

# Timeline 2011

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Summary</b>
01 January 2011	<b>European External Action Service enters into operation</b>	The EEAS becomes operational with the transfer of staff from the Commission and the Council.
04 January 2011	<b>'Arab Spring' begins</b>	Following the self-immolation of a Tunisian street vendor in December, protests in the country erupt, signalling the beginning of the 'Arab Spring'.
09-15 January 2011	<b>South Sudan referendum</b>	As a result of the 2005 Naivasha Agreement, a referendum on independence from Sudan is held in South Sudan. The referendum passes with 99 per cent of the voters in favour.
14 January 2011	<b>Tunisian regime ousted</b>	Due to widespread violent protests, the Tunisian government dissolves and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is forced to leave the country, putting an end to his 23 years of authoritarian rule.
25 January 2011	<b>Egypt protests</b>	Following the civil unrest in Tunisia, protests break out in Egypt.
05 February 2011	<b>New START enters into force</b>	The Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (New START) between Russia and the United States enters into force.
11 February 2011	<b>Egypt power transfer to military</b>	Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak resigns as a result of widespread protests, transferring power to the military.
16 February 2011	<b>Libya protests begin</b>	Protests erupt in Libya and are violently suppressed by the Gaddafi regime.
26 February 2011	<b>UN Security Council reacts to Libya crisis</b>	The UN Security Council issues Resolution 1970, demanding an end to the violence in Libya and implementing travel bans, asset freezes and an arms embargo.

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28 February 2011	<b>Council of the EU adopts Libya sanctions</b>	The Council of the European Union adopts measures on Libya in response to the violent crackdown on anti-government rebels and civilians: trade restrictions, arms embargoes, travel bans and asset freezes.
11 March 2011	<b>Tsunami hits Japan, killing thousands, causing Fukushima nuclear crisis</b>	An earthquake and tsunami in Japan cause thousands of human casualties, widespread destruction and a meltdown at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, leading to the vast release of radioactive materials. The nuclear incidents give rise to sentiments against nuclear power in Germany, Italy and Spain, among others.
14 March 2011	<b>Crackdown on protests in Bahrain</b>	The Bahraini government violently suppresses anti-government protests with the support of the Gulf Cooperation Council and declares a three month state of emergency.
15 March 2011	<b>Syria protests begin</b>	Anti-government protests begin in Syria's Daraa province.
17-19 March 2011	<b>UN Security Council authorises Libya intervention</b>	The UN Security Council passes Resolution 1973, authorising all measures necessary to protect civilians in Libya. A military intervention begins and a no-fly zone is established.
30 March 2011	<b>UN Security Council demands transfer of power in Côte d'Ivoire</b>	Following months of crisis and the outbreak of violence ensuing disputed presidential elections in Côte d'Ivoire, the UN Security Council adopts Resolution 1975, calling upon Laurent Gbagbo to transfer power to internationally recognised President Alassane Ouattara and imposing sanctions on Gbagbo and his close associates.
01 April 2011	<b>Council of the EU establishes EUFOR Libya</b>	The Council of the European Union adopts Council Decision 011/210/CFSP for EU military operation (EUFOR Libya) in support of humanitarian assistance operations in the ongoing Libyan crisis.

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05 April 2011	<b>Israel announces settlement expansion</b>	Israel approves the building of 942 new housing units in East Jerusalem.
11 April 2011	<b>Ivorian crisis ends</b>	Former Ivorian President Laurent Gbagbo is arrested by supporters of Alassane Ouattara and with support from French troops, putting an end to the Ivorian crisis.
April 2011	<b>Libya thought to have used cluster munitions</b>	Libya is reported to have used cluster munitions in the fight against its own population.
01 May 2011	<b>Death of bin Laden</b>	An American military operation kills Osama bin Laden in Pakistan.
09 May 2011	<b>Council of the EU adopts Syria sanctions</b>	The Council of the European Union adopts Council Decision 2011/273/CFSP in regard to restrictive measures against Syria, imposing an arms embargo, travel bans and asset freezes on high-ranking political figures.
26 May 2011	<b>Council of the EU reaffirms EUBAM Rafah mission</b>	The Council reaffirms the political importance of EUBAM Rafah mission in the Gaza Strip and its continued support for the mission.
05 June 2011	<b>Yemen president injured amid demonstrations</b>	Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh travels to Saudi Arabia to be treated for an injury sustained during an attack on the presidential palace by anti-government protesters.
20 June 2011	<b>Council of the EU adopts further Belarus sanctions</b>	The Council of the European Union adopts Council Decision 2011/357/CFSP, strengthening existing sanctions and imposing an arms embargo on Belarus in response to the deteriorating condition of the respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law in the country.
27 June 2011	<b>UN Security Council authorises mission in Sudan</b>	Pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1990, the UNISFA peacekeeping mission is deployed to Abyei, Sudan.
08 July 2011	<b>UN Security Council authorises mission in South Sudan</b>	Resolution 1996 passes in the UN Security Council to establish the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan.
09 July 2011	<b>South Sudan declaration of independence</b>	South Sudan formally secedes from Sudan and declares independence.

Date	Title	Summary
17 July 2011	<b>NATO begins troop withdrawal from Afghanistan</b>	In the Bamiyan province of Afghanistan, NATO transfers responsibility to Afghan forces: the first step in handing over military command of the country by 2014.
18 July 2011	<b>Council of the EU extends Sudanese arms embargoes</b>	As a reaction to the independence of South Sudan, the Council of the European Union issues Council Decision 2011/423/CFSP, amending the existing arms embargo to cover both Sudan and South Sudan.
20 July 2011	<b>UN declares famine in Somalia</b>	The United Nations declares a famine in two areas of Somalia.
28 July 2011	<b>Council of the EU adopts Somali military forces training</b>	The Council of the European Union adopts Council Decision 2011/483/CFSP to contribute to the military training of Somali security forces in extension of Council Decision 2010/96/CFSP.
02 August 2011	<b>Obama signs Budget Control Act</b>	US President Obama signs into law the Budget Control Act of 2011, implementing a trigger for US\$1.2 trillion in spending cuts, 50 percent of which affect the US defence budget.
04 August 2011	<b>Israel approves settlement expansion</b>	Israel approves the construction of over 900 new housing units in the settlement of Har Homa, East Jerusalem.
18 August 2011	<b>EU demands Assad's resignation</b>	The European Union and the United States demand Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's resignation due to the excessive use of force by the Syrian government against its civilian population.
20-28 August 2011	<b>Gaddafi regime overthrown</b>	Rebel forces take control of Tripoli and overthrow the regime of Muammar Gaddafi in Libya.
16 September 2011	<b>UN Security Council establishes mission in Libya</b>	The UN Security Council passes Resolution 2009, establishing the UN Support Mission in Libya.
23 September 2011	<b>Council of the EU bans Syria investments</b>	The Council of the European Union bans investment in the Syrian oil industry.
11 October 2011	<b>Ukrainian Tymoshenko sentenced to jail</b>	Yulia Tymoshenko, the former prime minister of Ukraine, is sentenced to a seven year prison term for a gas deal brokered with Russia under her premiership in 2009. The European Union and Russia sharply criticise the verdict.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Summary</b>
13 October 2011	<b>Council of the EU expands Syria sanctions</b>	The Council of the European Union adopts Council Decision 2011/684/CFSP, extending the restrictive measures against Syria put in place by Council Decision 2011/273/CFSP.
20 October 2011	<b>Libyan civil war ends</b>	The Libyan Civil War ends with the killing of Muammar Gaddafi in Sirte and the National Transitional Council taking control of the city.
20 October 2011	<b>ETA announces end of violence</b>	The Basque separatist group Euzkadi Ta Azkatasuna (ETA) announces the end of all military activities and an end of violence.
23 October 2011	<b>Palestine applies for statehood at UN</b>	President Mahmoud Abbas applies for Palestinian statehood with the United Nations.
23 October 2011	<b>Islamist party wins Tunisian elections</b>	In the first post-revolution election, the Islamist An-Nahda Party gains 89 of 217 seats in the Tunisian parliament.
31 October 2011	<b>NATO ends Libya intervention</b>	NATO ends its mission in Libya pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 2016.
31 October 2011	<b>Palestine granted UNESCO membership</b>	UNESCO's General Conference admits Palestine as a full member by a close vote to reach the necessary two thirds majority. 107 members vote in favour and 14 against, with 52 abstentions.
14 November 2011	<b>Council of the EU adopts Horn of Africa strategy</b>	The Council adopts the Strategic Framework for the Horn of Africa to guide the EU's engagement in the region.
19 November 2011	<b>Egypt protests against military rule</b>	In reaction to military rule, violent clashes between protesters and security forces erupt in Egypt in the run-up to the first parliamentary elections in decades.
23 November 2011	<b>Yemen's Saleh agrees to resignation</b>	Following violent clashes, sparked between protesters and government forces by his return, President Ali Abdullah Saleh of Yemen agrees to resign after elections are held within three months.
12 December 2011	<b>Council of the EU establishes RMCB mission</b>	The Council of the European Union establishes the Regional Maritime Capacity Building (RMCB) mission in the Horn of Africa, complementing the existing EU military missions in the region with a civilian mission.
15 December 2011	<b>US declares official end to Iraq war</b>	The United States formally declares the end of the Iraq war.

Date	Title	Summary
16 December 2011	<b>Council of the EU expands Belarus sanctions</b>	The Council of the European Union strengthens restrictive measures on Belarus, including travel bans and asset freezes, due to the continuing repression of civil society and political opposition.
17 December 2011	<b>Kim Jong-il dies</b>	Kim Jong-il dies at the age of 70 and his son Kim Jong-un takes over power in North Korea.
25 December 2011	<b>OIC condemns Boko Haram violence</b>	Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, condemns the violent attacks carried out by Islamist militants of Boko Haram in four towns in northern Nigeria.