

EU treaty timeline

Portuguese Prime Minister **Jose Socrates** takes over the European Union presidency on Sunday with a pledge to push through approval of a new “reform treaty” – to govern the 27-member bloc – by October



■ **Jun 23:** After gruelling 36-hour summit, German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** clinches deal to replace failed EU constitution

■ **Jul 23: *Inter-Governmental Conference (IGC)*** to take place in Brussels. Groups, representing member states and main EU bodies, to begin drafting text of reform treaty

■ **Sep 8-9:** IGC draft to be approved during meeting of EU foreign ministers in town of Viana do Castelo

■ **Oct 18-19:** Final approval expected at Lisbon summit

■ **2008-09:** EU leaders to ratify treaty through national parliaments – instead of referendums – ahead of European parliamentary elections