

WORLD AGENDA

OCTOBER 2018

2 Oct 14, Germany: *Angela Merkel's* Bavarian sister party, the *Christian Social Union (CSU)* – which has dominated the wealthy southern state since World War II – looks likely to lose its absolute majority in regional elections. Support for Interior Minister *Horst Seehofer's* CSU is waning as voters flee the centre-right for the anti-immigration *Alternative for Germany (AfD)*

1 Oct 7, Brazil: Voters elect a president in the aftermath of the stabbing of the front-runner, far-right candidate *Jair Bolsonaro*, and of a corruption scandal that scythed through Brazil's political class, forcing the withdrawals of former and current presidents *Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva* and *Michel Temer*

3 Oct 18, Brussels: European Council President *Donald Tusk* says this summit is "the moment of truth" for the EU and UK to agree a Brexit withdrawal agreement. How to keep the Irish border fully open remains a key roadblock

4 Oct 8-14, Indonesia: Bali hosts the annual meetings of the *IMF* and *World Bank*, whose governors must contend with softening economic expansion on a global scale. The escalating trade war between the U.S. and China is a major concern

5 Oct 25-Nov 7, Norway: *Trident Juncture 18*, NATO's largest military exercise since 2002, involves 40,000 personnel from 30 NATO and partner nations. Held on Russia's doorstep, it follows Russia's *Vostok-18* military drills, the biggest since the Cold War

6 Oct 19, French Guiana: *BepiColombo*, a European-Japanese mission to Mercury, is set to launch. On board will be two satellites that will take a close look at the smallest and least explored terrestrial planet in the Solar System

7 Oct 11, Singapore: Singapore Airlines will claim the title of the world's longest commercial flight when it resumes its non-stop service to New York. Flights will cover a distance of around 16,700km using the new, fuel-efficient *Airbus A350-900ULR (Ultra Long Range)* plane

8 Oct 12, UK: *Princess Eugenie* marries *Jack Brooksbank* at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, where her cousin, *Prince Harry*, married former actress *Meghan Markle* in May. Eugenie is the daughter of *Queen Elizabeth's* second son, *Prince Andrew*, Duke of York, and his ex-wife *Sarah Ferguson*

