

European chronology 2024

January

- 1 Belgium takes over the presidency of the EU.
Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates officially join BRICS, after the group's decision to enlarge at its Johannesburg summit in August 2023.
- 5 Jacques Delors' funeral is held in Paris, with a number of former and current heads of state, governments and EU officials attending.
- 8 Franz Beckenbauer, one of the greatest football players, dies aged 78.
- 11 The EU Data Act enters into force.
- 14 Margrethe II, Queen of Denmark, formally abdicates and her eldest son, Frederik, becomes King Frederik X.
- 19 Japan achieves a soft landing on the Moon, becoming the fifth country to succeed.
- 26 The UN International Court of Justice rules that Israel must take effective measures to prevent genocidal acts in Gaza.

February

- 2 Facebook celebrates its 20th anniversary.
- 6 Slovenian Prime Minister Robert Golob accepts the resignation of Justice Minister Dominika Švarc Pipan, who is surrounded by corruption allegations.
- 10 President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announces the dismissal of Ukraine's top commander, General Valerii Zaluzhnyi, in the biggest military shakeup since the Russian invasion. General Oleksandr Syrskyi becomes commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Armed Forces.
- 10 Hungarian President Katalin Novák resigns after pardoning a man convicted of helping cover up sex abuse, leaving Prime Minister Viktor Orbán in his biggest crisis yet.
- 11 Presidential election takes place in Finland: centre-right Alexander Stubb is elected in the second round.
- 15 Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy signs medical cannabis legalisation into law.

- 16 Russian opposition leader Alexey Navalny dies in the Arctic penal colony where he was serving a 19-year sentence.
Ukraine withdraws troops from the Donbas city of Avdiivka in the biggest frontline change since May 2023.
- 18-19 The 37th African Union summit takes place in Addis Ababa.
- 20 An independent group of high-level specialists on cohesion policy, established by Commissioner Elisa Ferreira and chaired by Professor Andrés Rodríguez-Pose, presents its report, including recommendations on how to ensure cohesion policy continues to promote prosperity and convergence across the EU.
- 26 Clashes between farmers and the police occur in several European cities, including Brussels, during protests to demand action on prices and unfair competition from abroad.
- 29 Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) open fire on a crowd of civilians in Gaza City, killing more than a hundred people.

March

- 2 During the PES election congress in Rome, Nicolas Schmit, European Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights, is elected PES *Spitzenkandidat* for the European elections and the PES manifesto is adopted.
- 7 Sweden joins the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), becoming its 32nd member.
- 10 Snap elections take place in Portugal. The Democratic Alliance wins with 29.5% of the votes. The Socialist Party comes second, with 28.7%, and decides to go into opposition.
Seven Oscars, including the one for Best Picture, go to Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer* at the 96th Academy Awards.
- 13 The EU's AI Act, the world's first comprehensive law on artificial intelligence, is adopted by the EU.
- 15-17 Vladimir Putin is elected president of Russia for a fifth term, with almost 90% of the votes.
- 18-20 The government of South Korea hosts the third summit for democracy in Seoul.
- 21 The European Council opens accession negotiations with Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- 22 Deadly terrorist attack on Moscow's Crocus City Hall, later attributed to Islamic State (IS).
- 25 The UN Security Council issues a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Israel-Gaza war during the month of Ramadan and the unconditional release of all hostages.

- 27 New farmer protests against EU agricultural policies. Tractors block Brussels.
- 31 Bulgaria and Romania join the Schengen area.
Local elections are held in Turkey: CHP victory and the first AKP nationwide defeat.

April

- 1 Israel bombs the Iranian consulate building in Damascus, Syria, killing 16 people, including a woman and her son, Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Zahedi and seven other officers of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.
- 6 Peter Pellegrini is elected president of Slovakia in the second round of the presidential elections.
- 15-16 A high-level conference on the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) is held in La Hulpe, Belgium, organised by the Belgian presidency of the Council of the EU, aiming for EU institutions, civil society organisations and social partners to renew their commitment to the EPSR. On this occasion, the Declaration of La Hulpe is signed.
- 16 German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's second China visit during his time in office.
German MEP Markus Pieper withdraws from working as small-business envoy at the European Commission, after his recruitment by Ursula von der Leyen drew censure from MEPs.
- 17 National elections in Croatia: a coalition led by the centre-right HDZ obtains a relative majority; the centre-left alliance, Rivers of Justice, comes second.
Former Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta publishes his report on the future of the single market: "Much more than a market".
- 22-25 Last session of the European Parliament (EP) before the EP elections.
- 28-30 The G7 climate, energy and environment ministers meet in Turin to adopt a joint declaration to address the challenges of climate change.
- 30 The new EU fiscal framework enters into force, with the aim of keeping budget deficits below 3% of GDP and public debts below 60%.
FEPS conference "Call to Europe: 'The Future is Social'" is held in Brussels to reignite the transformative power of social democratic values in shaping tomorrow's Europe.

May

- 1 The EU celebrates the 20th anniversary of the 'Big Bang' enlargement.
The trade agreement between the EU and New Zealand enters into force.
- 3 FEPS launches its pool of trainers with the first 'training of trainers' in La Hulpe.

- 7 The European Union adopts Directive 2024/1385, aiming to fight violence against women and domestic violence.
President Xi Jinping visits Serbia (in between visiting France and Hungary), also to mark the 25th anniversary of the NATO bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade.
- 7-11 The Eurovision Song Contest in Malmö, Sweden, is won by Swiss singer Nemo.
- 8 Landslide win of the right-wing party VMRO-DPMNE in the parliamentary elections in North Macedonia.
- 10 UN General Assembly votes to grant Palestine the right to be seated in the assembly according to the alphabetical order.
- 15 Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico is shot and critically injured in Handlová, after a government meeting.
- 19 Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi dies in a helicopter accident on his way home from Azerbaijan.
- 20 The International Criminal Court (ICC) chief prosecutor seeks arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Hamas' leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, over alleged war crimes.
- 23 *Spitzenkandidaten* debate for the Commission presidency.
- 30 Former US President Donald Trump is found guilty on 34 counts in his hush money trial. For the first time, an American president is found guilty of a crime.

June

- 1 Final day of the general elections in India, after two and a half months of voting. The National Democratic Alliance, including the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party loses its outright majority, preserving, however, its relative majority.
- 6-9 European Parliament elections in all 27 EU member states. The S&D group confirms its position as the second-largest group, with 136 MEPs out of 720.
- 9 Federal elections in Belgium: the New Flemish Alliance remains the largest party.
Dissolution of the French Parliament by President Emmanuel Macron following his party's poor results in the European elections, making snap elections necessary.
Elections in Bulgaria, without the results allowing the formation of a government.
- 11 The New Pact on Asylum and Migration enters into force. A day later, the Commission adopts a Common Implementation Plan, which outlines the actions to translate the new rules into practice.
- 11-12 Ukraine Recovery Conference is held in Berlin; President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's address to the German Bundestag.
- 13-15 The 50th G7 summit convenes in Borgo Egnazia, Apulia, Italy.

- 14 The UEFA European Football Championship opens in Germany.
- 18 Russian President Vladimir Putin's two-day visit to North Korea, the first in 24 years.
- 23 More than 1,300 people die during the Hajj pilgrimage in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.
- 24 Julian Assange, WikiLeaks founder, leaves the UK after being freed from prison, following a deal with the United States.
- 25 The EU launches accession talks with Ukraine and Moldova.
- 27 European Council adoption of conclusions on Ukraine, the Middle East, security and defence, competitiveness, the next institutional cycle, and a road map for future work on internal reforms.
The EU signs a security agreement with Ukraine.
- 30 First round of snap elections in France.

July

- 1 Hungary takes over the presidency of the Council of the EU.
- 2 Hungarian Prime Minister Orbán's controversial 'peace mission' in Kyiv (subsequently also visiting Moscow, Beijing and Mar-a-Lago, Donald Trump's residence in Florida, causing outrage in EU circles).
- 4 UK general elections, with a huge Labour victory: 412 seats out of 650. Keir Starmer becomes the new prime minister.
- 7 Second round of French snap parliamentary elections: victory of the left-wing New Popular Front, with 180 seats; followed by President Macron's Ensemble, with 159; and the National Rally, with 142 seats.
- 9-11 NATO summit takes place in Washington to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the organisation.
- 12 The Sejm, the lower chamber of the Polish parliament, rejects a bill aiming to change the restrictive anti-abortion law.
- 13 US presidential candidate Donald Trump is shot in the ear during a presidential campaign rally near Butler, Pennsylvania.
- 13 The National Bank of Hungary issues a non-ferrous-metal collector's coin to mark the 50th anniversary of the creation of the Rubik's cube, on the 80th birthday of its inventor, Ernő Rubik Jr.
- 14 Spain wins the European Football Championship.
- 16-19 European Parliament's constitutive plenary sitting and election of the president.
- 17 The General Court of the European Union rules that Ursula von der Leyen was not transparent enough about Covid-19 vaccine contracts (since 2021).
- 18 The European Parliament elects Ursula von der Leyen as president of the European Commission.

- Fourth summit of the European Political Community at Blenheim Palace in Woodstock, UK.
- 21 Incumbent US President Joe Biden withdraws from the 2024 presidential race, after mounting calls from Democrats.
- 22-25 Constitutive meetings of the EP committees.
- 26 G20 finance ministers' meeting in Rio de Janeiro. A final declaration refers to the proposal for a global framework for a wealth tax on billionaires.
- The 2024 Summer Olympic Games open in Paris with a controversial ceremony.
- 31 Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh is assassinated in Tehran.

August

- 5 US Vice President Kamala Harris formally secures the Democratic presidential nomination.
- 6 State of emergency in Russia's Kursk Oblast due to a large-scale incursion of Ukrainian regular forces.
- Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, Yahya Sinwar, becomes Hamas' overall leader and new chairman of its political bureau.
- 7 Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus is named head of Bangladesh's interim government after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was ousted by a colour revolution and left the country.
- 11 Olympic Games officially close.
- 14 The World Health Organization declares mpox (formerly known as monkeypox) a public health emergency of international concern for the second time in two years.
- 17 Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk reacts to reports on the possible perpetrator of the Nord Stream pipeline attack in 2022 by urging Nord Stream initiators and patrons to "keep quiet".
- 18 French film star Alain Delon dies aged 88.
- 23 A Syrian immigrant stabs three people to death in Solingen (Germany), triggering further debates on migration.
- 25 Israeli Defence Forces start their strikes in South Lebanon.
- 28 Opening of the 2024 Summer Paralympics.

September

- 5 French President Macron appoints Michel Barnier as prime minister, two months after snap elections.
- 9 Former president of the European Central Bank and prime minister of Italy, Mario Draghi, publishes his report "The future of European competitiveness", making

- the case for EU-level industrial policy and enhanced innovation and investment capacity.
- 10-24 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly.
- 16 France's European Commissioner Thierry Breton resigns, citing "questionable governance" at the EU executive led by Ursula von der Leyen.
- 17-18 32 people are killed in Lebanon and more than 3,200 injured after pagers and walkie-talkies used by Hezbollah militants explode in two massive cyberattacks, presumably by Israel.
- 20 Hezbollah leader Ibrahim Aqil is killed by Israel.
- 20-21 FEPS hosts side events with international partners during the Summit of the Future Action Days in New York.
- 22-23 Heads of state and government meeting in New York for the Summit of the Future – convened by UN Secretary-General António Guterres – to address the question of global governance and reaffirm their commitment to the sustainable development goals.
- 24 Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva presents a plan to end the war in Ukraine developed by Brazil together with China.
- 25-26 Progressive Economic Policy Conference "Forging the EU new agenda" in Brussels.
- 29 General elections in Austria result in victory for the far-right Freedom Party. The Social Democratic Party of Austria obtains 21.1%.

October

- 1 Israel invades southern Lebanon.
Mark Rutte takes office as the new NATO Secretary General.
- 4 EU countries vote on imposing tariffs of up to 45% on imports of Chinese-made electric vehicles: ten EU member states in favour, five against, with 12 abstentions; this is a sufficient result for the European Commission to impose the tariffs and escalate a trade war with China.
- 5 Pro-Palestine rallies are held globally to mark a year of Israel's brutal war on Gaza, ahead of the first anniversary of Hamas' hostage-taking attack in Israel.
- 10 The Council of the EU adopts the Cyber Resilience Act, aiming to ensure that products with digital components are made secure throughout the supply chain and their life cycles.
- 11 The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to Nihon Hidankyo, a Japanese grassroots organisation of atomic bomb survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
- 15 The EU opens negotiations on the fundamentals cluster with Albania.

- 16 Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar is killed by IDF during an operation in Gaza.
The first 16 migrants rescued at sea while trying to reach Europe through Italy are taken to the Albanian port of Shengjin, as part of an agreement between Italy and Albania to hold people rescued at sea by Italian ships, including people seeking protection, in detention centres in Albania (hence, outside Italian territory).
- 20 Constitutional referendum in Moldova on whether to amend the constitution to prepare for EU membership. Victory by a small margin of pro-Europeans, also supported by diaspora votes in the EU.
Italian court rules against the first asylum seeker transfer to Albania.
- 21 COP16 on Biodiversity opens in Cali, Colombia. It closes on 1 November.
- 22-24 BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia (focusing on questions of the international financial system and dedollarisation).
- 24 EP President Metsola announces the laureates of the 2024 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought: María Corina Machado and President-elect Edmundo González Urrutia for their brave fight to restore freedom and democracy in Venezuela.
- 25 FEPS Call to Europe event in Budapest.
- 26 Legislative elections in Georgia: the ruling Georgian Dream Party wins with 54% of the votes (the validity of the results is subsequently questioned by the Georgian president and the EP).
- 27 General elections held in Bulgaria, as the sixth snap election since 2021. Slightly improved performance of the BSP-United Left.
Second round of general elections in Lithuania to elect the new Seimas. The election results in a significant victory for the Lithuanian Social Democratic Party.
- 28 Volkswagen announces plans to close 'at least' three factories in Germany, lay off tens of thousands of staff and downsize remaining plants in the country, a first in the 87-year history of the company.
- 29-30 Devastating floods in eastern Spain, including the Valencian Community, Castilla-La Mancha and Andalusia, causing more than 220 deaths. One of the deadliest natural disasters ever to hit Spain.
- 30 The European Commission adopts the 2024 Enlargement Package, providing an assessment of progress made by the WB6, Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine and Turkey on their respective paths towards EU accession.

November

- 3 Maia Sandu is elected to a second presidential term in Moldova.
- 4-12 Confirmation hearings of the Commissioners-designate in the EP. The S&D Group demands Raffaele Fitto be stripped of the executive vice presidency, while the

- Spanish EPP delegation blames Teresa Ribera for poor emergency management during the flood in Valencia.
- 5 2024 US presidential elections, Donald Trump is elected 47th president of the United States in a second but non-consecutive term.
- 6 German Chancellor Olaf Scholz announces the dismissal of Finance Minister Christian Lindner (FDP), paving the way for snap elections in early 2025, preceded by a vote of confidence.
- 11 COP29 opens in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- 12 Justin Welby resigns as Archbishop of Canterbury, following a report that criticised his handling of children abuse within the Church of England.
- 16 Chinese President Xi Jinping meets with US President Joe Biden in Lima (Peru).
- 17 President Joe Biden authorises Ukraine to use powerful American long-range weapons deep inside Russia, following similar decisions by the UK and France.
- 18-19 G20 Leaders' Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 20 The EPP, S&D and Renew Groups in the EP reach a deal to approve Ursula von der Leyen's team of Commissioners, paving the way for the new European Commission to take office on 1 December.
- 21 The International Criminal Court issues arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Minister of Defence Yoav Gallant, as well as Hamas leader Mohammed Deif – whom Israel claims to have killed in an air strike in Gaza in July – on accusations of war crimes committed during the Israel-Hamas war.
- Russian intermediate-range hypersonic Oreshnik missile is fired on the Ukrainian city of Dnipro in response to long-range missile attacks deep into Russian territory.
- 24 COP29 deal is reached (after extending the negotiations by 33 hours) to triple finance to developing countries from the previous goal of \$100 billion to \$300 billion annually by 2035. Developing countries had asked for \$1.3 trillion.
- 26 Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announces a ceasefire deal with Hezbollah in Lebanon.
- EU Ombudsman Emily O'Reilly blasts Ursula von der Leyen's 2023 holiday at the Cretan home of Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, saying that it revealed a 'structural shortcoming' in EU ethics rules.
- 27 The European Parliament approves Ursula von der Leyen's team by 370 votes for, 282 against and 36 abstentions, the lowest percentage of votes in favour of a new Commission ever.
- 29 Snap elections in Ireland. Fianna Fail and Fine Gael fall short of obtaining a majority by two TDs, while the Green Party is crushed. The Irish Labour Party led by Ivana Bacik is doubled, securing 11 TDs.

- 30 Snap elections in Iceland. The Social Democratic Alliance wins with 20.8% and 15 seats in the 63-seat Althing.

December

- 1 Second von der Leyen Commission takes office.
General elections in Romania. The incumbent coalition loses its majority, but PSD still emerges first; there is further fragmentation with the emergence of right-wing extremist and nationalist parties.
- 3 The European Parliament and the Council reach a provisional agreement on the Deforestation Law.
South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declares martial law during a late-night address broadcast to thwart 'anti-state forces' among his domestic political opponents.
- 4 SOLIDAR Silver Rose Award for a Just Transition is awarded to Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF), the Lifetime Achievement Award to Nicolas Schmit and the Legacy Prize for Social Justice to Glenys Kinnock.
- 5 The French government collapses after Prime Minister Michel Barnier is ousted in a no-confidence vote.
- 5-6 31st Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe Ministerial Council in Malta, with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov attending for first time since the invasion of Ukraine (but several EU ministers leave the room in protest).
- 6 Romanian Constitutional Court invalidates the results of the first round of the presidential elections, pointing to infringements and suspected Russian interference in the campaign.
- 7 Notre-Dame in Paris is reopened (five and a half years after the devastating fire) with high-level international visitors, allowing for a trilateral meeting between Macron, Trump and Zelenskyy.
- 8 An international rebel army led by Abu Mohammed Al-Golani (commander of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), formerly known as the Nusra Front, an al Qaeda franchise) seizes the Syrian capital, Damascus, unopposed, while President Assad flees to Moscow.
- 10 Israel invades Syria beyond the illegally occupied Golan heights and launches rocket attacks to destroy the Syrian military capacities.
- 12 NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte asks European citizens to "make sacrifices" to boost defence spending, including cuts to pension, health and security systems.
Indian chess prodigy Gukesh Dommaraju defeats former world champion Ding Liren in the 2024 World Chess Championship, becoming champion at 18 years and 195 days old, and so, breaking Garry Kasparov's previous record of 22 years old.

- 13 Macron names Bayrou as the next French prime minister.
- 14 South Korean MPs vote to impeach President Yoon Suk Yeol.
- 15 Israel announces the closure of its embassy in Dublin due to Ireland's support for the ICC.
Mohammed al-Bashir is chosen to lead a caretaker government in Syria until 1 March.
Tenth Oxford Symposium – a flagship conference of the Next Left – inaugurated by FEPS, Progressive Britain and the Karl Renner Institut.
- 16 Chancellor Scholz loses a confidence vote in the German Bundestag, held at his own request.
- 17 Teresa Anjinho, Portuguese independent human rights expert, is elected EU ombudsman, succeeding Emily O'Reilly.
Lieutenant General Igor Kirillov, head of Russia's Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Troops, is killed by a bomb in Moscow.
- 19 EU leaders meet in Brussels to discuss Ukraine, the EU in the world, the Middle East, resilience and preparedness, migration, and foreign policy issues.
Dominique Pelicot and another 50 defendants are found guilty of the mass rape of Gisèle Pelicot over ten years. The trial raised the question of adding the notion of 'consent' in the French rape law and gained international resonance.
- 20 Five people are killed and 200 injured after a man drives into a Christmas market in Magdeburg.
The IMF's executive board approves a \$1.1 billion disbursement to Ukraine, as part of an ongoing loan programme to provide budget support.
- 24 A Russian cargo ship called Ursa Major sinks in the Mediterranean Sea overnight, after an explosion.
The 2025 Jubilee in the Catholic Church begins.
- 25 Azerbaijan Airlines plane crash in Kazakhstan, killing 38 of the 67 people on board.
- 28 Russia's President Putin apologises to the Azerbaijan president over the crash of the aeroplane but stops short of saying Russia was responsible.
- 29 Jimmy Carter, 39th US president, dies at 100.