

WORLD AGENDA

DECEMBER 2017

1 Dec 14-15, EU: Deadline to overcome a stalemate on the core Brexit issues at a summit in Brussels. Hopes of progress were raised after UK prime minister **Theresa May** secured backing from pro-Brexit hardliners to increase the financial settlement Britain will pay when it leaves the European Union in March 2019

2 Dec 17, Chile: Conservative **Sebastian Pinera** faces Socialist contender **Alejandro Guillier** in a run-off for the presidency. The 67-year-old billionaire, who was president from 2010 to 2014, won the first round in November but with fewer votes than expected

3 Dec 21, Spain: Catalonia votes for a new parliament following the independence referendum and the imposition of direct rule by Madrid. Former Catalan government members, including sacked president **Carles Puigdemont**, who fled to Belgium after declaring independence, are eligible to stand

4 Dec 11, United States: A generic version of **Viagra**, the little blue pill that has revolutionized the sex life of countless couples, goes into production. Anticipating the loss in 2020 of its patent on Viagra, **Pfizer** cut its losses and made a deal to allow drug maker **Teva** to start producing its own version

5 Dec, U.S.: **Airbus** plans to test its self-piloted flying car, entering the race to produce a marketable answer to gridlock on the roads. Airbus claims the vehicle will be as cheap as making a regular taxi journey

6 Dec 1, Antarctica: A 1.5 million sq km area of the **Ross Sea** comes under protection as the world's biggest marine reserve

7 Dec, Saudi Arabia: The **Haramain** bullet train service between the holy cities of Medina and Mecca is due to begin, cutting travel time from four to 2.5 hours

8 Dec 15, U.S.: **Star Wars: The Last Jedi** is the latest addition to the most successful movie franchise in cinematic history. Many of the cast of characters return, including **Princess Leia**, although actress **Carrie Fisher** died in December 2016 before filming was wrapped up

