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FOR THE WORLD’S BORDER PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY INDUSTRY POLICY-MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS
Johnson Wins! What does this mean for European border security?

Boris Johnson’s emphatic election win means that he will now almost certainly get the Brexit withdrawal agreement passed through the UK parliament by the 31st January, and the UK will formally leave the European Union (EU).

Of course, once the agreement is approved, then starts the twelve-month transition period when nothing much changes whilst the equally painful process of negotiating a trade deal gets done.

But where does this leave European security?

With the UK leaving the EU and their security relationship is undecided, the EU has some hard decisions to make regarding its future security arrangements.

Now it is highly likely that pragmatism will win the day and the future UK/EU security deal won’t be too dissimilar to current arrangements.

But nothing in this process can be taken for granted!

After all, it was the concerns over the free movement of people and insecure internal and external European borders that can be said to be one of the main catalysts of Brexit in the first place.

The rapid expansion of Frontex to operationally support member states struggling with irregular migration is an expedient forced upon a reluctant EU by the migrant crisis.

But changing times require changing attitudes and actions, and it may be time for a properly EU funded agency to take on full responsibility for all the EU’s external borders, land, sea and air and an FBI style role for Europol.

Of course, that’s not going happen for the foreseeable future. But one day!

Tony Kingham
Editor
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In a global media environment highly interested in the issue of migration, the need for verified, evidence-based analysis on this defining issue of our time has never been more urgent.

As the UN-related agency responsible for migration, it has long been IOM’s imperative to promote a balanced understanding of migration across the world.

Launched at the 2019 IOM Council meeting by IOM Director General, António Vitorino, the latest edition of its flagship publication, the World Migration Report 2020 (WMR 2020), continues the organization’s commitment to providing information on migration that is well-researched, rigorous and accessible.

“IOM has an obligation to demystify the complexity and diversity of human mobility,” Director General Vitorino told representatives of IOM’s member states.

“As this report shows, we have a continuously growing and improving body of data and information that can help us ‘make better sense’ of the basic features of migration in increasingly uncertain times,” he said.

First published 20 years ago, this tenth edition in the World Migration Report series provides the latest data and information on migration as well as analysis of complex and emerging migration issues. WMR 2018 was downloaded over 400,000 times.

Topics covered in the report include human mobility and environmental change, migrants’ contributions in an era of disinformation, children and unsafe migration, migration and health (among others), which are not only timely, but are also highly relevant for both specialist and general audiences.

Ambassador Doreen Debrum, Permanent Representative to the United Nations in Geneva of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, who also spoke at the launch, welcomed the report, stressing that “the Republic of the Marshall Islands is now at the brink. Each scientific report brings a more profound and serious exposé of the imminent risks, threats and dangers posed by climate change; this would put the entire Marshallese population at risk, and most likely result in the forced relocation of our people, and the loss of our homeland.”

German Ambassador Michael von Ungern-Sternberg pointed out that migration has become an intensely debated issue in societies around the globe.

“This is a good development. However, we have to face the risk of undue politicization and misrepresentation of facts,” he said. “The World Migration Report will contribute to a constructive discussion of this highly sensitive issue and lay the ground for much needed international cooperation”.

The report builds on the critical success of WMR 2018, with various chapters written in collaboration between IOM experts, migration practitioners and some of the leading migration researchers in the world.

Marie McAuliffe, co-editor of the WMR 2020, stressed the significance of partnerships.

“To capture the latest evidence on migration, the thematic chapters are authored by some of the leading researchers in the field, and the report was co-edited with the distinguished scholar, Professor Binod Khadria, of Jawaharlal Nehru University in India,” she said.

“To ensure WMR 2020 provides a high-quality contribution as a major reference report on migration, the draft report was peer-reviewed by leading migration academics and IOM thematic specialists prior to finalization.”

The WMR 2020 is the first to be published in a digital-only format, a measure taken in recognition of the need for environmentally sustainable material in both process and content. Readers from around the world, including policymakers, academics, migration practitioners, journalists, students and the general public, will be able to download the publication for free in English and Spanish, while work on other translations continues.

As migration continues to be an issue of heightened interest, the WMR 2020 is key to meeting the growing demand for evidence-based, high-quality research on this issue, while also helping to debunk the ‘fake news’ and misinformation designed to influence public and political discourse.

Download Report at https://publications.iom.int/books/world-migration-report-2020
LESSONS FROM ALGERIA ON FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS

States must take responsibility for removing their nationals from conflicts raging in the Sahel.

Dr Matthew Herbert, Senior Research Consultant, ISS.
The article was first published by ISS Today.
For more go to: https://issafrica.org/iss-today.

Over the past two and a half years, Algeria has convinced many of its citizens fighting in the Sahel to surrender. While this alone won't end the region’s conflicts, for peacebuilding to succeed the presence of foreign fighters must be addressed. Algeria’s programme shows a way of doing so.

The security situation in the Sahel is getting worse, as a network of conflicts driven by terrorist groups, insurgents and local militias spreads across Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. Most combatants are from those three countries, with many fighting close to their homes. However, a small cadre of foreign fighters linked to al-Qaeda or Islamic State are also present. In the wake of Islamic State’s losses in Syria, there are fears these numbers in the Sahel will grow.

Algerians in particular stand out for their involvement in the Sahelian conflicts. Their presence poses a security challenge for Algeria, and has led the government to institute a programme to demobilise Algerian terrorists in the Sahel. Since 2017
close to 200 Algerians, mainly active in Mali, have surrendered.

In exchange for surrendering, Algerian fighters are granted immunity from prosecution. Algeria reportedly coordinates with Mali and France to allow surrendering terrorists to move unmolested to rendezvous points in Algeria’s southern provinces.

**Algerians in particular stand out for their involvement in the Sahelian conflicts**

Algeria’s approach to foreign fighters in the Sahel is part of a reconciliation strategy towards terrorists dating back to the country’s 1990s civil war. This practical approach to deflating the power of terror groups achieved significant success in the 1990s and 2000s, leading tens of thousands of combatants to demobilise and reintegrate into society. While operationally effective, the strategy was and remains socially divisive within Algeria.

While much about the Algerian programme is opaque, the Algerian military has released some information on 156 terrorists who have surrendered in the south. This includes names and assumed names, and the years they joined terror groups. Similar information exists on terrorists who were killed, captured or who surrendered in Algeria’s north. This data underscores several salient points.

First, there is a divide between ageing terrorists in Algeria and far younger and more vibrant Algerian fighters in the Sahel. More than half of terrorists killed or captured in northern Algeria for whom data is available became involved in terrorism during the 1990s. Only 16 joined terrorist groups this decade.

Among those Algeria has demobilised from the Sahel, the trend differs significantly. Eighty percent joined between 2011 and 2016. Forty-one out of the 156 became involved with terrorist groups in 2012 alone. This suggests that most Algerians fighting in the Sahel are not long-time militants who were driven from their country into the Sahel. Instead they were new fighters pulled into the Sahelian conflict in the wake of 2011.

**Even terrorists with significant experience are susceptible to appeals to demobilise**

This timing partly reflects the conflict dynamics in northern Mali, which accelerated during these years, and the strong social and ethnic connections between southern Algeria and Mali that helped mobilise some Algerian fighters. However the arrest of 11 young men in north-western Algeria in November for trying to join Sahelian terrorist groups shows that the attraction of fighting in the Sahel isn’t restricted to Algeria’s south. Rather there is continued susceptibility of some young Algerians to terrorist recruitment.

Eschewing fighting within the country, or – as many Tunisians did – heading to Syria, most Algerian foreign fighters have headed south.

The second key trend is that even terrorists with significant experience are open to appeals to demobilise. Most of the demobilised fighters became involved with terrorist groups between 2012 and 2016, while few had joined before 2011 or after 2017. Organisational disenchantment or exhaustion among more experienced fighters...
could have led them to accept the opportunity to demobilise.

Third, Algeria’s programme has had a practical impact on the ground, though not enough to significantly alter the overall dynamics of Sahelien conflicts. Héni Nsaibia, founder of Menastream, notes that demobilising Algerian foreign fighters has weakened the al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb unit in north-western Mali, near Timbuktu. It has also impacted the Islamic State-linked Katiba Salahedidine in Mali, whose leader and associates surrendered in 2018.

**The demobilisation programme's impact on the combat capacity of terrorist groups is significant**

Even as terrorist groups hosting foreign fighting units have been weakened, inter-communal conflict and locally recruited militant groups have surged. This has obscured the Algerian programme’s impact.

Finally, the demobilisation programme’s impact on combat capacity of groups with many Algerian fighters is probably more significant than its numbers imply. Algerians are over-represented in the leadership of some Sahelien terrorist groups. The surrender of commanders can disrupt the capacity and unity of terror groups. Even non-leaders who have surrendered are experienced fighters with significant operational and institutional knowledge that’s difficult to replace.

While foreign fighters do not constitute the majority of combatants in the Sahel, they are part of the conflict ecosystem. Efforts to build peace through negotiation with local militants or tackling underlying conflict drivers won’t fully end the conflicts as long as fighters remain organised and armed.

The challenge for Sahelien governments and the international community is how to address these combatants. Strategies focused on tracking and eliminating them – such as those of France and the United States – aren’t enough.

Ways to deal with the challenge of foreign fighters must be thought out and implemented as part of an overall peacebuilding strategy. Algeria’s demobilisation efforts should be more closely studied by other states whose nationals have joined terrorist groups in the Sahel. By removing their nationals from the battlefield, these states can help reduce the duration and intensity of the conflicts raging in the region.
Crime Group Suspected of Smuggling Nuclear Materials Arrested

Austrian law enforcement together with the General Police Inspectorate of The Republic of Moldova (National Investigative Inspectorate) coordinated and supported by Europol, have jointly investigated and arrested a criminal organised crime group suspected of smuggling nuclear materials.

The cooperation, that included transnational investigative measures, targeted a group of criminals when they attempted to sell nuclear container which allegedly contained radiological material to an army for €3 million.

During the comprehensive operation three individuals were arrested in Vienna, Austria, two of them had criminal records, and one of them had been already convicted for a similar crime in the past..

3800 Money Mules Identified in Global Action Against Money Laundering

Law enforcement authorities from 31 countries, supported by Europol, Eurojust and the European Banking Federation (EBF), have stepped up their efforts to crack down on money mule schemes that rope in victims often unaware that the money they are sending is part of an elaborated money laundering scheme.

The fifth European Money Mule Action (EMMA 5) took place between September – November 2019, resulting in the identification of 3833 money mules alongside 386 money mule recruiters, of which 228 were arrested. 1025 criminal investigations were open, many of them are still ongoing. More than 650 banks, 17 bank associations and other financial institutions helped to report 7520 fraudulent money mule transactions, preventing a total loss of €12.9 million.

This year, law enforcement, judicial and financial authorities from Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Australia, Moldova, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States and Ukraine participated in this international swoop.

Multi-Agency Meeting Targeting Illicit Cigarette Production

Europol’s AP Smoke organised an operational meeting at Europol’s headquarters in The Hague. This multi-agency meeting was attended by authorities from the Netherlands (FIOD), Belgium (Customs), Sweden (Customs), and Spain (Guardia Civil). The meeting targeted an international organised crime group engaged in illicit cigarette production, drug and cigarette smuggling and money laundering.

Following the operational meeting an action day was carried out on 25 November, during which the Belgium Customs raided an illegal cigarette factory in Lanaken, Belgium. Eight arrests were made and a complete production line was seized, preventing it from being packed and moved to another location.
INTERPOL and OSCE discuss ways to strengthen cooperation in countering transnational threats

A high-level side event on “Border Security and Counter-Terrorism” was held today on the margins of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Bratislava. The panel discussion focused on the long-standing cooperation between the OSCE and INTERPOL and was attended by high-level representatives of the two organizations.

Participants discussed the current threat spectrum and ways to mitigate risks and combat any challenges faced by members of INTERPOL and OSCE participating States. They also exchanged views on how to counter the ever-evolving nature of transnational threats - such as terrorism, organized crime and human trafficking - by amplifying the strength and effectiveness of their actions, from policy to practice.

The threats posed by terrorism-related activities remain a crucial issue for the international community as a whole and for the OSCE region in particular.

A multi-sector approach to tackling wildlife crime

Wildlife crime is a global concern, and these illicit activities can encompass many sectors and industries.

The consequences of wildlife crime are equally far-reaching, not only affecting the environment but also economies, communities and societies. Such multi-sector challenges require a multi-sector solution.

During the 30th meeting of the INTERPOL Wildlife Crime Working Group, some 160 participants from police, government agencies, international organizations, the transport and financial sectors, academia and social media companies gathered to review the latest environmental threats, trafficking trends and challenges to tackling the criminal networks behind such crime.

The meeting looked at how wildlife crime can implicate industries beyond those which focus on the environment, such as illegal trade via air, land and sea transport systems or the illicit sale of animals and wildlife products online. For the first time, representatives of these sectors were invited to offer their perspectives and build relationships with law enforcement.

Highlighting the challenges of fighting wildlife crime, INTERPOL’s Assistant Director of Illicit Markets Daoming Zhang said: “We see animals and their parts trafficked using ships and airplanes, sold online via the Darknet and the illicit profits unknowingly passed through financial institutions. “It is clear that the only way to truly eradicate these crimes and protect the world’s wildlife is through a united effort bringing together all stakeholders to develop multi-sector solutions,” he concluded.
Monaco Minister of Foreign Affairs, OSCE Secretary General sign agreement on project Combating Human Trafficking along Mediterranean Migration Routes

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation of the Principality of Monaco Laurent Anselmi and OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger signed an agreement on Monaco’s support for the OSCE project “Combating Human Trafficking along Mediterranean Migration Routes”.

Throughout the seven simulation-based trainings, the OSCE has successfully trained 529 anti-trafficking practitioners from fifty-five participating States and 7 Partners for Co-operation, ranging from law enforcement officers to prosecutors, labour inspectors, social services providers and civil society among others.

“The methodology used in these simulation-based trainings is innovative and effective”, said Greminger. “Practitioners from different stakeholder groups not only have a unique opportunity to practice and master skills in a safe learning environment and a live-action setting, receive immediate feedback from other professionals, but the training also gives them the opportunity to develop real-life closer collaboration among themselves.”

Impact of OSCE projects aimed at non-proliferation of small arms and light weapons

A high-level side event on the margins of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Bratislava focused on how practical assistance projects can help achieve a comprehensive approach in preventing the uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA). The discussion was organized by the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and supported by Germany.

In the past fifteen years, the OSCE has achieved a remarkable track record, with a total of over 110 SALW/SCA projects already implemented or in the process of implementation.

The participants discussed challenges and concerns related to excessive and destabilizing accumulation, illicit trafficking and uncontrolled spread of SALW and SCA. They also shared success stories on how the organization’s work in this area contributes to wider efforts in supporting arms control and disarmament, combatting terrorism and organized crime, border security, and addressing environmental threats.

OSCE trains Tajik officials from Drug Control Agency on methods of investigating drug trafficking crimes on Internet

Some 22 officials from the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan and other law enforcement agencies of Tajikistan attended the course, which was conducted by experts from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation.

The aim of the course was to build the capacity of law enforcement agencies of Tajikistan in combating transnational organized crime, including the fight against illicit drug trafficking, psychotropic substances and their precursors. It used interactive methods and practical examples that showed participants methods of how cell phones and personal computers are used in drug-related crimes.
UN Migration Chief Appeals for Solidarity and Support to Ease Migration Pressures in Greece

DG Vitorino welcomed the government’s policy initiative to protect and assist unaccompanied migrant children and efforts to ease overcrowding on the islands. Here, he offered IOM’s steady support to the Greek government through the continued provision of humanitarian services to migrants and refugees in need, the movement of vulnerable people from the islands and their accommodation on the mainland.

“The transfer of migrants and refugees from overcrowded, very poor conditions on the islands to the Greek mainland is a humane and practical demonstration of solidarity within Greece itself,” Vitorino said following the meeting.

“Likewise, Greece needs continued solidarity and support from fellow EU member states to share the responsibility and to buffer against any future shocks,” he continued.

IOM Launches Return and Reintegration Platform

The platform is intended to share knowledge, expertise and lessons learnt among practitioners in host, transit and origin countries. Through this unique community of practice, users will be able to take part in online discussions with peers through thematic groups, attend online courses and webinars, share resources and publications and showcase flagship initiatives.

The platform will also act as a depository of knowledge, gathering relevant publications and resources on return and reintegration in one place.

“Strengthening information sharing and disseminating knowledge and lessons learnt is key to promoting multi-stakeholder cooperation towards dignified return and sustainable reintegration,” explained Renate Held, Director of Migration Management Department at IOM.

Fifty-eight Migrants Confirmed Dead After Boat from The Gambia Capsizes

At least 58 men, women and children are confirmed dead after a vessel carrying an estimated 150 migrants sank as it approached the coast of Mauritania.

Eighty-three others, including two women and at least 10 minors who managed to swim to shore are receiving medical assistance.

The vessel left The Gambia bound for the Canary Islands when it ran low on fuel, IOM Mauritania Chief of Mission Laura Lungarotti says.
Over 56kgs of Cocain Detected Inside Panels of Truck

National Gendarmerie, under the Ministry of National Security, confiscated 56 kilos 925 grams of cocaine that were transported hidden inside the box of a van. This occurred in the town of Santiaqueña de Frias, where the driver was stopped.

The troops dependent on the 59th Santiago “Estero” Core Squadron, while carrying out controls on the intersection of National Route No. 157 and Provincial Route No. 11, stopped a Renault Duster Oroch vehicle, from from Salta to CABA, led by a man of Bolivian nationality.

When requesting the documentation of the vehicle, the driver showed nervousness, contradicting his sayings, which motivated the suspicions of the gendarmes before a possible transfer of drugs. Immediately, the uniformed officer with the support of the narcotic canine detector “Jasy”, confirmed the existence of an illicit load, before the active reaction of the dog when passing through the sector of the wheeled box.

Through the use of tools, Force personnel deepened the requisition by removing the plastic cover from the side panels, finding 54 rectangular packages wrapped in ocherno-colored packing tape.

Federal Police and Sedena Seize 235 Kilos of Methanphetamine in Mexico

The Ministry of Security and Citizen Protection recognizes the operational capabilities of the elements of the Intelligence Division of the Federal Police, who in coordination with personnel of the Secretariat of National Defense, insured about 235 kilos of apparent methamphetamine, which represent a approximate cost of more than 66 million pesos.

When carrying out inspection and surveillance work in the vicinity of La Rumorosa, Baja California, Mexico, federal forces noticed that the driver of a van evaded the safety filter, which was given scope to mark the stop. It carried various sacks with plastic containers that contained a granulated substance. In total 590 packages were found.

AMERIPOL/EU Host International Course on Global Terrorism

AMERIPOL and European Union held the First International Course on Crime Investigation related to Global Terrorism - a project in conjunction with the Federal Police and the International Advisory Office of the Ministry of Justice and Public Security. The training included police experts and prosecutors from Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Spain, Ecuador, Paraguay, Paraná, Peru, Dominican Republic and the European Union.

The Executive Secretary of MJSP, Luiz Pontel, referred to the signing of the Buenos Aires agreement in the city of Quito as the appropriate way to institutionalize AMERIPOL. Pontel also commented on the importance of the institution for the formation of joint investigation teams, with the specific objective of combating transnational crime in the region.

The course covered topics such as the coordination of anti-terrorist investigations, the general situation of jihadist terrorism in Europe, the mechanisms for assessing the terrorist threat, the financing of this crime, the domain extinction law and work on the triple border.
ASEANAPOL Secretariat Host Inspector General of RMP and Commissioner of RBP

The Honourable IG Dato’ Seri Abdul Hamid Bin Bador, the Inspector General of Police (IGP) of the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), the Host of Permanent ASEANAPOL Secretariat and the Honourable CP Dato Paduka Seri Haji Mohammad Irwan Bin Haji Hambali, the Commissioner of Police (CP) of Royal Brunei Police Force (RBPF), the Current Chairman of ASEANAPOL, made their official visit to the Secretariat’s office.

They were welcomed by Police Colonel Kenechanh Phommachack, the Executive Director of ASEANAPOL Secretariat and its Directors, Officers and Staff of the Secretariat.

The official visit commenced with the Executive Director expressing his gratitude and appreciation to both ASEANAPOL key persons, who had spared time of their busy schedule to visit the office of the Secretariat. The Executive Director then shared on the current ASEANAPOL activities and briefed on other matters to be reported at the 39th ASEANAPOL Conference.

As the Host of the permanent ASEANAPOL Secretariat, Hon. Dato’ Seri Abdul Hamid bin Bador reiterated his pledge of full support to ASEANAPOL and encouraged the Secretariat to enhance its role in ensuring ASEANAPOL remains relevant as a notable regional policing stakeholder.

On the same note, the Hon. Dato Paduka Seri Haji Mohammad Irwan also expressed his utmost gratitude and appreciation to the Secretariat in effectively executing the roles and functions of the Secretariat during his tenure as the Current Chairman of ASEANAPOL. He hoped that the Secretariat would continue to perform its best to promote and advance internationally as a strong police organization in the South East Asia region.

Communications – Major Component in Border Security

A border security field test illustrated the potential efficacy of innovative airborne and terrestrial tactical surveillance technologies designed to provide portable situational awareness capabilities with a hybrid communications network.

The test conducted in Montana was part of the Homeland Security Enterprise (HSE) efforts to improve security vulnerabilities along the US/Canadian border, the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) and the Border Patrol (USBP).

The area lacks persistent surveillance, inadequate communications links to share relevant tactical data, and unavailability of secure mobile devices to view this data.

The tested network connects commercial cellular, local VHF mesh and agent-portable satellite communications devices along the remote U.S./Canadian border and improves U.S. Custom and Border Protection’s (CBP) ability to track and prevent incursions in these vulnerable areas.

S&T and USBP brought in agents and vehicles to simulate illegal border crossing activities. They then used a wide range of technologies, including a man-portable surveillance system, autonomous surveillance towers, short-range surveillance sensors, small unmanned aerial systems (SUAS), team awareness kit (TAK), satellite communications and mesh communications.

The test was successful, sensor alerts were received in real time, covered ground, improved response times, communicated with each other effectively, and achieved situational awareness across nearly 120 square miles of coverage, including remote areas where there was previously no cellular or radio reception.
The Liptako-Gourma is the area adjacent to the River Niger bend between the cities of Gao (Mali) and Niamey (Niger), which broadly comprises the adjacent administrative regions of Gao in Mali, Sahel in Burkina Faso, and Tillabéry in Niger. Because of its tri-state composition, since decolonization the region has also come to be known as the “three-borders zone”. Despite its administrative divisions, environmental, sociological and historical commonalities mean that this area is characterized by coherence and homogeneity. It therefore provides a valuable case study on the mutual relationships, influences and variations between security and mobility in border areas.
Significant cross-border flows have shaped the unity of Liptako-Gourma. Livelihoods in the region depend on the management of natural resources, which in turn is closely linked to mobility. Seasonal rainfall variability dictates the movements of transhumant pastoralism (mobile livestock raising using regular migration routes) and small-scale farming, leading to the development of a common way of life built on cross-border interdependence and cultural interaction. As a result, the same social, livelihood and ethnic groups are found throughout Liptako-Gourma, including the Fulani, the Tuareg, and the Songhai/Zarma.

**Weak governance & transnational “threats”**

After gaining independence, the three neighbouring states did not apply strict border controls both because of weak enforcement capacity and the need to win over border communities which feared marginalization. In the past decade, however, the fragility of regional governance frameworks have made the Liptako-Gourma region a fertile ground for the entrenchment of illicit activity, organized criminal groups, non-state armed actors and jihadist insurgents. Moreover, since 2012, the collapse of the Malian state has further undermined state presence, contributing to the spread of transnational threats across the region.

The Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (Mouvement pour l’unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l’Ouest, MUJAO), which in 2012 managed to attract recruits from across Liptako-Gourma, is a case in point. Military action by international and Malian forces chased MUJAO from northern Mali’s towns in 2013; but failed to regain control of Liptako-Gourma’s porous borderlands. This prompted the reorganization of the MUJAO into smaller units, giving rise in subsequent years to a variety of splinter jihadist armed groups with strong local rooting, such as the Macina Liberation Front (Front de Libération du Macina, FLM) in Central Mali, Ansarul Islam in the north of Burkina Faso, and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (Etat Islamique au Grand Sahara, EIGS) in Tillabéry Region. The borders among these groups remained porous, in terms of both membership and ideology, and observers suggest that they are loosely coordinating under the umbrella organization of the Group to Support Islam and Muslims (Jama’a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin, JNIM).

An escalation of local and regional conflicts has been fuelled by the unconstrained circulation of weapons, people and ideas and the inherent tensions between traditional and state rule.

**The Sahel: a testing ground for security policies**

As security has rapidly deteriorated, Liptako-Gourma has attracted growing international concern. Multilateral initiatives and strategies to respond to these challenges have proliferated. Restricting cross-border mobility and enhancing controls over borders and borderlands have emerged as the standard approach to forestalling the spread of violent insurgency and transnational threats in Liptako-Gourma. On the one hand, the rise of transnational and transborder phenomena has helped further cement the continuity of Liptako-Gourma’s security dynamics across national divides. On the other hand, Liptako-Gourma has become something of a laboratory for the experimentation of internationally sponsored policies designed to strengthen national sovereignties and international boundaries.
These measures are usually negotiated in international forums and adopted under the pressure of emergencies unfolding on the ground. As a result, they often fail to adequately consider the complexity of the context, and they may yield unexpected, if not counterproductive results. For instance, recent research has suggested that state force projection alone is unlikely to prevent the rise of insecurity, radicalization, and crime, unless underlying socio-political issues are addressed, including respect for human rights, good governance, equitable management of natural resources and job creation.

Border security governance: a response to rising mobility and forced displacement?

A growing international focus on migration management and the fight against irregular migration have caused these tensions to become even more acute. Strategically positioned over routes connecting West Africa with North Africa, the Liptako-Gourma region has been greatly affected by an increase in regional and interregional migration, with hundreds of thousands of people in transit since 2014. Well-established regional networks of cross-border trade, both small-scale and large-scale, formal and informal, have helped grow the infrastructure that supports these movements of people. As a result, the towns of Gao, Tillabéry and Dori have emerged as important hubs and transit points for migration towards Libya, Algeria and, in some cases, to Europe. At the same time, escalating local and regional conflicts have generated both internal and cross-border forced displacement. As of early 2019, approximately 80,000 Malian refugees were hosted in camps in neighbouring Niger and Burkina Faso, while at least 160,000 people were displaced by conflict in the regions of Gao, Ménaka, Tillabéry, Sahel, and Nord. While forced displacement increased significantly in the first half of 2019, these flows intermesh with widespread mobility habits of cross-border communities living in Liptako-Gourma, including transhumant pastoralists, nomadic people and dual-nationals.

While mobility has traditionally been a resilience strategy in the region, an alarmistic rhetoric conflating mixed migratory flows with “irregular migration” and “human smuggling” has helped fuel a narrative of a global migration “crisis”. In this context, the views of foreign interveners and outsiders contrast sharply with local perceptions of migration. The portrayal of violent insurgencies as a transnational phenomenon reinforces the framing of Sahelian borderlands as “ungoverned” spaces characterised by cross-border irregular activity. At the intersection of these dynamics, border security governance has rapidly gained prominence as one of the top priorities pursued by the international community in Liptako-Gourma.

Research gaps, driving questions, and objectives of the report

In spite of much policy discourses, the relationships between cross-border mobility and border security governance remain poorly understood to date. While there is some research about how border security governance and migration influence each other, it has mostly focused on other migration routes from and across Africa, including those from the Horn of Africa to Libya, from Gao to Algeria, from Agadez (Niger) to Libya, and from
Libya to Italy.

Research specifically on Liptako-Gourma has mostly focused on border(lands) security governance in relation to radicalization and security. Less research has been devoted to understanding how the variations of border security, including the weakening and strengthening of border controls by state and non-state actors, has affected mixed migration flows across Liptako-Gourma. This paper aims to bridge the gap between the research on migration and border management, and violent insurgency, and responses thereto, and aims to shed light on their mutual interactions.

This research addresses several questions relevant to policy-makers, humanitarian agencies, migration actors, and scholars. Exploring the extent to which various security considerations affect mobility choices and practices, for example, can provide insight as to whether mixed migration flows are more likely to occur in conflict zones, where violent insurgencies thrive, or in peaceful zones fully controlled by state authorities. In other words, do unstable borderlands tend to reduce migration flows – because of insecurity, unpredictability, and disruption of communication – or attract them because of reduced border controls?

In a context where research suggests that security providers, both state and non-state actors, engage in abusive behaviours, to what extent does state presence or absence impact the safety of refugees and migrants? Is mobility a source of resilience or of danger (or both) in a conflict context? And how does border security, and variations thereof, affect mixed migration flows, in terms of both infrastructure (routes, use of smugglers, means of transportation, etc.) and composition (nationality, gender, legal status, social origin, etc.)? What does “security” actually mean in these contexts and to different actors? What are the threat perceptions of refugees, migrants, IDPs, smugglers, local authorities, security and defence forces (SDF) and international actors? Who are, or who are perceived to be, security spoilers and security providers where state authority fluctuates between local challenges and international sponsorship?

Analytical approach and structure of the report

The prism of governance provides our entry point to address these questions. Throughout Liptako-Gourma, state actors do not have a monopoly on coercion and political authority but rather operate in a densely populated and highly competitive environment. Alongside (admittedly weak) states, one finds other important actors, both non-governmental (international NGOs, local civil society organizations, customary authorities) and intergovernmental (regional and international organizations, UN agencies, foreign donors), to which the region’s states have a demonstrated tendency to outsource some of their sovereign functions.

To fully understand the complex dynamics between border security and cross-border mobility in Liptako-Gourma, this plurality of actors, standards and practices cannot be overlooked. In other words, one needs to pay attention to governance more than to governments in order to capture this inherent hybridity between government control and government outsourcing.

The Mixed Migration Centre is a leading source for independent and high-quality data, research, analysis and expertise on mixed migration. To read the full report, go to: http://www.mixedmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/083_navigating_borderlands-.pdf
SF working on tech solutions to combat drones along Indo-Pak border

The Border Security Force (BSF) is working on technical solutions to combat the threat of rogue drones along the India-Pakistan International Border, the chief of the force said.

BSF Director General V K Johri also said that the force has expanded its “strategic capabilities” by using new technology and intelligence to guard the over 6,386 km long borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Brazilian police crack down on gold smuggling on Venezuela border

Brazilian police launched an operation on Friday to break up a smuggling ring that it said had exported 1.2 tonnes of illegal gold bought since 2017 from wildcat miners in the frontier region between Brazil and Venezuela.

Federal police carried out 85 search warrants in five states as part of an investigation centered on the northern state of Roraima. They also searched the offices of a company called RBM in Sao Paulo suspected of laundering the gold prior to export, a police spokesman said.

The gold originated in the indigenous Yanomami reservation in Roraima, which straddles the border with Venezuela and where the number of illegal miners has soared into the thousands since last year, the spokesman said.

San Diego Border Patrol Rescues 22 Illegal Immigrants in 24 Hours

San Diego Sector Border Patrol Agents rescued 22 aliens attempting to illegally enter the United States on Nov. 28 amid heavy rains, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a statement.

According to the statement, agents aided by the San Diego Fire & Rescue service found three migrants who had become stuck in a flooded drainage tunnel about two miles west of the San Ysidro Port of Entry, around 11 p.m. on the night of Thanksgiving.

The three migrants informed officers that a number of other individuals had fallen down the drainage tube and become stuck. Fire rescue services were called to help remove the aliens as waters began to rise.

Nigeria border closure causes economic shock

The unexpected nature of the announcement gave traders and communities little time to prepare for the economic shock that followed.
In October, Nigeria – which shares boundaries with Benin, Niger and Cameroon – closed all of its land borders to the movement of goods in a bid to tackle smuggling.

“All goods, for now, are banned from being exported or imported through our land borders and that is to ensure we have total control over what comes in,” Hameed Ali, the comptroller-general of the Nigerian Customs Services, told journalists in Abuja in October.

The federal government had initially imposed a partial closure of its borders in August to facilitate a joint operation, named Swift Response, involving customs, immigration, police, and army officers. The borders will now remain closed until at least 31 January.

At the heart of the problem, according to the government, is the smuggling of rice and illicit exports of cheaper, subsidised petrol from Nigeria to its neighbours. According to the Major Oil Marketers Association of Nigeria some 10-20% of Nigerian fuel is smuggled abroad.

National Council of Provinces (NCOP) but the protection and regulation of by far the majority of the country’s close to 5 000 km land border remains in the hands of 15 companies of soldiers from both the regular and Reserve Force.

A snapshot of their successes since the beginning of the year gives some indication of the sweat equity put in by soldiers deployed on Operation Corona, the SA National Defence Force (SANDF) border protection tasking. They are mostly infantry troops, supplemented from time to time by units from other formations including armour and engineers.

Contraband goods valued at just under R40 million were confiscated by soldiers on South Africa’s land borders with Botswana, eSwatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe in the first 11 months of 2019.

Incomplete Cross-Border Tunnel Discovered In Nogales

U.S. and Mexican authorities found an incomplete tunnel running underneath the streets of Nogales this week. Tunnels are a common problem in the area.

U.S. Border Patrol agents and Mexican federal police found the tunnel during a routine inspection of a storm water drainage system in Nogales, Arizona, and Nogales, Sonora, that serves both cities.

According to a press release from U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the tunnel was located 10 feet underground and extended 20 feet into the United States. The entrance was concealed in the floor of an existing drainage system by a pile of dirt covered with a Styrofoam-and-concrete mixture.

Border Patrol has found 124 cross-border smuggling tunnels in the Tucson Sector since 1990 — mostly in the Nogales area. This is at least the fourth tunnel discovered this year.

Russia detains conman who built fake border with Finland to trick migrants

Russian authorities have detained a man accused of building a fake fence in the woods close to the country’s border with Finland in order to trick a group of migrants into believing he had smuggled them across into the European Union.

The man set up fake border posts and persuaded four men from South Asia that he could lead them over the border for the cost of roughly 10,000 euros (about $11,100), according to Russia’s FSB border service.

Migrant Protection Protocols Implemented at Port of Nogales

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials have implemented Migrant Protection Protocols at the Port of Nogales.
Wednesday, nine Venezuelan nationals without proper documentation arrived at the Port of Nogales using vehicle lanes.

The group consisted of three family units and two single adults. All nine were detained and processed under Migrant Protection Protocols. They were returned to Mexico through the Port of El Paso to await the next steps in the immigration process.


The Department of Homeland Security is changing course on a policy introduced recently that would have required all US citizens traveling internationally to have their faces scanned and added to a biometric database.

That proposed policy is now being abandoned, and US citizens will not be required to participate in facial recognition tracking at airports, Customs and Border Protection said.

CBP said the reversal was the result of conversations with “privacy experts,” lawmakers, and travel-industry stakeholders.


Record number of African migrants at U.S.-Mexico border

The number of African migrants heading to the U.S. through Mexico has more than doubled this year — from roughly 2,700 in 2018 to 5,800, according to data from the federal government.

That figure has been steadily rising since 2007 — the year the Mexican government began including migrants from African countries who have contact with immigration officials in their annual migration reports — when the number was 460.

Border apprehensions dropped in November for 6th consecutive month, per DHS data

Law enforcement apprehended or turned away 42,649 migrants at the southern border in November, according to preliminary data - a sixth month of declines that the administration is hailing as proof that the set of policies and initiatives to combat the border crisis is working.

The numbers (33,510 apprehended and 9,139 deemed inadmissible) represented a decline of roughly six percent since October, and a drop of over 70 percent since the height of the crisis in May, when more than 144,000 migrants were encountered.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) data showed that the number of apprehensions of Central American family units has decreased by approximately 85 percent since May. The numbers were lower compared to

Iran’s Border Guards Smash Major Drug Ring, Seize 500kg of Opium

Iran’s border guards in the southeastern province of Sistan and Balouchestan have managed to smash a major drug ring, capturing 500 kilograms of opium, the commander of the province’s border police announced.

Following intelligence activities, the forces of the Mirjaveh Border Regiment were informed of the intention of a major drug gang to smuggle a heavy cargo by car to the city, Brigadier General Mohammad Mollashahi said.

The border guards immediately identified the members of the drug trafficking gang and ambushed them, he stated.

During the operation, the border guards arrested two smugglers and seized two vehicles, 500kg of opium, and a large amount of ammunition, the commander went on to say.

Police and security forces have been quite successful in ensuring security in the province despite its long borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan, harsh weather and vast desert areas.

Iran, which has a 900-kilometer common border with Afghanistan, has been used as the main conduit for smuggling Afghan drugs to narcotics kingpins in Europe.

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the last fiscal year (FY) as well. So far in FY 2020, enforcement actions have been 29 percent lower than FY 2019 at this time.

Pakistan, Iran forces conduct patrolling on border

Security forces of Pakistan and Iran conducted patrolling on their respective sides of the border between the two countries near Taftan town of Chagai district.

According to official sources, dozens of soldiers belonging to Levies Force and Frontier Corps from Pakistan’s side and the Border Security Force of Iran participated in the patrolling. They carried their national flags.

The patrolling commenced from border pillar number 76 and ended at number 88 near Taalap area. The officials of the two sides shared their experiences with each other.

Hungarian police find 2 tunnels used by migrants on border

Hungarian police said that they discovered two tunnels used by migrants to enter the country from Serbia.

Police said that a tunnel 34 meters (37 yards) long was discovered near the southern village of Asotthalom, where they also detained 44 migrants who had used the precarious passageway.

Police Col. Jeno Szilassi-Horvath said a Serbian citizen suspected of human trafficking had been detained along with the migrants.

The tunnel near Asotthalom was about 50 centimeters (20 inches) wide, 60 centimeters (2 feet) high, and had been dug as deep as about 6 meters (20 feet) below the surface without any support beams or other elements to prevent its collapse.

The number of migrants looking to enter Hungary illegally from Serbia has risen significantly over the past month, the head of the Prime Minister’s Office said.

Altogether 11,808 people have attempted to enter Hungary illegally so far this year, with 2,418 of those attempts being made this month, Gergely Gulyás told a regular press briefing.

The lack of fencing along the Malaysia-Thailand border in Kelantan has proven to be difficult for the authorities, especially the police in curbing smuggling activities in the state.

Kelantan police chief Datuk Hasanuddin Hassan said this had also made it strenuous for the police to monitor the areas more effectively in efforts to prevent the smuggling of contraband items including drugs.

“As we know, the border in Kelantan stretches over 134 km of land and water, giving rise to hundreds of illegal routes and monitoring them can be very challenging.”

“Over at Padang Besar, Perlis, fencing has been installed throughout the border, but not here,” he said during a town hall session at Dewan Apam Putra here Saturday.

Hassanuddin said apart from the absence of fences, the lack of smart surveillance technologies at the border crossing points too has posed a challenge for the authorities to prevent illicit goods from entering the country.
PASSIVE TERAHERTZ TECHNOLOGY ENABLES INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS AGENCIES TO FILL A CRITICAL GAP IN BORDER SECURITY

Due to a lack of viable technology solutions, screening of pedestrians at ports of entry has often been a lower priority, while customs and border security agencies have relied on screening technologies to inspect baggage, vehicles, mail and cargo containers for illicit goods and contraband. As a result, pedestrian-based smuggling of items such as currency, opioids, narcotics and other illicit items is a point of vulnerability for border security and customs enforcement.

Customs agencies face a growing tide of illicit trade and smuggling

As the global economy has evolved, cross-border trade, travel and migration has increased dramatically. According to the World Trade Organization, for example, the value of cross-border trade increased from $10 trillion in 2010 to over $17 trillion in 2017 – a 70% increase in

By Colin Evans, Chief Executive of Thruvision. Thruvision has over 250 passive terahertz people screening units in operational service around the world.
less than 10 years. At the same time, international tourist and business travel arrivals increased from approximately 800 million to 1.4 billion—a 75% increase.

Permanent cross-border migration has also risen, from 107 million persons in 2010 to 130 million persons in 2019.

International customs and border security agencies are on the frontline of resulting challenges that include an increase in smuggling of goods and contraband to evade customs duty collection, as well as criminal trafficking in weapons, currency, and narcotics.

Recent data from the World Customs Organization (WCO) and other sources highlights the magnitude and growth of these smuggling activities: Narcotics and Opioids: Increases in seizures range from 8% (Cannabis) to Opiates (30%). Currency: the United Nations estimates that approximately $870 billion in illegal cross-border currency flows were tied to criminal activity. Contraband: the WCO reports that seizures of the most common types of smuggled goods increased by more than 23% between 2016 to 2017.

“Pedestrian” Smuggling of Contraband: A Serious Problem

Because most smuggled goods are transported by vehicles of some type: trucks, cars, rail, air cargo, and maritime transport, customs agencies have focused their inspection staff and technologies on these modes of transportation. Investments of millions of dollars for large, high-energy X-Ray systems that can scan vehicles, cargo containers and even moving rail cars are dedicated. In addition, many customs agencies perform periodic inspections of baggage at airports, seaports and in some cases, land-border crossings, using checkpoint X-Ray systems.

Routine screening of people, on the other hand, to detect concealed contraband and threats has not been as widespread in the customs environment. In some ways this is understandable. Vehicles can transport much larger quantities of all types of illicit goods, compared to an individual pedestrian, and using traditional security checkpoint screening approaches to check large volumes of people in a very short period of time, i.e. during flight arrivals or at high-traffic land border crossings, is almost impossible to implement.

Nevertheless, there is evidence that the lack of people screening is a serious gap in customs enforcement and border security. For example, for narcotics, opioids, currency, precious metals, and other high value goods, pedestrian-based smuggling is common and, in some regions, represents approximately 20% of the volume of seizures made. Considering the impact that such smuggling can have, this represents a major problem that needs to be addressed.

Unique Challenges in Tackling Pedestrian Smuggling and Customs Evasion

There are several factors that make it challenging for customs and border security agencies to tackle pedestrian-based smuggling of illicit goods, and in turn impact customs inspection technology solutions that can be deployed.

First, each point of entry—land border crossing, airport, or seaport—can have different characteristics in terms of types of pedestrian traffic, peak volumes, and real estate available to support screening operations.

Second, pedestrian “non-compliance” is a serious problem. Unlike airport security checkpoints, where only a tiny fraction of travellers pose a potential security threat, and virtually all persons comply with screening protocols, smuggling by pedestrians is endemic in the customs and border security environment. Smugglers vary from travelers over-stepping their duty-free allowance, to sophisticated crime gangs smuggling for material gain, to “innocents” being coerced into running drugs across a border. To make matters worse for customs agencies, professional smugglers change their tactics in response to new border security measures. In practice, this means customs agencies must evolve their security processes faster than these sophisticated criminals.

Finally, the type of contraband being smuggled can change over time and can include an incredibly wide range of items—from adulterated baby formula, through counterfeit smartphones, to weapons, currency, gold, and narcotics.

These challenges have important implications for potential technology solutions. Customs agencies need pedestrian screening solutions that can support both detection and deterrence. They need to be able to operate at high visibility fixed checkpoints (for example, a land border crossing) and at random ‘mobile’ checkpoints (for example
Available People Screening Technologies for Customs and Border Security

To meet these requirements, international customs and border security agencies have several potential technology solutions at their disposal:

“Walk through” metal detectors – a mature, relatively inexpensive technology, but which cannot detect non-metallic items such as narcotics, opioids, paper currency and other non-metallic contraband;

“Stand inside” active millimeter wave scanners – used in airport checkpoints, these offer proven detection performance but are large, immobile, with low throughput and no covert inspection capability;

“Detection at Range” passive terahertz cameras – a new, but already proven pedestrian inspection technology that has been successfully deployed by customs agencies worldwide. Passive terahertz technology provides high throughput while being comparable in threat detection performance to “stand-inside” scanners. In addition, the technology can support covert screening, is compact and is highly deployable.

Selecting the Most Appropriate Pedestrian Screening Technology

How can a customs or border security agency determine which of these solutions best fits their people screening requirements? The following are common-sense criteria based on our experience working with international customs departments worldwide.

Proven, Independently Validated Detection Performance

Proven threat detection performance is the most important criteria. After all, any people screening solution can achieve excellent throughput – if it does not detect concealed items on a consistent basis. While all people screening systems claim excellent detection capabilities, customs officials need to consider what types of contraband and illicit goods they are targeting and ask detailed questions:

- Has the system been evaluated by US Department of Homeland Security, generally considered the “gold standard” for security testing?
- Which other customs and border security agencies are using the technology?
- Does it detect non-metallic items, such as opioids, narcotics and paper currency?

Health, Safety, and Privacy

From a public and operator acceptance standpoint, health safety and privacy are important considerations. “Stand inside” body scanners, used in airport security checkpoints, have struggled to gain broader market acceptance in part because they “actively” emit radiation during the screening process to create a high-resolution image of the person screened. And like walk-through metal detectors, these systems can require a physical inspection or “pat down” to resolve an alarm.

By contrast, people screening solutions that use passive terahertz technology, emit no radiation, making employee health and safety concerns a non-issue. Thermal contrast between the heat emitted by a person’s body and objects concealed in a person’s clothing is measured. This information is
presented as the outline of a person from which a customs official cannot distinguish the age, gender or ethnicity of the individual in question, but does allow operators to see, in real-time, the size, shape and location of concealed objects. This is an especially important benefit considering that smugglers may hide contraband in their groin area. This safety and privacy enhancing capability reduces false alarms and enables non-intrusive, no-touch 'virtual pat-downs'. Individuals can remove and show any suspicious concealed item without a physical search.

**Flexibility of Operation**

Being able to support a wide number of concepts of operation in a range of different environments is critical for tackling the range of different types of smuggler.

Combining the use of high visibility fixed, and mobile ‘pop-up’ inspection checkpoints offers an effective mix of deterrence and detection. The technology solution used needs to be flexible enough to be used at land pedestrian border crossing points, for screening coach passengers as they disembark at a border, in cruise liner and high-speed railway terminals, at other ferry ports, and in a range of different locations in airports including at point of disembarkation from the aircraft, at immigration desks, in secondary inspection areas, and at baggage reclaim areas.

Passive terahertz technology, is used by international Customs agencies in each of these environments, resulting in seizures every day.

**Throughput**

To support legitimate trade and commerce, ports of entry need to handle large volumes of people quickly. Long, airport-style queues are just impractical. In order to be effective, screening technologies need to help customs officers quickly find "unusual" concealments, generally items that given their position on the body, are clearly not in pockets and therefore suspicious, in overt or covert screening applications.

Particular passive terahertz technologies allow customs and border security staff to see the size, shape and location of concealed items and determine if the concealed item needs further investigation. Because of this capability, one company, Thruvision, has logged throughput at up to 600 pedestrians per hour.

**Return on Investment Via Seizures**

A critical measure of customs inspection technology is its ability to increase seizures of smuggled and illicit goods. Passive terahertz technology has demonstrated this capability in actual deployments by international customs agencies. For example, its ability to detect even small quantities of high value narcotics and opioids concealed on a pedestrian at a port of entry differentiates it from all other potential inspection technologies.

Passive terahertz technology has a smaller physical footprint than active millimeter wave systems, can be battery-powered, and is easily moved to meet changing security requirements. It requires fewer staff than other solutions – in many configurations, a single person can both operate the system and resolve alarms quickly.

**Helping International Customs Agencies Meet the Pedestrian Screening Challenge**

Customs and border security agencies worldwide have the dual challenge of a growth in pedestrian-based smuggling a wide range of contraband including drugs, paper currency, weapons and other illicit items, with the need to handle ever rising volumes of people crossing their borders.

Until recently, there have been no cost-effective people screening technologies to address these requirements. However, the emergence of passive terahertz people screening technology, offers customs agencies an operationally proven solution that is safe and affordable. This type of technology has been successfully deployed for customs, border security and other people screening applications in 20 countries around the world.
Operation Mombasa - Large-Scale Document Forgery Sting Leads to Arrests

The Garda National Immigration Bureau (GNIB) carried out a search and arrest operation – operation Mombasa – which was supported by officers from the Spanish National Police (Policía Nacional) and Europol.

Two individuals have been arrested and are currently detained in Ireland. Suspected false documents, phones, financial documentation and cash were also seized. A third individual was arrested during a search and arrest action day and is also currently detained by the Irish authorities.

This operation was attended by the Garda liaison officer to Spain and three officers from the Spanish National Police who are in Ireland to advance the investigation in both jurisdictions. The Spanish National Police conducted searches in Barcelona as part of operation Mombasa and seized false documents, flight tickets and bookings and evidence from parcel delivery services. Two people were also arrested during the search in Spain.

Operation Mombasa is a multi-jurisdictional investigation that was launched in late 2018 and centres on an organised crime group of non-EU nationals (primarily from Georgia) who are known to be resident in Ireland. This organised crime group is involved in the facilitation of bringing Georgian nationals to Ireland and the UK via Spain and France. While the initial connections identified that Ireland and the UK are currently targeted by this criminal gang, further exchanges of information through Europol identified links to other European countries and the USA.

No Safe Shores for Migrant Smugglers

Sharing expertise and knowledge is crucial to combat ruthless criminals risking migrants’ lives for their highly profitable criminal activity. Europol has hosted experts from EU Members states, third party countries and international organisations gathered at the annual meeting of Joint Operational Team (JOT) MARE.

The experts focused on modern communication technologies involved in facilitation of illegal migration, use of specialised forensic examinations and cooperation with source and transit countries to tackle the criminal networks involved in migrant smuggling.

During the conference, the Netherlands Forensic Institute presented their preliminary finding on an examination of a rubber boat used to smuggle 78 irregular migrants in life-threatening conditions to Spain. The experts shared the operational value of specialist forensics in the investigations against criminal networks smuggling vulnerable migrants in extremely dangerous condition by sea.

A profitable and widespread criminal activity, migrant smuggling has attracted the most ruthless criminal networks active in the EU and beyond. In 2019, estimated smuggling price varied from €300 for a jet ski to €5 000 for a yacht. Authorities from source, transit and destination countries work to reinforce cooperation and disrupt this highly life-threatening criminal activity. JOT Mare annual meeting provided a platform to strengthen and deepen cooperation by the exchange of best practices and experience in the fight against migrant smuggling.

A particular emphasis was put on the cooperation with African countries. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – Regional Office for West Africa highlighted the challenges and opportunities in cooperation with countries in the region.
World Drug Report 2019 is now available online

One of the key tasks of UNODC is to produce and disseminate accurate statistics on drugs, crime and criminal justice at the international level. UNODC also works to strengthen national capacities to produce, disseminate and use drugs, crime and criminal justice statistics within the framework of official statistics. UNODC regularly updates statistical series on crime, criminal justice, drug trafficking and prices, drug production, and drug use. Data disseminated by UNODC are mainly sourced from national statistical systems. Data on drugs are submitted through the Annual Report Questionnaire (ARQ) and the Individual Drug Seizure (IDS) reports, while data on crime and criminal justice are supplied through the annual United Nations Survey on Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS). UNODC processes data to increase data comparability and to produce regional and global estimates.

Further information on statistical standards developed by UNODC in the field of crime, criminal justice and illicit drugs is available at: www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/statistics.html

WorldBorderSecurity.net

World Border Security Network (WorldBorderSecurity.net), a global network for agency officials at the borders.

The purpose of the network is to encourage and facilitate inter-agency co-operation and communication. Members of the network will be able to:

- communicate securely
- share information
- share documents
- share best practise
- view past presentations
- keep up-to-date with the latest technology developments
- share training opportunities
- and more...

WorldBorderSecurity.net is open to all World Border Security Congress government agency delegates past and present. Access is restricted to government and intergovernmental personnel; border, customs, immigration agency officials and specialist law enforcement officers.

Non-delegate agency officials will also be welcome but by member invitation only.
The annual gathering of the international border management and protection community will take place in the historic city of Athens, Greece on March 31st to 2nd April 2020.

Supported by the Ministry of Citizen Protection & KEMEA (Center for Security Studies under the Ministry of Citizen Protection), the World Border Security Congress is delighted to be positioned in the heart of some of the most recent migration challenges.

Recent years has seen unprecedented crisis on a global scale, from the Middle East warring factions creating mass refugee movements across Europe, illegal economic migrants from Africa and Asia have created increasing challenges for the international border management and security community.

2019/20 is expected to see a continuation of the migration challenges for the border management and security community, as little sign of peace and security in the Middle East is apparent.
International organised criminal gangs and human and drug trafficking groups exploit opportunities and increasingly use the internet and technology to enhance their activities.

Controlling and managing international borders in the 21st Century continues to challenge the border control and immigration agencies around the world. It is generally agreed that in a globalised world borders should be as open as possible, but threats continue to remain in ever evolving circumstances and situations.

Advancements in technology are assisting in the battle to maintain safe and secure international travel. The border security professional still remains the front line against these threats.

The World Border Security Congress is a high level 3 day event that will discuss and debate current and future policies, implementation issues and challenges as well as new and developing technologies that contribute towards safe and secure border and migration management.

We need to continue the discussion, collaboration and intelligence sharing.

The World Border Security Congress is the premier multi-jurisdictional transnational platform where the border protection, management and security industry policy-makers and practitioners convene to discuss the international challenges faced in protecting borders.

Supported by the Organization for Security & Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Association of Airport and Seaport Police (EAASP), the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU-ECOSOCC), National Security & Resilience Consortium, International Security Industry Organisation and International Association of CIP Professionals, the World Border Security Congress remains the premier multi-jurisdictional global platform where the international border management and protection policy makers and practitioners and community gathers to share views, thoughts and challenges.

As well as the 3 day main congress agenda, the event will also have a series of Closed Agency Only Workshops and opportunities for delegates to visit Athens International Airport of Piraeus Seaport during the Site Visits being hosted. Great opportunities to gain insights into how operational and technological aspects combine for successful border security, migration and cargo management.

Register your interest to attend the event at www.world-border-congress.com/registration.

We look forward to welcoming you to Athens, Greece on March 31st-2nd April 2020.

Further details can be viewed at www.world-border-congress.com
Closed Agency Workshops

FOR BORDER AGENCIES, AGENCIES AT THE BORDER AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ONLY

The World Border Security Congress aims to promote collaboration, inter-agency cooperation and information/intelligence sharing amongst border agencies and agencies at the border to better engage and tackle the increasing threats and cross border security challenges that pertain to today’s global environment.

Border agencies and agencies at the border can benefit from the ‘Closed Agency Only Workshops’, hosted by the Ministry of Citizen Protection, Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and International Organization for Migration (IOM) with a series of behind closed door discussion and working group opportunities.

This years Closed Agency Only Workshop topics are:

Challenges of Inter-Agency And International Information Sharing
Chair: Senior Representative, Ministry of Citizen Protection
Legacy information systems, lack of trust, lack of sharing mechanisms, lack of a designated international agency all contribute to a lack of information sharing. Integrated Border Management (IBM) is based on the premise that agencies and the international community need to work together to achieve common aims that benefit all parties. Information sharing becomes increasingly effective as border management agencies gather, collate and share more data, but how is this to be achieved.

Disrupting People Trafficking Routes
Chair: International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Human trafficking is one of the largest criminal enterprises in the world. It is a multi-billion dollar criminal business on a global scale. This is because human trafficking is a high profit, low risk enterprise that is also a low priority for most law enforcement agencies, meaning apprehension of perpetrators is low and sentences are often minimal compared that of major crimes. What can be done to disrupt trafficking routes and gangs?

Biometrics - next steps
Chair: Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
Biometrics are here to stay and are an increasingly valuable tool in making borders secure. But what are the next steps and developments and implementation in biometric technology and how biometrics is lawfully used to help on the border, considering aspects such as GDPR and travel document security.

Register online at www.world-border-congress.com/agency-reg

ARICAN UNION ECOSOCC WORKSHOP
MIGRATION - CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN AFRICA
Tuesday 31st March 2019 : 9.30am - 12:30pm

The Social Affairs and Health Cluster Committee in conjunction with Committee on Political Affairs of the AU-ECOSOCC, will be hosting a Workshop on the margins of the Congress to understudy the situation and proffer necessary solutions that will address the issues of Migration in Africa.

Africa is continuously losing its young, vibrant human resources and future through irregular migration, leading through the path of death to Europe and other developed Nations. This has continued to lead to loss of thousands of lives, brain drain and depletion of Africa’s human resources.

The situation has become a global topical issue with Africa at the receiving end. We believe that the time has come for us to look inwards. The Workshop therefore is expected to identify the root causes, share experience with local and international development partners and civil society organizations with a view to curbing irregular migration of African youths and even families to Europe.

The Side Event with the theme “Migration - Creating Opportunities for Young People In Africa” will be highly interactive with Keynote presentations, Panel discussions centered on a meaningful dialogue among participants and stakeholders.

Delegates of the World Border Security Congress are entitled to participate in the AU-ECOSOCC Workshop “Migration - Creating Opportunities for Young People In Africa”.

Register online at www.world-border-congress.com
CONGRESS PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 31ST MARCH

1:30pm - 2:00pm  MINISTERIAL OPENING AND WELCOME

2:15pm - 3:30pm  OPENING KEYNOTE
Chief of Greek National Police
Chief of Hellenic Coast Guard
TBC

4:00pm - 5:30pm  PLENARY SESSION - THE LATEST THREATS AND CHALLENGES AT THE BORDER
With the final collapse of the so-called IS Caliphate, returning foreign fighters are a particular challenge for the next few years, but mass migration, transiting terrorists, cross border organised crime, human trafficking, small arms, weapons of mass destruction and drug smuggling will continue to be areas of major concern for the global border community.

Latest threats and challenges in the Central Asia
Senior Representative, Tajik Border Troops, Tajikistan

Insider Threats at Ports
Peter Nilsson, Head of Airpol
Wayne Salzgaber, Director, INTERPOL Washington
Senior Representative, European Migrant Smuggling Centre, EUROPOL
Det. Supt Dave McGillicuddy, SIO Lead for Foreign Terrorist Fighters, UK Met Police

WEDNESDAY 1ST APRIL

9:00am - 10:30am  PLENARY SESSION - CONTINUING EFFORTS AGAINST FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS, IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING
How we deal with foreign terrorist fighters, irregular migration and human trafficking are inextricably linked. Because it is through clandestine trafficking networks that foreign fighters will attempt to return to their countries of origin or to other destinations. They may also attempt to return through conventional travel networks by the use of forged or lookalike documents. Or they may hide among genuine refugees as we have already seen. These experienced fighters pose a real threat to their communities. API and PNR are part of the answer but what else can we do to meet this challenge?

Strengthening National Referral Mechanisms to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings
Tatiana Kotlyarenko, Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues, OSCE

The use of API/PNR data to fight trafficking in Human Beings and people smuggling
James Garcia, Assistant Director, Cargo & Biometrics – Global Targeting Advisory Division National Targeting Center - U.S. Customs and Border Protection & Valdecy Urquiza, Assistant Director - Vulnerable Communities - INTERPOL General Secretariat

Gerald Tatzgern, Head of Joint Operational Office, Public Security Austria
Khalid Zerouali, Director General, General Directorate for Border Surveillance & Migration, Morocco*

Johan Kruger, Head of Transnational Organised Crime, Illicit Trafficking & Terrorism Programmes for Eastern Africa, UNODC*

Vincenzo Tagliaferri, Head of Mission, EUBAM Libya*

9.15am - 10.30am  TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP
See some of the latest border tech solutions demonstrated and discussed during the Technology Workshop.

The Future of Automated Border Control: Making an Informed Decision
Christopher Gilliland, Director, Innovative Travel Solutions, Vancouver Airport Authority

Future Technologies for Improving Border Security
Radu Pop, Head of Sales, Infrastructure and Frontier Security Solutions, Airbus Defence & Space & Michael Edwards, Director of Business Development & Technical Sales eGovernment, Veridos GmbH
TBC
11:15AM - 12:30PM  WORKSHOPS

**BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING IN BORDER AND MIGRATION MANAGEMENT**

Enhancing capacity and migration management through improved technical support and knowledge; administrative ability; promoting mechanisms for co-operation and the exchange of expertise between migration management personnel and the strengthening the monitoring and oversight.  
Nélson Goncalves, Immigration and Border Management Training Specialist, International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
Andy Palmer, Border Security Manager, Gatwick Airport  
Global Border Security and Management (BSM) Programme - Senior Representative, UNCT

**CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - CHALLENGES OF INTER-AGENCY AND INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION SHARING**

Chair: Ministry of Citizen Protection, Greece  
Legacy information systems, lack of trust, lack of sharing mechanisms, lack of a designated international agency all contribute to a lack of information sharing. Integrated Border Management (IBM) is based on the premise that agencies and the international community need to work together to achieve common aims that benefit all parties. Information sharing becomes increasingly effective as border management agencies gather, collate and share more data, but how is this to be achieved.  
BSRBCC - A model for long term cross-border cooperation - Hans Peter Wagner, National Expert, Senior Chief Inspector, Federal Police  
Senior Representative, EUROPOL  
Delimitation and demarcation of state boundaries as a significant element of improving border security and cooperation between neighbors with a focus on the Balkans, the current situation and challenges - Mile Milenkoski, Senior adviser, Department for borders, passports and overflights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of North Macedonia  
Trade Facilitation and National Security: The Need for Border Coordination and Cooperation - Sanusi Tasiu Saulawa, Deputy Superintendent, Nigeria Customs

2:00PM - 3:30PM  PLERIARY SESSION - SECURING THE LITTORAL BORDER: UNDERSTANDING THREATS AND CHALLENGES FOR MARITIME BORDERS  
Our coastline borders present huge security challenges for the border community. With dramatically varied terrain from mountains and cliffs to beaches and swamps. Tens of thousands of kilometers of extended coastline with multiple lonely bays, Inlets, estuaries and Islands that can all be exploited by terrorists, illegal migrants, drug and arms smugglers, human traffickers and organised crime. How do we secure this complex and challenging environment?  
Rear Admiral Mohammed Ashraful Haque, Director General, Bangladesh Coast Guard Force  
Jim Nye, Assistant Chief Constable - Innovation, Contact & Demand & NPCC Maritime Lead, Devon & Cornwall Police, UK  
Rear Admiral Enrico Credendino, Italian Navy EUNAVFORMED  
Senior Representative, Hellenic Coast Guard  
Rear Admiral Samantha Wimalathunga, Director General, Sri Lanka Coast Guard

2.15PM - 3.30PM  TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP  
See some of the latest border tech solutions demonstrated and discussed during the Technology Workshop.  
Mobile Biometrics: Revolutionizing Border Security and Efficiency - David Gerulski, Senior Vice President, Global Sales & Marketing, Integrated Biometrics  
Smart Borders start with AI-powered solutions - Senior Representative, Cellebrite  
Addressing the challenge of land and sea borders - Nicholas Phan, Market Manager Border Control and Passenger Flow Facilitation, IDEMIA  
Now Is The Time For The Right Kind of RADAR At Borders - Senior Representative, Blighter Surveillance Systems

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.WORLD-BORDER-Congress.COM
Breakout Session - Pre-Travel Risk Assessment and Trusted Travellers

With a plethora of trusted traveller programs around the world, how can we make legitimate travel more seamless? Is it possible to provide better connectivity between programs? How can API/PNR play a role on pre-travel risk assessment.

Europe Travel Information & Authorisation System (ETIAS)
Olivier Onidi, Deputy Director General, Directorate General for Migration & Home Affairs, European Commission

EU’s Entry-Exit System (EES) - Borders Are Fixed But Identification Must Be Mobile
Rein Süld, Program Manager, Information Technology & Development Center, SMIT (Estonian Ministry of the Interior)

Integrated identification process: The case of Germany
Heiko Werner, Head of Security Group, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany

John P. Wagner, Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner Office of Field Operations U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Thursday 2nd April

9:00am - 10:30am  Plenary Session - The developing role of biometrics in identity management & document fraud

Formal identification is a prerequisite for effective border control. Document fraud has become an enabler of terrorism and organised crime and is linked to the trafficking of human beings and migrant smuggling. Facial recognition, fingerprinting and iris scan are now maturing technologies with increasing accuracy and performance. What is the developing and future role of biometrics in managing identity and our borders, and how are associated technologies best utilised to bridge the gap and underdocumentation, so widespread in the developing world?

The Malpensa e-Gates Project - A user perspective on e-Gates security and usability at the Malpensa Airport
Jan Loebschner, Scientific Officer, European Commission - Joint Research Centre

Biometrics on the Move and SEF Mobile
Hello Freixedal, IT Expert – Smart Borders PT Project manager, Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service
Aliyu Aziz, Director General/CEO, National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), Nigeria*
Dr. Michiel Van Der Veen, Director, Innovation & Development, National Office for Identity Data, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, The Netherlands*

9.15am - 10.30am  AIRPOL Workshop - Insider Threat - Setting up an Insider Mitigation Program

A step-by-step discussion to setting up an insider mitigation program, including risk assessment/vulnerabilities according to the AIRPOL model and what co-operation is required when setting up the insider mitigation program.

Host: Peter Nilsson, Head of AIRPOL
**Breakout Workshop - Smuggling & Trade in Illicit Goods, Antiquities and Endangered Species**

The global trade in endangered species, over 1.5 million transactions per year, will drive some species to extinction if the trade is not stopped. The cultural damage inflicted by the global trade in antiquities, valued over $20 billion, cannot be quantified but is all too easily understood. So, what can the border community do to stem the flow and illegal trade of illicit goods, antiquities and endangered species?

**Chair:** Orfeas-Konstantinos Sotiriou

**Trafficking of Underwater Cultural Heritage** - Peter Campbell, Assistant Director: British School at Rome

**Internet and Dark Web in Antiquities Smuggling Phenomenon** - Vassiliki Simi, MSc of Laws, International Law and Legal Studies, National School for Public Administration and Local Government student


**Education and Cultural Heritage Protection: Law Enforcement and Specialized Seminars** - Angeliki Aloupi, Director of the Committee of Prevention and Management of Social Exclusion - Hellenic Community for Behavior Analysis

Goran Stojkovski, Customs Advisor, OSCE

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**Closed Agency Workshop - Biometrics - Next Steps**

Biometrics are here to stay and are an increasingly valuable tool in making borders secure. But what are the next steps and developments and implementation in biometric technology and how biometrics is lawfully used to help on the border, considering aspects such as GDPR and travel document security.

**Chair:** Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Glen Wimbury, Technology & Innovation Lead, Future Borders, Border Force UK*

Guenter Schumacher, Researcher, European Commission, ec · Joint Research Centre (JRC)*

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**Plenary Session - The Future Trends and Approach to Alternatives for Securing Borders**

Brexit, the US/Mexico Wall, Greek/Turkish borders are forcing the debate about future border developments. But could any or all of them really supply the blue print for the future of borders for land, sea and air? Has Integrated Border Management (IBM) proven successful? What’s the latest thought leadership in enhancing border protection and management to counter the ever changing challenges?

**Senior Representative, Center for Security Studies (KEMEA), Greece**

**The Role of Gender Equality in BSM**

Inesa Nicolaescu, Associate Border Security Officer, OSCE

**Health and Humanitarian border management programs**

Sophie Hoffmann, Deputy Programme Manager IBM, IOM / Immigration and Border management unit, Niger

**Use of Technology for Security and Development of South Asian Borders**

Manoj Kumar, Second in Command, Indian Border Security Force

**Strengthening Trust and Cooperation at the Eastern Border of the EU. Current and Future trends in the EU Border Management**

Rimutis Klevečka, Ambassador, Special Envoy for Border Management, Lithuania

**Achieving Effective Border Security in Nigeria: A Sustainable Social, Economic and Infrastructural Development Approach**

Captain Junaid Abdullahi, Executive Secretary, Border Communities Development Agency, Nigeria

**Non-governmental participation in integrated border management**

Iryna Sushko, Executive Director, Europe Without Borders

**The Developing Role of AI in Migration and Border Security**

Zsuzsanna Felkai Janssen, Head of Sector for Migration and DG Coordinator for Artificial Intelligence at European Commission*

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**Congress Round Up and Close**

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.WORLD-BORDER-Congress.com
Site Visits to Port of Piraeus / Athens International Airport

Tuesday 31st March – 8.30am-12noon

Port of Piraeus

Athens International Airport

The Port of Piraeus is the chief sea port of Piraeus, Greece, situated upon the Saronic Gulf on the western coasts of the Aegean Sea, the largest port in Greece and one of the largest in Europe. With about 18.6 million passengers Piraeus was the busiest passenger port in Europe in 2014. Since its privatization in 2009 the port’s container handling has grown rapidly. According to Lloyd’s list for top 100 container ports in 2015 Piraeus ranked 8th in Europe. Piraeus handled 4.9 million twenty-foot equivalent unit containers (TEU’s) in 2018, an increase of 19.4% compared with 2017 climbing to the number two position of all Mediterranean ports.

Athens International Airport is the largest international airport in Greece, serving the city of Athens and region of Attica. It began operation on March 2001 and is the main base of Aegean Airlines, as well as other smaller Greek airlines. Athens International is currently the 27th-busiest airport in Europe. The airport currently has two terminals, the main terminal and the satellite terminal accessible by an underground link from the main terminal. It is designed to be extended in a modular approach over the ensuing years in order to accommodate increases in air travel. These extensions are planned in a six-phase framework. The first (and current) phase allows the airport to accommodate 26 million passengers per year. In 2004, it was declared European airport of the year.

Spaces are limited so ensure you book your place on the site tour early at www.world-border-congress.com
Veridos modernises Cyprus passport personalisation system

The Civil Registry and Migration Department of the Ministry of Interior of Cyprus has commissioned Veridos to modernise its nationwide system for biometric data collection, centralized personalization, and issuance of electronic passports, ID cards, and residence permits.

Veridos has been awarded a contract in Cyprus to refurbish and maintain the nationwide system for biometric data collection, centralized personalization and issuance of electronic passports, electronic ID cards, and electronic residence permit cards, and to replace critical hardware and software components of the system that have reached the end of their lifecycle with state-of-the-art new components. As part of the project, the documents will also be adapted to current EU regulations and equipped with new security features. It is planned that the Cypriot authorities will issue the new generation of documents from spring 2020 onwards.

Veridos will support the system infrastructure with maintenance and services and supply Cyprus with electronic passports, ID cards and residence permit cards for the next three to five years. The system for biometric data collection, central personalisation, and issuance of electronic documents in Cyprus was implemented by the German Bundesdruckerei in 2010. At the inception of Veridos, a joint venture between the German Bundesdruckerei and the security group Giesecke+Devrient (G+D) in 2015, the Bundesdruckerei’s international eGovernment business was transferred to Veridos. For this reason, the follow-up contract for system maintenance and modernisation has now been concluded between Cyprus and Veridos.

Rapiscan System’s RTT 110 Explosive Detection Systems tested by ECAC

Rapiscan System’s RTT 110 Explosive Detection Systems (EDS) has been tested by the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) and achieved the ECAC 3.1 performance standard. This is currently the highest testing standard used by ECAC for EDS systems in Europe.

The RTT 110 is an advanced-technology system that is already in use in airports and air cargo screening facilities around the world. Customers choose the RTT 110 to improve the speed, efficiency and effectiveness of their hold baggage and air cargo screening operations.
JENETRIC has announced a strategic global partnership with the Laxton Group

This cooperation was formed to address the ever-growing demand for integrated, multi-modal biometric tablets including first-class fingerprint scanners.

JENETRIC emphasizes the most compact LIVETOUCH QUATTRO Compact as an integral part of the Laxton Chameleon 8 Slap+. Being FBI Appendix F certified for both ID Flats and tenprint fingerprint acquisitions, and on top as the only BSI certified compact tenprint device, the scanner is suitable for 1:N identifications that are based on ID flats only. Thanks to a large FAP level 60 sized capture surface, four fingers flat can now be captured straight without the need for rotation or the risk of missing a finger. What sets the LIVETOUCH QUATTRO Compact apart from its competition even more, is its lowest weight and power consumption.

“This necessary and exciting addition to the Chameleon 8 range is perfectly suited for the European Entry Exit System and its mobile border control and verification applications.” says Nick Perkins, President of EMEA for the Laxton Group.

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Building Trust and Co-operation through Discussion and Dialogue

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Greece lies at the crossroads of East and West, Europe and the Middle East. It lies directly opposite Libya so along with Italy is the primary destination for migrants coming from that conflict zone and is a short boat trip from Turkey, the other principal migrant route for Syrians fleeing there conflict there.

Greece has over sixteen thousand kilometres of coastline and six thousand islands, only two hundred and twenty-seven of which are inhabited. The islands alone have 7,500 km of coastline and are spread mainly through the Aegean and the Ionian Seas, making maritime security incredibly challenging.

The sheer scale of the migrant crisis in late 2015 early 2016 had a devasting impact on Greek finances and its principle industry, tourism. All this in the aftermath of the financial crisis in 2009. Despite this, both Greece and Italy, largely left to handle the crisis on their own, managed the crisis with commendable determination and humanity.

With their experience of being in the frontline of the migration crisis, Greece is the perfect place re-convene for the next meeting of the World Border Security Congress.

The World Border Security Congress is a high level 3 day event that will discuss and debate current and future policies, implementation issues and challenges as well as new and developing technologies that contribute towards safe and secure border and migration management.

The World Border Security Congress Committee invite you to join the international border security and management community and Apply for your Delegate Pass at www.world-border-congress.com.

We look forward to welcoming you to Athens, Greece on March 31st-2nd April 2020 for the next gathering of border and migration management professionals.

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