÇK victims. In Türkiye, the PKK terrorist organization announces its dissolution, the measures continue against the CHP and the Gulenists, and President Erdogan pushes forward with a new draft Constitution. The US and EU lift sanctions on Syria. Lebanon holds municipal elections. In Libya, the death of a militia leader sparks fresh clashes, protests in Tripoli and government resignations. In Tunisia, more than a hundred opposition figures are convicted.

The diplomatic escalation between Algeria and France is considered the countries' most serious crisis since Algerian independence.

Portugal

- On 18 May Portugal holds early legislative elections. The conservative coalition, the Democratic Alliance, of Prime Minister Luis Montenegro wins with 31.8% of the vote and 91 seats, without gaining an absolute majority. Thanks to the diaspora vote, the far-right Chega party becomes the second largest force, with 60 seats, ahead of the Socialist Party, which secures 58 seats. Its leader, Pedro Nuno Santos, resigns after the results.

France

- On 1 May demonstrations called to mark International Workers' Day channel social discontent against the government and President Emmanuel Macron, who proposes referendums on economic, social and education reforms.
- On 7 May the President, Emmanuel Macron, and the recently elected German Chancellor, Friedrich Merz, announce the creation of a Franco-German Defence and Security Council to strengthen bilateral cooperation on strategy.
- On 18 May the Interior Minister, Bruno Retailleau, is elected leader of The Republicans (LR, Gaullist) with 74% of the vote.
- On 27 May the National Assembly (Parliament) approves a first reading of the draft law that allows and regulates assisted dying, which will now be referred to the Senate.

Italy

- On 7 May Rome activates extensive security measures for the conclave, called after the death of Francisco on 21 April, and which culminates with the election of Leo 14th as Pope.
- On 13-14 May the Phlegraean Fields record a seismic swarm of 49 earthquakes with a magnitude of up to 4.4, and a state of emergency is declared in one of Europe's most densely populated areas.

- On 21 May 97 members of the Calabrian 'Ndrangheta are arrested in a large-scale operation across 14 provinces.
- On 28 May a court in Ragusa orders six members of the NGO *Mediterranea Saving Humans* to stand trial charged with aiding illegal immigration in connection with the 2020 rescue of migrants left stranded on the *Maersk Etienne* tanker.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 23 May the State Court delivers the country's first conviction for genocide denial, sentencing Vojin Pavlovic, head of the Bosnian Serb NGO *Eastern Alternative*, to 30 months' imprisonment for inciting hate and glorifying the war criminal Ratko Mladic.
- On 28 May the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina approves a Criminal Code reform that classifies femicide as a distinct crime.
- On 29 May the Constitutional Court suspends laws adopted by the Bosnian Serb Parliament which exclude state authority over justice and security. On the same day, the Public Prosecutor's Office issues arrest warrants for the President, Prime Minister and parliament speaker of the Republika Srpska.

Serbia

- On 9 May the Serbian President, Aleksandar Vucic, and his Slovak counterpart, Robert Fico, attend the Victory Day parade in Moscow, which this year coincides with the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, igniting fresh tensions with the EU.
- On 20 May a Serbian court replaces pre-trial detention with house arrest for three of the six activists arrested in March charged with attacking the constitutional order, in a case that prompts protests and international criticism and rekindles the debate on judicial independence and the treatment of the opposition.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 29 May Kosovo agrees to process compensation claims from victims of war crimes committed by UÇK mem-

bers convicted by the Special Courts of The Hague.

North Macedonia

- On 13 May Arben Taravari's Alliance for Albanians abandons the centre-right ruling coalition led by Hristijan Mickoski, after denouncing a failure to fulfill promises made before its participation in the cabinet.
- On 21 May the Constitutional Court strikes down the amendment to the electoral law approved in March 2024 by the Parliament at the request of the government, which increased the number of signatures required for non-party and independent candidates.

Albania

- On 11 May Albania holds parliamentary elections in which the Socialist Party (PS) of the Prime Minister, Edi Rama, wins with 53.3% of the vote and increases its seat count from 74 to 83. The opposition coalition led by the conservative Democratic Party (PD) of Sali Berisha comes second with 32.9% of the vote, securing 50 seats, down from 59. The PD denounces electoral fraud and announces citizen protests.
- On 16 May Tirana holds the 6th summit of the European Political Community (CPE). In a side meeting of the summit a statement is signed supporting Moldova's European integration.
- On 21 May a major operation run by the Italian and Albanian police forces leads to the arrest of 40 people suspected of forming part of a trans-European network involved in smuggling cocaine from South America and money laundering.

Greece

- Between 14 and 27 May Greece is hit by earthquakes of between 3 and 6.1 magnitude, which affect Kasos, Euboea, Crete, Santorini and Oia, in a month of notable seismic activity in the Aegean Sea.
- On 22 May the police dismantle one of the largest networks for smuggling migrants across the Aegean Sea, with the arrest of 20 people across different cities.

• On 25 May the coast guard reports the arrival from Libya of 543 migrants to Greece in four days, bringing the arrivals along this route to nearly 4,000 so far this year.

- On 28 May the government announces the dissolution of Greece's EU agricultural subsidy agency (OPEKEPE), responsible for managing the EU's agricultural subsidies, after investigations conducted by the European Prosecutor's Office into alleged fraud and serious structural failures, involving the former agriculture ministers Makis Vouridis and Lefteris Avgenakis.

Türkiye

- On 12 May the PKK terrorist organization announces its dissolution and the end of its armed struggle in response to the historic call made by its leader Abdullah Ocalan, following decades of interrupted negotiations and over 40 years of insurgency.
- On 15 May Istanbul hosts negotiations between Ukraine and Russia, which conclude without any notable advances, except the agreement on the phased exchange of 2,000 prisoners of war.
- On 26 May a court in Istanbul issues arrest warrants for 61 soldiers accused of having ties to the movement of the late Islamist preacher Fethullah Gulen.
- On 27 May the President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, announces the formation of a commission of lawyers tasked with drafting a new constitution to replace the 1982 text with a more "civil and liberal" model. The opposition describes the measure as a manoeuvre to enable his re-election in 2028.
- On 31 May five CHP mayors are arrested on charges of corruption and ties with terrorism.

Syria

- On 1 May the UN increases the number of Syrians who have returned to their homes since December 2024 to 1.5 million. Around 1.1 million internally displaced persons have also returned to their places of origin.
- On 17 May Morocco announces the reopening of its embassy in Damascus, which was closed in 2013.

- On 18 May the Defence Minister orders militias operating outside of government structures to join the State.
- On 20 and 28 May, respectively, the US and EU lift most of their economic sanctions on Syria.

Lebanon

- On 4, 11, 18 and 25 May Lebanon holds municipal elections, which have been postponed since 2016 and are marked by a low turnout. In Mount Lebanon and Nabatieh, Bint Jbeil and Tyre, Hezbollah and Amal strengthen their presence. In municipalities like Beirut, Jounieh or Byblos, lists backed by the Lebanese Forces and Kataeb Party claim victories.
- On 5 May the Lebanese army dismantles a captagon production facility in Hermel. At the same time, Syria seizes millions of pills of this drug and destroys secret laboratories, in a joint effort to eradicate the legacy of the narco-state established under the Assad regime.

Egypt

- On 4 May the Eagles of Civilization air exercise comes to an end, the first between Egypt and China, reflecting the former's strategy to diversify its defence partnerships.
- On 29 May Ahmed Tantawy, the former leader of Karama (Dignity Party), is released after serving a year in prison for election-related offences.

Libya

- On 13 May Abdelghani el-Kikli, head of the Stability Support Apparatus (SSA) is assassinated in Tripoli, triggering clashes with Brigade 444 over control of the capital. After two nights of protests, on 17 May, the Prime Minister, Abdulhamid Dbeibeh, urges the militias to surrender to state authority, while at least five ministers resign in support of the mobilizations demanding his removal. On 19 May a "truce committee" is created, but on 24 May, new protests in Tripoli and Zawiya demand the dissolution of the government and the end of the militias.

Tunisia

- On 1 May a demonstration led by the Tunisian General Labour Union (UGTT) protests against the government of Kais Saied and calls for the release of political prisoners.
- On 13 May more than a hundred opposition figures are sentenced to between 13 and 66 years in prison for conspiracy and terrorism in the mass trial which began on 4 March. The convicted defendants include Ennahda leaders, like the former Prime Minister Ali Larayedh, who, on 2 May, had already been sentenced to 34 years in prison charged with facilitating the departure to conflict zones of Tunisians who went on to join terrorist organizations like Daesh.
- On 16 May a national assembly of the Tunisian League for Human Rights (LTDH) is disrupted by individuals attempting to force their way into the venue, an action the League's management describes as political meddling by President Kais Saied.

Algeria

- On 11 May Algeria expels 15 civil servants from the French embassy, against the backdrop of the bilateral diplomatic escalation which began in January. In response, on 14 May, Paris imposes visa requirements on Algerian nationals with diplomatic passports, and on 19 May, Algiers announces equivalent measures, marking record levels of tension between the two countries since independence in 1962.
- On 26 May three pre-candidates to the 2024 presidential elections – the ANR secretary general, Belkacem Sahli, and business executives Saida Neghza and Abdelhakim Hamadi – are sentenced to 10 years in prison for corruption.

Morocco

- On 23 May Morocco concludes its African Lion 2025 military exercise, jointly run with the US, which mobilizes over 10,000 troops from 40 countries.

Mauritania

- On 14 May the former President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz is sentenced on

appeal to 15 years in prison for corruption, extending his initial December 2023 prison term by five years.

- On 22 May data from the Spanish National Security Department (DSN) reveal that Mauritania was the main country of departure for migrants heading to Spain in 2024, with over 25,000 departures.

EU

- On 7 May the European Commission refers Hungary to the European Court of Justice for releasing over 1,000 human traffickers in 2023.
- On 14 May the European Commission proposes simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and reducing the bureaucratic burden on farmers.
- On 18 May the pro-European centrist Nicusor Dan wins the second round of presidential elections in Romania with over 54% of the vote, defeating the pro-Russian nationalist George Simion. The electoral rerun takes place after the December 2024 elections were annulled for suspected Russian interference.
- On 18 May a knife attack in Bielefeld adds to other similar attacks reported since January in Aschaffenburg, Munich, Villach, Berlin and Mulhouse, in total leaving six dead and 44 wounded. The authorities attribute the attacks to radicalized jihadist individuals.
- On 19 May the United Kingdom and the EU hold their first bilateral post-Brexit summit in London and sign a historic cooperation agreement on defence, trade, fishing, energy, migration and youth mobility.
- On 20 May the EU approves its 17th sanctions package against Russia, which includes the so-called Russian "shadow fleet" and the oil and gas producer Surgutneftegaz.
- On 27 May EU defence ministers approve the Security Action for Europe (SAFE) programme, which will provide 150 billion euros to strengthen European defence.

Arab League

- On 17 May Baghdad hosts the 34th Arab League Summit, with the participation of Syria's transitional Foreign Minister, Asaad al-Shaibani, amid internal

tensions in Iraq. The meeting calls for a ceasefire in Gaza, unrestricted access for humanitarian aid and the creation of an Arab reconstruction fund for countries in conflict.

June 2025

In Portugal, the Parliament approves the composition of the new government. In Spain, the government crisis worsens and the Constitutional Court backs the key provisions in the Amnesty Law for leaders of Catalonia's independence movement. In France, the government survives its 8th no-confidence vote. In Malta, the leader of the PN resigns. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republika Srpska approves the creation of a reservist police force. In Serbia, the anti-government protests continue. In Kosovo, the liberalization of the energy market sparks protests. In Türkiye, operations are stepped up against members of the CHP and figures with suspected ties to the Gulenist movement. In Syria, an attack in Damascus leaves at least 27 people dead. In Lebanon, the former Economy Minister is arrested. In Libya, the government announces plans to eradicate the militias operating in Tripoli. In Tunisia, new sentences are handed down to opposition figures. In Morocco, two walis are dismissed.

Portugal

- On 3 June Jose Aguiar-Branco (PSD) is re-elected speaker of the Assembly of the Republic. On 4 June, the Parliament approves the composition of the new government of the Prime Minister, Luis Montenegro.
- On 19 June the police dismantle the neo-Nazi paramilitary cell Armilar Lusitano, which has links with law enforcement. Among the six arrested are its leader, a Public Security Police chief.
- On 29 June Jose Luis Carneiro is elected secretary-general of Portugal's Socialist Party (PS).

Spain

- On 12 June Santos Cerdan resigns as PSOE Secretary of Organization and MP after it is revealed he was involved,

along with the former Minister Jose Luis Abalos and his former aide Koldo Garcia, in a multi-million-euro kickbacks ring. The investigation, overseen by the European Prosecutor's Office as it affects European funds, represents a major setback for the government and ruling PSOE. On 20 June, the Civil Guard raids the party's headquarters. On 24 June, 38 former senior members of the socialist party call for the Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's "immediate resignation" as secretary-general. On 30 June, Cerdan is remanded in prison.

- On 26 June the Constitutional Court backs the Amnesty Law for leaders of the Catalan independence movement, asserting that it does not constitute a general pardon but rather a specific measure for "political normalization."

France

- On 1 June at least 230 people are arrested after two nights of unrest during the celebrations of PSG's victory in the men's football Champions League.
- On 2 June the National Assembly unanimously backs the promotion of Captain Alfred Dreyfus to the rank of brigadier general. Dreyfus was wrongly convicted in 1895 for high treason in a case of antisemitism that divided the Third Republic.
- On 5 June Olivier Faure is re-elected First Secretary of the PS with 50% of the vote.
- On 17 June the Paris appeals court upholds the four-year suspended prison sentence for the former Prime Minister François Fillon for embezzlement.
- On 18 June the Law Committee approves a parliamentary commission of inquiry into possible links between political parties and Islamism.
- On 26 June the Prime Minister, François Bayrou, survives his 8th no-confidence vote, tabled by the PS after the failure of pension reform negotiations between trade unions and employers and the government's refusal to debate the reform in the National Assembly.

Monaco

- On 25 June Didier Linotte, the former Supreme Court President, is indicted in the *Dossiers du Rocher* investigations

after being linked to an allegedly illicit payment of 136 million euros in compensation to the Caroli property group.

Italy

- On 5 June the Senate approves the security decree pushed forward by the government, which establishes sentences of up to two years in prison for street blockades, up to seven for illegally occupying residential property and up to five for passive resistance to the police.
- On 8-9 June Italy holds five abrogative referendums on labour flexibility and access to citizenship. The proposals are annulled due to an insufficient turnout of 30.6%. They coincide with the local election run-off rounds, held after the first round in May, in which the centre-right wins, although the centre-left retains strongholds like Florence and Bari.
- On 30 June the government approves a decree authorizing the entry of almost 500,000 workers from outside of the Union between 2026 and 2028, faced with workforce shortages.

Malta

- On 10 June Bernard Grech resigns as leader of the PN following the poor results in the 2024 local and European elections.

Croatia

- On 1 June Croatia holds the second round of local elections following the first round held on 18 May. The results reflect the territorial hegemony of the ruling party, the HDZ, despite the progress made by local and independent candidates and the centre-left victory in Zagreb.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 11 June the EU and Bosnia and Herzegovina sign an agreement to scale up border security, which includes the deployment of Frontex troops.
- On 23 June the government of the Republika Srpska approves the creation of a reservist police force citing a lack of police officers. The move prompts a

reaction from the Croat-Bosniak entity, which announces similar measures in a return to an initiative abandoned in 2019 due to international pressure.

Montenegro

- On 10 June the Metropolitans Joanikije and Metodije publicly glorify the Chetniks Pavle Durisic and Draza Mihailovic, widely considered to have been war criminals, leading to a criminal investigation for hate speech and a formal condemnation from the European Commission and Parliament.

Serbia

- On 8 June the municipalities of Zaječar and Kosjeric hold local elections in which the SNS of President Aleksandar Vucic wins amid complaints of irregularities made by the opposition.
- On 26 June the Prime Minister, Djuro Macut, refutes Russian accusations of an irregular arms shipment to Ukraine by Belgrade.
- On 29 June thousands of people demonstrate in Belgrade to call for early elections and to denounce government corruption during the celebration of Vidovdan, a national festival to commemorate the 1389 battle of Kosovo Polje.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 1 June the liberalization of the energy market comes into effect, under which companies with over 50 employees or a turnover of more than 10 million euros must operate in the free market. The measure, hotly contested through protests by the business community, leads to electricity price hikes of between 30 and 70% by the end of the month.
- On 5 June Aleksandar Vljajic is sentenced to five years' imprisonment for spying for Serbia. The ruling is part of a broader investigation in which OSCE employee Jelena Djukanovic was also arrested in February.
- On 11 June Kosovo announces that it will host up to 50 migrants deported by the US, to strengthen its alliance with Washington.

North Macedonia

- On 24 June the European Parliament urges the government of Hristijan Mickoski to adopt the constitutional amendments needed to recognize the Bulgarian minority, a condition set by Bulgaria to unblock the accession process.

Greece

- On 3 June a 5.8 magnitude earthquake in Greek waters shakes Rhodes and the Turkish coastline near Marmaris.
- On 10 June a Greek court orders three MPs from the far-right Spartans party, including its leader Vasilis Stigas, to be stripped of their seats for covering up the former head of Golden Dawn Ilias Kasidiaris's influence over the party.
- On 19 June the Parliament opens an investigation against the former Transport Minister, Kostas Karamanlis, for his executive management prior to the 2023 Tempi railway accident, in which 57 people died.
- Between 22 and 24 June Chios is ravaged by wildfires that devastate 10,000 acres of land and force the evacuation of 17 communities.

Türkiye

- On 17 June the far-right politician Umit Ozdag is sentenced to 28 months in prison for inciting hatred against immigrants, although he is released after taking into account the time he has already served in pre-trial detention.
- On 20 June Türkiye announces it will increase medium- and long-range missile production after Israel's airstrikes on Iran on 13 June, in a context of growing regional tensions.
- On 22 June a court in Istanbul issues arrest warrants for 22 people charged with corruption as part of fresh judicial operations against the CHP.
- On 24 June hundreds of soldiers and police suspected of having ties with the Gulenist movement are arrested on charges of terrorism in 41 provinces.

Cyprus

- On 2 June Cyprus activates a voluntary repatriation plan for Syrian refugees, which includes economic incentives.

Syria

- On 11 June the Tourism Ministry "recommends" the use of the burkini or "modest" swimwear for women and shirts outside of the water for men on public beaches. Luxury resorts and private clubs are exempt from the guidelines.
- On 20 June Switzerland lifts economic sanctions on Syria, in line with the measures adopted in May by the EU and US.
- On 21 June Wasim al-Assad, the cousin of the fugitive former Syrian President and one of the country's most wanted drug traffickers, is arrested on the Lebanese border.
- On 22 June a suicide bomb attack planned by the jihadist group Saraya Ansar al-Sunna (Brigade of Sunni Supporters) in Saint Elias Church in Damascus leaves at least 27 people dead.

Lebanon

- On 11 June the former Economy Minister Amin Salam is arrested on corruption charges.
- On 24 June Spain hands over command of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to Italy.

Egypt

- On 11 June Egypt steps up its security deployment on the Sudanese border following the capture by the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of the border triangle between Sudan, Libya and Egypt, increasing the risk of infiltration, smuggling and migratory pressures in the context of the Sudanese civil war. Sudan also accuses the forces of Khalifa Haftar, loyal to the eastern Libyan authorities, for supporting the offensive.
- On 18 June the Suez Canal Authority announces the gradual return of large container ships to the canal, following the closure to this kind of vessel since March 2024 because of regional tensions and the Houthi attacks.
- On 18 June the European Parliament and Council back a four-billion-euro loan for Egypt to alleviate its public debt and external deficit. The aid is conditioned on the fulfillment of the reforms demanded by the IMF, advances in the rule of

law and cooperation in migration management. It complements the one-billion-euro loan approved at the end of 2024.

- On 27 June Egypt assumes the presidency of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (UpM), taking over from Spain.

Libya

- On 4 June Libya is included in the decree issued by the US President, Donald Trump, which bars citizens from 12 different countries from entering the US.
- On 5 June the Government of National Unity announces the creation of a military committee to eradicate armed groups operating in Tripoli that are outside the State's legal framework.

Tunisia

- On 4 June the 2024 10-year prison sentence handed down to the former Justice Minister and Ennahda member Noureddine Bhiri for "inciting" public disorder is upheld by a court of appeal.
- On 20 June the former President, Moncef Marzouki, his former advisor, Imed Daimi, and the former Bar Association president, Abderrazak Kilani, are sentenced in absentia to 22 years' imprisonment for "undermining state security"
- On 30 June the lawyer Sonia Dahmani is sentenced to two years in prison in a new trial for "spreading false news" after decrying the situation of sub-Saharan migrants in Tunisia, a sentence that adds to her previous convictions.

Algeria

- On 1 June Fouzi Abdelkader Zeghot, a former soldier and activist, is taken to hospital in serious condition after setting himself alight outside the Justice Ministry in Algiers in protest against alleged judicial harassment. The Public Prosecutor opens an investigation for terrorism in connection with the action, which ignites a fierce debate in the country.
- On 10 June the US includes the Algerian association Baraka on its sanctions list, which it accuses of funnelling funds to Hamas.

- On 15 June Algeria concludes the Sumud 2025 military exercise in the Second Military Region, on the border with Morocco.

- On 29 June the sports journalist Christophe Gleizes is sentenced to seven years in prison for "glorifying terrorism" after his May 2024 arrest for meeting with senior members of the football club JS Kabylie, who are also members of the Movement for the Self-Determination of Kabylie (MAK).

Morocco

- On 11 June Morocco announces the opening of an investigation after a series of cyberattacks, which include the massive leak of more than 10 million notary documents and the personal data of two million Moroccan workers. The authorities blame Algerian hackers for the attacks, which are followed by reprisals by Moroccan hackers against the National Bank of Algeria and Algérie Telecom.
- On 11 June the walis of Fez-Mequinez and Marrakech-Safi are dismissed for failing to comply with a royal decree in February, which banned the sacrificing of sheep during Eid al-Adha to preserve the national livestock in view of the severe drought.

Mauritania

- On 2 June Mauritania and Senegal sign two agreements to strengthen the fight against irregular migration and regulate bilateral mobility.
- On 16 June 108 migrants adrift at sea are rescued and transferred to Nouadhibou.
- On 17 June Mauritania dismantles a visa forgery and migrant smuggling ring. Since the start of 2025, Mauritania has intercepted more than 30,000 migrants and dismantled 80 smuggling networks.

EU

- On 1 June the Eurosceptic Karol Nawrocki, backed by the Law and Justice party (PiS, far-right), wins the second round of the Polish presidential elections, setting the scene for a new period of tensions with the EU. On 11 June, the Prime Minister, the liberal pro-

European Donald Tusk, survives a no-confidence vote in the Parliament, helping to support the government's pro-European orientation.

- On 24-25 June the EU Member States, gathered at the NATO summit in The Hague, back the increase in defence spending to 5% of GDP for 2035, as demanded by the US.
- On 25 June Ukraine and the Council of Europe agree to establish an international court to judge the Russian aggression against Ukraine.

July 2025

In Spain, the government agrees on a singular financing system for Catalonia. France has a month of tensions caused by the Betharram abuses scandal, the debt crisis, the internal security measures and the unrest on 14 July. Malta repeals its citizenship by investment programme. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the High Representative unblocks key funds despite the rejection by the territorial entities. In Serbia, the demonstrations continue the same month the country takes part in military exercises with China. Greece freezes asylum requests and applies a new tourist tax. In Türkiye, the offensive is stepped up against the CHP. Syria signs a major investment package with Saudi Arabia and is hit by a wave of inter-community violence in Sweida. In Lebanon, the pressure is increased for Hezbollah to disarm. Libya denies entry to a European delegation and deports almost 200 migrants. In Tunisia, Rached Ghannouchi is sentenced to a further 14 years in prison.

Portugal

- On 12 July the far-right Chega party reaches an agreement on principle with the conservative Democratic Alliance (AD, centre-right) to reform the Nationality Law in exchange for a commitment to block certain parliamentary hearings requested by the opposition.

Spain

- On 1 July judges and prosecutors begin a three-day strike against a judi-

cial reform that modifies entry into the career and limits its internal decision-making capacity.

- On 6 July Alberto Nunez Feijoo is re-elected leader of the People's Party (PP, centre-right).
- On 9 July an assault on a pensioner in Torre-Pacheco sparks unrest during the following days instigated by ultra groups targeting the migrant population.
- On 14 July the central government and Catalan regional government reach a singular financing agreement that will allow Catalonia to collect its own taxes as of 2026. The opposition to Pedro Sanchez's government denounces a breach of territorial equality and the European Commission demands legal guarantees of cohesion.

France

- On 1 July a parliamentary commission of inquiry documents more than 200 cases of abuse in the Notre-Dame de Betharram high school between 1950 and 2010, criticizes the State's failure to act and proposes preventive measures. The Pau Prosecutor's Office investigates over 150 reports, including around 90 for sexual assault or rape. The Prime Minister François Bayrou, whose daughter is among the victims, denies a cover-up, but faces no-confidence motions and pressure to step down.
- On 7 July the Court of Accounts warns that the French public debt has reached 3.3 trillion euros (115% of GDP) and demands 105-billion-euro cuts to balance the books.
- On 7 July the President, Emmanuel Macron, meets with the Council of Defence and National Security (CDSN) to approve new measures to combat the "growing influence" of the Muslim Brotherhood, which "poses a threat to national cohesion through its religious separatism," after announcing a draft law on 23 May against Islamist religious separatism.
- On 8 July President Macron visits the United Kingdom to relaunch bilateral relations after years of post-Brexit tensions, strengthen European defence cooperation and autonomy and increase support for Ukraine. During the visit, both countries sign the so-called "one

in, one out" deal, which stipulates that for every person the United Kingdom expels to France after illegally crossing the English Channel, it will accept a refugee legally residing in France with family ties in the United Kingdom.

- On 9 July the General Directorate of Public Finances records its 13th suicide in the past year, with its employees grappling with intense levels of pressure.
- On 12 July Kanak trade unionists and pro-independence groups reach an agreement under which New Caledonia will be recognized as a state with its own nationality, while its citizens will also continue to be both French and European. Nouméa will be able to make decisions on its international relations in coordination with Paris, which reserves powers in the areas of Security, Defence, Currency and Justice.
- On 14 July, France's national holiday, unrest and clashes with police erupt across the country, which end with 389 arrests. The unrest intensifies particularly in the country's south over the following days, leading to nighttime curfews imposed for teenagers until the end of August.

Monaco

- On 21 July Christophe Mirmand is sworn into office as the Minister of State after Philippe Mettoux, who was chosen to assume the executive role, withdraws his candidacy citing "negative and opposing forces" which prevented him from fulfilling his mission.

Italy

- On 7 July the ICC launches proceedings to denounce Italy before the Assembly of States Parties and the UN Security Council for failing to comply with the Rome Statute after releasing General Osama Almasri Najim, who was arrested in Turin in January, and returning him to Libya, despite the warrant the ICC had issued for his arrest.

Malta

- On 24 July the Parliament passes a law that abolishes its Citizenship by Investment programme, which was de-

clared illegal on 29 April by the CJEU, replacing it with a pathway based on merit and exceptional contributions.

- On 29 July environmental organizations and left-wing opposition figures rally outside the Parliament calling for the withdrawal of bills 143 and 144, introduced on 23 July, which grant extraordinary powers to the Planning Authority and heavily favour real estate developers, restricting citizens' right to appeal and consultation.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 4 July the Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina annuls the arrest warrant issued in March against Milorad Dodik, President of the Republika Srpska, after he voluntarily appears at the Prosecutor's Office in Sarajevo to be questioned as a suspect of attacking the constitutional order.
- On 11 July thousands gather to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide, where more than 8,000 Bosniak muslims were massacred in July 1995.
- On 17 July the High Representative, Christian Schmidt, uses the Bonn Powers to unblock funds to improve election technologies and settle a 60-million-euro debt with the Slovenian firm Viaduct with funds earmarked for the Republika Srpska, which refused to pay the debt. The measure sparks a backlash from an unusual front of rival parties – the Alliance of Independent Social Democrats (SNSD, Bosnian-Serb), the Croatian Democratic Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HDZ-BiH, Bosnian-Croat) and the Party of Democratic Action (SDA, Bosniak) – which denounces interference in fiscal and state sovereignty.

Montenegro

- On 18 July Nikola Jovanovic, the independent mayor of Budva elected in April, is injured in an identified assault, against a backdrop of strong local polarization and a history of pressure from organized crime.
- On 20 July the High Court of Podgorica sentences the former Bosnian Serb fighter Slobodan Pekovic to 20 years in prison for crimes against civil-

ians in Foca, eastern Bosnia, in the first conviction for war crimes handed down by a Montenegrin court.

- Between 22 and 24 July the President, Jakov Milatovic, and the Prime Minister, Milojko Spajic, call separate meetings for the main security bodies faced with the surge in violence, particularly between the Skaljari and Kavac criminal gangs in Podgorica.

Serbia

- On 3 July the President, Aleksandar Vucic, pardons four activists from the ruling SNS on trial for assaulting anti-government demonstrators in Novi Sad in January. On the same day, 79 demonstrators are arrested during an operation against anti-government protests in Belgrade Novi Sad, Nis and Novi Pazar; the UN warns Serbia against arbitrary arrests.
- On 15 July Serbia becomes the first EU candidate country to carry out joint military training with China, deploying troops in Hebei as part of the Peace Guardian 2025 drills. The EU warns Belgrade that Serbia's participation in the exercise could hamper its accession process and distance the country from NATO.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 14 July the former Prime Minister Agim Ceku is sentenced to a year in prison along with a further nine people for falsifying war veteran lists and thereby enabling illegal claims for welfare benefits.
- On 17 July Bojan Jevtic, an ethnic Serb and senior officer in the Kosovo police force, is arrested in the sixth case of Serbian espionage detected by the Kosovo authorities over the past year.

North Macedonia

- On 9 July the European Parliament approves a report on North Macedonia's accession progress, in which, at Bulgaria's request, all references to the country's language and identity have been removed. Skopje views the concession as an attack on the country's national identity.

- On 29 July the Parliament passes a legally non-binding no-confidence motion tabled by the small opposition Left party and supported by the government against the Chief Public Prosecutor Ljupco Kocevski, accusing him of corruption and mismanagement. The measure, opposed by the Prosecutors' Council, marks a new conflict between the cabinet and the judiciary.

Albania

- On 11 July the Parliament adopts a national strategy drafted by the socialist government to combat misinformation and strengthen cybersecurity.
- On 14 July residents of Theth protest against the demolition of illegal tourist buildings in the middle of the high season. The operation forms part of the government's campaign against unauthorized construction in protected areas, which has raised tensions with a number of local communities.

Greece

- On 9 July a Greek cargo ship is sunk by Houthi rebels from Yemen, in one of the most serious attacks since the start of their campaign against commercial shipping in the Red Sea. After the sinking, the Houthis warn that they will step up the attacks against any Western ship passing through this area until Israel ends its offensive in Gaza.
- On 9 July the Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, announces in Parliament the temporary freeze on asylum applications to deal with illegal migration and the intense migratory pressure on Crete and Gavdos from Libya.
- On 21 July the tourist tax on cruise ship passengers enters into effect to alleviate overcrowding on different islands and support their local communities.

Türkiye

- On 1 July four employees of *LeMan* are arrested for the publication of a caricature of Muhammad. Following the arrests, the offices of the satirical magazine in Istanbul are attacked by a group of individuals and a judicial warrant is issued to seize copies of the magazine

and block access to its social media accounts.

- On 1 July 120 people, including the former mayor of Esmirna, Tunc Soyer, and the party's provincial leader, Senol Aslanoglu, are arrested accused of rigging municipal tenders and fraud, as part of the offensive against the opposition CHP. On 5 July, the mayors of Antalya, Adana and Adiyaman are also arrested on corruption charges.
- On 2 July at least 42 people are arrested during a demonstration to mark 100 days since the arrest and imprisonment of the mayor of Istanbul, Ekrem Imamoglu.
- On 2 July three large wildfires are brought under control in the provinces of Izmir, Manisa and Hatay, which began at the end of June and have led to the evacuation of more than 50,000 people, during an extreme heatwave affecting southern Europe. On 27 July, over 3,500 residents are evacuated in Bursa because of two raging fires that coincide with other massive fires in Karabuk, Safranbolu and Kahramanmaras.
- On 11 July the PKK terrorist organization begins its effective disarmament.
- On 15 July 306 people suspected of belonging to Gulenist circles are arrested on the ninth anniversary of the 2016 failed coup attempt.
- On 16 July the dismissed mayor of Istanbul, Ekrem Imamoglu, is sentenced to 20 months in prison for alleged "insults" aimed at the city's Chief Prosecutor, Akin Gurlek, in one of the cases open against him after his arrest in March.

Cyprus

- On 10 July the Parliament passes a contentious law regulating public protest, which includes a requirement to provide prior notification and grants the police powers to limit or dissolve gatherings.

Syria

- Between 3 and 15 July a wave of wildfires in Latakia razes more than 16,000 hectares and forces large-scale evacuations.
- On 13 July clashes break out between the Bedouin and Druze communi-

ties that claim at least 50 lives in Sweida, a day after the kidnapping, assault and robbery of a Druze merchant by armed Bedouin men. The Syrian army is deployed in the province to quell the unrest, a move that prompts immediate Israeli airstrikes, in the belief that Damascus is not pursuing peace but rather attempting to consolidate control over the Druze and facilitate the entry of hostile actors near its borders. On 17 July, the Syrian army withdraws from Sweida at the request of the US, Türkiye and several Arab countries. On 18 July, fresh clashes between Druze and Bedouin supported by forces linked to the new Syrian authorities raise the death toll to over 700 and the number of displaced persons to 20,000. On 19 July, Israel agrees to a new deployment of Syrian troops in the area and the Syrian government declares a ceasefire between the parties and with Israel.

- On 24 July at least six people are killed and around 140 injured in an explosion at a weapons warehouse belonging to the Turkistan Islamic Party in Maarraat Misrin, Idlib.
- On 24 July Syria and Saudi Arabia sign 47 investment agreements valued at over six billion dollars in strategic sectors, with promises of up to 50,000 direct job opportunities.
- On 25 July France's Court of Cassation annuls the international arrest warrant for the former Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, issued on 23 November 2023 on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in August 2013 in Ghouta, eastern Damascus.

Lebanon

- On 6 July Hezbollah's leader, Naim Qassem, rejects a proposal for the group's disarmament as long as the Israeli military maintains a presence in the country's south. On 15 July, the Central Bank bans all financial entities from any direct or indirect transactions with the Hezbollah-affiliated and US-sanctioned financial institution al-Qard al-Hassan.

Egypt

- On 3 July Egypt reaffirms its rejection of Ethiopia's unilateral actions regarding control over the waters of the Nile, fol-

lowing Ethiopia's announcement of the completion of the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) after 14 years of construction.

- On 3 July the UN reports that Egypt recorded up to 25,000 new applications for Sudanese refugees in June alone. Since April 2023, a million and a half Sudanese have arrived in Egypt fleeing from the civil war.
- On 20 July the Interior Minister reports the death of two members of the armed Hasm Movement, believed to be affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood, in a counterterrorism operation in Cairo.
- On 22 July a court orders the removal of seven people, among them the Egyptian-British activist Alaa Abdel Fatah, from the country's terrorism watchlist.

Libya

- On 8 July the eastern Libyan authorities expel a delegation from the EU after it lands in Benghazi, following the group's meeting with the Tripoli government, in a diplomatic incident connected with the status of the eastern authorities.
- On 13 July the eastern Libyan authorities arrest and deport 194 irregular Egyptian migrants from Benghazi.
- On 18 July the German authorities arrest Khaled el-Hishri, member of the Deterrence Force (Rada) loyal to the Tripoli authorities and wanted by the ICC for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Mitiga prison.

Tunisia

- On 8 July Rached Ghannouchi is sentenced to 14 years in prison for terrorism and "plotting against state security." With this sentence the Ennahda leader has accumulated a prison term of at least 27 years across different trials since 2023.
- On 25 July hundreds of citizens gather in the Tunisian capital to call for the release of political prisoners and denounce the democratic backsliding on the fourth anniversary of President Kais Saied's rise to power.

Algeria

- On 3 July the historian Mohamed Belghit is sentenced to five years in

prison for undermining national unity after denying the existence of the Amazigh culture in an interview for the Emirate channel Sky News Arabia, which also prompts Algeria to blame the UAE for interference and spreading divisive ideas.

- On 8 July Leila Aslaoui is appointed president of the Constitutional Court, created in 2021, to replace Omar Belhadj.

Morocco

- On 9 July divisions concerning who should table a no-confidence vote confirm the rupture of the alliance between the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP) and the Party of Progress and Socialism (PPS), formed in 2023 to oppose the government of Aziz Akhannouch.
- On 29 July Mohamed Karimine, an Istiqlal MP and the mayor of Bouznika, is sentenced to seven years in prison for embezzlement and abuse of power. With this sentence, 30 MPs have now been tried or convicted for corruption since 2021, making the 2021–2026 legislative term the worst hit by judicial convictions in the Moroccan Parliament's history.

Mauritania

- On 17 July after being received by the Senegalese Interior Minister, Jean-Baptiste Tine, the activist, Mauritanian opposition MP and frequent resident in Senegal Biram Dah Abeid tells the press that the meeting was a diplomatic warning pushed forward by Mauritania to halt his anti-slavery activism.

EU

- On 1 July Denmark assumes the six-month Presidency of the EU Council, with the priorities of Ukraine's integration and defence, the green transition, reinforcing European defence and migration controls and a commitment to strengthening the EU's institutional resilience.
- On 3 July the summer's first extreme heatwave, which began on 25 June, comes to an end after affecting a large part of Europe with record temperatures and devastating wildfires.

- On 4 July Chisinau hosts the first-ever EU-Moldova Summit, which marks a key step towards the country's European integration with a financial assistance package of 1.9 billion euros for 2025-2027.
- On 8 July the arrest of the mayor of Varna, Blagomir Kotsev (We Continue the Change, PP, Liberal), on corruption charges sparks protests and reports of police persecution orchestrated by networks linked to the ruling Citizens for European Development of Bulgaria (GERB, conservative) and the oligarch Delyan Peevski. The EU expresses concern for Bulgaria's judicial independence.
- On 10 July Ursula von der Leyen survives the no-confidence vote tabled by European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR, far-right) which believes her re-election as president of the Commission is the result of a pact with the left that betrays the voters' mandate.
- On 10 July at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome the Commission announces the creation of a European Fund that foresees the mobilization of 500 million euros in private investments until 2026, and financial assistance to the value of 2.3 billion euros that is hoped to attract up to 10 billion euros more from the private sector.
- On 15 July the EU facilitates access to multiple-entry Schengen visas for Turkish citizens with a lawful travel history, although mandatory visa requirements remain in place.
- On 18 July, after Slovakia lifts its veto threat, the EU approves its 18th sanctions package against Russia, which includes lowering the price cap on Russian oil from 60 to 47 dollars a barrel, limiting the price at which European companies can provide transport to third countries.
- On 25 July the EU-China summit comes to an end in Beijing with the clear warning to President Xi Jinping that bilateral relations "have reached an inflection point" and must be rebalanced to be "mutually beneficial".
- On 27 July the EU avoids the 30% tariff announced by the Trump administration on most European products, reducing it to 15% in exchange for agreeing not to levy US products, purchasing US energy to the value of 750

billion dollars and fostering a 600-billion-dollar increase in European investments in the US.

August 2025

Southern Europe suffers from the worst wildfires in recent decades. Portugal's Constitutional Court partially rejects the reform of the law on migration and nationality. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Milorad Dodik is removed from the Bosnian Serb presidency. In Serbia, the anti-government protests continue and a former Trade and Construction Minister is arrested. Kosovo's Election Commission rejects Srpska Lista's application to run in October's local elections, while the institutional deadlock continues. In Türkiye, the arrests on corruption charges of opposition figures from the CHP continue. In Syria, the transition continues amid fresh episodes of violence in Sweida, tensions with Rojava and SDF operations against IS. In Lebanon, the pressure is stepped up for Hezbollah and Palestinian groups to disarm. In Libya, Khalifa Haftar appoints his son Saddam as number two of the LNA. In Tunisia, a large-scale march calls for the resumption of the National Dialogue, which has been frozen since 2023. The diplomatic rupture between France and Algeria worsens.

Portugal

- On 8 August the Constitutional Court declares several of the provisions of the reform approved by the Parliament on 16 July, which introduces tougher laws on migration and nationality, to be unconstitutional. On 24 July, the President, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, had vetoed the text and sent it to the Constitutional Court.
- On 31 August the Prime Minister, Luis Montenegro, announces that the government will finance the construction of 133,000 public homes to tackle the country's housing crisis.

Italy

- On 1 August in response to a pre-trial question raised by an Italian court,

the CJEU rules that, although it is legal to designate third countries as "safe" for asylum applicant referrals, the Member States must base their decisions on objective, accessible and verifiable legal criteria.

- On 13 August 26 migrants die in a shipwreck near Lampedusa, taking the death toll in the central Mediterranean since the start of the year to 675.
- On 28 August the Phica forum is closed, after being active since 2005 and boasting around 200,000 subscribers. The closure comes after discussion threads are discovered dedicated to spreading more than 10,000 stolen or manipulated images, of a pornographic or sexist nature, of multiple women – including the Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, and opposition leader, Elly Schlein.

Croatia

- On 4 August civil organizations in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina protest in Zagreb on the anniversary of the 1995 Operation Storm, demanding recognition and compensation from the Croatian government for crimes committed against Serb civilians.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 1 August the court of appeal upholds Milorad Dodik's one-year prison sentence and six-year political ban handed down in February for defying decisions of the High Representative and thereby undermining the constitutional order. On 6 August, he is stripped of his mandate as President of the Republika Srpska. On 12 August, the prison sentence is commuted to a fine. On 18 August, his appeal against the ban from public office is rejected. On 23 August, the Bosnian Serb National Assembly schedules a referendum for October in support of him retaining his post. On 29 August, the Central Election Commission calls early presidential elections in the entity for 23 November.

Serbia

- On 1 August Tomislav Momirovic, the former Trade and Infrastructure Minister, is arrested on corruption charges

related to the modernization of the Hungarian-Serbian railway line. The probe uncovers inflated invoices for construction works overseen by a Chinese consortium and connects the case with the collapse of the Novi Sad train station canopy, a symbol of the project's shortcomings.

- On 17 August at least 18 people are arrested on a new night of protests across the country against the SNS government. The protests continue throughout the month.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 7 August thousands of UÇK veterans protest in Pristina against the Hague-based Special Court, which they accuse of procedural bias.
- On 21 August the Central Election Commission decides not to certify Srpska Lista for the 12 October local elections, alleging that some of its candidates are linked with parallel institutions controlled from Serbia.
- On 26 August Kosovo's Parliament elects Dimal Basha (Vetëvendosje) as its speaker of the house, after months of institutional deadlock and multiple failed attempts since the February elections in a process marked by the intervention of the Constitutional Court and the Parliament's inability to meet the deadlines for forming the Assembly. Despite this election, the impasse continues with the failure to elect a deputy speaker from the Kosovo-Serb community.
- On 26 August Kosovo inaugurates a new bridge across the Ibar river between the Albanian majority and Serb majority sectors of Mitrovica, against a backdrop of inter-communal tension that keeps the existing New Bridge closed to vehicular traffic. Serbia, the EU and NATO warn that the new infrastructure could worsen the situation.

Albania

- On 27 August the wave of wildfires has been officially brought under control, which has scorched around 55,000 hectares since July, making the 2025 season one of the most devastating in the last decade in Albania.

Türkiye

- On 2 August around 30 suspected members of Daesh are arrested across the country.
- On 15 August İnan Guney, the social democratic mayor of Istanbul's Beyoğlu district, is arrested on corruption charges along with at least another 40 people with ties to the CHP. Since March, around 550 municipal figures, their relatives and businesspeople have been arrested in these operations, more than 200 of whom remain in custody.

Syria

- On 3 August at least six people are killed in fresh clashes between security forces and local factions in Sweida, amid the spiralling sectarian violence between the Druze and Bedouin communities.
- On 14 August the authorities estimate that more than 410,000 Syrian refugees in Türkiye have returned to Syria since the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024.
- On 24 August the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria rejects the previous day's ruling by the Syrian Election Commission suspending the October legislative elections in Rojava – as well as in Sweida – for “safety reasons” and denounces the reiterated boycott by Damascus of talks for Rojava's integration into Syria.
- On 29 August the transitional President, Ahmad al-Sharaa, approves the composition of the National Commission for Transitional Justice, created in May to seek compensation for abuses committed by the overthrown Baathist regime.
- On 30 August the SDF launches a large-scale operation against Daesh cells in Hasakah.

Lebanon

- On 8 August the government accepts the US proposal for Hezbollah to disarm as part of the ceasefire agreement between Lebanon and Israel. On 15 August, Hezbollah warns that it will not lay down arms until Israel ends its relentless attacks on Lebanese soil. In response, the Prime Minister, Nawaf

Salam, warns that such a stance constitutes a “veiled threat of civil war.”

- On 21 August the government announces the start of disarmament by Palestinian groups in refugee camps, as part of the measures adopted by Lebanon to ensure a state monopoly on firearms and in accordance with the agreement reached in May between Beirut and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

Libya

- On 11 August Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar appoints his son Saddam as the second in command of the LNA, which is loyal to the parallel government of eastern Libya.

Tunisia

- On 21 August the UGTT leads a mass rally in the Tunisian capital to call for an end to the political blockade on the National Dialogue process, frozen since early 2023, and to denounce the attack on its headquarters on 7 August by supporters of President Kais Saied.

Algeria

- On 6 August France suspends the 2013 agreement that allows visa-free entry to Algerian diplomatic passport holders, in response to Algiers' lack of cooperation on migration and security, to which Algeria responds with reciprocal measures.
- On 27 August the President Abdelmadjid Tebboune lifts Algeria's reservation to Article 15.4 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), which grants women equal rights to men regarding freedom of movement and choice of residence.

Mauritania

- On 28 August a court of appeal orders the release of the anti-slavery activist Ahmed Ould Samba, who was arrested in January, after lifting the remainder of the prison sentence handed down to him in May for his criticism on social media.

- On 29 August at least 70 migrants are killed in Mauritanian waters after their boat capsizes on the way to the Canary Islands.

EU

- On 13 August leaders from Ukraine and several European countries hold a video conference with Donald Trump to coordinate positions before his meeting with Vladimir Putin on 15 August in Anchorage. This second meeting concludes without any concrete agreements and highlights Europe's concern over its influence in key bilateral talks, in which the US and Russia are directly negotiating the war and Europe has no central role.
- On 19 August the Council approves the 19th sanctions package against Russia, which introduces tougher measures on energy, finance and tech exports, adds entities to its black list and imposes secondary sanctions on third countries that cooperate with Moscow.
- On 31 August several EU countries see one of the worst wildfire seasons in decades come to an end following a heatwave which began in late June and especially affected southern Europe. In Portugal, at least 275,000 hectares have been scorched; in Spain, over 400,000, in the most devastating campaign in 30 years; in France, wildfires like the one in Aude raise the number of razed hectares to over 35,000; and in Greece, with over a hundred active fires, the government asks for European assistance for a second time through the RescEU mechanism. The episode confirms the intensification of extreme phenomena in the Mediterranean region.

September 2025

The fall of the Bayrou government aggravates the institutional crisis in France. In Italy, the Marche and Aosta Valley hold regional elections and there is a nationwide aviation strike. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the transport sector stages widespread traffic blockades. In Serbia, the anti-government protests continue. The institutional deadlock continues in Kosovo. In Albania, Edi Rama unveils a new cabinet. Greece

approves a reform of its migration law. In Türkiye, judicial measures are taken against the CHP. In Egypt, a new labour law comes into force. In Libya, the Tripoli authorities present a roadmap to hold elections in 2027. In Algeria, there is a change in Prime Minister and government reshuffle. In Morocco, there are demonstrations and unrest calling for political and socioeconomic reforms. In Mauritania, the cabinet is reshuffled.

Spain

- On 16 September a law drafted by the government to create an Office for the Prevention of Corruption is voted down by the parliamentary right wing, which claims that the proposal is politically instrumentalized in light of the different corruption inquiries surrounding the PSOE and the government.

France

- On 8 September the Prime Minister, François Bayrou, loses the parliamentary confidence vote he called faced with the left and far-right's rejection of his 43.8-billion-euro austerity plan. Presented in July, the plan includes reducing the deficit to 2.8% by 2029, removing two public holidays, freezing civil service salaries and pensions, eliminating 3,000 public sector jobs, making five-billion-euro cuts in the health sector and strengthening defence. On 9 September, Bayrou presents his resignation to the President, Emmanuel Macron, who, wishing to see out his term until 2027, appoints Sebastien Lecornu (Renaissance) Prime Minister, the seventh in seven years. On 10 September, the movement *Bloquons tout!* (Let's Block Everything) leads a day of mass demonstrations against the proposed budget cuts, resulting in unrest in the country's main cities and at least 675 arrests. On 18 September, a national strike called by the main trade unions against the restrictive budget of the ousted Bayrou government ends in major unrest and at least 300 arrests.

Italy

- On 26 September a widespread one-day strike paralyses the aviation

sector, calling for better salaries and working conditions. It marks the peak of a month in which over 20 strikes are staged by the Italian aviation sector.

- On 28-29 September the Marche region holds regional elections in which the Brothers of Italy (Fdi, right-wing populist) candidate, Francesco Acquaroli, retains his mandate with 52.50% of the vote. The Aosta Valley region also holds regional elections, on 28 September, in which the Valdostan Union (UV, socialliberal regionalist) wins with 32% of the vote.

Slovenia

- On 11 September Slovenia bans the Bosnian Serb Milorad Dodik from entering the country after his judicial removal from the presidency of the Republika Srpska.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 1 September the road transport trade union Logistika blocks customs terminals and border crossings with Croatia and Serbia to protest against high taxes, excessive red tape and a European regulation that limits their stay in the EU to 90 days within any 180-day period.

Serbia

- On 5 September a student demonstration outside the Philosophy Faculty of the University of Novi Sad ends in violence when the police intervene to disperse the demonstrators, arresting at least 42 people. The incident comes amid the anti-government protests of recent years, which have intensified since the collapse of the Novi Sad train station canopy in November 2024.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 12 September the US suspends its Strategic Dialogue with Kosovo, accusing the Prime Minister, Albin Kurti, of blocking the formation of the Parliament after the February elections and aggravating tensions with the Kosovo Serbs in the north, thereby generating regional instability.

Albania

- On 2 September the Public Prosecutor opens an investigation against the members of the Iranian opposition group Mujahedin-e-Khalq (MEK) settled in a camp in Manze (Durrës) for alleged cybercrimes and activities that could breach the agreement signed with Tirana, which bans them from carrying out political activities on Albanian soil.
- On 11 September the Prime Minister, Edi Rama, unveils his new cabinet for a fourth mandate. Belinda Balluku continues as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Infrastructure and Energy; Albana Koçiu takes over as Interior Minister; Elisa Spiropali as Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs; Delina Ibrahimaj as Economy and Innovation Minister; Mirela Kumbaro as Education Minister and Besfort Lamallari as Minister of Justice. He also announces the symbolic appointment of the AI system Diella as "Virtual Minister for Public Procurement."

Greece

- On 2 September a police investigation reveals that, between 2019 and 2024, 1,036 applicants illegally obtained 22.7 million euros in agricultural subsidies through false declarations concerning the ownership or leasing of property or land rentals. The fraud involves the Greek Agricultural Payment Authority (OPEKEPE) and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO).
- On 3 September the Parliament passes new legislation on migration proposed by the government that toughens sanctions on irregular migration with prison sentences of between two and five years and abolishes the right to residency after being in the country illegally for seven years, among other measures. The text also accelerates deportations and facilitates the return of migrants whose applications have been rejected.
- On 7 September the Prime Minister, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, announces a tax reform that includes tax breaks of around 1.6 billion euros and other financial incentives to encourage people to have more children.

- On 29 September Greece rejects Türkiye's plan to share gas and oil exploration rights in disputed waters in the eastern Mediterranean.

Türkiye

- On 1 September Armenia, Azerbaijan and Türkiye move forward in the normalization of their relations at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, following the preliminary peace agreement signed in Washington on 8 August. The rapprochement facilitates the opening of strategic corridors and strengthens Türkiye's role as a key mediator, while the EU observes the process as an opportunity to consolidate security and connectivity in the South Caucasus.
- On 2 September a court in Istanbul annuls the 2023 provincial CHP congress held in Istanbul, citing irregularities in the election of delegates. It also ousts the provincial head, Ozgur Celik, appointing an interim commission led by Gursel Tekin, a historic figure within the party. On 8 September, CHP supporters demonstrate to prevent the commission and its court-appointed chair from entering the party's provincial headquarters, triggering clashes with police and arrests.
- On 6 September a court in Ankara opens a trial to annul the CHP national congress that took place in November 2023 and in which Ozgur Ozel was elected party leader. On 14 September, a demonstration in Ankara is held to protest the judicial measure. Ozel announces that he will not resign and calls an extraordinary congress for 21 September in which he is re-elected leader of the CHP.
- On 11 September 121 companies from multiple sectors within the Can Holding conglomerate are seized by the State as part of a sweeping anti-corruption investigation into alleged tax evasion and money laundering.
- On 12 September the arrests of more than 160 suspected IS members are announced from a series of coordinated operations across the country.
- On 13 September the authorities order the arrest of the mayor of Istanbul's Bayrampasa district, Hasan Mutlu, and another 47 municipal civil servants from the CHP.

Syria

- On 2 September the IAEA confirms it has found traces of uranium in a building in Deir ez-Zor, bombed in 2007 by Israel in the belief it was housing an undeclared nuclear reactor.
- On 16 September the Foreign Minister, Asaad al-Shaibani, announces a plan backed by the US and Jordan to ensure stability in Sweida after the sectarian violence in July and August between the Druze and Bedouin communities.
- On 18 September after six years in the role, the UN Special envoy for Syria, Geir Pedersen, announces his resignation citing personal reasons.
- On 22 September the SDF warns that there has been a significant increase in Daesh activity in northeastern Syria since December 2024 with up to 153 recorded attacks. On 24 September, it also denounces a military escalation by the transitional authorities after a fresh attack against its positions in Aleppo.

Lebanon

- On 6 September the Council of Ministers approves the army's plan to push forward with Hezbollah's disarmament and tasks the armed forces with its progressive implementation, with the aim of strengthening the state monopoly on weapons.
- On 14 September following the report presented in 2024 by the French NGO Collective of Victims of Fraudulent and Criminal Practices in Lebanon, the French judiciary launches a corruption inquiry into the former Lebanese Prime Minister Nayib Mikati accused of withholding assets in bank accounts after the 2019 economic crisis.
- On 15 September the authorities dismantle an international drug trafficking network that was planning to send 6.5 million captagon pills and 700 kilograms of hashish to Saudi Arabia.
- On 18 September the Lebanese army reports that Israel has violated the ceasefire agreement reached in November 2024 more than 4,500 times, coinciding with new airstrikes on alleged Hezbollah targets carried out by Israel after ordering the evacuation of three towns in southern Lebanon.

Egypt

- On 1 September a new labour law comes into force that seeks to modernize and balance contractual relations between employers and employees in the private sector and improve severance pay, among other elements. According to the trade unions, however, it does not do enough to curb temporary employment and increase salaries and fails to improve the right to organize unions and strike.
- On 9 September Cairo hosts the signing of a new cooperation agreement between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which fails to halt the reactivation of the snap-back mechanism to reimpose sanctions from the 2015 pact, after Iran suspended its cooperation following the June 2025 Israeli and US attacks.
- On 9 September Ethiopia inaugurates the GERD. Egypt submits another complaint to the United Nations Security Council claiming the filling of the dam is a violation of international law.
- On 22 September the President, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, pardons the prominent Egyptian-British activist Alaa Abdel-Fattah after a decade of trials and incarceration for unauthorized protest against the regime.
- On 22 September Egypt and Türkiye begin the Sea of Friendship joint naval exercises, their first in 13 years, with the aim of improving bilateral relations, which were severely damaged after Egypt's President, Mohammed Morsi, was overthrown in 2013.

Libya

- On 3 September the UN Security Council backs the roadmap presented by the Government of National Unity (GNU) to hold elections in 18 months that put an end to the current transitional period and the country's dual government system between the powers in Tripoli and Tobruk.
- On 13-14 September at least 110 migrants are killed or go missing in two shipwrecks off the coast of Tobruk.
- On 14 September after months of tension and negotiations under Turkish mediation, the Tripoli government and Rada Force reach a preliminary agree-

ment under which a unified and neutral force will manage four airports in the west, the management of the prisons currently controlled by Rada will be passed over to the Public Prosecutor's Office and Osama Najim, the judicial police chief wanted by the ICC, will be substituted by a mutually agreed-upon replacement.

Algeria

- On 14 September the President, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, confirms that the former Industry Minister, Sifi Ghrieb, will take over as Prime Minister, a role he has performed since the dismissal on 28 August of Nadir Larbaoui. He also appoints Yahia Bachir as the new Industry Minister and Mourad Adjal at the head of the Energy Ministry, as part of a reshuffle that sees no changes made to key ministries, such as those of Finance, Trade and Foreign Affairs.
- On 30 September the former Labour Minister, Tijani Hassan Haddam, is sentenced to seven years in prison for embezzlement from the National Social Security Fund.

Morocco

- On 3 September the feminist activist and LGBTQ+ Ibtiissam Betty Lachgar is sentenced to 30 months in prison for "offending Islam" after being arrested in August for wearing a t-shirt with the slogan "Allah is lesbian".
- On 14 September the death of eight pregnant women in a public hospital in Agadir sparks clashes between police and demonstrators, who denounce the precarious conditions of the healthcare system. On 27-28 September, youth demonstrations are staged in several cities led by the Gen-Z 212 collective. Called through the Discord platform, they demand greater gender equality and socioeconomic improvements, amid mounting public outrage.

Mauritania

- On 4 and 8 September the coast guard intercepts 170 and 120 migrants, respectively, on course for the Canary Islands.

- On 18 September the President, Mohamed Ould Ghazouani, approves the government reshuffle proposed by the Prime Minister, Mokhtar Ould Djay.

EU

- On 10 September Poland reports the incursion of 19 Russian drones into its airspace during attacks on Ukraine, some of which are shot down. A few days later, Romania confirms a similar incident. The breaches prompt the Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, to propose the creation of a wall along the Union's eastern border to detect and neutralize hostile drones.
- On 28 September the legislative elections in Moldova end with an absolute majority for President Maia Sandu's pro-European Action and Solidarity Party (PAS), which won over 50.1% of the vote, a result that will help push forward the country's EU accession process.

October 2025

Portugal holds local elections and passes tougher immigration and nationality laws. In Spain, the government loses the support of the Junts party. In France, new demonstrations against the country's austerity politics threaten the recently appointed government, and Nicolas Sarkozy enters prison. In Italy, a nationwide strike is staged in protest against the government's politics, Calabria and Tuscany hold regional elections and the Parliament approves a constitutional reform separating judges and public prosecutors. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, there are advances in the stabilization of the situation in Republika Srpska. Montenegro removes visa exemption for Turkish citizens. The institutional deadlock in Kosovo continues. Greece approves a controversial labour reform. In Türkiye, the country's cross-border military mandates are extended in the same month the PKK terrorist organization announces its withdrawal from the country. Syria holds elections and reaches a ceasefire agreement with the SDF. In Tunisia, there are protests in Gabes. In Algeria, there are new opposition arrests. Youth protests are staged in Morocco.

Portugal

- On 13 October Portugal holds local elections in which the PSD claims victory in several of the country's big cities.
- On 16 October the President, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, enacts the new, restrictive immigration law approved on 30 September in the Parliament with the unanimous support of the right and far right, after the Constitutional Court rejected the first version of the text in August. On 28 October, the Parliament approves the Nationality Law, which raises the required years of residency from five to 10 years, imposes language and culture exams and allows citizenship to be revoked for serious crimes.

Spain

- On 27 October the Catalan pro-independence party Junts breaks its investiture pact with the PSOE claiming that Pedro Sanchez's government has failed to fulfil the amnesty agreed upon for the leaders of the Catalan independence movement and has been incapable of garnering parliamentary approval for the transfer of powers over migration to the Catalan authorities, a move rejected on 23 September by a parliamentary majority.

France

- On 2 October thousands of people demonstrate across France on a day of national strike against the draft budget of the new Prime Minister, Sebastien Lecornu, which seeks a six-billion-euro reduction in public spending and sets the public deficit at 4.7% of GDP for 2026. On 6 October, Lecornu resigns amid criticism of the composition of his first government, but is reappointed on 10 October by the President, Emmanuel Macron. On 13 October, a new technocrat cabinet is unveiled.
- On 21 October the former President Nicolas Sarkozy becomes the first Head of State of the 5th Republic to enter prison to serve the five-year sentence handed down to him on 25 September by the Paris Criminal Court for the irregular funding of his 2007 election campaign with money from Muammar Gaddafi's regime.

- On 30 October the National Assembly for the first time adopts a motion presented by the far right to repeal the 1968 agreement that grants Algerian citizens in France special residency and immigration rights.

Italy

- On 3-4 October Italy is brought to a standstill by a national strike and mass demonstrations against the politics of the Prime Minister, Giorgia Meloni, and against Israel's actions in Gaza. On 25 October, new demonstrations are staged called by the Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGIL), which threatens to organize another national strike.
- On 5-6, and 12-13 October Calabria and Tuscany, respectively, hold regional elections. In Calabria, the centre-right coalition led by Roberto Occhiuto (Forza Italia, FI) wins with 57.26% of the vote. In Tuscany, the centre left reaffirms its hegemony and Eugenio Giani, from the Democratic Party (PD), is re-elected with 54% of the vote.
- On 9 October the Parliament denies authorization for the trial of the Justice and Interior Ministers, Carlo Nordio and Matteo Piantedosi, as well as the State Secretary, Alfredo Mantovano, for releasing the Libyan general Osama Al-masri, who is wanted by the ICC for war crimes.
- On 21 October 132 members of the 'Ndrangheta are handed down prison sentences totalling 1,098 years after their arrest in 2023 in what is described as the biggest European operation against the Calabrian mafia.
- On 29 October the Auditors' Court suspends the large-scale construction project of a bridge between Calabria and Sicily, approved in August by the government.
- On 30 October the constitutional reform presented by the government that foresees separating the career paths of judges and public prosecutors, as well as splitting them into two separate entities, is approved in the Parliament. It must now be confirmed in a public referendum in the spring of 2026. The opposition to Giorgia Meloni's government says the measure undermines the independence of judicial powers.

Croatia

- On 24 October the Parliament approves re-establishing mandatory military service.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 19 October in an attempt to stabilize the institutional situation of the Republika Srpska, the Bosnian Serb Parliament appoints Ana Trisic Babic as interim President of the entity until the early elections in November, called after Milorad Dodik's removal and ban from office. Meanwhile, on 17 and 29 October, the US lifts sanctions imposed on Dodik and 47 people and companies linked to him for undermining the Dayton Accords and approving unconstitutional laws, in a decision interpreted as a conciliatory gesture after the political changes in Banja Luka. In light of the situation, the referendum scheduled for 25 October on the population's acceptance of the authority of decisions taken by the federal Constitutional Court concerning the entity's territory is not held after, on 15 October, the Bosnian Serb Parliament retracts six laws previously annulled by the High Court, among them the law on immovable property, which transferred control over state property to the entity, in a move to ease tensions with the international community.

Montenegro

- On 7 October the former minister Predrag Boskovic, from the Democratic Party of Socialists of Montenegro (DPS), is released pending trial after his previous day's arrest for being part of a criminal organization that uses the media to attack opposition figures.
- On 27 October the government revokes visa-free regime for Turks after, on 25 October, the police arrest some 50 Turkish and Azerbaijani nationals in Podgorica, two of whom are implicated in the stabbing of a local resident. During the arrests, dozens of people gather shouting slogans against Turks and forcing a police intervention.

Serbia

- On 9 October Serbia accuses Türkiye of destabilizing the Balkans after the signing of a deal with Kosovo for the purchase of combat drones.
- On 12 October the President, Aleksandar Vucic, expresses his frustration with Russia over the offer of a gas supply deal that only lasts until the end of 2025, despite months of negotiations to reach an agreement similar to the previous one, for three years.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 10 October the Parliament agrees on the election of a Serb deputy speaker for the house – Nenad Rasic –, thereby meeting the condition imposed by the Constitutional Court to be able to proceed to the election of a new government and put an end to nearly nine months of institutional deadlock. Srpska Lista, however, opposes Rasic's election, believing the position should fall to one of its MPs, since the party is the biggest from the Serb community. On 26 October, the acting Prime Minister, Albin Kurti, fails to garner the parliamentary support needed to form a new government, thereby prolonging the country's institutional crisis.
- On 29 October Syria recognizes Kosovo's independence.

North Macedonia

- On 2 October the Judicial Council dismisses the judge Enver Bexheti citing a serious disciplinary violation, after being sanctioned by the US in 2024 for corruption, along with the former Prime Minister, Artan Grubi.

Albania

- On 31 October Fatos Nano, the three-times Albania Prime Minister between 1991 and 2005, passes away.

Greece

- On 6 October the former Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras, announces he is giving up his seat in the Parliament in representation of the Coalition of the Radical Left (Syriza-AP), hinting at the possible start of a new political project.

- On 15, 21 and 28 October a total of 159 migrants are rescued off the islands of Gavdos and Crete.
- On 16 October the Parliament passes the labour reform that allows 13-hour workdays, proposed by the government, despite the mobilizations and national strike on 14 October.

Türkiye

- On 22 October the Parliament extends its mandates for Türkiye's military operations in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon for a record three years until 30 October 2028. The decision is justified by the persistent threat of the PKK terrorist organization and the Kurdish-Syrian militia the People's Protection Units (YPG).
- On 24 October the Turkish judiciary dismisses the case for alleged bribery opened against the opposition figure Ozgur Ozel (CHP) on the grounds of a lack of evidence.
- On 26 October the PKK terrorist organization announces the withdrawal of all its fighters from Türkiye, after four decades of armed conflict against the Turkish State.
- On 29 October a leaked draft from the government's 11th Judicial Package reveals a draft law that expressly criminalizes LGBTI+ identity and rights with prison sentences for "anyone promoting or praising behaviour contrary to one's biological sex and public morality."

Cyprus

- On 19 October with 62.76% of the vote, Tufan Erhurman, from the Turkish Republican Party (CTP, pro-reunification social democratic), snatches the leadership of the north of the island from the Türkiye-backed independent candidate and supporter of the two-state solution Ersin Tatar (35.81%).

Syria

- On 5 October Syria goes to the polls for the first time since the fall of the Assad regime with indirect elections. 140 seats are up for election across the provincial electoral colleges and the 70 remaining seats will be directly designated by the interim President, Ahmad al-Sharaa. The voting is postponed in Sweida due to the

security crisis in the Kurdish-controlled areas of Raqa and Hasaka, with 21 seats in these areas left temporarily vacant. This Parliament must draft a new constitution and permanent electoral law.

- On 7 October the Syrian authorities and the SDF agree on a general ceasefire on all fronts, after fighting is reported in Aleppo the previous day.
- On 21 October Syria seizes around 12 million captagon pills in Damascus, days after a seizure of 265,000 pills in Aleppo.

Lebanon

- On 18 October the UN Security Council shows its support for the government's progress towards asserting its authority and sovereignty throughout Lebanon and urges the international community to support the Lebanese Armed Forces and to respect international law. The statement coincides with unrelenting Israeli strikes on Hezbollah targets throughout October, despite the November 2024 ceasefire.

Egypt

- On 22 October the EU holds its first bilateral summit with a North African country, Egypt, in which four agreements were signed, including one that raises European macro-financial assistance to five billion euros.

Libya

- On 1 October 15 major NGOs denounce the brutality of the Libyan coast guard and call for an end to European cooperation with the country's authorities.
- On 12 October Libya reports the discovery of at least 61 migrant bodies on its shores over the last two weeks.
- On 23 October the delivery is revealed of four military helicopters from South Africa to Khalifa Haftar's LNA, possibly with logistical support from Russia, in what would be a violation of the UN arms embargo on Libya, in force since 2011.

Tunisia

- On 21 October thousands of people demonstrate in Gabes during a national strike to call for the closure of a phos-

phates plant belonging to the Tunisian Chemical Group (GCT), denouncing toxic emissions, pollutant dumping and a failure to protect the public health.

- On 24 October the head of the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women (ATFD), Raja Dahmani, announces that she has received a judicial decision ordering the suspension of her activities for one month.
- On 31 October the human rights lawyer arrested in April, Ahmed Souab, is sentenced to five years in prison for criticizing the judicial powers.

Algeria

- On 19 October Fethi Ghares, leader of the Democratic and Social Movement (MDS, socialist), banned in 2023, is sentenced to two years in prison for insulting the President. Since the outbreak of the Hirak movement protests in 2019, in which the MDS was involved from the outset, Ghares has been repeatedly arrested and convicted.
- On 26 October Rachid Hachichi, chairman of the state-owned gas and oil company Sonatrach, is dismissed without any reason given for the decision.

Morocco

- On 2 October the youth protests in Morocco reach their fifth night of unrest, during which two demonstrators die in clashes with police. Throughout October, over 600 arrests are recorded with sentences of up to 15 years in prison. The mobilizations are brought under control with a notable increase in security measures. On 20 October, the government presents a series of proposals for institutional reform and increasing the budget for education and health for 2026.

EU

- On 4 October the victory claimed by the Action of Dissatisfied Citizens (ANO, right-wing populist), led by Andrej Babis, in Czechia's legislative elections bolsters the pro-Russian sector within the EU, until now comprising Hungary and Slovakia.
- On 4 October the EU sharply condemns the local elections held in Georgia on the same day, denouncing a cli-

mate of repression, arrests and pressure on the media.

- On 9 October the Commission opens an investigation following revelations in the media concerning an alleged spy ring operated from the Permanent Representation of Hungary during the years it was led by the current commissioner Oliver Varhelyi.
- On 30 October the US initiates a partial withdrawal of its forces from NATO's eastern flank, citing a mere strategic adjustment. The decision coincides with an increase in aerial tensions, with several Russian drones and warplanes detected over Denmark, Latvia, Poland, Lithuania and Belgium.

November 2025

In Spain, the regional president of Valencia resigns, the Supreme Court disqualifies a Chief State Prosecutor from legal office and a former development minister is jailed in a corruption probe involving the PSOE. In France, the pension reform is suspended and voluntary military service is announced. In Monaco, Prince Albert II vetoes the legalization of abortion. In Italy, an investigation is launched into the alleged "human safaris" during the siege of Sarajevo, regional elections are held and the "Michelangelo Dome," a new defence system, is unveiled. Slovenia rejects the new law that legalizes euthanasia in a referendum. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republika Srpska holds early presidential elections. Kosovo and North Macedonia hold the run-offs for their local elections, while the leader of the main opposition party in Kosovo resigns. In Albania, the Deputy Prime Minister is suspended in the same month that the country opens the last cluster of its accession negotiations. A Turkish Chief Prosecutor demands a 2,350-year jail sentence for the opposition leader Ekrem Imamoglu. The US lifts sanctions on Ahmed al-Sharaa, while the clashes between Syria's political and sectarian factions continue, as do the Israeli attacks in southern Lebanon, where pressure is stepped up to disarm Hezbollah. Cyprus and Lebanon agree to define their maritime border. In Tunisia, sentences

are handed down in the mass trial against opponents of President Saïed.

Portugal

- On 25 November 10 officers from the Republican National Guard and a police officer are arrested for their alleged participation in a criminal organization that extorts undocumented migrants living in sub-human conditions and treated like slaves in Alentejo.
- On 25 November it is 50 years since the 1975 failed left-wing coup attempt by the armed forces. The parliamentary far right calls for the date to be used as an alternative to the victory of the Carnation Revolution, on 25 April 1974.
- On 27 November the Parliament approves the 2026 budget, which establishes a 0.1% surplus of GDP.

Spain

- On 3 November Carlos Mazon resigns as president of the Community of Valencia, after a year of criticism and condemnation over the lack of planning and mismanagement for the damage caused by the October 2024 DANA, which resulted in serious floods in the area of Valencia and claimed 220 lives. On 28 November, another member of the People's Party, Juan Francisco Perez Llorca, is elected as the regional president by the Valencian Parliament.
- On 16 November the capture in Spain of Pipo Chavarria, leader of Los Lobos and one of the most wanted criminals in Ecuador, spotlights the alarming rise in Latin American drug smuggling gangs in Spain, where they base their criminal operations.
- On 17 November the European Commission warns Spain that the contract with Huawei to manage judicial wiretaps could create a dependency on a high-risk supplier and compromises the Union's security and technological sovereignty.
- On 18 November the president of the Almeria Provincial Council, Javier Aureliano Garcia (PP), is arrested along with other senior officials for allegedly fraudulent contracts for healthcare equipment during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- On 20 November the Supreme Court convicts a Chief State Prosecutor for the

first time in Spanish history, disqualifying Alvaro Garcia Ortiz for two years for leaking secrets from a tax fraud investigation against the businessman Alberto Gonzalez Amador, the partner of Madrid's regional president, Isabel Diaz Ayuso.

- On 27 November the former Development Minister Jose Luis Abalos and his former advisor Koldo Garcia enter pre-trial detention by order of the Supreme Court, as part of the investigation into a corruption network involving senior figures from the PSOE.

France

- On 10 November the Paris Appeals Court orders the provisional release of the former President Nicolas Sarkozy, after serving 20 days of his five-year prison sentence for financing his 2007 election campaign with funds from the Libyan regime of Muammar Gaddafi.
- On 12 November the National Assembly approves the suspension of the pension reform adopted in 2023, which triggered the current political crisis and whose repeal, presented on 14 October by the Prime Minister, Sebastien Lecornu, constitutes a major concession to the socialists to prevent the collapse of the new cabinet.
- On 17 November the French President, Emmanuel Macron, and his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky, sign an important security cooperation agreement which furthers Paris's commitment to Kiev, reaffirms France as a pillar of the European military and anchors Ukraine within the Union's security architecture.
- On 22 November thousands of people protest against the violence in Marseille and to honour Mehdi Kessaci, the recently murdered brother of an anti-drug activist, amid mounting violence related with drug trafficking.
- On 27 November President Macron announces the implementation of a voluntary military service from 2026.
- On 27 November a judicial inquiry made public by several European media outlets has found that over 240 women have accused a former senior figure in the French Ministry of Culture, Christian Negre, of drugging them during a work interview between 2011 and 2019. This is one of the biggest scandals of chem-

ical submission and abuse of power in the history of the French civil service and reignites the debate on gender violence, institutional immunity and a sluggish justice system.

Monaco

- On 24 November Prince Albert II vetoes a bill legalizing abortion, approved by the National Council (Parliament) in May. The 2009 law thereby remains in force, which only allows pregnancies to be aborted in cases of rape, severe fetal abnormalities or if they pose a threat to the mother's life.

Italy

- On 11 November the Milan Public Prosecutor launches an investigation into the organization of human safaris during the siege of Sarajevo (1992-1996), in which civilians are alleged to have paid large sums of money to travel to the city and fire at defenceless people as if it were a hunt, following a documented report presented by the writer Ezio Gavazzeni.
- On 18-19 November a rare institutional clash between the government and the presidency follows the FdI's demands that Quirinal deny information concerning an alleged plan to undermine the government of Giorgia Meloni attributed to Francesco Saverio Garofani, advisor to President Sergio Mattarella.
- On 23-24 November Campania, Veneto and Apulia hold regional elections. The centre right, with Alberto Stefani (League), wins in Veneto, while the opposition claims victory with Roberto Fico (M5S) in Campania and Antonio Decaro (PD) in Apulia.
- On 29 November Italy unveils the Michelangelo Dome, a highly advanced integrated defence system to protect European countries from possible missile attacks and other technological threats.

Slovenia

- On 18 November the Parliament passes a controversial law giving greater powers to the police in "high-risk" areas and which, according to human rights organizations, stigmatizes the Roma community.

- On 23 November in a national referendum, the Slovenian people reject the law on assisted dying, with around 53% voting against it, thereby preventing its entry into force. The law was approved by the Parliament in July, following an initial veto from the National Council and after a consultative referendum in June 2024 backed the general idea of legalizing assisted dying.

Croatia

- On 3 November a group of around 50 masked men burst into a performance that forms part of the Days of Serbian Culture in Split, disrupting the event and threatening attendees with cries of the Ustasha regime slogan "Za dom spremni." The incident, which was carried out by the far right, prompts political condemnation and reflects the persistent inter-ethnic tensions with the Serb minority in Croatia.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- On 23 November the Republika Srpska holds snap presidential elections to replace Milorad Dodik, who was dismissed in August. Sinisa Karan (SNSD) wins with 50.9% of the vote. The opposition denounces "electoral theft" and irregularities in several municipalities.

Serbia

- On 1 November exactly a year after the collapse of the Novi Sad train station canopy that left 16 people dead, a large demonstration in Belgrade with participants from all over the country calls for early elections, sparking unrest and leading to at least 40 arrests. On 17 November, fresh incidents are reported in Novi Sad linked to the student protests that erupted following the collapse.
- On 7 November despite protests staged by the opposition and heritage organizations, the Parliament approves fast-tracking the redevelopment, approved in January, of the former Yugoslav army headquarters in Belgrade, damaged by NATO bombing in 1999, into an urban complex. The project is to be carried out by a firm linked with Jared Kushner, the US President Donald Trump's son-in-law.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 9 November Kosovo holds the run-offs for its local elections in 21 of its 38 municipalities, where candidates failed to achieve a victory with over 50% of the vote in the first round, on 12 October.
- On 12 November Memli Krasniqi resigns as leader of the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK, conservative nationalist), four months after being re-elected citing a need for internal renewal in the party's leadership. On 17 November, the PDK elects Bedri Hamza as its new leader.

North Macedonia

- On 2 November North Macedonia holds the run-offs for its local elections, after the first round on 19 October. Overall, VMRO-DPMNE claims victory in 54 of the country's 81 municipalities, that is, 12 more than in the 2021 local elections.
- On 16 November thousands of demonstrators call for justice and compensation in Skopje over the fire that left 63 people dead in Kocani in March. The trial begins on 19 November.

Albania

- On 3 November the Constitutional Court overturns the decision to dismiss the mayor of Tirana, Erion Veliaj, made in September over seven months after his arrest on corruption charges. It also cancels the early elections in the Albanian capital scheduled for 9 November. As a result, Veliaj can continue to perform his duties from prison.
- On 7 November the Parliament approves the new gender equality law that strengthens protection against gender-based violence, introduces quotas that require 30 to 50% of positions in government bodies to be held by women and recognizes unpaid work as an economic contribution.
- On 17 November a year after the accession talks began, Albania opens the last cluster of negotiation chapters with the EU – agriculture, fisheries, food safety and cohesion policies.
- On 20 November the Anti-corruption Court suspends the Deputy Prime Min-

ister, Belinda Balluku, for alleged irregularities in tender procedures, as part of the anti-corruption probe which, since 2024, has been investigating contract awards and tenders in several ministries, including the Ministry of Infrastructure, which Balluku herself used to head.

Greece

- On 13 November the US designates the Greek anarchist groups Armed Proletarian Justice and Revolutionary Class Self-Defence as terrorist organizations, along with the Informal Anarchist Federation/International Revolutionary Front (FAI/FRI), based in Italy, and the German Antifa Ost.
- On 18 November the US formally presents its backing for a plan to transform the Port of Eleusis into a major logistics hub, as an alternative to Piraeus – controlled by the Chinese firm COSCO. On 20 November, Beijing accuses Washington of interfering in Greece's internal affairs, laying bare the geopolitical battle for Greece's strategic ports.

Türkiye

- On 11 November the Public Prosecutor seeks a prison sentence totalling 2,350 years for 142 alleged offences tied to corruption and organized crime for Ekrem Imamoglu, the former CHP mayor of Istanbul and political rival of President Erdogan, arrested and jailed in March.
- On 26 November the well-known journalist Fatih Altayli is sentenced to 50 months in prison, accused of threatening the President, Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Cyprus

- On 26 November Cyprus and Lebanon reach a historic agreement to demarcate their maritime borders.

Syria

- On 7 November the US lifts sanctions on the Syrian President, Ahmed al-Sharaa, a day after the United Nations Security Council does the same. The decision comes during the first official visit of a Syrian Head of State to the US since 1946, with the goal of advancing towards Syria's entry into the Global Coalition

against IS, negotiating an easing of existing sanctions and establishing military cooperation with Washington that could include the opening of a US military base.

- On 12 November two soldiers are killed in a Daesh bomb attack in Deir ez-Zor. Throughout November, there are clashes, attacks, ambushes and skirmishes between jihadists, government forces and SDF units, reflecting the persistent territorial fragility, despite the political changes in Damascus.
- On 13 November Syria reopens its embassy in the United Kingdom after being closed for almost 14 years.
- On 24 November a curfew is imposed in Homs after the bodies of a married couple are found in Zeidal, south of the city, apparently the result of a sectarian incident.

Lebanon

- On 7 November, with Israel stepping up its strikes in southern Lebanon, the US gives Beirut an ultimatum to disarm Hezbollah before the end of the month.
- On 11 November Hannibal Gaddafi, Muammar Gaddafi's son, is released on bail after almost a decade in pre-trial detention in Lebanon, accused of withholding information about the disappearance of the Shia cleric Musa al-Sadr in 1978.
- On 20 November UNIFIL reports over 10,000 Israeli ceasefire violations in southern Lebanon, recorded since November 2024. During November, constant exchanges of fire are reported between Hezbollah and Israel, as well as isolated clashes between the Lebanese army, local militias and jihadist cells in eastern Lebanon.

Jordan

- On 28 November Jordan denounces the Russian army's recruitment of Jordanian citizens to fight in Ukraine.

Egypt

- On 24 November the US President, Donald Trump, signs an order for a process to investigate whether to designate the international Islamist organization the Muslim Brotherhood, and especially its branches in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, a terrorist organization.

Libya

- On 5 November the Tripoli-based authorities announce the arrest of Osama Almasri Najim, a former police chief wanted by the ICC for war crimes and recently deported back to Libya by Italy, after spending several months in prison.
- On 9 November Italy automatically renews its agreement with Libya to halt irregular migration, maintaining its funding and support of the Libyan coast guard, despite the UN and numerous NGOs reporting human rights violations and shots fired at rescue ships in international waters.
- On 18 November the LNA, commanded by the general Khalifa Haftar, announces a joint force with the Chad-ian army to patrol their shared border and step up the fight against smuggling rings and armed groups, amid mounting destabilization in Chad and the civil war raging in neighbouring Sudan.
- On 30 November Libya's electoral commission says it is ready to hold general elections in April 2026, a vital step to put an end to years of political crisis, clashes and the division between the two parallel governments.

Tunisia

- On 12 November Maher Zid, former MP from the al-Karama party, is sentenced in absentia to 25 years in prison, accused of attacking the State and spreading lies.
- On 13 November fresh mobilizations in Gabes call for the closure of the local phosphate plant.
- On 18 November Jawhar Ben Mbarek, the co-founder of the FNS jailed in 2023 and sentenced in April to 18 years in prison for conspiracy against state security, is hospitalized for the fifth time since the start of his hunger strike at the end of October. On 19 November, other opposition figures like Issam Chebbi or Rached Ghannouchi suspend their own hunger strikes staged as a gesture of solidarity with Ben Mbarek.
- On 23 November thousands of people gather in Tunis in one of the largest protests in recent times against President Kais Saied.
- On 28 November a day after the release of the lawyer Sonia Dahmani, ar-

rested on 11 May for criticizing the government, President Kais Saied brands a new European Parliament resolution that calls for the release of all people jailed for exercising their freedom of expression as "blatant interference".

- On 28 November the Court of appeal hands down sentences of up to 45 years' imprisonment for conspiracy to dozens of defendants, most of them opponents to Kais Saied's government.
- On 29 November the poet and activist Chaima Issa is arrested during a demonstration in the Tunisian capital protesting against the previous day's ruling upholding prison sentences of between 10 and 45 years handed down to 40 opposition figures to President Saied, including Issa herself.

Algeria

- On 12 November the Algerian President, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, pardons the French-Algerian writer Boualem Sansal, sentenced to five years in prison for "undermining national unity," a conviction upheld on appeal on 1 July after it was handed down in March.

Mauritania

- On 4 November the Supreme Court upholds the 15-year prison sentence handed down to the former President, Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, for corruption.

EU

- On 5 November EU Environment Ministers set a mandatory 90% net greenhouse gas emissions target for 2040, compared with 1990 levels.
- On 7 November the EU toughens visa rules for Russian citizens amid mounting tensions with Russia. On 14 November, NATO concludes Operation Romania, which mobilizes 5,000 troops on its eastern flank. On 19 November, the EU approves what has been dubbed "Military Schengen," which establishes an area of military mobility throughout the Union as of 2027.
- On 19 November the US presents a 28-point peace plan for Ukraine to NATO, which includes a ceasefire, possible territorial concessions to Russia and limits on the size of its armed forces.

The proposal, drafted without participation from either Europe or Kiev, is perceived by the EU as being excessively aligned to Russian demands. On 23 November, the EU presents a counter-offer demanding a verifiable Russian withdrawal, a strictly conditioned lifting of sanctions and respect for Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic course. The European proposal is rejected by Moscow.

- On 25 November the CJEU rules that all EU countries must recognize same-sex marriages that take place in another Member State.
- On 28 November to mark the 30th anniversary of the Barcelona Process, ministers from the EU and Southern Mediterranean Partner Countries launch the Pact for the Mediterranean, presented on 16 October by the Commission.

December 2025

In Portugal, the first national strike in 12 years and the Constitutional Court's overturning of the nationality law mark a month of political tension. In Spain, accusations of sexual harassment lead to resignations in the PSOE and Extremadura holds elections. In Italy, the Court of Cassation definitively acquits Matteo Salvini in the Open Arms case. Serbia faces an energy crisis after the closure of its only refinery. Kosovo holds early elections. Migrant arrivals increase in Greece. In Syria, a reactivation of Daesh causes a spike in terrorist attacks and offensives. In Tunisia, the repression is stepped up against the opposition. Algeria classifies the French colonization as a crime. Mauritania announces trials for corruption.

Portugal

- On 12 December Portugal's first national strike in 12 years rejects the draft labour law reform, which is yet to be debated in the Parliament.
- On 13 December Paulo Jorge Abreu dos Santos, a former aide to the Justice Minister, is arrested and placed in pre-trial detention charged with the sexual abuse of minors and multiple crimes involving child pornography.
- On 15 December the Constitutional Court strikes down four articles from the

nationality law approved in October, as well as the modification of the Criminal Code, under which naturalized nationals who have committed serious crimes could be stripped of their citizenship.

Spain

- On 1 December the first Spanish cell linked to The Base, the neo-Nazi white supremacist and accelerationist group listed as a terrorist group by the EU, is dismantled, with the arrest of several of its members.
- On 9 December the government and the PSOE announce the suspension of membership rights and dismissal from all duties of the senior official Paco Salazar, following accusations of sexual harassment made in July by several women in the party, who decry months of inaction. On 10 December, the socialist Jose Tome resigns as president of Lugo's provincial council and regional leader of the PSOE following similar reports against him.
- On 21 December Extremadura holds regional elections. The PP wins most votes taking 29 seats, although without garnering an absolute majority. The PSOE suffers a major collapse down to just 18 regional deputies, while Vox increases its seat count to 11.

France

- On 16 December the Parliament approves the 2026 Social Security budget, which includes an amendment that definitively suspends the controversial pension reform.

Italy

- On 17 December the Court of Cassation acquits Matteo Salvini over his decision to block the disembarkation in August 2019 of 147 migrants rescued by the Open Arms rescue ship, during his time as Interior Minister.
- On 21 December 50 migrants are rescued off the shores of Lampedusa.

Croatia

- On 9 December the parties Home and National Gathering, DOMINO, Croatian Sovereigns and other far-right

groups sign a cooperation memorandum in Vukovar to run jointly in the next parliamentary elections, thereby forming a sovereignist Christian bloc.

- On 15 December the Parliament passes a law to build a radioactive waste storage facility near the border with Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the plan sparks protests over the possible environmental impact in the Una River basin.

Serbia

- On 2 December the Pancevo oil refinery, the only one in Serbia, is shut down after the US sanctions on the mainly Russian-owned NIS oil company entered fully into effect in October. The measures block payments and supply through Croatia's JANAF pipeline, leaving Serbia on the brink of a winter energy crisis and testing its foreign policy's "four pillars doctrine" which seeks to simultaneously balance good relations with the EU, US, Russia and China.
- On 24 December due to a lack of evidence, criminal proceedings are dropped against the former minister Goran Vesic and five others blamed for the Novi Sad train station canopy collapse in November 2024, which killed 16 people. The court upholds the charges against seven other defendants.

Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

- On 6 December the new mayors of Srpska Lista are sworn into office in the four Serb-majority municipalities in northern Kosovo, recovering institutional control after the Serbian boycott of 2022-2023, which enabled the election of Kosovo Albanian mayors on an extremely low turnout.
- On 10 December the trial begins against the acting Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade Minister, Rozeta Hajdari, accused in November by the Special Prosecution of abuse of power and disseminating state secrets in connection with the alleged misuse of state reserves in 2022.
- On 17 December the dismissal of the acting State Chief Prosecutor, Besim Kelmendi, ordered by the Prosecu-

torial Council on 20 November after accusing him of allegedly collaborating in 1999 with a Serbian judge in relation to the Racak massacre, is overturned by the Supreme Court, which rules the decision to be unlawful due to serious procedural violations.

- On 19 December the Bahamas recognizes Kosovo's independence.
- On 28 December Kosovo holds snap legislative elections, called by the President, Vjosa Osmani, after Vetevendosje, winner of the February elections, fails to secure enough parliamentary support for either Albin Kurti's proposed government in October or Glauk Konjufca's in November. Vetevendosje wins with 51.1% of the vote.

Albania

- On 11 December Klodian Braho is elected the new head of the Special Prosecution against Corruption and Organized Crime (SPAK), to replace Altin Dumani, whose term comes to an end.
- On 18 December opposition MPs lead clashes with the Parliament's security guards while the new Ombudsman, Endri Shabani, takes his oath after being elected almost solely with votes from the ruling PS. The incident takes place amid a climate of mounting tensions over high-level corruption probes, including SPAK's request to lift the immunity of the Deputy Prime Minister, Belinda Balluku, charged with corruption on 20 November. On 22 December, supporters of the opposition Democratic Party (PD, liberal-conservative) protest in Tirana against Edi Rama's government, following Balluku's indictment and the raids carried out by the National Agency for Information Society (AKSHI) within the investigations into alleged corruption.

Greece

- On 11 December the Greek Kyriakos Pierrakakis is elected President of the Eurogroup after the unexpected withdrawal of Ireland's Paschal Donohoe.
- On 19 December 545 migrants are rescued in Gavdos, added to which are a further 800 on 26 and 28 December off the coast of Crete, amid a surge in arrivals and worsening of climate conditions.

Türkiye

- On 19 December Yasir Gulen, nephew of Fethulah Gulen, leader of the Hizmet movement and blamed by Türkiye for the 2016 attempted coup, is arrested in Istanbul.
- On 19 December the journalist Levant Gultekin is released under judicial supervision after being arrested on charges of spreading misleading information.
- On 29 December three police officers and six alleged Daesh militants are killed in Yalova during a counter-terrorism operation to thwart potential attacks during the New Year celebrations. On 29 and 31 December, 475 arrests are made of suspected Daesh members across 20 provinces, adding to the 115 previous arrests, on 25 December.
- On 30 December Türkiye brands Israel's recognition of Somaliland as unacceptable, reaffirming Türkiye's support of Somalia's territorial integrity in the crisis triggered by Ethiopia's decision to recognize Somaliland in exchange for obtaining access to the Red Sea.

Cyprus

- On 8 December there are changes in the cabinet affecting the ministries of Labour, Justice, Health, Social Welfare and Energy.

Syria

- On 1 December the US confirms joint operations against Daesh with the Syrian security forces. On 13 December, a Daesh ambush in Palmyra kills two US soldiers and a civilian interpreter, amid a resurgence of the group's activities in the Syrian desert. During the following weeks, Daesh carries out isolated attacks on Syrian forces and Kurdish positions in Deir ez-Zor and Homs, to which the international coalition responds with airstrikes.
- On 16 December the US President, Donald Trump, signs a proclamation that extends the ban on entry of foreign nationals to the US to citizens holding passports issued by Syria or the Palestinian Authority, among others.

Egypt

- On 25 December the economist Abdel Khalek Farouk sees his five-year prison sentence upheld for disseminating fake news over a series of articles that were critical of the government's economic policy.

Libya

- On 13 December the second phase of the municipal elections comes to a fragmented conclusion, scheduled for 63 municipalities and held in stages from 16 August following several postponements due to security concerns. In total, 51 municipalities vote, thereby gradually completing the process initiated in November 2024.
- On 27 December the remains of the Libyan chief of staff, Mohamed al-Haddad, arrive in Tripoli after his death on 23 December in a plane crash in Türkiye.
- On 31 December Libya summons its ambassador in Pakistan for consultations over the rapprochement between Islamabad and Marshal Khalifa Haftar, leader of the LNA, which is loyal to the parallel government in Tobruk.

Tunisia

- On 2 December the prominent opposition figure and former minister, Ayachi Hammami, is arrested after being sentenced on appeal to five years in prison for conspiracy in the mass trial that began in March. On 23 December, the former Prime Minister Rachid Ghannouchi and former minister Ali Larayedh, the leaders of Ennahda, begin a hunger strike from prison in solidarity with Hammami.
- On 4 December the leader of the opposition coalition FNS, Ahmed Najib Chebbi, is arrested after being sentenced on appeal to 12 years in prison for conspiracy.
- On 12 December the leader of the PDL, Abir Moussi, is sentenced to 12 years in prison for "an assault intended at sowing chaos."
- On 13 December hundreds protest in Tunisia for the fourth Saturday in a row against the government of Kais Saied's crackdown on freedoms.

- On 17 December thousands of Tunisians take to the streets to show their support for President Kais Saied, coinciding with the 15th anniversary of the overthrow of Zine el Abidine Ben Ali.

Algeria

- On 3 December the seven-year prison sentence handed down by an Algerian court in June to French journalist Christophe Gleizes for glorifying terrorism is upheld on appeal.
- On 8 December the Parliament approves the criminal code reform, despite criticisms from NGOs, who warn of possible restrictions on civil society actions in cases of corruption.
- On 24 December the Parliament passes a law declaring the French colonization of Algeria as a crime.

Mauritania

- On 9 December the government announces judicial proceedings against around 30 politicians, including the former minister Taleb Ould Sid'Ahmed, who is named in the Court of Accounts 2022-2023 report that highlights irregularities amounting to several million euros and the mismanagement of Covid-19-related funds and unlawful recruitment procedures.

EU

- On 3 December after an agreement between the Parliament and the Council, the EU announces it will definitively end imports of Russian gas in autumn 2027 and accelerate efforts to end its dependency on Russian oil. Hungary and Slovakia announce they will challenge the measure at the CJEU.
- On 4 December the former EU High Representative, Federica Mogherini, resigns as rector of the College of Europe after being indicted for alleged fraud and corruption in the tender for a programme financed with European funds; the investigation, led by the European Public Prosecutor's Office, also implicates the senior civil servant Stefano Sannino, who announces his withdrawal from the Commission in the context of the investigation.

- On 8 December, with the exception of Spain, the EU's Interior Ministers approve setting up deportation centres in safe third countries for migrants who have been given expulsion orders. These include accession candidate countries and others like Colombia, Morocco, Tunisia, Kosovo, Bangladesh, India and Egypt.

Gibraltar

- On 11 January a British Royal Navy vessel harasses a Civil Guard patrol boat in the Bay of Gibraltar, in one of the incidents arising from the dispute between Spain and the United Kingdom over the waters surrounding Gibraltar.
- On 9 July the EU removes Gibraltar from its list of high-risk jurisdictions for money laundering after recognizing upgrades in its financial regulatory framework.
- On 3 September the British Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, and his Spanish counterpart, Pedro Sanchez, meet in London to sign the agreement on Gibraltar announced on 11 June, which clarifies its situation regarding the Schengen Area following Brexit and includes cooperation in areas like Defence, the energy transition, cybersecurity and business.

Western Sahara

- On 8 April the Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Staffan de Mistura, visits the Sahrawi refugee camps in Tindouf (Algeria), where he meets with the Polisario Front leader, Brahim Ghali, and the Sahrawi representative to the UN, Sidi Mohamed Omar, with the aim of reactivating the peace process, which has been paralysed for many years.
- On 9 April Donald Trump's government reiterates the US' support for the Moroccan autonomy plan for Western Sahara under Moroccan sovereignty, which it considers the only negotiating framework available to the Polisario Front.
- On 28 May the Polisario Front appoints Mohamed Yeslem Beissat as the new Foreign Minister to replace Mohamed Sidati, designated as the group's representative to the United Kingdom.

- On 1 June the United Kingdom expresses its support for the Moroccan autonomy plan for Western Sahara.
- On 5 June Ghana expresses its support for the Moroccan autonomy plan for Western Sahara.
- On 28 June the Polisario Front claims responsibility for a missile attack on Moroccan military bases near Esmera.
- On 22 July Portugal expresses its support for the Moroccan autonomy plan for Western Sahara.
- On 6 October the European Commission announces the provisional adaptation of its trade agreement with Morocco in Western Sahara, in response to the CJEU's October 2024 ruling and introduces requirements to include proofs of origin and labels on products coming from Sahrawi territory.
- On 21 October in a letter to the UN Secretary General, the Polisario Front leader, Brahim Ghali, expresses his readiness for direct negotiations with Morocco under UN auspices to settle the Sahrawi conflict. He does, however, maintain the red line of self-determination and the demand for a referendum that includes the option of independence.
- On 23 October Belgium expresses its support for the Moroccan autonomy plan for Western Sahara.
- On 29 October Paraguay confirms it will open a consulate in Western Sahara after showing its support for the Moroccan autonomy plan.
- On 31 October the Security Council, with 11 votes in favour, abstentions from Russia, China and Pakistan and Algeria's opposition, adopts a resolution under which the Moroccan autonomy plan once again forms the basis for a mutually acceptable political solution for Western Sahara. After this vote, Mohammed VI declares 31 October a national holiday known as Unity Day.
- On 29-30 November the 49th European Conference of Support and Solidarity with the Sahrawi People (EUCOCO) held in Paris urges Spain and France to defend the right to Sahrawi self-determination, faced with the Moroccan initiative to push forward an autonomy plan.
- On 5 December the Netherlands affirms that the Moroccan autonomy plan for Western Sahara is the "most feasible solution" for solving the Sahrawi conflict.

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