

2022

WHAT'S TO COME

CULTURE/SOCIETY EUROPEAN UNION POLITICS GLOBAL

JAN

Asia
Brussels, Belgium
Italy
Brussels, Belgium
France
Strasbourg, France
Davos, Switzerland
New York, USA

Senegal
Brussels, Belgium

Portugal
Northern Ireland

1
1
4
12-13
15
17-20
17-21
17-28
22
23
25-26
27
30
30

Start of trading under the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership
France takes on rotating Council Presidency
Presidential elections
European Space Summit
400 years since the birth of French playwright Molière
European Parliament plenary session
World Economic Forum
Working Session of Ad Hoc Committee on Cybercrime (UNGA Resolution 74/247)
50 years since Denmark, Ireland, Norway and the UK signed the EC Treaty of Accession
National Assembly elections
European Space Conference
International Holocaust Remembrance Day
Legislative elections
50 years since Bloody Sunday

FEB

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Belarus
China
Beijing, China
Costa Rica
UK
Yaoundé, Cameroon
Germany
Strasbourg, France
Online
Brussels, Belgium
Munich, Germany
Mali
Egypt
UAE

TBD
TBC
1
4-20
6
6
6
13
14-17
17
17-18
18-20
27
28
28-3/3

Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly, appointment of the new Chairperson
Constitutional Referendum
Chinese New Year (Year of the Tiger)
Winter Olympics
General elections 1st round (2nd round on 3 April)
70th anniversary of reign of Queen Elizabeth II, Platinum Jubilee
Finale of 2021 Africa Cup of Nations
Presidential elections
European Parliament plenary session
Fuelling the Future Summit on the future of European energy
EU-African Union Summit
Munich Security Conference
Presidential and legislative elections
100 years since Egypt gained independence from the UK
MENA Climate Week

MAR

Geneva, Switzerland
Marseille, France
Beijing, China
Strasbourg, France

South Korea
Colombia
Brussels, Belgium
Mahé Island, Seychelles
Ireland
Dakar, Senegal
Geneva, Switzerland
Berchtesgaden, Germany
Brussels, Belgium
Brussels, Belgium
Brussels, Belgium
Lebanon
Hong Kong
Los Angeles, USA
Dubai, UAE

1-9
3-4
4-13
7-10
8
9
13
15-16
15-16
17
21-26
21-31
22-27
23-24
24-25
24-25
27
27
27
31

World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly
European Summit of regions and cities
Winter Paralympics
European Parliament plenary session
International Women's Day
Presidential elections
Parliamentary elections
International Conference on the EU Cybersecurity Act
Blue Invest Africa forum
Saint Patrick's Day
World Water Forum 'Water Security for Peace and Development'
2022 Session of the ITU Council
Winter Military World Games
European Parliament plenary session
Adoption of the Strategic Compass
Euro Summit
General elections
Hong Kong Chief Executive elections
Academy Awards
Closing of the World Expo

APR

Hungary

Serbia
Strasbourg, France
France

Gambia

Slovenia
Kunming, China

TBC
2-3/5
3
4-7
10
17
22
22
24
25-8/5

Parliamentary elections
Ramadan
General elections
European Parliament plenary session
Presidential elections 1st round (2nd round on 24 April)
Easter Sunday
National Assembly elections
Earth Day
Parliamentary elections
UN Biodiversity Conference (Part II)

MAY

Bamako, Mali
Sri-Lanka
Strasbourg, France
UK

Philippines
Turin, Italy

Kisumu, Kenya
Brussels, Belgium

Australia
Paris, France
Accra, Ghana
Africa
Colombia

Tel-Aviv, Israel

TBC
2-5
2-5
5
9
10-14
15-16
17-21
18-19
19
21
22
23-27
25
29
30-5/5
31

High-Level Meeting of Heads of UN Peace Missions in West Africa
Asian Development Bank meeting
European Parliament plenary session
Northern Ireland Assembly elections
Europe Day
Legislative and presidential elections
Eurovision Song Contest
Total lunar eclipse
Africities Summit
European Parliament plenary session
Buddha's Birthday
Federal elections (half-Senate)
Roland Garros Championship
Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank and the African Development Fund
Africa Day
Presidential elections
EU Green Week
60 years since the execution of the Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann

JUN

Malta
Strasbourg, France
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Russia
Singapore
France
Saint Petersburg, Russia
Brussels, Belgium
The Netherlands
Germany
London, UK
Madrid, Spain

TBD
6-9
6-15
9
10-12
12/19
15-19
22-23
25
26-28
27-10/7
29-30

Parliamentary elections
European Parliament plenary session
World Telecommunication Development Conference
350th anniversary of the birth of the Russian Emperor Peter The Great
Shangri-La Dialogue
Legislative elections
Saint Petersburg International Economic Forum
European Parliament plenary session
75 years since the first publication of Anne Frank's diary
G7 Summit
Wimbledon Championship
NATO Summit

JUL

Tunisia
Brussels, Belgium
Denmark, France
Birmingham, UK
Strasbourg, France
Birmingham, USA
Mecca, Saudi Arabia

TBD
1
1-24
2-6
4-7
7-17
7-12
9-10
11
30

Constitutional referendum
Czech Republic takes on rotating Council Presidency
Tour de France
Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
European Parliament plenary session
World Games
Haji
20th anniversary of the African Union
60 years since the first transatlantic satellite television transmission
Islamic New Year

AUG

Angola
Kenya
Pakistan
India

TBD
9
14
15
15

General elections
Presidential, National Assembly and Senate elections
75th anniversary of Pakistan's Independence
75th anniversary of India's Independence
Feast of the Assumption

SEP

Austria
Australia
Brazil
Cape Town, South Africa
Hangzhou, China
Sweden
Strasbourg, France
New York, USA
Uzbekistan
Malaysia
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Bucharest, Romania

TBD
3
7
9-11
10-25
11
12-15
13-27
15-16
16-19
17-22
26

Presidential elections
Federal elections (House of Representatives)
Bicentennial of Brazilian Independence
Rugby World Cup Sevens
Asian Games
General elections
European Parliament plenary session
UN General Assembly
Shanghai Cooperation Forum
China-ASEAN EXPO
ICANN Annual General Meeting
ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2022

OCT

Slovenia
Beijing, China
São Tomé and Príncipe
Latvia
Brazil
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Iraq
Strasbourg, France

Russia
Strasbourg, France
Indonesia
Bali, Indonesia

TBD
TBC
TBD
1
2
2
2
3-6
4-10
4-5
7
17-20
24
30-31

Presidential elections
20th CCP National Party Congress
Legislative/National Assembly elections
Parliamentary elections
General elections
General elections
90 years since Iraq gained independence
European Parliament plenary session
World Space Week
Yom Kippur
Vladimir Putin's 70th birthday
European Parliament plenary session
Diwali
G20 Summit

NOV

Fiji
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Paris, France
Egypt

USA
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt
Brussels, Belgium

Strasbourg, France
Qatar
USA

TBC
TBC
TBC
4
7-8
8
8-20
9-10
11
21-24
21-18/12
24

Fiji general elections
2nd Russia-Africa Summit
Paris Peace Forum
100 years since the discovery of the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun
Total lunar eclipse
US midterm elections
COP27
European Parliament plenary session
Armistice Day
European Parliament plenary session
Football World Cup
Thanksgiving

DEC

Brussels, Belgium
Strasbourg, France
Geneva, Switzerland

TBC
12-15
16-18
18
25

Annual Assembly of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum
European Parliament plenary session
Sixth World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum
Hanukkah
Christmas

2 THROUGH THE AGES

2022 is a year full of 2s. What do they mean – and what is the link between the number 2 and foresight?

The symbolism of 2 in foresight

Afterthought ← Forethought →

In ancient beliefs and myths, looking at the future was often associated with the number 2. The number 2 is not only the symbol of duality and dualities, it has also been associated with time through the ages.

The name for the month of January comes from **Janus**, the Roman god of beginnings and endings, thresholds and crossings, transitions and dualities. With his two faces, one looking forward and one looking backward, Janus had a knowledge and vision of both the past and the future.

January is the first month of the year and thereby marks the transition between past and future, ending and beginning.

In Greek mythology, two brothers, the Titans **Prometheus**, literally meaning in ancient Greek 'forethought', and **Epimetheus**, meaning 'afterthought', embody the contrasting perspectives of 'foresight' and 'hindsight'.

The two brothers represent anticipation and forecast thinking on the one hand and *a posteriori* thinking on the other.

In Ancient Egypt, the God **Aker** also incarnates transition from birth to death as the guardian of the Underworld and of the Horizon. In Egyptian mythology, the West represents death and sleep and the East birth and awakening.

Aker is represented by two lions or twin sphinxes.

Another Greek myth associates foresight with pairs. The gift of seeing into the future was given to **Cassandra** (although tragically nobody believed her predictions) and her twin brother Helenus of Troy who is described by Homer as the best soothsayer.

This gift was also possessed by Apollo, the god of the sun as well as the god of oracles and prophecy, who is paired with another goddess, his twin sister Artemis.

How years and days featuring the number 22 changed the future

Many watershed moments or turning points in history happened in years or on days containing the number 22 and influenced the course of the future:

322 BC

End of Athens' hegemony in the Mediterranean

122 AD

Construction of Hadrian's Wall in northern Britain

622

Hegira: the prophet Muhammad starts his journey from Mecca to Medina

1522

First recorded circumnavigation of the world

1822

Champollion deciphers the hieroglyphics of the Rosetta Stone

1922

Creation of the USSR
Abolition of the Ottoman Empire

22 Apr 1500

Portuguese sailor Pedro Álvares Cabral lands in Brazil

22 Oct 1633

China's Ming Dynasty defeats the Dutch East India Company

22 Oct 1751

The Russian Empire is proclaimed by Peter the Great

22 Mar 1895

First demonstration of film technology by the Lumière brothers

22 Oct 1962

JFK imposes a naval quarantine on Cuba

22 Nov 2004

Start of the Orange Revolution in Ukraine

22 Apr 2016

Signing of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change

2 decades ago, the EUISS was established

In 2022, the EUISS celebrates its two decades of existence.

2002 was the year after the 9/11 attacks and the invasion of Afghanistan, the year before the invasion of Iraq, and the year in which euro banknotes and coins entered circulation.

What were the predictions made about the future back in 2002? Some of them still ring true today.

“Nuclear issues like Ballistic Missile Defence, the role of nuclear weapons, or the future of disarmament and non-proliferation, will probably become yet more transatlantic bones of contention, even if a possible attack against Iraq would not imply the use of Weapons of Mass Destruction.”

Burkard Schmitt, 'US: Going Nuclear' (EUISS Alert, 1 September 2002)

“Until Europeans have a security and defence product which meets current requirements, Europe will remain unprotected against current threats. [...] Simple reliance on the United States is not the answer.”

Julian Lindley-French, William Hopkinson, 'Arming for the Future' (EUISS Alert, 20 January 2002)

“The debate in Poland has not really addressed the question of the future role of the EU on the international scene. Moreover, it is doubtful that Poland could interfere with any of the Union's ambitions in that particular field, especially if one considers its current track record.”

Rafal Trzaskowski, 'From candidate to member state: Poland and the future of the EU' (EUISS Occasional Paper no. 37, September 2002)

“Although a new policy for the Middle East is badly needed, we have chosen continuity. Now it seems that we are passively waiting for a new outbreak of violence, which will hit us head-on.”

Martin Ortega, 'The Crux of the Matter: The Middle East after 11 September' (EUISS Alert, 2 September 2002)

“Looking to the future, one can assume that while the new EU members will most probably be pro-integration oriented and reform-minded in the EU's wider institutional debate, they will be more conservative in the area of security and defence.”

Jiri Sedivy, 'Enlargement and European defence after 11 September' (EUISS Chaillot Paper no. 53, June 2002)