

CHRONOLOGY

July – December 2015

July 1

To mark the first stage of the deepening European Monetary Union (EMU), which began on July 1, 2015, the College of Commissioners proposed that accelerated efforts were required for deepening Economic and Monetary Union.

The EU gave 15 million euros as humanitarian assistance to Ukraine.

July 3

To mark the inauguration of Luxembourg's Presidency of the Council of the European Union which took office on July 1, European Commission President Juncker and the College of Commissioners met in Luxembourg.

July 5

Greeks overwhelmingly rejected the conditions of a rescue package from creditors, throwing the future of the country's eurozone membership into further doubt.

Greek voters decisively rejected the terms of an international bailout in a referendum.

July 7

The ministers of the eurozone met in Brussels to discuss the situation following the referendum in Greece. They urged that Greece must soon come up with a workable proposal since the Greek finance minister had failed to submit a written proposal of economic reforms.

July 8

The prime minister of Greece, Alexis Tsipras told the European Parliament that he was confident that Greece could meet its creditor's demands by the end of the week. He urged the EU to adopt measures to prevent a divided Europe.

July 9

European Council President Donald Tusk backed calls for Greece's debt sustainability to be tackled as part of a third bailout.

To meet the rise in demand for energy in the Balkans the energy ministers of Albania, Bosnia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo agreed to set up a regional power market next year along with EU member Croatia.

July 11

The Greek parliament gave Prime Minister Tsipras the authority to negotiate a new bailout by 250 votes to 32, but 17 government MPs did not back the plan.

July 12

The leaders of the European Union reached an agreement that paved the way to a third Greek bail out, if the Athens parliament approved the tough austerity measures.

July 15

The European Commission allocated more than 35 billion euros from the EU budget for jobs and growth in Greece.

The European Commission presented proposals to deliver a new deal for energy consumers, to redesign the European electricity market and to revise the EU Emissions Trading System.

July 16

To help citizens and businesses benefit fully from the internal market, the European Commission called for implementation of European Union laws. It decided to refer two member states to the European Court of Justice: Spain in the area of environment, and Ireland in the area of taxation and customs.

July 19

The EU urged its member states to help the refugees stranded on Greek islands.

July 20

Greece began to repay the European Central Bank and IMF as banks reopened in the country.

July 21

Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Hotovely in his meeting with European officials demanded that EU member states halt funding to non-governmental organizations allegedly working against Israel. The Israeli foreign ministry claimed that European governments provided 100-200 million euros annually to the said groups.

July 23

The World Bank gave a loan amounting to \$ 504.0 million to Poland for flood management. The objective is to strengthen Poland's institutional capacity to effectively mitigate the impact of floods.

July 25

The Hungarian prime minister stated that illegal immigration was the biggest threat to Hungary and the whole of Europe.

The European Commission disbursed 600 million euros as assistance to Ukraine.

July 27

The creditors of Greece sought a third wave of reforms before more loans are given to Greece.

July 28

The EU foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini met Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir in Riyadh to explain the agreement the EU had helped broker on Iran's nuclear programme.

July 29

EU foreign ministers vowed to use the recent nuclear pact with Iran as a springboard for wider diplomatic and economic cooperation with the country.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius met his Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif in Tehran.

July 30

Bosnia adopted the labour laws recommended by the EU and the IMF. The autonomous Serb republic said it too would adopt similar reforms by the end of the year.

July 31

The EU disbursed the first part of its annual assistance package for Tunisia amounting to 116.8 million euros. The purpose is to strengthen the country's security sector and support its socio-economic and regional development.

August 3

Britain and France urged other European Union states to help them tackle the growing crisis in northern France caused by thousands of migrants seeking to make illegal and dangerous crossings into England. The French port of Calais has become the focal point of the huge influx of migrants entering Europe.

August 5

The European Commission gave 12 million euros as humanitarian aid to Yemen for people affected in the crisis.

August 6

The mayor of Palermo warned that the EU's failure to provide legal options for desperate migrants was breeding organized crime in Italy.

August 7

The European Commission formally extended safety net measures for the European fruit and vegetable sector in the wake of the Russian ban on imports of fruit and vegetables from the EU.

Russian authorities continued their clampdown on food imported from the West with a symbolic bulldozing and burning of confiscated food, despite the country's people struggling with rising food prices.

August 9

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond stated that the surge in migrants from Africa threatened the European Union's living standards and social structure.

August 11

The European Commission stated that an agreement had been reached with Greece, which required political approval. Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has asked parliament to convene so that MPs can debate the details of the bailout deal.

Russia and Saudi Arabia failed to reach an agreement in Moscow on the Syrian crisis. Russia pushed for a coalition to fight IS insurgents who have seized large swathes of northern and eastern Syria that would involve Assad, a longtime ally of Russia. Speaking after the talks, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir reiterated Riyadh's stance that Assad must go.

August 12

The European Union stated that the surge in attacks on government-controlled areas in eastern Ukraine violate a February peace deal with pro-Russia separatists.

August 13

The EU and its member states sent an expert team under the EU's Civil Protection Mechanism to assist the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to assess the damage caused by recent floods and mudslides.

August 14

After an all-night debate, the Greek parliament backed a new bailout deal despite a rebellion by many MPs within the governing Syriza Party.

August 19

German MPs voted by a large majority to approve a third bailout deal for Greece. A total of 453 members of parliament voted in favour of the bailout, while 113 rejected it and 18 abstained.

Greece got the go-ahead to start repaying its debts and reviving its economy after eurozone finance ministers formally approved a third reforms-for-rescue deal of up to 86 billion euros.

August 26

Berlin eased asylum rules for Syrians as migrants poured into the EU, a move aimed at relieving pressure on the southern European Union member states as thousands more migrants pour into the bloc.

August 27

The death toll from the migrant crisis rose to 2,500 and is reportedly rising every day.

August 29

The president of the European Parliament Martin Schulz blamed some European countries of 'glaring failure' in not allowing in migrants and turning the Mediterranean Sea into a mass grave.

August 30

The Dutch government stated that it would introduce a tougher asylum policy as migrants flock to Europe. As Europe grapples with its biggest wave of migration since the Second World War, the Netherlands decided upon cutting food and shelter for those who failed to qualify as migrants.

September 7

Britain, France and Germany made a collective commitment to accommodate thousands of Syrian and Iraqi refugees.

During the 6th EU-Pakistan joint Commission meeting held in Brussels, it was noted that there had been some increase in bilateral trade in 2014 and it was resolved that further dialogue on EU-Pakistan business ties would be encouraged.

September 8

For the first time since 2011 Turkey has placed its military forces across the border into northern Iraq to counter Kurdish rebels.

September 10

The EU adopted new rules on Inheritance Law. These rules aimed at assisting EU citizens or others who hold assets within the EU to simplify the succession procedure.

During the Pakistan-Russia dialogue, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Ryabkov stated that increased Pakistan-Russia military cooperation, would not affect Russia's relations with India. The delivery of Sukhoi Su-35 and Mi-35M fighter jets to Pakistan was also discussed.

September 14

The member states of the EU approved plans of military action against the smuggling of the Middle Eastern and North African refugees rampant in the Mediterranean Sea.

September 16

An agreement was signed in Islamabad between Pakistan and Germany, which stipulated that a loan of 40 million euros would be given to Pakistan for the rehabilitation of the Warsak hydroelectric power station on River Kabul in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

September 19

During an official visit to Morocco, French President Francois Hollande in his meeting with King Mohammad VI discussed the further development of the French-Moroccan partnership.

September 23

During a meeting in Islamabad, Ahsan Iqbal, the Minister for Planning, Development and Reform urged Ina Lepel, the German Ambassador to promote the idea of a knowledge corridor between Pakistan and Germany.

A meeting held in Islamabad between the German Ambassador and Pakistani Commerce Minister Khurram Dastgir to discuss the matter of enhancement of Pakistan-German bilateral trade relations through the joint business chamber.

Russian President Vladimir Putin formally opened a new mosque of 20,000 square meters in Moscow. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas were guests of honours on the occasion.

September 24

At a summit in Brussels, the top leaders of the European Union pledged one billion euros for the Syrian refugees in the Middle East and highlighted

the need for closer cooperation with the countries of the region to stem migrant flows into Europe.

September 28

The EU-China economic and trade dialogue held in Beijing. The European Commission and the Chinese government signed a MoU on the EU-China Connectivity Platform to promote cooperation in infrastructure, equipment and technologies. Also, China expressed its intention to contribute to the Commission's initiative Investment Plan for Europe.

Showing concern over the Russian military build up in Syria, NATO Chief Jens Stoltenberg urged Moscow to play a constructive role in the fight against the self-styled Islamic State.

September 29

Germany toughened its rules to control the influx of the asylum seekers from the states of the Balkans region, but announced an open door policy for the Syrian refugees.

September 30

Russia launched airstrikes in Syria against ISIS militants.

October 2

German Chancellor, French, Russian and Ukrainian Presidents held a meeting in Paris aimed at reviewing implementation of the Minsk peace plan.

October 8

The interior ministers of the European Union endorsed a programme for the deportation of failed asylum seekers.

October 10

Egypt signed an agreement with France to buy €950 million worth of Mistral warships, which had been initially ordered by Russia but was cancelled as a result of the Ukrainian crisis.

October 13

France and Saudi Arabia signed a series of deals in Riyadh worth 10 billion euros, enhancing the two countries' cooperation in the military and economic fields.

October 15

EU leaders at a summit in Brussels approved a new "action plan" for seeking Turkish co-operation to contain the flow of migrants from its territory to Europe.

October 16

Russian President Vladimir Putin met with the heads of CIS states in Astana to form a joint task force to defend the region's borders in crisis situations.

October 17

Pakistan and Russia signed an agreement in Islamabad to build a gas pipeline from Karachi to Lahore.

October 20

The US and Russia signed a memorandum of understanding in Washington to avoid the risk of an inadvertent clash between them while operating separate air strikes against militant groups in Syria.

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad met with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Moscow to discuss the Syrian conflict.

October 21

Chinese President Xi Jinping signed a deal in London to finance nuclear power stations in Britain. It was the first major Chinese investment in a Western nuclear facility.

October 23

NATO launched its biggest military exercise since 2002 through its manoeuvres in Italy, Spain and Portugal to improve the alliance's ability to respond to new security threats.

Foreign ministers from Russia, the US, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, met in Vienna to discuss a possible political solution of the Syrian conflict.

October 28

The German chancellor Angela Merkel paid a two-day official visit to China to enhance bilateral trade relations.

The Pakistan-Turkey High Level Military Dialogue Group (HLMDG) signed a defence agreement in Ankara under which Turkey would provide 34 T-437 aircraft to Pakistan on a gratis basis.

November 1

Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) won a parliamentary election, securing approximately 50 percent of vote.

November 7

European Parliament chief Martin Schulz arrived in Tehran at the invitation of the Iranian parliament.

November 8

Parliamentary election was held in Croatia.

November 13

A series of coordinated terrorist attacks ensued in Paris.

November 15

A G20 summit was held in Antalya, Turkey.

November 19

The violent protests by Kosovo's opposition parties were condemned in a joint statement issued by the embassies of France, Germany, Italy, Britain and the United States.

November 20

The European Union agreed over reforms to the passport-free Schengen zone following the Paris attacks.

The United Nations Security Council unanimously approved a French proposal which authorized countries to "take all necessary measures" to fight the Islamic State (IS) militants.

November 23

France launched its first air strikes against Islamic State (IS) militants from its Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier.

British Prime Minister David Cameron met French President Francois Hollande in Paris. Both leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation to counter international terrorism, including increased data-sharing and sharing of airline records.

Supreme leader of Iran Ayatollah Sayyed Ali Khamenei met with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Tehran, where they exchanged views on regional issues.

November 24

The Council of the European Union unanimously approved the 2016 EU budget which provides the European Union with the financial means to respond to the current challenges.

Turkey shot down a Russian warplane near the Syrian border for violating Turkish airspace.

Russian President Vladimir Putin held a meeting with Jordanian King Abdullah II in Sochi (Russia) to discuss the downing of the Russian warplane by Turkey.

French President François Hollande met with his American counterpart Barack Obama at the White House in Washington. Hollande sought support to accelerate the campaign against the Islamic State (IS).

November 25

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras arrived in Israel to enhance cooperation in the sectors of energy, tourism and technology.

November 30

In Paris, the United Nations in collaboration with the French government organized a Climate Change Conference by having an agenda of global climate agreement to curb carbon emissions.

In the province of Helmand – South Afghanistan, the British troops have been deployed to counter Taliban for the control of a strategic district.

December 1

The NATO allies mutually agreed to keep alliance troops in Afghanistan around 12,000 by next year and also launched a campaign to fund 350,000 Afghan forces.

December 3

In Belgrade, The Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu met for a bilateral talk.

Britain officially joined the US-led bombing campaign over Syria, after a parliamentary vote authorized air strikes.

December 4

German Parliament approved military mission to Syria in the battle against the IS.

December 6

US Vice President Joe Biden paid a three-day visit to Kiev, and met with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to reaffirm US support.

December 10

The EU Commission began the legal procedures against Croatia, Greece and Italy for not registering migrants entering the EU and not following the EU laws to deal with asylum seekers.

December 13

The second round of local elections completed in France. The ruling Socialist Party won five regions, and the centre-right Les Republicans became successful in seven regions. The far-right National Front failed to win any region.

December 19

In Kenya, after a five-day Nairobi Ministerial Conference, the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreed to abolish all agricultural export subsidies of developed countries immediately.

December 20

General elections were held in Spain in which no single party gained majority. The ruling Popular Party came first.

December 21

The EU has opened two chapters in the negotiations with Montenegro in a ministerial accession conference in Brussels.

The EU has extended economic sanctions against Russia for the period of six months.

December 22

The Greek Parliament has recognized the Palestinian State.

The European Union and the Philippines officially decided to begin free-trade talks next year.

December 23

The Amnesty International warned Russia for its air strikes in Syria killed hundreds of civilian which could constitute war crimes.

December 29

Polish President Andrzej Duda signed a controversial law to put the constitutional Tribunal under political control, while ignoring EU appeal to refrain from constitutional reforms.

December 30

The EU's border agency Frontex deployed 293 officers and 15 vessels on Greek island to assist Athens administration in registering, fingerprinting and examining the documents of migrants.

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