Programme Information Highlights
September 2017

Happening this month…

**Wednesday 30th August – Monday 4th September**
Hajj Pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia
Two million Muslims are expected to embark on the five-day pilgrimage to Islam's most sacred site, the cube-shaped Kaaba in the Saudi Arabian city of Mecca.

**Friday 1st September**
Bogota, Colombia
Colombia’s Marxist FARC rebel group will officially launch its new political party on September 1st, as part of a peace deal with the government under which former guerrilla fighters will serve in congress.

**Sunday 3rd September**
Germany election, TV debate, Berlin
German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Martin Schulz, the leader of the Social Democrats, will take part in a TV debate, three weeks ahead of the general election. It will be broadcast on four channels — ARD, RTL, Sat.1 and ZDF.

**Wednesday 6th – Monday 11th September**
Pope visit, Bogota, Colombia
Pope Francis will visit Colombia as part of a trip to celebrate the South American nation’s steps toward ending five decades of armed conflict. It’s the first papal visit to the staunchly Roman Catholic country in 31 years. He’ll also visit three other cities — Medellin, Cartagena and Villavicencio.

**Monday 11th September**
Norway Parliamentary Election
The Norwegian legislature, the Storting, will be elected for a new four-year term. All the 169 parliamentary seats will be contested.
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Monday 11th – Friday 15th September
International Olympic Committee Session, Lima, Peru
The election of the city that will host the 2024 Summer Olympics will take place on September 13th during the 131st IOC session. The two remaining candidate cities are Los Angeles and Paris.

Tuesday 12th – Monday 25th September
UN General Assembly, New York, USA
The 72nd Regular Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 72) will convene at UN Headquarters.

Monday 18th September
Fourth round of Brexit talks with the EU, Brussels, Belgium
During the Brexit negotiating process there will be one week of talks each month.

Saturday 23rd- Saturday 30th September
Third Invictus Games, Toronto, Canada
The Invictus Games is an international Paralympic-style multi-sport event, created by Prince Harry as a way to inspire and motivate wounded soldiers on their path to recovery. Over 500 competitors are expected to participate from 17 nations.

Sunday 24th September
German federal election
Angela Merkel is still leading the way in the polls despite facing a challenge from former European Parliament President Martin Schulz. She’s hoping to win a fourth term.

Tuesday 26th September
Iraq’s autonomous Kurdish region will hold a referendum on independence, in a move the central government in Baghdad is likely to oppose strongly.

All the information included in this document is correct at the time of publication (26th July 2017) but is subject to amendment.