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CHRONOLOGY

January-June, 2022

January 1
France took over the rotating presidency of the European Union, affording President Emmanuel Macron the chance to pose as the EU's de facto leader in the run-up to national elections.

January 20
French parliament denounced the act of "genocide" by China against its Uyghur Muslim population, in a resolution that risked straining ties between Paris and Beijing two weeks before the Winter Olympics which started on February 4. The non-binding resolution was adopted with 169 votes in favour and just one against.

January 26
The French National Assembly passed a new law, that banned conversion therapies, to change the physical orientation or gender identity of the "LGBTQ" people. The legislation included criminal penalties for people who would conduct this scientifically discredited practice.

February 6
The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.

February 17
The heads of state government of the African Union and the European Union had a meeting for the sixth two-day summit in Brussels. The meeting was co-chaired by the President of the European Council, Charles Michel and the President of Senegal and the Chairperson of the AU, Macky Sall. The EU and AU leaders agreed on a joint vision for a renewed partnership, aiming to build a sustained economic development and prosperity for the citizens of the two Unions.

February 24
Russia attacked Ukraine, it was termed as a day of shame for Russia by the German Chancellor Olaf Scholz.

February 25
In a unique move towards social protection, the French parliament has adopted a new law that would make school bullying a criminal offence for which either students or staff could be prosecuted for.

March 10
The EU leaders adopted a declaration on the Russian aggression against Ukraine, as well as on bolstering defense capabilities, reducing energy dependencies and building a more robust economic base.

March 24
A meeting of the European Council was held in Brussels, discussing Russia's war on Ukraine and the linked issues of energy security. The meeting included a joint session with the US President Joe Biden to form a trilogy of summit meetings in Brussels (NATO, G7 and EU) demonstrating Western unity in support of Ukraine and to condemn Russian President Vladimir Putin.

April 1
The 23rd EU-China summit was attended by President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, accompanied by the High Representative Josep Borrell with Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang and Chinese President Xi Jinping. They discussed Russia's military aggression against Ukraine**,** climate change**,** biodiversity and health through online video conference.

April 5
Spain and the Netherlands, that are usually at odds, had struck a surprising alliance to reform the EU fiscal rules. The rules, known as the Stability and Growth Pact (SGP), required member states to implement financial policies that kept their budget deficit below 3% and public debt below 60% of GDP.

April 28
The German parliament agreed to supply heavy weapons to Ukraine. The decision was supported by an overwhelming majority of parliamentary deputies, with 586 voting for and just 100 against.

May 7
Emmanuel Macron was sworn in for his second term as President of France, promising to lead the country with a "new method", legislative election ahead of next month.

May 9
President Joe Biden signed a bill that would streamline the lengthy process of supplying Ukraine with the military equipment needed for the fight against Russia.

To celebrate 'Europe Day', the European Union's institutions were opened for the general public for the first time.

June 3
Ukraine marked 100 days after the Russia's invasion, with fighting raging across the east of the country, where Moscow's forces were tightening their grip on the Donbas region.

June 7
The Belgium's King Philippe landed in the Democratic Republic of Congo in a historic visit to the central African country. The country used to be a Belgian colony.

June 9
In Strasbourg, France, the European Parliament lawmakers voted to support an effective EU ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2035, rejecting attempts to weaken the proposal to speed Europe's shift to electric vehicles.

June 15
The EU signed a gas deal with Israel and Egypt to end its gas dependency on Russia in Cairo.

In Brussels, the European Commission launched new legal action against Britain accusing London of putting peace in Northern Ireland at risk by trying to overhaul the post-Brexit trade deal.

June 17

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) reviewed Pakistan's progress on FATF Action Plans in its Plenary meetings held in Berlin on 13-17 June 2022. FATF has acknowledged the completion of Pakistan's Action Plans and has authorized an onsite visit to Pakistan as a final step to exit from the FATF's grey list.

June 24

President of the European Council Charles Michel has announced that Ukraine and Moldova have been granted EU candidate status.