

BORDER SECURITY REPORT

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POLICY-MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS



COVER STORY

**DHS STRATEGY TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING,
THE IMPORTATION OF GOODS PRODUCED WITH
FORCED LABOUR, AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

SPECIAL REPORT



US CBP to Assess
Collection of DNA Samples
p.9

AGENCY NEWS



A global review of the
latest news and challenges
from border agencies and
agencies at the border. p.26

SHORT REPORT



UNODC delivers
sophisticated analyzers of
drugs to Antinarcotics Police
laboratories p.35

INDUSTRY NEWS



Latest news, views and
innovations from the
industry. p.46

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Border Security Report is a bi-monthly electronic magazine and is the border management industry magazine delivering agency and industry news and developments, as well as more in-depth features and analysis to over 20,000 border agencies, agencies at the borders and industry professionals, policymakers and practitioners, worldwide.



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How prepared is the border community for a global pandemic?

On the 31 December 2019, World Health Organisation was alerted to several cases of pneumonia in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. The virus did not match any other known virus.

One week later, on the 7 January, Chinese authorities confirmed that they had identified the new virus as a form of coronavirus.

On Jan. 22 China suspended plane, train and bus travel to Wuhan, a city of 11 million people in central China where the virus was first detected.

More recently China has taken even more dramatic steps to contain the virus by placing a total of 17 cities with more than 50 million people on lockdown.

Clearly this is a massive step and indicates how seriously China is taking the potential threat that the virus poses.

Given that the incubation for the known Coronavirus is up to 14 days, that gives us a period between the 17th December to the 22nd January when the virus could have spread beyond Wuhan.

The big question for the rest of us is, how many people travelled to and from Wuhan, where are they now, how do we trace them and how many are infected?

This puts the border community on the frontline in the fight against the Coronavirus and any future pandemic.

We have some existing tools available, such as visa applications, Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS) and Passenger Name Record (PNR).

But these are currently inadequate. Why?

Visa applications are only for travelling citizens that require them.

APIS only requires, name, date of birth, nationality, country of residence, travel document type and number. Only in the US is an address of the first night spent required, which in this scenario is invaluable.

PNR is the only system that contains the itinerary for a passenger. But if that traveller has any form of broken travel or books one leg via another agency, then the trail is lost.

However, probably the biggest problem is that these systems are not universally adopted, and information is only shared through bilateral agreements between a limited number of countries; primarily because of privacy concerns.

Let us hope that this outbreak of Coronavirus is soon contained before too many people suffer.

But as a pandemic is probably the most immediate existential threat to mankind, so some sort of mandatory hybrid of the available systems that contains the itinerary for the whole journey is in everyone's interest.

Tony Kingham
Editor

CONTENTS

BORDER SECURITY REPORT



4 ASYLUM SEEKERS EXTORTED - MEN SENTENCED FOR SCHEME TARGETING NEW IMMIGRANTS

FBI pieces together evidence against gang extorting asylum seekers.

5 DHS DOCUMENT STRATEGY

DHS highlight their plans to Combat Human Trafficking, The Importation of Goods Produced with Forced Labour, and Child Sexual Exploitation.

12 AGENCY REPORTS

Latest news and reports reports from key agencies INTERPOL, OSCE, EUROPOL and the IOM.



18 SCHENGEN ENTRY/EXIT SYSTEM MEANS MORE SECURE BORDERS

Paul F. Jacinto of Vision-Box explores the challenge of border operations for the Schengen Area.



24 AGENCY NEWS

A global review of the latest news, views, stories, challenges and issues from border agencies and agencies at the border.

28 DRIVERS OF CHANGE IN MARITIME – PORTS AND CYBER SECURITY

Anu Khurmi of Templar Executives investigates the importance of Cyber Security at our ports.



38 WORLD BORDER SECURITY CONGRESS

A look at the annual international border security gathering being hosted in Athens, Greece on March 31st-2nd April 2020.

46 INDUSTRY NEWS

Latest news, views and innovations from the industry.

Asylum Seekers Extorted - Men Sentenced for Scheme Targeting New Immigrants



It was easy for the criminals to spot their targets as buses offloaded passengers into the din of New York City's Port Authority bus terminal. The men looked for people who had recently entered the United States to seek asylum—distinguishable by the monitoring bands on their ankles or the immigration paperwork they held in their hands.

Francisco Betancourt, Pascual Rodriguez, or Lucilo Cabrera would then move in on these vulnerable individuals. Rodriguez sometimes claimed to be an immigration official; the others claimed to be helpful strangers. In all events, the men would extort money from these newcomers by making up fees or forcing them to accept unnecessary services.

Many of the victims were sent on harrowing, hours-long car rides and were held until their family members could scrape together enough money to pay an exorbitant fare—often more than \$1,000.

"They knew they were able to take advantage of these victims," said Assistant U.S. Attorney Vanessa Richards, who prosecuted the case for the District of Connecticut. She explained that because the victims were hoping to have their petitions for asylum or entry into the country accepted, there was tremendous fear that any interaction with law enforcement put them at risk. So the perpetrators "knew their victims would not call the police," she said.

The crimes were only uncovered because one individual reached out to police after being victimized by Betancourt and Cabrera and hearing about another new immigrant experiencing the same scheme years later. "This brave woman came forward to tell us: 'I think something really bad is happening here, and it's been going on for a long time,'" Richards said.

That person's tip and the subsequent investigation led to the arrests and convictions of Betancourt, Rodriguez, and Cabrera, as well as one of the drivers, Carlos Hernandez.

Each was sentenced to serve between eight and 14 years in prison for kidnapping and extortion in a scheme they had been running for years.

The court paperwork told the chilling story of one woman from Honduras who, with her two small children, entered the U.S. at the Texas border and applied for asylum. Immigration authorities gave her permission to travel to Connecticut to stay with her sister until her asylum hearing.

When she arrived in New York City to board a connecting bus to Connecticut, Betancourt approached her and insisted there was no bus to Connecticut, but that he would help her. He then took her bus ticket, grabbed the arm of her small son, and asked for the phone number of a family member.

Betancourt called the victim's sister and said the victim and her children had ended up in upstate New York, not New York City, and no bus to Connecticut was available. He would put them in a taxi for about \$3 per mile, he told the sister. The victim's sister explained that she didn't have money for a taxi ride. She pleaded with Betancourt to tell her where her sister and the children were so she could drive to get them. Betancourt hung up on her.

The victim and her children were then brought by subway to Hernandez's waiting car. Hernandez took the woman's immigration paperwork and identification and drove the family slowly to Connecticut. He ultimately demanded \$900 from the victims' family members to drop her at an agreed upon meeting place.

After the family was only able to pay him \$700, Hernandez locked himself inside the car with the victim's older child and insisted the family pay another \$100 to free the child and reclaim the victim's immigration paperwork. The family was forced to go with Hernandez to an ATM to withdraw the additional \$100.

Despite their fears about speaking to FBI agents about what they had been through, a number of victims provided details and identified the perpetrators. Wagner said that cell phone data was also instrumental in proving the case. After applying for warrants to view the suspects' cell phone records, investigators could see an incriminating pattern of regular calls and text messages among the co-conspirators and then a cluster of phone calls to their victims' family members on a single day.

Additional evidence, such as surveillance photos from ATMs and banks, helped solidify the case.

DHS STRATEGY TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING, THE IMPORTATION OF GOODS PRODUCED WITH FORCED LABOUR, AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

"The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is committed to upholding the law and preventing illicit activity from harming American interests. As part of the homeland security mission, DHS enforces trade, travel, and victim protection laws to combat criminal activity, including human trafficking, the importation of goods produced with forced labor, and child sexual exploitation. These heinous crimes have no place in our society, and we are leveraging the Department's authorities to eliminate such inhumane activity."

Chad F. Wolf, Acting Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Human trafficking is and will remain a top priority for the international border community and this month the US DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY produced a document "STRATEGY TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING, THE IMPORTATION OF GOODS PRODUCED WITH FORCED LABOR, AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION"

Whilst much of this strategy document deals with internal DHS initiatives, priorities and actions, US policy inevitably has an impact on its international partners.

So, your convenience we have selected those parts of the strategy document that apply most directly to the border community.

DISRUPT AND DISMANTLE CRIMINAL NETWORKS ENGAGED IN HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

DHS's investigative authorities derive from immigration and customs laws, including the authorities to administer U.S. border security, giving DHS investigators a comparative advantage over other investigative agencies in



investigating transnational threats.

Human trafficking and child sexual exploitation are often perpetuated by transnational organized crime networks, a priority target for the DHS and the U.S. Government.

At the borders, DHS screens air, land, and maritime travelers and cargo for human trafficking and child sexual exploitation victims and for goods produced with forced labor at ports of entry, while patrolling along our border and coasts to prevent unlawful entry into the United States.

DHS also conducts extensive investigations within the United States to prevent abuse of our immigration system and eliminate illicit activity.

Priority Actions:

Develop Strategic Threat Assessments on Human Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation.

DHS will gather intelligence

and conduct thorough strategic analysis on the threat from human trafficking and from child sexual exploitation. These assessments will inform policy and operational priorities. They will also include analysis of the associated financial crimes and some estimation of the prevalence of the demand from purchasers and consumers of this illicit activity. Develop Actionable Intelligence to Support Operations and Investigations.

DHS will enhance tactical and operational reporting related to transnational criminal organizations engaged in human trafficking in the various DHS land, air, and sea domains.

DHS will proactively use financial intelligence to identify human trafficking and child sexual exploitation and subsequent investigations will identify and seize assets, monies, and proceeds derived from or used in support of these illicit activities. Regional

and local efforts to combat human trafficking will focus on select typologies of the crime assessed as more predominant for the area. Improve Information Sharing.

DHS, in collaboration with our law enforcement partners, will develop law enforcement data standards and recommendations for leveraging existing functions on the Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) to improve human trafficking and child exploitation investigations. This effort will also assess the need for federated searches across various overlapping investigative platforms.

DHS will also pursue localized, small group data sharing agreements relevant to the prevalence of certain types of human trafficking in an area. Additionally, DHS will work with interagency stakeholders to enable state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement targets to be nominated to the U.S. Government's Transnational Organized Crime Watchlist. Enhance Data Management and Analysis.

DHS will create or leverage an online repository for indicators and signatures of human trafficking, including indicators of suspicious financial activity, and another for information on buyers, both made accessible to all U.S. law enforcement.

DHS will also examine the possibility of developing a platform for managing, processing, and displaying information discovered

in connection to a case while maintaining appropriate protections for civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy. Invest in Technology Automating Time-Intensive Investigative Efforts.

DHS will consider investing in technology-based solutions to enhance the speed and accuracy of identifying victims and conducting investigations, such as technology to support reviewing or monitoring call records, financial records, surveillance video, jail calls, and online forums. Investing in technology used to more quickly and effectively identify victims in child sexual abuse material will remain a top priority.

Implement Advanced Training for Investigators

DHS will implement accessible, advanced training that supports a holistic approach to combating these threats. Critical advanced training includes training on cultural competencies and interpreter use, device forensics, online investigations, financial investigations, and other advanced investigative techniques. Advanced training also includes exercises wherever possible to enhance learning and will be made available digitally to law enforcement across the country as often as possible. DHS will encourage increased participation of women in advanced training. DHS will also support partners' effective advanced training programs, such as the Anti-Trafficking Coordination Team (ACTeam) Initiative and



U.S.- Mexico Bilateral Human Trafficking Enforcement Initiatives. Support Human Trafficking Task Forces. DHS will increase Department-wide expertise, participation, and support for human trafficking task forces throughout the United States and ensure DHS participants in task forces nationwide have mechanisms to share promising practices. Integrate Human Trafficking Investigations into DHS Law Enforcement Functions. DHS will encourage law enforcement personnel throughout the Department to consider evidence of human trafficking, particularly labor trafficking, during their execution of routine law enforcement functions, such as worksite enforcement actions or border security investigations, and refer those cases for investigation prior to removal. Deny Admissibility to Human Traffickers and Child Sex Offenders. DHS will prioritize the removal of convicted or wanted human traffickers and child sex offenders. Attorneys who litigate removal proceedings against human traffickers will receive

increased training and technical assistance. DHS will assess and implement safeguards when screening applicants for immigration benefits to deny convicted human traffickers and child sex offenders admission to the United States.

Interdict The Importation Of Goods Produced With Forced Labor

DHS is the primary federal agency responsible for enforcing civil and criminal laws to disrupt and dismantle the importation of goods produced with forced labor. DHS is streamlining trade policies and procedures and ensuring trade partners and industry understand the threat from this illicit activity.

The Department inspects imports for signs of goods produced through forced labor, investigates suspicious trade activity, issues notices to detain or seize particular goods at our ports, and pursues criminal prosecutions against individuals and companies involved in the importation of those prohibited goods.



Industry's support and collaboration is essential to compliance. If industry views violating law and regulation as a cost of doing business, then those laws and regulations prohibiting forced labor have not achieved their goal of preventing the heinous activity from occurring.

DHS should support industry in taking proactive measures to prevent and eliminate human trafficking in their supply chains. While several countries may have regulatory restrictions on the importation of goods produced with forced labor, forced child labor, prison labor, or slave labor, no other nation has civil and criminal penalties associated with importation.

This lack of criminal designation in partner nations can undermine our ability to interdict these shipments, as shippers can recall goods seized at our ports before attempting to re-import the goods following trans-shipment.

DHS is working to strengthen international, interagency, and

non-governmental coordination to interdict illicit goods in our supply chains.

Priority Actions:

Increase Investigative and Enforcement Capacity. DHS will expand its capacity to assess civil penalties and pursue criminal prosecutions against U.S. importers for violations of forced labor authorities. To strengthen overall enforcement, DHS will consider streamlining regulatory frameworks guiding the process for forced labor enforcement actions. DHS will also coordinate, consolidate, and publicize allegation and intake reporting channels and other information to ensure quality, actionable leads, gain information for ongoing cases, and verify forced labor allegations. Improve Education and Outreach to Industry Partners. DHS will educate industry on the threat of goods produced with forced labor destined for U.S. importation and improve trade alert reporting, due diligence policies, and compliance assistance tools. Encourage International Partners

to Adopt Reciprocal Safeguards. DHS will raise awareness among foreign partners of U.S. trade laws, limitations, and innovations, encourage international adoption and enforcement of reciprocal safeguards that combat forced labor, and obtain agreements to support investigation and verification of forced labor allegations. DHS will also work with international partners in the process of adopting the prohibition on a two-way system for issuing trade alerts when enforcement actions go into effect.

Partner with Foreign Governments to Combat Transnational Child Sexual Abuse and Human Trafficking

DHS will work with foreign governments, particularly those with a high volume of travel to the United States, to receive notifications when their known sex offenders seek to travel to or gain an immigration benefit in the United States, leveraging existing agreements, arrangements, and processes where possible. Generally, DHS will identify primary source and transit countries of human trafficking and child exploitation and take appropriate action to incentivize countries to improve.

The report concludes: The strategy's goals and the accompanying objectives are intended to coordinate and improve our efforts to eliminate human trafficking and child sexual exploitation. Within 180 days of issuing this strategy, DHS will



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develop an implementation plan that includes specific deliverables, timelines, and metrics for key results. DHS will assess implementation of this strategy's goals and objectives on a routine basis and report progress to the Secretary. With each step of implementation, this strategy will strengthen the security of the border, travel, immigration, and customs systems, as well as assist communities in becoming more resilient to these illicit activities. DHS will lead the fight against this scourge, in collaboration with



our homeland security enterprise partners. Together, we will end these illicit activities and protect

targeted communities from further exploitation.

US CBP to Assess Collection of DNA Samples



U.S. Customs and Border Protection will initiate a limited, small-scale pilot program to assess the operational impact of proposed regulatory changes that would require the collection of DNA samples from certain individuals in CBP custody.

The U.S. Border Patrol will implement the pilot program in the Detroit Sector and the Eagle Pass Port of Entry in southwestern Texas.

During the 90-day pilot program, CBP will collect DNA samples from certain individuals held at both locations. For the U.S. Border Patrol, this will include individuals between the ages of 14-79 who are apprehended and processed within the Detroit Sector. For the Office of Field Operations, this will include individuals who present at the Eagle Pass Port of Entry for consideration of admissibility and are subject to

further detention or proceedings.

The pilot will assess the operational impact of a Department of Justice proposed amendment to the regulation that requires the collection of DNA samples from certain individuals and the submission of those samples to the FBI's Combined DNA Index System, also known as CODIS. The regulations apply to any individuals who are arrested, face charges or are convicted (including U.S. citizens and lawfully permanent residents), as well as to non-United States persons who are detained under the authority of the United States, including certain aliens in CBP custody.

The amendment proposed by the Department of Justice would remove a provision that authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to exempt from the DNA collection requirement certain aliens from whom the collection of DNA samples was previously not feasible because of operational exigencies and resource limitations. The amendment restores the Attorney General's plenary legal authority to authorize and direct all relevant federal agencies, including the Department of Homeland Security, to collect DNA samples from individuals who are arrested, facing charges, or convicted, and from non-United States person who are detained under the authority of the United States.

Disregard for human rights makes poor counter-terrorism policy, OSCE human rights head says

Eighteen years after the opening of the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) once more repeats its call for the closure of the camp and full compliance with international human rights standards, which are essential in order to counter terrorism effectively and sustainably.

“Terrorist threats are manifold across the OSCE, as well as in the many conflict regions beyond”, said ODIHR Director Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir. “But upholding human rights is not a matter of choice – it is a legal obligation. We have already learnt at a high cost that a lack of regard for international law does not increase security but undermines it, whatever the past track record of the country in which it occurs. At the same time, we must be clear that repeated violations of international human rights standards risk triggering further violence.”

Since opening on 11 January 2002, a total of 780 detainees have passed through the detention camp. Most of them were kept without charge or trial, while many inmates were

brought to Guantanamo from CIA ‘black sites’ around the world where they were secretly held and tortured.

Today, 40 people remain in the detention camp. Of these, five have been cleared for release since at least 2016, while 26 are being held indefinitely without charge or trial. Nine detainees are facing or have faced military trials, which have been criticized internationally for failing to comply with fair trial guarantees.

In its Report on the Human Rights Situation of Detainees at Guantanamo, ODIHR identified a number of serious human rights violations in connection with the operation of the camp and the treatment of detainees. On this basis, ODIHR has consistently advocated its closure and urged the US authorities to either bring the remaining detainees to trial in procedures that fully meet international standards, or free them without further delay. ODIHR has also called on the authorities to investigate all human rights violations committed there and ensure those responsible are brought to justice.

47 Arrests for Smuggling Moroccan Citizens to the EU



The British Royal Gibraltar Police and the Spanish National Police (Policía Nacional) supported by Europol, dismantled an organised criminal group smuggling migrants from Morocco to Europe.

The operation led to 47 arrests, house searches in Gibraltar and Spain and the seizure of €19 000 in cash, 12 smartphones, five cars and various documents. A total of 16 devices were successfully examined: six mobile phones, four media storage devices and six SIM cards.

The organised crime group, active in Morocco, Gibraltar and Spain, was facilitating the UK visa application procedure in

the British embassy in Rabat. Each migrant paid between €7 000 and €8 000 to the facilitators. The criminal organisation would have gained about €1 million from these illegal activities. Drivers, taxi drivers and staff to manage travel tickets – also part of the organisation – charged migrants an additional €100 to €200 on top of the €500 to €700 paid for secondary movements within the EU.

Once the visas were granted, the migrants arrived in Gibraltar by plane or ferry from Morocco. In Gibraltar they were picked up by members of the organised criminal group and driven to Spain, hidden in off-road vehicles with tinted windows. In Spain, the migrants were provided with temporary accommodation or bus tickets to travel to another part of Spain or cross over to other EU Member States.

Europol supported the investigation with intelligence analysis and facilitated the information exchange. Europol deployed a mobile office in Gibraltar and Spain to cross-check operational information against Europol’s databases. Additionally, forensic extractions of devices were carried out at Europol’s headquarters and the results were analysed by experts from Europol’s European Migrant Smuggling Centre.

Crime Gang Makes Over €2 Trafficking Illegal Steroids



An investigation by the Financial Police Division of Hellenic Police, the Central Office to fight Against Environmental and Public Health Crime (OCLAESP) and French Customs (Direction générale des douanes et droits indirects) with the support of experts from Europol resulted in the arrest of nine members in Greece and one in France of an organised crime group responsible for the production and trafficking of illegal anabolic substances and medicines around the world.

This particular organised crime group operated in several countries and had a meticulous internal structure. They produced, stored and trafficked illegal anabolic substances to improve athletic performance in competitions. The steroids were not without their side effects and the criminal gang made a profit from this too: trafficking and illegally trading pharmaceutical substances to mitigate the side effects of the anabolic steroids.

One of the arrested individuals played an important role in importing the anabolic substances and raw material from China and France to produce illegal steroids, which were then smuggled by the other members of the network. The investigations revealed that this criminal gang not only were involved in illegal activities in Greece but also in Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany and the United Kingdom as well as Canada, China, India, Turkey and the USA. The gang used courier companies to traffic the illegal anabolic steroids and abused financial institutions to take payments in cryptocurrencies. .

Dismantling an International Cocaine Trafficking Network

An international criminal group specialised in cocaine trafficking from South America to Europe through a company from Moldova, has been dismantled with authorities working together from Belgium and the Republic of Moldova, with the support of Europol.

The operation took place thanks to the consolidated efforts in carrying out special investigative measures and the criminal prosecution actions of a joint investigation group

formed by the General Police Inspectorate of Moldova, the Belgian Federal Judicial Police of East-Flanders and Europol.

At the beginning of December 2018, searches were carried out in parallel in Belgium and Moldova where evidence proving criminal activity was found.

In January 2019, 2 200 kg of cocaine were seized in Suriname which were also destined for Europe and was probably another cargo of the same criminal organisation.

DarkNet: 11 Arrested for Buying Counterfeit Euros

In December 2019 Europol coordinated joint raids against the sale of counterfeit euro banknotes on illegal platforms on the Darknet.

Law enforcement authorities from seven EU Member States carried out 36 house searches, detained 44 suspects for questioning, 11 of whom have been arrested, and seized counterfeit euro banknotes, drugs, weapons, doping substances, illegally procured medicines, forged documents and virtual currency. A clandestine documents print shop was also dismantled in Germany. Germany carried out 27 house searches and 9 other raids were done in Austria, France, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg and Spain.

These joint activities were triggered when the Portuguese

Judicial Police (Policía Judiciária) dismantled a digital print shop in July 2019. This Europol-supported operation led to the arrests of five individuals suspected of producing and distributing counterfeit 10 and 50 euro banknotes mainly via the Darknet. Over 26 000 fake banknotes were shipped to buyers all over Europe, making this criminal group the second-largest counterfeit currency producer operating on the Darknet to be identified so far. Europol analysed the information uncovered during the raid in Portugal and disseminated it to the affected countries, leading to buyers on the Darknet.



Firearms trafficking: joint operation exposes patterns and smuggling routes across West Africa



Codenamed “KAFO” and jointly coordinated by INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(UNODC), the cross-border operation targeted the people and networks behind firearms trafficking in the region and beyond.

Involving 110 officers from police, customs, border and prosecution services from all three countries, the seven-day operation saw law enforcement intercept illicit firearms and make connections with associated criminal activity, including terrorism.

In addition to arrests, initial results include the identification of a trafficking network operating regionally from Côte d’Ivoire, the seizure in Burkina Faso of illicit goods clearly linked to serious organized crime, and the confiscation in Mali of tampered visas smuggled from Burkina Faso by bus, also suggesting an organized crime connection.

INTERPOL builds presence in strategic Tri-Border region



Codenamed Operation Triple Border, the coordinated action culminated in the arrest of 24 individuals, including one

internationally wanted person subject to a Red Notice for crimes against children.

Drugs, vehicles, firearms and other illicit products were seized during the operation, which has helped establish a reinforced INTERPOL presence in the area.

“The Tri-Border area and the challenges it faces are at the core of INTERPOL’s mission. As criminals exploit the interconnected economies of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, only greater coordination between the three countries’ police forces will bring about a step change in the region’s fight against organized crime,” said José de Gracia, Assistant Director of INTERPOL’s Criminal Networks Unit.

INTERPOL-led action takes aim at cryptojacking in Southeast Asia

An INTERPOL-coordinated operation in Southeast Asia against an emerging form of cybercrime known as cryptojacking has led to a massive reduction in the number of infected devices across the region.

Cryptojacking is the unauthorized use of victims’ computing power to mine cryptocurrency for the cybercriminals. In cryptojacking, the victims unwittingly install a programme with malicious scripts that allow the cybercriminals to access their computer or other Internet-connected devices. This is often the result of victims clicking on malicious links or visiting infected websites. Programmes called ‘coin miners’ are then used by the cybercriminals to mine cryptocurrency.

Based on data from police and partners in the cybersecurity

industry, INTERPOL identified a global cryptojacking campaign facilitated by the exploitation of a vulnerability in MikroTik routers. Intelligence was developed and disseminated via Cyber Activity Reports to the affected member countries..



OSCE Programme Office launches EU-funded project on Green Border Protection and Emergency Response

On 1 January 2020, the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe launched a EUR 3.3 million project on the “Stabilization of Tajikistan’s southern border region with Afghanistan”, funded within the framework of the European Union’s Foreign Policy Instrument. The 18-month project aims to increase the professional capability of the Tajik and Afghan Border Services in order to better tackle illicit activities in border areas. The project also aims to strengthen the capacity of the Committee on Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CoESCD) to respond to natural disasters in border regions.

Beneficiaries from CoESCD and border services will undergo practical training on operational planning and sustaining field operations. The project will provide border services of both countries the skills needed to respond to security incidents and effectively protect the border.

Additionally, the training facilities of the Tajik Border Troops in Khalkayor and Langar will be partly refurbished, and the training centre of the CoESCD in Karatag will be extensively renovated and put into service. The project will contribute to a more stable and secure border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan.”

Training course on innovative techniques to identify impostors at borders in Mongolia



The OSCE’s Transnational Threats Department Border Security and Management Unit (TNTD/BSMU) held a

training course on the detection of forged documents and impostors in Ulaanbaatar. The event was organized in co-operation with the University of Internal Affairs of Mongolia and conducted by document experts of the Austrian Federal Ministry of the Interior.

Impostors represent one of the main current challenges in the field of identity fraud. The training aimed at supporting Mongolia in its efforts to decrease the number of criminals crossing its borders under a fake identity, thereby contributing to wider efforts to combat transnational threats in compliance with OSCE commitments and international standards.

Focus on unlocking human capital development through migration and innovation

On the occasion of the International Migrants Day, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities, on 18 December 2019 in Vienna, organized an event to discuss ways to maximize the impact of innovation, education and mobility on the development of human capital in the 21st century.

OSCE diplomats, migration experts and practitioners, innovators and academics discussed how, in view of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, human capital is at the core of innovative and inclusive development. Mobility and education offer unexpected opportunities to boost productivity and advance innovation.

“In an increasingly interconnected world, studying and working abroad is an invaluable opportunity to acquire

new competencies and skills. Yet, governments struggle to grasp fully the economic gains of migration,” said OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger. “New technologies can offer ways to promote innovative solutions that would make migration work for everyone: for economies of countries of origin, destination and the migrants themselves.”



Heartbreak as Women and Children Perish in Migrant Shipwreck



Eleven people including eight children lost their lives in the shipwreck when their small boat carrying 19 migrants capsized 250 metres after launching, on the short journey to the nearby Greek islands.

The eleven deceased - all Syrian nationals - were recovered by

the Turkish coast guard at around 20:30 Turkish time. Among the eight survivors are four men, three women and one child. IOM Turkey's Mediterranean Response Team was called to the disembarkation point and provided assistance in the form of blankets, hot drinks, first aid and comfort to the shocked survivors.

This latest tragedy comes during an apparent spike in departures from the western coast of Turkey. In the past two weeks a boat carrying 15 migrants capsized and eight people died in the locality. A few days after that a vessel carrying 56 migrants capsized nearby leaving four migrants dead and one still missing. In a separate incident on Saturday, 20 people were rescued and twelve died when their boat capsized on an unusual route in the Ionian Sea near the Greek island of Paxos. Seventeen people are reported missing.

Global Migrant Deaths Decline, but Tragedies Continue Worldwide



The IOM reported that there has been a sharp decline in the number of migrants dying while attempting to cross international borders.

Migrant fatalities reached at least 3,170 by mid-December, compared to just over 4,800 the same time the previous year, representing a 34 per cent fall. Despite this, the trends identified by IOM in 2019 remain stark for migrants and for refugees.

The Mediterranean, the scene of countless tragedies at sea in recent years, recorded the lowest level of deaths and crossings since 2014. However, the death rate among migrants departing Libya's shores increased as smugglers put them at ever great risk.

The emerging trends highlighted by IOM in 2019 include:

- Global deaths of migrants crossing borders irregularly declined sharply

- Mediterranean sea crossings reached their lowest level since 2014P

- Horn of Africa crossings to Yemen now average over 10,000 persons per month

- 4.8 million Venezuelans are living abroad, mostly in Colombia, Perú, Chile, Ecuador and Brazil

- Mediterranean Sea crossings by irregular migrants from Africa, the Middle East and South Asia

- Irregular migration via departure points in Turkey, Libya and across North Africa topped 100,000 men, women and children for the sixth consecutive year. More than 13,000 migrants entered Europe via land routes along the Mediterranean, either by entering Greece near border crossings with Turkey, or entering Spain through the two Spanish enclaves, Ceuta and Melilla, in North Africa.

While 100,000 is significant, the volume of Mediterranean crossings in 2019 shows a steep decline over recent years (see chart above). In fact, barring a year-end surge, 2019 will see the lowest number of irregular migrants on the Mediterranean since IOM began compiling such statistics in 2014. .



Outgoing Departures
Gates G, H

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12 Arrested in Drugs Bust Against Drug Traffickers in Canary Islands



A large-scale drug trafficking organisation linked to Colombian and Peruvian cartels was dismantled in Spain and Colombia in an international law enforcement operation. Europol supported the two-year-long investigation, led by the Spanish Civil Guard (Guardia Civil) in close collaboration with the National Police of Colombia and the US DEA.

In total 11 Spanish nationals were arrested in Tenerife (Spain) and a Colombian national – in Cali (Colombia) – is currently awaiting extradition to Spain. €2 million in assets have been seized so far. The investigation was triggered by information on large cash movements in Tenerife, money laundering-related intelligence shared via international cooperation.

CARAVANS WITH COCAINE WERE TRAVELLING TO THE CANARY ISLANDS

The Spanish branch of the network was distributing the cocaine delivered in bulk from South America. The suspects concealed the drugs in caravans travelling between the Canary Islands. A seizure of 60kg of cocaine hidden in a

mobile home was made during one of these transfers. To cover up their criminal activities, the suspects used legal businesses. The criminal networks owned vehicle dealerships, auto repair shops and managed long-term caravan parks. These legal businesses provided the criminals with cover to transport the vehicles and launder money. The intermediary, a Colombian living in Cali oversaw the trafficking from South America to Spain.

COCAINE'S NEW ROUTE

One part of the investigation focused on a Ghanaian citizen. This allowed the investigators to gather evidence on the "African route" of cocaine. This emerging transit route is used by South American drug cartels to send large shipments to Europe. The drugs travel through the west coast of Africa, where they are stored before going to Spanish coasts. Africa has a growing role as a trafficking and transit area, a new trend identified in the 2019 EU Drug Markets Report by Europol and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA).

TRACING MONEY MOVEMENTS TO CATCH DRUG TRAFFICKERS

Europol supported the investigation from its very beginning by assisting the coordination of the operational activities between the countries involved and by facilitating the information exchange and operational analysis. Europol also provided technical and analytical support and facilitated the exchange of judicial evidence collected during the house searched carried out in Colombia.

On the action day, Europol deployed two experts on the field to cross-check operational information in real-time and provide technical support on the spot.

Smuggled Vietnamese through Poland. Ten people indicted

Lublin branch of the Department for Organized Crime and Corruption of the National Prosecutor's Office in Lublin sent an indictment to the District Court in Warsaw against ten persons accused of participating in an organized criminal group organizing the illegal migration of Vietnamese citizens. "Baltic channel." The proceedings were conducted by the Border Guard Post in Terespol.

The prosecutor of the Lublin branch of the Department for Organized Crime and Corruption of the National Prosecutor's Office in Lublin accused three Vietnamese

citizens of managing an organized criminal group and illegally organizing unlawfully crossing the border of the Republic of Poland to other persons. These acts are punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment. In addition, the prosecutor accused six remaining persons of organizing illegal crossing of the border of the Republic of Poland with other persons. The accused turned themselves into this source of income. A total of five people were accused of participating in an organized criminal group. These acts are punishable by up to 5 years imprisonment.

SCHENGEN ENTRY/EXIT SYSTEM MEANS MORE SECURE BORDERS

By Paul F. Jacinto, Global Security Expert, Vision-Box

The fundamental challenge of border operations is to facilitate the legitimate movement of people while maintaining a border's integrity, upholding laws and treaties and protecting communities by preventing illegitimate individuals from crossing or abusing visa privileges. This is the mission of the Schengen Exit/Entry System (EES) now in the process of being

implemented across external Schengen land, maritime and airport borders. EES establishes a Schengen-wide system that records the biometric and biographic data of non-EU nationals entering and exiting the external borders of member states, registers all cross-border movements and checks visa validity. This system will modernize, strengthen, secure, protect and



smarten the Schengen area’s external borders by automating identity verification using biometrics, conduct background checks on a EU-wide Smart Borders framework and verify visa validity to identify irregular migrants, visitors who crossed illegally, or those who overstayed their visa.

The implementation of a Smart Borders framework in the Schengen area is a necessary consequence of the increase and complexity in international border crossings. The immense task border law enforcement and intelligence agencies face are well exemplified by the numbers: In 2018, EU airport arrivals numbered 1.1 billion, with an estimated growth rate of 4 percent per year. The International Organization for Migration estimates that there are currently 258 million migrants, with another 20 to 30 million unauthorized migrants

worldwide, and estimates by the UN Refugee Agency of around 68 million forcibly displaced persons around the world.

These numbers bear out the formidable task EU border agencies have in accomplishing their mission and fulfilling their core objectives – facilitating legitimate border crossings while identifying unlawful movements. Currently, most national agencies do not have the technology to share information, provide a full risk profile, and capture biometric data of border crossers in real time. The current procedure, untied from the full spectrum of verified biometric identification and instant background check capability, leaves open the very real possibility for the unlawful entry of dangerous individuals. Compounded with the surge in daily volume at air, land, water points of entry, the adverse

effect on the effectiveness and capability of the manual identity verification and clearance process increases with a related effect of elevated risk factors.

This is where Public/Private Partnerships (PPP) can play an important role. Developing a plan jointly between stakeholders provides clear detailed benefits that are easier to approve and implement. A leadership group composed of government representatives and civilian partners committed to the long-term implementation of the EES can better secure the financial resources needed to adapt the EES to each state’s current needs, capability and requirements. A precise PPP plan and project blueprint make clear to the government the benefits of a more secure, predictable and standardized clearance process that reduces compliance costs to the state. A coherent business case maps out the effective relationship between investment and its impact on overall border security, optimization and facilitation including:

- Development of a transformation program.
- Administrative control and capacity.
- Adaptation and alignment of the border clearance model, technical strategies and communication channels.

While implementing the EES, border operations need to continue uninterrupted. To begin

the transformation process, each government's current position is assessed against an implementation plan, with a framework drawn out to incorporate the transition process. This includes a path for each agency to follow when determining its EES requirements, the necessary technology solutions, the impact on border processing, the resulting changes and the roadmap to implementation.

By establishing a clear blueprint of all key EES processes and procedural transformations, the seamless conversion of all border operations is mapped out and tasked to support the its implementation. The blueprint establishes the transformation of person, groups, and processes from individually managed border crossings into an EES inter-agency system. The transformational process includes:

- An implementation blueprint showing key milestones of new services and capabilities going on-line.
- An operational plan defining border processes, organizational roles, and required legislative and policy changes.

Smart Border Management Key Changes		
Change From/To	Current Process	SBM
Policy	• Balance between facilitation and control	• Optimization between facilitation and control
	• Mistrust among border security agencies	• Trusted collaboration of border stakeholders
	• Focus on physical border control	• Focus on virtual border control
	• Limited cooperation and data exchange	• Extensive information sharing throughout network
Processes	• Output based results model	• Outcome based results model
	• Focus on individuals	• Focus on data
	• Limited segmentation of individuals	• All individuals segmented into risk categories
	• Single procedure for all individuals	• Flexible procedure depending on risk category
	• Agency specific risk management	• Cross-agency, intelligence-driven risk management
	• Manual inspection of identity paperwork	• Biometric authentication of identity
	• Transaction based procedures	• Exception procedure based on digital data
People	• Manual control at the border	• Digital control through biometrics and intelligence-driven risk management
	• Limited transparency	• Full transparency
	• Single organization performance of identity checks	• Collective organizational performance of identity checks
	• Standard manual process application	• Capability enhancement using information networks
Information and Communications Technology	• Isolated data capture and information processing	• Multi-agency data sharing
	• Silo based information	• Nationally integrated information architecture
	• Security limited to border intrusion	• National security protected though information sharing
	• Emphasis on manual processing	• Digital processing unless in an exception
Structure and Facilities	• Agencies operate individually	• Multi-agency collaboration
	• Individual databases	• Single database for common information
	• Output based success rate	• Outcome based success rate
	• Manual counter processing	• Automated electronic eGate processing

- An information and technology framework outlining the inter-agency architecture.
- A communication plan for internal and external stakeholders.
- An implementation and testing plan to adapt technology, communications, and personnel procedures to the testing data and new operating environment.
- A training schedule and support plan.

EES Capability and Capacity

Once fully and properly implemented, EES will establish a system that increases compliance with EU and Schengen border rules

and regulations while augmenting the capacity to control borders events. EES shifts what is a series of subjective identity and clearance steps into an automated and indistinguishable transactional process. The EES will operate within an integrated EU-wide Smart Borders framework that includes the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS), Schengen Information System (SIS II), Visa Information System (VIS), Biometric Matching System (BMS) and Passenger Name Record system (PNR). As VIS already registers all third-country nationals who require a visa, the EES will

augment the SIS database with traveller information from visa-exempt countries and boosted by PNR and ETIAS pre-clearance and pre-check security.

The Smart Borders framework assists border agencies in their overarching responsibility to intercept illegitimate crossing of individuals and deter criminal activities such as human trafficking, migrant smuggling and entry or exit of individuals who may be traveling abroad to join terrorist groups or are returning to the EU with the aim of carrying out terrorist attacks. This broader focus on upstream and downstream intelligence sharing and data-driven model analysis enhances security, control and facilitation of border management across the Schengen. Checks on all non-EU nationals against law enforcement and security databases, including those of lost and stolen documents, will be conducted at all external air, land and sea border points. The entire Smart Border integrated capability uses a range of controls that combines all entry and exit data to track, process and identify multi-border movements and access travel history data to identify suspicious movements. The system does this with a range of non-intrusive activities and procedures while always strictly adhering to the laws and regulations controlling access to personal data.

The collected information is limited to the basics required for positive traveler identity verification, document authentication and travel

movement record. This includes face and fingerprint biometrics, name, date of birth, nationality, gender, passport information and the place, date and hour of the entry or exit process. Once collected, the information will be stored in a secure and encrypted database for a time period not exceeding three years for individuals who follow Schengen travel rules and five years for those who exceed their visa stay. All information will be collected using Privacy-by-Design principles, meaning that all data collected is limited to what is necessary for the system to function and meet its mission parameter objectives.

Identity Management and Analysis Solutions

EES Interoperability and situational awareness are critical components of the redesigned Smart Border management and collaboration between Schengen states. Improved communication and networking provide the pathways for states to cooperate more fully in a comprehensive biometric identity authentication and border management policy. This builds a trusted partnership between agencies, improves regulatory control, and enhances border services. However, an alignment of suitable solutions for member states poses a critical challenge because of the differences in technological preparedness and advancement among the 26 states that make up the Schengen area.

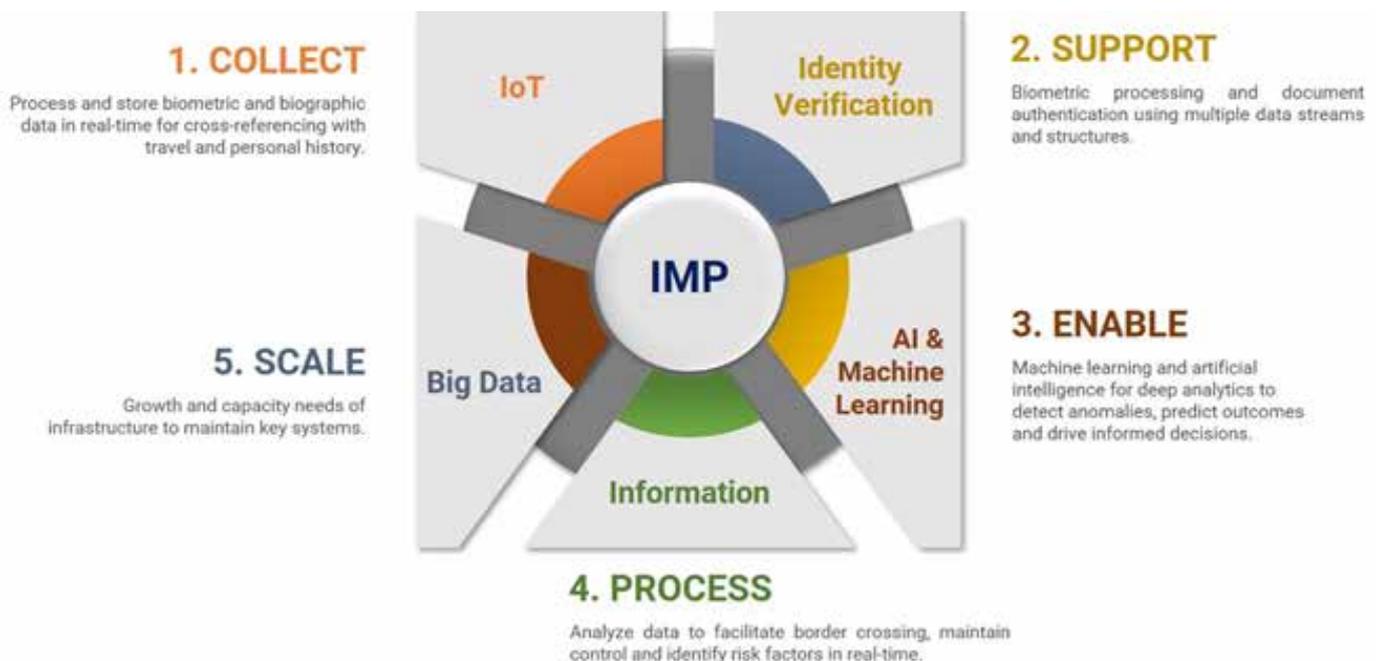
A solutions portfolio must include

a focused structuring of systems and procedures that incorporate scalable and adjustable key elements that improve member state's borders security and efficiency at various levels of development. The solutions must be modular and agnostically designed so that Smart Border technology and elements enable an effective and facilitated operational control of individual Schengen border crossings. These key solution elements must also manage the regulatory, communication and security protocols that assist in precise identity authentication, conduct of background checks and visa validity verification. The following key solutions are critical in a secure, well-functioning border EES border for the reliable screening of individuals.

Identity Management Platform

The heart of EES at Member state level is founded on a robust and efficient Identity Management Platform (IMP). A robust IMP manages the delicate orchestration balance between facilitating Schengen border crossings and maintaining rigorous control of identity authentication and risk identification processes. The IMP must be capable of handling the secure orchestration and flow of traveller information between the National Uniform Interfaces (NUI) present at every Schengen area country that communicates with the EU-wide Smart Borders framework.

A powerful IMP is grounded in the effectiveness of biometric identity



management and improvement of communication and information sharing that facilitates and expedites legitimate border crossings. An IMP's efficiency is based on an outcome-based process that focuses on increasing identity compliance using risk-driven analysis for more secure border crossings. While the vast bulk of border crossings are legitimate, processing information through a well-designed IMP allows border points to operate with a higher level of confidence in stopping illegitimate crossings.

The well-functioning IMP leverages information streams in real-time, manages in seconds background and identity vetting within a privacy-by-design certified framework and provides tangible benefits including:

- Identity compliance and assurance at the border.
- Optimization of border efficiency and effectiveness.

- Clearance time reduction for all legitimate border crossers.
- Focus on auditing and examination of high-risk individuals.
- Discouragement of illegitimate border crossing attempts using visible policy enforcement and modern technology.

Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning hold untold potential for the creation of secure biometric authentication mechanisms. Biometric recognition is dramatically increased and more effective with the use of machine learning. They can be combined to develop authentication systems that protect devices against spoofing, cyber-attacks and prevent fraudulent activities. AI and biometrics use the larger amounts of available physiological data to create more precise authentication models and enhance

the performance of the modalities across the platform. AI learns from the millions of images stored in the system and utilizes next generation ISO compliant biometrics to successfully authenticate an individual's face or fingerprint. AI can also use predictive modelling to analyse the effects of aging on the face. By analysing biometric facial information of older and younger individuals, AI can interpret the effects of aging on a person's face and create more precise identity verification models. By training biometric engines with deep machine-learning techniques, the so-called ethnical bias can be overcome by enhancing the demographics coverage and matching effectiveness to ensure no one is left behind.

Risk Management Software

Proper risk management tools are critical to border security effectiveness and the smooth flow

of legitimate individuals through points of entry. Potent risk analysis software identifies, evaluates and prioritizes risk events that may impact border operations and organizational objectives. The continuous monitoring of vertical and horizontal data flow between agencies allows for instant security and intelligence analysis of a traveller's biometric and biographical background information. This provides a streamlined, intelligence-based decision-making process that shifts the border risk management policy from a weighted approach between control or facilitation towards one of a balanced and optimized security and efficiency management approach.

By providing a centralized risk analysis hub for connected devices, the risk management suite leverages operational data streams to transform the traveller's information into meaningful intelligence. Instant data analytics of biometric and biographic information on border crossers is used to segment individuals into risk groups for regular or enhanced screening. This intelligence driven risk assessment is used to control the crossing of individuals that pose a threat against national security or public health. To maximize its efficiency and productivity, every agency must operate off the same informational risk assessment of individuals. The coordination between Schengen air, land and

water points of entry build the capability and capacity of a well-orchestrated risk analysis that facilitates legitimate throughput and deters illegitimate travel.

By piecing together previously disparate data, powerful risk management tools assess threats throughout the entire orchestrated border crossing points. It deciphers various key information flows to provide clear, concise and precise data analytics that is easily read, understood and consistent across border stakeholders for a fuller and more accurate intelligence picture.

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AGENCY NEWS AND UPDATES

Sarawak to step up border security ahead of Indonesia's capital relocation



Sarawak police are expecting having to deal with smuggling cases near the Sarawak-Indonesia border following the relocation of the republic's capital from Jakarta to Kalimantan.

"We foresee a lot of problems, especially smuggling cases, which include firearms, contraband and drugs and we're making early preparations to deal with these matters," Sarawak police commissioner Ramli Din said in a press conference here, today.

Last August, Indonesian President Joko Widodo had announced his plan to move the capital from Jakarta, on the crowded island of Java, to Kalimantan on the island of Borneo.

When asked if the police had decided to increase the number of personnel along the border, Ramli said: "we'll look into it but for now we are brainstorming (on the action plan).

He said currently, they were also gathering information from district police chiefs stationed near the Sarawak-Indonesia border on the proposed safety measures.

So far, the police had also stationed general operation force personnel along the borders of Sarawak-Indonesia for security purposes.

with Pakistan and Bangladesh, officials said.

They said the single-row fence, with loops of concertina wires on top, is being erected at a 60-km border stretch in near Amritsar in Punjab.

A 'pilot project' of this new fence is also being tested at a 7-km stretch in Assam's Silchar along India's border with Bangladesh and is being analysed by the BSF, they said.

Based on the feedback of these projects, new fence will be erected at more places where either the old one has worn out or there was no fence owing to geographical challenges.

India erecting new steel fence along Pak border



India is erecting a new non-cut 'steel fence' to plug vulnerable and infiltration-prone patches along its sensitive border

The sources informed that the Union home ministry has also advanced a technology-based project of deploying 'laser fences' along these two borders, to five years as compared to the earlier 10-year deadline.

The Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) that entails deployment of smart fences, advanced surveillance gadgets and anti-infiltration alarms has been speeded up by the border management division under

the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Border Security Force along these two borders, they said.

Irregular migration to EU at lowest level since 2013

Irregular migration into the European Union has fallen to its lowest annual level since 2013, the European border and coast guard agency has said, despite a significant increase in the number of arrivals to Greece.

Frontex said that according to preliminary figures for 2019, irregular crossings detected on the bloc's external borders fell by 6% to just over 139,000 – about 92% down on the record number set during the 2015 European migration crisis.

The decline was primarily due to significant falls in the numbers of people reaching European shores via the central and western Mediterranean routes, the agency said, while the eastern Mediterranean route saw a corresponding increase.

About 14,000 people, mostly from Tunisia and Sudan, used the central Mediterranean route from north Africa – mainly Libya – to Italy and Malta, a 41% decline. Those taking the western Mediterranean route, mostly Moroccans and Algerians crossing into Spain, dropped by 58% to 24,000.

Cartels Continue to Build Cross-Border Tunnels to Smuggle Drugs

Recently, two tunnels were discovered in Nogales, bringing the Tucson-sector tunnel count to 125 found since 1990. In early December, the first of the two tunnels was discovered when U.S. Border Patrol



and Mexican Federal Police collaborated for a routine sweep of the stormwater system.

The tunnel's entrance was concealed in the floor of an existing drainage system by a pile of dirt; it was capped with a Styrofoam and concrete mixture, according to Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

It extended 10 feet underground and 20 feet into the United States, CBP said. At its exit, the tunnel was approximately three feet wide and over four feet tall.

Days later, Border Patrol found another tunnel about 50 feet away and alerted the Mexican Federal Police to check the location of the entrance from the southern side.

Both tunnels have been remediated with concrete filler, according to CBP.

New tighter laws for South Africa's border control



The home affairs committee has

backed new regulations on refugees saying they would tighten the immigration system. This comes after Home Affairs Minister Aaron Motsoaledi recently gazetted the regulations.

The regulations would be among other statutes that would ban refugees from political activity. The Refugee Amendment Act regulations came into effect at the start of the year.

Chairperson of the committee Bongani Bongo said this was a step in the right direction and the regulations would tighten the immigration system.

“We believe that the regulations form part of the broader efforts that are aimed at strengthening the immigration system and ensure that the system is not manipulated for nefarious reasons.

“We call on the department to properly train its employees on the new regulations and ensure that they are adequately and fully implemented,” said Bongo.

The gazetting of the regulations comes after the National Council of Provinces (NCoP) approved the Border Management Authority Bill. The new bill would create a single agency to man the borders of the country.

Twelve migrants die after boat sinks in the Ionian Sea

Greece's coast guard said 12 migrants were found dead in the Ionian Sea and 21 others were rescued after their boat took on water and sank Saturday. A search for more survivors was launched by air and sea.

The dead and rescued migrants were found southwest of the Greek island of Paxos, a coast guard spokesman told The Associated Press, speaking on customary condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigation.

Three Persons tried to leave Bosnia with counterfeit Israel Travel Documents



Officers of the Border Police Unit of Tuzla Airport, imprisoned three citizens of the Republic of Turkey after they gave insight into border checks and tried to leave BiH with counterfeit Israel travel documents.

“By checking the baggage, on the second line of border checks, members of the Border Police of BiH found the original documents on the basis of which they were identified as Turkish nationals. They were controlled on a flight to Friedrichshafen,” the BiH Border Police said in a statement.

Due to the suspicion that the criminal offense of “forgery of a documents” was committed, the Prosecutor of the Cantonal Prosecutor’s Office of Tuzla Canton was informed about the incident.

According to the order, the forged documents were temporarily confiscated and a report will be filed against the suspects for committing

the crime of “forgery of the document”. Turkish nationals have been handed over to members of the Service for Foreigner Affairs.

Thousands apply for EU border guard posts



The EU border agency, Frontex’s recruitment drive launched last October to fill 700 new border guard positions has attracted a massive number of applicants from across southern and central EU states.

Some 7,500 applicants had applied for the 700 positions, which is part of a much larger bid to create a standing corps of 10,000 guards under the agency’s aegis over the next several years.

“For the first time, and this is also new, and we are also making preparations for that, for the first time, Frontex staff will put on European Union uniforms, not to represent their nations, but to represent the entire European Union,” Fabrice Leggeri, the head of the Warsaw-based agency, told reporters.

Improved road between Murmansk and Ivalo boosts cross-border travel

For the first time in many years the number of travelers across the northernmost EU-Russia border checkpoint, Raja-Jooseppi / Lotta,

increases.

The growth was 9,2% from 2018 to 2019, the statistics from Finland’s Border Guard service show.

That is good news for Ivalo. The town’s two larger grocery stores are a popular destination for many people from Murmansk heading across the border to buy food-stuff no longer found in Murmansk-stores due to Russia’s counter sanctions against the EU.

Russia imposed sanctions against dairy products like cheese and yogurt made in EU-countries after Brussels announced its list of sanctions on Moscow after Russia’s 2014-annexation of Crimea.

80,864 border-crossings were counted last year at Raja-Jooseppi, up from 74,063 in 2018.

Border Patrol seizes more than 60 pounds of pot near panga boat in Malibu



U.S. Border Patrol agents seized more than 60 pounds of cannabis near an abandoned fishing boat Sunday in Malibu.

The agents responded to a report from the Maritime Coordination Center about a beached panga-style boat at Deer Creek Beach near Point Mugu State Park. Authorities did not find anyone near or aboard the 40-foot vessel that had washed ashore.

While searching the area, agents discovered large bundles totaling a little more than 60 pounds of marijuana with an estimated street value of \$24,000. More than 500 gallons of fuel were also found aboard the boat.

People in Border areas are asked to help shape new EU programme



People in Border areas are being asked to help shape a future EU programme expected to be worth more than €600 million.

The EU's Peace Plus programme, which will run from 2021-2027, will fund activities related to peace and reconciliation and to economic and social development in Northern Ireland and in the Border counties of the Republic.

A series of stakeholder information events will be held on the programme in each of Northern Ireland's six counties, as well as in counties Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo, in January and February.

The aim of the programme is to improve the lives of people on both sides of the Border.

Objectives could include boosting innovation capacity; promoting a greener, lower-carbon Europe; enhancing mobile and IT connectivity; fostering sustainable and integrated development; improving employment

opportunities; increasing access to quality healthcare and education, and reducing marginalisation through improved housing and services.

200,000 Syrians heading to Turkish border

More than 200,000 Syrian refugees are moving toward the borders of Turkey which already hosts millions of refugees, said President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

"200,000 to 250,000 refugees are moving toward our border. We are trying to stop them, but it is not an easy task. It is difficult, because you are dealing with human lives," Erdogan said at an event in the capital Ankara.

The president questioned the humanitarian sensitivities of those who oppose foreigners in their cities, at a time when Turkey is hosting 5 million refugees, including 4 million Syrians.

Since the eruption of the bloody civil war in Syria in 2011, Turkey has taken in millions of Syrians who fled their country, making Turkey the world's top refugee-hosting country.

Ankara has so far spent \$40 billion on the refugees, according to official figures.

Hungary to Double Border Control Troops

The Hungarian government will double the number of soldiers patrolling the borders "in light of increasing migration pressure", Szilárd Németh, state secretary at the defence ministry, told a press conference.

Németh spoke at the border police base at Madaras, in south-eastern



Hungary, and said that last year, the number of illegal entrants had grown almost tenfold, to 3,299. He added that the authorities expected that number to grow further.

Last year the number of illegal entrants to Hungary grew by 2.6 times compared to 2018, the leader of the Hungarian police's border patrol forces said.

Speaking at a press conference on the state of illegal migration to Hungary, László Balázs said migration pressure was particularly strong at the end of the year, with some 1,400 migrants arriving in Hungary between December 16 and 22. Another 803 were apprehended between January 1 and 5, 2020, he said.

Cross-border transactions face EU anti-money laundering overhaul

Incoming EU-level reforms to anti-money laundering laws took legal effect on January 10, introducing new requirements for banks handling transactions linked to high-risk countries.

EU member states are expected to write the 5th Anti-Money Laundering Directive (5AMLD) into national law by the end of this week, tightening controls around the illicit movement of funds. The UK and Germany are among those set to introduce the new rules on time.

DRIVERS OF CHANGE IN MARITIME — PORTS AND CYBER SECURITY

*By Anu Khurmi, Managing Director,
Global Services, Templar Executives*

Ports have for centuries been integral to the economic and social prosperity of a sea-trading nation. They constitute an essential component of the global transportation sector providing the means for maritime transport and trade. As well as facilitating the flow of goods and people, major ports are part of the critical national infrastructure and vital to the effective security and border management of a country.

Today, despite the age of the train and the plane, 90 percent of global trade by volume, is carried out by the shipping industry. In the United States, for example, seaports handle over 99 percent of the country's overseas cargo by volume and 65 percent by value. In the United Kingdom, over 95 percent of imports and exports by volume, and 75 percent by value still pass through the country's ports. As global shipping volumes continue

to increase, the role of ports as 'multi-modal distribution hubs' has become key to establishing market access, supporting supply chain ecosystems and connecting consumers and producers. It is crucial therefore, that ports are able to adapt and respond to the constant pressures from economic, technological, and regulatory changes in order to ensure a resilient and optimal operating capability - integral to this is the need for adequate assurances with regards to safety and security and in particular, the growing complexity of threats from Cyberspace.

Following on from the four physical domains of land, sea, air, and space originating from military doctrine, Cyberspace is referred to as the fifth dimension, and reflects the evolving world of the internet and the proliferation of information. It challenges the concept of sovereign control and ownership as Cyberspace is not bound by land borders or subject to the legitimacy of territorial waters, or protocols governing international waters and airspace. In the context of national interests, Cyberspace is less about defining and defending borders or occupying territory, and more about ensuring access and control in a virtual environment and the ability to operate freely when it comes to communication and transportation. When considering some of the major drivers shaping the future of the maritime sector, the implications of Cyberspace can be seen and felt in many different ways as the sector evolves, and the approach to Cyber Security becomes mainstream.

The growth of protectionism, the rapid adoption of digitalisation, increasing competition and



consolidation, the focus on environmental issues, and the challenge of regulatory considerations, are driving unprecedented change in the maritime sector. In particular, the impact of digitalisation is creating a fundamental shift of traditional paradigms; concepts such as the 'Digital Economy', the 'Virtual Border', the 'Smart Port', exemplify the coalescing of the physical world with the virtual, and how little the complexities and implications are currently understood, especially in relation to the Cyber Security arena. It is useful therefore to examine these drivers of change in that context.

Shipping facilitates international trade on which the global economy is dependent, but the geopolitical landscape is changing rapidly. Since early 2018, there has been an ongoing spiral of sanctions and trade restrictive measures between two of the world's most powerful nations, the United States and China. The proliferation of similar restrictive trade policies and practices in other countries

around the world has triggered tensions over the increase in protectionism and the spectre of escalating trade wars. This concern was highlighted at the World Trade Organisation in May 2019, when industry stakeholders presented the case for free trade and a rules-based multilateral trading system. Nevertheless, the sector remains resilient with global maritime trade predicted to grow, albeit at a slower rate, at an average annual of 3.4 percent between 2019 and 2024. New regional trade alliances and realignment of trade routes are already reshaping the industry, further driving investment in transport infrastructure and impacting the volume of trade passing through major ports as they compete to attract business and expand operations. In 2006, only three of the world's Top 10 ports were located in China, whereas an estimated two-thirds of container traffic now passes through Chinese ports or ports that have received Chinese investment. Today, only one of the Top 10 ports, Jebel Ali, is located outside of East Asia, and the flow of trade is ever increasing

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through the South China Sea.

This domination is set to continue with the ‘Belt and Road Initiative’ (BRI) - a colossal infrastructure programme announced by China in 2013 aiming to improve regional integration, trade and economic growth on a transcontinental scale. The overland “Belt” connects China to Central and South Asia and onward to Europe. The maritime “Road” links China to the countries of South East Asia, the Gulf, East and North Africa, all the way to Europe. Whilst mounting controversy surrounds China’s true intentions, the Maritime Silk Road is establishing valuable trade links for China through the investment of billions of dollars in developing strategically located ‘Smart Ports’

such as Singapore, Djibouti, Duisberg, Hambantota, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Piraeus, and Valencia.

As protectionism and world political tensions escalate, Cyberspace is becoming the new dimension for safeguarding and advancing sovereign state interests; some countries also see Cyber Security as the tool to influence the perception of ‘adversaries’. Last year the Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) published its Cyber and Information Security Strategy for the Maritime Sector 2019-2022 following a threat assessment from Denmark’s Centre for Cyber Security (CFCS). Summarising high threats, the report states:

According to Research and Markets, the Global Smart Ports Market 2018-2027 accounted for \$1.53 billion in 2018 and is expected to reach \$9.86 billion by 2027 growing at a compound annual growth of 23.1 percent during the forecast period. Just as shipping is vital to global trade, ports are the hubs that facilitate the international movement of goods and people, acting as a crucial connection between land and sea transport. They are complex infrastructures and operational environments with multiple stakeholders encompassing shipping lines, freight forwarders, terminal operators, government agencies and merchants (reference figure 1). In recent years, the pressures to increase efficiencies, reduce environmental impacts and enhance security have led to the adoption of digital technologies in transforming the way ports interact between shipping, e-commerce, and logistics.

Automation is leading the digital revolution of ports with automated equipment handling such as cranes and self-driving trucks. Other emerging technologies such as AI, Blockchain, Big Data, Machine Learning and Virtual Reality simulations are also enabling ports and their eco-systems to become more efficient, flexible and agile. Through the Internet of Things (IoT), ports are being integrated into maritime information network hubs, where relevant data is accessible and communications can be shared in real-time with shipping partners. Automatic processing of cargo information provides container movement transparency and efficiency, as well as supporting

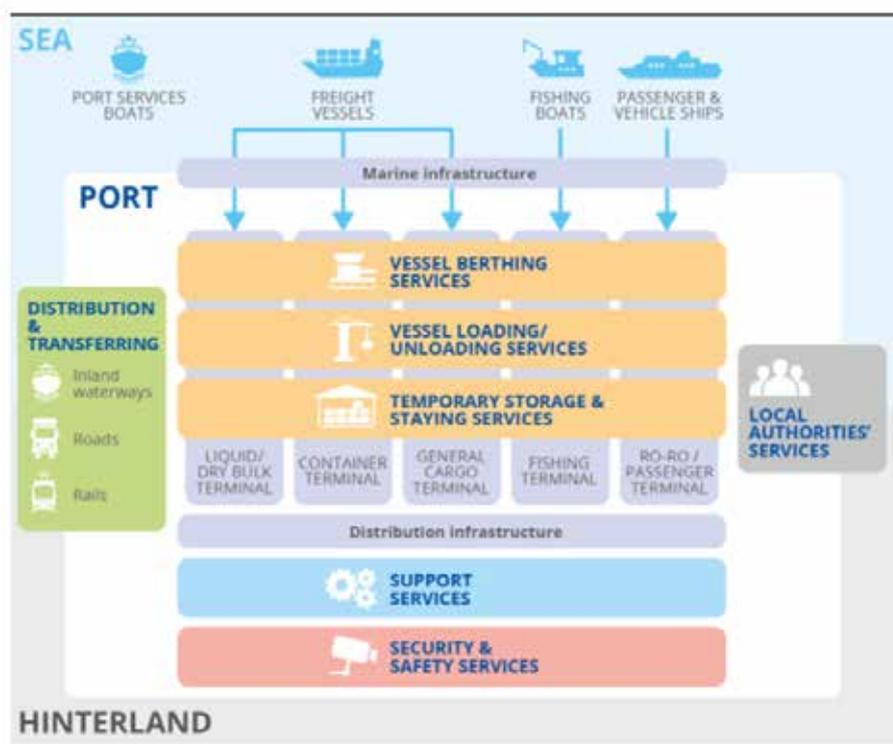


Figure 1 - Port Services & Infrastructure (courtesy of European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA), 2019)

other port processes associated with the flow of containerised cargo. Digital transformation of port security is enhancing the ability to detect the illicit movement of goods and people through innovations in surveillance technology, access controls, screening, communications and command and control integration. Port authorities such as Singapore, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Rotterdam and Hamburg are helping lead the next generation of port designs and technology. The Port of Rotterdam is replacing its traditional radio and radar communications with Internet of Things (IoT) sensors to gather tidal, wind and visibility data to seamlessly bring vessels into berth. Trials are also being undertaken for a technology, referred to as the digital twins, which uses sensors to analyse a physical asset's efficiency, condition and status. Operators can use real-time information to run scenarios to improve decision making, problem solving and predictive planning. Through the targeted exchange of information and data, ports can develop and deploy new business models enabling greater innovation and collaboration within global supply chains.

Digitalisation is also helping with the shift to greener and more efficient practices. New regulations from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) include the introduction of a low sulphur cap for fuel emissions from 01/01/2020, and a 50 percent reduction of carbon emissions by 2050. Ports have a key role in reducing shipping's impact on air quality through inspections of ships and by promoting a zero-emission



berth standard in ports. Port-call optimization, (optimizing vessel speeds and routes), can reduce carbon-dioxide emissions and waiting times in ports. The Port of San Diego was among the first to launch an energy efficiency digitisation programme in 2014 and adopt a Climate Action Plan (CAP); the deployment of smart sensors to capture and use data to detect and stop wasted energy in buildings is anticipated to contribute to future declines in greenhouse gas emissions.

All of these gains come at a price and the drive towards digitalisation and automation is increasing the Cyber threat vectors exponentially. Arguably ports and terminals, with their complex interfaces, convergence of IT and OT assets, interconnected communications and control systems, and global supply chains are much more at risk. In recent years a number of high profile Cyberattacks on ports have highlighted their vulnerability and caused the sector to realise that cyber incidents can occur

at any point along the supply chain; the potentially devastating consequences include disruption of operations, financial loss and reputational damage.

In 2017, the NotPetya Cyberattack on A.P. Møller-Maersk hit 4,000 servers, 45,000 computers, and 2,500 applications causing the shutdown of its fully automated Rotterdam port terminal; to date the recovery of operations has cost over \$300 million. This was not an isolated incident; other Cyberattacks in the public domain include the Port of San Diego, where a Cyber Security threat disrupted the port's information technology systems; a Cyberattack on the Port of Barcelona that affected the port's servers and systems; and a Cosco Shipping-affiliated terminal which suffered a ransomware attack at the Port of Long Beach. These incidents and the learning from them has been a dramatic wakeup call for the sector and Maersk has since shared why it now regards Cyber Security as a key business enabler



if properly addressed. A recent report from Lloyd's of London stated that Cyberattacks on Asian ports could cost the industry as much as \$110 billion. The growing Cyber threat has prompted governments and regulatory bodies to introduce new policies, regulations and data protection laws.

The shipping industry is principally regulated by the IMO and responsibility for enforcing IMO regulations concerning ship safety and environmental protection rests with the flag states. International liner ships and the port facilities at which they call have to adhere to the standards and procedures, including security assessments, set out in the IMO's International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code. In addition, Port State Control officers have the power to detain foreign flag ships in port if they do not comply with international requirements. In recent years the IMO has formalised a number of Cyber requirements for ship owners, ship operators and ports within its International Safety Management (ISM) Code which

must be addressed by 2021. These regulations require stakeholders to "raise awareness on the Cyber risk"; "embed a culture of Cyber risk awareness"; "respond quickly to a Cyber incident".

Alongside industry specific regulations the introduction of Flag State laws, such as Singapore's Cybersecurity Act 2018, and national privacy and data protection laws provide a mandate for stakeholders to address Cyber risk as an essential business function. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the EU Network and Information Security (NIS) Directive, which considers the maritime industry a regulated 'operator of essential services', impose significant financial penalties on organisations for data breaches, especially if they are not properly reported.

For ports and port stakeholders, balancing business decisions and making informed choices when it comes to commercial, operational and technology investments should incorporate the impact

of Cyber Security threats, risks and opportunities. Proactive and defensive measures need to be proportionate to the evolving risks within the holistic business portfolio and reviewed regularly in line with security best practices. The European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) recently issued a report on the Cyber Security challenges relating to the evolution of maritime port systems which identified the importance of 'defining clear governance, enforcing technical Cyber Security basics, implementing security by design, and enforcing detection and response capabilities at port level'.

Education and training from the board to the front line can help promote greater awareness in line with recent IMO regulations and help create a culture reinforcing the relevance and importance of Cyber Security. The International Maritime Cyber Centre of Excellence (IMCCE) with its Maritime Cyber Emergency Response Team (MCERT), and ENISA's initiatives with Information Sharing and Analysis Centres (ISACs) and maritime stakeholders, are helping create industry specific platforms for global data sharing, collaboration and emergency response which will be vital as the industry matures its capability and resilience. In a digital world of unprecedented uncertainty, the Ports sector is not alone in how it prepares for, and addresses change, but it does need its own enlightened leaders to navigate its future course.

UNODC delivers sophisticated analyzers of drugs to Bolivian Antinarcotics Police laboratories



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Country Office in Bolivia delivered two drug analyzers “TRUNARC” to the forensic laboratories of the Bolivian Antinarcotics Police (FELCN) on 23 December 2019, thanks to the donation of Global Affairs Canada. These electronic devices can detect hundreds of narcotics, controlled substances and chemicals within one to two minutes.

This donation was made as a strategic response to the growing threat of synthetic drugs, particularly amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) and new psychoactive substances (NSP). The Laboratory and Scientific Affairs Section of UNODC launched the Global Synthetic Drug Monitoring Programme: Analysis, Reports and Trends (SMART) in 2008. The Global SMART Programme aims to help governments improve their capacity to generate, manage, analyze and communicate information on synthetic drugs, especially ATS and NSP.

The ceremony was attended by the Vice-Minister of Social Defense and Controlled Substances, Jaime Zamora; the Vice-Minister of Internal Affairs, Daniel Humerez; the Commander of the Bolivian Antinarcotics Police (FELCN), Cnl. Javier Maldonado; the UNODC’s Representative, Thierry Rostan, and the Vice Consul of Canada, Melissa Cardinal.

With the purpose of protecting the health of people in the region, UNODC supports the countries of the region through quality assurance programs for forensic laboratories, forensic capacity building workshops and the provision of modern technology to identify new toxic substances.

Bolivia also benefits from UNODC’s technical assistance to the forensic laboratories that participate in the global programme International Collaboration Exercise (ICE), in order to strengthen their capacities in the analysis of natural and synthetic drugs. In addition, UNODC delivered specialized literature related to these laboratories and trained its experts in the UNODC laboratories in Vienna.

In the last ten years, 14 countries and territories in Latin America and the Caribbean have reported 178 different new psychoactive substances (NPS) belonging to various chemical groups.

Current activities of the Global SMART Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean already cover 20 countries. Each of these countries will receive a donation of two portable drug analyzer devices. One of them must be awarded to a national security entity that represents the main points of entry into the country (airport, seaport or border areas) and the other to a forensic laboratory that cooperates directly with the designated national security entity. These institutions will be nominated by their respective governments.

The aforementioned donations will be preceded by a forensic training workshop organized by UNODC to train participants on the use of the device, trends and new developments related to ATS and NSP and to contribute to early warning mechanisms nationwide, regional and international.

IoM: Mediterranean Migrant Arrivals Reach 4,432 in 2020; Deaths Reach 68. A Focus on Greece

IOM reports that 4,432 migrants and refugees have entered Europe by sea almost four weeks into the new year, down from the 5,266 arriving during the same period last year. Deaths, too are significantly down, at 68 men, women and children, compared with 216 at this point in January last year.

Nonetheless, at least one telling statistic already has emerged: 63 of those 68 deaths have come on the Eastern Mediterranean route linking Greece and Turkey, which compares with 71 migrant deaths on the Aegean Sea route through the entire year 2019 (see chart below).

IOM Greece

Arrivals to Greece so far are continuing their rapid pace from a year ago. The 1,939 men, women and children arriving in Greece by sea through 22 January match the same total of arrivals for all of December 2019 and fall just 140 of the total for all of January 2019, and will certainly top both periods' arrival numbers when the month ends later this week. Arrivals on this route in 2019 barely topped 2,000 per month through the year's first four months and

did not begin the current surge until mid-summer.

If current trends hold, Greece may see an even busier migration from Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean in 2020 than it did in 2019, when over 64,000 migrants and refugees arrived, the biggest surge since 2016.

IOM Greece this month also reported final numbers by nationality for the 2019 arrivals. Afghanistan was the top country of origin for migrants entering, with 28,253 arrivals or about 45 per cent of all arrivals during the year. Many Afghan nationals are believed to have begun their journeys to the Mediterranean after spending many years in Iran.

Syrian was the second largest source country on this route in 2019, with 16,019 arrivals. Iraq was the third largest country of origin with 3,396.

Other top senders included the Palestinian Territories (3,190), Democratic Republic of the Congo (3,006), Somalia (2,624), Islamic Republic of Iran (2,106), Congo (1,067), Cameroon (931), Turkey (508) and Pakistan (415).

WEBINAR

25th March 2020


Digital intelligence
for a safer world

Digital Intelligence for Safer Borders



Yohai West
Senior Product Marketing Manager at Cellebrite



Gil Kazes
Subject Matter Expert at Cellebrite

Today we live in a digital world where our lives generate massive amounts of data – and equal amounts of potential evidence.

Organizations are not always able to harness digital to its fullest potential, because existing processes and procedures are not designed to meet the demands of modern-day investigations.

We're here to help organizations like yours evolve, so that you can bridge the technological and resource gap by implementing a comprehensive digital strategy.

Further details and to register your participation - www.border-security-report/webinars

A Secure Visa System for the Schengen Area



The biggest challenge for the EU visa management system is to provide secure entrance of non-EU visitors throughout the Schengen Area. IDEMIA's Biometric Matching System (BMS) is able to identify visa applicants by matching fingerprints to identities, therefore establishing and verifying the validity of visa applications.

As the most visited region in the world, Europe welcomed over 670 million travellers in 2017 alone. Since its creation in 1995, the Schengen Area has allowed more than 500 million citizens in 31 European countries to travel freely without requesting a specific visa for each country. The Schengen Area has 11,000 km of external land borders, 43,000 km of external sea borders, 597 airports and 3,500 consular posts around the world. The biggest challenge for the EU visa management system is to provide secure entrance of non-EU visitors throughout the Schengen Area. IDEMIA's Biometric Matching System (BMS) is able to identify visa applicants by matching fingerprints to identities, therefore establishing and verifying the validity of visa applications.

A Continent-Wide System

In order to harmonize the EU visa management throughout the Schengen Area, in 2006 the European Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs implemented the European Visa Information System (VIS). VIS is at the core of the visa application process to

the Schengen Area, enabling member states to store and search alphanumeric and biometric data relating to visa applicants.

Implemented by Accenture and IDEMIA, the VIS system went live in October 2011. It has since experienced an increase of usage by consulates in non-EU countries and external border crossing points of Schengen states.

In 2013, the eu-LISA agency was created to take over the operational responsibility of the VIS from the European Directorate General for Migration and Home Affairs.

In 2016, a new consortium composed of IDEMIA, Accenture and Atos was awarded the renewal of the maintenance contract for a duration of four years.

A Reliable EU Visa Application and Issuance System

IDEMIA's BMS ensures secure visa applications by confirming that each person is issued only one visa for the Schengen Area. The BMS embeds the innovative IDEMIA product MBSS®, a multi-biometric search engine designed for high modularity and availability, combined with unparalleled speed and matching accuracy.

Consulates of Schengen member states around the world collect fingerprints, photographs and alphanumeric data from visa applicants over the age of 12, and record this information in the secure VIS database. The system performs a 1:N fingerprint matching, which compares the visa holder's fingerprints against those stored in the database, thus ensuring that there are no duplicate visa applications.

Accurate Checks at the Border

BMS also allows the authentication of visa holders when they cross Schengen borders. At the border post, the visa holder's fingerprints are captured and checked against the biometric data stored in the system (1:1 matching). If the comparison is successful, the visa holder is allowed to enter the Schengen Area.

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.



BORDER MANAGEMENTS ANNUAL GATHERING

EVENT PREVIEW



March 31st-2nd April 2020
Athens, Greece
www.world-border-congress.com

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.

Co-Hosted by:



HELLENIC REPUBLIC
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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 year's 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

AFRICAN 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 Salzgeber, 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

The Need for Client-Owned Open Source Frameworks for Integration of Sensors - Debra Frey, Parsons

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

How Technology and Collaboration between nations enable focus on detecting Foreign Terrorist Fighters - Senior Representative, SITA

11:15AM - 12:30PM WORKSHOPS

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

Enhancing capacity and migration management through by 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, UNCCT

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

PLENARY 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 Ashraf 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



4:15PM - 5:30PM

WORKSHOPS

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

CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - 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?

Border Development, Security and Migration Management in Nigeria: Challenges and Prospects

Asogwa Dominic Obetta, Comptroller, Nigeria Immigration Service

Ian Waterfield, Director of Operations, UK Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority*

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
Guido Ferraro di Silva e Castiglione, Commander (ITA Coast Guard, Res), Transport and Border Security Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Biometrics on the Move and SEF Mobile

Helio Freixial, IT Expert – Smart Borders PT Project manager, Portuguese Immigration and Borders Service

Aliyu Aziz, Director General/CEO, National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), Nigeria*

TBC

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



11:15AM - 12:30PM WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - SMUGGLING & TRADE IN ILLICIT GOODS, ANTIQUITIES AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The global trade in endangered species, over 1.5million 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

Borderline" Exhibitions: Ephemeral Museum Displays as Tools for Raising Awareness Against Trafficking Of Antiquities - Katerina Koukouvaou, Archaeologist, Hellenic Ministry of Culture and Sports, General Directorate of Antiquities and Cultural Heritage, Directorate of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities

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

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)*

2:00pm - 4:00pm **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

4:00PM

CONGRESS ROUND UP AND CLOSE

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

World Border Security Congress
 March 31st-2nd April 2020
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Border Agencies introducing Entry/Exit systems and other government agencies requiring real-time response can now benefit from low latency biometric data processing and greater scalability, while saving costs

Thales is using innovative assets from the aerospace industry to boost its Biometric Matching System (BMS) performance while reducing the environmental impact. The BMS is the heart of government digital identification systems. Introducing interoperability with its border management system requires multiple processing of hundreds of millions of biometric database records within 1 to 2 seconds.



To perform data comparison at this scale Gemalto, a Thales company, is applying commercial off-the-shelf Field-Programmable Gate Array (FPGA) technology, originally designed for ultra-low latency applications in high performance computing (HPC) environments in financial

and scientific industry, which is compatible with any server and cloud. Specifically, Gemalto uses these FPGA boards for matching hundreds of millions of biometric fingerprint templates which are digital signatures, created from fingerprint images. This proven solution

also allows for much faster data processing and greater matching accuracy, while at the same time limiting infrastructure costs and cutting carbon emissions. Depending on server and system specification, it can require up to 75% less servers and energy overall. Gemalto's Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) and Automated Biometric Identification System (ABIS) are scalable and customizable solutions,

providing a range of functionalities for processing, editing, searching, retrieving, and storing fingerprint, palm print, face and iris images and biographic subject records. With FPGA, ABIS makes it easier for government agencies to run very large and complex multi-biometric solutions with remarkable matching accuracy and speed, enabling States to better protect and serve their citizens..

TTEK announce Bahamas contract

In December, TTEK announced a contract with the Bahamas Ministry of Finance and Customs Department (Bahamas Customs) to support their efforts to modernize border processes and increase revenue collection

Bahamas Customs is responsible for the collection and protection of customs revenue and other mandated revenues and taxes, the facilitation of legitimate trade, improvement of the effectiveness and efficiency of their operations, and the provision of quality services to their clients.

TTEK will provide advanced data analytics using artificial intelligence and expert consulting services to assist Bahamas Customs with their objective to increase

revenue collection and improve the efficiencies of their border processes.

The firm will conduct a diagnostic assessment of the Bahamas Customs institutional programs, deploy TTEK's proprietary forensics technology to identify areas of revenue loss, and deploy onsite international Customs experts to support Bahamas Custom's commitment to improve performance, and strengthen internal capacities and operational efficiencies.

Indra Chairs New EUROCAE Group to Standardise Airport Anti-Drone Technology

EUROCAE, the European Organization for Civil Aviation Equipment, has entrusted Indra, one of the leading global technology and consulting companies, with the presidency of the new working group (WG-115). It has been set up to develop the standards that will support the safe and harmonized implementation of anti-drone systems in airports and other environments.



The group's launch meeting took place last December and was attended by 44 experts from 36 organizations, including the European

Commission, the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA), and Eurocontrol. During the meeting, the group voted and decided to appoint

Indra's representative, Jorge Munir El Malek, as president of the team.

Airports, navigation service providers, as well as the other actors involved in operations safety, urgently seek to implement effective systems to deal with this threat, so that drones can be detected and prevented from flying near their facilities without authorization.

During the launch meeting, it was also announced that the American Radio

Technical Commission for Aeronautics (RTCA) recently took the decision to create a new committee (SC-238) focused on countering drones (Counter-UAS) that will work together with EUROCAE to produce standardized documents by the two organizations. With this same objective, the group will maintain close collaboration with other international entities such as NATO and the European Defense Agency (EDA).

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March 31st-2nd April 2020

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Building Trust and Co-operation through Discussion and Dialogue

REGISTER TODAY

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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 devastating 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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for the international border management and security industry

Confirmed speakers include:

- Jim Nye, Assistant Chief Constable – Innovation, Contact & Demand & NPCC Maritime Lead, Devon & Cornwall Police
- Dr Olomu Babatunde Olukayode, Deputy Comptroller of Customs, Nigeria Customs
- Sanusi Tasiu Saulawa, Deputy Superintendent of Customs, Nigeria Customs Service
- Heiko Werner, Head of Security Group, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany
- Gerald Tatzgern, Head of Joint Operational Office, Public Security Austria
- Peter Nilsson, Head of AIRPOL
- Wayne Salzgeber, Director, INTERPOL Washington
- Tatiana Kotlyarenko, Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues, OSCE
- 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
- Hans Peter Wagner, National Expert, Senior Chief Inspector, Federal Police
- Mile Milenkoski, Senior adviser, Department for borders, passports and overflights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of North Macedonia
- Manoj Kumar, Second in Command, Indian Border Security Force
- Rear Admiral Mohammed Ashraf Haque, Director General, Bangladesh Coast Guard Force

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