

CHRONOLOGY

January – June 2025

01 January

Poland took over the presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Russia's once dominant gas supply to Europe via Ukraine, which flowed for decades, ended on 1st January with the collapse of a contract between the two warring countries that paid out billions to Russia in gas revenue and to Kyiv in transit fees.

Romania and Bulgaria became full members of the Schengen Zone, expanding the borderless area to 29 members and ended a 13 year wait for the two Eastern European countries.

02 January

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered Russia's government and the country's biggest bank, Sberbank, to build cooperation with China in artificial intelligence.

03 January

The data from the Norwegian Road Federation (OFV) showed that fully electric vehicles accounted for 88.9% of new cars sold in 2024, up from 82.4% in 2023. Top selling brands were Tesla, Volkswagen, and Toyota.

09 January

Elon Musk hosted an online discussion with the leader of German Far Right AfD leader, Alice Weidel, over which the European Commission warned him for legal action.

13 January

Nordic and Baltic states asked EU to raise the price cap on Russian oil and tightening sanctions on Russia.

14 January

Two climate activists from "Just Stop Oil" painted over the grave of British naturalist Charles Darwin at Westminster Abbey. The activists wrote "1.5 is dead" in orange over the surface of the white marble gravestone, a

reference to recent news that global temperature in 2024 had exceeded 1.5 Celsius above the pre-industrial era for the first time.

17 January

The Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Bayramov said that Azerbaijan had refused to renew its cooperation agreement with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). According to him, the US used its aid to pursue its political agenda.

Russia and Iran signed a treaty in Moscow underpinning their economic and military cooperation in which both sides cast a major milestone in their relations.

22 January

Holger Caesar, Dutch University Researcher designed a unique e-bike to make cycling safer.

23 January

According to the World Health Organization, Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, was declared among the world's most polluted cities.

24 January

According to the report released by the climate think tank Ember, solar took over coal in the European Union's electricity production in 2024 with the share of renewables rising to almost half the bloc's power sector.

27 January

According to Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, Italy signed an agreement worth around \$10 Billion with Saudi Arabia as part of a strengthened strategic partnership between the two countries.

29 January

The US notified the United Nations about withdrawal from the Paris Climate deal 2015.

30 January

The EU unveiled a much anticipated blueprint to revamp Europe's economic model, marking a shift towards a more business friendly Brussels after five years of heavy focus on green goals.

01 February

Thousands of protestors took to the streets of Germany to record their protest against CDU and AfD's migration policy.

03 February

Flemish nationalist Bart De Wever sworn in as Belgian Prime Minister and formed a coalition government.

05 February

Ukraine and Russia exchanged 150 prisoners of war with the help of humanitarian mediation efforts by United Arab Emirates.

European leadership firmly rejected Trump's plan to take over Gaza and reiterated their support for the two-state solution.

08 February

Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelensky offered minerals to the United States in return for security.

09 February

The three Baltic states, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia cut ties with Russia's power grid to join the European Union's network.

11 February

Hundreds of UK farmers with tractors blocked streets around parliament hoping to force the Labour governments to reverse a planned farm tax they insist will cost them.

13 February

The British government said it was toughening immigration rules to make it almost impossible for undocumented migrants who arrive on small boats to later receive citizenship.

14 February

French President Emmanuel Macron urged Syria's new leaders to ensure "governance that is representative and respectful for all" at a Paris conference on the transition in the war-torn country after Bashar al Assad's fall.

15 February

The Finnish President called for calm over the US announcement of that peace talks would begin immediately between Washington and Moscow.

German Chancellor expressed his resentment over US VP James David Vance criticism of EU leaders.

18 February

Zoran Milanovic was sworn in as Croatia's president for the second term in Zagreb.

The Presidents of the EU Commission and the EU Council met with the US special envoy for Russia and Ukraine to discuss their diplomatic standoff for not being included in the US-Russia talks to end the war.

22 February

The EU charged Google with breaking big tech rules.

05 March

The EU ministers formally adopted the Warsaw call to boost the cyber security system across the member states and to harmonize the civil military cooperation.

06 March

The EU leaders gathered in an emergency summit in Brussels. The new initiative was taken to "ReArm Europe" against the Russian aggression

07 March

Swedes launched a boycott of US goods in response to the US policy shifts on Europe, tariffs, and Ukraine.

08 March

In an attempt to make a new coalition government in Germany, conservative CDU/CSU and SPD leaders agreed on issues of migration and economy.

France began withdrawing its troops from two military bases of Senegal, starting the process to end its military presence in the West African country in accordance with the orders of the Senegalese President.

19 March

The European Commission presented a plan to channelize €10 trillion of citizens' saving into investment across the EU in order to boost economy and competition.

25 March

Julia Klöckner elected as a president of Bundestag.

02 April

The United Kingdom established an electronic entry pass for travelers from Europe.

03 April

Bulgarian government of GERB party survived a no-confidence vote in the parliament.

The government set a goal to adopt euro in 2026.

04 April

A summit was held in Uzbekistan to enhance relations between Europe and Central Asian states.

07 April

French President Macron arrived in Cairo aiming to hold the tri summit with Egypt and Jordan. The main concern was to highlight the reopening of the humanitarian corridor for Gaza and matters of strategic partnership in the region.

12 April

A two-day summit of interior ministers of the EU held in Naples to strengthen European Border and Coastguard Agency and curb irregular migration.

15 April

Britain and the EU called for immediate and permanent cease fire in the ongoing civil war in Sudan. The conflict broke out in 2023.

18 April

The US and Ukraine signed a memorandum of intent to set a ground work for a mineral exploitation deal.

21 April

Pope Francis, first Latin American pope from Argentina, died at the age of 88 years.

24 April

The UK lifted sanctions on some Syrian financial agencies and media houses, encouraging the country to rebuild economy.

Beijing offered a lifting of controversial sanctions on MEPs, intending to reset the EU-China strategic dialogue.

03 May

The TikTok platform received a massive fine of €530 million from the European Union, with the accusations of sending personal data of Europeans to China and failing to guarantee it was shielded from access from Chinese authorities.

06 May

Romania's pro EU's Prime Minister Marcel Ciolacu resigned after political turmoil.

08 May

The International Energy Agency (IEA) indicated that the record fossil fuel production kept planet-heating methane emissions near historic highs last year (2024).

09 May

Ukraine and Hungary expelled each other's diplomats over the matter of espionage.

13 May

The world's first commercial scale e-methanol plant began operations in Denmark.

14 May

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz pledged to build up the "strongest conventional army in Europe" as the continent faces a hostile Russia-Ukraine war.

15 May

According to British researchers a “copy” of Magna Carta, the medieval English document that has formed the basis of constitutions around the world, owned by Harvard School of Law was actually an exceedingly rare original.

16 May

In a rare occurrence, the Danish court fined two men 10,000 kroner (\$ 1,500) each for desecrating the Holy Quran.

20 May

The EU and the UK announced new sanctions against Russia without waiting for the United States to join them.

28 May

Nearly 380 writers from the UK and Ireland including Zadie Smith and Ian McEwan, penned an open letter denouncing Israel’s genocide in Gaza and urging a ceasefire.

02 June

Greenpeace activists stole a wax figure of President Emmanuel Macron from a Paris museum and placed it in front of the Russian embassy as part of the protest against French economic ties with Russia in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine.

09 June

NATO head Mark Rutte urged a “quantum leap” in defense capabilities including a “400 percent increase” in air and missile defence to shield the alliance against Russia.

11 June

Greenland ice melted in the month of May due to acute heatwave.

13 June

Israel targeted killed a number of high profile Iranian generals and scientists as well as attacking the country’s atomic infrastructure.

20 June

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on a rare visit to Turkiye described as a “historic” step towards regional peace.

25 June

Italian supermarkets chain halted selling Israeli products.

30 June

German trade unionist Michael Sommer passed away. He was 73.