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# **Timelines 2011 & 2012**

# Timeline 2011

Date	Title	Summary
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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Summary</b>
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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Summary</b>
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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Summary</b>
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.

# Timeline 2012

Date	Title	Summary
20 January 2012	<b>Boko Haram terrorists kill hundreds in Kano, Nigeria</b>	Several hundred people are killed in the Nigerian city of Kano. The bombings were carried out by the jihadist military organisation Boko Haram ('Western education is forbidden'), which killed hundreds of civilians in the preceding months.
21 January 2012	<b>Muslim Brotherhood wins Egypt elections</b>	Islamist parties dominate Egyptian parliamentary elections. The Muslim Brotherhood wins 235 of 498 seats.
23 January 2012	<b>EU expands Iran sanctions</b>	The EU extends restrictive measures against Iran in protest of Iran's uranium enrichment activities. An embargo on the country's oil exports and asset freezes are agreed upon.
30 January 2012	<b>EU endorses fiscal pact</b>	EU leaders, except the Czech Republic's and the United Kingdom's, endorse the Fiscal Pact at the European summit in Brussels.
04 February 2012	<b>UN Security Council Syria Resolution vetoed by China, Russia</b>	China and Russia veto a UN Security Council resolution calling upon President Assad to resign.
27 February 2012	<b>Al-Hadi succeeds Saleh in Yemen</b>	Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, having previously agreed to resign in early 2012, is succeeded by Abd Rabbuh Mansur Al-Hadi.
28 February 2012	<b>Annan appointed Syria Special Envoy</b>	Kofi Annan is appointed Joint Special Envoy of the UN and the Arab League for Syria to promote a peaceful resolution to the crisis.
01 March 2012	<b>Serbia granted EU candidacy status</b>	Serbia is granted EU candidate status by the Council of the European Union.
04 March 2012	<b>Putin elected Russian president</b>	Vladimir Putin wins the presidential election in Russia. Demonstrations against alleged fraudulent elections break out.
16 March 2012	<b>Timofti elected Moldova President</b>	After two failed attempts, an independent judge, Nicolae Timofti, is elected President of Moldova with the opposition Communists boycotting the vote.



Date	Title	Summary
22 March 2012	<b>Military coup d'état in Mali</b>	Malian president Amadou Toumani Touré is overthrown by a military <i>coup</i> , which is harshly condemned internationally. Neighbouring countries impose sanctions in response.
26-27 March 2012	<b>Nuclear Security Summit, Seoul</b>	The second Nuclear Security Summit, held in Seoul, focusses on cooperative approaches to addressing the dangers of nuclear terrorism, illicit trafficking of nuclear materials and the protection of nuclear materials and facilities.
01 April 2012	<b>National League for Democracy wins Burma/Myanmar elections</b>	Burmese opposition politician and former political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi is elected to parliament and her National League for Democracy party wins the majority of seats in Burma/Myanmar.
06 April 2012	<b>Tuareg declare independence of northern Mali</b>	The National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad, a Tuareg rebel group, declares the independence of Azawad, northern Mali, from the rest of the country.
06 April 2012	<b>Burma/Myanmar government in peace deal with rebels</b>	The government of Burma/Myanmar signs a peace agreement with the Karen rebels as part of wider peace negotiations with ethnic groups.
12 April 2012	<b>Coup d'état in Guinea-Bissau</b>	Prior to the second round of presidential elections, factions of the armed forces of Guinea-Bissau stage a <i>coup d'état</i> as they arrest interim president Raimundo Pereira and presidential candidate Carlos Gomes Júnior. The events are met with international protest and the imposition of sanctions.
13 April 2012	<b>Condemned North Korean satellite launch fails</b>	North Korea's attempt to launch a satellite into orbit, condemned by the international community as a concealed intercontinental ballistic missile test (and hence in violation of UN Security Council resolutions), fails shortly after lift-off. The United States suspended the delivery of food aid in the run-up to the launch.

Date	Title	Summary
21 April 2012	<b>UN Security Council establishes Syria mission</b>	The UN Security Council Resolution 2043 is adopted, establishing the UN Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) to monitor the implementation of the Kofi Annan Peace Plan for Syria.
26 April 2012	<b>Taylor convicted of war crimes, crimes against humanity</b>	The Special Court for Sierra Leone finds Charles Taylor guilty on 11 counts of aiding and abetting war crimes and crimes against humanity during the Sierra Leone civil war.
11 May 2012	<b>Guinea-Bissau transitional government established</b>	An agreement in Guinea-Bissau, under the auspices of ECOWAS, establishes a transitional government and appoints Manuel Serifo Nhamadjo as interim president.
21 May 2012	<b>NATO Summit, Chicago</b>	At its 2012 summit, held in Chicago, NATO announces the review of its deterrence posture, and makes statements on ballistic missile defence, future defence capabilities, counter-terrorism and the withdrawal of the ISAF force from Afghanistan by the end of 2014.
18 June 2012	<b>Council of the EU approves South Sudan mission</b>	The Council of the European Union approves a new CSDP Mission, EUAVSEC, to strengthen airport security in South Sudan.
22 June 2012	<b>Turkish jet shot down by Syria</b>	Syrian forces shoot down a Turkish F-4 combat aircraft, claiming that it had breached Syrian airspace. NATO members consult on the situation in Syria.
24 June 2012	<b>Muhammad Morsi wins Egypt presidential elections</b>	Muhammad Morsi, candidate of the Muslim Brotherhood, wins the Egyptian presidential elections.
29 June 2012	<b>EU-Montenegro accession negotiations</b>	EU accession negotiations with Montenegro commence.
30 June 2012	<b>EUPM ends</b>	The mandate for the EU Police Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina comes to an end after almost ten years.
27 July 2012	<b>UN Arms Trade Treaty inconclusive</b>	The UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty concludes without agreement on a text. It is resolved to reconvene in March 2013.
07 July 2012	<b>National Forces Alliance wins Libya elections</b>	In the first elections in Libya since the end of the revolution, the National Forces Alliance prevails over Islamist parties.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Summary</b>
10 July 2012	<b>EUJUST LEX-Iraq extended</b>	The EU Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq (EUJUST LEX-Iraq) is extended until December 2013.
16 July 2012	<b>EUCAP Sahel Niger launched</b>	The CSDP civilian mission EUCAP Sahel Niger is launched in order to improve the capacities of the Nigerian Security Forces and contribute to facilitating stability, security and governance in the region.
16 July 2012	<b>Council of the EU approves EUCAP Nestor</b>	The Council of the European Union approves the launch of the CSDP mission EUCAP Nestor to support regional maritime capacity-building in the Horn of Africa and the states of the Western Indian Ocean.
18 July 2012	<b>Israeli tourists killed in Bulgaria</b>	Seven people die and several more are injured in a bomb attack on a bus in the Bulgarian city of Burgas. Hezbollah is later identified by the Bulgarian authorities to have carried out the attack.
31 August 2012	<b>Brahimi appointed Syria Special Representative</b>	Lakhdar Brahimi replaces Kofi Annan as the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and League of Arab States for the crisis in Syria.
17 September 2012	<b>China, Japan in islands row</b>	The Japanese purchase of the disputed Senkaku/Diaoyu islands in the East China Sea from a private owner raises tensions with China as it triggers a series of diplomatic wrangling, subtextual military stand-offs and popular demonstrations.
27 September 2012	<b>Attacks on Western embassies in Arab countries</b>	A series of demonstrations and attacks target United States, German, United Kingdom and Swiss diplomatic missions in a number of Arab countries. They are largely thought to be in response to an anti-Muslim Youtube video produced in the United States.
14 September 2012	<b>EUMM extended</b>	The EU Monitoring Mission (EUMM) in Georgia is extended until 14 September 2013.
01 October 2012	<b>EUSEC RD Congo established</b>	The seventh mandate of the EUSEC RD Congo is established to help Congolese authorities implement policies in compliance with human rights and good governance.

Date	Title	Summary
01 October 2012	<b>Opposition coalition wins parliamentary elections in Georgia</b>	Bidzina Ivanishvili's Georgian Dream coalition wins the majority of seats in parliamentary elections. President Mikheil Saakashvili eventually accepts his party's defeat and agrees to the appointment of a new government.
04 October 2012	<b>Syrian shells hit Turkey</b>	Shelling from Syria hits a Turkish village, claiming civilian lives. Turkish forces retaliate by striking Syrian targets. NATO becomes involved and the UN Security Council condemns Syrian actions.
12 October 2012	<b>EU receives Nobel Peace Prize</b>	The EU receives the Nobel Peace Prize for advancing peace, reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe.
12 October 2012	<b>UN Security Council requests Mali intervention plan</b>	The UN Security Council requests that a plan for military engagement in Mali be presented to halt the southward advance of rebel forces.
16 October 2012	<b>EU NAVFOR ATALANTA extended</b>	The Council of the European Union decides to extend EU NAVFOR - Operation ATALANTA until December 2014 to continue to improve maritime security off the coast of Somalia and in the Indian Ocean.
28 October 2012	<b>Ukrainian parliamentary elections unveil irregularities</b>	The Party of Regions wins the highest number of parliamentary seats in Ukrainian elections that partially reveal, as found by an OSCE observer mission, an excessive role of money and abuse of power in the election process.
21 November 2012	<b>Israel launches military operation against Gaza</b>	As a reaction to renewed rocket fire on Israeli territory from the Gaza Strip, Israel launches Operation Pillar of Defence. A ceasefire agreement is reached a week later, brokered by the United States and Egypt.
29 November 2012	<b>UN General Assembly grants Palestine non-member observer status</b>	The UN General Assembly grants Palestine the status of non-member observer state. The resolution passes with 138 votes in favour, nine against, and 41 abstentions.
12 December 2012	<b>North Korea launches satellite</b>	North Korea launches a satellite into orbit. As the test deploys ballistic missile technology, it is considered by the international community to be in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 1874.

Date	Title	Summary
17 December 2012	<b>UN Security Council issues terrorism resolution</b>	The UN Security Council passes Resolution 2083 on the threats posed by terrorist acts to international peace and security.
20 December 2012	<b>UN Security Council establishes Mali mission</b>	The UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2085 to deploy an African-led International Support Mission in Mali.