

# WORLD AGENDA

APRIL 2017



**1** Apr 23, France: A scandal undermining centre-right candidate *François Fillon* has changed the picture but not the outlook for the presidential election: polls suggest National Front leader *Marine LePen* will win the first round but lose to centrist independent *Emmanuel Macron* in a probable second round on May 7

**2** Apr 6-7, U.S.: President *Donald Trump* is expected to host Chinese President *Xi Jinping* at a summit at his Florida estate, as Trump seeks to smooth relations with the world's second-largest economy after strong criticisms of China during his election campaign

**3** Apr 29, Belgium: EU leaders hold a summit to discuss the start of the Brexit process. The meeting comes one month after Britain officially notified the EU of its intention to leave the bloc

**4** Apr 8, Spain/France: The Basque separatist group ETA has scheduled full disarmament, six years after declaring a permanent ceasefire. Spain and France have long demanded that ETA lay down its weapons without conditions and disband

**5** Apr 28-29, Egypt: A visit by *Pope Francis* aims to promote better relations between Catholics and Muslims. Christians, mostly Orthodox Copts, account for about 10% of Egypt's population, which is overwhelmingly Sunni Muslim

**6** Apr 16, Turkey: Voters have their say in a referendum that will give Turkey a presidential system of government and expand the powers of *President Erdogan*. The run-up to the vote was marred by diplomatic spats with the Netherlands and Germany

**7** Apr 2, U.S.: The *U.S. Mint* commemorates its 225th anniversary by releasing a \$100 coin depicting Lady Liberty as an African-American woman for the first time

**8** Apr 22, Space: NASA's Cassini spacecraft enters the "Grand Finale" of its exploration of Saturn, beginning a series of 22 daring dives between the planet and the inner edge of its rings

