

European chronology 2025

January

- 1 Poland takes over the presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) under the motto “Security, Europe!”.
Bulgaria and Romania become full members of the Schengen area.
Austria, Finland and Sweden celebrate the 30th anniversary of their accession to the EU.
Liechtenstein legalises same-sex marriage, becoming the 37th country to do so.
- 10 The European Copernicus Climate Change Service reports 2024 as the hottest year ever, exceeding 1.5 °C warming.
- 12 Zoran Milanović (Social Democratic Party) wins a second term in Croatia's presidential election.
- 20 Donald Trump takes office as the 47th president with James David Vance as vice president. On this same day, the new president issues a number of executive orders to halt all foreign aid programmes and to cut equity, diversity and inclusion initiatives throughout the federal government. He also withdraws the US from the World Health Organization and the Paris Agreement on Climate.
- 24 Over 60,000 people protest across Slovakia against Prime Minister Robert Fico's policies.
- 28 Serbian Prime Minister Miloš Vučević resigns, following nationwide protests over the deadly collapse of a railway station canopy in Novi Sad.

February

- 2 The first measures of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act enter into force, strictly regulating the use of AI in Europe.
- 4 The EU-UK Summit takes place in Brussels, focusing on post-Brexit relations.
- 5 Israel withdraws from the United Nations Human Rights Council.
- 6 Justin Trudeau resigns as prime minister of Canada.
- 9 ‘Patriots for Europe’ (the European party that includes, among others, the *Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs*, *Rassemblement national* (RN), Fidesz, Lega and Vox) hold a rally in Madrid under the theme “Make Europe Great Again”.

- 10-11 France co-chairs, with India, the Artificial Intelligence Action Summit in Paris, attended by 1000+ participants from over 100 countries.
- 12 Konstantinos Tasoulas (New Democracy) is elected president in Greece's presidential election.
- 14 US Vice-President JD Vance delivers a confrontational speech against Europe at the Munich Security Conference.
- 15 After 15 months of conflict, the Israeli government and Hamas negotiate a ceasefire deal that includes the exchange of prisoners. The ceasefire enters into effect four days later.
- 16 Mahamoud Ali Youssouf is elected as the chairperson of the African Union Commission.
- 18 US and Russian officials meet in Saudi Arabia and agree to 'normalise' relations between the two countries.
- 19 Croatia completes the process of joining the European Economic Area.
- 23 In the German federal election, the conservative CDU/CSU bloc emerges victorious, while the *Alternative für Deutschland* (AfD) secures a historic second place, leaving the SPD third.
- 28 A press meeting in the Oval Office between US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy ends in a fierce dustup.

March

- 1 After weeks of mutual accusations of breaching the ceasefire, the first phase of the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas expires without agreement on a second phase.
- 2 During the London Summit on Ukraine, the UK and France announce they would provide security guarantees in Ukraine, led by a European 'Coalition of the Willing'.
- 3 After complex negotiations following September 2024 elections, a three-party government coalition is formed in Austria; SPÖ leader Andreas Babler becomes vice-chancellor and Minister for Housing, Arts, Culture, the Civil Service and Sport.
- 8-17 The 2025 Special Olympics World Winter Games are hosted in Turin, Italy.
- 11 Ukraine carries out its largest drone strike on Moscow since the beginning of the war.
- 12 Romania's Constitutional Court confirms the ban on far-right candidate Călin Georgescu for the presidential race.
- 13 Rodrigo Duterte, former president of the Philippines, is taken into custody following an arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity.

14 Huawei lobbyists are banned from entering the European Parliament's premises following bribery accusations against MEPs of various political groups

15 Tens of thousands of protesters gather in Belgrade in a major anti-government demonstration.

The US unlawfully deports Kilmar Ábrego García, a Salvadoran immigrant who had irregularly entered the country in 2011 but had since received protection under federal law. His wrongful deportation triggers a legal battle and he is eventually brought back to the US.

18 The German Bundestag votes in favour of an amendment of the Basic Law that will allow the reform of the infamous debt brake. The reform is primarily aimed at facilitating large-scale rearmament. The Bundesrat votes in favour three days later. Israel launches a widespread airstrike on Gaza, killing at least 591 people, including children. The attack ends the ceasefire agreement reached in January.

19 The EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy presents a "White Paper for European Defence – Readiness 2030", aiming to provide a framework for the ReArm Europe Plan and to outline a new defence strategy. Istanbul mayor and presidential candidate Ekrem İmamoğlu, from the Republican People's Party (the main opposition party in Turkey), is arrested on corruption and terrorism charges. Widespread protests begin throughout the country.

22 FEPS' Call to Europe takes place in Warsaw.

31 Marine Le Pen (RN) is banned from running for political office for five years, after being found guilty of embezzling EU funds.

April

2 President Donald Trump announces a broad package of import duties ('Liberation Day').

3 Hungary announces its intention to withdraw from the ICC during a state visit by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, despite an outstanding ICC arrest warrant.

3-4 The first EU-Central Asia summit is held in Samarkand (Uzbekistan).

13 In the Finnish regional elections, the Social Democratic Party emerges as the largest party nationwide.

Mario Vargas Llosa dies at age 87.

14 The EU unveils a €1.6 billion, three-year aid package to 'stabilise' Gaza and the West Bank.

21 Pope Francis dies at age 88 on Easter Monday, after leading the Catholic Church since 2013.

28 A massive blackout hits the Iberian Peninsula, causing extensive power outages across Spain.

Federal elections take place in Canada following Justin Trudeau's resignation as prime minister in March. Mark Carney (Liberal Party), former governor of the Bank of Canada, becomes the new prime minister.

30 US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister Yulia Svyrydenko sign a minerals deal, establishing the US-Ukraine Reconstruction Investment Fund.

May

2 Germany's domestic intelligence agency, *Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz*, lists the AfD as a right-wing extremist organisation.

6 Federal elections are held in Germany. Friedrich Merz (CDU) is elected chancellor to replace Olaf Scholz (SPD). Lars Klingbeil (SPD) becomes vice-chancellor and Minister of Finance in the new grand coalition.

7-8 Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost is elected pope, taking the name Leo XIV, becoming the first North American pontiff and the first one with a PhD degree (in Canon Law).

9 French President Emmanuel Macron and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk sign a treaty on security and cooperation.

11 In the Albanian parliamentary election, the incumbent Socialist Party led by Edi Rama is re-elected and retains a majority government.

13-17 The Eurovision Song Contest 2025 takes place in Basel, Switzerland. The contest is won by Austria with the song "Wasted Love", performed by JJ.

16 The sixth meeting of the European Political Community is held in Tirana, Albania.

18 In the Portuguese legislative elections, the centre-right coalition of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) and CDS-People's Party (CDS-PP) wins the most seats. In Romania's presidential election, Bucharest mayor Nicușor Dan (pro-EU, centrist) wins, defeating the far-right candidate George Simion (AUR).

Russia launches 273 drones at Ukraine; its largest drone attack since 2022.

20 The European Council adopts a 17th round of sanctions against Russia. The Hungarian parliament approves a bill to initiate the country's withdrawal from the ICC.

23 Russia and Ukraine begin their largest prisoner exchange since the start of the war, involving 1,000 prisoners each over three days.

US President Donald Trump announces 50% tariffs on EU imports starting 1 June.

25 Parliamentary elections are held in Venezuela. President Nicolás Maduro's United Socialist Party of Venezuela (PSUV) retains its majority in the National Assembly. Many opposition politicians, including María

Corina Machado, call for a boycott of the election in response to the fraudulent results of the July 2024 presidential vote.

June

- 1 In the second round of Poland's presidential election, conservative nationalist Karol Nawrocki (Law and Justice (PiS) party) is elected president, defeating the centre-right Warsaw mayor Rafal Trzaskowski (Civic Platform).
Ukraine launches hundreds of drones from deep inside Russian territory, targeting long-range strategic bombers at Russian airfields.
- 3 Bahrain, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Latvia and Liberia are elected as non-permanent UN Security Council members for two years.
- 6 Protests erupt in Los Angeles in response to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests and deportations of undocumented immigrants.
- 9 The Israeli Navy seizes the Gaza Freedom Flotilla's flagship vessel and detains its occupants (including Swedish activist Greta Thunberg and MEP Rima Hassan).
- 10 Ten people are killed and more than 30 others are injured after a gunman opens fire at a school in Graz, Austria.
- 13 Israel launches a short war against Iran, targeting nuclear facilities, scientists and key military leaders, without a legal basis (codename: Operation Rising Lion).
- 14 The so-called "No Kings" protests against Donald Trump's authoritarian policies take place in many US cities, as well as Canada, Europe, Japan and Mexico.
- 16-17 The 51st G7 summit takes place in Kananaskis, Canada.
- 24 Zohran Mamdani, a member of the Democratic Party and of the Democratic Socialists of America, wins the Democratic primaries ahead of the New York City mayoral election.
- 24-25 A NATO summit is held in The Hague.
- 28 Budapest Pride takes place, despite facing political pressure and bans by the government, with massive participation and international solidarity.
- 29 Over 140,000 people protest across Serbia, demanding the resignation of President Aleksandar Vučić.
- 30 The Fourth United Nations Conference on Financing Development starts in Seville (Spain).

July

- 1 Denmark takes over the presidency of the Council of the EU under the motto "A strong Europe in a changing world".

The Trump administration dismantles the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

- 8 The European Council and the European Parliament accept Bulgaria's request to adopt the euro.
- 10 The European Parliament rejects a motion of censure tabled by the European Conservatives and Reformists (ECR) against the European Commission president (175 votes in favour, 360 against).
- 10-11 The Fourth Ukraine Recovery Conference is held in Rome.
- 14 The French Legion of Honour is awarded to Gisèle Pelicot for her courage in testifying in the case about her decade-long sexual abuse.
- 16 Ursula von der Leyen presents the Commission's proposal for the new Multiannual Financial Framework for the 2028-2034 period to the European Parliament.
- 23-24 Antonio Costa and Ursula von der Leyen visit Japan and China and discuss trade relations and global imbalances.
- 24 Earth Overshoot Day: the date at which humanity uses more natural resources than Earth can regenerate in a year.
- 27 EU and US agree on a trade deal in Scotland, with a baseline 15% tariff for European exports to the US, leaving in place a 50% tariff on steel and aluminium. Von der Leyen also promises to boost Europeans' investment in the US by \$600 billion and spend more on military equipment and energy.
- 28-30 The High-Level International Conference for the Peaceful Settlement of the Question of Palestine and the Implementation of the Two-State Solution is held in New York under the auspices of the United Nations.

August

- 4 Over 10,000 European hotel owners sue Booking.com for blocking lower prices on their own sites, seeking compensation for the period 2004-2024.
- 5 Rimantas Šadžius (Homeland Union – Lithuanian Christian Democrats) is appointed acting prime minister of Lithuania after Gintautas Paluckas' government collapses.
- 6 Karol Nawrocki (Law and Justice) becomes president of Poland, succeeding Andrzej Duda.
- 8 Armenia and Azerbaijan sign a peace deal during a ceremony held at the White House by President Trump. The deal should put an end to 37 years of hostilities regarding the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, but a comprehensive settlement is still missing.
- 15 Russian President Vladimir Putin travels to Anchorage (Alaska) to meet with US President Donald Trump to discuss ending the war in Ukraine and cooperation between the two countries.

- 18 European leaders (Ursula von der Leyen, Keir Starmer, Alexander Stubb, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Emmanuel Macron, Giorgia Meloni, Friedrich Merz and Marc Rutte) visit Donald Trump in the White House to discuss the situation in Ukraine and further support.
- 22 Famine is confirmed in Gaza.
- 26-28 Members of the European Parliament and members of the EU national parliaments meet in Copenhagen for the Inter-Parliamentary Conference on CFSP/CSDP to align on EU foreign, security and defence policies.

September

- 1 Chinese President Xi Jinping hosts a leader-level meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization attended by Vladimir Putin (Russia) and Narendra Modi (India), among others.
- 2 US forces strike civilian boats operating near Venezuela. The administration justifies the attacks, asserting that the targeted craft were being utilised for smuggling and terror operations.
- 3 China celebrates the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II in Asia with a massive military parade in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.
- 4 The Coalition of the Willing meets in Paris to discuss security guarantees for Ukraine.
- 8 In the Norwegian parliamentary election, Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre's Labour Party-led coalition retains its majority.
The Bayrou government in France collapses after losing a no-confidence vote.
- 8-9 The Gen Z protest in Nepal, fuelled by economic dysfunction and widespread youth disillusionment, turns into a political crisis.
- 9 In her speech on the State of the Union, Ursula von der Leyen proposes a reparation loan for Ukraine.
The 80th UN General Assembly opens in New York City, during which the UK, Canada, Australia and France recognise Palestine.
Israel attacks the Hamas leadership in Doha, Qatar.
Russian drones breach Polish airspace during a large-scale attack on Ukraine.
- 10 Charlie Kirk, an American right-wing activist, is assassinated during an event in Utah.
- 11 Brazil's Supreme Federal Court convicts former President Jair Bolsonaro and sentences him to 27 years in prison for his involvement in the 2022 Brazilian coup plot.
- 16 A United Nations commission of inquiry declares that Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.
Robert Redford dies at age 89.

- 17 The EU outlines a set of sanctions against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and urges EU member states to freeze European assets and ban inter-EU travel.
- 25 Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy is sentenced to five years in prison for criminal association.
- Lithuania's parliament approves Inga Ruginienė (LSDP) as the new prime minister.
- 25-26 The Global Progress Action Summit is held in London, co-hosted by IPPR, CAP and Labour Together.
- 28 In Moldova's parliamentary elections, Maia Sandu's pro-European PAS secures over 50% of the votes.

October

- 2 The seventh meeting of the European Political Community takes place in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 3-4 In the Czech parliamentary elections, the Action of Dissatisfied Citizens (ANO) party, led by Andrej Babiš, wins the most votes (35%). The Social Democrats (SOCDEM) fail to return to parliament.
- 4 During the local elections in Tbilisi, Georgia, protestors attempt to storm the Orbeliani Palace.
- 6-10 Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez convenes the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Global Summit in Vitoria-Gasteiz, calling on reformers to defend democracy amid rising threats.
- 7 The European Parliament upholds the parliamentary immunity of MEPs Péter Magyar (EPP), Klára Dobrev (S&D) and (narrowly) Ilaria Salis (The Left), rejecting requests from Hungarian authorities to lift it.
- 9 Israel and Hamas reach an initial Gaza agreement, moving closer to a ceasefire nearly two years into the conflict.
- Ursula von der Leyen emerges 'strengthened' after another motion of censure (put forward by The Left group) is defeated in the European Parliament.
- 10 The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to the Venezuelan liberal activist María Corina Machado.
- 11 Diane Keaton dies at age 79.
- 13 Leaders from 30 countries and major international organisations meet in Sharm El Sheikh to discuss the next steps in implementing the Gaza peace plan.
- 16-18 PES Congress takes place in Amsterdam. Delegates welcome one new full member (Place Publique, France), and two new associated members (Party of Freedom and Justice/SSP, Serbia, and Vetëvendosje/LVV, Kosovo), but also expel Slovakia's SMER party.

19 Items from the French crown jewels are stolen during a robbery at the Louvre in Paris.

25 Independent left-wing candidate Catherine Connolly wins Ireland's presidential election.

29 A general election is held in the Netherlands after the collapse of the Dick Schoof cabinet; Democrats 66, led by Rob Jetten, emerges on top. Frans Timmermans' GL-PvdA comes fourth, keeping 20 seats in the 150-member House of Representatives (down from 25).

30 Italy's Senate approves a sweeping judicial reform, advancing Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's flagship constitutional overhaul, despite fierce opposition from magistrates and the centre-left opposition.

Buckingham Palace announces that Prince Andrew will be stripped of all titles and evicted from the Royal Lodge due to his association with Jeffrey Epstein.

November

4 Zohran Mamdani wins the New York City mayoral election (defeating former Governor Andrew Cuomo, among others).

7-8 The first EU-Ukraine Progressive High-Level Conference of PES, S&D & the PES Group in the Committee of the Regions with Ukrainian and European parties is held in Kyiv.

10-21 The COP30 summit takes place in Belém, Brazil.

11 The European Court of Justice confirms the validity of the 2022/2041 'minimum wage directive' (with minor corrections).
Istanbul Mayor Ekrem İmamoğlu faces a potential sentence of several centuries after Turkish prosecutors filed 142 charges against him. The move is widely condemned as a politically motivated crackdown on the opposition.

13 The European People's Party (EPP) teams up with ECR and far-right Patriots for Europe to pass a law to simplify corporate sustainability reporting and weaken due diligence requirements, inviting criticism across Europe, including from Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who labels the rightward turn of the EPP "a fatal mistake".

18 The governing Social Democrats suffer heavy losses in the Danish local elections.

22 A 28-point peace plan for Ukraine is tabled by Washington DC after exchanges with Moscow; this is criticised as far too favourable to Russia (especially regarding territorial concessions).

22-23 The G20 leaders meet in Johannesburg, South Africa.

25 The European Court of Justice orders all member states to recognise same-sex marriages and ensure equal treatment for same-sex couples.

- 26 The European Parliament calls for a social media ban on under-16s (while countries such as France, Germany, Greece, Italy and Spain are considering such restrictions).
- 28 President Zelenskyy's powerful chief of staff and closest ally, Andriy Yermak, resigns following exposure of a high-level corruption network.
- 29 FEPS' Call to Europe takes place in Copenhagen, Denmark.

December

- 1 Canada commits to participating in the EU's Security Action for Europe initiative.
- 3 The 25th edition of the Silver Rose Awards takes place in Brussels; awards are given to former MEP Agnes Jongerius (Lifetime Achievement) and La Via Campesina (Just Transition Award) for advancing social and green justice.
- 4 The US releases its new National Security Strategy, with a harshly anti-European tone, and reviving the Monroe Doctrine.
Former HRVP Federica Mogherini resigns as rector of the College of Europe following fraud accusations.
- 8 The European Parliament and EU member states reach an agreement on the Omnibus I simplification package aimed at "reducing complexity and enhancing efficiency".
- 11 Prime Minister Rosen Zhelyazkov's government resigns after less than one year in office over corruption claims and fiscal reforms and following mass protests in the country.
- 14 Far-right Jose Antonio Kast wins Chile's presidential election, leveraging voter fears over rising crime and migration, defeating leftist candidate Jeannette Jara.
- 15 Czech President Petr Pavel appoints a government led by Andrej Babiš (ANO), including the far-right Freedom and Direct Democracy (SPD) and Motorists' parties.
- 16 The European Parliament supports the "My Voice, My Choice" initiative, calling for safer and more accessible abortion care across the EU.
- 17 The Council of the EU and the European Parliament, with the backing of right and far-right lawmakers, reach a provisional agreement on EU legislation, which will tighten the Union's migration policies, including the revision of the 'safe third country' concept and the controversial 'return hubs' in non-EU countries.
Thousands of Lithuanians protest against a law to expand government control over the state broadcaster.
- 19 The European Council agrees to lend Ukraine €90 billion through joint borrowing (with three countries opting out) and rejects the idea of using immobilised Russian assets.

- 23 President Zelenskyy unveils a 20-point peace plan with security guarantees and an EU accession path for Ukraine, while the Ukrainian army fully withdraws from the crucial Donbas city of Siversk.
- 24 The US State Department sanctions five European citizens, including former EU Commissioner Thierry Breton, accusing them of efforts to censor speech on social media.
- 28 President Zelenskyy meets Donald Trump in Florida to discuss a peace framework (a Trump-Putin phone call takes place afterwards, while Zelenskyy briefs some European leaders).
Albin Kurti's centre-left ruling party (*Vetëvendosje* or Self-Determination, LVV) wins Kosovo's snap election with 50% of votes.
Brigitte Bardot dies at age 91.
- 30 Denmark becomes the first country in the world to end letter delivery.