



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-ASEAN 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 Lomé 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

March: EU suspends cooperation with Syrian government under the European Neighbourhood Policy; from May, imposes restrictive measures on individuals considered responsible for violent repression of protesters. Sanctions regime progressively tightened through 2017.

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 19th) 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 28th 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 Yanukovich 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.

March: EU extends sanctions on Central African Republic, in response to rising violence there.

June: Association agreements are signed with Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia.

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.

October: EU strengthens sanctions on Libya in response to rising violence.

December: European Parliament approves resolution recognising ‘in principle’ Palestinian statehood.

2015:

6 March: EU announces further smart sanctions on supporters of Syrian President Assad.

June: European Council agrees a relocation and resettlement plan for 60,000 refugees. This plan is hardly ever implemented.

22 June: Council agrees to launch a military naval mission in the Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED), to try to deter people-smuggling.

June: High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini presents an assessment of the EU’s role in the world; tasked with drawing up an EU global strategy.

14 July: P5 (five permanent members of the UN Security Council) + Germany and Iran reach joint comprehensive plan of action on nuclear programme. Sanctions on Iran to be lifted in exchange for limits on Iranian nuclear programme.

August: EU opens mission to ASEAN; first EU ambassador to ASEAN starts work in September.

August/September: Thousands of refugees travel through western Balkans and towards Germany. In next few months, several member states re-instate border controls.

September: Informal European Council meeting agrees to set up hotspots where refugees can request asylum, to better patrol EU’s borders, and to provide more assistance to EU member states and states in the region affected by the refugee crisis.

October: After President Lukashenko re-elected in Belarus, EU suspends sanctions on Belarus.

October: EU sanctions imposed on Burundi as violence and human rights violations increase there.

27 October: EU and Kosovo sign a Stabilisation and Association Agreement.

29 November: EU-Turkey summit held. EU agrees to set up €3 billion refugee facility to support Syrian refugees in Turkey, to revitalise membership negotiations, and to ease Schengen visa rules for Turkish citizens.

November: Following terrorist attacks on the Charlie Hebdo offices in Paris, France invokes mutual defence clause of Lisbon Treaty. Member states offer bilateral assistance, which include UK joining US missile attacks on Islamic State in Syria. EU justice and home affairs ministers agree to set up the European Counter-Terrorism Centre within Europol, to exchange information, provide analysis and coordinate response to terrorist attacks.

2016:

January: Trade part (Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area) of the EU-Ukraine association agreement becomes operational.

February: EU increases humanitarian aid for Syrians.

April: In a referendum in the Netherlands, the Dutch vote not to approve the EU-Ukraine association agreement; the Netherlands government thus refuses to proceed with ratification.

29 June: High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini presents the EU Global Strategy, which is welcomed by the European Council just days after the British referendum vote to leave the EU.

July: EU agrees to prolong economic sanctions on Russia, imposed over Russia's intervention in Ukraine, for another six months. The Council has continued to prolong sanctions on Russia as of April 2019.

8 July: The presidents of the European Council and European Commission, and the Secretary-General of NATO agree the Joint EU-NATO Declaration, to strengthen cooperation and coordination between the two organisations.

September: Council agrees framework allowing EU sanctions on Islamic State.

30 October: Canada and EU sign Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and strategic partnership agreement, days after the government of Wallonia, a Belgian region, initially blocked Belgium's signature.

November: Following on from the EU Global Strategy, EU Foreign and Defence Ministers agree implementation plan in the area of security and defence policy, to improve the protection of the EU and its citizens, help governments jointly build military capacity, and develop better crisis response.

November: Agreement of EU and NATO on a list of 42 collaborative action points

15 December: European Council reaches agreement on EU-Ukraine association agreement, to enable the Netherlands to ratify it. EU reiterates that the association agreement does not confer EU membership candidate status on Ukraine or a commitment to do so in future, does not provide security guarantees to Ukraine, and does not provide Ukrainian citizens the right to work or reside in the EU.

2017:

16 January: Council of the EU adopts conclusions reaffirming the EU's support for the democratic process in Lebanon, welcoming the formation of a new government led by Saad Hariri.

3 February: European Council issues the Malta Declaration on the external aspects of migration.

13 February: Decision by the Council to sign a co-operation agreement on partnership and development between the EU and Afghanistan.

27 February: Further restrictive measures against North Korea (DPRK) are imposed.

27 February: Negotiations on the new EU-Armenia Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement are concluded (including a discussion on the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict).

6 March: Council adopts conclusions on EU climate and energy diplomacy as part of the EU Global Strategy.

13 March: EU and Algeria adopt their shared Partnership Priorities at the Association Council for the period of 2017-2020.

29 March: Theresa May triggers Article 50, formally starting the negotiations of the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

3 April: The Council adopts conclusions addressing the challenges of the new leadership in Somalia and reaffirms the EU's commitment to the country.

3 April: Adoption of an EU Strategy on Syria, in line with UNSCR 2254, calling for internal co-operation to end the conflict and address humanitarian needs.

6 April: Additional restrictive measures against the DPRK are adopted, complementing and reinforcing the UN sanctions regime.

6/7 April: Following her declaration condemning the alleged chemical attack in Idlib and responding to the US strike in Syria, the HR VP underlines the EU's commitment to a political, rather than military solution.

11 April: The Council extends its restrictive measures towards Iran until 13 April 2018, responding to human rights violations.

11 May: A regulation on visa liberalisation for Ukrainian citizens travelling to the EU for a stay of 90 days within 180-day period is adopted.

18 May: The Council adopts conclusions on security and defence in the context of the EU Global Strategy.

19 May: The Council adopts a new consensus on development based on a joint statement by the Parliament, Council and Commission setting out a new framework for development co-operation for the EU and its member states as a response to the UN 2030 agenda for sustainable development. The 'New European Consensus on Development' is signed on 7 June.

8 June: The Council adopts the decision to establish the military planning and conduct capability (MPCC) that will assume command of EU military training missions in Mali, DRC and Somalia.

20 June: The Council adopts a decision to support the regionalisation of CSDP missions in the Sahel region and assigns further financial assistance. These steps were supported by the formation of an Alliance for the Sahel in *July* established by the EU, France and Germany.

6 July: Common statement by Japan's Prime Minister Abe, Tusk and Juncker expressing concern for and condemning the DPRK's continued nuclear tests and ballistic missile launches.

11 July: The decision to conclude an Association Agreement with Ukraine, incorporating a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA), is adopted by the Council and will enter into force on *1 September*.

17 July: The Council adopts a crisis management concept for a new civilian CSDP mission in Iraq.

July: Partnership Priorities regarding Egypt are adopted for the next 3 years, intensifying its economic relationship.

20 September: EU and UN launch a new partnership to eliminate all form of violence against women and children.

21 September: The EU-Canada trade pact (CETA) provisionally enters into force, allowing 98% of products to be sold tariff-free.

16 October: The Council adopts conclusions on Myanmar/Burma in response to the violence against and prosecution of Rohingya by Myanmar calling for an immediate end of violence.

16 October: The EU strategy on Afghanistan is adopted.

16 October: In response to Donald Trump's decertification of the Iran nuclear deal the HR VP stresses the EU's determination to preserve the JCPOA as 'a key pillar of the international non-proliferation architecture'.

11 November: The Council adopts conclusions on a strategic approach to resilience in the EU's external action as one of the key pillars of the EU Global Strategy, aiming for a more long-term, structural approach in its foreign policy approach.

13 November: The Council adopts conclusions on Venezuela including targeted sanctions.

29 November: EU, UN and African Union agree to jointly create a task force for Libya.

5 December: The Council adopts conclusions on EU-NATO co-operation endorsing 32 further areas of collaboration.

6 December: The HR VP expresses concerns about the US announcement to recognise Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, rejecting calls by Netanyahu to follow the US' recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital in course of their meeting on *11 December*.

2018:

13 February: The European Council calls on Turkey to commit to good neighbourly relations, peaceful dispute settlement and respect for territorial sovereignty after Cyprus had accused the Turkish military of obstructing a ship exploring for gas.

26 February: Council conclusions reiterating call on the government of Myanmar/Burma to take action and to make progress to address the issues of accountability, access for the UN and humanitarian agencies to the Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states, and to create conditions for the return of displaced persons to their places of origin.

15 March: Declaration by the HR VP Mogherini on Syria, calling for all parties to implement the UNSC Resolution 2401 demanding a ceasefire without delay and calling on Russia, Iran and Turkey to fulfil their obligations and responsibilities as Astana guarantors.

22 March: The European Council condemns Turkey's continued illegal actions in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Aegean Sea and underlines its full solidarity with Cyprus and Greece. It expresses concerns about the continued detention of EU citizens in Turkey.

March: Common EU response to the novichok nerve gas attack in Salisbury. 50 alleged Russian spies expelled by 17 EU member states (joined by non-EU countries), although not backed by all member states. Council statement on *19 March* condemns the attack, holds Russia responsible for the attack.

26 April: The Council extends the EU's arms embargo on Myanmar/Burma and prohibits the provision of military training to, and military cooperation with, the Myanmar/Burma army.

9 May: Declaration by the HR/VP following US announcement to withdraw from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (Iran nuclear deal) stressing the EU's commitment to the deal, convening France, Germany and the UK to agree on a common set of lines of actions (later leading to an instrument seeking to circumvent US secondary sanctions).

15 May: First Joint Council between the EU and Cuba, aiming to institutionalise political dialogue in five areas, building on the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA) signed in December 2016 and approved by the EP in *July 2017*. Deeper relations also linked to EU criticism of US sanctions policies towards Cuba.

17 May: First EU-Western Balkans summit for 15 years, following on the Commission's Western Balkan strategy issued in February. The final document, the Sofia Summit Declaration, entails follow-up actions, e.g. investments in digital economy and connectivity, as well as common work on key security priorities.

1 June 2018: US tariffs on aluminium and steel enter into force. The EU responds with the launching of legal proceedings at the WTO at the same day as well as the introduction of tariffs on selected US products as of *22 June 2018*.

12 June: Macedonia and Greece reach an agreement (Prespa Agreement) to add 'North' to Macedonia's name, solving a 27-year dispute and paving the way for EU and NATO accession talks. Although officially strongly supported by the EU, reluctance of some member states to open EU accession talks impeded the negotiation process.

22 June: The Council adopts the negotiating mandate for the future agreement between the EU and the ACP countries after disagreement on questions related to migration between EU member states (namely Hungary) had hampered the formulation of the mandate.

25 June: The Council places 7 individuals under restrictive measures in light of the situation in Myanmar/Burma.

25 June: The Council puts 11 officials, responsible for human rights violations in Venezuela, under restrictive measures.

26 June: The EU decides to start the so-called screening process of Albania and Macedonia for mid-2019 EU accession talks.

25 July: While several points remain unresolved, the meeting between Donald Trump and Jean-Claude Juncker ends in a declaration that eases commercial disputes between the US and the EU, leading to the agreement to work towards further cuts in trade and non-trade barriers, as well as to

the commitment of the US not to impose tariffs on European car imports in return for higher EU imports of soya beans and LNG.

15 September: The Council adopts a new regime of restrictive measures to address the use and proliferation of chemical weapons as a direct follow-up to the conclusions of the European Council of 28 June 2018.

24 October: The EP adopts a resolution calling on the EU countries to unite and impose an EU-wide arms embargo on Saudi Arabia following the killing of the journalist Jamal Kashoggi.

18 November: Germany halts previously-approved arms exports to Saudi Arabia and bans 18 Saudi citizens suspected of being involved in Khashoggi's death from entering Europe's Schengen zone. While there is EU unity regarding the condemnation of the murder and a strong call for a comprehensive investigation, no common position is formulated regarding further actions, especially with view to arms exports policies.

19 November: The Council adopts a new EU strategy against illicit firearms, small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition.

19 November: The Council and the member states adopt conclusions on the establishment of a civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Compact.

6 December: The EU increases support for the G5 Sahel, announcing €125 million for new initiatives aiming to foster development and security.

10 December: Two new chapters in EU accession talks with Serbia are opened.

10 December: The Council expresses concerns about the findings of the of the independent international fact-finding mission (FFM) of the UN Human Rights Council concluding that gross human rights violations were committed in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states, calls for accountability and discusses further sanctions.

10 December: The Council adopts conclusions on a new EU India strategy.

14 December: The EP gives its consent to the EU-Japan Economic Partnership agreement, which enters into force on *1 February 2019*.

18 December: Austria, holding the Council presidency, hosts an EU-Africa high level forum in Vienna, focusing on Euro-African partnership in the field of technology and economy, and EU investments.

19 December: Despite earlier EU support for the UN pact on migration, three member states voted against, five abstained and one didn't vote during the formal ratification in New York.

2019:

26 January: The HR VP declares the EU's full support for the National Assembly of Venezuela and calls for free, transparent and credible presidential elections, warning that, in the absence of an announcement over the next days, "the EU will take further action, including on the issue of recognition of the country's leadership". But there is no unified position of the EU; a stronger response by Germany, Spain and France gives Venezuela eight days to call new elections before

they back Juan Guaidó. Joint declaration in course of the meeting of the foreign ministers in Bucharest fails due to opposition of Italy.

31 January: European Parliament recognises Juan Guaidó as the legitimate interim president of Venezuela.

31 January: Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for trade with Iran (INSTEX: Instrument in Support of Trade Exchanges), seeking to avoid US secondary sanctions, is introduced by France, Germany and the UK with support of other EU states.

24 February: First EU-Arab League summit, hosted by Egypt.

15 March: The Council renews sanctions over actions against Ukraine's territorial integrity and adds eight Russian officials to the list of those subject to restrictive measures in response to the escalation in the Kerch Strait and the Sea of Azov.

24 March: Announcement of Romania that the country will move its embassy to Jerusalem (following the US), contradicting the common EU position against such a move.

26 March: Operation Sophia is extended for six months, but is scaled down in response to Italian opposition to the mission; ships are no longer deployed, while air patrols and coordination with Libya continue.

9 April: EU-China summit concluded with a joint statement but little results. No common position on future relations with China, and member states lack unity as reflected in Italy's participation in China's Belt and Road Initiative and the 16+1 group, incorporating 16 central and eastern European states, 11 of them part of the EU.

11 April: Declaration by HR VP on the escalation of the situation in Libya calling for an immediate end to military action, but this is mitigated by ambiguous position of France and different member states' policies on Libya.