Major Events in European and Chinese International Development 1947–2013

Diarmuid Rossa Phelan

Introductory remarks

The purpose of this chronology is to present the most detailed chronology of state and international organisation actions in the international relations of the European Union and China. The purpose of presenting a chronology of events without narrative theme is to provide a resource for scholars to trace their own themes. An effort has been made to be neutral in the selection of events. Of course, this is not wholly possible, as there must be some assessment of importance in deciding what to leave out. However, the author hopes that bringing these events together from many disparate sources will provide a platform for scholars in the identification and development of themes – in short, that by eschewing a current international relations or national policy goal oriented revision of the past to present what now seems important, the neutral presentation of organised information will be useful for open minded enquiry. The EU and China have developed bilateral relations only in the recent past. The chronology starts largely with European events with Chinese international relations activity increasing as the years progress. Readers are invited to contact the author to suggest events which merit inclusion or, even, deletion.

1947

5 Oct 1947 At the Warsaw Communist conference, the Soviet Union and its satellite states – Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia – and representatives from France and Italy, form the Cominform Organisation after rejecting the Marshall Plan. Cominform is an information bureau which is to co-ordinate the activities of European Communist and Workers Parties.

1948

17 Mar 1948 Belgium, France, Luxemburg, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom sign the Treaty of Brussels pledging mutual defence.

1949

31 Mar 1949 The Soviet Union announces that the proposed Treaty establishing the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations. The governments concerned subsequently repudiate Soviet assertions.

4 Apr 1949 In Washington, the treaties forming the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation are signed by Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States.

5 May 1949 The Treaty of London, or Statute of the Council of Europe, establishing the Council of Europe, is signed by Belgium, Denmark, France, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Norway and Sweden. Its aim is political cooperation. A Consultative Assembly is set up with Strasbourg as its headquarters; a Committee of Ministers is also established. Defence matters are excluded. The inaugural meeting of the Council of Europe is held in Strasbourg. 135 members of the Consultative Assembly meet for the first time to discuss ‘necessary changes in the political structure of Europe’.

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3 Aug 1949  The Treaty of London, or the Statute of the Council of Europe, enters into force.
17 Sep 1949  The North Atlantic Council holds its first session in Washington.
20 Sep 1949  The first courses are given at the College of Europe, Bruges. The College emerged from the 1948 Hague Congress and begins teaching full-time courses on European integration in 1950.
28 Sep 1949  United States Congress approves a Mutual Defence Aid Programme to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

October

West Germany is admitted into the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation.

1 Oct 1949  Mao Zedong proclaims foundation of People’s Republic of China.

November

The People’s Republic of China takes control of Tibet.


1950

1950–1955  Mao Zedong favours a pro-natalistic population policy encouraging traditional practices of having many children. This was influenced by the high demand for manual labour.
6 Jan 1950  A Franco-German parliamentary conference opens in Basel, Switzerland, to discuss the economic and political relations of the two countries within a united Europe.
February

China and the Soviet Union sign the “Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance and Mutual Assistance”.
6 Mar 1950  The West German Bundestag votes to join the Council of Europe.
2 Jun 1950  The United Kingdom refuses to join the proposed European Coal and Steel Community.
13 Jun 1950  The Federal Republic of Germany is admitted to the Council of Europe.
14 Jun 1950  At the second Benelux meeting on cooperation in coal and steel, the Dutch delegation proposes that a ‘Council of Ministers’ should be created to control the political decisions of the High Authority.
11 Aug 1950  The Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe approves Churchill’s motion to create a European army.

September

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation decides to adopt unified defence force in Europe, including the Federal Republic of Germany.
15 Sep 1950  In a meeting with the United Kingdom, France and other North Atlantic Treaty Organisation states in New York, the United States formally proposes West German rearmament within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

October

The Chinese People’s Volunteer Army enters the Korean Peninsula supporting their North Korean allies against the USA.
24 Oct 1950  French Prime Minister Pléven presents a plan for a European Defence Community to the French National Assembly. The plan seeks to integrate the Federal Republic of Germany into the defence of Western Europe and to establish a European Army.
27 Oct 1950  France opposes German rearmament under the North Atlantic Treaty.

November

The People’s Republic of China takes control of Tibet.

1951

12 Feb 1951  The United Kingdom Prime Minister, Clement Atlee, states four conditions for a West German contribution to the defence of Europe: the rearmament of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation members is to precede that of the Federal Republic of Germany; allied forces have to be sufficiently strengthened before West German units could be raised; West German units have to be associated with other North Atlantic Treaty Organisation forces in such a manner as not to constitute a threat; there has to be an agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany on the level of its contribution.
18 Apr 1951  The Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community is signed in Paris by Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. France signs on behalf of the Saar. Four institutions – the High Authority, the Court of Justice, a Council of Ministers and an Assembly – are established. The Treaty is subsequently ratified by national Parliaments.
21 Jun 1951  The United Nations places a global arms embargo on China because of China’s involvement in the Korean War.
10 Sep 1951  The Vatican and China break off diplomatic relations following a complicated series of events that led to accusations of a conspiracy involving the Holy See to assassinate Mao Zedong.
1952

30 May 1952  The Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe resolves that the principles of a 'European supranational political authority' should be agreed upon without waiting for the entry into force of the European Defence Community.

11 Sep 1952  Paul-Henri Spaak is elected President of the ECSC Common Assembly. The Foreign Ministers of the six member states invite the Assembly to produce a draft treaty for the European Political Community. The European Political Community subsequently fails with the demise of the European Defence Community in August 1954.

15 Sep 1952  The ECSC Common Assembly officially transforms itself into the Ad Hoc Assembly for the express purpose of constructing a European Political Community. This new entity in turn appoints a special Constitutional Committee of 26 members to draft the treaty.

1953

14 Jan 1953  The Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe meets in Strasbourg to draft a constitution for the European Political Community.

28 Nov 1953  An Intergovernmental Committee is created to oversee the setting up of the European Political Community.

December  In France, parliament supports membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the rearmament of the Federal Republic of Germany.

11 Dec 1953  The Council of Europe adopts a convention on the equivalence of diplomas leading to admission to universities.

1954

31 Mar 1954  The Soviet Union proposes that it be allowed to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. This is rejected by the Western powers on 7 May.

1955


13 Oct 1955  Jean Monnet establishes the Action Committee for the United States of Europe, which became known as the Monnet Committee. He serves as its President from 1956 to 1957.

1956

30 May 1956  The “Hundred Flowers” campaign in China instigated by Mao Zedong invites criticism of the regime.

21 Apr 1956  The intergovernmental Spaak Committee publishes its report in Brussels. This outlined proposals for the creation of a common market and the establishment of a European Community for the peaceful use of atomic energy.

29 May 1956  The Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community, meeting in Venice, approve the Spaak report, clearing the way for the creation of the European Economic Community, the EEC, and the European Atomic Energy Committee, Euratom.

26 Jun 1956  Negotiations for the creation of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Committee begin in Brussels.

September  The Sino-Soviet agreement on technological aid in the field of nuclear industry is signed in Moscow.

9 Sep 1956  Tibet becomes an autonomous region within China under the structure of a Chairman who is subordinate to the Branch Secretary of the Communist Party of China.

3 Oct 1956  Harold Macmillan, the United Kingdom Chancellor of the Exchequer, announces the government’s readiness to join a limited European Free Trade Area.

1957

1957–1958  The “Anti-Rightist” Campaign is used by Mao Zedong to remove critical intellectuals. Those who are critical of the collectivisation policy or seen to possess capitalist sympathies are sent to labour camps as part of the ‘re-education through labour’ programme.

25 Mar 1957  The Treaty Establishing a European Economic Community and the Treaty Establishing a European Atomic Energy Community are signed in Rome by France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg and Italy. The Treaty is ratified by the six countries involved between July and November but there is large parliamentary opposition from the communist parties in France (342 for, 239 against) and Italy (311 for, 144 against) compared to Luxembourg (46 for, 3 against). The Council of the European Economic Community and Euratom is created. COREPER (Comité de représentants permanents) is established. On the same date, the Contracting Parties sign a Convention on Certain Institutions Common to the European Communities in order to “limit the
number of institutions responsible for carrying out similar tasks”.

The Convention establishes a single Assembly and a single Economic and Social Committee. It creates a single Court of Justice.

13 Dec 1957

The European Convention on Extradition is opened for signature on the initiative of the Council of Europe.

1958

In China all land is collectivised and farmers are organized into People’s Communes.

1958

The ‘Great Leap Forward’ campaign begins. This aimed to use China’s vast population to rapidly transform the country from an agrarian economy into a modern communist society through rapid industrialisation and collectivisation.

19 Mar 1958

The Assembly of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community meets in the Council of Europe chamber in Strasbourg for the first time, calling itself the European Parliamentary Assembly and electing Robert Schuman to the Presidency.

1959

Sino-Soviet relations deteriorate dramatically. The Soviet Union restricts transfer of scientific research and technology to China. This decline in relations was partly due to Mao Zedong’s disagreement with Khrushchev’s reversal of Stalinist policies and the perception that the USSR was seeking “peaceful coexistence” with the Western powers.

1959–1961

The Great Leap Forward campaign triggers the largest famine in history with an estimated 14–30 million deaths.

March

The revolts of the Tibetan population against Chinese occupation are suppressed.

8 Jun 1959

Greece applies for association status with the European Economic Community.

31 Jul 1959

Turkey applies for association with the EEC. The association agreement is concluded in December 1963.

10 Sep 1959

Negotiations for the association of Greece to the EEC begin.

27 Sep 1959

Negotiations for the association of Turkey to the EEC begin.

20 Nov 1959

20–29 November: Finance Ministers of Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom meet in Stockholm to initialise the convention establishing the European Free Trade Association.

29 Dec 1959


1960

9 Jun 1960

The six members of the European Economic Communities refuse to negotiate accession to the European Free Trade Association.

July

Khrushchev recalls Soviet advisors and technical experts from China.

1 Nov 1960

The Benelux Union comes into force.

13 Dec 1960

New Zealand announces that it will set up a trade mission in Brussels, accredited to the European Economic Community.

14 Dec 1960

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development subsumes and expands the role and membership of the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation. The United States, Canada and the European Economic Community join. Its main function is to assist developing countries and to develop international economic strategy.

1961

10 Feb 1961

The first summit of the six Member States takes place in Paris and pushes the idea of greater political cooperation. President of France, Charles De Gaulle, launches the Fouchet plan for an intergovernmental European political union.

1 Mar 1961

France rejects a proposal made by the United Kingdom whereby the United Kingdom would retain its agricultural arrangements and commonwealth preference upon accession.

11 May 1961

Denmark announces that it will apply for membership of the European Economic Community if the United Kingdom does.

26 Jun 1961

Finland becomes a full member of the European Free Trade Association.

4 Jul 1961

Ireland announces its intention to join the European Economic Community. The Irish economy is dependant on the United Kingdom for the majority of its trade.

9 Jul 1961

Greece and the European Economic Community sign an Agreement on Association. Greek tariffs are to be brought in line with the European Economic Community and full membership is promised within twenty two years.

31 Jul 1961

Ireland formally applies to join the European Economic Community.

31 Jul 1961

Harold MacMillan, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, announces his intention to apply for membership of the European Economic Community. The other members
of the European Free Trade Association decide to examine closer links with the European Economic Community.

1 Aug 1961 Austria announces its intention to seek some form of participation in the European Economic Community.

9 Aug 1961 The United Kingdom formally applies for membership of the European Economic Community.

10 Aug 1961 Denmark formally applies to join the European Economic Community.


13 Nov 1961 Harold MacMillan, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, declares that membership of the European Economic Community does not mean abandoning the Commonwealth, which is necessary “to preserve the power and strength of Britain in the world”.

29 Nov 1961 The Fouchet Plan is published. It provides for a ‘European Political Union’, which would be intergovernmental in structure and would encompass both foreign policy and defence.

15 Dec 1961 Austria, Finland, Sweden and Switzerland apply for associate membership of the European Economic Community.

1962

9 Feb 1962 Spain applies for an association agreement with the European Economic Community.

7 Mar 1962 The European Economic Community and the United States sign a tariff agreement.

29 Mar 1962 The European Organisation for the Development and Construction of Space Vehicle Launchers is established by Australia, Belgium, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

10 Apr 1962 The Benelux Union signs a trade agreement with Japan

17 Apr 1962 The Fouchet negotiations on European integration break down. The Netherlands and Belgium declare their unwillingness to continue negotiations until the United Kingdom becomes a member of the European Economic Community.

30 Apr 1962 Norway formally applies for membership of the European Economic Community.

9 May 1962 The European Parliament adopts a plan for political union.

28 May 1962 Portugal announces its intention to apply for membership of the European Economic Community.

4 Jul 1962 In his Independence Day speech, United States President John F. Kennedy calls for Euro-American ‘interdependence’.

20 Oct 1962 Border conflict between China and India over areas in the Himalayas.

1 Nov 1962 The Treaty of Association between the European Economic Community and Greece enters into force.

15 Dec 1962 The Benelux Union countries sign a trade agreement with Hungary.

1963

14 Jan 1963 French President Charles de Gaulle announces at a press conference that France will veto the accession of the United Kingdom to the European Communities following British acceptance of Polaris missiles from the United States. Irish, Danish and Norwegian applications for membership are suspended.

22 Jan 1963 The Treaty of Elysée or the Franco-German Cooperation Treaty is signed by France and the Federal Republic of Germany in Paris providing for collaboration in defence, foreign affairs, culture and education.

20 Jul 1963 The Yaoundé Convention, an association agreement valid for five years, is signed by the European Economic Community and 17 African states in Yaoundé, Cameroon. It provides for reciprocal preferences in trade except where this conflicts with the Common Agricultural Policy and it offers associated partners access to the European Development Fund and the European Investment Bank.

15 Aug 1963 The Benelux Union concludes a trade agreement with Paraguay.

11 Sep 1963 The Benelux Union concludes a trade agreement with Poland.

12 Sep 1963 The European Economic Community and Turkey sign an association agreement with a transitional phase to membership to begin in December 1964 and to last up to twenty-two years.

8 Nov 1963 The Benelux Union concludes a trade agreement with Czechoslovakia.
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Dec 1963</td>
<td>Bilateral trade agreements between the European Economic Community and Iran take effect.</td>
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<td><strong>1964</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>China and France establish diplomatic relations. Taiwan’s embassy in Paris is closed.</td>
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<td>25 Feb 1964</td>
<td>The Council adopts Directive 64/221 on the co-ordination of special measures concerning the movement and residence of foreign nationals which are justified on grounds of public policy, public security or public health.</td>
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<td>15 Apr 1964</td>
<td>The Council decides to establish a Committee on Medium-Term Economic Policy.</td>
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<td>16 May 1964</td>
<td>The Kennedy Round of Negotiations on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade opens in Geneva with the aim of reducing tariffs between the European Economic Community and the United States. For the first time, the European Economic Community takes part in the negotiations as the representative of its Member States.</td>
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<td>1 Jun 1964</td>
<td>The Yaoundé Convention comes into force.</td>
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<td>1 Oct 1964</td>
<td>The European Commission sets out a plan, ‘Initiative 1964’, which will accelerate the completion of the customs union. The plan states that the ultimate objective of the process of integration is political union.</td>
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<td>16 Oct 1964</td>
<td>China tests its first nuclear bomb (the Chic-1) at the Lop Nur test site. The bomb had a yield of 22 kilotons.</td>
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<td>4 Nov 1964</td>
<td>The Federal Republic of Germany submits a proposal to the Council detailing its vision of European integration which aims for political union and includes integration of defence and cultural policy.</td>
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<td>24 Nov 1964</td>
<td>The Benelux Union concludes a trade agreement with Bulgaria.</td>
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<td><strong>1965</strong></td>
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<td>6 Jul 1965</td>
<td>France decides to boycott all meetings of the European Economic Community, apart from meetings concerned with day-to-day management of existing problems, in an escalation of the ‘Empty Chair’ crisis. France also recalls its permanent representative to Paris. French President Charles de Gaulle warns of the dangers of a European Federation where national identities give way to technocratic rule.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 Dec 1965</td>
<td>14–16 December: The North Atlantic Council meets in Paris and accepts new procedures designed to improve the annual process of reviewing the defence efforts of member countries and agreeing upon their force contributions.</td>
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<td>14 Dec 1965</td>
<td>Ireland and the United Kingdom sign the Anglo-Irish Free Trade Agreement, which establishes a free trade area and links Ireland into the European Free Trade Area. It will come into effect on 1 July 1966.</td>
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<td>31 Dec 1965</td>
<td>The executives of the European Economic Community, the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Atomic Energy Community merge to become one executive authority.</td>
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<td><strong>1966</strong></td>
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<td>30 Jan 1966</td>
<td>France ends its boycott of meetings of the European Economic Community.</td>
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<td>14 Dec 1966</td>
<td>Willy Brandt, Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, asks the United Kingdom to join the European Economic Community.</td>
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<td>31 Dec 1966</td>
<td>The European Free Trade Association abolishes tariffs on industrial goods.</td>
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<td><strong>1967</strong></td>
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<td>15 Jan 1967</td>
<td>Harold Wilson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, tours European capitals to campaign for British membership of the European Economic Communities.</td>
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<td>8 Feb 1967</td>
<td>8–9 February: The Council of the EEC accepts the first five-year programme outlining economic development and agrees to introduce a uniform system of value-added tax across all six Member States.</td>
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<td>17 Mar 1967</td>
<td>The Benelux Union concludes a trade agreement with Hungary.</td>
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<td>31 Mar 1967</td>
<td>The Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, SHAPE, is officially opened at Castleau, near Mons, Belgium.</td>
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<td>10 May 1967</td>
<td>Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom re-apply for membership of the European Communities.</td>
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<td>17 May 1967</td>
<td>The Benelux Union concludes a trade agreement with Czechoslovakia.</td>
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<td>24 Jul 1967</td>
<td>Norway formally applies to join the European Economic Community.</td>
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<td>27 Oct 1967</td>
<td>The Benelux Union concludes a trade agreement with Romania.</td>
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<td>27 Nov 1967</td>
<td>France President Charles de Gaulle vetoes United Kingdom membership of the European Economic Community. The United</td>
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Kingdom does not withdraw its application.

13 Dec 1967

13–14 December: the Harmel Report is adopted by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. It specifies that alongside military defence, the Atlantic Alliance should work towards the solving of basic political questions. The Defence Planning Committee adopts the concept of ‘flexible response’, which allows that, in the event of war, the Western strategy would begin with conventional defence and then, if necessary, escalate to a full scale strategic strike. The Committee also approves the establishment of a Standing Naval Force Atlantic.

15 Dec 1967

The Benelux Union concludes a trade agreement with Bulgaria.

19 Dec 1967

Negotiations on the enlargement of European Communities break down once again.

1968

26 Apr 1968

The United Kingdom says it will reject any arrangements falling short of full membership of the European Economic Communities.

27 Sep 1968

The Brussels Convention on jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters is signed.

10 Nov 1968

The Vatican establishes diplomatic relations with the European Communities.

13 Nov 1968

The Eurogroup is formed.

1969

28 Jan 1969

Finland becomes a member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

March

Chinese troops clash with Soviet Troops at Damanski Island (Zhen Bao) of the Usuri river (Wusuli Jiang). Tensions were reduced through a meeting between Soviet Prime Minister Kosygin and Chinese Prime Minister Zhou Enlai at Beijing airport on the way back from Ho Chi Min’s funeral in Vietnam. The two premiers agreed to return ambassadors previously recalled and begin border negotiations.

31 May 1969

The Yaoundé Convention between the EC and a number of African states expires.

30 Jun 1969

Negotiations relating to the entry of Denmark, Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom into the European Economic Community commence in Luxembourg.

10 Jul 1969

Georges Pompidou succeeds Charles de Gaulle as President of France on 15 June 1969. On 10 July he declares that he does not oppose the United Kingdom’s accession to the European Communities.

29 Jul 1969

The Second Yaoundé Convention on association between the European Economic Community and African States is signed.

1 Sep 1969

The European Communities signs partial Association Agreements with Morocco and Tunisia.

24 Sep 1969

Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania renew their association agreements with the European Economic Community.

12 Nov 1969

The Court of Justice of the European Communities hands down judgment in the Stauder case (Case 29-69), commenting for the first time that the general principles of Community law include the fundamental rights of the individual.

1 Dec 1969

1–2 December: the Hague Summit of the Member States of the European Community takes place:

1. Heads of State or Government decide to adopt definitive arrangements for the financing of the Common Agricultural Policy;

2. They decide in principle to give the European Communities their own resources;

3. They decide to increase the budgetary powers of the Assembly;

4. They decide in principle on monetary union to be completed by 1980 and commission Pierre Werner, the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, to head a committee on monetary union.

5. They decide to establish a committee on closer political co-ordination, headed by Etienne Davignon, the Belgian diplomat and a future Commissioner.

6. They decide in principle on enlargement, with France having withdrawn its opposition.

5 Dec 1969

The European Communities and Malta sign an Association Agreement.

1970

1 Mar 1970

Iceland joins the European Free Trade Association.

19 Mar 1970

The European Communities and Yugoslavia sign a three-year non-preferential agreement.

20 Mar 1970

The first North Atlantic Treaty Organisation communications satellite is launched from Cape Kennedy.

24 Apr 1970

China launches its first satellite “Long March”.

29 Jun 1970

The European Communities and Israel sign a preferential trade agreement.

29 Jun 1970

The European Communities and Spain sign a preferential trade agreement.
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30 Jun 1970 Negotiations open in Luxembourg between the European Communities and Ireland, Denmark, Norway and the United Kingdom on accession to membership.

19 Oct 1970 The European Communities and Bangladesh sign a preferential trade agreement.

27 Oct 1970 The Davignon Report on European Political Cooperation is endorsed by the Council. It seeks to promote political cooperation and to develop common external policy on major international problems. The Report recommends that co-ordination of foreign policy should be the first area in which concrete efforts could show Europe’s political vocation. A regular consultation process among the Foreign Ministers with quarterly meetings commences from November.

1971

1 Jan 1971 The second Yaoundé Convention and the Arusha Agreement come into force. The Arusha Agreement was an agreement between the EC and Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania with the aim of establishing better economic relations.

14 Feb 1971 Agreement is reached in Tehran between the oil-producing countries of the Persian Gulf and a cartel of 23 oil companies. The agreement contains an increase in the price of oil.

18 Mar 1971 An announcement by the Swedish government reveals its view that Swedish neutrality and membership of the European Communities are irreconcilable.

31 Mar 1971 The Court of Justice of the European Communities hands down judgment in Case 22/70, European Commission v. Council, the European Agreement on Road Transport Case, on the limits of the competence of the Community and of the Member States respectively to negotiate agreements with non-member states.

1 Apr 1971 The Association Agreement between the European Economic Communities and Malta comes into effect.

23 Jun 1971 The European Communities and the United Kingdom agree on terms for the accession of the United Kingdom.

7 Jul 1971 Australia joins the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

9 Jul 1971 Whilst serving as US National Security Advisor, Henry Kissinger secretly visits China. This was part of Nixon’s plan to establish relations with China as a useful counterbalance to the Soviet Union. The secret visit produced an agreement that Nixon would visit China in the future. Nixon’s first public visit then occurred in February 1972.

13 Sep 1971 September: Lin Biao (a major Chinese Communist military leader who played a fundamental role in the Chinese Civil War) is killed in an airplane crash whilst fleeing after an attempted military coup on September 11. Lin Biao had ordered his subordinates to assassinate Mao Zedong by sabotaging his train before it returned to Beijing. The British Labour Party Conference passes a resolution against European Communities membership.


28 Oct 1971 The House of Commons votes in support of membership of the European Economic Community, despite Labour opposition.

1972

19 Jan 1972 In its favourable opinion on the accession of the four applicants, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Denmark and Norway, the European Commission refers specifically to the applicant States’ acceptance of the political objectives of the Treaties.

22 Jan 1972 The first Treaty of Accession is signed in Brussels by Member States and Ireland, Denmark, Norway and the United Kingdom. There are two Council Decisions on the accession of the new Member States. The first states the Council’s acceptance of the applications for accession. The second mirrors the Treaty of Accession, which is annexed and forms an integral part of the decision.

12 Apr 1972 The House of Commons approves a motion in favour of Britain holding a referendum on accession to the European Communities.

23 Apr 1972 France approves enlargement of the European Communities by a 68% majority in a referendum.

10 May 1972 An Irish referendum approves membership of the European Economic Community with 83.09% voting yes.

12 May 1972 The European Economic Community and Mauritius sign an Association Agreement.

22 Jul 1972 An agreement on special relations between the European Communities and the member states of the European Free Trade Association is concluded. This establishes a free trade area of sixteen countries covering both the enlarged European Economic Community and the European Free Trade Association region. The agreement envisages gradual progress towards free trade
in most industrial goods over a transitional period of four and a half years.

25 Sep 1972  Norway withdraws from negotiations to join the European Communities, following a referendum in which 53.5% vote against compared to 46.5% voting for accession. This leads to the Labour government, led by Trygve Bratteli, to resign.

1 Oct 1972  A referendum is held in Denmark. 63% vote in favour of accession to the European Communities.

24 Oct 1972  The Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development decides to end the European Monetary Agreement from 31 December 1972.


December  The European Communities signs a trade agreement with Brazil and India.

8 Dec 1972  A Special Relations Agreement with the European Free Trade Association is passed in a Swiss referendum. It is also approved by the Liechtenstein Parliament.

18 Dec 1972  The European Economic Community signs trade agreements with Egypt and the Lebanon.

19 Dec 1972  The European Communities and Cyprus sign an Association Agreement.

31 Dec 1972  Denmark and the United Kingdom leave the European Free Trade Association.

1973

26 Feb 1973  The Belgian Deputy Prime Minister Willy de Clercq proposes that the Community should negotiate with the United States en bloc to end the US Dollar’s dominance as a reserve currency.

2 Apr 1973  The European Economic Community and Uruguay sign a trade agreement.

14 May 1973  Norway and the European Economic Community sign a Free Trade Agreement.

21 May 1973  The Council adopts a general directive on the abolition of restrictions on movement and residence within the European Community Member States of nationals for establishment and provision of services. The Directive introduces a Residence Permit.


26 Jun 1973  The European Communities and Yugoslavia sign a five-year trade agreement, due to come into effect on 1 October 1973.


5 Oct 1973  The European Communities sign a free trade agreement with Finland. It differs from other European Free Trade Association agreements in that there is no ‘evolutionary’ clause.

14 Dec 1973  14–15 December: A summit meeting of European Community Member State leaders takes place in Copenhagen agreeing that the Heads of State or Government should meet whenever justified by the circumstances, to introduce a common energy policy.

1974

1 Jan 1974  The Association Agreement between the European Communities and Finland comes into force.

6 Jun 1974  The Council adopts a resolution on the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other formal qualifications.

December  An Association Agreement with Greece, is restored, after the coming to power of a civilian government in July.

1975

28 Feb 1975  The First Lomé Convention between forty-six states in Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific and the European Economic Community (CAPC) is signed in Lomé. A Consultative Assembly of the African, Carribbean and Pacific States as well as Member States of the European Communities is established on a basis of parity comprising Members of the European Parliament and representatives designated by the African, Carribean and Pacific States. The Lomé Convention replaces the Yaoundé Convention.

4 May 1975  The first European Commissioner, Christoper Soames, visits China with the aim of establishing diplomatic relations. Initially the host of the meeting was the quasi-governmental organisation the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs but after establishing that the EEC recognised the PRC government as opposed to the Taiwanese government a heavy political programme was arranged where Soames met with the Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai. China and the EU established diplomatic relations based on the condition that the EEC maintained no trade agreements with Taiwan. As a result any trade agreements with Taiwan had to be conducted on an autonomous basis. In practice this was through the medium of
a private company based in Rotterdam that represented Taiwan.

11 May 1975  The European Economic Community and Israel sign a new agreement providing for cooperation as well as trade.

12 Jun 1975  Greece officially applies for membership of the European Economic Community.

July  The Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe is held in Helsinki, Finland. 33 States sign a declaration that aims to improve relations between the West and the Communist bloc. These are later referred to as the Helsinki Accords.

15 Jul 1975  The European Economic Community and Mexico sign a trade agreement.

22 Jul 1975  The European Economic Community and Sri Lanka sign a commercial cooperation agreement.

1976

7 Jan 1976  The Tindemans Report is published. It proposes regular meetings of head of government as “European Council” and co-ordination of foreign policy outside areas of Community competence. The Commission of the European Communities expresses its opposition to recommendation in Tindemans report for a two-tier Europe.

20 Jan 1976  The Council decides that relations between the European Economic Community and Spain should be resumed.

4 Mar 1976  The European Economic Community signs two Protocols with Malta, incorporating cooperation and agriculture along with the original 1970 trade agreement.

1 Apr 1976  The First Lomé Convention enters into force.

14 Apr 1976  The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance suggests a preliminary meeting with the European Communities for a second time.

25 Apr 1976  25-27 April: the European Economic Community signs cooperation agreements with the Maghreb countries: with Tunisia on 25 April, Algeria on 26 April, and Morocco on 27 April.

1 Jun 1976  The European Economic Community and Pakistan sign a trade cooperation agreement.

6 Jul 1976  Canada and the European Economic Community sign a framework agreement in Ottawa, providing for economic and commercial cooperation.

14 Jul 1976  The Court of Justice of the European Communities in Joined Cases 3, 4 and 6/76 rules on international treaty competence. Kramer holds that the Community has implied competence even before it acts internally (or externally) and that the Member States have concurrent competence until the Community acts.

27 Jul 1976  The European Community formally opens negotiations with Greece regarding future membership of the European Communities.

September  Chairman Mao Zedong dies at the age of 82. “Gang of Four” with Mao’s widow seek power.

20 Sep 1976  The European Economic Community signs an interim agreement and two Protocols with Portugal, providing for the expansion of the 1972 free trade agreement and opening the way to Portugal’s future membership of the European Economic Community.

1 Dec 1976  A Commercial Cooperation Agreement between Bangladesh and the European Communities comes into force.


1977

1977  Deng Xiaoping wins the power struggle after Mao’s death by criticising the Cultural Revolution to gain support and carefully mobilising his supporters within the party to outmaneuver Hua Guofeng and oust him from his leadership positions. Deng allows Hua to retire peacefully helping to set the precedent that losing a high level leadership struggle would not result in physical harm.

18 Jan 1977  The European Economic Community and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, complete the signing of Cooperation Agreements.

28 Mar 1977  Portugal makes a formal application for membership of the European Communities.

26 Apr 1977  The Court of Justice of the European Communities hands down judgment in Opinion 1/76, the Laying-Up Fund Opinion, deciding that where the Community has adopted common rules the Member States are pre-empted from making treaties with Third States in those fields.

3 May 1977  The European Economic Community and the Lebanon sign a cooperation agreement.

28 Jul 1977  Spain officially applies for membership of European Communities.

21 Sep 1977  Talks between an European Economic Community delegation, led by Commission Vice-President Haferkampf, and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance,
led by Marinescu of Romania, take place in Brussels. They result in a communique, which looks forward to “planning the start of negotiations for an agreement for early 1978”.


1978

1978  The 1978 Constitution of the PRC guarantees freedom of religion with a number of restrictions. The Constitution was a compromise between Hua Guofeng’s desire to consolidate power using Mao’s moral authority whilst responding to popular demands to reverse the Leftist extremes of the previous period. It was later replaced by the 1982 Constitution.

1 Feb 1978  Further negotiations on Greece’s accession to the European Communities take place.

3 Feb 1978  The European Economic Community and the People’s Republic of China conclude their first trade agreement.

28 Mar 1978  Portugal applies for accession to the European Communities.

3 Apr 1978  The trade agreement between the European Economic Community and the People’s Republic of China is signed. It will take effect in June 1978.

2 May 1978  EEC-China trade agreement is signed. It establishes the Joint Committee for Trade to aid trade between the countries.

29 May 1978  The Secretary-General of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the European Commission Vice-President meet in Moscow. An ‘experts’ meeting follows in Brussels, between 25 and 28 July, but without a successful conclusion.

September  E-mail link is established between Germany and China (CSNET protocol). First message from China on 20 September.

17 Oct 1978  Negotiations open for Portugal’s accession to the European Communities.

1 Nov 1978  Cooperation treaties between the European Economic Community with North African countries Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Middle Eastern countries Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, come into force.

December  Deng Xiaoping introduces stepwise economic reforms: “The Four Modernizations” to strengthen the fields of agriculture, industry, national defense, science and technology.

7 Dec 1978  Spain and the European Free Trade Association sign a multilateral free trade agreement.

20 Dec 1978  The European Communities and Greece conclude detailed negotiation on Greece’s accession to the Communities.

1979

1979  Diplomatic relations are established between the US and China.

February  China invades Vietnam (for 29 days) after Vietnamese troops ousted the pro-Beijing Pol-Pot regime in Cambodia. Both sides claimed military victory. China claims to have crushed the Vietnamese resistance and Vietnam claims that China had fought only against border militias.

24 Feb 1979  EC President Roy Jenkins visits China and meets with Deng Xiaoping on the eve of the textile trade negotiations to reaffirm and underline the economic and political importance attached by the EC to the PRC. This is the first visit to China by an EC President.

28 May 1979  The Treaty of Accession between Greece and the European Economic Community is signed in Athens. Greece is to become a Member State of the European Communities on 1 January 1981.


26 Jun 1979  Spain and the European Free Trade Association conclude an agreement.

28 Jun 1979  The Treaty on Accession of Greece to the European Communities is ratified by the Greek Parliament.

July  The EU-China Joint Committee hold their first meeting in Beijing.

July  New Criminal Code becomes effective in China banning torture and physical punishment of suspects.

18 Jul 1979  The first EU-China agreement on textile trade within the context of the Multifibre Arrangement. Textiles accounted for ¼ of China’s exports to the EC in 1977.

31 Oct 1979  The Second Lomé Convention, between the European Economic Community and fifty-eight African, Caribbean and Pacific States, is signed.

29 Nov 1979  The Committee of Three Wise Men – Barend Biesheuvel, Edmund Dell, Robert Marjolin – presents its Report on the European Institutions, which lists the failures in implementing original policies of the European Communities and suggests specific proposals to bring the various institutions
in line with the provisions of the Treaties, advising against a “two-speed Europe”.

29 Nov 1979

29–30 November: The European Economic Community and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations conclude a trade agreement. The cooperation agreement is approved on 17 December and comes into force on 1 October 1980. At this time ASEAN was comprised of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

17 Dec 1979

The European Economic Community signs to the Tokyo Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

21 Dec 1979

The transitional protocol between European Communities and Cyprus is initialled.

1980

Special Economic Zones are designated in Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Shantou (Guandong), Xiamen (Fujian) and the entire province of Hainan. Restrictions are removed to allow these areas to become more free market-oriented with special economic policies and flexible governmental measures.

1 Jan 1980

The European Economic Community cuts the Common Customs Tariff duties on all products for the first time.

7 Mar 1980

7–8 March: the European Economic Community and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations nations of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, formally sign cooperation agreements and approve a joint statement on political matters.

2 Apr 1980

The European Economic Community and Yugoslavia sign a trade agreement. They also adopt an interim agreement and financial protocol.

16 Jun 1980

The delegations of the European Parliament and the National Peoples Congress (China) meet in Strasbourg. The is the first inter-parliamentary meeting (IPM) of the two bodies. After this event the IPM between the two countries has occurred at least biannually and is the second largest delegation sent out by the EU (39 members).

28 Jul 1980

The European Economic Community and Romania sign agreements on trade in industrial products.

23 Sep 1980

The European Communities take a common position on the Iran-Iraq conflict.

1981

The second Lomé Convention comes into force.

2 Jan 1981

Spain applies to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

20 Jan 1981

Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Communities release a statement at a meeting on political cooperation on the release of United States hostages in Iran and the lifting of sanctions.

17 Feb 1981

Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Communities hold a meeting on political cooperation, releasing a statement on the failure of the attempted coup in Spain.

23 Jun 1981

The European Economic Community and India sign an agreement on commercial and economic cooperation.

21 Sep 1981

The European Atomic Energy Community and Australia sign an agreement on transfers of nuclear products.

13 Oct 1981

13–14 October: Foreign Ministers from the European Economic Community and the Association of Southeast East Asian Nations hold a summit meeting in London.

14 Dec 1981

Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Communities meet to discuss political cooperation and issue statements on the situation in Poland and the Golan Heights.

18 Dec 1981

Canada and the European Atomic Energy Community sign an agreement on safeguard measures to be taken in the transport and handling of nuclear materials.

1982

China’s population surpasses 1 billion people.

23 Feb 1982

A majority in a referendum in Greenland votes in favour of withdrawal from the European Economic Community having previously joined as part of Denmark. Negotiations are re-opened.

2 Apr 1982

Argentina invades the Falkland Islands, known to the Argentinians as the Malvinas. The European Economic Community condemns the invasion, places sanctions on all Argentinian imports and imposes an arms embargo on Argentina.

30 May 1982

Spain joins the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

28 Jun 1982

28–29 June: the European Council discusses the negotiations with Portugal and Spain on accession.

December

The Fifth National People’s Congress adopts a new constitution for China. This Constitution reflected Deng Xiaoping’s determination to lay a lasting institutional foundation for domestic stability and modernization. Its primary difference from the 1978 Constitution was the de-emphasisation of class struggle and placing top priority on incorporating the contributions and
interests of non-party groups who could play a role in modernization. It provided an extensive legal framework for the economic liberalization.

1983

1983

Launch of the first China-European science and technology cooperation programme.

17 Jun 1983

The European Council meets in Stuttgart. A Solemn Declaration on European Union is signed by Heads of State and Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Communities. Agreement is reached on the principle of budgetary reform and reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. A Solemn Declaration further clarifies the European Council’s status and confirms and enhances the European Parliament’s powers, granting its enlarged Bureau consultative rights over the appointment of the President of the European Commission. It also concludes that the European Political Community (EPC), while outside of the Community, can also cover the economic and social aspects of security.

December

The European Economic Community lifts the economic sanctions imposed on the Soviet Union in March 1982.

8 Dec 1983

The Third Lomé Convention is signed.

17 Dec 1983

The European Economic Community and Andean Pact countries (Bolivia, Columbia, Ecuador and Peru) sign an economic cooperation agreement in Cartagena, Colombia.

1984

1984

First Chinese-European political consultations at ministerial level in the context of European Political Cooperation.

1984

14 Coastal cities are opened to foreign investment in China as a part of Deng Xiaoping’s policy to modernize China.

1984

Management training and rural development programmes are launched in China with the cooperation of the EU.

1 Jan 1984

The European Economic Community-European Free Trade Association free trade area is established.

12 Mar 1984

The Council signs an agreement on Greenland’s withdrawal from the European Economic Community and on future European Economic Community-Greenland relations, following the 1982 Greenland referendum.

May

In a speech to the European Parliament, Francois Mitterand expresses enthusiasm for a Treaty on European Union.

26 Sep 1984

The European Economic Community and China initial a new commercial and economic cooperation agreement.

9 Oct 1984

The European Economic Community and Yemen Arab Republic sign a Development Cooperation Agreement.

8 Dec 1984

The Third Lomé Convention between sixty five African, Caribbean and Pacific states and the European Economic Community is signed.

1985

1 Feb 1985

Greenland leaves the European Economic Community, remaining linked to it by association as an overseas territory.

21 May 1985

The agreement on trade and economic cooperation between the EC and the PRC is signed. It comes into force on 16 September 1985 as Council Regulation 2616/85 with the aim of encouraging the steady expansion of economic cooperation in the mutual interest of both parties.

12 Jun 1985

The European Communities and Spain and Portugal sign Treaties of Accession.

14 Jun 1985

European Commission President Jacques Delors receives letter from the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance Secretary-General Vyacheslav Sychov again, proposing the establishment of relations between the European Economic Community and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

14 Jun 1985

The European Commission publishes its White Paper on the completion of the internal market. The White Paper contains details of measures to be taken to remove all physical, technical and tax barriers between the Member States by 1992 and a detailed seven-year timetable for adopting them. Belgium, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands sign an Accord in Schengen in Luxembourg to open their borders for the free movement of persons by the beginning of 1990. Its goal is the gradual abolition of controls at the Member States’ frontiers. This is achieved by the abolition of systematic checks, the harmonisation of visa regulations, the relaxation of customs and other formalities and closer cooperation between the border police forces. However, it becomes practically important only with the Second Accord in 1990.

29 Jul 1985

De Clercq, for the European Commission, replies to the letter of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance’s Secretary-General Sychov – to European Commission President Delors, 14 June – indicating the European Community’s willingness to continue European Economic Community-Council
of Mutual Economic Assistance dialogue which had been broken off in 1981.

19 Sep 1985 European Economic Community Foreign Ministers agree on sanctions against South Africa.

1 Oct 1985 The European Economic Community and the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE) hold their first meeting at ministerial level.

12 Nov 1985 The European Economic Community and the Panama signatories to General Treaty for Central American Economic Integration (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua) sign a cooperation agreement.

1986

1 Jan 1986 Spain and Portugal become Member States of the European Communities.

1 Jan 1986 Finland becomes a full member of the European Free Trade Association.

21 Jan 1986 The Danish Parliament passes a resolution which states that the Single European Act is unacceptable in its current form.

17 Feb 1986 17–28 February: the Single European Act is signed at Luxembourg and the Hague by the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the European Economic Communities: Belgium, France, United Kingdom, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal and Ireland sign on 17–18 February; Italy, Denmark and Greece sign on 28 February. This gives additional legal impetus to the internal market programme and puts European Political Cooperation on an intergovernmental Treaty basis, giving the European Council a basis in the Treaty and making it a Community body. It also makes it a requirement that the European Parliament agree to any accessions to the Community or to Association Agreements. Subsequent Commission discussions result in internal reforms and the establishment of new inter-institutional mechanisms.

The Single European Act inserts the European Monetary System (EMS) into the Treaty of Rome and establishes the Community’s monetary capacity. The Treaty commits signatories to the eventual achievement of a single currency. It establishes the goal of a single market by 1992. It commits the Community to creating an internal market comprising an area without internal frontiers in which the free movement of goods, persons, services and capital is ensured.

12 Mar 1986 Spain’s continued membership of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation is confirmed by referendum in Spain with a majority of 56.85%. However the agreement contains a number of reservations including a provision that allows Spanish forces to operate under Spanish command instead of a unified NATO command except in times of emergency.

12 Apr 1986 The Sixth National People’s Congress of China adopts new Civil Law Code. The aim of the code is to create a consistent legal framework for civil law interpretation which previously had not existed.

28 Apr 1986 Western European Union foreign and defence ministers, meeting in Venice, review the revitalisation of the organisation. Member States decide to cooperate on immigration policy.

1 May 1986 The third Lomé Convention between the European Economic Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific nations comes into force.


1987


18 Mar 1987 The European Communities and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance hold talks in Geneva.

14 Apr 1987 Turkey applies to join the European Communities.

1 Jul 1987 The Single European Act enters into force.

8 Jul 1987 Morocco applies to join the European Economic Community.

16 Nov 1987 The European Commission signs the Protocol Amending the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in relation to Government Procurement on behalf of the European Economic Community.

1988

March China successfully launches the DFH-2A fully operational communication satellite into earth’s orbit.

15 Jun 1988 Member States of the European Communities and member states of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE) sign a cooperation agreement and issue a joint political declaration.

25 Jun 1988 A Joint Declaration is signed in Luxembourg on the establishment of relations
and cooperation between the European Communities and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance. The Council of Mutual Economic Assistance recognises the authority of the European Communities to negotiate on behalf of the Member States.

1 Jul 1988
Manfred Wörner, former Minister of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany, succeeds Lord Carrington as Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

16 Sep 1988
The Lugano Convention on Jurisdiction and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial matters is held by the European Community and the European Free Trade Association States.

26 Sep 1988
The European Community and Hungary sign trade and economic cooperation agreement.

4 Oct 1988
The delegation of the European Commission in Beijing is opened.

14 Nov 1988
Portugal and Spain sign the Treaty of Accession to the Western European Union.

1989
June
The EC enforces sanctions, including an arms embargo, and suspends relations with China following the Tiananmen incidents of June 4th 1989.

June
In Madrid (Spain), the European Council of Ministers agrees to an EU-wide arms embargo against China.

4 Jun 1989
Student-led demonstrations in Tiananmen Square calling for liberty, human rights and a separation of powers, following the death of former Communist Party General Secretary Hu Yaobang, are broken up by the use of military force (official death toll: 200).

24 Jun 1989
Jiang Zemin replaces Zhao Ziyang as Communist Party Secretary after Zhao shows sympathy to Tiananmen protestors. He is placed under house arrest for 15 years.

14 Jul 1989
14-16 July: the Western Economic Summit is held in Paris. The Poland and Hungary Assistance for Economic Restructuring Programme, known as PHARE, is established to support reforms undertaken in Eastern European countries and to co-ordinate aid for the economic restructuring of Poland and Hungary. The European Commission is requested to co-ordinate the aid for financial restructuring in Poland and Hungary.

17 Jul 1989
Austria applies to join the European Communities.

19 Sep 1989
The European Community and Poland sign a trade, commerce and economic agreement in Warsaw.

December
Stock markets are opened in Shanghai and Shenzhen and allowed to operate independently. This is part of Deng Xiaoping’s attempts to develop a social market economy.

15 Dec 1989
The European Community and sixty nine African, Caribbean and Pacific States sign the fourth Lomé Convention, Lomé IV.

18 Dec 1989
The European Community rejects Turkey’s application for membership.

18 Dec 1989
The European Community and the Soviet Union sign a trade, economic and commercial cooperation agreement.

19 Dec 1989
Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze visits the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Headquarters for talks with North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Secretary-General Manfred Wörner and the Permanent Representatives of Alliance countries. This is the first such visit by a Minister of a Central or Eastern European government to the Alliance’s Headquarters.

1990
17 Jan 1990
European Commission President, Jacques Delors, sets out the European Commission’s 1990 Programme to the European Parliament, discussing the new situation in Central Europe and the implications for the European Community.

5 Feb 1990
The Council defines the approach for the development of relations with the states of Central and Eastern Europe.

11 Feb 1990
11–13 February: Foreign Ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Warsaw Treaty Organisation countries, with observers from other CSCE states, meet in Ottawa for the opening of the “Open Skies” Conference, which proposes unarmed surveillance flights over NATO territory to improve mutual trust. On the margins of the Conference, the Foreign Ministers reach agreements to hold discussions on external aspects of the establishment of German unity.

20 Feb 1990
The Conference of European Community Foreign Ministers takes place in Dublin, establishing an action plan on the development of relation with the states of Eastern Europe.

19 Mar 1990
19 March–11 April: the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe takes place in Bonn.

2 Apr 1990
The European Community and Argentina sign a framework agreement for trade and economic cooperation in Luxemburg, containing a clause which stipulates respect for democratic principles and human rights to be the basis of all cooperation between the parties.
28 Apr 1990  An Extraordinary European Council meeting in Dublin frames a common approach to relations with Central and Eastern European countries, German unification, and the Conference of Security and Cooperation in Europe.

7 May 1990  The Council of the European Communities’ Decision on a trans-European mobility scheme for university studies, named Tempus, to provide training assistance for Central and Eastern European countries.

8 May 1990  The European Community signs trade, commercial and economic cooperation agreements with Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic.

29 May 1990  An agreement establishing the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is signed in Paris. The Bank is to foster the transition towards market economy and to promote private and entrepreneurial initiative in Central and Eastern European countries by financing investment by granting or guaranteeing loans.


19 Jun 1990  The Schengen Accord supplementary agreement is signed by France, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, providing for unchecked movement of people between signatories and forming the basis for the Schengen Group, an informal intergovernmental grouping of signatories.

20 Jun 1990  Uzbekistan declares independence from the Soviet Union.

1 Jul 1990  German economic unification takes place on the basis of the West German Deutschmark. The Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union agree that a united Germany will have full sovereignty including the right to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. The Soviet Union agrees to withdraw troops from the German Democratic Republic within three to four years.

4 Jul 1990  Cyprus applies to join the European Communities.

5 Jul 1990  5-6 July: North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Heads of State and Government, meeting in London, publish the London Declaration on a Transformed North Atlantic Alliance. The Declaration outlines proposals for developing cooperation with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe across a wide spectrum of political and military activity, including the establishment of regular diplomatic liaison between those countries and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. Force structures and nuclear strategy are reviewed.

9 Jul 1990  The Interim Report of the European Parliament’s Donnelly Committee considers the impact of the process of German unification on the European Community.

16 Jul 1990  Malta applies to join the European Communities.

8 Aug 1990  The Council of the European Communities adopts an embargo on all trade with Iraq and Kuwait, except for products intended for humanitarian purposes.

10 Aug 1990  At the Bund-Länder-Besprechung in West Germany, the Federal Government accepts three of four demands of the Länder with regard to the Federal government’s European Communities policy: 1. The right of sub-national entities to bring legal action in the courts of the European Community; 2. The establishment of principle of subsidiarity in the European Community treaties; 3. The creation of an European Community regional chamber;

The federal government rejects a fourth demand that Länder representatives be included in the German national delegation in the Council of Ministers.

October  The European Council and European Parliament begin to re-establish bilateral relations with China.

22 Oct 1990  The European Community signs a trade and economic agreement with Romania.

27 Oct 1990  It was agreed that the European Central Bank would co-ordinate monetary and exchange rate policy, develop the necessary instruments and supervise the development of the European Currency Unit.

27 Oct 1990  The fourth Lomé Convention enters into force.

1 Nov 1990  The cooperation agreement between the European Community and Czechoslovakia enters into force.

7 Nov 1990  The European Commission proposes directives to the Council to authorise it to negotiate Association or European Agreements with Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland.

19 Nov 1990  The member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Warsaw Treaty Organisation sign the the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe after seventeen years of negotiation. It fixes equal maximums on non-nuclear heavy weapons deployed by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and by the Warsaw Treaty Organisation to the Urals. It does not include submarines. Excess equipment, mostly of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation, is to be destroyed.
21 Nov 1990 Thirty-four Heads of State or Government sign the Paris Charter on a New Europe as an initiative of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. It signifies the relaunch of the Conference and establishes a number of institutions, including a Secretariat, a Conflict Prevention Centre, a Parliamentary Assembly and an Office for Free Elections.

22 Nov 1990 The European Community’s Transatlantic Declaration with the United States and its Joint Declaration with Canada confirm North American political support for Europe.

27 Nov 1990 Italy signs the Schengen agreement. Spain and Portugal sign as observers.

14 Dec 1990 14–15 December: the European Council, meeting in Rome, opens the intergovernmental conferences on political union and on economic and monetary union. It also grants aid to the independent states formerly of the Soviet Union and sets guidelines for supporting reform.

1991

13 Mar 1991 The European Community establishes a support framework for structural assistance to the five new German Länder and eastern Berlin.

18 Mar 1991 The San José VII conference on political dialogue and economic cooperation between the European Communities and the member states of Central and South America opens in Managua.

April Member States of European Community agree to the lifting of sanctions against South Africa.

5 Apr 1991 The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development is inaugurated in London. It is established to assist Eastern European countries and the Soviet Union in developing democracy and a market economy.

15 Apr 1991 Luxemburg presents a draft document on European Commission decision-making at the fourth intergovernmental conference on European Political Union. It proposes that the European Commission would have a joint decision-making function in relation to those areas which could now be decided by the Council of Ministers by a qualified majority vote.


25 Jun 1991 Spain and Portugal sign the Schengen Agreement.

1 Jul 1991 1. Sweden applies for membership of the European Communities. 2. Andorra joins the customs union, but does not participate in any other European Community institutions.

1 Jul 1991 European Community Ministers order a total arms embargo on Yugoslavia and agree to send monitoring mission. The conflict intensifies.

15 Jul 1991 The Council endorses a regulation to provide technical assistance to the Soviet Union.

22 Jul 1991 The Council agrees to provide financial aid for the population of the Occupied Territories, both Israeli and Palestinian.

18 Aug 1991 18–19 August: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is deposed in a coup d’Etat and is replaced by an eight-man Emergency Committee. Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin calls for a general strike while loyalist tanks flying Russian flags position themselves near the Russian parliament building.

26 Aug 1991 Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev indicates that the demands of secession-minded republics for independence can no longer be resisted. European Community Member States agree to establish diplomatic ties with the three Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

27 Aug 1991 The Baltic states become the independent States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The European Communities recognises their independence.

1 Sep 1991 The fourth Lomé Convention comes into force.

8 Oct 1991 The European Community accedes to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, making it the first regional economic organisation to join a specialised agency of the United Nations.

8 Nov 1991 The Council of Ministers imposes economic and trade sanctions on Yugoslavia.

2 Dec 1991 The European Community drops its sanctions against Yugoslavia, except in relation to Serbia and Montenegro.

14 Dec 1991 The Court of Justice of the European Communities hands down its Opinion 1/91, declaring the Agreement Establishing a European Economic Area to be contrary to European Community law.

16 Dec 1991 The European Communities and Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, sign Europe Agreements, which contain provisions on the free movement of workers, services and capital, the approximation of laws and the granting of financial assistance.

16 Dec 1991 Member States and the European Communities adopt a common position on recognition of the Yugoslav Republics.
The North Atlantic Cooperation Council holds its inaugural meeting. It is founded on the initiative of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and composed of the sixteen North Atlantic Treaty Organisation members, fifteen former Soviet republics, which are all former Warsaw Treaty Organisation members, and also Albania. Foreign Ministers meet with the purpose being dialogue.

1992

Deng Xiaoping accelerates market reforms to establish a “socialist market economy”.

China ratifies the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The treaty’s objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament.

EU-China relations largely recovered after Tiananmen Square incident although arms embargo remains in place.

The European Community recognises Croatia and Slovenia as independent republics.

The European Community lifts economic sanctions on South Africa.

The Council adopts measures to aid Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia.

The Treaty on European Union is signed in Maastricht by the Foreign and Finance Ministers of the Member States of the European Communities. It sets out a programme leading to a single currency in Stage Three, starting on 1 January 1997 at the earliest or on 1 January 1999 at the latest. The United Kingdom secures opt-out clauses over Economic and Monetary Union and the European Social Charter. The European Council is given an overall role in fixing the European Union’s political and economic guidelines. The Treaty on European Union includes a Common Foreign and Security Policy. Four areas of security policy are included, as agreed in a Joint Declaration by the European Council: arms control, arms exports, nuclear non-proliferation and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Defence issues are sub-contracted to the Western European Union, which is given the tasks of ‘elaborating and implementing’ actions on the Union’s behalf in Title V, Article 14.2. Article J.4 of the Treaty states that the Common Foreign and Security Policy will include ‘the eventual framing of a common defence policy, which might in time lead to a common defence’. The Treaty grants citizens of member states ‘citizenship’ of the European Union, which is consolidated in Article 8 of the Treaty.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20 May 1992</td>
<td>Switzerland formally applies for accession to the European Communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Establishment of a new bilateral political dialogue between the EC and China on environmental cooperation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 May 1992</td>
<td>Liechtenstein votes by referendum in favour of ratifying the European Economic Area agreement.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

1993

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>11 Dec 1992</td>
<td>Liechtenstein votes by referendum in favour of ratifying the European Economic Area agreement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Feb 1993</td>
<td>The European Community signs an Association Agreement with Romania. Accession negotiations between the European Commission and Austria, Finland and Sweden commence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Mar 1993</td>
<td>The United Kingdom government is defeated in the House of Commons when a small amendment to the Bill to ratify the Maastricht Treaty is approved by a majority of opposition Members of Parliament as well as rebel Euro-sceptics in the ruling Conservative Party. The implementation of amendment delays rather than prevents the ratification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Mar 1993</td>
<td>The European Community signs an Association Agreement with Bulgaria.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Mar 1993</td>
<td>Belgium ratifies the Schengen Accord.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
17 Mar 1993 An additional protocol is signed by the participating countries enabling the European Economic Area Treaty to enter into force following the withdrawal of Switzerland, which may nevertheless participate in the European Economic Area at a later date if it so wishes. Special arrangements are provided for Liechtenstein. The European Free Trade Association Court’s protocol is also signed by the European Free Trade Association states adjusting the 1992 Agreement establishing a European Surveillance Authority and a Court of Justice.

19 Mar 1993 The Court of Justice of the European Communities delivers Opinion 2/91, relating to the International Labour Organisation’s Convention on Chemicals at Work. It decides that the existence of an internal power which has not been exercised can result in external power for the European Communities.

29 Mar 1993 The European Free Trade Association signs free trade agreements with Bulgaria and Hungary.


5 Apr 1993 The European Community and Slovenia sign an economic cooperation agreement.

12 Apr 1993 The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation’s operation to enforce the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina, under the authority of United Nations Security Council Resolution 816, begins. Fighter and surveillance aircraft from several allied nations participate, as well as aircraft from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation’s Airborne Early Warning Force.

19 Apr 1993 The European Free Trade Association signs free trade agreements with the Czech Republic and the Republica of Slovakia.

26 May 1993 The General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs’ Arbitration Board finds European Community measures to control banana imports unfair to Latin American countries which export the fruit.

21 Jun 1993 21–22 June: the European Council, meeting in Copenhagen, assures associated countries of Eastern and Central Europe that they will be admitted to full membership of the European Communities as soon as they satisfy conditions of institutional and economic stability and capacity. The European Commission is asked to develop a long-term strategy for encouragement of growth, competitiveness and employment.

30 Jun 1993 The European Community gives a negative opinion to Malta’s application for membership. Cyprus’ application is also rejected.

1 Sep 1993 The Schengen Application Convention enters into force.

October European Commission office opens in Hong Kong.

4 Oct 1993 The European Community signs Europe Agreements with the Czech Republic and the Republic of Slovakia. These agreements covered the development of political, trade, social, cultural and security links.

7 Oct 1993 Romania enters the Council of Europe.


8 Nov 1993 The Council endorses future relations with Switzerland subsequent to Swiss referendum results opposing accession.

16 Dec 1993 Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom give full diplomatic recognition to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

1994

1994 China connects to NSFNET (National Science Foundation Network), the early backbone network of the internet.

1 Jan 1994 The agreement establishing the European Economic Area enters into force.

4 Jan 1994 The European Free Trade Association Court is opened in Geneva.

10 Jan 1994 The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation launches the Partnership for Peace Programme to provide for military cooperation between the Organisation and the states of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

1 Feb 1994 Association agreements between the European Union, Poland and Hungary come into effect.

1 Mar 1994 Talks concerning forthcoming European Union membership for Sweden, Finland and Austria are successfully completed, all three agreeing terms to join the European Union.

1 Mar 1994 In Portugal and Spain, the Schengen Agreement enters into force.

23 Mar 1994 The European Community and Ukraine sign a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.

28 Mar 1994 The Commissioner for External Affairs, Hans Van den Broek, warns that the European Commission will take Greece to court if it does not lift its trade ban on Macedonia.
30 Mar 1994  The European Union concludes accession negotiations with Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway.

1 Apr 1994  Hungary applies for membership of the European Union.

1 Apr 1994  Hungary becomes the first former communist state to apply to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation’s Partnership for Peace.

8 Apr 1994  Poland applies for membership of the European Union.

15 Apr 1994  The Final Act of Uruguay Round of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations is signed in Marrakesh by 117 nations. The President of the Council and Commissioner Sir Leon Britton signs on behalf of the European Community. The Act provides for the creation of the World Trade Organisation and the reduction of industrial tariffs. It also provides for the establishment of a permanent Dispute Settlement Body to provide a formalised structure for the resolution of trade disputes. Interim arrangements are adopted for agriculture and textiles and the European Community agrees to gradually dismantle the restrictions imposed under the Multifibre Arrangement on textile and clothing imports from developing countries.

18 Apr 1994  The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development meets in St. Petersburg.

19 May 1994  The European Community and the United States hold General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks regarding civil aircraft.

26 May 1994  26–27 May: The Inaugural Conference on a Pact on Stability in Europe is held in Paris. European Foreign Ministers discuss a new initiative aimed at averting conflicts over borders and the rights of minorities, promoting good neighbourly relations in Central and Eastern Europe and strengthening regional cooperation and democratic institutions.

1 Jun 1994  The Schengen Agreement enters into force in Italy.

12 Jun 1994  A referendum in Austria is favourable to membership of the European Union. 66.6% voted yes.

14 Jun 1994  The European Communities, the Member States and the Ukraine sign a partnership and cooperation agreement in Luxembourg.

16 Jun 1994  The Turkish government bans the pro-Kurdish DEP party. The European Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, Hans Van den Broek, expresses concern at this development.


29 Jun 1994  The Court of Justice of the European Communities rules that the European Commission has failed to prove the urgency of the case for interim measures against Greece’s trade ban against Macedonia (Case C-120/94).

5 Jul 1994  The European Court of Justice rules that all exports from Cyprus must be authorised by the Greek Cypriot government, effectively banning trade between the European Union and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

18 Jul 1994  The European Community, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania sign free trade agreements in Brussels. The agreements are scheduled to enter into force on 1 January 1995.

10 Oct 1994  The European Community and South Africa sign a cooperation agreement.

16 Oct 1994  A Finnish referendum approves accession to the European Union. 56.9% vote in favour.

13 Nov 1994  A referendum in Sweden approves accession to the European Union. 52.3% in favour.

15 Nov 1994  The Court of Justice of the European Communities delivers its Opinion 1/94 on the international treaty competence of the EU in the Uruguay Round of international trade negotiations, determining that while the European Community had exclusive competence to conclude the Multilateral Agreement on Trade in Goods, the Community and the Member States were jointly competent to conclude both the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

28 Nov 1994  Norway rejects accession to the European Union in a referendum. Norway stays
within the European Economic Area framework.

30 Nov 1994 The Council of Ministers adopts the first joint action in the fields of justice and home affairs under the Treaty on European Union.

11 Dec 1994 Rebels in the breakaway Russian republic of Chechnya resist an offensive by Russian troops and aircraft against the capital, Grozny.

14 Dec 1994 The European Free Trade Association decides to move its Court from Geneva to Luxemburg.

19 Dec 1994 19–20 December: the Council adopts decisions concluding Europe Association Agreements between the European Community and Romania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia: these provide for a gradual creation of a free trade area, govern political, economic and commercial relations, including the movement of workers, and provide for the approximation of laws.

22 Dec 1994 Member States within the Schengen Group agree that they will remove remaining frontier controls on 26 March 1995.

31 Dec 1994 Russian troops commence their offensive against the Chechen capital, Grozny.

1995

1 Jan 1995 In China a massive programme to rebuild Buddhist temples is started in the mid-90s, the government having expressed support for Buddhism and Taoism as religions that form an integral part of Chinese culture.

1995 Launch of a specific EU dialogue on human rights issues in China. Two rounds of dialogue are to be held each year, one under each EU Presidency.

1 Jan 1995 The World Trade Organisation is established to administer the 28 agreements contained in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round, plurilateral agreements on government procurement and civil aircraft, tariff cuts, and reductions of non-tariff measures.

1 Jan 1995 The date of accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden to the EC. Only Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland remain in the European Free Trade Association.

1 Feb 1995 The European Association Agreements between the European Communities, the Member States, and Bulgaria, Romania, the Czech Republic and Slovakia enter into force, providing for the gradual establishment of a free trade zone.

8 Feb 1995 In Chechenya, the fall of Grozny to the Russian Army is conceded by President of Chechenya, Dzhoklov Dudayev.

15 Feb 1995 The Russian application for membership of the Council of Europe is suspended due to war in Chechenya.

6 Mar 1995 European Union Foreign Ministers sign an agreement with Turkey to introduce a customs union from January 1996.

10 Mar 1995 Justice and Internal Affairs Ministers of the Member States sign the Convention on simplified extradition procedure between the Member States of the European Union. This is the first Convention adopted under the Justice and Home Affairs Title to the Treaty on European Union. The Convention shortens procedures where the extradited person consents and the requested State agrees.

26 Mar 1995 The Schengen Accord comes into force between Belgium, France, Germany, Luxemburg, Portugal, Spain and the Netherlands. Frontier, passport, customs and immigration controls are removed in these States. France is given a three-month transitional period.

4 Apr 1995 The European Commission adopts Customs 2000 to strengthen the European Union’s borders and make customs controls more effective.

9 Apr 1995 A referendum in the Principality of Liechtenstein results in a favourable vote to participation in the European Economic Area with 55.9% voting yes.

19 Apr 1995 Russians capture the last Chechen town in rebel hands. Guerrilla war continues.

28 Apr 1995 Austria accedes to the Schengen Agreement.

1 May 1995 Liechtenstein becomes a full member of the European Economic Area. This brings the European Economic Area membership to 18: the 15 Member States and Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

29 May 1995 The Council concludes that all treaties between the European Communities and third states will include a reference to human rights in the preamble, a human rights clause and a suspension clause mechanism in the event of breach of the human rights clause.

12 Jun 1995 The European Community signs Association Agreements with the Baltic states, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

15 Jun 1995 An Association Agreement between the European Union and Slovenia is initialled in Brussels, Belgium.

22 Jun 1995 Romania applies to join the European Union.

27 Jun 1995 Slovakia applies to join the European Union.
15 Jul 1995 Publication of EC communication “A long-term policy for China-Europe relations”. This publication outlined the importance of the relationship between the EC and China to encourage human rights reform, to improve China’s integration with the international community and to enhance business links.

17 Jul 1995 The European Community signs an interim agreement with Russia, a Euro-Mediterranean agreement with Tunisia and a cooperation agreement with Vietnam.


24 Sep 1995 The European Council, meeting at Majorca, opens negotiations with Malta, Cyprus, and central and eastern European countries on future membership. France offers a nuclear umbrella for the European Union.

27 Oct 1995 Latvia applies to join the European Union.

30 Oct 1995 A cooperation agreement between the European Community and Brazil, signed in 1992, is formally concluded.

20 Nov 1995 The European Community signs a Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement with Israel, replacing the agreement of 11 May 1975.

20 Nov 1995 The European Community signs a cooperation agreement with Nepal.

27 Nov 1995 The Euro-Mediterranean Conference begins in Barcelona. The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, or Barcelona Process, emerged from this meeting, laying a framework of political, economic and social relations between EU Member States and Southern Mediterranean partners (Cyprus, Malta, Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey, Libya has observer status.) The main objectives of this process are the eventual creation of a common area of peace and stability and of a free trade area (by 2010), and the promotion of social dialogue.

28 Nov 1995 Estonia applies to join the European Union.

3 Dec 1995 At a European Union-United States Summit in Madre, the New Transatlantic Agenda is signed by Felipe Gonzales in his capacity as President of the Council and European Commission President Jacques Santer on the one hand and United States President Bill Clinton on the other. The Agenda outlines joint initiatives including contributing to the expansion of world trade and economic relations.

4 Dec 1995 A joint European Commission and Council Decision concludes an additional protocol signed by the European Communities and their Member States on the one hand and the Eastern European countries on the other which extends the participation of the Associated Country in Community Programmes, for example environment, education, social policy, health, consumer protection, energy and transport. The signatories of the protocol with the European Community are Romania, 30 June 1995; Hungary, 13 July 1995; Poland, 17 July 1995; Bulgaria, 20 July 1995; Czech Republic, 24 August 1995.

7 Dec 1995 The European Free Trade Association signs free trade agreements with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, effective from 1 June 1996 and also cooperation agreements with Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

12 Dec 1995 Lithuania applies to join the European Union.

16 Dec 1995 Bulgaria applies to join the European Union.

20 Dec 1995 The United Nations ends its mission in Bosnia and a 60,000 strong North Atlantic Treaty Organisation force takes over its peace-keeping role.


1996

17 Jan 1996 The Czech Republic applies to join the European Union.

1 Feb 1996 The interim agreement between the European Union and Russia enters into force. This gives effect to the trade clauses of the partnership and cooperation agreements between the European Union and Russia pending the entry into force of the latter. A similar interim agreement between the European Union and Ukraine also enters into force.

26 Feb 1996 The European Union signs a Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement and fisheries agreement with Morocco.
First Asia-Europe meeting (ASEM) at a summit in Bangkok. The aim of the meeting is to strengthen the relationship between the two regions and aid a cultural, political and economic relationship between the two regions.

11 Mar 1996
The Council adopts a regulation including the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the PHARE Programme.

26 Mar 1996
The Schengen agreement – incorporating Belgium, Germany, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Portugal – enters into force.

28 Mar 1996
The Court of Justice of the European Communities delivers its Opinion 2/94, declaring that the European Union lacks competence to adhere to the European Convention on Human Rights.

22 Apr 1996
Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan sign partnership and cooperation agreements with the European Union.

1 Jun 1996
Cooperation agreements between the European Union and Vietnam and Nepal enter into force.

3 Jun 1996
The North Atlantic Council meets in Berlin. France accepts a compromise over the CJFT concept. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation will remain “one system capable of performing multiple functions”, thereby avoiding the creation of separate command arrangements for European-only operations. The conduct of a Western European Union operation, drawing upon Alliance resources, will necessitate the approval of the North Atlantic Council. In deference to French pressure, it is agreed that there will be exercises to practise how Western European Union-led operations could be detached from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation’s structure. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the Western European Union agree on the sharing of material with a ‘secret’ classification.

10 Jun 1996
European Union signs Europe Agreement with Slovenia; Slovenian Prime Minister presents formal application for Slovenia’s accession to the European Union.

21 Jun 1996
The European Community signs cooperation agreements with Uzbekistan and Chile.

25 Jun 1996
The Council adopts a new TACIS regulation on assistance to New Independent States of the Former Soviet Union and Mongolia until 1999.

8 Aug 1996
The European Union issues a statement protesting against the introduction by the United States of legislation providing for penalties against European countries investing in Iraq, Libya and Cuba.

1 Sep 1996
The Court of the European Free Trade Association moves officially to Luxembourg from Geneva.

27 Sep 1996
The fifteen European Union Member States sign an extradition convention and a protocol on protection of the European Union’s financial interests. The Council adopts corresponding acts.

29 Sep 1996
A cooperation agreement is signed between the European Union and MERCORSUR – the South American Common Market which includes Argentina, Barzil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

1 Oct 1996
The Council authorises the European Commission to negotiate the accession of Euratom to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation.

28 Oct 1996
The European Union and the Republic of Korea sign a cooperation agreement.

16 Dec 1996
The European Union and the United States hold a transatlantic summit in Washington.

19 Dec 1996
Denmark, Sweden and Finland accede to the Schengen Agreement.

1997

24 Feb 1997
The European Community and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation adopt a joint statement establishing regular political dialogue and sign the Euro-Mediterranean interim association agreement for five years.

6 Apr 1997
France blocks a resolution of the United Nations Commission of Human Rights condemning China for its human rights record, despite the European Union Common Foreign and Security Policy. This was the seventh consecutive year that such a resolution had been blocked.

24 Apr 1997
The African, Caribbean and Pacific States and the Council of Ministers adopt a decision approving a protocol governing the accession of South Africa to the Lomé Convention.

29 Apr 1997
The European Union signs its first cooperation agreements with Cambodia and Laos.

29 Apr 1997
The European Community signs a trade and cooperation agreement with Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

27 May 1997
The Russia-North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Founding Act, governing relations between the two parties, is signed.
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The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation-Ukraine Charter is signed in Sintra, Portugal.

The European Council meets in Amsterdam to revise the Treaty on European Union. It approves various provisions facilitating smooth passage to the Third Stage of Economic and Monetary Union and adopts a resolution on growth and employment.

1. A provision stating that ‘the Union is founded on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, principles which are common to the Member States’ is added to the Treaty and a reference to fundamental social rights is included in its preamble.

2. Free movement of persons, asylum, immigration, the crossing of external borders and judicial cooperation are integrated into the Community framework during a transitional period of five years. Community competence is extended to the Justice and Home Affairs pillar of the TEU, bringing asylum, immigration, and judicial cooperation into the Community legislative framework.

3. A new title on employment is incorporated into the Treaty.

4. A Protocol integrates the Schengen acquis into the framework of the European Union.

5. A Protocol on subsidiarity and proportionality is added to the Treaty.

6. The Council adopts a resolution confirming the Stability and Growth Pact. The Council adopts a regulation providing for the replacement of the ECU with the euro at the rate of one to one from 1 January 1999 and for continuity of contracts, and laying down rules for conversion between national currencies and the euro.

7. A Franco-German defence proposal to integrate the Western European Union into the European Union is resisted by an alliance of the United Kingdom, Denmark, Finland, Ireland and Sweden.

Hong Kong returned by UK to China to be governed as a special administrative region (SAR) with a high degree of autonomy in all matters except foreign relations and military defence. This was the result of extensive negotiations between the British government and the PRC which culminated in the Sino-British Joint Agreement. Previously Hong Kong had been leased to the United Kingdom by the Treaty of Nanking in 1842, the Treaty of Beijing in 1860 and the Convention for the Extension of Hong Kong Territory in 1898.

Microsoft and Intel establish high-tech research facilities in Beijing.

Foreign ministers of the European Union agree that no member state of the European Union will sponsor a resolution condemning China at the United Nations Human Rights Committee in Geneva.

Publication of European Commission communication “Building a Comprehensive Partnership with China”. The communication focuses on supporting China’s integration into the WTO, social reform, promotion of human rights and raising the profile of the EU within China.

The European Union opens accession negotiations with Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovenia and Cyprus.

First EU-China summit held in London. Ever since they have been held on an annual basis alternating between Beijing and the country hosting the EU Presidency. The summits are attended by the Chinese Prime Minister, the President of the European Commission and High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, as well as other relevant Ministers from each country.

The European Union accuses Israel of tens of millions of dollars worth of customs fraud by obtaining reduced customs rates on exports from Jewish settlements.

Denmark votes to ratify the Amsterdam Treaty in a referendum. 55.1% vote for ratification.

China and the EC sign an agreement on scientific and technological cooperation. This leads to European Council Decision 2000/16/EC which outlines the aim of pursuing specific development programmes in areas of common interest.

Russia and the European Union hold a summit meeting in Moscow.

The framework cooperation agreement between the European Union and the coun-
tries of the San Jose Group – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama – enters into force.

12 Mar 1999

The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland are formally admitted to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

12 Mar 1999

The Council adopts a regulation determining the third countries whose nationals must be in possession of visas when crossing external borders of the Member States.

23 Mar 1999

The North Atlantic Council authorises North Atlantic Treaty Organisation air strikes against Yugoslavia.

20 Apr 1999

The Council adopts a regulation suspending restrictive economic measures taken against Libya.

25 Apr 1999

The Falun Gong movement (a spiritual discipline derived from Buddhism and Taoism, and combining meditation with slow-moving qigong exercises introduced in China in 1992 through the public lectures of its founder Li Hongzhi) is declared illegal in China and a threat to national security by Chairman Jiang Zemin.

7 May 1999

Cooling of US-China relations after NATO bombs Chinese embassy in Belgrade, former Yugoslavia. NATO claim the intended target had been the Yugoslav Federal Directorate for Supply and Procurement. Three Chinese reporters are killed. President Clinton issues an apology. Protests occur outside the US Embassy in Beijing.

25 May 1999

The US Cox-Dicks Committee accuses China of using espionage to steal neutron bomb and other thermonuclear technology.

3 Jun 1999

3–4 June: the European Council meet in Cologne. It adopts the first European Union common strategy on Russia. It concludes that partnership between the EU and Russia should be strengthened as it is crucial to maintaining peace and security in Europe and for meeting common European challenges. The Presidency also concluded that "It wholeheartedly endorses the efforts made by China and Russia to date to achieve WTO accession and urges the Council and Commission to support early accession by China on the basis of a fair balance of interests and to encourage Russia’s endeavours to adapt to the requirements of WTO accession”.

9 Jun 1999


10 Jun 1999

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Secretary-General Javier Solana announces a formal halt to the bombing campaign in Kosovo.

10 Jun 1999

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation suspends air campaign following confirmation of Serbian withdrawal from Kosovo.

12 Jun 1999

First KFOR troops are deployed in Kosovo. The province is divided into zones of responsibilities.

20 Jun 1999

The eighth European Union-Japan summit takes place in Bonn.

21 Jun 1999

The European Union-United States Summit takes place in Bonn.

21 Jun 1999

The European Community and its Member States sign seven bilateral sectoral agreements (free movement of people, public procurement, transport, agriculture, research, and mutual recognition of conformity assessment) with Switzerland.

22 Jun 1999

The European Union holds a summit meeting with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in Luxemboug.

1 Jul 1999

The European Union's partnership and cooperation agreements with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, enter in force.

1 Jul 1999

The European Union's interregional framework cooperation agreement with MERCOSUR – whose member countries are Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay – enters into force.

15 Jul 1999

China develops technology to build a neutron bomb, a small thermonuclear weapon which releases a higher radiation dose than conventional warheads. The Cox report published in May claims that China had stolen US nuclear secrets.

23 Jul 1999

The third summit meeting between the European Union and Ukraine takes place in Kiev.

1 Nov 1999

The European Union's cooperation agreement with Cambodia enters into force.

10 Dec 1999

An declaration is made by the European Council in Helsinki that it aims to establish an European Rapid Reaction Force to allow European capability for autonomous action backed up by credible military forces.

10 Dec 1999

The European Council meets in Helsinki. It decides to open accession negotiations with Romania, Slovakia, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria and Malta and to recognise Turkey as an applicant country. It agrees to call an intergovernmental conference to revise the Treaties in February 2000. It takes various decisions aimed at stepping up the European common security and defence policy, adopts a common strategy with regard to Ukraine, a millennium declaration and a declaration on Chechnya, and approves guidelines for employment for 2000.
16 Dec 1999  The European Union-Canada summit is held in Ottawa.
17 Dec 1999  The European Union-United States of America summit is held in Washington.
21 Dec 1999  Second EU-China summit held in Beijing.

2000

1 Jan 2000  The Schengen Information System (SIS) comes into force, a governmental database used by European counties to maintain and distribute information on individuals and property. The intended purposes are national security, border control and law enforcement.

9 Apr 2000  The European Community and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia sign their first stabilisation and association agreement.

2 May 2000  2–4 May: a European Union troika visits the Korean peninsula, visiting the capitals of North and South Korea, namely Pyongyang and Seoul.

19 May 2000  Bilateral agreement on China’s WTO accession signed by EU in Beijing. This was after lengthy negotiations focusing on EU demands that China allow 51% foreign ownership of telecoms and insurance firms. The final agreement was on the condition that China agree to 25% foreign ownership on accession, 35% after 1 year and 49% after 3 years.

23 Jun 2000  The European Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) sign, in Cotonou, Benin, a new Convention, replacing those signed in Lomé. This agreement gives ACP exports preferential access to the EU market.

28 Jun 2000  The first European Union-India Summit meeting is held in Lisbon.

11 Jul 2000  Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji visits Brussels. This is the first visit of a Chinese Premier to the Commission.

1 Oct 2000  October: The Vatican canonizes 120 saints who were martyred in China.

24 Oct 2000  Third EU-China summit held in Beijing.

8 Nov 2000  The European Commission adopts a proposal for a regulation laying down the general principles of food law and establishing the European Food Authority.

8 Nov 2000  The European Commission delivers to the Council its overall report on enlargement, consisting of progress reports assessing the preparation of the candidate countries and an “Accession Partnership” proposal identifying the key issues Turkey must address before starting accession negotiations.

14 Nov 2000  The Committee of Regions holds a Conference on enlargement, globalisation and new forms of governance in Brussels.


20 Nov 2000  The Council adopts a regulation extending exceptional trade measures for countries participating in or linked to the stabilisation and association process to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. It also adopts negotiating brief with a view to reaching a stabilisation and association agreement with Croatia.

23 Nov 2000  23–24 November: the European Union/Balkans Summit takes place in Zagreb. The Stabilisation and Association Process between the EU and the Balkan States is officially endorsed by all participants.

7 Dec 2000  7–9 December: A European Council is held in Nice and reaches political agreement on a new Treaty amending the constituent treaties to provide for the participation of new members in the institutions (to be known as the Nice Treaty).


2001


1 Jan 2001  Sweden assumes Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

15 Jan 2001  Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato and Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji discuss Sino-Italian relations and international and regional issues of common concern at the Great Hall of the People, China.


26 Feb 2001  The Treaty of Nice is signed by leaders of the member States of the EU.

1 Apr 2001  China and Italy sign an agreement on scientific and technological co-operation.

9 Apr 2001  An EU delegation travels to China to discuss the Kyoto Protocol on global warming.


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16 May 2001 Chinese President Jiang Zemin meets visiting Austrian President Thomas Klestil at the Great Hall of the People, China.

17 May 2001 Chinese Vice-Premier Qian Qichen discusses bilateral relations with Austrian Federal President Thomas Klestil at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, China.

1 Jul 2001 Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

13 Jul 2001 The IOC executive committee elects Beijing to host of the 2008 Olympic Games.

1 Sep 2001 China organises a successful “Chinese Week” in Germany.

2 Sep 2001 Ireland and China sign a Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Co-operation agreeing that a Chinese Cultural Festival will be held in Ireland and an Irish Cultural Festival, China.

3 Sep 2001 Premier Zhu Rongji meets Irish Prime Minister Ahern and Irish President Mary McAleese to discuss the continued development of bilateral relations between Ireland and China.

5 Sep 2001 Fourth China-EU summit, Brussels.

17 Sep 2001 China and the EU launch a bi-lateral Information Society Working Group.


29 Oct 2001 Vice-President Hu Jintao pays an official visit to the UK and meets Lord Derry Irvine, the British Lord High Chancellor of the Upper House and Chief Justice.

30 Oct 2001 British Queen Elizabeth II meets Vice-President Hu Jintao and his wife in Buckingham Palace.

31 Oct 2001 Vice-President Hu Jintao meets British Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott and Scotland’s First Minister Henry McLeish in Edinburgh.

1 Nov 2001 The Chinese Minister of Cultural Affairs, Sun Jiazheng visits Germany to discuss the development of the cultural relations between the two countries.

13 Nov 2001 China – EU Ministerial Troika (Foreign Affairs Minister of the Member State holding the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union, and the European Commissioner for External Relations) meet in New York.

30 Nov 2001 Political Directors Troika meeting, Beijing.

8 Dec 2001 EU-China Human Rights Seminar, Brussels.

11 Dec 2001 The People’s Republic of China is officially admitted to the World Trade Organization WTO as the 143rd member.

2002

1 Jan 2002 Spain takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Euro coins and notes enter into circulation in the twelve participating Member States; Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

15 Jan 2002 Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan meets visiting British Secretary of Foreign Affairs Jack Straw to discuss bilateral ties and international and regional issues. 2002 marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of ambassador-level diplomatic ties between China and the UK and the fifth anniversary of Hong Kong’s return to China.

23 Jan 2002 Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan meets visiting Irish Foreign Minister Brian Cowen at the Great Hall of the People to discuss anti-terrorism efforts and other international and regional issues of mutual concern. Ireland seeks to expand economic exchanges and cooperation with China.

30 Jan 2002 30–31 January: EU-China Joint Committee Meeting on the Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation between the European Economic Community and the People’s Republic of China of 1985 (EU-China Joint Committee Meeting), Brussels.


15 Mar 2002 15–16 March: At a European Council meeting in Barcelona, Spain, EU leaders urge the speedy adoption of legislation for the opening of markets.

1 Apr 2002 European Commissioner for External Relations, Chris Patten, pays his first official visit to China.

3 Apr 2002 Patten and Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Shi Guangsheng sign (i) the Sino-EU energy and environment programme agreement and (ii) the Sino-EU Agreement on the European Study Centre programme.

8 Apr 2002 Chinese President Jiang Zemin visits the Federal Republic of Germany.
16 May 2002  China and the EU begin negotiations on Chinese participation in the GALILEO project (world’s first global satellite positioning system for civil use).

31 May 2002  The European Union ratifies the Kyoto Protocol.

26 Jun 2002  The German Foreign Office presents its new East Asia regional plan focusing on the “integration of China”.

23 Jul 2002  The Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) expires after fifty years.

1 Aug 2002  China and France sign Sino-French agreement on cultural cooperation.

2 Sep 2002  Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi launch the Sino-Italian Environmental Cooperation Project at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg.


22 Sep 2002  Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) IV and the fifth EU-China summit, (Annual meeting attended by the Chinese Prime Minister and other relevant Ministers and, for the EU, by the President of the Council of Ministers, the President of the European Commission and the High Representative for Common Foreign and Security Policy, as well as other relevant Ministers and European Commissioners) Copenhagen, Denmark.

26 Sep 2002  France and China sign an agreement on cultural cooperation between the two nations.

9 Oct 2002  The European Commission recommends the conclusion of accession negotiations by the end of 2002 with the following countries: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia.


15 Nov 2002  Chinese Vice-President Hu Jintao is named head of the ruling Communist Party, replacing Jiang Zemin, the outgoing president. Jiang is elected as head of the Central Military Commission.

1 Dec 2002  The European and Chinese authorities create an “EU-China Working Group on Digital Olympics”, co-chaired by the European Commission and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology.

6 Dec 2002  The EU and China sign the EU-China Maritime Transport Agreement.

31 Dec 2002  German Chancellor Schröder participates in the maiden voyage of the Transrapid in Shanghai, China which was constructed in Germany and uses the world’s fastest train technology.

2003


14 Feb 2003  EU–China Ministerial Troika, Beijing.

March 2003  Hu Jintao is elected as President by National People’s Congress in China.


10 Mar 2003  EU opens the European Economic and Trade Office in Taiwan.

9 Apr 2003  The European Parliament gives its assent to the accession of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia to the European Union.

16 Apr 2003  The Treaty of Accession between the EU and the Czech Republic, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia is signed in Athens, Greece.

3 Jun 2003  China requests market economy status under the EU’s anti-dumping instrument.

10 Jun 2003  China and India reach de facto agreement over status of Tibet and Sikkim in a landmark cross-border trade agreement.

25 Jun 2003  UK Prime Minister Tony Blair meets Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing in London.

30 Jun 2003  EU-China Ministerial Troika, Athens, Greece.

20 Jul 2003  UK Prime Minister Tony Blair begins an official visit to China.

10 Sep 2003  European Commission adopts policy paper “A maturing partnership: shared interests and challenges in EU–China relations”.

10 Sep 2003  German President Johannes Rau makes his first official visit to China and visits the Chinese-German Centre for the Promotion of Science in Beijing -a joint institution of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft and the Chinese Science Foundation.

October 2003  China’s first manned spacecraft is launched. Astronaut Yang Liwei is sent into space by a Long March 2F rocket.

6 Oct 2003  The Chinese Year in France starts as the first of two years of two-way cultural exchanges between France and China.

9 Oct 2003  Chinese President Hu Jintao meets visiting Irish President Mary McAleese at the Great Hall of the People, China. McAleese praises the achievements in modernization of the Chinese and notes that bilateral trade
between China and Ireland has increased seven-fold in the past five years.

10 Oct 2003 Premier Wen Jiabao Meets Irish President Mary McAleese.

13 Oct 2003 The EU updates its strategy on China and launches the paper “A Maturing Partnership: Shared Interests and Challenges in EU-China Relations”.

13 Oct 2003 The first Chinese policy paper on the EU is released.

15 Oct 2003 Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and British Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Jack Straw and US Secretary of State Colin Powell discuss the UN Security Council’s draft resolution on Iraq.

30 Oct 2003 At the sixth EU-China summit in Beijing, China and the European Union agree to launch a structured dialogue on intellectual property rights. European Union leaders sign an agreement to lessen visa restrictions for Chinese tourists and China agrees to support the EU’s satellite navigation system.

31 Oct 2003 Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Prime Minister Berlusconi sign a memorandum on the mutual establishment of cultural centers between the two countries.

1 Dec 2003 German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder visits China.

3 Dec 2003 3–4 December: Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) on ‘ Cultures and Civilizations’, Beijing, China. Chinese Minister of Culture acknowledges the prominent role of culture in Asia-Europe relations.

30 Dec 2003 China and the European Union launch a space mission to study the Earth’s magnetic fields.

2004

1 Jan 2004 Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

1 Jan 2004 The European Year of Education through Sport, EYES 2004, is launched in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

10 Feb 2004 China and the EU sign “Guidelines for Common Action” at the EU-China Ministerial Troika.

12 Mar 2004 Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui meets Foreign Ministry of Ireland to discuss China-Ireland bilateral relations and China-EU relations.


16 Apr 2004 EU Commission President Romano Prodi visits China.

1 May 2004 The EU Accession Treaty comes into force. 10 new countries -Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic, and Slovenia -together representing more than 100 million citizens -join the European Union.

6 May 2004 Chinese PM Wen Jiabao visits European Commission Headquarters and signs new dialogue initiatives and the ‘Customs Cooperation’ agreement.

6 May 2004 6–9 March: While visiting Italy, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao attends a symposium on bilateral investment between China and Italy in Rome, meets Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, the Italian President and Speakers of the Senate and House of Representatives, and visits some key industrial enterprises in the Toscana Region.

10 May 2004 Premier Wen Jiabao meets British Prime Minister Tony Blair and the Speakers of the House of Lords and the House of Commons and addresses the China-Britain Business Council.

11 May 2004 Premier Wen Jiabao meets Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern to discuss China-EU relations.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 May 2004</td>
<td>Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao meets Irish President Mary McAleese, Chairman of Dáil Éireann (Irish House of Representatives) Rory O’Hanlon and Chairman of the Senate Rory Kiely.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Jul 2004</td>
<td>The Netherlands takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Sep 2004</td>
<td>EU-China Human Rights dialogue, Beijing, China.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Oct 2004</td>
<td>China and Russia sign an agreement to settle their border conflicts. The Yinlong Island (Tarabarov Island) and half of the Heixiazi Island (Bolshoi Ussuriysky Island) are transferred to China.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 May 2005</td>
<td>Ministerial Troika Beijing, China.</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Jun 2005</td>
<td>EU-China Civil Aviation Summit, Beijing, China.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Jul 2005</td>
<td>First meeting on the EU-China new Tourism Agreement (Approved Destination Status Agreement – ADS).</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 Aug 2005</td>
<td>EU and Chinese officials meet to discuss the new limits on Chinese clothing imports to the EU.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Nov 2004</td>
<td>Geographical Directors’ Troika Beijing, China.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Nov 2004</td>
<td>Vice Premier of the Chinese State Council Huang Ju meets Irish President Mary McAleese and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Nov 2004</td>
<td>China signs a landmark trade agreement with 10 South-East Asian countries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Dec 2004</td>
<td>Premier Wen Jiabao of the State Council and Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi meet in Ziguangge, Zhongnanhai.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Sep 2005</td>
<td>Eighth EU-China Summit, Beijing. The EU and China sign a Memorandum of Understanding on labour, employment and social affairs; a joint statement on cooperation in space exploitation, science and technology development and a joint declaration on climate change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Sep 2005</td>
<td>UK Prime Minister Tony Blair visits China.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Sep 2005</td>
<td>8–9 September: At the invitation of Premier Wen Jiabao, Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary Gyurcsany Ferenc visits China.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Oct 2005</td>
<td>European Union accession negotiations open with Turkey and Croatia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao proposes strengthening China-EU leader strategic dialogue and expanding bilateral economic and technological cooperation at a visit to the European Parliament.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2006

1 Jan 2006 The EU and China sign the EU-China Memorandum of Understanding on food safety in Beijing, China.

1 Jan 2006 Austria takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

31 Jan 2006 Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing attends the London Conference on Afghanistan.

3 Feb 2006 EU-China Ministerial Troika, Vienna, Austria.

20 Feb 2006 EU Commission and Chinese Government sign a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation on near-zero emissions power generation technology.

22 Feb 2006 22–23 Feb: German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier pays an official visit to China.

12 Apr 2006 60th anniversary of the International Court of Justice.

11 May 2006 11–13 May: Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland, Dermot Ahern, pays an official visit to China and meets Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

20 Mar 2006 Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos visits China.

27 Mar 2006 Political Directors Troika, Beijing, China.

27 Mar 2006 Romanian President Traian Basescu pays a state visit to China.

28 Mar 2006 Foreign Minister Stefan Meller of Poland pays an official visit to China.

30 Mar 2006 EU and China hold bilateral consultations under the Climate Change Partnership, in Vienna, Austria.

6 Apr 2006 Geographical Directors Troika, Brussels.

12 Apr 2006 12–25 April: Chinese Vice Premier Hui Liangyu pays official visits to Albania, Poland and the Czech Republic.

12 May 2006 Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing meets visiting Irish Foreign Minister Dermot Ahern in the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.


12 Jul 2006 12–14 July: Spanish Prince Felipe De Borbony Grecia pays an official visit to China.

17 Jul 2006 17–22 July: King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden pays a state visit to China.

17 Jul 2006 Chinese Premier Hu Jintao and Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi meet in St. Petersburg, Russia to discuss Sino-Italian relations.


9 Sep 2006 Ninth China-EU summit, Helsinki, Finland.

13 Sep 2006 13–18 Sep: At the invitation of Premier Wen Jiabao of the State Council, Prime Minister Romano Prodi of Italy pays an official visit to China.

18 Sep 2006 Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi meets Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.


26 Sep 2006 Vice Premier of the State Council of China, Zeng, meets Irish entrepreneurs in Dublin.

11 Oct 2006 Official launch of China-EU Science and Technology Year.


24 Oct 2006 EU Commission issues the communication “EU-China: Closer Partners, Growing responsibilities”.


7 Nov 2006 EU-China Joint Committee, Beijing.

12 Nov 2006 12–15 November: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Italy pays an official visit to China to attend the second joint meeting of China-Italy Inter-Governmental Committee.

13 Nov 2006 Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing meets visiting Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Massimo D’Alema in Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

7 Dec 2006 The European Commission and the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission hold the first EU-China macroeconomic dialogue.

19 Dec 2006 19–21 December: Minister of Foreign Affairs Jan Kubis of Slovakia visits China

2007

1 Jan 2007 Bulgaria and Romania join the EU. This raises the number of EU Member States to 27 and the population within the Union to 492.8 million inhabitants. Germany assumes presidency of the EU.


30 Jan 2007  30 January– 3 February: Jose Socrates, Prime Minister of the Republic of Portugal pays an official visit to China.

5 Feb 2007  5–9 February: Prime Minister Robert Fico of the Slovak Republic visits China.

13 Feb 2007  Assistant Chinese Foreign Minister Kong Quan meets the Director of the Chinese Affairs Office in Salzburg.

28 Feb 2007  28 February – 1 March: French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy pays an official visit to China.

5 Mar 2007  Geographical Directors Troika, Beijing.

24 Mar 2007  50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome.


2 Apr 2007  2–8 April: Maria Teresa Fernández de la Vega, the first Vice President and Minister of the Presidency of Spain pays an official visit to China.

3 Apr 2007  The European Community becomes the first organisation to accede to the Hague Conference on Private International Law.


8 May 2007  Political Directors Troika, Brussels.

8 May 2007  8–13 May: Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis of Greece pays an official visit to China.


15 May 2007  15–17 May: Foreign Minister Maxime Verhagen of the Kingdom of the Netherlands pays an official visit to China.

16 May 2007  Margaret Beckett, UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pays an official visit to China.

20 May 2007  20–23 May: Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Croatia Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic pays an official visit to China.

23 May 2007  23–26 May: President of Federal Republic of Germany Horst Koehler pays a state visit to China.

8 Jun 2007  Chinese President Hu Jintao meets Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi in Germany to discuss strengthening Chinese-Italian and Chinese-European ties.

11 Jun 2007  11–12 June: EU-China Joint Committee, Brussels.

19 Jun 2007  Assistant Chinese Foreign Minister Kong urges progress on the ‘China-Italy Inter-Governmental Committee’ at a meeting with Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Vernetti.

21 Jun 2007  Fourth ministerial-level meeting on energy between the European Union (EU) and the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Vienna, Austria.

22 Jun 2007  First meeting of the ‘EU-China Civil Society Round Table’, Beijing, China.

24 Jun 2007  24–29 June: King Juan Carlos I of Spain pays a state visit to China.

1 Jul 2007  Portugal takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.


12 Sep 2007  Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Kong Quan attends a meeting of the China-Italy Governmental Committee and meets Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Vernetti.

15 Oct 2007  The EU and Montenegro sign a stabilization and association agreement (SAA) in Luxembourg.


18 Oct 2007  18–19 October: Key EU summit on the Reform Treaty takes place in Lisbon. Text is agreed for the new ‘Lisbon Treaty’ which is formally signed by all European leaders in Lisbon on 13 December 2007.

21 Sep 2007  A new Roman Catholic bishop of Beijing is consecrated the first for over 50 years to have the approval of the Pope.


31 Oct 2007  French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner pays an official visit to China.

14 Nov 2007  Second meeting of the EU-China Civil Society Round Table, Brussels.


25 Nov 2007  China and the European Union discuss China’s solar panel exports at the annual Joint Committee Talks on trade.

27 Nov 2007  27–29 November: President of the Euro group, Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Luxemburg, Mr. Trichet, President of the European Central Bank and Mr. Alumina, EU Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs visit Beijing to discuss China-EU economic and financial cooperation.

28 Nov 2007  Euro-zone Troika and Chinese counterparts, Beijing, China.
28 Nov 2007  10th EU-China Summit, Beijing. The EU and China (i) establish a High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue and (ii) agree to enhance cooperation on climate change.

12 Dec 2007  European Parliament President, Jose Manuel Barroso and Jose Socrates, Portuguese Prime Minister and President-in-office of the EU Council, sign the Charter of Fundamental Rights in Strasbourg.

13 Dec 2007  EU leaders sign the Treaty of Lisbon at Mosteiro dos Jeronimos, Lisbon.

21 Dec 2007  The Schengen area is enlarged to include Estonia, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

2008

1 Jan 2008  Slovenia takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Cyprus and Malta adopt the euro, bringing euro-area membership to 15 EU countries and a population of around 320 million.

18 Jan 2008  18–20 January: Gordon Brown, UK Prime Minister pays an official visit to China.

28 Jan 2008  EU approves the launch of a military operation in eastern Chad and north eastern Central African Republic – EUFOR Tchad/RCA – within the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP), and in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1778 (2007).


24 Feb 2008  24–29 February: David Miliband, UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pays an official visit to China.


15 Apr 2008  The EU and Montenegro sign a bilateral WTO accession agreement.

24 Apr 2008  24–25 April: President José Manuel Barroso and nine EU Commissioners meet their counterparts in Beijing.

25 Apr 2008  First EU-China High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue, Beijing, China.

15 May 2008  Political Directors’ Troika, Beijing.


9 Jun 2008  EU-China Ministerial Troika, Ljubljana.

10 Jun 2008  Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi meets visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi in Rome.


12 Jun 2008  In a referendum in Ireland, 53.4% of the electorate vote against the Treaty of Lisbon.

13 Jun 2008  13–15 June: Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister Steinmeier of the Federal Republic of Germany pays an official visit to China.

18 Jun 2008  18–19 June: The European Council decides to continue the ratification process of the Lisbon Treaty. EU leaders urge international cooperation to deal with rising food and fuel prices.

23 Jun 2008  23–26 June: Third meeting of the EU-China Civil Society Roundtable, Beijing, China.

23 Jun 2008  23–27 June: Greek President Karolos Papoulias visits China.

1 Jul 2008  France assumes Presidency of the Council of the EU.

21 Jul 2008  The former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic is arrested after 13 years on the run. He is sent to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) at The Hague for trial.

7 Sep 2008  Third China-Europe Forum, Hamburg, Germany.


12 Dec 2008  Brussels summit – EU leaders reach agreement on climate action, a response to financial crisis and on a plan for Ireland to ratify the Lisbon Treaty.

2009

1 Jan 2009  The euro becomes legal tender in Slovakia.

1 Jan 2009  The Czech Republic assumes the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union for the first time. Presidency priorities include the economy and energy.

30 Jan 2009 Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao visits Brussels to discuss China-EU relations.
8 Feb 2009 Switzerland votes to extend the agreement on the free movement of persons between the EU and Switzerland.
22 Feb 2009 European members of the G20 group meet in Berlin. Leaders agree on the need for a common approach to combat the financial crisis.
1 Mar 2009 1–3 March: Mr. Carl Bildt, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden pays an official visit to China.
1 Apr 2009 Chinese President Hu Jintao meets British Prime Minister Gordon Brown in London to discuss bilateral relations.
1 Apr 2009 China and France release a press statement in both Beijing and Paris on the formation of a new strategic dialogue between France and China.
2 Apr 2009 Chinese Commerce Minister Chen Deming meets World Trade Organization (WTO) Director General Pascal Lamy. China commits to resist trade protectionism.
2 Apr 2009 In response to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea’s (DPRK) planned satellite launch, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang makes an appeal for peace and stability on the peninsula.
3 Apr 2009 Defence Minister Liang Guanglie indicates to visiting Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff of the British Armed Forces, Timothy John Granville-Chapman that Chinese armed forces would be open to military exchanges with Britain.
7 Apr 2009 Chinese Vice-Premier Li Keqiang meets former French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin to discuss the development of Sino-French relations.
8 Apr 2009 The European Commission announces anti-dumping duties on Chinese seamless steel pipes. Duties are set at a rate of 15 % for Hubei Xinye Steel and Shandong Luxing Steel Pipe and 24.2 % for the general imports from other Chinese steel companies.
11 Apr 2009 Scotland’s First Minister Alex Salmond pledges Scotland’s cooperation with the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission on renewable energy sources.
13 Apr 2009 Li Yuanchao, member of the Chinese Political Bureau and Secretariat of the CCP Central Committee and a German Christian Democratic Union (CDU) delegation attend a meeting at the Great Hall of the People, China.
13 Apr 2009 Wang Shengjun, President of the Supreme People’s Court of China, meets Lasar Georgiev Gruev, President of Bulgarian Supreme Court of Cassation.
16 Apr 2009 Chinese Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei and visiting Italian Foreign Minister Sherpa Giampiero Massolo meet to discuss the upcoming G8 Outreach Session.
21 Apr 2009 Chinese Vice-Premier Wang Qishan meets Dieter Zetsche, Chairman of the board of management of the German automaker Daimler AG. Wang expresses desire to further cooperation between Daimler AG and China.
21 Apr 2009 The China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA) and the French Atomic Energy Commission sign the 10th agreement for continued cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear power.
22 Apr 2009 At the China Tianjin International Business Convention for Aerospace Industries, French Minister of State for Foreign Trade Anne-Marie Idrac expresses French interest in co-operating with China on its large-jet industry and invites the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China Ltd (CACC), to attend the Paris aerospace convention in June for further talks.
24 Apr 2009 Chinese Premier Hu Jintao and Speaker of the French National Assembly Bernard Accoyer marks the 45th anniversary of the establishment of Sino-French diplomatic relations at a meeting in China.
27 Apr 2009 China and Germany sign the Chinese-German Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Legal Field under which Germany commits to provide 8 million euro for training of judges, social insurance and law enforcement.
28 Apr 2009 Former French President Jacques Chirac visits Beijing at the invitation of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs and meets Chinese President Hu Jintao.
29 Apr 2009 Chinese Ambassador to the EU, Song Zhe visits Brussels.


8 Jun 2009 Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan meets Alex Salmond, First Minister of Scotland in Edinburgh.

9 May 2009 Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan meets Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC in Beijing.

11 May 2009 British Prime Minister Gordon Brown meets visiting Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan to seek China's cooperation on the Copenhagen Conference on climate change.

17 May 2009 Wang Gang, President of the China Economic and Social Council meets Mario Sepi, President of the European Economic and Social Committee.

18 May 2009 Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, visits Italy at the invitation of Italian Senate President Renato Schifani. Wu also meets Italian President Giorgio Napolitano and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

19 May 2009 11th EU-China Summit, Prague. The EU and China sign agreements to enhance cooperation in (i) clean energy, (ii) science and technology, and (iii) small and medium-sized enterprises. Meeting had been postponed due a meeting between the Dalai Lama and French President Nicolas Sarkozy in Poland.

20 May 2009 China and the EU sign the “China-EU Programme on Scientific and Technological Partnership”.

20 May 2009 Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, meets Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi in Rome.

27 May 2009 EU-China Ministerial Troika, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

7 Jun 2009 The Dalai Lama receives the title of honorary citizen of the city of Paris, a distinction presented by the capital’s mayor, Bertrand Delanoe.

8 Jun 2009 Third round of EU-China strategic dialogue, Beijing. Co-chaired by Vice Foreign Minister Li Hui and German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Reinhard Silberberg.


13 Jun 2009 13–27 June: He Guoqiang, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee visits Egypt, Spain, Jordan and Mongolia.

17 Jun 2009 In a speech at the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations, Tang Guoqiang, stresses that the nuclear issues of Korea and Iran should be solved in a peaceful way through diplomacy.

18 Jun 2009 The Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the Irish Embassy in China co-host a reception in Beijing to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between China and Ireland.

19 Jun 2009 Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero reveals Spain’s new Asia-Pacific action programme to CCP Central Committee Political Bureau Standing Committee member He Guoqian which focuses on China.


22 Jun 2009 Chinese President Hu Jintao and Irish President Mary McAleese exchange congratulatory messages to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

22 Jun 2009 He Guoqiang and Greek Prime Minister Karolos Papoulias and Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis in Athens discuss a comprehensive strategic partnership between the two nations. He Guoqiang also meets a number of other foreign dignitaries including European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso and UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura.

23 Jun 2009 Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC in Beijing, meets Mircea Geoana, visiting president of Romania’s senate.

25 Jun 2009 On a visit to Finland, Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang commits to send a large group of entrepreneurs to Finland to make major purchases of Finnish goods.

1 Jul 2009 Sweden takes over the rotating presidency of the Council of the European Union for
the second time. Presidency priorities are economic recovery and climate change.

5 Jul 2009 Chinese Premier Hu Jintao attends the outreach session of the G8 summit with leaders from India, Brazil, South Africa and Mexico.

6 Jul 2009 Chinese Premier Hu Jintao meets Italian President Giorgio Napolitano in Rome, Italy.


7 Jul 2009 Chinese Premier Hu Jintao meets President of the Regional Government of Veneto Giancarlo Galan in Venice and Italian Culture Minister Bondi.

23 Jul 2009 Iceland applies for EU membership.

7 Aug 2009 Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhijun meets Cesare Romiti, Chairman of Italy-China Foundation.

3 Oct 2009 Referendum required to ratify the Lisbon Treaty is passed in Ireland after rejection on 12 June 2008.

7 Oct 2009 7–21 Oct: Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping visits Belgium, Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania.

28 Oct 2009 The 6th meeting of the EU-China Civil Society Round Table, Stockholm, Sweden.

12 Nov 2009 Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhijun meets a delegation of the Italy-China Cooperation Commission.


20 Nov 2009 Human Rights Dialogue, Beijing, China.

20 Nov 2009 Herman Van Rompuy is appointed first permanent President of the EU Council. British Trade Commissioner Catherine Ashton is appointed as High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

29 Nov 2009 EU-China Ministerial Troika, Nanjing, China.

30 Nov 2009 12th China-EU summit, Nanjing, China. China and the EU sign five cooperative documents covering technological cooperation, near-zero emission coal utilization project, energy efficiency and quality on buildings, the sustainable development of China’s trade and investment, and environmental management.

1 Dec 2009 The Lisbon Treaty enters into force.


19 Dec 2009 The non-binding Copenhagen Climate Accord is signed by delegates to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

20 Dec 2009 20–22 December: French Prime Minister Fillon visits China.

22 Dec 2009 Serbia applies for EU membership.

2010

1 Jan 2010 Spain assumes presidency of the European Council.

14 Jan 2010 Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhijun meets Giuliano Urbani, Italian coordinator for the Chinese Culture Year in Italy.

14 Jan 2010 Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhijun and Slovenian State Secretary, Dragoljuba Benčina discuss the Balkans and future bilateral cooperation between Slovenia and China.

21 Jan 2010 Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao meets visiting Austrian President Heinz Fischer in Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

28 Jan 2010 EU High Representative Catherine Ashton meets Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi to discuss Afghanistan.

11 Feb 2010 EU Heads of State and governments agree to support the Greek government in its efforts to meet the Stability Programme targets for 2010.


14 Mar 2010 14–17 March: David Miliband, UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pays an official visit to China.

16 Mar 2010 Regional Directors’ Troika, Brussels, Belgium.

20 Mar 2010 20–30 March: Chinese, Vice President Xi pays official visits to Belarus, Finland and Sweden.

5 Apr 2010 5–7 April: Vanackere, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Institutional Reform of Belgium pays an official visit to China.

8 Apr 2010 8–10 April: Luis Amado, Minister of State and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal pays an official visit to China.

12 Apr 2010 President of the European Council, Van Rimpuy and President Hu of China meet at the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington.

28 Apr 2010 28–30 April: President Nicolas Sarkozy of France pays a state visit to China.

29 Apr 2010 29 April–1 May: President Barroso of the European Commission pays an official visit to China.
6 May 2010  Celebration of the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the EU and China.

17 May 2010  17–21 May: President Horst Köhler of the Federal Republic of Germany pays a state visit to China.

21 May 2010  The 24th EU-China Joint Committee, Beijing.

21 May 2010  EU institutions reach a political agreement on the structure of the European External Action Service.

24 May 2010  24–28 May: Foreign Minister Micheal Martin of Ireland pays an official visit to China.

26 May 2010  Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin meets Sandro De Bernardin, Deputy Secretary General and Political Director at Italy’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss the reform of the UN Security Council and the Iranian nuclear issue. 29th EU-China Human Rights Dialogue.

9 Jun 2010  9–21 June: Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang of the State Council pays official visits to Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Greece and Austria.

17 Jun 2010  The Irish National Pavilion Day of the Shanghai World Expo is attended by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wang Guangya, Vice Mayor of Shanghai Tang Dengjie, Irish President Mary McAleese, Irish Minister for Communications Eamon Ryan, and Irish Ambassador to China Declan Kelleher.

17 Jun 2010  EU leaders adopt a 10-year strategy for sustainable and inclusive growth, “Europe 2020” and decide to open accession negotiations with Iceland.


9 Jul 2010  Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi meets in the Foreign Ministry with First Minister of Scotland Alex Salmond. Both sides exchange views on China-UK relations and the enhancement of China’s pragmatic cooperation with Scotland.

14 Jul 2010  William Hague, UK First Secretary of State and Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo hold the China-UK Strategic Dialogue.

15 Jul 2010  15-18 July: German Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany visits China.

26 Jul 2010  Austrian President Heinz Fischer and Chancellor Werner Faymann meets Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi in Salzburg.


14 Sep 2010  EU-China Partnership & Cooperation Agreement negotiations, Brussels.

2 Oct 2010  2–9 October: Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao pays official visits to Belgium, Italy Turkey and the Hellenic republic.

4 Oct 2010  4–5 October: Eighth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), Brussels.

6 Oct 2010  The 13th EU-China Summit, Brussels.

7 Oct 2010  Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao attends and addresses the Opening Ceremony of Chinese Cultural Year in Italy and Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Establishment of China-Italy Diplomatic Ties.

26 Oct 2010  Chinese President Hu Jintao meets Italian President Giorgio Napolitano at the Great Hall of the People.

27 Oct 2010  Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao announces a three-year action plan on strengthening economic cooperation with Italy and launches the Year of Chinese Culture in Italy at a meeting with the Italian President.


9 Nov 2010  9–10 November: UK Prime Minister David Cameron pays an official visit to China.


2011

1 Jan 2011  Estonia adopts the euro as its currency, becoming the 17th member of the euro area.

1 Jan 2011  Turku (Finland) and Tallinn (Estonia) become the ‘European Capitals of Culture’ for 2011.

1 Jan 2011  Hungary assumes presidency of the Council of the EU.

4 Jan 2011  4–12 January: Vice Premier Li Keqiang pays official visits to Germany, the UK and Spain.


1 Feb 2011  China overtakes Japan to become the world’s second-largest economy.

17 Feb 2011  The European Parliament approves a resolution granting EU political and financial support for Egypt’s transition to democracy.

21 Feb 2011  21–28 February: EU-China Year of Youth, official opening ceremony in Beijing, China.


25 Mar 2011  Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Fu Ying visits Brussels.


31 Mar 2011  31 March – 2 April: German Federal Foreign Minister and Deputy Chancellor Westerwelle visits China.

1 Apr 2011  Chinese Premier Wen presents China’s China-EU Five-Year-Plan in Brussels.

6 May 2011  Chinese President Hu Jintao meets Austrian Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann at the Great Hall of the People.


15 May 2011  European Commission President van Rompuy visits China.

17 May 2011  17–23 May: European Youth Week.

28 May 2011  40th Anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and Austria

1 Jun 2011  1–13 June: Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping attends the Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the unification of Italy.

4 Jul 2011  4–7 July: EU-China Youth Culture Week. EU-China Forum on Sustainable Development, Beijing and Xi’an.

7 Jun 2011  EU High Representative Ashton meets Chinese Foreign Minister Yang at the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, Gödöllő, Hungary.


11 Jul 2011  Euro area countries sign a treaty creating a European Stability Mechanism which provides for up to €500 billion to be loaned to euro countries in deep economic crisis.

14 Jul 2011  EU-China Joint Committee, Beijing, China.


4–11 Sep 2011  100 Chinese youth volunteers open the EU-China Volunteer Bridge, in Brussels.


8 Sep 2011  EU-China Political Directors’ Dialogue, Brussels.

9 Sep 2011  Fourth UK-China Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD), London.

12 Sep 2011  12–14 September: Juppé, Minister of State and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of France pays an official visit to China.

21 Sep 2011  EU High Representative Ashton meets Chinese Foreign Minister Yang at the margins of the UN General Assembly, NY.

28 Sep 2011  A new tax on transactions between financial institutions is proposed by Commission President José Manuel Barroso during his annual State of the Union address.

13 Oct 2011  Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai meets Italian G20 Sherpa Bruno Archi, exchanging views on preparations for the G20 Cannes Summit.


3 Nov 2011  3–4 November: At G20 summit in Cannes, France leaders agree on coordinated action for global economic recovery and job creation and take steps on financial reform.

8 Nov 2011  The Economic and Financial Affairs Council adopts a package of six legislative proposals aimed at strengthening economic governance in the EU.


5 Dec 2011  Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Zhang Kunsheng meets outgoing Ambassador to China Martin Sajdik.

5 Dec 2011  Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi attends the International Afghanistan Conference in Bonn, Germany.

9 Dec 2011  17 members of the euro area and several other EU countries agree to participate in a new ‘fiscal compact’ and to coordinate their economic policies more tightly.
18 Dec 2011 18–22 December: Polish President Komorowski visits China.

19 Dec 2011 Liechtenstein joins the EU’s border-free Schengen area.

2012

1 Jan 2012 Guimarães (Portugal) and Maribor (Slovenia) become the ‘European Capitals of Culture’ for 2012.

1 Jan 2012 Denmark takes over the six-month rotating presidency of the Council of the EU.


17 Jan 2012 EU High Representative Ashton meets State Counselor Dai Bingguo of China in New Delhi, India.

22 Jan 2012 Croatia votes ‘yes’ in an EU accession referendum.

30 Jan 2012 New EU treaty on stability, coordination and governance in the economic and monetary union is agreed by all EU countries with the exception of the Czech Republic and the United Kingdom.

1 Feb 2012 Launch of 2012 EU-China Year of Intercultural Dialogue by A. Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth, and Cai Wu, Minister of Culture of the People’s Republic of China, Brussels.

2 Feb 2012 2–4 February: Chancellor Angela Merkel of the Federal Republic of Germany pays an official visit to China.

13 Feb 2012 13–22 February: Vice President Xi Jinping visits the US, Ireland and Turkey.

14 Feb 2012 14th EU-China Summit, Beijing.

20 Feb 2012 Visiting Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping meets Irish President Michael D. Higgins in Dublin, Ireland. Vice President Xi and Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny attend China-Ireland Trade and Investment Forum at which Vice President Xi delivers a speech on bilateral relations.

1 Mar 2012 The European Council grants EU member candidate status to Serbia.

1 Mar 2012 1–2 March: The European Council re-elects Herman Van Rompuy as its President. Participating Member States sign the Treaty on Stability, Coordination and Governance in the Economic Monetary Union.


29 Mar 2012 The European Parliament adopts legislation making trade in over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives more transparent.

31 Mar 2012 Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao meets visiting Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti at the Great Hall of the People.

1 Apr 2012 Vice Premier Li Keqiang meets Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti, Pakistani Prime Minister Younus Raza Gilani and Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Karim Masimov in Boao, Hainan at the 2012 Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference.


18 Apr 2012 Ms A. Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth and Ms Liu Yandong, State Councillor of the People’s Republic of China launch the EU-China High Level People-to-People Dialogue in Brussels.

20 Apr 2012 20–27 April: Premier Wen Jiabao visits Iceland, Sweden, Poland and attends the Hanover Messe in Germany.

26 Apr 2012 26 April–4 May: Vice Premier Li Keqiang visits Russia, Hungary, Belgium and the EU Headquarters.

3 May 2012 At the first EU-China High Level Meeting on Energy, China and the EU launch the EU-China Partnership for Urbanization.


30 May 2012 EU High Representative Ashton meets Wang Jiarui, Minister of the International Department of CPC Central Committee.

30 May 2012 EU Commission adopts recommendations for each of the 27 EU countries on 2012–2013 national budgets and economic policies.

31 May 2012 EU-China Joint Committee, Brussels.

1 Jun 2012 Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Song attends the Italian National Day reception held by Italian Ambassador to China Attilio Massimo Iannucci.

8 Jun 2012 8–13 June: Cioloș, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development visits China.


14 Jun 2012 14–19 June: G20 Summit in Los Cabos, Mexico.
30 Jun 2012  30 June–8 July: Portuguese Minister of State and Foreign Minister Paulo Portas visits China.

4 Jul 2012  The European Parliament exercises for the first time its power to reject an international trade agreement by refusing to ratify the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (a multinational treaty for the purpose of establishing international standards for intellectual property rights enforcement signed by Australia, Canada, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore, South Korea and the United States.

6 Jul 2012  Meeting between the EU Crisis Management and Planning agency and the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Defence, Beijing.

8 Jul 2012  8–10 July: Third round of China-EU High-level Strategic Dialogue.

9 Jul 2012  9–11 July: French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius pays an official visit to China to meet Minister Yang Jiechi and Wen Jiabao.

20 Jul 2012  EU-China Political Director’s Dialogue, Beijing.

30 Aug 2012  Angela Merkel, Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany pays an official visit to China to co-chair the second round of China-Germany Inter-government Consultation with Premier Wen Jiabao.


20 Sep 2012  The 15th EU-China Summit, Brussels. Leaders discuss further cooperation within the EU-China Strategic Partnership and international issues (Syria, Iran, East Asia). 8th EU-China Business Summit, Brussels.

11 Oct 2012  China and Germany mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of China-Germany diplomatic relations at the China-Germany Foreign Ministers’ Strategic Dialogue.


5 Nov 2012  Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao meets Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti and Gianfranco Fini, President of the lower house of Italian Parliament in Rome.


30 Nov 2012  The Norwegian Nobel Committee award the 2012 Nobel Peace Prize 2012 to the EU at a ceremony in Oslo. The prize recognises the EU’s contribution over six decades to the promotion of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights.

2013

18 Feb 2013  Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping pays an official state visit to Ireland.

28 Feb 2013  EU Commission initiates an anti-dumping investigation on solar glass from China.

19 Mar 2013  Chinese military staff attend a training seminar in Brussels.

22 Mar 2013  New appointed President Xi Jinping visits Russia.

24 Apr 2013  High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice President of European Commission Catherine Ashton pays an official visit to China for the EU’s high-level meetings with the new Chinese leadership.

15 May 2013  European Commission opens an ex officio anti-dumping and an anti-subsidy investigation concerning imports of mobile telecommunications networks and their essential elements from China.

29 May 2013  Deputy Secretary General of the EU Helga Schmid, visits China for the EU-China Political Directors’ Dialogue with Assistant Foreign Minister Le Yucheng.

21 Jun 2013  27th EU-China Joint Committee meeting, China.

25 Jun 2013  EU-China Dialogue on Human Rights, Guiyang (Guizhou), China.
18 Jul 2013  Chinese PLA Navy Escort Task Group Admiral visit the the EU Naval Force’s counter piracy flagship in the Gulf of Aden while a delegation from the EU NAVFOR Headquarters visit to Chinese Naval Ship, Harbin.


22 Jul 2013  The European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development visits Beijing to strengthen EU-China cooperation in the areas of agriculture and rural development.

23 Jul 2013  The European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Dacian Cioloş and the Minister of the Chinese General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine, Mr Zhi Shuping, sign a letter of intent to cooperate in fighting counterfeit trade in alcoholic beverages, Beijing.

20 Sep 2013  EU Special Representative for Human Rights visits China.

18 Oct 2013  European Ministers of the Foreign Affairs Council (Trade) adopt mandates to begin negotiations with China and ASEAN nations on investment agreements.

24 Oct 2013  Fourth meeting of the EU-China High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue (HED), Brussels.

6 Nov 2013  Leaders update the China-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement for the next decade at the China-ASEAN Summit.

6 Nov 2013  European Commission release the position paper “The EU-China Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: Working for You” which focuses on trade, international security and the promotion of human rights.


26 Nov 2013  3rd Europe-China Forum of Friends of Europe. Chinese Premier Li and EU leaders adopt a 2020 Strategic Agenda calling for greater cooperation between China and the EU.

Bibliography

By its nature this chronology is not the result of original historic research but draws on numerous sources and heavily on certain sources such as Keesing’s Record of World Events, the European Commission’s Annual Reports, European External Action Service, and China Profile. This work is indebted to those sources. This project has gestated over many years and the author acknowledges and thanks the many assistants and researchers over that period for their able assistance in this project.

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