

WORLD AGENDA 2014



January

- 1** The EU shapeshifts as Greece takes over the presidency, Latvia joins the euro and employment restrictions on immigrants from Bulgaria and Romania, which joined in 2007, expire
- 2** The Syrian government and opposition hold direct peace talks in Geneva for the first time



- 3** Chinese around the world welcome the Year of the Horse



February

- 4** The costliest Winter Olympics yet takes place in Sochi amid controversy over the record \$51bn spend, concerns over human rights in Russia and fears there will not be enough snow in the resort

March

- 5** The murder trial of South African "Blade runner" **Oscar Pistorius** begins. Pistorius shot dead his girlfriend, **Reeva Steenkamp**, last February

April

- 6** **Hamid Karzai** stands down as President of Afghanistan, with 11 candidates standing in elections to replace him

- 7** Runners in the Boston Marathon will commemorate the three people killed in last year's terrorist attack

May

- 8** Elections to the European Parliament are held across the EU's 28 nations

- 9** Colombian president **Juan Manuel Santos**, who has initiated a peace process with Marxist rebels after 50 years of war, is to seek a second term in office

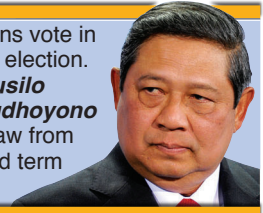


June

- 10** Brazil hosts the 20th Fifa World Cup. Brazil is the only nation to have played in every tournament and has lifted the trophy five times, more than any other nation

July

- 11** Indonesians vote in a presidential election. Incumbent **Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono** is barred by law from seeking a third term



August

- 12** One hundred years after Britain and France declared war on Germany, commemorations take place to mark the outbreak of World War I, which left indelible images of trench warfare and slaughter on a vast scale



September

- 13** Scotland goes to the polls in a referendum on independence from the United Kingdom

October

- 14** **Dilma Rousseff**, Brazil's first female president, is favourite to win a second term in general elections



November

- 15** **Barack Obama's** Democrats could win back the House of Representatives from Republicans in midterm elections

- 16** Spain's Catalonia region intends to hold a referendum on independence which Madrid vows to block



- 17** Celebrations mark the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall

December

- 18** NATO troops in Afghanistan head home after more than a decade of war and over 3,000 coalition deaths

- 19** **There and Back Again**, the final installment in **Peter Jackson's** Hobbit trilogy, is released

