

## CHRONOLOGY

### July – November 2016

#### July 1

Austria's highest court ordered a re-run of the country's presidential election, giving the right-wing presidential candidate a second chance after his narrow defeat in the election last month.

Four Hungarian army explosives experts were killed in eastern Hungary after a device of a derelict military shooting range detonated while being defused.

Britain and France observed the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Somme in which their troops fought together in one of the defining offensives of World War I.

#### July 2

A week after Britons voted to leave the EU, German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel called for the number of EU Commissioners to be cut and for Brussels to reconsider how it allocates its budget.

#### July 3

The two leading candidates for the office of Prime Minister of the United Kingdom differed on the urgency of evoking article 50, for starting Britain's negotiations with the European Union on the terms of its exit from the bloc.

#### July 4

The head of the UK Independence Party, Nigel Farage, resigned as party leader amid the political turmoil following the country's vote to leave the European Union.

Two suspected militants of Daesh (Islamic State) were detained at Istanbul's Ataturk airport.

**July 5**

The President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker dubbed the right wing politicians Nigel Farage and Boris Johnson as the “sad heroes” of Brexit who had backed out of leading Britain in its exit from the EU.

Socialist French Prime Minister Manuel Valls bypassed parliament to force through labour reforms that have sparked strikes and street protests for the past four months.

**July 8**

The United States announced that it was deploying 1,000 troops in Poland as part of broader NATO efforts to reassure the Central and Eastern European member states of the transatlantic alliance, fearful of a more assertive Russia.

**July 9**

NATO agreed to maintain a certain number of troops in Afghanistan and reiterated its pledge to fund the local security forces until 2020.

**July 10**

Former British deputy Prime Minister John Prescott said that Britain broke international law when it invaded Iraq in 2003.

In Berlin, 123 police officers were hurt during clashes with left-wing protesters who are opposed to rising rents and the gentrification of Berlin. Protesters hurled rocks and bottles at police, smashed shop windows and set cars ablaze following weeks of escalating tensions around a squatter building which is a popular meeting point for left-wing youth activists in the capital.

**July 11**

Andrea Leadson, a candidate for the office of British Prime Minister unexpectedly withdrew from the race, clearing the way for her rival Theresa May.

French President Francois Hollande handed over to Jacob Zuma his South African counterpart, the digitized recordings of the Rivonia Trial in which Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life in Jail.

**July 13**

Britain's former interior minister Theresa May became Prime Minister, promising to champion social justice and rise to the challenge of leading the country out of the European Union.

Owing to security threats, France closed its embassy in Ankara and its consulate in Istanbul.

The European Commission proposed more unified EU asylum rules in a bid to stop people waiting for conferment of refugee status from moving around the bloc and disrupting its passport-free zone.

**July 14**

The new British Prime Minister Theresa May completed a major overhaul of the government, promoting leading Brexit campaigners and stunning observers by picking Boris Johnson as her top diplomat.

Eighty four people were killed in the French Riviera city of Nice during Bastille Day celebrations when a person driving a truck rammed into the crowd, gathered to see fireworks.

**July 15**

Following Britain's vote to quit the European Union, British Prime Minister Theresa May arrived in Scotland in a bid to ensure the United Kingdom's integrity, as Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon threatened another referendum on Scotland's secession from the UK.

The funeral of British lawmaker Jo Cox, whose murder shocked Britain in the run-up to the EU referendum, was held in the northern English constituency she represented.

**July 16**

Turkish forces loyal to President Tayyip Erdogan crushed an attempted military coup after crowds answered his call to take to the streets in support of the government. Dozens of rebels abandoned their tanks and weapons on the Bosphorus and Mehmet Bridges. Over 250 people, including many civilians, were killed when a faction of armed forces tried to seize power.

**July 17**

Turkish authorities launched a crackdown against suspects of the failed coup and detained 6,000 people.

**July 18**

The Turkish government launched fresh raids and sacked almost 9,000 officials in a crackdown against suspected coup plotters. The crackdown has alarmed the West and sparked fears that Ankara might reinstate the death penalty.

**July 20**

A car bombing in central Kiev killed renowned journalist Pavel Sheremet in the latest deadly attack on reporters in Ukraine.

Britain put on its list of terrorist organizations, the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) active in China.

**July 21**

Iranian forces foiled a terrorist bid by intercepting a terrorist group trying to infiltrate Iran from Turkey. One suspect was killed and one arrested while the other two fled back to Turkey.

**July 22**

Nine people were killed in a shopping centre in Munich, Germany when a gunman opened fire on people before killing himself.

Police in Paris dismantled a tented camp near the railways, housing over 1,000 people from Afghanistan and east Africa.

Poland's right-wing dominated parliament declared as 'genocide' the massacre of 100,000 Poles by Ukrainian nationalists seven decades ago. The move quickly drew criticism from Kiev.

**July 24**

A Syrian asylum seeker, whose refugee application was rejected, blew himself up in the German town of Ansbach, wounding fifteen people.

**July 25**

Scottish leader Nicola Sturgeon said that she would begin preparatory work for Scotland's secession from the United Kingdom in order to keep the option of independence open following the June 23 British vote to leave the European Union.

**July 26**

A French priest was killed and three people were made hostage by two attackers during a morning mass in a suburb of Rouen in northern France. Both attackers were shot and killed by police.

**July 27**

Catalan lawmakers defied Spain's Constitutional Court and approved a declaration calling on the region to push ahead with its bid to forge a separate state, with or without Madrid's approval.

French President Francois Hollande met with France's Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Muslim and Jewish leaders after two Daesh (ISIS) militants killed a Roman Catholic priest in a church.

**July 29**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accused a top US general of siding with the plotters of the failed coup in Turkey.

**July 30**

Around 3,000 people rallied in Glasgow demanding a second referendum on Scottish independence in the wake of Britain's vote to leave the EU.

**August 1**

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve revealed that French authorities have shut down around 20 mosques and prayer halls considered to be preaching radical Islam since December 2015.

**August 7**

John Boreland, a leading member of the Ulster Defence Association (UDA) shot died outside his home in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

**August 8**

Italy's highest court allowed a national referendum for political reform, that Prime Minister Matteo Renzi says will guarantee political stability.

**August 16**

British cleric Anjem Choudary of Bangladeshi origin, who has long been accused of radicalizing young Muslims, was convicted for garnering support for the militant Islamic State group (Daesh).

**August 20**

The Turkish parliament approved a deal to normalize ties with Israel after a delay caused by the attempted coup against the Erdogan government in July.

**August 22**

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Italian Premier Matteo Renzi and French President Francois Hollande paid their respects at the tomb of one of the founding fathers of European unity, Altiero Spinelli, on the island of Ventotene in a symbolic bid to relaunch the European project, following Britain's decision to leave the EU.

**August 26**

France's highest administrative court suspended a controversial ban by a French Riviera town on the burkini – the swimsuit worn mostly by Muslim women on beaches – after it was challenged by rights groups.

**September 2**

France announced that it would dismantle in stages a migrant camp dubbed 'Jungle' in the northern port of Calais.

**September 4**

In German state elections, the anti-immigrant party Alternative for Germany (AfD) defeated German Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democrat party in her home state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania.

Poland announced that three ministers were being sent on an urgent visit to London following attacks against its nationals in Britain, including a murder.

**September 5**

French farmers and truckers launched a joint operation to block off main routes in and out of Calais in a bid to dismantle the 'Jungle' migrant camp.

**September 6**

One of Germany's best known Islamic preachers Sven Lau, was put on trial. He is accused of supporting and recruiting fighters for the Syria-based terrorist group Jaish al-Muhajireen wal-Ansar (JMA).

Radical cleric Anjem Choudary was jailed for five-and-a-half years after being convicted in London for actively supporting Daesh.

**September 7**

According to the interior ministry in London, Britain would start building a wall in the northern French port of Calais to stop migrants jumping on trucks and sneaking into the country. This was being done under a deal between the two countries agreed earlier this year.

**September 10**

Germany's interior minister has warned that the country is home to more than 500 Islamic militants who could be capable of carrying out assaults on their own or as members of hit teams.

**September 11**

Police arrested 55 people and seized bladed weapons after dozens of men occupied a Sikh temple in central England.

Britain's immigration minister said that UK citizens may have to pay for visas to visit European Union member states after the country leaves the bloc.

Tens of thousands of Catalans held mass rallies in Barcelona and four other cities to demand their region's secession from Spain.

The Turkish government removed 28 mayors accused of links to Kurdish rebels or US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen, using emergency powers to replace them with state-appointed trustees. The move sparked allegations of disregard for democratic norms.

**September 12**

Britain's former prime minister David Cameron resigned his seat in the House of Commons after losing a referendum on Britain's membership of the EU. He had campaigned to stay in the bloc.

**September 15**

Clashes broke out between dozens of asylum-seekers and far-right extremists in the eastern German city of Bautzen, forcing police to call in reinforcements to quell the violence.

**September 16**

At a summit of European Union leaders in Bratislava, German Chancellor Angela Merkel warned that the EU was facing a critical situation, for European leaders were not very forthright about the bloc's future without Britain.

**September 17**

Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets across Germany to protest against a massive transatlantic trade deal. This dealt a new blow to the disputed accord.

Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico said that Hungary, Poland, the Czech Republic and Slovakia were ready to veto any Brexit deal that would limit their citizens' rights to work in Britain.

**September 18**

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's party faced a setback in Berlin state elections, in which the right-wing populist party AfD fared very well.

The far-right French National Front leader Marine Le Pen vowed to give back her country control over its laws, currency and borders if elected president next year on an anti-EU, anti-immigration platform.

**September 19**

Russian President Vladimir Putin's ruling party won a record number of seats in parliamentary elections.



**September 20**

Construction work on a wall began in the northern French city of Calais to clamp down on repeated attempts by migrants to stow away on trucks heading for Britain.

Greek police arrested nine migrants after clashes and a huge fire at an asylum seekers' camp on the island of Lesbos.

**September 22**

The European Union's top court took a step towards confirming the removal of Hamas and the Tamil Tigers from an EU terrorism list, despite protestations from Israel and the Sri Lankan government.

**September 24**

Around 15,000 people marched in central Helsinki to protest against rising racism and violent right-wing extremism.

French President Francois Hollande confirmed plans to close the squalid Calais migrant camp known as "the Jungle," saying that the authorities would make efforts to relocate as many as 9,000 migrants to reception centres across France in the coming weeks.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, under fire at home over her refugees policy, called for Europe to secure deals with third countries to send back migrants who did not qualify for asylum.

**September 25**

Spain's Basque country and Galicia went to the polls in regional elections, which it was hoped would unblock the prolonged national political paralysis.

**September 27**

A mosque and a congress centre were hit by bomb attacks in the eastern German city of Dresden. Police suspected xenophobic and nationalist elements' involvement in the attack.

**September 29**

The contract for a French-Chinese consortium to build Britain's first nuclear plant in a generation was signed at a low-key ceremony in London, after a string of controversies threatened to scupper the huge deal.

**September 30**

Joachim Kebschull, the pro-refugee mayor of a tiny town Oersdorf in northern Germany was assaulted before a town hall meeting where the construction of a new asylum-seekers' home was to be discussed.

**October 1**

According to reports in German media, Chancellor Merkel could not bail out the Deutsche Bank, given the hardline Germany had taken against government aid to banks in trouble in other European nations.

**October 2**

British Prime Minister Theresa May announced that the process of exit from the EU would commence by the end of March 2017.

**October 6**

The British Government approved fracking in Lancashire, a significant boost to the shale gas industry.

**October 7**

Finland and Estonia accused Russia of violating their airspace.

**October 8**

Hungary's opposition daily *Nepszabadsag* suspended publication amidst mounting concerns about press freedom.

**October 9**

Georgia's ruling Georgian Dream Party won parliamentary elections with 49.3 % of the vote. Former President Mikheil Saakashvili's United National Movement received 26.5 % of the vote.

**October 10**

Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Istanbul at the invitation of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to attend the 23<sup>rd</sup> World Energy

Congress. This was Putin's first visit to Turkey after a Russian Su-24 bomber was shot down by Turkish F-16s in the Turkey-Syria border area.

**October 11**

Vladimir Putin cancelled his visit to France, owing to the latter's insistence that priority be given to the Syrian crisis in exchanges between the leaders of the two countries.

**October 13**

As Brexit appears imminent, Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon unveiled a new independence plan as a last resort to secure Scottish interests in the EU.

**October 14**

Israel suspended its ties with UNESCO after the Paris-based UN cultural body passed a resolution that appeared to undermine Jerusalem's Judaic heritage.

**October 15**

Germany's Lower House passed a controversial bill on asylum seekers.

**October 16**

Montenegrin authorities detained a group of Serbs suspected of planning armed attacks on the eve of parliamentary elections.

**October 17**

According to reports, Austria was planning to demolish the house where Nazi supremo Adolf Hitler was born.

**October 19**

Europol sources claimed that it had conducted an operation against human traffickers involving police forces from 52 countries.

**October 20**

French President Francois Hollande warned the British prime minister to expect a tough road ahead in Brexit talks.

**October 21**

Finland and Estonia reached an EU-backed deal to invest in a bidirectional gas pipeline. It would end Finnish gas isolation by integrating its system with the rest of the European gas market.

**October 24**

Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel said that Belgium would not sign the EU-Canada trade deal because of objections raised by its Wallonia region.

**October 29**

Iceland's anti-establishment Pirate Party saw its proportion of votes increase in the snap election. The polls were due next year but the ruling party promised an early vote in the wake of the Panama Papers tax dodging scandal.

**October 30**

Moldova went for the first direct presidential elections since 1996. Igor Dodon of the Party of Socialists of the Republic of Moldova, although ahead, failed to secure a majority.

**October 31**

The controversial Dutch MP Geert Wilders was put on trial in Netherlands over hate speech.

**November 1**

The head of the Turkish Armed Forces General Staff, General Hulusi Akar visited Moscow. He held talks with his Russian counterpart General Valery Gerasimov.

**November 3**

The High Court in the United Kingdom ruled that a parliamentary vote would be necessary to evoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty which lays down the procedure of withdrawal from the European Union.

**November 4**

Selahattin Demirtas and Figen Yuksekdog, co-leaders of the pro-Kurdish political outfit People's Democratic Party, were detained by authorities in Turkey.

**November 6**

Milivoje Katnic, the Montenegrin chief special prosecutor, claimed that 'nationalists from Russia' were behind a plot to mount a coup and assassinate the prime minister. Kremlin condemned this allegation.

**November 7**

Former Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili resigned as governor of Ukraine's Odessa region. He accused Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko of corruption.

**November 8**

In a joint letter, the presidents of the European Council and the European Commission, congratulated Donald Trump, president-elect of the US and invited him to visit Europe for an urgent EU-US summit.

**November 9**

The Estonian government collapsed after Prime Minister Taavi Roivas lost a vote of confidence in Riigikogu (Estonia's parliament).

**November 10**

Attackers on a motorbike hurled an explosive device at the French embassy in Athens.

**November 11**

Bulgaria and Romania launched a new natural gas pipeline. It is 25-km long and runs under the Danube River.

**November 14**

The bodies of former Polish President Lech Kaczynski and his wife were exhumed in a bid to reinvestigate the crash that killed the Kaczynskis in Smolensk in 2010.

**November 15**

Police conducted raids across Germany after the government banned an Islamist organization Die Wahre Religion (True Religion), accusing it of radicalizing youngsters.

**November 16**

The European Commission said that Italy, Belgium, Cyprus, Lithuania, Slovenia and Finland were at the risk of breaking the EU's budgetary rules.

**November 20**

Former French President Nicholas Sarkozy lost a conservative primary to Francois Fillon who used to be his prime minister.

**November 21**

Interfax reported that Russia had deployed state-of-the art anti-ship ballistic missiles in Kaliningrad.

**November 22**

Talks between Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders to heal the decades old division in Cyprus broke down. Both sides blamed the other for the termination of negotiations.

**November 23**

The seventh meeting of the Pakistan-EU Joint Commission was held in Islamabad. A wide range of issues came under discussion.

**November 24**

The President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz announced that he would relinquish his European duties and seek a return to German politics.

**November 25**

The EU agreed on visa-free travel for Ukraine citizens with biometric passports to enter the Schengen area.

**Mr. Sajjad Ahmad**  
**Mr. Muhammad Ahsan**