

Major Events in European and Chinese International Development 1947–2013

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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.

7 May 1948 At the Congress of Europe at the Hague, nearly 800 European politicians meet to discuss the formation of the Council of Europe. A resolution urges European nations to “transfer and merge some portion of their sovereign rights”.

27 Sep 1948 27–28 September: The parties to the Treaty of Brussels decide to create the Western Union Defence Organisation. It has a permanent military committee in London, a joint headquarters at Fontainebleau, and three subordinate commands for land, sea and naval forces. A Western Union Chief of Staff is formed, with Field Marshall Montgomery being appointed as its first chairman. The aim of the organisation is to standardise weaponry amongst the member states. The organisation is later integrated into the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. The Western Union Defence Organisation was formally established on 27–28 September 1948.

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 co-operation. 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.		States formally proposes West German rearmament within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.
24 Aug 1949	The North Atlantic Treaty comes into force.		
17 Sep 1949	The North Atlantic Council holds its first session in Washington.	October	The Chinese People's Volunteer Army enters the Korean Peninsula supporting their North Korean allies against the USA.
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.	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.
28 Sep 1949	United States Congress approves a Mutual Defence Aid Programme to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.	27 Oct 1950	France opposes German rearmament under the North Atlantic Treaty.
October	West Germany is admitted into the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation.	November	The People's Republic of China takes control of Tibet.
1 Oct 1949	Mao Zedong proclaims foundation of People's Republic of China.	20 Dec 1950	The Consultative Council of the Brussels Treaty Powers decides to merge the military organisation of the Western Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.
December	Mao Zedong travels to Moscow to negotiate a friendship treaty with Joseph Stalin.		

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 Apr 1951	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Allied Command in Europe becomes operational. Supreme Headquarters Allied Command Europe, SHAPE, opens in Paris, with General Eisenhower as Supreme Commander.
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.	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.
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.	21 Jun 1951	The United Nations places a global arms embargo on China because of China's involvement in the Korean War.
September	The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation decides to adopt unified defence force in Europe, including the Federal Republic of Germany.	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.
15 Sep 1950	In a meeting with the United Kingdom, France and other North Atlantic Treaty Organisation states in New York, the United		

1951

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

- 6 May 1955 The Federal Republic of Germany officially joins the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.
- 18 Jul 1955 18–23 July: the first conference of Atlantic Treaty Organisation Parliamentarians takes place in Paris.
- 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

- 1956–1957 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.	29 Dec 1959	29 December 1959–4 January 1960: the Stockholm Convention is signed establishing the European Free Trade Association.
13 Dec 1957	The European Convention on Extradition is opened for signature on the initiative of the Council of Europe.		
1958			
1958	In China all land is collectivised and farmers are organized into People's Communes.	9 Jun 1960	The six members of the European Economic Communities refuse to negotiate accession to the European Free Trade Association.
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.	July	Kruschev recalls Soviet advisors and technical experts from China.
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.	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 Cooperation and Development subsumes and expands the role and membership of the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation. The United States, Canada and the European Economic Community join. Its main function is to assist developing countries and to develop international economic strategy.
1959			
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 Krushchev's reversal of Stalinist policies and the perception that the USSR was seeking "peaceful coexistence" with the Western powers.	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.
1959–1961	The Great Leap Forward campaign triggers the largest famine in history with an estimated 14–30 million deaths.	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.
March	The revolts of the Tibetan population against Chinese occupation are suppressed.	11 May 1961	Denmark announces that it will apply for membership of the European Economic Community if the United Kingdom does.
8 Jun 1959	Greece applies for association status with the European Economic Community.	26 Jun 1961	Finland becomes a full member of the European Free Trade Association.
31 Jul 1959	Turkey applies for association with the EEC. The association agreement is concluded in December 1963.	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.
10 Sep 1959	Negotiations for the association of Greece to the EEC begin.	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.
27 Sep 1959	Negotiations for the association of Turkey to the EEC begin.	31 Jul 1961	Ireland formally applies to join the European Economic Community.
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.	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

1 Dec 1963 Bilateral trade agreements between the European Economic Community and Iran take effect.

1964

January China and France establish diplomatic relations. Taiwan's embassy in Paris is closed.

25 Feb 1964 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.

15 Apr 1964 The Council decides to establish a Committee on Medium-Term Economic Policy.

16 May 1964 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.

1 Jun 1964 The Yaoundé Convention comes into force.

1 Oct 1964 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.

16 Oct 1964 China tests its first nuclear bomb (the Chic-1) at the Lop Nur test site. The bomb had a yield of 22 kilotons.

4 Nov 1964 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.

24 Nov 1964 The Benelux Union concludes a trade agreement with Bulgaria.

1965

6 Jul 1965 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.

14 Dec 1965 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.

14 Dec 1965 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.

31 Dec 1965 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.

1966

30 Jan 1966 France ends its boycott of meetings of the European Economic Community.

24 Feb 1966 At a press conference, Charles de Gaulle, President of France, announces France's withdrawal from the integrated command of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

14 Dec 1966 Willy Brandt, Vice-Chancellor and Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, asks the United Kingdom to join the European Economic Community.

31 Dec 1966 The European Free Trade Association abolishes tariffs on industrial goods.

1967

15 Jan 1967 Harold Wilson, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, tours European capitals to campaign for British membership of the European Economic Communities.

8 Feb 1967 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.

17 Mar 1967 The Benelux Union concludes a trade agreement with Hungary.

31 Mar 1967 The Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, SHAPE, is officially opened at Casteau, near Mons, Belgium.

10 May 1967 Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom re-apply for membership of the European Communities.

17 May 1967 The Benelux Union concludes a trade agreement with Czechoslovakia.

24 Jul 1967 Norway formally applies to join the European Economic Community.

16 Oct 1967 The new North Atlantic Treaty Organisation headquarters in Brussels are officially opened.

27 Oct 1967 The Benelux Union concludes a trade agreement with Romania.

27 Nov 1967 France President Charles de Gaulle vetoes United Kingdom membership of the European Economic Community. The United

	Kingdom does not withdraw its application.	29 Jul 1969	The Second Yaoundé Convention on association between the European Economic Community and African States is signed.
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.	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.
15 Dec 1967	The Benelux Union concludes a trade agreement with Bulgaria.	1 Dec 1969	1–2 December: the Hague Summit of the Member States of the European Community takes place:
19 Dec 1967	Negotiations on the enlargement of European Communities break down once again.		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.
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 Damanskii Island (Zhen Bao) of the Ussuri 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.		
		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.
31 May 1969	The Yaoundé Convention between the EC and a number of African states expires.	20 Mar 1970	The first North Atlantic Treaty Organisation communications satellite is launched from Cape Kennedy.
30 Jun 1969	Negotiations relating to the entry of Denmark, Ireland, Norway and the United Kingdom into the European Economic Community commence in Luxembourg.	24 Apr 1970	China launches its first satellite “Long March”.
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 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.

30 Jun 1970	Negotiations open in Luxembourg between the European Communities and Ireland, Denmark, Norway and the United Kingdom on accession to membership.	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.
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.	4 Oct 1971	The British Labour Party Conference passes a resolution against European Communities membership.
		13 Oct 1971	The British Conservative Party Conference votes in favour of membership of the European Communities.
		25 Oct 1971	The People's Republic of China replaces the Republic of China (Taiwan) in the UN Security Council.
		28 Oct 1971	The House of Commons votes in support of membership of the European Economic Community, despite Labour opposition.
1971		1972	
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.	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.
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.	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.
18 Mar 1971	An announcement by the Swedish government reveals its view that Swedish neutrality and membership of the European Communities are irreconcilable.	12 Apr 1972	The House of Commons approves a motion in favour of Britain holding a referendum on accession to the European Communities.
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.	23 Apr 1972	France approves enlargement of the European Communities by a 68% majority in a referendum.
1 Apr 1971	The Association Agreement between the European Economic Communities and Malta comes into effect.	10 May 1972	An Irish referendum approves membership of the European Economic Community with 83.09% voting yes.
23 Jun 1971	The European Communities and the United Kingdom agree on terms for the accession of the United Kingdom.	12 May 1972	The European Economic Community and Mauritius sign an Association Agreement.
7 Jul 1971	Australia joins the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.	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
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.		

	a private company based in Rotterdam that represented Taiwan.				plied competence even before it acts internally (or externally) and that the Member States have concurrent competence until the Community acts.
11 May 1975	The European Economic Community and Israel sign a new agreement providing for cooperation as well as trade.		27 Jul 1976	The European Community formally opens negotiations with Greece regarding future membership of the European Communities.	
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.		September	Chairman Mao Zedong dies at the age of 82. "Gang of Four" with Mao's widow seek power.	
15 Jul 1975	The European Economic Community and Mexico sign a trade agreement.		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.	
22 Jul 1975	The European Economic Community and Sri Lanka sign a commercial cooperation agreement.		1 Dec 1976	A Commercial Cooperation Agreement between Bangladesh and the European Communities comes into force.	
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.		10 Dec 1976	The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation rejects a proposal by the Warsaw Treaty Organisation to first renounce the use of nuclear weapons.	
1977					
20 Jan 1976	The Council decides that relations between the European Economic Community and Spain should be resumed.		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.	
4 Mar 1976	The European Economic Community signs two Protocols with Malta, incorporating cooperation and agriculture along with the original 1970 trade agreement.		18 Jan 1977	The European Economic Community and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, complete the signing of Cooperation Agreements.	
1 Apr 1976	The First Lomé Convention enters into force.		28 Mar 1977	Portugal makes a formal application for membership of the European Communities.	
14 Apr 1976	The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance suggests a preliminary meeting with the European Communities for a second time.		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.	
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.		3 May 1977	The European Economic Community and the Lebanon sign a cooperation agreement.	
1 Jun 1976	The European Economic Community and Pakistan sign a trade cooperation agreement.		28 Jul 1977	Spain officially applies for membership of European Communities.	
6 Jul 1976	Canada and the European Economic Community sign a framework agreement in Ottawa, providing for economic and commercial cooperation.		21 Sep 1977	Talks between an European Economic Community delegation, led by Commission Vice-President Haferkampf, and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance,	
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 im-				

	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”.	7 Dec 1978	Spain and the European Free Trade Association sign a multilateral free trade agreement.
4 Oct 1977	4 October–9 March 1989: the Belgrade Conference of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe is held as a ‘follow up’ to the 1975 Helsinki Accords.	20 Dec 1978	The European Communities and Greece conclude detailed negotiation on Greece’s accession to the Communities.
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.	1979	Diplomatic relations are established between the US and China.
1 Feb 1978	Further negotiations on Greece’s accession to the European Communities take place.	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.
3 Feb 1978	The European Economic Community and the People’s Republic of China conclude their first trade agreement.	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 Mar 1978	Portugal applies for accession to the European Communities.	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.
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.	6 Jun 1979	6–27 June: the 65th International Labour Conference is attended by representatives of the European Commission.
2 May 1978	EEC-China trade agreement is signed. It establishes the Joint Committee for Trade to aid trade between the countries.	26 Jun 1979	Spain and the European Free Trade Association conclude an agreement.
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.	28 Jun 1979	The Treaty on Accession of Greece to the European Communities is ratified by the Greek Parliament.
September	E-mail link is established between Germany and China (CSNET protocol). First message from China on 20 September.	July	The EU-China Joint Committee hold their first meeting in Beijing.
17 Oct 1978	Negotiations open for Portugal’s accession to the European Communities.	July	New Criminal Code becomes effective in China banning torture and physical punishment of suspects.
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.	18 Jul 1979	The first EU-China agreement on textile trade within the context of the Multifibre Arrangement. Textiles accounted for 1/3 of China’s exports to the EC in 1977.
	Additional Financial Protocols with Israel, Portugal, Malta also come into force.	31 Oct 1979	The Second Lomé Convention, between the European Economic Community and fifty-eight African, Caribbean and Pacific States, is signed.
December	Deng Xiaoping introduces stepwise economic reforms: “The Four Modernizations” to strengthen the fields of agriculture, industry, national defense, science and technology.	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”.	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.
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 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.
17 Dec 1979	The European Economic Community signs to the Tokyo Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.	23 Jun 1981	The European Economic Community and India sign an agreement on commercial and economic cooperation.
21 Dec 1979	The transitional protocol between European Communities and Cyprus is initialled.	21 Sep 1981	The European Atomic Energy Community and Australia sign an agreement on transfers of nuclear products.
1980			
1980	Special Economic Zones are designated in Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Shantou (Guangdong), 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.	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.
1 Jan 1980	The European Economic Community cuts the Common Customs Tariff duties on all products for the first time.	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.
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.	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			
2 Apr 1980	The European Economic Community and Yugoslavia sign a trade agreement. They also adopt an interim agreement and financial protocol.	1982	China’s population surpasses 1 billion people.
16 Jun 1980	The delegations of the European Parliament and the National Peoples Congress (China) meet in Strasbourg. This 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).	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.
28 Jul 1980	The European Economic Community and Romania sign agreements on trade in industrial products.	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.
23 Sep 1980	The European Communities take a common position on the Iran-Iraq conflict.	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-emphasization of class struggle and placing top priority on incorporating the contributions and
1981			
1 Jan 1981	The second Lomé Convention comes into force.		
2 Jan 1981	Spain applies to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.		

interests of non-party groups who could play a role in modernization. It provided an extensive legal framework for the economic liberalization.

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.

1983

1983 Launch of the first China-European science and technology cooperation programme.

8 Dec 1984 The Third Lomé Convention between sixty five African, Caribbean and Pacific states and the European Economic Community is signed.

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.

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.

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.

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.		under Spanish command instead of a unified NATO command except in times of emergency.
19 Sep 1985	European Economic Community Foreign Ministers agree on sanctions against South Africa.	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.
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.	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.
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.	1 May 1986	The third Lomé Convention between the European Economic Community and the African, Caribbean and Pacific nations comes into force.
1986			
1 Jan 1986	Spain and Portugal become Member States of the European Communities.	15 Sep 1986	15–20 September: at Punta del Este, ministers of 92 countries agree on the establishment of a new Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.
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.	1987	
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.	15 Feb 1987	The European Commission adopts an action programme entitled 'The Single European Act: A new frontier for Europe' for the implementation of the Single European Act and the internal market. The reform of Community's Common Agricultural Policy and financial institutions is central to the programme.
	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.	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.
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	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.	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.
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.	15 Dec 1989	The European Community and sixty nine African, Caribbean and Pacific States sign the fourth Lomé Convention, Lomé IV.
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.	18 Dec 1989	The European Community rejects Turkey's application for membership.
26 Sep 1988	The European Community and Hungary sign trade and economic cooperation agreement.	18 Dec 1989	The European Community and the Soviet Union sign a trade, economic and commercial cooperation agreement.
4 Oct 1988	The delegation of the European Commission in Beijing is opened.	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.
14 Nov 1988	Portugal and Spain sign the Treaty of Accession to the Western European Union.		
1989		1990	
June	The EC enforces sanctions, including an arms embargo, and suspends relations with China following the Tiananmen incidents of June 4th 1989.	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.
June	In Madrid (Spain), the European Council of Ministers agrees to an EU-wide arms embargo against China.	5 Feb 1990	The Council defines the approach for the development of relations with the states of Central and Eastern Europe.
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).	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.
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.	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.
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.	19 Mar 1990	19 March–11 April: the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe takes place in Bonn.
17 Jul 1989	Austria applies to join the European Communities.	2 Apr 1990	The European Community and Argentina sign a framework agreement for trade and economic cooperation in Luxembourg, containing a clause which stipulates respect for democratic principles and human rights to be the basis of all cooperation between the parties.
19 Sep 1989	The European Community and Poland sign a trade, commerce and economic agreement in Warsaw.		

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.	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.
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.	16 Jul 1990	Malta applies to join the European Communities.
8 May 1990	The European Community signs trade, commercial and economic cooperation agreements with Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic.	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.
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.	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;
15 Jun 1990	The Member States of the European Communities sign the Convention on the Right to Asylum.		2. The establishment of principle of subsidiarity in the European Community treaties;
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.	October	3. The creation of an European Community regional chamber;
20 Jun 1990	Uzbekistan declares independence from the Soviet Union.	22 Oct 1990	The federal government rejects a fourth demand that Länder representatives be included in the German national delegation in the Council of Ministers.
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.	27 Oct 1990	The European Council and European Parliament begin to re-establish bilateral relations with China.
4 Jul 1990	Cyprus applies to join the European Communities.	1 Nov 1990	The European Community signs a trade and economic agreement with Romania.
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.	7 Nov 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.
		19 Nov 1990	The fourth Lomé Convention enters into force.
			The cooperation agreement between the European Community and Czechoslovakia enters into force.
			The European Commission proposes directives to the Council to authorise it to negotiate Association or European Agreements with Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland.
			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.		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.
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.	15 Jul 1991	The Council endorses a regulation to provide technical assistance to the Soviet Union.
27 Nov 1990	Italy signs the Schengen agreement. Spain and Portugal sign as observers.	22 Jul 1991	The Council agrees to provide financial aid for the population of the Occupied Territories, both Israeli and Palestinian.
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.	18 Aug 1991	18–19 August: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is deposed in a coup d'État 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.
1991			
13 Mar 1991	The European Community establishes a support framework for structural assistance to the five new German Länder and eastern Berlin.	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.
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.	27 Aug 1991	The Baltic states become the independent States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The European Communities recognises their independence.
April	Member States of European Community agree to the lifting of sanctions against South Africa.	1 Sep 1991	The fourth Lomé Convention comes into force.
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.	26 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.
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.	8 Nov 1991	The Council of Ministers imposes economic and trade sanctions on Yugoslavia.
19 Jun 1991	19–20 June: the first meeting of the Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which takes place in Berlin, officially admits Albania as a member.	2 Dec 1991	The European Community drops its sanctions against Yugoslavia, except in relation to Serbia and Montenegro.
25 Jun 1991	Spain and Portugal sign the Schengen Agreement.	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.
1 Jul 1991	1. Sweden applies for membership of the European Communities. 2. Andorra joins	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.

20 Dec 1991	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.		
<hr/>			
1992	Deng Xiaoping accelerates market reforms to establish a “socialist market economy”.		
1992	China ratifies the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The treaties 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.		
1992	EU-China relations largely recovered after Tiananmen Square incident although arms embargo remains in place.	5 Mar 1992	The Treaty also includes a new protocol on social policy signed by the social partners; the United Kingdom opts out of this protocol. 5–6 March: Foreign Ministers of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Sweden, along with representatives of the European Commission, meeting in Copenhagen, sign the Copenhagen Declaration, establishing the Council of Baltic Sea States to serve as a forum for guidance and overall co-ordination among participating states. Subjects for cooperation include: assistance for new democratic institutions; economic and technological assistance and cooperation; humanitarian matters and health; environment and energy; culture, education, tourism and information; transport and communication. The Council is to comprise the Foreign Ministers of Member States and a European Commissioner.
15 Jan 1992	The European Community recognises Croatia and Slovenia as independent republics.	18 Mar 1992	Finland formally applies for membership of the European Communities.
26 Jan 1992	The European Community lifts economic sanctions on South Africa.	5 Apr 1992	The European Union and the United States recognise the independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina.
3 Feb 1992	The Council adopts measures to aid Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia.	10 Apr 1992	The Court of Justice of the European Communities gives its Opinion 1/92, affirming the legality of the revised European Economic Area agreement between the European Community and the European Free Trade Association.
7 Feb 1992	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 J.4.2. 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.	2 May 1992	The European Communities, their Member States and Austria, Finland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland sign the Agreement on the European Economic Area in Oporto. This establishes the world’s biggest integrated economic area, with 19 countries and 380 million people. The bodies responsible for its functioning are the European Economic Area Council, the European Economic Area Joint Committee, the European Economic Area Joint Parliamentary Committee and the European Economic Area Consultative Committee. The European Economic Area Council comprises the members of the Council of the European Union and the European Commission and a member of the government of each of the European Free Trade Association countries. Its role is a political one. The Joint Committee consists of representatives of the contracting parties to decide on Community rules. The Parliamentary Committee consists of 66 members, 33 Members of the European Parliament and 33 members of the parliaments of the European Free Trade Association countries. A Surveillance Authority and Court are also established.

30 Mar 1994	The European Union concludes accession negotiations with Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway.	22 Jun 1994	Russia joins the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's Partnership for Peace programme.
1 Apr 1994	Hungary applies for membership of the European Union.	24 Jun 1994	24–25 June: the European Union Accession Treaty for Austria, Finland and Sweden is signed.
1 Apr 1994	Hungary becomes the first former communist state to apply to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's Partnership for Peace.	24 Jun 1994	24–25 June: the European Council meets at Corfu. Russian President Boris Yeltsin signs a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the European Community. The United Kingdom blocks the candidacy of Jean-Luc Dehaene for the Presidency of the European Commission on account of his "interventionist" policies. The Prime Ministers of Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway sign treaties of accession to the European Union. A "Reflection Group" set up in preparation for 1996 Intergovernmental Conference.
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.	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).
18 Apr 1994	The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development meets in St. Petersburg.	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.
19 May 1994	The European Community and the United States hold General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks regarding civil aircraft.	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.
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.	26 Jul 1994	The European Union signs a partnership and cooperation agreement with Moldova.
1 Jun 1994	The Schengen Agreement enters into force in Italy.	10 Oct 1994	The European Community and South Africa sign a cooperation agreement.
12 Jun 1994	A referendum in Austria is favourable to membership of the European Union. 66.6% voted yes.	16 Oct 1994	A Finnish referendum approves accession to the European Union. 56.9% vote in favour.
14 Jun 1994	The European Communities, the Member States and the Ukraine sign a partnership and cooperation agreement in Luxembourg.	13 Nov 1994	A referendum in Sweden approves accession to the European Union. 52.3% in favour.
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.	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.	15 Feb 1995	The Russian application for membership of the Council of Europe is suspended due to war in Chechnya.
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.	6 Mar 1995	European Union Foreign Ministers sign an agreement with Turkey to introduce a customs union from January 1996.
11 Dec 1994	Rebels in the breakaway Russian republic of Chechnya resist an offensive by Russian troops and aircraft against the capital, Grozny.	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.
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.	26 Mar 1995	The Schengen Accord comes into force between Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain and the Netherlands. Frontier, passport, customs and immigration controls are removed in these States. France is given a three-month transitional period.
22 Dec 1994	Member States within the Schengen Group agree that they will remove remaining frontier controls on 26 March 1995.	4 Apr 1995	The European Commission adopts Customs 2000 to strengthen the European Union's borders and make customs controls more effective.
31 Dec 1994	Russian troops commence their offensive against the Chechen capital, Grozny.	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.
1995			
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.	19 Apr 1995	Russians capture the last Chechen town in rebel hands. Guerrilla war continues.
		28 Apr 1995	Austria accedes to the Schengen Agreement.
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 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.
1 Jan 1995	The World Trade Organisation is established to administrate 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.	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.
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.	12 Jun 1995	The European Community signs Association Agreements with the Baltic states, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.
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.	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.
8 Feb 1995	In Chechnya, the fall of Grozny to the Russian Army is conceded by President of Chechnya, Dzhoklov Dudayev.	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.		
26 Jul 1995	European Union Member States sign the Europol Convention, the Convention on Customs Information System and the Convention for the Protection of the European Community’s Financial Interests.		
30 Aug 1995	The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation begins large-scale bombing of Bosnian Serbs in ‘Operation Deliberate Force’.		
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.	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.
30 Oct 1995	A cooperation agreement between the European Community and Brazil, signed in 1992, is formally concluded.	4 Dec 1995	The Council adopts Regulation 2815/95 which ends trade sanctions against territories of the former Yugoslavia, except for parts of Bosnia-Herzegovina under Bosnian Serb control. The Council decides to continue sending humanitarian aid to Bosnia-Herzegovina by convoy, and to continue European Union administration of the town of Mostar.
20 Nov 1995	The European Community signs a Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreement with Israel, replacing the agreement of 11 May 1975.	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.
20 Nov 1995	The European Community signs a cooperation agreement with Nepal.	12 Dec 1995	Lithuania applies to join the European Union.
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.	16 Dec 1995	Bulgaria applies to join the European Union.
28 Nov 1995	Estonia 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.
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	31 Dec 1995	A customs union with Turkey enters into force by 1 January 1996. According to the European Union, this completes the process begun by the Ankara Treaty in 1963.
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.

1 Mar 1996	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.	1 Sep 1996	The Court of the European Free Trade Association moves officially to Luxembourg from Geneva.
11 Mar 1996	The Council adopts a regulation including the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in the PHARE Programme.	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.
26 Mar 1996	The Schengen agreement – incorporating Belgium, Germany, France Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Spain and Portugal – enters into force.	29 Sep 1996	A cooperation agreement is signed between the European Union and MERCOSUR – the South American Common Market which includes Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.
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.	1 Oct 1996	The Council authorises the European Commission to negotiate the accession of Euratom to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation.
22 Apr 1996	Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan sign partnership and cooperation agreements with the European Union.	28 Oct 1996	The European Union and the Republic of Korea sign a cooperation agreement.
1 Jun 1996	Cooperation agreements between the European Union and Vietnam and Nepal enter into force.	16 Dec 1996	The European Union and the United States hold a transatlantic summit in Washington.
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.	19 Dec 1996	Denmark, Sweden and Finland accede to the Schengen Agreement.
10 Jun 1996	European Union signs Europe Agreement with Slovenia; Slovenian Prime Minister presents formal application for Slovenia's accession to the European Union.	1997	
21 Jun 1996	The European Community signs cooperation agreements with Uzbekistan and Chile.	1997	The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council supersedes the North Atlantic Cooperation Council, aimed at providing a framework for closer political and security-related consultations and cooperation.
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.	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.
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.	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.

29 May 1997	The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation-Ukraine Charter is signed in Sintra, Portugal.	8 Jul 1997	8–9 July: the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation invites the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland to join at its Madrid summit.
2 Jun 1997	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.	26 Oct 1997	Italy accedes to the Schengen Agreement.
	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.	1 Dec 1997	The Schengen Agreement becomes operative in Austria.
	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.	8 Dec 1997	The European Union and Mexico sign an Economic Partnership, Political Cooperation and Cooperation Agreement.
	3. A new title on employment is incorporated into the Treaty.	1998	
	4. A Protocol integrates the Schengen acquis into the framework of the European Union.	1998	Microsoft and Intel establish high-tech research facilities in Beijing.
	5. A Protocol on subsidiarity and proportionality is added to the Treaty.	23 Feb 1998	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.
	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.	25 Mar 1998	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.
	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.	31 Mar 1998	The European Union opens accession negotiations with Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovenia and Cyprus.
1 Jul 1997	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.	2 Apr 1998	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.
		19 May 1998	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.
		28 May 1998	Denmark votes to ratify the Amsterdam Treaty in a referendum. 55.1% vote for ratification.
		22 Dec 1998	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.
		1999	
		18 Feb 1999	Russia and the European Union hold a summit meeting in Moscow.
		1 Mar 1999	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.	10 Jun 1999	The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation suspends air campaign following confirmation of Serbian withdrawal from Kosovo.
12 Mar 1999	The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland are formally admitted to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.	12 Jun 1999	First KFOR troops are deployed in Kosovo. The province is divided into zones of responsibilities.
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.	20 Jun 1999	The eighth European Union-Japan summit takes place in Bonn.
23 Mar 1999	The North Atlantic Council authorises North Atlantic Treaty Organisation air strikes against Yugoslavia.	21 Jun 1999	The European Union-United States Summit takes place in Bonn.
20 Apr 1999	The Council adopts a regulation suspending restrictive economic measures taken against Libya.	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.
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.	22 Jun 1999	The European Union holds a summit meeting with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia in Luxembourg.
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.	1 Jul 1999	The European Union's partnership and cooperation agreements with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, enter in force.
25 May 1999	The US Cox-Dicks Committee accuses China of using espionage to steal neutron bomb and other thermonuclear technology.	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.
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".	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.
9 Jun 1999	The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation sign a Military Technical Agreement.	23 Jul 1999	The third summit meeting between the European Union and Ukraine takes place in Kiev.
10 Jun 1999	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Secretary-General Javier Solana announces a formal halt to the bombing campaign in Kosovo.	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.	14 Nov 2000	The Committee of Regions holds a Conference on enlargement, globalisation and new forms of governance in Brussels.
17 Dec 1999	The European Union-United States of America summit is held in Washington.	15 Nov 2000	15–16 November: the Euro-Mediterranean Conference takes place in Marseilles.
21 Dec 1999	Second EU-China summit held in Beijing.	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.
2000			
1 Jan 2000	The Schengen Information System (SIS) comes into force, a governmental database used by European countries to maintain and distribute information on individuals and property. The intended purposes are national security, border control and law enforcement.	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.
9 Apr 2000	The European Community and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia sign their first stabilisation and association agreement.	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).
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.	7 Dec 2000	The Presidents of the European Parliament, the European Council and the European Commission formally proclaim the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in Nice.
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.	2001	
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.	1 Jan 2001	EU parliament releases the "EU Strategy Towards China: Implementation of the 1998 Communication and Future Steps for a More Effective EU Policy."
28 Jun 2000	The first European Union-India Summit meeting is held in Lisbon.	1 Jan 2001	Sweden assumes Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
11 Jul 2000	Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji visits Brussels. This is the first visit of a Chinese Premier to the Commission.	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.
1 Oct 2000	October: The Vatican canonizes 120 saints who were martyred in China.	8 Feb 2001	The European Commission adopts a Green Paper on Integrated Product Policy (IPP).
24 Oct 2000	Third EU-China summit held in Beijing.	26 Feb 2001	The Treaty of Nice is signed by leaders of the member States of the EU.
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.	1 Apr 2001	China and Italy sign an agreement on scientific and technological co-operation.
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.	9 Apr 2001	An EU delegation travels to China to discuss the Kyoto Protocol on global warming.
		15 May 2001	The European Commission releases its strategy towards China "Implementation of the 1998 Communication and Future Steps for a more Effective EU Policy".

16 May 2001	Chinese President Jiang Zemin meets visiting Austrian President Thomas Klestil at the Great Hall of the People, China.		European Union, and the European Commissioner for External Relations) meet in New York.
17 May 2001	Chinese Vice-Premier Qian Qichen discusses bilateral relations with Austrian Federal President Thomas Klestil at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, China.	30 Nov 2001	Political Directors Troika meeting, Beijing.
		8 Dec 2001	EU-China Human Rights Seminar, Brussels.
1 Jul 2001	Belgium takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.	11 Dec 2001	The People's Republic of China is officially admitted to the World Trade Organization WTO as the 143rd member.
13 Jul 2001	The IOC executive committee elects Beijing to host of the 2008 Olympic Games.		
			2002
1 Sep 2001	China organises a successful "Chinese Week" in Germany.	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.
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.	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.
5 Sep 2001	Fourth China-EU summit, Brussels.		
17 Sep 2001	China and the EU launch a bi-lateral Information Society Working Group.		
25 Oct 2001	25–26 October: 1. EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, Beijing. (academic 'Dialogue Seminars' on human rights topics between representatives of the EU (drawn from European Commission, Presidency of the European Union, and the EU-China network) and the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.) 2. EU Director General for Enterprise and AQSIQ (the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China) launch a Dialogue on Enterprise, Industrial Policy and Regulation	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.
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.	1 Mar 2002	The EU Commission releases the EU-China Country Strategy Paper 2002–2006.
		5 Mar 2002	5–6 March: China-EU Human Rights Dialogue, Madrid.
30 Oct 2001	British Queen Elizabeth II meets Vice-President Hu Jintao and his wife in Buckingham Palace.	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.
31 Oct 2001	Vice-President Hu Jintao meets British Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott and Scotland's First Minister Henry McLeish in Edinburgh.	1 Apr 2002	European Commissioner for External Relations, Chris Patten, pays his first official visit to China.
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.	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.
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	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).		Germany and uses the world's fastest train technology.
2003			
31 May 2002	The European Union ratifies the Kyoto Protocol.	1 Jan 2003	Greece takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The EU celebrates 10 years of the Single Market.
26 Jun 2002	The German Foreign Office presents its new East Asia regional plan focusing on the "integration of China".	14 Feb 2003	EU-China Ministerial Troika, Beijing.
23 Jul 2002	The Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) expires after fifty years.	March	Hu Jintao is elected as President by National People's Congress in China.
1 Aug 2002	China and France sign Sino-French agreement on cultural cooperation.	5 Mar 2003	EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, Athens, Greece.
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.	10 Mar 2003	EU opens the European Economic and Trade Office in Taiwan.
20 Sep 2002	Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji meets both Austrian Federal Chancellor Wolfgang Schuessel, Austrian Federal President Thomas Klestil in Vienna.	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.
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.	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.
26 Sep 2002	France and China sign an agreement on cultural cooperation between the two nations.	3 Jun 2003	China requests market economy status under the EU's anti-dumping instrument.
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.	10 Jun 2003	China and India reach de facto agreement over status of Tibet and Sikkim in a landmark cross-border trade agreement.
13 Nov 2002	EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, Beijing.	25 Jun 2003	UK Prime Minister Tony Blair meets Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing in London.
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.	30 Jun 2003	EU-China Ministerial Troika, Athens, Greece.
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.	20 Jul 2003	UK Prime Minister Tony Blair begins an official visit to China.
6 Dec 2002	The EU and China sign the EU-China Maritime Transport Agreement.	10 Sep 2003	European Commission adopts policy paper "A maturing partnership: shared interests and challenges in EU-China relations".
31 Dec 2002	German Chancellor Schröder participates in the maiden voyage of the Transrapid in Shanghai, China which was constructed in	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	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.	2004	
10 Oct 2003	Premier Wen Jiabao Meets Irish President Mary McAleese.	1 Jan 2004	Ireland takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
13 Oct 2003	The EU updates its strategy on China and lanches the paper "A Maturing Partnership: Shared Interests and Challenges in EU-China Relations".	1 Jan 2004	The European Year of Education through Sport, EYES 2004, is launched in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.
13 Oct 2003	The first Chinese policy paper on the EU is released.	10 Feb 2004	China and the EU sign "Guidelines for Common Action" at the EU-China Ministerial Troika.
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.	12 Feb 2004	China and the EU sign a Memorandum of Understanding, under which the EU will enjoy an "Approved Destination Status" (ADS) (the "Tourism Agreement").
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.	26 Feb 2004	EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, Dublin, Ireland.
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.	26 Feb 2004	Political Directors Troika, Beijing, China.
3 Nov 2003	Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing meets Austrian Foreign Minister Benita Ferrero-Waldner at the Chinese foreign ministry building.	10 Mar 2004	10–11 March: Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom meets Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China Zhang Yesui.
4 Nov 2003	Premier Wen Jiabao meets Austrian Foreign Minister Benita Ferrero-Waldner at Ziguangge, Zhongnanhai.	12 Mar 2004	Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui meets Foreign Ministry of Ireland to discuss China-Ireland bilateral relations and China-EU relations.
18 Nov 2003	Meeting of the European Union Ministers of Foreign Affairs Intergovernmental Conference (formal procedure for negotiating amendments to the founding treaties of the European Union) Brussels, Belgium.	25 Mar 2004	25–26 March: Fourth Annual Spring European Council, Brussels, Belgium.
21 Nov 2003	Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing extends sympathies to British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw over the casualties of British diplomatic personnel in the terrorist bombings in Istanbul.	16 Apr 2004	EU Commission President Romano Prodi visits China.
26 Nov 2003	EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, Beijing, 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.
1 Dec 2003	German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder visits China.	6 May 2004	Chinese PM Wen Jiabao visits European Commission Headquarters and signs new dialogue initiatives and the 'Customs Co-operation' agreement.
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.	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.
30 Dec 2003	China and the European Union launch a space mission to study the Earth's magnetic fields.	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.

12 May 2004	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.	11 May 2005	Ministerial Troika Beijing, China.
		8 Jun 2005	Chairman Wu Bangguo of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress (NPC) meets Rory O’Hanlon, Chairman of the Irish House of Representatives, and Rory Kiely, Chairman of the Irish Senate, at the Great Hall of the People.
1 Jul 2004	The Netherlands takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.		
24 Sep 2004	EU-China Human Rights dialogue, Beijing, China.	30 Jun 2005	EU-China Civil Aviation Summit, Beijing, China.
8 Oct 2004	EU-China Ministerial Troika, Hanoi, Vietnam.	7 Jul 2005	First meeting on the EU-China new Tourism Agreement (Approved Destination Status Agreement – ADS).
9 Oct 2004	Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao Meets Swedish, Polish and Irish State Leaders.	14 Jul 2005	14–18 July: newly elected European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso pays an official visit to China.
14 Oct 2004	China and Russia sign an agreement to settle their border conflicts. The Yinlong Island (Tarabarov Island) and half of the Heixiazhi Island (Bolshoi Ussuriysky Island) are transferred to China.	16 Aug 2005	16–24 August: Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing visits Lithuania, Serbia, Macedonia, Estonia, Latvia and Cyprus.
29 Oct 2004	EU Heads of State, government leaders and Foreign ministers sign the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe.	28 Aug 2005	EU and Chinese officials meet to discuss the new limits on Chinese clothing imports to the EU.
12 Nov 2004	Geographical Directors’ Troika Beijing, China.	5 Sep 2005	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.
16 Nov 2004	Vice Premier of the Chinese State Council Huang Ju meets Irish President Mary McAleese and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern.		
29 Nov 2004	China signs a landmark trade agreement with 10 South-East Asian countries.	6 Sep 2005	UK Prime Minister Tony Blair visits China.
6 Dec 2004	Premier Wen Jiabao of the State Council and Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi meet in Ziguangge, Zhongnanhai.	8 Sep 2005	8–9 September: At the invitation of Premier Wen Jiabao, Prime Minister of the Republic of Hungary Gyurcsany Ferenc visits China.
8 Dec 2004	Seventh EU-China Summit, The Hague. The EU and China sign: 1. Joint declaration on Non-proliferations and Arms Control; 2. EU-China Customs Cooperation Agreement; 3. Agreement on R&D cooperation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy.	3 Oct 2005	European Union accession negotiations open with Turkey and Croatia.
		24 Oct 2005	24–25 October: Foreign Minister of the Republic of Hungary Somogyi Ferenc visits China.
		25 Oct 2005	25–27 October: Human Rights Dialogue, Beijing, China.
		27 Oct 2005	Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo and Andreas Khol, Speaker of the Austrian National Parliament meet to discuss Sino-Austrian relations.
		4 Nov 2005	EU-China Joint Committee, Brussels.
		8 Nov 2005	8–17 November: Chinese President Hu Jintao visits the UK, Germany and Spain.
		26 Nov 2005	26–17 November: Foreign Minister Mihai Razvan Ungureanu of Romania pays an official visit to China.
		4 Dec 2005	4–15 December: Premier Wen Jiabao visits France, Slovakia, Czech, Portugal & Malaysia and attends the ASEAN Plus China, Japan and Republic of Korea Summit.
May	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.	20 Dec 2005	First EU-China Strategic Dialogue, London, UK.

2005

24 Jan 2007	24 January–2 February: Chinese State Councilor Hua Jianmin attends the 2007 World Economic Forum Meeting in Switzerland and visits Austria and Greece.	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 Vermetti.
30 Jan 2007	30 January–3 February: Jose Socrates, Prime Minister of the Republic of Portugal pays an official visit to China.	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.
5 Feb 2007	5–9 February: Prime Minister Robert Fico of the Slovak Republic visits China.	22 Jun 2007	First meeting of the 'EU-China Civil Society Round Table', Beijing, China.
13 Feb 2007	Assistant Chinese Foreign Minister Kong Quan meets the Director of the Chinese Affairs Office in Salzburg.	24 Jun 2007	24–29 June: King Juan Carlos I of Spain pays a state visit to China.
28 Feb 2007	28 February–1 March: French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy pays an official visit to China.	1 Jul 2007	Portugal takes over the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.
5 Mar 2007	Geographical Directors Troika, Beijing.	30 Jul 2007	11th EU-China Human Rights, Beijing.
24 Mar 2007	50th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome.	26 Aug 2007	26–29 August: Chancellor Angela Merkel of the Federal Republic of Germany pays an official visit to China.
25 Mar 2007	25–28 March: Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway Stoltenberg visits China.	12 Sep 2007	Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Kong Quan attends a meeting of the China-Italy Governmental Committee and meets Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Vermetti.
2 Apr 2007	2–8 April: María Teresa Fernández de la Vega, the First Vice President and Minister of the Presidency of Spain pays an official visit to China.	15 Oct 2007	The EU and Montenegro sign a stabilization and association agreement (SAA) in Luxemburg.
3 Apr 2007	The European Community becomes the first organisation to accede to the Hague Conference on Private International Law.	17 Oct 2007	Human Rights Dialogue, Beijing, China.
3 May 2007	EU Commission and the European Central Bank discuss economic policy issues with Chinese counterparts, Beijing, China.	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.
8 May 2007	Political Directors Troika, Brussels.	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.
8 May 2007	8–13 May: Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis of Greece pays an official visit to China.	25 Oct 2007	The third EU-China Strategic Dialogue, Lisbon.
15 May 2007	15–16 May: Human Rights Dialogue, Berlin, Germany.	31 Oct 2007	French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner 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.	14 Nov 2007	Second meeting of the EU-China Civil Society Round Table, Brussels.
16 May 2007	Margaret Beckett, UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pays an official visit to China.	25 Nov 2007	25–27 November: President of the Republic of France pays a state 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.	26 Nov 2007	China and the European Union discuss China's solar panel exports at the annual Joint Committee Talks on trade.
23 May 2007	23–26 May: President of Federal Republic of Germany Horst Koehler pays a state visit to China.	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.
8 Jun 2007	Chinese President Hu Jintao meets Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi in Germany to discuss strengthening Chinese-Italian and Chinese-European ties.	28 Nov 2007	Euro-zone Troika and Chinese counterparts, Beijing, China.
11 Jun 2007	11–12 June: EU-China Joint Committee, Brussels.		

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 Jun 2008	In a referendum in Ireland, 53.4% of the electorate vote against the Treaty of Lisbon.
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 Jun 2008	13–15 June: Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister Steinmeier of the Federal Republic of Germany pays an official visit to China.
13 Dec 2007	EU leaders sign the Treaty of Lisbon at Mosteiro dos Jeronimos, Lisbon.	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.
21 Dec 2007	The Schengen area is enlarged to include Estonia, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.	23 Jun 2008	23–26 June: Third meeting of the EU-China Civil Society Roundtable, Beijing, China.
2008		23 Jun 2008	23–27 June: Greek President Karolos Papoulias visits China.
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.	1 Jul 2008	France assumes Presidency of the Council of the EU.
18 Jan 2008	18–20 January: Gordon Brown, UK Prime Minister pays an official visit to China.	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.
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).	7 Sep 2008	Third China-Europe Forum, Hamburg, Germany.
16 Feb 2008	The Council of the European Union establishes the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo – “EULEX Kosovo”.	24 Sep 2008	24–25 September: EU-China Joint Committee, Beijing.
24 Feb 2008	24–29 February: David Miliband, UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pays an official visit to China.	23 Oct 2008	One of China’s most prominent human rights activists, Hu Jia, wins the European Parliament’s prestigious Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought.
11 Mar 2008	Geographical Directors’ Troika, Brussels	24 Oct 2008	Seventh Asia-EU meeting (ASEM7), China.
15 Apr 2008	The EU and Montenegro sign a bilateral WTO accession agreement.	6 Nov 2008	Fourth meeting of the EU-China Civil Society Roundtable, Paris, France.
24 Apr 2008	24–25 April: President José Manuel Barroso and nine EU Commissioners meet their counterparts in Beijing.	16 Nov 2008	16–26 November: Chinese State Councilor Liu Yandong attends the 48th Session of UNESCO International Education Conference, Geneva.
25 Apr 2008	First EU-China High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue, Beijing, China.	28 Nov 2008	EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, Beijing.
15 May 2008	Political Directors’ Troika, Beijing.	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.
15 May 2008	Human Rights Dialogue, Brdo, Slovenia.	12 Dec 2008	The EU admits Switzerland to its ‘Schengen area’, which allows people to travel between countries without border checks.
9 Jun 2008	EU-China Ministerial Troika, Ljubljana.	2009	
10 Jun 2008	Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi meets visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi in Rome.	1 Jan 2009	The euro becomes legal tender in Slovakia.
11 Jun 2008	Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi visits Brussels.	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.
		19 Jan 2009	19–22 January: President Heinz Fischer of the Republic of Austria pays a state visit to China.

19 Jan 2009	Fourth round of China-EU Strategic Dialogue, Beijing.		for Hubei Xinye Steel and Shangdong Luxing Steel Pipe and 24.2 % for the general imports from other Chinese steel companies.
30 Jan 2009	Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao visits Brussels to discuss China-EU relations.	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.
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.	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.
1 Mar 2009	1–3 March: Mr. Carl Bildt, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden pays an official visit to 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.
29 Mar 2009	29–30 March: European Commissioner B. Ferrero-Waldner visits China.		
31 Mar 2009	Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Wu Daweio attends an international conference on Afghanistan in the Netherlands.	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.
1 Apr 2009	Chinese President Hu Jintao meets British Prime Minister Gordon Brown in London to discuss bilateral relations.	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.
1 Apr 2009	Chinese President Hu Jintao and US President Barack Obama meet in London to discuss China-US ties and the financial crisis. They agree to establish the "China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogue".		
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.	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.
2 Apr 2009	President Hu Jintao participates in the second G-20 Leaders Summit on Financial Markets and the Global Economy in London.	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.
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.	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.
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.	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.
7 Apr 2009	Chinese Vice-Premier Li Keqiang meets former French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin to discuss the development of Sino-French relations.	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.
8 Apr 2009	The European Commission announces anti-dumping duties on Chinese seamless steel pipes. Duties are set at a rate of 15 %	28 Apr 2009	28–29 April: 8th Euro-China Forum in Tianjin, China.

29 Apr 2009	Chinese Ambassador to the EU, Song Zhe visits Brussels.		presented by the capital's mayor, Bertrand Delanoë.
7 May 2009	7–8 May: Second EU-China High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue, Brussels, Belgium co-chaired by Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan and EU Trade Commissioner Ashton. China urges the EU to relax restrictions on Chinese technology imports.	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.
9 May 2009	Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan meets Alex Salmond, First Minister of Scotland in Edinburgh.	9 Jun 2009	Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang protests the awarding of "honorary citizen" to the Dalai Lama by Paris.
9 May 2009	Guo Boxiong, Chinese Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission visits to Turkey, Germany and Finland.	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.
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 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.
14 May 2009	Human Rights Dialogue, Prague, Czech Republic.	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.
16 May 2009	Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Chinese National People's Congress (NPC), and Austrian Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister of Finance Josef Proll meet in Vienna and agree to expand trade and technology transfer.	18 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.
17 May 2009	Wang Gang, President of the China Economic and Social Council meets Mario Sepi, President of the European Economic and Social Committee.	19 Jun 2009	19–20 June: He Guoqiang and Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos sign Spanish-Chinese trade deals.
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.	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.
18 May 2009	18–19 May: The fifth meeting of the EU-China Civil Society Round Table, Tianjin, China.	22 Jun 2009	He Guoqiang and Greek President 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.
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.	23 Jun 2009	Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC in Beijing, meets Mircea Geoana, visiting president of Romania's senate.
20 May 2009	China and the EU sign the "China-EU Programme on Scientific and Technological Partnership".	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.
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	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.		Nations Framework Convention on 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.	20 Dec 2009	20–22 December: French Prime Minister Fillon visits China.
		22 Dec 2009	Serbia applies for EU membership.
6 Jul 2009	Chinese Premier Hu Jintao meets Italian President Giorgio Napolitano in Rome, Italy.	2010	
6 Jul 2009	Chinese Premier Hu Jintao and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi attend China-Italy Business Forum and Business Matching Event in Rome.	1 Jan 2010	Spain assumes presidency of the European Council.
7 Jul 2009	Chinese Premier Hu Jintao meets President of the Regional Government of Veneto Giancarlo Galan in Venice and Italian Culture Minister Bondi.	14 Jan 2010	Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhi-jun meets Giuliano Urbani, Italian coordinator for the Chinese Culture Year in Italy.
23 Jul 2009	Iceland applies for EU membership.	14 Jan 2010	Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhi-jun and Slovenian State Secretary, Dragoljub Benčina discuss the Balkans and future bilateral cooperation between Slovenia and China.
7 Aug 2009	Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhi-jun meets Cesare Romiti, Chairman of Italy-China Foundation.	21 Jan 2010	Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao meets visiting Austrian President Heinz Fischer in Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.
3 Oct 2009	Referendum required to ratify the Lisbon Treaty is passed in Ireland after rejection on 12 June 2008.	28 Jan 2010	EU High Representative Catherine Ashton meets Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi to discuss Afghanistan.
7 Oct 2009	7–21 Oct: Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping visits Belgium, Germany, Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania.	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.
28 Oct 2009	The 6th meeting of the EU-China Civil Society Round Table, Stockholm, Sweden.	24 Feb 2010	24–27 February: Discussion between EU and Chinese officials on the commencement of the EU-China Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA).
12 Nov 2009	Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhi-jun meets a delegation of the Italy-China Cooperation Commission.	14 Mar 2010	14–17 March: David Miliband, UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pays an official visit to China.
18 Nov 2009	Political Directors' Troika, Stockholm, Sweden.	16 Mar 2010	Regional Directors' Troika, Brussels, Belgium.
20 Nov 2009	Human Rights Dialogue, Beijing, China.	20 Mar 2010	20–30 March: Chinese, Vice President Xi pays official visits to Belarus, Finland and Sweden.
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.	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.
29 Nov 2009	EU-China Ministerial Troika, Nanjing, 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.
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.	12 Apr 2010	President of the European Council, Van Rimpuy and President Hu of China meet at the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington.
1 Dec 2009	The Lisbon Treaty enters into force.	28 Apr 2010	28–30 April: President Nicolas Sarkozy of France pays a state visit to China.
17 Dec 2009	The fifth EU-China Strategic Dialogue, Stockholm, Sweden.	29 Apr 2010	29 April–1 May: President Barroso of the European Commission pays an official visit to China.
19 Dec 2009	The non-binding Copenhagen Climate Accord is signed by delegates to the United		

6 May 2010	Celebration of the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the EU and China.	14 Sep 2010	EU-China Partnership & Cooperation Agreement negotiations, Brussels.
17 May 2010	17–21 May: President Horst Köhler of the Federal Republic of Germany pays a state visit to China.	2 Oct 2010	2–9 October: Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao pays official visits to Belgium, Italy Turkey and the Hellenic republic.
21 May 2010	The 24th EU-China Joint Committee, Beijing.	4 Oct 2010	4–5 October: Eighth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), Brussels.
21 May 2010	EU institutions reach a political agreement on the structure of the European External Action Service.	6 Oct 2010	The 13th EU-China Summit, Brussels.
24 May 2010	24–28 May: Foreign Minister Micheal Martin of Ireland pays an official visit to China.	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 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.	26 Oct 2010	Chinese President Hu Jintao meets Italian President Giorgio Napolitano at the Great Hall of the People.
9 Jun 2010	9–21 June: Vice Premier Zhang Dejiang of the State Council pays official visits to Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Greece and Austria.	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.
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.	4 Nov 2010	4–7 November: President Hu Jintao visits France and Portugal.
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 Nov 2010	Third China-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue, Beijing.
26 Jun 2010	26–29 June: 29th EU-China Human Rights Dialogue, Madrid, Spain.	9 Nov 2010	9–10 November: UK Prime Minister David Cameron pays an official visit to China.
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.	29 Nov 2010	29–30 November: Chinese State Councilor Ma Kai visits Brussels.
14 Jul 2010	William Hague, UK First Secretary of State and Chinese State Councilor Dai Bingguo hold the China-UK Strategic Dialogue.	21 Dec 2010	Third China-EU High-Level Economic and Trade Dialogue, Beijing.
15 Jul 2010	15–18 July: German Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany visits China.	2011	
26 Jul 2010	Austrian President Heinz Fischer and Chancellor Werner Faymann meets Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi in Salzburg.	1 Jan 2011	Estonia adopts the euro as its currency, becoming the 17th member of the euro area.
29 Aug 2010	29 August – 4 September: High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton visits China and attends the China-EU Strategic Dialogue.	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.
		10 Jan 2011	10–14 January: EU-China Year of Youth, official opening ceremony in Brussels.
		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.

22 Feb 2011	Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi meets his visiting Austrian counterpart Michael Spindelegger in Beijing.	5 Sep 2011	5–9 Sep: Human Rights Dialogue, Beijing, China.
23 Feb 2011	Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao meets Josef Proll, Austrian vice chancellor and finance minister, and Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger in Ziguangge, Zhongnanhai.	8 Sep 2011	EU-China Political Directors' Dialogue, Brussels.
25 Mar 2011	Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Fu Ying visits Brussels.	9 Sep 2011	Fourth UK-China Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD), London.
25 Mar 2011	European Council establish the Euro Plus Pact to reinforce economic policy coordination in the Economic and Monetary Union.	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.
31 Mar 2011	31 March–2 April: German Federal Foreign Minister and Deputy Chancellor Westerwelle visits China.	21 Sep 2011	EU High Representative Ashton meets Chinese Foreign Minister Yang at the margins of the UN General Assembly, NY.
1 Apr 2011	Chinese Premier Wen presents China's China-EU Five-Year-Plan in Brussels.	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.
6 May 2011	Chinese President Hu Jintao meets Austrian Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann at the Great Hall of the People.	13 Oct 2011	Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai meets Italian G20 Sherpa Bruno Archi, exchanging views on preparations for the G20 Cannes Summit.
12 May 2011	Second China-EU High-level Strategic Dialogue, Hungary.	19 Oct 2011	19–22 October: Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi visits Denmark and the Bahamas.
15 May 2011	European Commission President van Rompuy visits China.	20 Oct 2011	20–27 October: EU-China Youth Leaders Summit in Beijing, China.
17 May 2011	17–23 May: European Youth Week.	22 Oct 2011	China-UK Strategic Dialogue, London.
28 May 2011	40th Anniversary of diplomatic ties between China and Austria	24 Oct 2011	24–25 October: EU High Representative Ashton visits China.
1 Jun 2011	1–13 June: Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping attends the Celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the unification of Italy.	25 Oct 2011	The 14th China-EU Summit, Tianjin on October 25.
4 Jul 2011	4–7 July: EU-China Youth Culture Week. EU-China Forum on Sustainable Development, Beijing and Xi'an.	31 Oct 2011	Chinese President Hu Jintao meets Austrian President Heinz Fischer, Austrian Federal Chancellor Werner Faymann and Austrian National Council President Barbara Prammer in Vienna.
7 Jun 2011	EU High Representative Ashton meets Chinese Foreign Minister Yang at the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Gödöllő, Hungary.	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.
30 Jun 2011	The European Commission proposes a multiannual spending plan – an EU budget for 2014 to 2020 aimed at boosting growth.	8 Nov 2011	The Economic and Financial Affairs Council adopts a package of six legislative proposals aimed at strengthening economic governance in the EU.
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.	16 Nov 2011	6th Round of EU-China Consultations on African Affairs, Brussels.
14 Jul 2011	EU-China Joint Committee, Beijing, China.	5 Dec 2011	Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Zhang Kunsheng meets outgoing Austrian Ambassador to China Martin Sajdik.
9 Aug 2011	9–15 August: EU-China Youth Festival for Universiade and EU-China Forum for Participation in Shenzhen.	5 Dec 2011	Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi attends the International Afghanistan Conference in Bonn, Germany.
30 Aug 2011	30 August–2 September: Trinidad Jimenez Garcia-Herrera, Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation visits China.	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.
4–11 Sep 2011	100 Chinese youth volunteers open the EU-China Volunteer Bridge, in Brussels.		

18 Dec 2011	18–22 December: Polish President Komorowski visits China.	31 Mar 2012	Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao meets visiting Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti at the Great Hall of the People.
19 Dec 2011	Liechtenstein joins the EU's border-free Schengen area.	1 Apr 2012	Vice Premier Li Keqiang meets Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti, Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Karim Masimov in Boao, Hainan at the 2012 Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference.
2012			
1 Jan 2012	Guimarães (Portugal) and Maribor (Slovenia) become the 'European Capitals of Culture' for 2012.	12 Apr 2012	12–21 April: Chinese State Councillor Liu Yandong pays visits to the UK, Brussels and Cyprus.
1 Jan 2012	Denmark takes over the six-month rotating presidency of the Council of the EU.	18 Apr 2012	Ms A. Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth and Ms Liu Yandong, State Councilor of the People's Republic of China launch the EU-China High Level People-to-People Dialogue in Brussels.
9 Jan 2012	9–11 January: 20th Human Rights dialogue, Nanjing, Jiangsu, China.	20 Apr 2012	20–27 April: Premier Wen Jiabao visits Iceland, Sweden, Poland and attends the Hannover Messe in Germany.
17 Jan 2012	EU High Representative Ashton meets State Counselor Dai Bingguo of China in New Delhi, India.	26 Apr 2012	26 April–4 May: Vice Premier Li Keqiang visits Russia, Hungary, Belgium and the EU Headquarters.
22 Jan 2012	Croatia votes 'yes' in an EU accession referendum.	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 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.	28 May 2012	28–31 May: Third EU-China High Level Political Parties' and Groups' Forum, Brussels.
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.	29 May 2012	29–31 May: Human Rights Dialogue, Brussels.
2 Feb 2012	2–4 February: Chancellor Angela Merkel of the Federal Republic of Germany pays an official visit to China.	30 May 2012	EU High Representative Ashton meets Wang Jiarui, Minister of the International Department of CPC Central Committee.
13 Feb 2012	13–22 February: Vice President Xi Jinping visits the US, Ireland and Turkey.	30 May 2012	EU Commission adopts recommendations for each of the 27 EU countries on 2012–2013 national budgets and economic policies.
14 Feb 2012	14th EU-China Summit, Beijing.	31 May 2012	EU-China Joint Committee, Brussels.
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 Jun 2012	Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Song attends the Italian National Day reception held by Italian Ambassador to China Attilio Massimo Iannucci.
1 Mar 2012	The European Council grants EU member candidate status to Serbia.	8 Jun 2012	8–13 June: Ciolos, European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development visits China.
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.	14 Jun 2012	14–16 June: European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis launches the EU-China Disaster Risk Management Project at the opening of the China-EU Institute of Emergency Management, Beijing.
25 Mar 2012	25–29 March: Irish Prime Minister Kenny visits China.	14 Jun 2012	14–19 June: G20 Summit in Los Cabos, Mexico.
29 Mar 2012	The European Parliament adopts legislation making trade in over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives more transparent.		

30 Jun 2012	30 June–8 July: Portuguese Minister of State and Foreign Minister Paulo Portas visits China.		Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti and Gianfranco Fini, President of the lower house of Italian Parliament in Rome.
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.	28 Nov 2012	EU Commission publishes its Annual Growth Survey 2012 which prioritises fiscal consolidation.
		29 Nov 2012	EU Commissioner Vassiliou and Chinese State Councillor Liu issue a new Joint Declaration on EU-China Cultural Cooperation.
6 Jul 2012	Meeting between the EU Crisis Management and Planning agency and the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Defence, Beijing.	29 Nov 2012	29–30 November: Chinese and German representatives attend the Fifth Meeting of the “Hamburg Summit: China meets Europe”.
8 Jul 2012	8–10 July: Third round of China-EU High-level Strategic Dialogue.	30 Nov 2012	30 November–1 December: Jia Qinglin, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), meets Enrico Rossi, Governor of the Tuscany region, and Rosario Crocetta, Governor of the Sicily region of Italy.
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.	10 Dec 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.
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.		
		2013	
19 Sep 2012	19–20 September: The first EU-China Mayors Forum, Brussels.	18 Feb 2013	Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping pays an official state visit to Ireland.
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.	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.
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.	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.
19 Oct 2012	19–21 October: EU Commissioner C. Hede-gaard visits China for a bilateral meeting with Mr Xie Zhenhua, Vice Chairman of National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC).	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.
24 Oct 2012	24–26 October: Romanian Foreign Minister Corlăţean visits China.		
4 Nov 2012	4–6 November: Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao attends the Ninth Asia-Europe Meeting and Pay An Official Visit to Laos..	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.
5 Nov 2012	Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao meets Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti and Bulgarian President Rosen Plevneliev at the ninth annual Asia-Europe Meeting in Vientiane	21 Jun 2013	27th EU-China Joint Committee meeting, China.
28 Nov 2012	Jia Qinglin, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), meets	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.
- 19 Jul 2013 Zhou Shengxian, Minister of Environment Protection of the People's Republic of China, and Janez Potočnik European Commissioner for Environment met in Beijing for the EU-China Environmental Policy Dialogue.
- 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.
- 21 Nov 2013 16th EU-China Summit, Beijing. EU-China Urbanisation Forum, Beijing.
- 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.
- debted 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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