



## **Chronology: European Union Foreign Policy – Policy Developments (*partial*)**

### **1991**

*July*, the European Community establishes the European Community Monitoring Mission in Yugoslavia (ECMM)

*July*, declaration on EC-Japan relations

*October*, the Madrid Peace Conference on Middle East begins, where the EPC chairs the working group on regional economic development.

*November*, Association agreements are concluded between the EEC and Visegrad countries

*December*, EPC decision on recognising new independent states in Eastern Europe and Soviet Union (almost immediately undermined by Germany's decision to recognise Slovenian and Croatian independence; the rest of the EU forced to follow suit)

### **1992**

*April*, EC/member states recognise independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina

*May*, EC/member states agree to recognise independence of Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia only under that name

*July*, WEU begins monitoring the embargo against the former Yugoslavia on the Adriatic in cooperation with NATO and UN

### **1993**

*January-February*, Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with Russia is initiated

*21-22 June*, European Council conclusions on relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Copenhagen (set conditions for membership)

*June*, WEU deploys a police and customs mission to help Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania in enforcing UN sanctions on the Danube

*August*, EC/EU restricts aluminum imports from Russia in a trade dispute

*1 November*, Maastricht Treaty enters into force, CFSP established

*8 November*, CFSP Joint Action on support for convoying humanitarian aid in Bosnia and Herzegovina

*November*, CFSP Joint Action to send election observers to Russian parliamentary elections held on 12 December. The Council sets up special EU monitoring unit to coordinate European observer activities through Council of Europe, CSCE and the UN

*6 December*, CFSP Joint Action supporting the transition towards a democratic and multiracial South Africa

## **1994**

*February*, EU and US agree on two-part strategy to lift siege of Sarajevo through NATO auspices and work towards settlement based on the EU's revised action plan

*April*, EU expresses dismay at violence in Rwanda

*April*, EU, UN, US, and Russia establish a contact group in former Yugoslavia and call for a ceasefire, while the new map of Bosnia is negotiated.

*April*, CFSP Joint Action in support of the Middle East peace process.

*16 May*, CFSP Joint Action setting up EU administration of the divided city of Mostar, Bosnia-Herzegovina (lasts until July 1996)

*July*, WEU sends a police contingent to aid the EU administration of the city of Mostar (1994 to 1996)

## **1995**

*January*, Austria, Finland and Sweden join the EU

*March*, Customs union agreement signed with Turkey

*20-21 March*, conclusion of the final conference on the Pact on Stability in Europe, Paris (the conference began in May 1994, on the basis of a CFSP Joint Action)

*June*, Association agreements signed with Slovenia and the Baltic States

*June*, Cannes European Council reaches agreement on financing arrangements for the ACP (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) countries benefiting from the European Development Fund

*27-28 November*, Barcelona Declaration and Work Programme adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference, Barcelona

*3 December*, the New Transatlantic Agenda signed at the EU-US Summit, Madrid

*19 December*, CFSP Joint Action on EU participation in the peace plan for Bosnia Herzegovina

## **1996**

*January*, EU initiates ‘human rights dialogue’ with China; China suspends it until late 1997

*February* – Council adopts common positions on Burma and Cuba

*26 February*, Euro-Mediterranean agreement signed with Morocco

*March*, first EU-Asia summit (ASEM)

*March*, EU appoints a special representative to the African Great Lakes Region (to contribute to peace and stability processes there)

*13 May*, Council adopts ‘Action Plan for Russia’

*June*, agreements reached in Berlin on reform of NATO establish the principle of a European defense identity within the alliance

*25 November*, EU special representative to the Middle East Peace Process appointed

*November*, Council Joint Action supports the transition in Zaire (as the Democratic Republic of Congo was then known) and sets up a European Election Unit there

## **1997**

*March*, violence breaks out in Albania following collapse of pyramid savings schemes, but the EU/WEU cannot agree to send a peacekeeping force (instead Italy leads ad hoc mission to restore calm)

*March*, UN Human Rights Commission Meeting: no joint resolution on human rights issues in China was presented by the Council Presidency, unlike in previous years. China had indicated that it would use retaliatory measures against those member states that sponsored a resolution (Denmark, Netherlands, and Ireland).

*2 June*, Council common position on the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Africa; it opens the possibility of WEU proposals with defence implications

*July*, CFSP Joint Action providing assistance to the Palestinian Authority in counter-terrorism activities and appointment of a Special Envoy to implement the programme

*September*, EU supplies a number of supervisors for municipal elections in Bosnia-Herzegovina and elections in Republika Srpska in support of the OSCE work there

*November*, Cooperation agreement signed with Yemen; EU sends observer team to parliamentary elections

*12-13 December*, European Council conclusions on enlargement (launches first round of negotiations)

## **1998**

*April*, first EU summit with China

*May*, (non-binding) EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports agreed

*Spring – Summer, 1998* - new sanctions against Belgrade are put in place, in order to pressure the regime into finding a peaceful solution to the war breaking out in Kosovo at the time. Measures include visa bans for Serbian officials, bans on investments in Serbia, and freezing of Serbian governments funds in the EU.

*June*, first EU Special Representative for Yugoslavia is appointed. It would also be the last, as the Yugoslavia would soon disintegrate as a country

*October*, first EU Special Envoy for Kosovo is nominated

*October*, Council common position on non-proliferation and confidence building in South Asia

*October*, EU Foreign Ministers enhance sanctions against Burma, although it is still allowed to participate in the EU-ASEA summit

*13 November*, Council decision on monitoring the situation in Kosovo

*4 December*, Franco-British Declaration on European Defence (the St Malo Declaration)

## **1999**

*February*, EU-ACP ministerial meeting takes place in Dakar, aiming to negotiate successor agreement to Lome IV (first of three, followed by meetings in July and December)

*24-25 March*, European Council supports NATO action (aerial bombardment) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia over the Kosovo conflict

*25 March*, In the Berlin Declaration, the EU declares its support for a Palestinian state.

*20 April*, EU and Middle East Foreign Ministers meet in Stuttgart to discuss the EURO-MED programme and prospects for peace in the region

*May*, CFSP common position launches a stability pact for south-eastern Europe

*3-4 June*, European Council, Cologne designates Javier Solana Madariaga for the new post of Secretary-General of the Council and High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, and agrees on the objective of a common security and defence policy

*4 June*, EU Common Strategy on Russia

*June*, first EU summit with Latin American and Caribbean countries

*13-14 September*, EU Foreign Ministers decide to end civilian sanctions against Libya, impose an arms sales embargo on Indonesia to help end the violence in East Timor, and agree to improve contact with the opposition in Yugoslavia in order to counter the influence of Slobodan Milosevic

*1 October*, General Affairs Council (GAC) approves the EU's first Trade Co-operation and Development Agreement with South Africa

*11 October*, first EU Annual Report on Human Rights adopted by the General Affairs Council

*11 December*, Helsinki European Council reached agreement on the common European security and defence policy, and on enlargement, including vis-à-vis Turkey; Common Strategy on Ukraine

## **2000**

*January*, EU Foreign Ministers agree on a limited package of sanctions in response to Russia's campaign in Chechnya

*February*, EU Defence Ministers agree to pledge troops and equipment to the new Rapid Reaction Force by the end of the year

*March*, the General Affairs Council approves punitive sanctions against Milosevic's Government in Serbia; does not agree to sponsor a resolution condemning China's human rights record at the UN Commission on Human Rights

*April*, first EU summit with African countries

*6-7 May*, unsuccessful attempt by Javier Solana to resolve hostage crisis involving EU citizens on the island of Jolo, Philippines

*19 June*, Common Strategy on the Mediterranean region

*June*, first EU summit with India

*June*, European Council sets headline goal for ESDP police missions

*10 October*, sanctions lifted against Serbia

*20 November*, at Capabilities Conference in Brussels: member states pledged contributions to the Rapid Reaction Force – followed the next day by the candidate countries, Norway and Iceland

*9 December*, Nice Summit: WEU effectively abolished and functions folded into EU; new committees set up to manage the ESDP including the Political and Security Committee

## **2001**

*26 February*, sanctions against Taliban tightened

*25 March*, Stockholm European Council sidetracked by Macedonian crisis; Turkey continues to protest at exclusion from ESDP, and obstructs EU use of NATO assets

*15-16 June*, Goteborg European Council agrees EU Programme for Prevention of Violent Conflicts and declaration on prevention of proliferation of ballistic missiles

*5 September*, EU tries to rescue Durban Conference on Racism after withdrawal by US and Israeli delegations

*11 September et seq* terrorist attacks on United States produce anti-terror coalition in which EU is sidelined. UK, France and Germany prominent, while EU Presidency, High Representative and Commission President become invisible. Incipient directorate emerges before Ghent European Council (19 October) and again (enlarged to include Spain, Italy, Netherlands, Belgian Presidency and Javier Solana) on 4 November at 10 Downing Street.

*7 October*, war begins against Taliban regime in Afghanistan. UK participation but low EU profile

*5 November*, Council adopts common position on Afghanistan, re-emphasises its support for US and UN activities in Afghanistan, however its priority is future humanitarian assistance to the country

*December*, International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) set up to help security in Afghanistan; extensive participation by European states but *not* an EU force; EU appoints a special representative to Afghanistan

*15 December*, Laeken European Council declares ESDP 'operational'

## **2002**

*January*, CFSP Common Position banning import of rough diamonds from Sierra Leone

*February*, targeted sanctions introduced against Zimbabwe elite; Cotonou convention suspended (one year later the EU found it difficult to agree to prolong the sanctions, though it eventually did so)

*February 28* – Convention on the Future of Europe is launched

*May*, Quartet (EU, US, Russia, UN) set up to oversee Middle East peace diplomacy

*20 May*, EU welcomes prospect of newly independent East Timor joining Cotonou Agreement

*3 June*, Lord Ashdown became High Representative in Bosnia-Herzegovina

*June*, European Council sets headline goal for ESDP rule of law missions

*July*, fiasco over Perejil ('Parsley island') dispute between Spain and Morocco: Commission President Prodi tries mediating only to infuriate Spain; US Secretary of State Powell eventually brokers a deal

*24 September*, first EU summit with South Korea

*7-8 November*, high-level troika visited Indonesia after Bali bombings to coordinate antiterrorism measures

*11 November*, EU-Russia summit agrees deal on Kaliningrad

*13 December*, 'Berlin Plus' agreements between NATO and EU (after both Greece and Turkey agree to the deal)

## **2003**

*1 January*, first operational ESDP mission: policing in Bosnia (EU Police Mission, EUPM)

*4 February*, EU demarche on Iraq to support UN weapons inspectors, but war breaks out on 19 March, with EU15 (soon to be 25) split publicly

*18 March*, first ESDP military mission, in Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), using NATO capabilities (Concordia)

*March*, European Neighbourhood Policy begins to take shape

*April*, US anger at what Defence Secretary Rumsfeld terms the ‘chocolate-makers’ summit between France, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg over plans to set up a EU military HQ at Terveren.

*June*, first EU military mission outside Europe (and not using NATO) in Democratic Republic of Congo (Artemis).

*15 June*, amended CFSP Common Position on International Criminal Court urges universal participation

*20 June*, Thessalonika European Council agrees a strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

*June*, light diplomatic sanctions imposed on Cuba

*July*, EU appoints a special representative for the South Caucasus to help Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan with political and economic reforms, try to help prevent and settle conflicts in the region, and promote regional cooperation

*7 July*, EU repeals sanctions against Iraq

*29 September*, EU Joint Action on Policing Mission to FYROM (Eupol Proxima), replaces Concordia

*15 October*, NATO announces 9000-strong ‘combat-ready’ Rapid Reaction Force

*22 October*, UK-France-FRG ministers of foreign affairs troika to Teheran to try to persuade Iran to cease plutonium enrichment

*12 December*, European Council adopts the European Security Strategy

## **2004**

*March*, following the terrorist attacks in Madrid, EU appoints a Counter-Terrorism Coordinator (Gijs de Vries) and implements the solidarity clause of the constitutional treaty

*1 May*, ten countries join the EU

*July*, EU launches Rule of Law Mission to Georgia (EUJUST Themis)

*July*, EU agrees to conduct military operation in Bosnia, EUFOR/Operation Althea, replacing NATO-led SFOR, and to send 7000 troops by the end of the year

*July* European Defence Agency set up

*September*, EU imposes diplomatic and financial sanctions on Belarusian officials

*December*, EU launches police mission in Kinshasa, DRC (EUPOL Kinshasa)

*December*, European Council sets Headline Goal 2008 to strengthen EU civilian crisis management capabilities

## **2005**

*January*, diplomatic sanctions on Cuba suspended

*February*, EU agrees to launch a rule of law mission for Iraq (Eujust Lex), to train personnel in the judiciary, police and penitentiary areas, but training activities are to take place in the EU

*February*, European Neighbourhood Policy ‘action plans’ enter into force with Ukraine and Moldova. Later, action plans are also agreed with Israel, Palestinian Authority, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. During 2006, actions plans are agreed with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Lebanon.

*March*, EU special representative to Moldova appointed

*20 April*, EU establishes the EU Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (COPPS) in Ramallah, within the office of the EU Special Representative for the MEPP, Marc Otte

*May*, EU establishes mission to provide advice and assistance for security sector reform in the DRC (EUSEC RD Congo)

*July*, EU appoints a special representative to Sudan, and agrees to help an African Union monitoring mission in Darfur (AMIS)

*July*, EU special representative to Central Asia appointed

*September*, EU launches the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) with five ASEAN contributing countries, to monitor the implementation of a peace agreement between the Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement

*3-4 October*, Council agrees to launch membership negotiations with Turkey and Croatia

*3 October*, sanctions imposed on Uzbekistan: arms embargo, restrictions on admission to the EU of officials considered responsible for indiscriminate killing in Andijan; suspension of technical meetings under the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

*October*, EU launches border assistance mission in Moldova (on the border between Moldova and Ukraine), EU BAM Moldova/Ukraine

*November*, EU establishes EU Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing Point

(Gaza-Egypt border), EU BAM Rafah

*November*, EU appoints a representative to the Kosovo future status process

*December*, EU Policy Advisory Team (EUPAT) to the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia, replacing Proxima

## **2006**

*1 January*, EU police mission for the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL-COPPS), builds on EU COPPS

*January*, Christian Schwarz-Schilling replaces Paddy Ashdown as EU special representative for Bosnia-Herzegovina

*March*, EU responds to reports that presidential elections in Belarus were not free and fair by strengthening diplomatic and financial sanctions on Belarusian politicians

*April*, the Council agrees to launch an autonomous EU military operation, EUFOR DRC, to support a UN peacekeeping operation in the Democratic Republic of Congo during presidential and legislative elections in July-September 2006. Several hundred troops are sent to Kinshasa, with a 'beyond the horizon' force kept in outside DRC but ready to intervene if need be

*April*, the EU (and US) suspends direct aid to the Palestinian Authority, after Hamas wins parliamentary elections in January and forms a government that refuses to meet EU conditions for assistance (including recognition of Israel's right to exist and renunciation of violence). In June, the EU resumes some funding (namely to hospitals and doctors) under a 'Temporary International Mechanism' because the sanctions caused considerable hardship in the West Bank and Gaza

*May*, EU suspends negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia due to its lack of cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia

*June*, EU recognises the independence of Montenegro, following a referendum there in which 55.5 % voted in favour of independence, meeting a threshold of 55% set by the EU

*June*, UNSC P5 + Germany offer Iran a package of benefits if it agrees to suspend uranium enrichment (package almost certainly includes benefits from EU)

*August*, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan attends Council meeting to discuss UN mission to Lebanon: several member states pledge troops for UNIFIL (to be led by France in the first instance, and then Italy)

*December*, membership negotiations with Turkey partially suspended (over Cyprus issue)

## **2007**

*1 January*, Bulgaria and Romania join the EU

*February*, EU implements sanctions against Iran (in compliance with UN Security Council

resolutions) – over its refusal to suspend uranium enrichment

*March*, de Vries steps down as counter-terrorism coordinator at end of his term; no replacement is appointed until September (the new coordinator is Gilles de Kerchove).

*June*, EU launches Central Asia strategy, to strengthen relations with the region

*June*, EU launches EUPOL Afghanistan, a police sector reform mission

*July*, EUPOL DRC replaces EUPOL Kinshasa

*July*, Council considers sending a 3000-strong military mission to protect Darfur refugees in Chad; plans to send large rule of law mission to Kosovo are put on hold as no agreement on recognising Kosovo's independence reached in UN Security Council

*4 December*, Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Bosnia-Herzegovina signed

## **2008**

*4 February*, EU member states agree to launch EULEX Kosovo (rule of law mission) and to send a special representative to the territory

*18 February*, in response to Kosovo's declaration of independence the previous day, EU foreign ministers can only agree that each member state will decide whether to recognise Kosovo or not; 22 member states eventually do so, 5 do not.

*February*, EUFOR Chad/Central African Republic is delayed by violence in Chad and then by a serious shortage of equipment, including helicopters. Eventually in October Russia sends 4 helicopters to the mission.

*July*, Union of the Mediterranean is launched in Paris (replaces the Barcelona process)

*July*, EU extends sanctions to more Zimbabwean officials, after violence mars elections there

*August*, Russia-Georgia war sparks mediation effort by French President Nicholas Sarkozy (current holder of the EU presidency). Sarkozy secures a ceasefire. On 1 September, EU foreign ministers agree to suspend negotiations on a cooperation agreement with Russia, unless its troops return to their pre-war positions. On 15 September, EU foreign ministers agree to send 200 ceasefire monitors to Georgia, which are deployed within 2 weeks. In November, EU foreign ministers agree to resume negotiations on the agreement with Russia, even though its troops have not returned to their pre-war positions.

*October*, EU lifts smart sanctions on Uzbekistan, and relaxes its sanctions on Belarus

*December*, EU foreign ministers decide not to send a battle group to the Democratic Republic of Congo, even though the UN Secretary-General has requested the EU's assistance

*December*, the EU launches EU NAVFOR, to patrol the waters off the coast of Somali to deter piracy

*December*, Montenegro applies for EU membership

*December*, European Council approves a report on the implementation of the European Security Strategy

*December 2008-January 2009*, Israeli assault on Gaza initially leads to several EU delegations (including the Czech presidency) trying to mediate, but EU overall plays a low-key role in the crisis

## **2009**

*7 May*, EU launches 'Eastern Partnership' with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

*June*, EU holds first summit meeting with Pakistan.

*July*, After violence in Moldova following flawed elections in April, the EU sends Polish foreign minister, Radek Sikorski, to Chisinau, Moldova, to insist that the country hold free and fair elections on 29 July. Six months later, in January 2010, the EU responds positively to the resulting new government, and opens negotiations on an association agreement.

*Autumn*, EU and US lead talks (the 'Butmir process') to try to foster constitutional change in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but the talks fail. EU extends its police (EUPM) and military (EUFOR) missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

*7 December*, EU unblocks the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Serbia, considering that the country has cooperated satisfactorily with ICTY. The SAA will enter into force after it has been ratified by all the EU member states.

*December*, To its dismay, the EU is sidelined at the Copenhagen conference on climate change.

*8 December*, Foreign Affairs Council reiterates EU positions on Israel-Palestinian conflict, and further calls for negotiations to resolve the status of Jerusalem as the future capital of two states.

## **2010**

*April*, EU launches mission to train Somali security forces in Uganda

*May*, a scheduled EU-US summit is postponed, reportedly because the US wished to meet only if operational decisions were to be taken

*June*, summit of the Union of the Mediterranean is postponed, given tensions over Israeli siege of Gaza

*26 July*, EU tightens sanctions on Iran in response to continuing concerns about Iran's uranium enrichment programme

*August*, EU provides €150 million of financial aid worth for Pakistan after it is struck by severe floods.

*16 September*, special meeting of the European Council takes place to discuss external policy and relations with strategic partners

29–30 November, EU–Africa summit in Libya adopts a Joint Action Plan 2011–2013 as well as the Tripoli Declaration calling for stronger co-operation in global economic affairs

1 December,, the European External Action Service is officially launched

December, first popular demonstrations take place in Tunisia, leading to what has been called the “Arab Spring” and the “Arab Awakening”. Fervent expressions of democratic sentiment ripped through the Arab world, resulting in protests, civil discontent, and violence in Tunisia and Egypt (where new more democratic governments come to power), Bahrain, and particularly Libya, which ends in the death of Gheddafi and a new regime. Violence breaks out in Syria in the spring of 2011, but President Assad clings on to power while using his military against the rebels. Often, EU actions and declarations trail those of the individual member states.

## 2011

31 January, EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy Catherine Ashton calls for free and fair elections in Egypt amidst growing democratic protests and civil unrest in the country. Britain, France and Germany did so two days earlier, on 29 January. The language grows sterner in the next several months.

January-February, EU freezes assets of the former Tunisian president Zine al-Abedine Ben Ali and his wife, and adds 46 of his associates to the sanctions list

January – March, EU’s threatens sanctions such as visa/travel bans and freezing of assets as well as a French-led military intervention in Cote d’Ivoire; eventually this forces the former president Laurent Gbagbo to accept electoral defeat in favour of opponent Alassane Outtara

4 February, European Council issues a declaration in support of the Egyptian and Tunisian people’s democratic aspirations and condemns any violent responses to such

28 February, EU adopts sanctions against Libya, including an arms embargo and freezing of Ghedddafi’s assets

11 March, Extraordinary European Council declaration calls on Gheddafi to stand down amidst evidence that he was using the armed forces to kill his own people

1 April, Council approves EUFOR Libya military mission to provide humanitarian assistance. However, due to EU divisions, including the resistance of member states that led and participated in the battle groups which would have had to be deployed, the mission never got off the ground. In the end, a NATO air operation is launched, with the United States providing critical “leadership from behind”, and France and the UK in the lead. Nevertheless, divisions amongst member states over the use of force against Libya remain.

May, EU’s observer status at the UN “enhanced,” allowing the EU to speak in debates among representatives of major groups and before individual states, as well as to submit proposals, circulate documents, and raise points of order

June, Germany abstains during a UN vote for a UN Security Council Resolution supporting NATO action in Libya, along with China and Russia

1 August, Council approves restrictions on 5 Syrian officials in response to their role in the repression of Syrian dissent

*September – October*, consistent attempts (in the end, unsuccessful) to secure contributions from China to the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF)

*November*, the UK and France urge EU and UN action against Syria, but no such outcome is forthcoming

*November*, EU office upgraded to delegation in Tripoli, Libya, following the fall of the Gheddafi regime

*December*, Despite attempts to negotiate with Iran on its potential nuclear weapons capability, EU extends its sanctions against 180 Iranian officials, but continues to resist ban on crude oil imports from the country

## **2012**

*23 January*, EU agrees on oil imports from Iran, and EU called on foreign ministers to return to negotiations

*4 February*, EU foreign relations spokeswoman Maja Kocjanic states that “the EU looks forward to working with the new Russian President” referring to Vladimir Putin after his contested re-election as Russia’s president following a stint as prime minister, despite conclusions from OSCE monitors that the election was not free and fair

*6 March*, High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy Catherine Ashton accepts Iran’s offer to meet to discuss Tehran’s nuclear programme. EU Foreign Ministers also agree on ban on all new contracts to import, purchase, or transport Iranian crude oil.

*22 March*, EU Defence Ministers endorse plans to develop air-to-air refuelling capabilities and field hospitals, reducing costs and dependence on US equipment

*29 May*, after a “massacre” in the Syrian village of Houla in which at least 32 young children and over 60 adults were killed, French President Hollande and British Prime Minister David Cameron strongly condemn the violence, and say they will meet the Syrian rebels in Paris. However, they agree with the foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton that outside intervention should be limited to diplomatic pressure. Unlike in previous EU statements, there were no calls for Syria’s President Assad to step down or for the creation of humanitarian corridors.

*June*, EUAVSEC South Sudan civilian mission launched to strengthen aviation security at Juba International Airport

*July*, the first EU Special Representative for Human Rights (Stavros Lambrinidis) is appointed

*July*, EU imposes tougher sanctions on Syria, after 16 previous rounds of sanctions do not prevent the escalation of violence into an increasingly bloody civil war. The new measures include asset freezes and travel bans on 26 army, security, and intelligence officials

*July*, EUCAP NESTOR civilian mission launched to train naval personnel in 5 countries in the Horn of Africa and Western Indian Ocean

*August*, EUCAP SAHEL civilian mission launched to train Nigerien forces in counter-terrorism and anti-organised crime

*September – October*, EU imposes a new round of sanctions on Iran; together with US sanctions, the measures are having a devastating effect on Iran's monetary and fiscal situation

*7 September*, EU pledges an additional €50m in humanitarian aid for Syria

*October*, another round (the 19<sup>th</sup>) of EU sanctions against Syria, including travel bans and asset freezes, and target entities that supply the Assad regime with means of violence. Arms cooperation with Russia suspended in this regard.

*October*: EU is awarded the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize.

*October*: European Endowment for Democracy is created and will begin work in 2013.

## **2013**

*January*: France sends troops to help defeat Islamist forces in northern Mali. Council of the EU agrees to send a mission to train security forces in Mali. European Commission sends €20 million in humanitarian aid to Mali.

*April*: Ashton oversees signing of a deal aiming to normalise relations between Kosovo and Serbia.

*April*: Following the remarkable political reforms in Burma/Myanmar, EU lifts all sanctions on Myanmar but maintains arms embargo.

*May*: France and UK successfully push other member states to agree to suspend the EU's arms embargo on Syria, thus permitting future arms supplies to rebel groups

*May*: EU launches EUBAM Libya, to help authorities enhance security of borders.

*June*: Migration and Mobility Instrument signed with Morocco.

*July*: EU and US start negotiations on a trade and investment agreement, and have continued despite concerns about US spying on European leaders and citizens.

*July*: Croatia becomes the 28<sup>th</sup> member state of the EU

*July*: High Representative Ashton publishes the interim review of the EEAS.

*August*: Following a coup d'état in Egypt in July, the new government kills hundreds of protesters. EU member states agree informally to suspend export licences for some types of equipment that could be used for internal repression, but do not impose an arms embargo or other negative measures.

*August*: Syrian government's use of chemical weapons against rebel area results in much debate about international intervention, but UK and US decline to act (France maintained it was willing to do so). In October, Syrian government agrees to destroy chemical weapons stocks. EU helps fund the efforts.

*September*: Armenia decides not to proceed with a recently-finalised association and free trade agreement with the EU, opting instead to join a customs union led by Russia.

*October:* EU begins negotiations on a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with Kosovo.

*November:* Ashton plays key role in enabling interim agreement between Iran and E3/EU+3 regarding Iran's nuclear programme.

*25 November:* Ukraine suspends preparations for an association and free trade agreement with the EU (due to be signed at the Vilnius summit a few days later). Pro-EU protests erupt, and pro-EU protesters camp out in Maidan Square in Kiev.

*28-29 November:* Vilnius summit of the Eastern Partnership is low-key compared to initial expectations: most concrete achievement is the initialling of association and free trade agreements with Georgia and Moldova.

*December:* Serious communal violence breaks out in Central African Republic, after months of instability following a coup in March. France sends 1600 troops to support an AU-led mission, but cannot yet convince other EU member states to send a battle group or other mission as well. EU imposes smart sanctions on those held responsible for violence.

*16 December:* EU and Turkey sign a readmission agreement, under which Turkey pledges to take back any illegal immigrants from Turkey or who have passed through Turkey. EU and Turkey also begin visa liberalisation talks.

*17 December:* Council of the EU welcomes High Representative's review of the EEAS, strongly supports the use of EU special representatives as an instrument of EU foreign policy. Ashton however interrupts the mandate of the EU special representative to the Middle East peace process, and does not appoint a replacement. Since the EEAS was created, the mandates of several EU special representatives have been discontinued or merged with others such as those for South Sudan/Sudan, the African Great Lakes region, and Moldova.

*19/20 December:* European Council devoted to CSDP, announces that 'defence matters' and pledges to improve capabilities.

## **2014**

*January:* EU accession negotiations begin with Serbia.

*January:* EU suspends some sanctions on Iran, following implementation of the interim agreement on Iran's nuclear programme (reached in November).

*20 January:* Council of the EU approves the creation of EUFOR RCA Bangui, a military mission to the Central African Republic to be composed of 600 troops, to help provide stability and protect the population from violence.

*9 February:* Swiss vote in a referendum to limit immigration (including from the EU); by the end of the month, the EU has suspended Switzerland's participation in research programmes and the Erasmus education mobility programme as the Swiss move to limit EU immigration contravenes EU-Swiss bilateral agreements.

*February:* Serious violence erupts in Kiev and dozens of protesters are killed apparently by government and police forces. EU condemns the violence and on 20 February imposes smart sanctions on those held responsible. That day the foreign ministers of France, Germany and

Poland go to Kiev on behalf of High Representative Ashton, and negotiate an agreement on 21 February between the government and opposition leaders. The following day, however, President Yanukovych resigns and leaves Kiev. Opposition leaders take over. Pro-Russian gunmen seize key buildings in the Crimean region of Ukraine.

*1 March:* Russian parliament approves use of force in Crimea and effectively Russian forces then take over in Crimea; Crimean parliament approves independence referendum; on 16 March, Crimean population vote to join Russia; on 18 March, Russia announces Crimea now part of Russia. In successive steps, EU imposes smart sanctions on list of Russians, suspends talks on a new agreement with Russia, and pledges additional economic and financial support to the Ukrainian government, including the completion of the association and free trade agreement.

*21 March:* Following the Turkish government's blocking of access to Twitter (which came after accusations of government corruption had circulated for several months), Enlargement Commissioner Stefan Füle states that Turkey's commitments to European values are in doubt.

*July:* A Malaysian airlines passenger aircraft crashes in eastern Ukraine and Russian-backed rebels are suspected of shooting it down. By the end of the month, EU extends sanctions on Russia, including an arms embargo, halting exports of equipment to the oil industry and limiting ability of Russian state-owned banks to raise capital on European financial markets. EU establishes a civilian security sector reform mission to Ukraine.

*18 and 25 July:* EU calls for a ceasefire between Hamas and Israeli forces fighting in Gaza.

*August:* Russia bans Western food imports in response to sanctions; European Commission announces it will support European food producers. NATO and the Ukrainian government provide evidence that Russian troops are fighting on the ground in eastern Ukraine.

*5 September:* A ceasefire between Ukrainian and rebel forces is agreed, but EU tightens sanctions on Russia.

*8 September:* Canada and the EU initial a strategic partnership agreement.