

## CHRONOLOGY

### July – December 2023

#### **01 July**

The EU moves one step closer to digitalizing currency as the European Central Bank (ECB) announces the digitalization of the Euro currency.

#### **02 July**

Spain reiterated its undeniable support for Ukraine after having the seat of the EU presidency.

#### **03 July**

In Rome, the Chinese biologist QU Dongyu was re-elected as the Director General of the Food Agriculture Organization (FAO).

#### **05 July**

The term for Secretary General of NATO Jens Stoltenberg was extended a third time based on his experience and steadiness leadership.

#### **06 July**

The Defence Minister of Britain Grant Shapps announced that the independent inquiry commission was established to probe into the UK forces, alleged in Afghanistan.

#### **14 July**

The European Space Agency (ESA), which monitored sea level and temperature, predicted that Europe may face the hottest summer in July.

#### **16 July**

The Prime Minister of the UK Rishi Sunak made a formal apology against homosexuality abuse of LGBT in the military forces on behalf of Britain.

#### **01 August**

The UN's cultural agency UNESCO recommended that Venice should be added to the list of world heritage in danger, the Italian authorities needed to step up efforts to secure the historic city and its surrounding lagoon.

**03 August**

The news agency AFP sues Twitter, now rebranded as X over the amount to pay for news. The EU laws of 2019 allow sharing payments to news outlets, which Google and Facebook agreed to but Elon Musk denied.

**04 August**

Thousands of people gathered in the capital of Niger (Niamey) to show support for the coup that toppled democratically elected leader Mohamed Bazoum. People chanted anti-France slogans as they marked the anniversary of the West African countries' independence from France in 1960.

The US Secretary of State Antony Blinken accuses Russia of its withdrawal from a grain initiative on the plea that "hunger must not be weaponised", it was discussed in the meeting about food insecurity at the UN's headquarters in New York.

**05 August**

According to Doctors without Borders (MSF), migrants are being systematically turned away by France at the border with Italy with "acts of violence, degrading and inhumane treatment".

The world's oceans set a new temperature record which is 20.96 degrees Celsius. According to European Union climate observatory data.

**06 August**

Pope Francis visited the revered Catholic Shrine of Fatima in Portugal, praying the rosary for world peace with about 200,000 people at the site where the Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children in 1917.

**07 August**

In Portugal, Black worshippers are under-represented in the Catholic Church and it needs to do more to overcome this legacy of racism.

A wildfire in central Portugal erupted. Around 7,000 hectares (17,000 acres) have burned near Castelo Branco, "but the potential risk from fire is estimated at more than 20,000 hectares".

**08 August**

The UK faced heavy criticism based on its controversial immigration policy that has drawn from locals and human rights campaigners.

**09 August**

Norway's data protection agency says that it would start fining Facebook and Instagram owner Meta nearly \$100,000 per day for defying a ban on using users' personal information to target ads.

**10 August**

A study conducted in Paris, France revealed since 2012, Nasa's Curiosity rover has discovered the first evidence that Mars once had a climate which alternated between wet and dry seasons similar to Earth.

The port of Chornomorsk, near the city of Odesa, is under the guarantee that the UN-Russia agreement would be used for sailing ships as Ukraine announced a temporary humanitarian corridor in the Black Sea to release cargo ships bound for Africa and other markets.

**12 August**

The United Kingdom revealed the official figures that, more than 100,000 migrants have crossed the English Channel on small boats from France to southeast England since Britain began public recording in 2018.

**16 August**

On the 103<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of Poland's victory over the Soviet Union in a battle of Warsaw, a parade was organized jointly with the NATO members, expressing solidarity with Ukraine.

**17 August**

The head of Norway's mammoth sovereign wealth fund Nicolai Tangen, said, it would be "quite difficult" to bring down global inflation due to persistent upward pressure brought by climate change and global market trends.

**18 August**

Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Russia should be careful in the future to avoid further escalation after a Turkish-owned cargo vessel was attacked by the Russian navy last weekend.

**19 August**

Swedish government is considering some changes in the Public Order Act to make it possible for police to deny permission for acts such as desecrating the Holy Quran, only if they consider it a threat to national security.

**21 August**

Türkiye and Hungary are already talking about the energy security and Swedish membership of NATO in Budapest.

**22 August**

The World Bank estimated nearly 30pc of the global population suffered moderate or severe food insecurity in the year 2022.

**31 August**

Switzerland has drafted new rules to tighten perceived cracks in its money laundering regulations, holding lawyers and consultants accountable for reporting risks and stepping up oversight of legal entities, such as trusts.

**08 September**

Daniel Pomarede an Astro Physicist at France's Atomic Energy Commission has announced a discovery of a "bubble of galaxies". It shaped a "spherical shell with a heart". A "Bubble of galaxies", a billion light years away from our home galaxy.

**09 September**

The EU launched a new project to control the rise of irregular migration for the countries along the Silk Route. The project will be implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy (ICMP), to improve migrant management and protection.

**14 September**

The first carbon control border tax has been initiated by the EU. The imports of CO2 emissions products will face taxes to reduce carbon emissions. Türkiye, Ukraine, Russia and China are expected to pay the higher CO2 taxation. It will properly be executed in 2016, but the trial period will start in October.

**16 September**

Germany became the 29<sup>th</sup> signatory of the Airtimes Accords, a US-led multilateral agreement of space adventure and the lunar surface. Germany is the economic powerhouse of Europe showing that Germany is taking further interest in space technology and adventure. India signed in it June, but Russia and China have refused to sign.

**21 September**

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak delayed the ban on new petrol and diesel cars until 2035. He claimed that in net zero target Britain is ahead of many states and would like to ease the transition to electric vehicles.

**22 September**

A free trade Agreement was signed between Ukraine and Canada in Ottawa during Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's visit to Canada.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto condemned further sanctions on Russia, in an interview with TASS. He pointed out that the supply of Ukrainian grain to Central European countries is causing harm to their agriculture market.

**23 September**

A rally was organized under the 'National Rejoins March (NRM)' in Central London calling for rejoining the EU. The leader of NRM considered that Brexit was a huge mistake, which left Britain alone.

**28 September**

The EU Home Affairs Minister Ylva Johansson, confirmed and revised asylum policy that frontline countries Germany and Italy will be released from migrant pressure and let other states share the burden of migrants.

**02 October**

The European Union has introduced a CO2 tariff system to control pollution-producing imports of steel, cement and other goods which undermine green transition.

**03 October**

The famous research duo of the COVID-19 vaccine, Dr. Katalin Kariko from Hungary and Dr. Drew Weissmann from the US won the Noble Medicine Prize for their groundbreaking work on COVID-19 vaccines.

**07 October**

Hungary and Poland have requested to accept a joint declaration on the EU's migration policy in a gathering of EU leaders held in Grande, Spain.

The Turkish military escalated operations against Kurdish forces to expel them from Northern Syria. Türkiye intended to create a safe zone in the border area for settling Syrian refugees.

**09 October**

Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan inaugurated the first state-back church, Mor Ephrem, Syriac Church in Istanbul.

**11 October**

Denmark and Sweden suspended the development aid to Palestine but agreed on maintaining humanitarian assistance for now after the European Commission launched a review of its development aid to Palestinians.

**12 October**

Russia and Kyrgyzstan decided to create a joint air defence system. It was planned the day before the visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin visit to Central Asian states.

**13 October**

The European Commission decided to open an investigation into Elon Musk's X social media platform (formerly named Twitter) to determine if it has allowed the spread of disinformation around the Gaza-Israel conflict.

The French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin announced a decision to ban the pro-Palestine demonstrations as the government expressed its support towards Israel.

**15 October**

Thousands of people rallied in London and other parts of the UK, showing solidarity with the people of Palestine and condemning Israeli attacks.

The EU urged dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia on the occasion of the regional Balkan Summit started in the Albanian capital Tirana.

**18 October**

The climate research institute in Norway CICERO has identified that global emission of planet-heating carbon dioxide is rising by around one percent to reach a new all-time high in 2023.

The governing council of the European Central Bank (ECB) announced the beginning of the next phase of the digital euro strategy: the preparation phase, to finalize the rulebook and develop infrastructure. It is followed by the investigation stage, which deals with the designing and distribution strategy of the digital euro system.

**19 October**

The European Union, Belgium and Sweden are more concerned and promised to tighten border security and step up repatriation after the incident that killed two Swedish football fans in Brussels by the asylum seekers from Tunisia.

**20 October**

The European Union has decided to screen migrants and asylum seekers in a better way and expel those who are at risk for law and order in the EU.

**21 October**

The Swedish government decided to limit social benefits for non-European immigrants, such as child benefits, and housing and restrict multiple allowances.

**26 October**

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said that Hamas is not a terrorist organization but a liberation group fighting to protect Palestinian lands. He also cancelled his visit to Israel.

**27 October**

The 27 member states of the EU agreed on “continued, rapid, safe and unhindered humanitarian aid to reach those in need through all necessary measures in Gaza.

**28 October**

The German Branch of Fridays for Future is facing condemnation from other international climate movements over its pro-Palestinian posts on social media.

**03 November**

The United Nations urged and called for better warning systems that could be woven into public health policy as Climate Change poses a health threat through increasing unprecedented extreme weather patterns and extreme heat/cold.

**05 November**

In London, on a fourth consecutive week, thousands of pro-Palestinian protestors gather to call for a ceasefire in Gaza.

**06 November**

The Russian defence ministry has confirmed its successful test of a new strategic nuclear submarine, the Emperor Alexander III.

**14 November**

The EU foreign ministers decided to go towards online visas for the Schengen area, so people will no longer need to go to the consulates or service provider's offices.

**16 November**

France has issued an international arrest warrant against Syrian President Bashar-al-Asad accused of complicity in crimes against humanity over alleged chemical attacks in August 2013, which left more than 1,400 people suffocating to death near Damascus.

**17 November**

The EU lawmakers have reached a deal to revise the bloc's waste shipments destined for disposal in another EU country to protect the environment. It also endorsed preventive measures to detect illegal shipments in and outside the EU.

**18 November**

The European Commission has designated 22 big online companies as "core platform services" shortlisted for additional scrutiny and obligations



under the Digital Markets Act (DMA), aiming to crack down on anti-competitive practices. The list includes familiar brands of social networks like Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

**19 November**

Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed on the basic principles for a peace treaty as the two countries have been at odds for decades, most notably over the breakaway Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which Baku's forces recaptured in September 2023, prompting a mass exodus of ethnic Armenians from it.

**22 November**

Research conducted by New Zealand's Otago University indicated that a hole in the Antarctic ozone layer has been deeper, despite a global ban on chemicals that deplete Earth's shield from deadly solar radiation.

Members of the Scottish Parliament overwhelmingly voted for a Ceasefire in Gaza.

**24 November**

The European Commission condemned Israeli atrocities and violence against Palestinian people in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and called them extremists.

**25 November**

More than 700 migrants from Yemen, Afghanistan, Kenya, Morocco, Pakistan, Somalia and Syria, in the past couple of weeks, have entered Finland via Russia. Finland has temporarily closed its passenger crossings to Russia.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the EU leaders reiterated their strong support for Ukraine in its fight against Russian invasion. They have also pledged to deepen coordination on climate efforts at the Canada summit in the city of St Johns.

**26 November**

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization sent hundreds of additional forces to Kosovo from Britain and Romania after a battle between the authorities

and armed Serbs who sieged a monastery in a border village in northern Kosovo.

**27 November**

The Spanish Prime Minister Pedro defended the comments he made about the Israeli deadly offence in Gaza which angered Israel, by saying “It was a question of being humane”.

**28 November**

The Arab states and the European Union agreed at a meeting in Spain about a two-state solution which was the answer to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, with EU foreign affairs chief Josep Borrell proposing that the Palestinian Authority should rule Gaza.

**29 November**

The European Court of Justice has indicated that government offices in the EU can ban employees wearing religious symbols such as Islamic headscarves, to impose an entirely neutral administrative environment.

**01 December**

The 28<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Summit opened in Dubai, UAE with good news for poor nations, as delegates adopted a new fund to help the developing world bear the cost of climate-driven damages.

**02 December**

At COP28, held in Dubai, nearly 120 states vow to triple renewable energy by 2030. Further, at the climate talks, the US pushed to crank up nuclear capacity and slash methane emissions.

**08 December**

Danish parliament adopted a law criminalizing the “inappropriate treatment” of religious books, effectively banning the burning of the Holy Quran after a series of desecrations sparked anger in the Muslim countries. The law was passed with 94 votes in favour and 77 opposed in the 179-seat Folketing (Danish Parliament).

The Spanish government has expelled two US embassy staff who managed to infiltrate the Spanish CNI intelligence service by bringing two of its officers, also the government ministers confirmed in this report.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> Day of the UN Climate Summit COP28, 100 indigenous leaders and allies signed an open letter calling for negotiators to protect indigenous rights as part of the clean energy transition. Further, the letter's signatories warn that their ancestral lands should not be sacrificed for companies and politicians that seek a "quick fix in the name of climate solutions".

The EU finance ministers moved closer to an agreement on new EU fiscal rules. The reform is aiming to clear a sustainable pathway to bring debt and deficit under control in the member states while leaving room for green and defence investments.

#### **09 December**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan promised that Türkiye will ratify the Swedish stalled NATO membership application if the US Congress "simultaneously" approves Türkiye's request for F-16 fighter jets.

#### **11 December**

Russia called for an international monitoring mission to go to Gaza to assess the humanitarian situation.

#### **12 December**

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which compiles the list several times a year, about a quarter of all freshwater fish species are at risk of extinction due to threats from climate change and pollution

The COP28 enters its last day with no final talk or an agreement in sight on fossil fuels, as the members have concerns about the language of the final draft.

#### **13 December**

The COP28 closed today with an agreement that signals the "beginning of the end" of the fossil fuel era by laying the ground for a swift, equitable transition underpinned by deep emissions cuts and scaled-up finance.

#### **15 December**

The EU leaders granted Ukraine a major political win by agreeing to start membership negotiations at a time when its counter-offensive against

Russia's invasion has failed to make major gains and US military aid has become more uncertain.

**16 December**

The Finnish border guard says, more than 200 asylum seekers have entered Finland from Russia since Finland reopened some border crossings to allow travel between the two countries after a two-week total closure.

**19 December**

According to NASA, the Earth would only have to heat up by a few dozen degrees to spur runaway warming, making it as inhospitable as Venus, a planet whose average surface temperature is around 464 degrees Celsius.