



# Today in History

*July 19, 1999*

▲ **The new European Parliament building opened in Strasbourg. The official seat of the institution hosts 12 plenary sessions a year, including the budget session**

**1949:** Laos became an independent state within the French Union

**1989:** Poland's Communist leader General Wojciech Jaruzelski was elected president by one vote

**2004:** A mining company in Guinea confirmed it had found a good-quality 182-carat diamond, four times the size of the Hope diamond

**2010:** China surpassed the United States to become the world's biggest energy consumer