

# Programme Information Highlights

September 2017

## Happening this month...

### Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



Muslim pilgrims from all around the world circle around the Kaaba at the Grand Mosque, in the Saudi city of Mecca on September 14, 2016.

(Photo credit: AHMAD GHARABLI/AFP/Getty Images)

### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September

International Olympic Committee Session, Lima, Peru

The election of the city that will host the 2024 Summer Olympics will take place on September 13<sup>th</sup> during the 131<sup>st</sup> IOC session. The two remaining candidate cities are Los Angeles and Paris.

## Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September

UN General Assembly, New York, USA

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 72) will convene at UN Headquarters.

## Monday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup>- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.



Prince Harry attends the launch of the team selected to represent the UK in the 2017 Invictus Games in Toronto at The Tower of London. ((Photo credit: Jeremy Selwyn - WPA Pool/Getty Images))

## Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> 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.