

European Chronology 2022

January

- 1 January The European banknotes and coins celebrate their 20th anniversary
France takes up the Presidency of the Council of the EU
- 10 January Russia and the US begin a series of talks in Geneva to defuse tensions between both countries as well as tensions with Ukraine
- 11 January President of the European Parliament David Sassoli dies in Aviano, Italy
- 30 January Parliamentary elections are held in Portugal: the Socialist Party led by António Costa wins an absolute majority
Marks the two-year anniversary of the World Health Organization declaring a public health emergency of international concern regarding the Covid-19 pandemic

February

- 1 February Denmark is the first EU country to lift all Covid-19 restrictions
- 4 February The 2022 Winter Olympics are opened in Beijing, China
- 17-18 February After a long postponement, the African Union-EU summit is held in Brussels. The main focus is on the EU-Africa Investment Package
- 18-20 February The annual Munich Security Conference is held in Germany. Discussion mostly revolves around the Russia-Ukraine crisis
- 20 February French President Emmanuel Macron and Russian President Vladimir Putin announce they will work on a ceasefire agreement to avert the war in Ukraine
- 22 February Germany suspends the Nord Stream 2 project in response to Russia's recognition of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions as independent
- 23 February The European Commission proposes a new Data Act
- 24 February Russia invades Ukraine
President Putin orders a military operation in Ukraine to "demilitarise and denazify" the country. Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky declares martial law across the country in response to the invasion and orders a general military mobilisation
A massive sell-off occurs on the Moscow stock exchange, making the Russian rouble's exchange rate fall to a record low of 89.98 roubles per US dollar

The European Union says that it will introduce the “strongest, harshest package” of sanctions on the Russian economy in response to the invasion

Various protests against the war take place around the world

- 24-28 February The EU agrees on the first three packages of sanctions against Russia
- 25 February NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg announces that the NATO Response Force will be activated for the first time in history
- The Council of Europe announces the suspension of Russia’s membership
- 26 February In an official joint statement, the European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States agree to remove certain Russian banks from SWIFT
- Russia blocks access to Twitter for its citizens
- 28 February Ukraine applies for EU membership

March

- 3 March The EU bans two Russian state-sponsored news outlets
- Georgia and Moldova formally apply for EU membership
- The Council adopts a decision to authorise the opening of negotiations for an international agreement on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response
- 4 March The European Union activates the Temporary Protection Directive to offer assistance to people fleeing the war in Ukraine
- Russian forces shell Europe’s biggest nuclear plant of Zaporizhzhia, raising fears of a Chernobyl-style disaster
- 8 March The European Commission adopts a proposal for a directive to combat violence against women
- 9 March All Covid-19 entry restrictions are lifted in Hungary
- 10-11 March EU heads of state and government issue the Versailles Declaration, calling on member states to strengthen defence spending, investment, research and coordination
- 15 March The EU issues its fourth package of sanctions
- Russia formally withdraws from the Council of Europe
- The US Senate declares Vladimir Putin a war criminal
- 21 March The Council of the EU adopts the Strategic Compass, setting a common vision of the EU’s role in security and defence and a wide range of objectives to be achieved by 2030
- 24 March The European Parliament and the Council reach an agreement on the Digital Markets Act

- 26 March Parliamentary elections are held in Malta: the Labour Party wins 55% of the vote
- 29 March The Ukrainian and Russian delegations hold face-to-face peace talks in Turkey

April

- 1 April President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola travels to Kyiv to meet Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky, making her the first EU official to visit Ukraine since the start of the war
- 3 April Parliamentary elections are held in Hungary. The right-wing populist party Fidesz wins 54% of the vote, electing Viktor Orbán as prime minister. The democratic alliance United for Hungary, including centre-left, green, liberal and moderate nationalist forces, comes second with 37% of the vote
In Serbia, Alexander Vučić, from the Serbian Progressive Party, wins the elections with 60% of the vote
- 4 April €17 billion in EU funds is made available to help refugees from Ukraine
- 5 April Poland blocks the European Union's adoption of the 15% minimum corporate tax after previous holdouts abandon their opposition to the reform
- 8 April The EU agrees on a fifth package of sanctions against Russia
President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen and the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell travel to Kyiv to show unwavering support for Ukraine
The Food and Agriculture Organization releases its food price index, according to which food prices increase by 12.6% in March to an all-time record of 159.3 points amid the fallout from the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The price of vegetable oils increases by 23% and the price of cereals increases by 17%.
- 9 April All Covid-19 entry restrictions are lifted in the Czech Republic
- 17 April For the first time since the beginning of the Russian invasion, more Ukrainians enter Ukraine from Poland than leave, according to the Polish Border Guard
- 23 April The European Parliament and the Council reach an agreement on the Digital Services Act
- 24 April Presidential elections are held in France: Emmanuel Macron, from the liberal party En Marche, is re-elected as president with 58% of the vote. The Socialist Party candidate stands far behind with 1.75% of the vote
- 28 April UN Secretary General António Guterres visits Ukraine (including Irpin and Bucha, locations of alleged Russian atrocities) after holding talks with Putin in Moscow

May

- 1 May All Covid-19 entry restrictions are lifted in Bulgaria, Croatia and Greece
- 3 May The European Commission launches the European Health Data Space (EHDS)
- 6 May The first case of the monkeypox virus is reported in London
- 9 May After one year of intensive deliberations and citizen-led debate, the Conference on the Future of Europe concludes its work
- 10-14 May The 2022 Eurovision Song Contest is held in Turin. The contest is won by the Ukrainian band Kalush Orchestra
- 11 May The European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) announces plans to lift passenger facemask requirements at airports and for flights throughout the European Union in mid-May 2022
- 12 May Astronomers unveil the first image of the supermassive black hole at the centre of the Milky Way
- 12-15 May Finland and Sweden announce that they will apply for NATO membership
- 16 May All Covid-19 entry restrictions are lifted in Austria
- 18 May The European Commission presents the REPowerEU plan to reduce the EU's dependence on Russian fossil fuels
The EU presents its strategic partnership with the Gulf states
- 21 May The federal elections in Australia are won by the Labour Party, which manages to form a majority government for the first time since 2007
Russia announces it has full control of Mariupol
- 23 May All Covid-19 face mask requirements and travel restrictions are lifted in Belgium
- 30-31 May FEPS Day of Progressive Economic Policy is held in Berlin

June

- 1 June All Covid-19 entry restrictions are lifted in Italy
Citizens of Denmark vote to abolish the defence opt-out and to join the Common Security and Defence Policy
Albanian citizens vote to elect the president and Bajram Begajis is elected with 95.12% of the vote
- 3 June The EU agrees on a sixth package of sanctions against Russia
- 7 June The European Commission agrees to make USB Type-C the common charging port for all mobile phones, tablets and cameras in the European Union by autumn 2024
- 8 June In the Netherlands the PvdA and the GroenLinks agree on forming a joint Senate group

- 13 June The Council and the European Parliament agree on the extension of the regulation establishing the EU digital Covid certificate until June 2023
- 14 June All Covid-19 entry restrictions are lifted in Germany
- 15 June Russia cuts gas deliveries to Europe through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline to 40% of capacity
- 16 June French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi and Romanian President Klaus Iohannis visit Kyiv and declare further support to Ukraine
All Covid-19 entry restrictions are lifted in Estonia
- 19 June Parliamentary elections in France: for the first time since 1997, the president does not have a majority in the parliament
Gustavo Petro is elected as the first left-wing president of Colombia
- 21 June EU Council adopts a framework for development of the EU Hybrid Toolbox to counter hybrid security threats
- 23 June EU leaders grant candidate status to Ukraine and Moldova (but not to Georgia, whose European perspective is nevertheless recognised)
EU-Western Balkan leaders meeting is held in Brussels ahead of European Council
- 27 June Fit for 55: EU ministers agree on new higher 2030 targets on energy efficiency and renewables
The G7 meeting is held in Schloss Elmau in the Bavarian Alps. World leaders issue a statement pledging more financial, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support to Ukraine
- 28 June Turkey lifts its veto over Finland and Sweden's application to join NATO, just before the beginning of the NATO summit in Madrid. The three countries sign a trilateral memorandum
- 28-30 June At the NATO summit in Madrid, leaders reiterate unwavering support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity
NATO leaders agree to invite Finland and Sweden to join the Alliance
The Madrid Summit Declaration mentions the People's Republic of China as a challenge to the Alliance's interests, security and values
- 30 June All Covid-19 entry restrictions are lifted in Finland
The EU and New Zealand announce the conclusion of negotiations for a comprehensive trade agreement

July

- 1 July The Czech Republic takes over the presidency of the Council of the EU
The new roaming regulation enters into force, extending 'Roam-like-at-home' for another ten years

- 5 July NATO ambassadors sign the Accession Protocols for Finland and Sweden
- 6-31 July UEFA Women's Euro 2022 is held in England. The host wins the tournament
- 7 July British Prime Minister Boris Johnson resigns as party leader
- 8 July The Constitutional Court of Slovenia rules that ban on same-sex marriage and adoption is unconstitutional
Shinzo Abe, former prime minister of Japan, is assassinated while delivering a campaign speech for a Liberal Democratic Party candidate
- 10 July The Uber Files scandal is exposed: more than 124,000 confidential documents are leaked from Uber, revealing the 'secret deal' with Emmanuel Macron to help Uber compete with the French Taxi industry
- 12 July The European Union formally accepts Croatia as the 20th member of the eurozone, leading Croatia to adopt the euro in January 2023
- 13 July The European Commission issues its 2022 Rule of Law report, which examines developments in the member states
- 15 July EU agrees on the seventh package of Russia sanctions
- 19 July The European Union starts accession negotiations with Albania and North Macedonia
- 20 July The European Commission presents the proposal 'Save gas for a safe winter' aiming to reduce gas usage
- 21 July Following the rise of inflation to 8.6% in the EU, the European Central Bank raises the interest rate by 0.5 percentage points for the first time since 2011
- 22 July Russia and Ukraine sign a UN-brokered agreement allowing the export of Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea
- 25 July All Covid-19 entry restrictions are lifted in Malta

August

- 1 August All Covid-19 restrictions are lifted in France
- 4 August China conducts its largest military exercise around Taiwan, following a controversial visit to Taiwan by Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the US House of Representatives
- 5 August Vladimir Putin signs a decree banning investors from 'unfriendly countries' until 31 December 2022
- 11 August Estonia and Latvia formally withdraw from the cooperation group comprising China and Central and Eastern Europe over China's human rights record and its support of Russia's war on Ukraine

- 15 August France formally ends its military intervention in Mali (Operation Barkhane) after withdrawing its last remaining troops from a military base in Gao
- 16 August US Congress passes IRA (Inflation Reduction Act). It is considered the landmark federal law, part of the Biden' Administration's New Deal
- 18 August The European Union statistics office reports that inflation in the eurozone increased to a record 8.9% in July
- 30 August Mikhail Gorbachev, the eighth and final leader of the Soviet Union, dies after a long illness in Moscow

September

- 2 September G7 countries agree to cap the price of Russian oil. Russia responds by cutting gas flows through Nord Stream 1 for an undetermined time
North Korea reportedly fires 23 missiles, a record number since it intensified its missile tests over Japanese territory at the start of 2022
- 6 September Liz Truss is elected leader of the Conservative Party and succeeds Boris Johnson as prime minister of the United Kingdom
Ukraine launches a successful counteroffensive on the Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory of Kharkiv, Donetsk and Luhansk
- 8 September Queen Elizabeth II dies at the age of 96 at Balmoral Castle in Scotland. She is succeeded as monarch by her son Charles III
- 11 September General elections are held in Sweden: even if the Social Democrats increase their vote share, the opposition right-wing bloc wins a narrow majority of seats in the parliament, electing Ulf Kristersson as prime minister in October
- 14 September Commission President Ursula von der Leyen delivers her annual State of the Union speech in which she illustrates the Commission's flagship initiatives and the focus on the challenge posed by the war in Ukraine
- 16 September Protest and civil unrest against the government in Iran emerge in response to the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini and Iran's mandatory hijab law
- 25 September General elections are held in Italy: Giorgia Meloni's right-wing populist party Brothers of Italy is the first party with 26% of the vote. Enrico Letta's Democratic Party comes second with 19% of the vote. Giorgia Meloni will lead a right-wing coalition government
- 30 September Vladimir Putin announces the annexation of the Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine, following staged referendums organised by Russian-installed officials in Ukraine
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky responds by requesting fast-track NATO membership

October

- 1 October In the parliamentary elections in Latvia, the centre-right party New Unity obtains 19%, followed by the Greens with 12.58%
- 2 October Parliamentary elections are held in Bulgaria: the conservative and populist party GERB comes first with 25.33% of the vote. The left-wing alliance, BSP for Bulgaria, obtains 9.3%
- General elections are held in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On the night of the elections, High Representative Christian Schmidt uses his authority to impose a set of measures to “improve Federation functionality”
- 4 October Slovenia becomes the first CEE country to legalise same-sex marriage
- 5 October The EU adopts the eighth package of sanctions against Russia
- 7 October The 2022 Nobel Prize is awarded to human rights advocate Ales Bialiatski from Belarus, the Russian human rights organisation Memorial, and the Ukrainian human rights organisation Center for Civil Liberties
- 10 October In the Senate elections in the Czech Republic the centre-right alliance Spolu wins the majority of seats
- 12-13 October Progressive Governance Summit takes place in Berlin
- 13-15 October The PES Congress 2022 takes place in Berlin: Stefan Löfven is elected the new PES president
- 16-23 October The 20th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party is held. Xi Jinping is elected as general secretary of the party, confirming his leadership
- 17 October The European Union establishes EUMAM Ukraine, a special military mission that will provide training for the Ukrainian Armed Forces in EU member states
- 20 October Liz Truss announces her resignation as prime minister of the UK
- 23-26 October FEPS fourth Annual Autumn Academy 2022 takes place in Brussels
- 25 October The EU directive on adequate minimum wages is adopted
- Rishi Sunak becomes the first British Asian and Hindu prime minister of the UK
- 27 October Elon Musk completes the acquisition of Twitter
- 30 October In the second round of the Brazilian presidential elections, former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva defeats incumbent Jair Bolsonaro

November

- 1 November In Denmark’s general elections the governing Social Democrats obtain their best results in 20 years with 27.5% of the vote
- The legislative elections in Israel result in the victory of the right-wing camp of former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Meretz, a left-wing

- political party (and PES observer), does not win any seats missing the electoral threshold. It is the first time that the party does not retain Knesset seats in an election
- 6-18 November The COP27 on climate change mitigation takes place in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. At the end of the conference, an agreement is signed to establish a loss and damage fund for countries vulnerable to the effects of climate change
- 8 November Mid-term elections are held in the United States. Democrats preserve their majority in the Senate and Republicans take control of the House of Representatives
- 9 November The European Commission presents its proposal for the EU's economic governance reform
- 11 November Ukrainian troops enter the city of Kherson while Russian forces retreat
- 13 November Slovenia elects its first female president, Nataša Pirc Musar
- 15 November The world population reaches eight billion people
- During a Russian-led attack on Ukrainian cities, a missile strikes the territory of Poland near the border with Ukraine, which is later recognised as likely being an air defence missile fired by Ukraine
- 15-17 November The G20 summit meeting takes place in Bali, Indonesia
- 16 November The 2022 Silver Rose Awards are conferred on Women Political Leaders (WPL) and on Lee Cheuk-yan, who is currently serving over 20 months in prison for organising peaceful protests in Hong Kong in 2019
- 20 November The FIFA World Cup 2022 opens in Qatar
- 25-27 November XXVI Congress of Socialist International takes place in Madrid. Pedro Sánchez is elected the new president and Benedicta Lasi becomes the secretary general
- 28 November FEPS Call to Europe takes place in Prague
- 29 November In response to the gas crisis, Germany signs a 15-year deal with Qatar's state-owned petroleum company QatarEnergy to have its liquefied natural gas supplied by the company from 2026

December

- 6 December The EU-Western Balkans summit is held in Tirana
- 7 December The Congress of Peru removes President Pedro Castillo from office and arrests him after a coup attempt. Vice President Dina Boluarte succeeds him. She is the first woman to become president of the Latin American country
- 7-19 December The UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) is held in Montreal to discuss a new set of goals to halt and reverse nature loss

- 8 December In Iran, the first execution of a protester, Mohsen Shekari, is carried out
- 9 December The so-called Qatargate scandal erupts. Allegedly, Qatar has bribed current and former MEPs and parliamentary assistants belonging to the S&D family to influence political decisions and improve its reputation, particularly in the fields of labour rights. Four people are arrested by the Belgian police on suspicion of corruption
- The EU-Med summit (including Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain) meets in Alicante
- 12 December The S&D Group expels Eva Kaili with immediate effect. Group membership of the MEPs who are subject to the Qatargate judicial investigation is suspended
- The Council strikes a deal with Hungary that settles financial aid for Ukraine in 2023 and gains Budapest's approval for a global minimum corporate tax, in exchange for EU flexibility about funds paid to Hungary
- 13 December The European Parliament removes Greek MEP Eva Kaili as a vice president of the assembly, following her arrest and involvement in Qatargate. Meanwhile, the scandal deepens and turns into one of the largest ever involving European institutions
- 14 December The European Parliament awards the 2022 Sakharov Prize to the Ukrainian people for their courage and sacrifices
- 15 December The leaders of the EU meet for the European summit and agree to provide financial relief to Ukraine and support its resilience and long-term reconstruction. The Council grants Bosnia and Herzegovina EU candidate status
- 17 December Leo Varadkar succeeds Micheál Martin as Taoiseach (head of government) of Ireland, as part of a rotation agreement made in 2020
- 18 December Argentina wins the FIFA World Cup 2022 by defeating France in the penalty shootout by 4-2
- 25 December Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury call for the end of the war in Ukraine during their Christmas sermons
- 29 December Brazilian footballer Pelé dies at 82
- 31 December Former Pope Benedict XVI dies at 95