

BORDER SECURITY REPORT

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FOR THE WORLD'S BORDER PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY INDUSTRY
POLICY-MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS

COVER STORY MONEY LAUNDERING AND THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE



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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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COVID-19, Technology Innovations and Privacy Trade Offs

2020 like 9/11 will be one of those seminal moments, OK a whole year is a long moment, but you get what I mean.

It will be a year that changes everything going forward, especially at our borders. New technology will check our health at airports, ports and border crossings.

Biometrics on eGates will be standard, new track and trace systems will be ready and in place, and Advanced Passenger Information (API), will be expanded to include more information about our movements when travelling abroad.

Once again, borders will be the frontline for new systems, procedures and technologies. Manufacturing industry has responded with incredible speed and ingenuity to the new challenges thrown up by COVID-19, and you can be sure that industry has only just got going.

But much of the new technology being deployed, will inevitably encroach on much cherished personal freedoms, such as; greater use of biometrics, facial recognition linked to other databases, the gathering and sharing of more passenger information such as movements, before, during and after travel, health information, and third-party contact information.

As any cyber security expert will tell you, the moment you store personal information on any system, you have created a vulnerability, when you then share that information with another system or multiple systems and across borders, you have increase that vulnerability each time.

Whilst we are in the middle of this crisis, exceptional measures are being taken in the interest of saving lives, that is a given.

But as we look to the future, policy makers, enforcement agencies and wider stakeholders nationally and internationally, will need to decide what privacy trade-offs are necessary and of course publicly acceptable.

It may be, that many measures like an expanded API, will be seen as a necessary and permanent measure. After all travel to other countries is not a right, it is a privilege. So your host knowing who you are and where you will be for at least the first part of your trip is a reasonable trade off.

But, the collection and use of other private data will require a good deal of considered thought and debate, and that process needs to start now.

Probably, the first opportunity for the border community to gather to discuss these issues and others, will be at the World Border Security Congress later this year in Athens. I hope to see you there!

Tony Kingham
Editor

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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.

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- Manoj Kumar, Second in Command, Indian Border Security Force
- Rear Admiral Mohammed Ashraf Haque, Director General, Bangladesh Coast Guard Force

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Illicit goods trafficking via port and airport facilities in Africa

Summary of an analytical report compiled by Interpol within the framework of the European Union (EU) funded Project ENACT (Enhancing Africa's response to transnational organized crime).

With this analytical report, INTERPOL, under the European Union funded project ENACT, has sought to assess how organized crime exploits ports and airports in Africa to traffic illicit goods as this crime phenomenon is still a significant challenge for law enforcement on the continent. Ports and airports across Africa continue to be targeted by organised crime groups (OCGs) to traffic illicit goods.

The traffic of illicit goods in Africa generates substantial profits, stemming from opportunities created by socio-economic and geo-political vulnerabilities, fragile legal frameworks and corruption. OCGs taking advantages of port and airport facilities in Africa are both local and international, often working together to maximise their illicit profits and reduce law enforcement detection. OCGs involved in trafficking at ports and airports on the African continent are almost certainly connected across borders.

Trafficking of illicit goods at ports and airports in Africa affects all regions on the continent. There is limited law enforcement capacity to counter this trafficking at national, regional and continental level. Trafficking of illicit goods at ports and airports in Africa is suspected of being consistently under-reported and going undetected, despite multiple data sources reporting on several types of illicit goods trafficking, involved OCGs and networks dynamics.

The following are the some of the key findings regarding the smuggling of illicit goods via airports and ports in Africa:

Large international airports with limited or poor screening procedures and with many connecting flights are at the highest risk to be exploited by OCGs in Africa;

OCGs based on the African continent are very likely connected to the international supply of illicit commodities through close collaboration with transnational OCGs that target the continent specifically to maximize illicit gains;

A myriad of methods are used by OCGs to evade detection at airports in Africa;

Ports and airports across Africa are most probably used as departure, transit and destination hubs for the trafficking of illicit goods.

Illicit goods trafficking is occurring at ports and airports within countries, within regions, between regions and between the continent and other parts of the world;

OCGs are likely increasingly turning to informal landing sites in Africa, instead of ports, to traffic certain illicit goods. This enables the OCG to circumvent law enforcement inspection and detection of the illicit commodity they are smuggling;

Commercial, cargo and private planes are probably the most frequently used aircraft to traffic illicit goods through airports in Africa. African airlines and not foreign airlines are more often used by OCGs to smuggle goods;

Illicit financial flows are probably a major trafficking element, obscuring or concealing the origin of illicit proceeds through cash trafficking at airports, enabling trafficking of illicit goods at ports through the Feiqian scheme, and generating revenue for non-state armed groups through illicit taxation at ports and airports;

Corruption is likely a major facilitator of the trafficking chain in Africa, involving airline and shipping crew members, customs, police, and airport and port authorities and staff.

Download the full report at: <https://www.interpol.int/fr/content/download/15458/file/2020%2006%2029%20FINAL%20PUBLIC%20AIRPORTS-ports%20threat%20assessment.pdf>

COMBATTING THE ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE: DISRUPTING MARITIME TRAFFICKING OF WILDLIFE THROUGH AFRICAN SEAPORTS

By *UNDP ECOSYSTEMS &
BIODIVERSITY*

Worldwide, wildlife crime is a serious threat to biodiversity, economies, and communities.

Generating up to US\$23bn annually, this transnational crime is the 4th most lucrative illegal trade after narcotics, human trafficking, and counterfeiting.

COVID illuminates the potential risk to human health and economies from poorly regulated or illegal trade in wildlife.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has caused widespread global disruption, some central aspects of pandemic response - including lockdowns and travel restrictions - are also impacting wildlife poaching and trafficking supply chains.

Alarmingly, some areas have reported an increase in wildlife poaching due to reduced law enforcement patrols and losses of rural jobs during lockdowns.

Elsewhere, some reduction in poaching has been observed, and is attributed to travel restrictions and supply chain disruptions.

For wildlife traffickers, reductions in commercial passenger flights have disrupted air smuggling routes; these transient reductions must be bolstered by enhancing attention to air cargo and maritime shipments.

Key to combatting the illicit wildlife trade: concerted efforts and multi-stakeholder collaboration targeting shifting strategies by wildlife traffickers who are exploiting new vulnerabilities due to COVID-19 disruptions.

DISRUPTING TRAFFICKING NETWORKS

Due to the large volumes of goods involved, coupled with a relatively minimal risk of detection and arrest, seaports are key transit gateways for illegal wildlife products.

According to the Elephant Trade Information System, up to 72% of ivory is trafficked by sea.

Targeting these maritime transit points and strengthening law enforcement co-ordination and co-operation with the private sector can disrupt trafficking networks and decrease profits and incentives for wildlife traffickers.

TARGETING TRADE GATEWAYS

Mombasa port in Kenya, and Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar ports in Tanzania, are key points in Eastern Africa for maritime trade with the rest of the world. The port of



Mombasa is known as the main gateway from East and Central Africa to Asia.

These ports are also key exit points for the trafficking of African wildlife.

However, it is estimated that on average only about 20% of trafficked ivory from Africa is actually caught and seized when shipped through ports.

ENHANCING EFFORTS AT PORTS

In May 2018, UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) initiated the Reducing Maritime Trafficking of Wildlife between Africa and Asia project. Spanning 36 months, this US\$2 million initiative is reducing maritime trafficking of wildlife between Africa and Asia by strengthening wildlife law enforcement at ports and increasing co-operation between ports and other maritime stakeholders.

Targeting critical routes and transit points between Africa and Asia is a powerful means of interdicting.

The project is part of the GEF-financed, World Bank-led Global Wildlife Program (GWP), which brings together 29 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America in coordinated efforts to combat wildlife poaching, trafficking and demand.

Each GWP country will support the implementation of activities aligned with national priorities and policies to combat wildlife crime, including under their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) submitted to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

COLLABORATION IS CRITICAL

In co-operation with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Royal Foundation of the Duke

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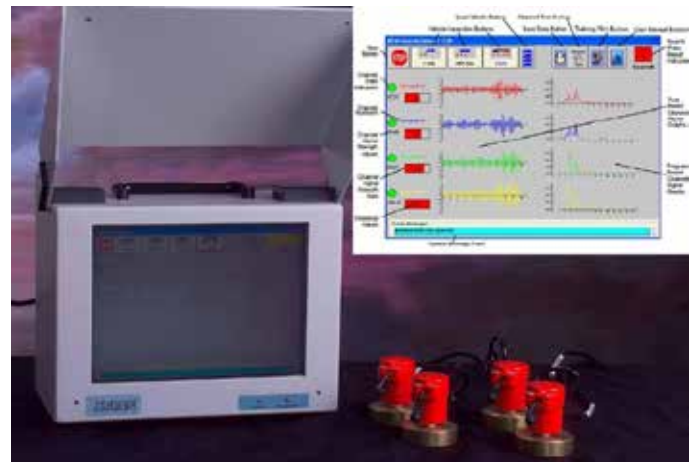
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In the early 1990s, the United States Department of Energy determined that our country's nuclear stockpiles were capable of being infiltrated by terrorist groups hiding in delivery trucks entering the facilities. In response, **the US DOE and Oak Ridge National Laboratory invented the AVIAN Heartbeat Detector™** to detect the presence of persons hidden in vehicles of all varieties by listening to the subtle movements a beating heart gives off inside of a vehicle. **In field use for over twenty-four years, it has been tested and proven 100% effective by Oak Ridge, Sandia, and Thunder Mountain National Laboratories as well as the United States Military Disciplinary Barracks at Fort Leavenworth.**

The AVIAN Heartbeat Detector consists of an industrial computer loaded with specially developed software, a touch-screen monitor and special sensors. The operator uses the touch-screen to select vehicle type prior to beginning the vehicle scan. The processed data provide the operator with a PASS or SEARCH indication. The completed **process takes as little as 15 seconds** after the sensors are placed on the vehicle and the driver has exited the vehicle.

The AVIAN Heartbeat Detector is a **cost effective** method to accurately and quickly search large or small vehicles, regardless of contents, for hidden persons. The **one-screen operation** with icons makes training a simple matter that can be accomplished in less than one hour. The computer system requires little maintenance. **British Immigration, US Homeland Security, Spain's Guardia Civil and National Police, FRANCE MOJ, EDF, Hellenic Police and numerous others, are currently using the Heartbeat Detector** for their security purposes for 20 years.

The cost of the AVIAN Heartbeat Detector is approximately the cost of a single corrections officer or portal security guard. It is accurate and reliable and provides the officer with the capability to rapidly search fully loaded vehicles without moving or disturbing the vehicle contents.



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and Duchess of Cambridge, the World Bank, TRAFFIC, WWF, and other partners in the Global Wildlife Program, the project is increasing awareness of port stakeholders about wildlife crime and building capacity of law enforcement agencies and the private sector to jointly prevent, detect, and intercept illegal wildlife products.

A key component is the engagement of private sector companies along the maritime transport supply chain. This builds off the success of the United for Wildlife Transport Taskforce, spearheaded by the Duke of Cambridge.

The project is encouraging transport companies to join the currently 100+ signatories of the Buckingham Palace Declaration, and is providing them with technical support to assess supply chain security risks and strengthen defences against wildlife trafficking.

COLLECTIVE ACTION

Building partnerships, the project is improving co-operation and collaboration between key port stakeholders. Because collective action is imperative to combat wildlife trafficking through seaports, these partnerships are critical.

“Wildlife trafficking is one such crime that can only be effectively fought through inter-agency collaboration. Collaboration becomes even more critical when considering the existing network of illegal wildlife dealers worldwide.



It is only through collaboration in sharing of intelligence, exchange of operational techniques, sharing of modus operandi used by poachers and traffickers, etc. that we can truly build a united front against them,” says Robert Mande, Assistant Director of Anti-Poaching, Tanzania Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism

To date, the project and its partners have brought together over 130 representatives from 14 countries and over 50 organisations in Kenya and Tanzania to discuss concrete actions to stem the flow of illegal wildlife products through Mombasa and Dar es Salaam ports.

This includes government law enforcement agencies and port authorities, private sector port and maritime supply chain companies and associations, as well as conservation and trade facilitation non-governmental and intergovernmental organisations.

Recognising the urgent need for

action against IWT, these key port stakeholders have agreed on a collective way forward. Specific actions include strengthening risk profiling systems, inter-agency, inter-sectoral, and international collaboration, enforcement and prosecution capacity, and information and intelligence exchange.

The project and its partners are committed to support port stakeholders in taking tangible steps towards these prioritised actions.

Complementary to these efforts targeting seaports, Kenya and Tanzania are implementing national projects under the GWP, led by national governments and supported by UNDP. These projects will support the implementation of the National Wildlife Strategy 2030 in Kenya, and the National Strategy to Combat Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trade in Tanzania.

Strong national government leadership is imperative.



need to take care of nature, so that nature can take care of us.

Biological diversity – including healthy wildlife populations – underpins ecosystem functioning, supports local livelihoods and economic development, and is essential to achieving the Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Poaching and illegal trade in wildlife, with its diverse impacts across environment, economy, and society, puts at risk the achievement of multiple SDGs. We also now understand in a much more personal way how it puts at risk the achievement of multiple SDGs – including those related to health.

The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting global public health and the global economy in unprecedented ways. As the world recovers, and tries to build back better, we must maximise pressure on the new vulnerabilities that wildlife traffickers are facing and

GLOBAL ACTION

Recognising that IWT is a transnational crime, the project is also supporting measures to enhance regional co-operation in Africa as well as between key African and Asian ports. GWP national projects in Indonesia and the Philippines are key partners in this coordination through their efforts to strengthen capacities at Asian seaports.

This coordination is particularly important as criminal IWT networks are quick to adapt to stronger detection and enforcement capacities by varying transport routes. Recent ivory and pangolin scales seizure data suggests that trafficking routes have broadened to include Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Nigeria, among others.

Transnational information exchange and co-operation are needed to stay a step ahead of the criminal IWT networks.

WORKING FOR NATURE

These are exceptional times in which nature is sending us a message: human health is dependent on the health of the planet. Zoonotic diseases like COVID-19 are transmitted between animals and people; research shows that as we degrade the natural world, these diseases are more likely to spread. To prevent and control future pandemics, we





redouble our efforts to address poaching and trafficking of wildlife – for the benefit of environment, economy and society.

This project acknowledges the current reality, and contributes to advancing efforts on SDG 15 on life on land, and specifically target 15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal

wildlife products, with benefits for other SDGs, including SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth and SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions.

For more information on the Global Wildlife Program, please visit <http://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/global-wildlife-program>

UNDP ECOSYSTEMS & BIODIVERSITY

Since 2000, UNDP's global biodiversity program, with financing from the Global Environment Facility and other sources, has been successful in: helping to strengthen over 3,000 protected areas, covering more than 680 million hectares including marine, terrestrial and indigenous and community conserved areas; and undertaking interventions in production sectors and development planning, covering more than 250 million hectares of production landscapes and seascapes.



WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

*By Jenny Constantine, Transnational
Organized Crime - Researcher,
Trinidad and Tobago Police Academy*

The insatiable demand for wildlife in Trinidad and Tobago has encouraged a thriving trade between the twin island republic and its neighbour Venezuela. For years, the illegal trade has existed between the two countries, mainly for the market in Trinidad, but with the crippling economic crisis in Venezuela more of its citizens are lured into

the profitable illegal trade as a means of survival. Trinidad and Tobago, the southernmost islands in the Caribbean archipelago, lie approximately seven miles east off the nearest coast of Venezuela. On a go fast boat the trip between the two countries is approximately 10 minutes on the north west coast. Recently a peek into the extent of the trade was uncovered with

the arrests of several smugglers, rescues of animals both on land and at sea and discoveries of non-local species of animals in the country.

Several media reports show that most of the wildlife discovered are found in the southern part of the island mostly in the possession of Venezuelan nationals in company with locals. The animals are smuggled over in pirogues from the South American country to Trinidad into the anxious hands of customers. The animals are obtained for sale as pets and for local consumption as expensive, exotic dishes. Animals frequently trafficked into Trinidad are Parrots, Macaws, Monkeys, Iguanas, Otters, Sloths, Tapirs, and once as far as records show, even a pair of Jaguars! Law enforcement officers both on land and at sea have lately been kept busy with the discoveries and investigations into the



smuggled animals. As early as June 2020 law enforcement officials have intercepted a number of Venezuelan nationals at times in company with Trinidad and Tobago citizens either in pirogues on the sea or on land with the contraband items. In August, international headlines were made when smugglers were caught by Coast Guard officers on the sea attempting to smuggle in a

large quantity of birds, otters and other wild animals. On seeing the local authorities, the smugglers threw the animals and birds into the sea whilst still in their cages. Most of birds drowned though a few were saved. The perpetrators were all arrested and charged.

Many traffickers are not caught, and the trade flourishes. A cursory glance on social media platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp show advertisements from numerous persons selling sometimes protected birds and other animals at cheap prices. One such in demand item is the bullfinch bird locally referred to as a 'Chikichong'. It is a prized possession in competitive bird singing competitions. Locally birds cost thousands but those trafficked from Venezuela cost around \$TTD 300 (USD\$45) per bird by the dozen on the black market. However, if the bird has started to sing, prices start at \$TTD 500 plus (USD\$75+) per bird by the dozen. Domestic animals are also





then Trinidad and Tobago's law enforcement officers need to work assiduously to protect its borders in order to counteract the trade in illegal wildlife.

**Animal photos are from bystanders at seizures*

brought over such as cows, goats, and sheep for local consumption at butcher shops. The latter caught the attention of government and then Minister of Agriculture Mr Clarence Rambharat lamented that the unscrupulous trade was encouraged by the local demand for cheaper goods which places citizens at risk because the animals are usually diseased and malnourished.

Interviews with law enforcement personnel also highlighted the concern that the same routes taken by wildlife traffickers are the same used for human smuggling as well as for the trafficking of guns, drugs, and humans. Research has shown that law enforcement officers have expressed concerns about the involvement of organized criminal groups in the trade and the subsequent money laundering from the huge profits made. The illegal

trade in wildlife is an easy source of income and may be the only means of survival to the troubled citizens of Venezuela. It is a fact that it is not viewed as a real crime by those who participate. Until that perception is addressed in both the source and market countries



UNODC resuming in-person Maritime Law Enforcement capacity building with Kenya Coast Guard



During the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) has been continuing capacity building through virtual means, such as hosting an online Prosecutor's Network forum, a Maritime Terrorism roundtable event and has recently launched a monthly online session on legal matters pertaining to the Law of the Sea. As circumstances permit, UNODC GMCP is resuming in-person capacity building activities in the Western Indian Ocean region.

The UNODC GMCP had the honour to invite the Kenya Coast Guard Service (KCGS) to nominate 24 Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE) personnel to participate in Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) courses to be held in Seychelles. However, prior to execution, it became necessary to postpone the training events due to restrictions put in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Kenya Coast Guard Service is a newly established agency, still in its initial stages of formation, and

responsible for law enforcement in the territorial waters of Kenya. It is an agency that incorporates personnel from different agencies, being the Navy, Customs, Kenya Fisheries and Kenya Wildlife Service, and will protect Kenyan waters from illegal and unregulated fishing, border disputes, piracy, human and drug trafficking, illicit trade, smuggling contraband goods, and degradation of the marine ecosystems.

On 31 August 2020, UNODC GMCP launched its first-ever VBSS course held in Mombasa. The course included a week of classroom training, which involved practical exercises and sessions on applications of the UN Convention on Law of the Sea for MLE personnel. The second week consisted of practical training and boarding exercises.

In addition to the VBSS courses, Mr. Ochoa will also review current maintenance management practices, offer support to leadership in organising and planning to maximize effectiveness in training and operations, and provide specialised mentoring on navigation, safety and seamanship skills.

Supporting KCGS will strengthen Kenyan borders and mitigate risks of transnational organized crime, which will contribute significantly to managing migration, improving internal security and preserving the health of the ocean ecosystems of Kenyan waters.

UNODC GMCP is excited about the continuing collaboration with KCGS and looks forward to developing further initiatives in Mombasa, such as the new VBSS Simulator facility to execute Pierside Vessel training currently under construction at Bandari Maritime Academy.

JIT Leads to Dismantling of Albanian-Speaking Cocaine Trafficking Network



An unprecedented international operation involving judicial and law enforcement authorities in 10 countries has resulted in the complete takedown of the Albanian-speaking 'KOMPANIA BELLO' criminal group, one of the most active cocaine-trafficking networks in Europe.

In the early hours of 15 September, hundreds of police officers, including special intervention teams and in close cooperation with prosecutors and investigative officers, with the support of Europol and Eurojust, carried out coordinated raids against the members of this highly

professional criminal syndicate.

As a result of this joint action, 20 individuals were arrested across Europe. The suspects have been placed in pre-trial detention for international narcotic substances trafficking, illegal possession and distribution of drugs and brutal assaults, including murder. These arrests follow those of 84 other members of this criminal group early on in the investigation in Italy, Ecuador, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Germany.

This international sweep follows a complex 5-year long investigation led by the Italian State Police (Polizia di Stato) under the direction of the Public Prosecutor's Office of Florence (Procura della Repubblica di Firenze). It is considered the biggest of its kind ever against Albanian-speaking organised crime and is the result of a Joint Investigation Team with the participation of Italy and The Netherlands, in which the parties have worked closely together for five years. Close to 4 tonnes of cocaine and over €5.5 million in cash have been seized over the course of this investigation. .

Rare Books Recovered in Romania in €2m London Warehouse Heist Investigation



Following the execution of a European investigation order, a house search led by the Romanian police in the county of Neamt uncovered the rare books buried underground. Reported stolen from a warehouse in Feltham (UK) in 2017, the priceless historical antiques included first editions of Galileo Galilei and Isaac Newton from the sixteenth and seventeenth century.

This discovery is the result of an international law enforcement cooperation between the United Kingdom (Metropolitan Police Service), Italy (Italian Carabinieri - Arma

dei Carabinieri) and Romania (Romanian National Police - Poliția Română) with the support of Europol and Eurojust. The individuals suspected with the theft are currently in pre-trial detention in the United Kingdom.

In 2017, following the €2 million heist in the UK executed by an organised crime group composed of Romanian nationals, a Joint Investigation Team was set up between the cooperating countries with the support of Europol and the judicial assistance of Eurojust. This joint investigation framework provided the involved law enforcement authorities with the analytical tools, the coordination of information exchange and the judicial expertise to carry out several criminal investigation activities. As a result, 15 suspects linked to the criminal organisation were arrested in the UK and Romania in June 2019.



Online crime in Africa a bigger threat than ever before, INTERPOL report warns

A new INTERPOL report on online organized crime in Africa shows how digitalization is transforming almost every major crime area across the continent.

Africa continues to rank lowest in rates of Internet connectivity in the world. In 2019, only 28% of Africans were reportedly using the Internet, compared to 83% in Europe, according to figures from the International Telecommunications Union cited in the INTERPOL report.

However, relatively low rates of online connectivity have not stopped organized crime groups from taking advantage of the Internet.

Malware incidents are increasingly prevalent in Africa. In one East African country alone, the cost of cyber fraud more than doubled between 2017 and 2018, reaching nearly USD 6.5 m.

Even the criminal activities that have longed formed the 'bread and butter' of organized crime groups are being

digitalized.

Social media is used to facilitate migrant smuggling, as evidenced by the INTERPOL-supported Operation Sarraounia, which saw the rescue of 232 victims of human trafficking in Niger, 46 of whom were minors. The operation revealed that 180 male victims had been recruited online with messages that promised "decent work".

As in other world regions, organized crime groups in Africa also use the Internet to facilitate the sexual exploitation and abuse of children, leveraging digital tools to contact and solicit victims as well as sell child sexual abuse materials.

The African continent is also a growing global transit hub for the trafficking of drugs and a range of illicit commodities, with narcotics, pharmaceuticals, stolen motor vehicles and other goods sold and bought online on the surface, deep and dark web.

Nigeria arrests two suspects linked to massive mask fraud



Authorities in Nigeria have arrested two suspects who are believed to be behind a huge fraud scheme which nearly saw German health authorities pay EUR 2.4 million for masks they never received.

In March 2020, as a number of countries were going into lockdown due to COVID-19, health authorities were desperate to purchase protective equipment for medical staff. They contracted a procurement company to find EUR 15 million worth of face masks.

Despite being experienced buyers, company representatives were hooked by fraudsters and led down a path of referrals, fake emails and websites, extra fees and ultimately, no masks.

In a case coordinated by INTERPOL, financial crime and intelligence units and banks across Germany, Ireland, Netherlands and the United Kingdom raced against the clock to intercept a number of wire transfers and recover the down payments made to guarantee an initial shipment of masks.

INTERPOL Chief outlines ongoing assistance to East Africa police

Despite constraints imposed by COVID-19, INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock reaffirmed the Organization's support to the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) in two addresses to their Annual General Meeting.

Recognizing the achievements of the EAPCCO region under the Chairmanship of Simon Sirro, the INTERPOL Chief highlighted several successes throughout the year, including Operation Simba II involving the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

During the eight-day operation in March, nearly three million checks were carried out against INTERPOL's databases resulting

in the arrest of five individuals, one of whom was a member of a crime syndicate wanted in Europe. Secretary General Stock said the operation demonstrated that despite the pandemic and the resulting travel restrictions, criminal mobility across borders continues.



International co-operation vital for addressing terrorism during the pandemic, OSCE PA counter-terrorism Chair says

Parliamentarians play a crucial role in promoting international co-operation and championing a whole-of-society approach in countering and preventing terrorism including during the pandemic, Austrian parliamentarian Reinhold Lopatka said at the 2020 OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference in Vienna today.

Lopatka, who serves as Chair of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, addressed the event following a meeting on the margins with Amb. Igli Hasani, representing the Albanian OSCE

Chairmanship.

Not only has COVID-19 greatly affected our everyday lives, Lopatka said in his address, it has shifted attention from threats such as violent extremism and terrorism.

"The pandemic seems to have provided a fertile ground for terrorist groups to boost their online propaganda, call for new attacks, increase recruitment operations, stigmatize minorities, and above all, disseminate false and discriminatory information," Lopatka said."

EU Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) uses OSCE online module to raise awareness about Intelligence-Led Policing among officers from Central and Eastern Europe

Around 30 law enforcement officials from Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia will participate in an online module on Intelligence-Led Policing (ILP) organized by the OSCE with the support of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL).

The purpose of this eLearning activity, found on CEPOL's Learning Management System, LEEd, is to raise awareness about this modern and proactive policing model and present its practical implementation in several key areas to country police officers and law enforcement representatives from Central and Eastern Europe.

Participants will be introduced to the main principles of the OSCE Guidebook on ILP, which is available in ten languages (Albanian, Arabic, Bosnian, Croatian, English, Macedonian, Serbian, Russian, Spanish and French) and is actively used by law enforcement agencies and authorities as well as other international organizations both within and outside the OSCE area.

Over the course of the training, law enforcement experts from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation such as Israel, Austria, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Estonia will present best practices in the field of ILP.

OSCE official praises Finland's reforms to counter human trafficking and encourages further efforts on victim identification and prosecution

The OSCE Special Representative for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Valiant Richey, wrapped up a series of two-day online consultations with high-level officials of Finland today. He concluded that the Finnish Government is demonstrating strong political initiative to combat trafficking but needs to increase its efforts to counter impunity and identify victims, particularly children and those exploited online.

Thanking Special Representative Valiant Richey for the meeting, Minister of Justice Anna-Maja Henriksson said: "It was extremely valuable to hear the OSCE's views on

preventing human trafficking in various countries and to discuss how to best work together against it. The Finnish government is very dedicated to working against human trafficking."



IOM Inaugurates New Headquarters for National Border Police in Niger, Completing USD 3 Million Effort



A landlocked country in the Sahel region, the Republic of Niger is positioned at the crossroad of West, Central and North Africa. This strategic location has made the country an important corridor for both trade and migration.

Due to its large territory, neighboring seven countries with over 5,600 km of land borders – and being part of the free movement zone of the West African ECOWAS region – border management

challenges are significant. The country is exposed to various security threats, such as violent extremist terrorism, cross-border crime, trafficking and smuggling, some spilling over from neighboring countries.

With that in mind, the new National Police headquarters for the Directorate for Territorial Surveillance (DST) is being inaugurated, built under the supervision of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Niger.

Tuesday's ceremony marks the end of the three-year project "Haske DST" (Haske meaning "light" in Hausa), funded by the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) of the US Government, with almost USD 3 million.

The DST – Niger's immigration services responsible for border management – plays a key role in preventing transnational crime while supporting smooth regular migration and trade across borders.

IOM Report: Ethiopia Records More Than 1.8 Million Internally Displaced in 2020

There are now more than 1.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ethiopia, a new report on internal displacement released by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has revealed.

The report, which was completed in September and endorsed by Ethiopian authorities, contains data collected between June and July 2020 through the assessment of

more than 1,200 IDP sites and over 1,200 villages where IDPs had reportedly returned.

The primary cause of displacement: conflict, which has resulted in 1,233,557 IDPs across this country. The second highest cause: drought, which displaced 351,062 IDPs, followed by seasonal floods (displacing 104,696 IDPs) and flash floods (50,093).

Germany Provides EUR 2,000,000 to Support IOM's COVID-19 Response in Bangladesh



The IOM will expand the provision of essential health services to Rohingya refugees and vulnerable members of the host community, and further its support to the Government of Bangladesh's efforts to build capacity at Points of Entry (PoE) in

Cox's Bazar to identify, screen, and refer ill travellers with a EUR 2 million contribution from the German Federal Foreign Office.

The generous funding will enable IOM to establish three Isolation and Treatment Centres, repurpose 100 mid-term shelters for quarantine and isolation of mild cases, support the Cash-for-Work programme to build the resilience of affected families in the camps and settlements.



Situation of African Migrants in the Middle East

The African Union Commission notes with dismay recent adverse media reports regarding the plight of African migrant workers in different parts of the world especially the Middle East.

While the root causes might be different in each country, the challenges experienced by African labour migrants working in low skilled jobs are similar and the situation is further exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic in general.

In an effort to gain concrete insight on the atrocities experienced by African labour migrants, the African Union Commission held an emergency meeting in coordination with some of the affected Member States with workers, namely Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan. The meeting discussed the ongoing efforts, the need to strengthen urgent rights-based humanitarian interventions leading to the safe repatriation of the migrants, and to address the plight of migrants languishing in detention centres.

As a global phenomenon, the desperate situation of African low skilled migrant workers in Middle East and Gulf countries demands for a global call for transformative actions aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of African migrants, especially during emergencies such as

the COVID19 pandemic. This includes the enforcement of signed bilateral labour agreements between sending and receiving countries.

Many countries have put in place mechanisms to respond to Covid-19 induced adverse conditions. Consequently, movement restrictions including detaining migrants have been imposed. The overwhelming conditions associated with Covid-19 have jeopardized the livelihood and rights of migrants in many ways. To mention a few: migrants are faced with challenges including the lack of access in healthcare services, the requirement of 14 days mandatory quarantine, frozen visa processes include exit visa, abrupt termination of their jobs, outstanding salary payments, and the closing of businesses which included remittances sending agencies.

The African Union Commission calls for the promotion, respect and adherence to universal human rights in dealing with African labour migrants. Concerted efforts across all stakeholders of governments and international organizations to provide urgent humanitarian intervention to end these sufferings are indispensable to alleviate the pain and agony projected at African brothers and sisters who are migrants in some jurisdictions in the Middle East.

Harnessing the power of technology to combat human trafficking

A global competition to develop tools that use both technology and data analysis to prevent as well as prosecute cases of human trafficking, is underway.

One hundred and sixty people from 13 countries are currently working against the clock on innovations that could identify trafficking patterns, locate hotspots and track criminal networks that exploit people of all ages and backgrounds.

The online event, known as a “DataJam Pasos Libres” was started in 2018, and is co-organized by IBM and Pasos Libres — a Colombian organization that aims to prevent human trafficking through innovative technologies.

“Although efforts to combat human trafficking have

progressed, significant barriers remain,” says Sebastián Arévalo Sánchez, co-founder and CEO of Pasos Libres.

“Challenges include lack of information and the complexity in extracting value from data and the problem of transforming knowledge about human trafficking into tangible, practical solutions,” he added.

This year’s edition is the third of its kind to be organized via this partnership, which makes use of both IBM technology and mentorship opportunities.

The 34 competing teams —consisting of IT specialists, crime prevention experts and representatives from businesses and the financial sector— have eight days to create a technical solution to tackle human trafficking.

Dozens of Rohingya refugees perish at sea



The refugees, numbering about 330 had set off on the journey in Cox's Bazar, in southern Bangladesh, in February. After months at sea in desperate conditions, some 300 landed on the northern coast of Aceh, Indonesia, early on Monday morning. More than 30 people are believed to have died at sea.

"Their hazardous ordeal has been prolonged by the collective unwillingness of states to act for more than six months," Indrika Ratwatte, UNHCR Director for Asia and the Pacific, said in a statement.

The UN agency noted that the Bali Process which was created by countries in the region to prevent such tragedies from happening, failed to save lives through rescue and disembarkation. It added the group of refugees had repeatedly tried to disembark over the course of the journey, to no avail.

"Refugees have reported that dozens passed away throughout the journey. UNHCR and others have repeatedly warned of dire consequences if refugees at sea are not permitted to land in a safe and expedient manner. Ultimately, inaction over the past six months has been fatal," said Mr. Ratwatte.

UNHCR staff in Aceh are supporting local authorities to assess the needs of the refugees. The immediate priority is providing first aid and medical care as required. All will be tested for COVID-19 in accordance with standard health measures in Indonesia for all arrivals.

Among those rescued, two-thirds are women and children.

Promise 'remains unfulfilled'

The Bali Process was initiated at the 2002 Regional Ministerial Conference on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime held in Bali, Indonesia. It aims to address practical issues related to smuggling, trafficking and related transnational crime.

At the time of the 'boat crisis' in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, five years ago, which saw thousands of refugees and migrants – distressed at sea and denied life-saving care and support, Bali Process states acknowledged the need for a reliable and collective response to the regional challenge.

"Having created a mechanism to convene governments from across the region for precisely this purpose, the promise of that commitment remains unfulfilled," said Mr. Ratwatte, adding:

"A comprehensive and fair response necessarily requires responsibility-sharing and concrete efforts across South East Asia, so that those who permit disembarkation and bring those in distress ashore do not carry a disproportionate burden."

A complex refugee crisis

The complex Rohingya refugee crisis erupted in August 2017, following attacks on remote police outposts in northern Myanmar by armed groups alleged to belong to the community. These were followed by systematic counter attacks against the minority, mainly Muslim, Rohingya, which human rights groups, including senior UN officials, have said amounted to ethnic cleansing.

In the weeks that followed, over 700,000 Rohingya – the majority of them children, women and the elderly – fled their homes for safety in Bangladesh, with little more than the clothes on their backs.

Prior to the mass exodus, well over 200,000 Rohingya refugees were sheltering in Bangladesh as a result of earlier displacements from Myanmar.

CANNABIS TRAFFICKING AND ENDANGERED- TORTOISE TRADE DRIVE CORRUPTION IN MADAGASCAR

The Global Initiative is a network of more than 500 experts on organised crime drawn from law enforcement, academia, conservation, technology, media, the private sector and development agencies. It publishes research and analysis on emerging criminal threats and works to develop innovative strategies to counter organised crime globally.

The mountainous Andriy region near the town of Betroka in south-eastern Madagascar is an inhospitable area: remote, difficult to access and with a reputation for danger due to long-standing banditry and armed cattle-rustling groups. It is also one of Madagascar's two main cannabis-producing regions, and home to

organized groups of traffickers who control exports of the drug.

Hery (not his real name), the leader of one of these groups and a key cannabis supplier, described how his business works. He and his lieutenant reportedly control hundreds of young men in their trafficking organization, a claim backed up by a police officer who



spoke anonymously and is tasked with a mission to arrest Hery and bring him to justice. This officer estimates that Hery has around 150 people in his gang.

They control the cannabis shipments to exchange points on the outskirts of Betroka, from where transporters then take the shipments by road to drug bosses based in the capital, Antananarivo, and other towns, including Toliara, Antsirabe, Ihosy and Fianarantsoa.

A businessman and nightclub owner in Betroka explained how cannabis is brought from the mountain regions by transporters on foot, and left in clandestine drop-off places outside the city. Toky (not his real name), an inmate in Betroka prison,

who was arrested for acting as a cannabis transporter, described his own experience on this route. Working on behalf of a dealer based in Ihosy, he travelled with a group into the mountain region to collect a cannabis shipment. After paying his cut to Hery's gang in order to move cannabis freely, his group were intercepted by police on their way back to Betroka. As the oldest member of the group, Toky was not able to flee in time.

How Betroka became a major cannabis production hub has links to cattle rustling. One ex-politician, also a former cattle rustler, reported that many of the major players have, in recent years, switched their focus from cattle rustling to

cannabis. Hery said that some in his gang were once cattle rustlers, but were now concentrating on drugs and looking to invest in artisanal mining. According to Hery, his gang recently reached a pact with regional law enforcement, whereby they would surrender any arms from cattle-rustling operations in return for being able to trade cannabis with impunity.

The way Hery operates, and those like him, relies on complicity and protection. He reports that grands patrons 'big bosses' in Antananarivo ensure their protection and cover their activities. In Betroka, he claims that his group and their 30 or so subgroups pay annual fees to regional civil servants to ensure their collaboration. Other interviewees, from former politicians to public prosecutors, businessmen and police, also corroborated that corruption linked to the cannabis trade is widespread in the area.

The world's rarest reptiles

The south-west of Madagascar is the home range of the radiated tortoise, one of the world's rarest reptile species. Along with the ploughshare tortoise – also native to Madagascar and even more endangered, as only a few hundred specimens are known to remain in the wild – radiated tortoises have in the past decade become highly sought after by reptile collectors in the international pet trade.

In the radiated tortoises' home ranges, a large proportion of people depend on rural subsistence

livelihoods. For centuries, tortoises have been part of the local diet as an important source of protein. Herilala Randriamahazo, a conservationist with the Turtle Survival Alliance, working on tortoise protection, told us that poaching for bushmeat remains a primary danger to tortoise populations.

Theft of young radiated tortoises for international sale has grown significantly in the past decade. In 2018, two seizures of unprecedented scale – numbering over thousands of tortoises – were made in the island's south-west. One of the experts interviewed believes that the buyer of the seized tortoises will be waiting for this order to be fulfilled, meaning that the pressure remains for thousands of more tortoises to be taken from the wild.

Tortoise traffickers – predominantly Malagasy and Asian nationals resident in Antananarivo – use intermediaries who approach communities to conscript locals to poach live tortoises for a cash income. In this impoverished region, in which tortoises have traditionally been a food source to exploit, and not an endangered species to protect, this proves a strong incentive. The intermediaries then make payment on collection and arrange transport for the tortoises.

Different markets, similar dynamics
The markets for cannabis and radiated tortoises may initially seem



to be quite different: very different commodities, originating in different regions of Madagascar, and operating in very different social and political contexts.

However, in both cases, one of the challenges inherent in governing these markets is a lack of local-government legitimacy and a local acceptance of these trades. Conservationists try to integrate anti-poaching edicts into local law systems in a bid to encourage community compliance with national-level efforts to counter the tortoise trade. In the cannabis trade, Hery and his gang argued that producers and traffickers in the region are simply trying to find a source of income in a difficult environment, and that they saw cannabis as a legitimate way of making a living.

Both trades rely on the complicity of officials in source regions and along trafficking routes. Just like the multitude of officials on Hery's gang's payroll, officials in the south-west are encouraged

to turn a blind eye to the tortoise trade, and trafficking intermediaries reportedly have strong links to law enforcement.

Police inspection points along the main roads in Madagascar are widespread. Moving tortoises from the south-west to Antananarivo may entail passing up to 20 checkpoints. However, there are few reports of seizures at these checkpoints, implying that low-level corruption is common. The transport of large shipments of cannabis uses the same trunk roads leading to Antananarivo as those used for tortoise trafficking. These flows may be relying on the same modalities of corruption to move illegal goods, and their establishment along transport routes paves the way for multiple types of trafficking.

Shipments of tortoise and drugs other than cannabis also pass through many of the same transport hubs and regional destinations. Tortoises are transported overland to Antananarivo, and thence to Asian destination markets by air

from Ivato airport. Alternatively, some traffickers ship radiated tortoises from the south-west by boat to Mahajanga for export to the Comoros islands. Similarly, international law-enforcement sources identified Mahajanga as a major hub port for drug shipments through Madagascar, and migrants are also smuggled from this port to the Comoros.

Secondary routes include regional flights from smaller airports to Comoros, Mayotte or Reunion. More recently, there have been reports of radiated tortoises going directly from south-west Madagascar on ships to China, or by fishing boat to Mozambique.

Cannabis from Betroka is primarily shipped to Antananarivo

and also services regional consumption markets across southern Madagascar. Cannabis from Madagascar's other major production area, the northern Analabe Ambanja, is also shipped to Comoros via Nosy Be, an island off the north-west coast of Madagascar. Nosy Be is also an important hub for heroin shipments from Madagascar to other Indian Ocean island states, after heroin is brought into the country through other ports (particularly Toamasina) and consolidated, cut and repackaged in Antananarivo.

Corruption: a gateway for organized crime

Neither the illegal tortoise trade nor the cannabis market in Madagascar is a major priority for national or

international law enforcement. However, both markets show similar dynamics of local corruption and acceptance of the illegal market at the community level. In the case of cannabis trafficking in Betroka, where our research has been centred, the reported corruption is significant and endemic. In illicit markets, corruption in source regions and along transport routes undermines the rule of law and also acts as a gateway for other forms of organized crime to operate through the same routes.

This article appears in the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime's monthly East and Southern Africa Risk Bulletin.

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Drugs Seized in Container with Route Canada



Agents of the National Police Intelligence Directorate seized 87 packages with alleged cocaine, which were hidden inside three briefcases in a container located inside a Panamanian Pacific Port.

It was known that the contaminated container came from Nicaragua with transit through Panama and a final destination of Canada.

Four million three hundred and fifty thousand dollars is the approximate market value of this seized drug, which causes so much damage worldwide, so intelligence actions against transnational organized crime are carried out daily in all ports and airports in the country.

Connecting 157 Boys and Girls for Virtual Classes at School



The National Police, through the Fiscal and Customs Police (POLFA) in coordination with the DIAN, within the framework of the activity called "Operation Happiness", delivered to boys and girls from strata 1 and 2 of 13 cities in the country, 157 tablets with data plans, to alleviate your connectivity needs with virtual classes in academic sessions. Door to door, the technological elements were donated by

POLFA uniforms, who also got free internet for a year for schoolchildren.

In Santa Marta, Arauca, Barranquilla, Bogotá, Bucaramanga, Cartagena, Cúcuta, Ipiales, Medellín, Pereira, Riohacha, Valledupar and Turbo Antioquia, the event was held that involved young people who belong to the program "seedlings of legality" of the Tax and Customs Police and that due to their low economic resources they did not have these technological elements to continue with their studies.

The POLFA uniforms for 3 months, gave themselves to the task of knocking on the doors and the hearts of businessmen and unions in the country, in order to obtain these technological resources for children from social strata 1 and 2 as a donation, this, According to their needs, which in terms of connectivity hindered their academic training and classes in the Semilleros de la Legidad program..

National Guard Secures 1,200 Turtle Eggs



When carrying out road patrols to inhibit criminal actions in the state of Oaxaca, elements of the National Guard secured 1,200 sea turtle eggs, a species in danger of

extinction and protected by NOM-059-SEMARNAT-2010.

On the Pinotepa Nacional-Salina Cruz road section, national guards carried out security tours and had contact with a man who was stopping a public service vehicle, who upon noticing his presence decided not to board the unit and run unexpectedly through a gap that leads to the beach.

At the site, they found a cardboard box that carried sea turtle eggs in plastic bags and a search device was implemented for the person, without positive results.

ASEANAPOL Virtual Dialogue on Tackling Illicit Drug Trafficking Issues During Covid-19 Pandemic



While drug trafficking remains as one of the main threat to the national security and with the aim of enhancing its existing cooperation on tackling Transnational Organized Crimes (TOC) together with its initiatives in areas of common interest in South East Asia region, an inaugural dialogue between ASEANAPOL Secretariat and Narcotic Enforcement Department / Agencies of ASEANAPOL Member Countries (AMCs) was held.

The dialogue, which was hosted virtually by ASEANAPOL Secretariat, commenced with an opening remark by the Honourable Police Major General Do Van Hoanh, Director General of the Office of Investigation Police Agency, Ministry of Public Security, Viet Nam cum the Current Chairman of ASEANAPOL and followed by the speech from the Executive Director of ASEANAPOL Secretariat, Deputy Assistant

Commissioner Jim Wee. In his introductory remarks, Police Major General Do Van Hoanh shared the trafficking activities situation worldwide in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and reiterated his desire as a Current Chairman of ASEANAPOL for an agreement by consensus from all AMCs on the matters that will discuss in this platform especially on the most practical method to fight against Illicit Drug Trafficking.

By thanking on the motivational remark by the Current Chairman of ASEANAPOL, the Executive Director of ASEANAPOL Secretariat then delivered his opening speech by emphasizing Secretariat office roles during pandemic situation by initiating a concept note focusing on the issues of tackling against Illegal Drug Trafficking which will be further deliberated amongst the respective Narcotic Crime Enforcement Department/ Division of AMCs during the platform.

This two-hour dialogue session then continues with a concept note presentation by the Director for Police Services of ASEANAPOL Secretariat, Senior Superintendent Joni Getamala and followed by the country overviews on tackling the trafficking drug issues during pandemic of COVID-19 by the delegation from Narcotic Crime Department / Agencies of each AMCs.

Significant issues were discussed and the session was indeed fruitful in that it harmonises in order to streamline strategic coordination and flexible mechanism strategic plan towards optimizing global response to evolving threats.

64 Poachers Nabbed So Far This Year Following Clamp Down on Wildlife Trafficking

A total of 64 poachers were nabbed since the beginning of this year following efforts to clampdown on wildlife trafficking, says Energy and Natural Resources Minister Datuk Dr Shamsul Anuar Nasarah.

"To further strengthen the Biodiversity Protection and Patrolling Programme (BP3) for the protection of national forest treasures, a total of 100 army veterans and 50 Orang Asli were appointed as wildlife rangers on contract service this year.

"There have been some big successes this year involving 32 cases and 64 individuals, which resulted in seizures amounting to RM536,000.

"A total of 443 snares were also destroyed," he said when

answering a question Dr Azman Ismail (PH-Kuala Kedah) in Dewan Rakyat.

Dr Azman wanted to know what was the government's plan to ensure that the country would no longer be a transit centre or involved in wildlife trafficking after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Shamsul said that Ops Benteng, which was implemented to prevent undocumented migrants from entering the country during the movement control order (MCO), would also be used to monitor borders for illegal wildlife trade.

Besides this, he said that 30 Wildlife Department enforcement officers would also be stationed at 14 of the nation's entry points to prevent illegal wildlife trade.

AGENCY NEWS AND UPDATES

BP Officers Seize Over \$2.1 Million Worth in Hard Narcotics in One Enforcement Action



U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers at the Juarez-Lincoln Bridge seized narcotics that totaled over \$2.1 million in street value.

Packages containing 78.66 pounds of methamphetamine and 19.57 pounds of heroin seized by CBP officers at Juarez-Lincoln Bridge.

The seizure occurred on Wednesday, September 16th, when a CBP officer assigned to the Juarez-Lincoln Bridge referred a 2012 Chevrolet Silverado for secondary inspection. The vehicle was driven by a 63-year-old male U.S. citizen traveling from Mexico. CBP officers examined the vehicle

utilizing a non-intrusive imaging system examination, resulting in the discovery of 78.66 pounds of methamphetamine and 19.57 pounds of black tar heroin hidden within the vehicle.

The narcotics have an estimated street value of \$2,106,002..

Border Force stop £15 million of cocaine hitting streets



In the first incident officers stopped a Slovenian registered lorry which had arrived on a ferry from Calais carrying electronic equipment. They searched the vehicle and found 96 kilos of the drugs which had been hidden in a pallet and had a potential street value of around £4.3 million.

Shortly afterwards a second lorry, also Slovenian registered, was stopped and found to contain items removed from the first lorry to make room for the drugs. Both drivers were arrested and the investigation was referred to the National Crime Agency (NCA).

In the second incident on the same day, Border Force officers stopped a British-registered coach which had also arrived on a ferry from Calais. They searched the vehicle, which was not carrying any passengers, and found 240 kilos of cocaine with a potential street value of around £11 million in a space behind the steps onto the coach. A 53-year-old British man, who was driving the vehicle, and a second man, also British, were arrested and the investigation referred to the NCA.

Frontex to launch maritime surveillance by aerostat pilot project

Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, is planning to launch a pilot project for maritime surveillance by aerostat later this year. Earlier tests carried out in Greece in



cooperation with the Hellenic Coast Guard proved that aerostats can be successfully used to support EU Member States in maritime border surveillance for law enforcement purposes.

The aim of the pilot will be to assess the capacity and cost efficiency of aerostat platforms for maritime surveillance, as well as to modify and optimise the equipment used based on the lessons learnt from last year's tests. The activity will also help define optimal platform dimensions, payload and capacities for maritime surveillance.

S muggled cigarettes, confiscated at the border with the Republic of Moldova



Romanian border policemen from the Țuțora Border Police Sector discovered 26,000 packs of contraband cigarettes, worth over 318,500 lei.

Border Guard officers monitored the vehicle and went to the banks of the Prut River, where in a ledge, they discovered 13 packages wrapped in black foil.

The inventory of the goods resulted in the quantity of 520,000 cigarettes (26,000 packs of cigarettes), amounting to 318,500 lei, an amount that was collected by the police, according to the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, in order to continue the investigations. In this case, the border police officers carry out investigations under the aspect of committing the crime of smuggling, in order to detect and identify the persons involved, at the end of which the necessary legal measures will be taken.

1 9 Migrants Arrested by Hungarian Border Police



Migrants tried to enter the country illegally in Mórahalom. 19 border violators were arrested by police and then escorted to a temporary security border.

The patrols of the Szeged Border Police Office and the Szeged Police Headquarters arrested the 19 border violators on the outskirts of Mórahalom. During their inspection, the men declared themselves to be Syrian and Afghan citizens, but they could not provide credible evidence of their identity or the legality of their stay in Hungary.

The police will escort them back to the temporary security border in accordance with the Hungarian legislation in force.

I CE removes illegal alien wanted for aggravated homicide in El Salvador



Officers with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) in Houston, Texas, removed an illegal alien Friday wanted for aggravated homicide in El Salvador.

Jose Francisco Quintanilla Granados, a 27-year-old illegal alien from El Salvador, was flown from the George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas, to the Monseñor Óscar Arnulfo Romero International Airport in San Salvador, El Salvador, on a charter flight coordinated by ICE's Air Operations Unit. Upon arrival, he was turned over to officials from El Salvador's Civilian National Police (PNC).

ICE officers first encountered Quintanilla Granados on July 2 at the Harris County (Texas) Jail after he was arrested on local charges. A subsequent records check revealed that he is wanted for aggravated homicide in El Salvador.

S eizure of More than 53,000 Sachets of Chewing Tobacco Smuggled in Five Bowser Lorries by ICA Officers at Tuas Checkpoint

Officers from the Immigration &



Checkpoints Authority (ICA) directed two arriving Malaysia-registered bowser lorries for further checks at Tuas Checkpoint.

During the course of checks, ICA officers uncovered black polythene packages, containing sachets of chewing tobacco, hidden in the engine compartments and drivers' cabin bed bunks of the bowser lorries.

Following this detection, ICA officers also stepped up checks on other bowser lorries waiting in line for clearance. Additional polythene packages containing chewing tobacco were uncovered in three more arriving Malaysia-registered bowser lorries. A total of 26 packages containing 53,249 sachets of chewing tobacco were retrieved from the five bowser lorries.

The import and sale of chewing tobacco is prohibited in Singapore. The seized chewing tobacco was handed over to the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) and all five male Malaysian drivers were detained by HSA for further investigations.

The U.S. Embassy hands over mobile surveillance systems to the Georgian Border Police

With the financial support of the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), the

Border Police of the Department of the Interior was provided with mobile surveillance systems to improve land border protection capabilities.

The equipment transfer ceremony was held at the base of the Operational-Technical Agency of the State Security Service of Georgia. The special equipment was personally inspected by the acting Chief of the Border Police, Colonel Nikoloz Sharadze and he got acquainted with its capabilities.

Mobile surveillance systems will significantly improve the ability to control border areas, which in turn will help detect and prevent crime.

More than 7 tons of hemp found and destroyed at the border



Border guards of the State Border Service of the Kyrgyz Republic detected hemp crops near the state border in Jalal-Abad and Batken regions.

At the outskirts of the village of Andarkhan, Leilek district, Batken region, near the state border, the border guards of the Leilek border detachment found hemp crops with a total area of 6.5 hectares.

In the Ala-Buka and Suzak districts of the Jalal-Abad region, while on duty, the border patrols of the Ala-Buka border detachment also revealed hemp

crops near the state border line.

The total weight of cannabis found in two regions of the republic amounted to more than 7 tons 200 kg.

In all cases, after the commission examination, the hemp was destroyed (burned).

Guardia Civil Intercepts sailboat with 200 kilos of hashish



Two people of Spanish nationality have been arrested, the seizure of a sailboat 12 meters long and 200 kg of hashish

As a result of investigations carried out by the Guardia Civil and the National Police, a boat was detected in the Mediterranean that could be being used in drug trafficking.

When it was monitored by the Mediterranean Surveillance Control Center, suspicious movements of the vessel were observed off the coast of Almería, for which support was requested from the vessels of the Maritime Service of the Civil Guard and Customs Surveillance for their inspection and control.

Once transferred to the Port of Almería, the boat carried 200 kilos of hashish hidden inside a specially manufactured cabin.

One to watch – US CBP Memphis Officers Intercept 3 Unique Illegal Drug Shipments



Exporters in the illegal drug exchange continue to be more creative in their shipments, but U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Memphis continue to catch them.

In the last few weeks, officers have intercepted fentanyl in a picture frame, methamphetamines in a turntable, and even more meth in the linings of dresses.

Officers discovered more than 21 pounds of methamphetamines Aug. 28 in a shipment of dresses originating in Mexico. While inspecting the package, officers discovered anomalies that turned out to be a crystalline substance sewn within the lining of the dresses. A test revealed that the substance was methamphetamines.

One to watch for – Cigarettes in the air tanks of the brakes

During an inspection of a Serbian bus, employees of the Hungarian National Tax and Customs Office found 850 boxes of untaxed cigarettes in Röske.

The finance guards checked a scheduled bus from Serbia to Austria in Röske. Drivers and passengers did not declare goods subject to customs and tax.

NAV staff accepted the statement, but became aware of traces of movement in the air tanks of the brakes. The suspicious tanks were moored and then opened and they were seen to have been remodeled at home. A total of 850 boxes of Chesterfield-branded, tax-free cigarettes were found from the hiding place. One of the drivers confessed to owning a cigarette.

One to watch – US CBP Officers Bust Open Quartz Boulders to Seize Cocaine and Methamphetamine Cemented Inside



U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Tecate cargo crossing had to break open boulders on Monday to find 229 packages of methamphetamine and cocaine hidden inside.

“Hard to believe, but this isn’t the first time CBP officers in California have had to actually break open rocks or other items to get at the narcotics that drug trafficking organizations have hidden inside,” said Jose Haro, officer in charge of the Tecate port of entry. “Our officers are well-trained to notice discrepancies to stop drug shipments like this from making their way into our communities.”

A truck driver arrived at the Tecate border crossing with a shipment listed on the trucking manifest as multiple tons of beach pebbles and stones. The

CBP officer completing the inspection for entry to the U.S. referred the driver, truck, and shipment to the dock.

Mexican Army secures approximately 60 kilograms of cocaine

The events occurred when military personnel established in a security post, located in the municipality of Cruillas, Tamps., When carrying out an inspection with the support of a “Gamma” ray team, two vehicles from Tampico bound for Matamoros, located in the fuel tanks of the automobiles, approximately 60 kilograms of a white powder with characteristics typical of cocaine, distributed in 62 packages.

The possible insured drug would have an estimated price in the national market of \$15,990,000.00, thus preventing this type of addictive substances from reaching Mexican youth and affecting their integral development.

BOC Port of Clark uncovers Php1.1-M worth of Kush Marijuana concealed inside imported Coffee packs

The Port of Clark remains consistent in its mandate to protect the country’s borders against the entry of restricted goods as it seized three (3) plastic packs of Kush Marijuana with an estimated weight of 980 grams and value of Php 1.1-million concealed inside imported coffee packs from California, USA.

The shipment arrived and was declared as “Coffee T-shirt Bookbag”, was profiled and referred for non-intrusive examination which revealed suspicious images.

SOUTH AFRICA'S BORDER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY DREAM COULD BE A NIGHTMARE

Until recently, managing South Africa's borders was the task of at least seven different government departments working at land, air and sea ports of entry. This proved taxing, particularly as movement in and out of South Africa continues to rise.

The new Border Management Authority (BMA) Act is meant to improve efficiencies by providing a single authority to oversee all aspects of the border environment. The law also requires coordination with other government bodies and border communities.

In principle, the idea of more streamlined border management

that reduces corruption, prevents illicit trafficking and facilitates movement of people and goods is welcome. However the BMA alone won't resolve these problems. It will be costly to the country, and places more responsibility on an already strained Department of Home Affairs.

Before the BMA was established,



coordination between the various government departments wasn't always smooth sailing. In 2010, an Inter-Agency Clearing Forum was created for the Soccer World Cup. It comprised Home Affairs, the South African Police Service (SAPS), the South African Revenue Service (SARS), and the departments responsible for agriculture, health, public works and state security. The team improved coordination among the departments and ensured effective border management and law enforcement.

The culture of abuse and corruption in Home Affairs will probably extend to the new authority

The BMA is an attempt to replicate this forum and make it a permanent fixture. The lengthy process of enacting the BMA law wasn't without controversy. One critic called the BMA Bill 'one of the worst pieces of legislation to ever hit the House.' Cabinet proposed the new

authority in 2013 and the bill was introduced to Parliament in May 2016.

Concerns raised by SARS, SAPS and the SA National Defence Force led to several revisions. In its 2018 submission on the bill, the Institute for Security Studies raised concerns about the securitisation of borders, the threat of corruption and abuses, and Home Affairs' capacity to lead the initiative. The bill was revised in October 2019, then adopted and signed into law in July 2020.

Now most border management functions will be centralised under Home Affairs. The law creates 'border management areas' in a radius of 10 km from land and sea borders, under the BMA's control. It includes the establishment of an armed border guard with law enforcement capabilities.

The authority has until 21 January 2021 to conclude implementation protocols with the army, police and revenue service, who together

with postal services will retain their core functions in border areas. The state anticipates that establishing a functioning authority could take up to 15 years. It estimates the initial phase to cost R3.8 billion a year and R10.3 billion annually when fully implemented – probably a vast underestimate.

Given Home Affairs' abysmal management record, how will it oversee an increased staff complement?

With borders still closed for most travel due to COVID-19, Home Affairs and its counterparts in the BMA inter-ministerial committee can get to work on protocol agreement. The committee comprises the following departments: Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Defence and Military Veterans; Environmental Affairs; Finance; Health; Police; State Security; Trade and Industry; and Transport.

On paper all seems in order, but major implementation challenges

lie ahead. Home Affairs is a large department with a mostly administrative mandate. Its deep management and legal problems have led judges to describe the running of the department as 'incompetent' and 'deplorable.'

There are numerous accounts of abuse and corruption by department officials and this culture will probably extend to the new authority. Armed border guards with expanded powers could lead to increased arrests and detention of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.

Meanwhile, Home Affairs' current annual employment budget is R3.5 billion. The BMA is expected to ask Treasury for R3 billion more, doubling the department's budget to bring 21 000 border employees under its charge. Given Home Affairs' already abysmal management track record, how will it effectively oversee this increased staff complement?

The Border Management Authority is estimated to cost R10.3 billion annually when fully implemented

Less than a month before Parliament passed the BMA Act, the Auditor-General shared a report that found a notable regression in the department's management of illegal migrants since the last audit in 2007. The report said it would take 68 years to finalise the current asylum case backlog even with no new cases.

The new law is also criticised as xenophobic and seeking, above all, to restrict access to migrants and violate their rights. The act requires BMA officers to respect fundamental rights, including of vulnerable groups such as trafficking victims, refugees and asylum seekers. But with Home Affairs' poor track record on managing xenophobia, concerns about its added powers are valid.

While the act purports to address other national security concerns, its anti-migrant overtones are clear. Throughout BMA debates, members of Parliament and the Home Affairs minister disproportionately focused on irregular migration. Highly inaccurate cause-effect statements blamed rampant xenophobia in South Africa on a lack of border management.

This follows a pattern of blaming foreigners for South Africa's problems. The BMA is the latest in a series of regressive measures that negatively affect African migrants. In January, amendments to the Refugee Act increased the probability of asylum seekers and refugees being unlawfully detained and deported. In May, the Portfolio Committee on Home Affairs heard presentations on establishing one-stop border posts and processing centres for refugees near the borders that will inevitably prejudice asylum seekers.

Meanwhile progressive proposals made in Home Affairs' 2017 White Paper to roll out Southern African

Development Community visas for economic migrants and offer visa regularisation schemes for people already in the country remain stalled.

As the African Union (AU) works towards progressive border agendas, free trade and free movement, South Africa's move to militarise its borders will serve as a barrier. As current AU chair, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa should consider the message the BMA Act sends to the continent. The country should be championing safe and legal avenues for low-skilled migrants, workers and traders. These robust migration management tools are the ones most likely to reduce irregular movement.

By Ottilia Anna Maunganidze, Head of Special Projects and Aimée-Noël Mbiyozo, Senior Research Consultant, Migration, ISS Pretoria

Source: ISS Today Photo: Bernard Chiguvare/GroundUp

BORDER SECURITY REPORT

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FIGHTING DRUG TRAFFICKING IN THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Drug trafficking has long been a problem in the Golden Triangle, the region where Thailand's Chiang Rai province meets Myanmar and Laos. In this blog, Gita Sabharwal, UN Resident Coordinator in Thailand, and Jeremy Douglas, who represents the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, explain how the United Nations and the Thai government are working together to tackle the issue.

"Thailand has made considerable progress in combating the opium trade over recent decades and represents global good practices. UNODC has a long-term partnership with the Thai government and other stakeholders to combat drug trafficking in the Golden Triangle and, from the military base at Doi Chang Mub overlooking Myanmar, joint patrols

are conducted on a regular basis to counter trafficking.

However, as the opium trade has declined, the cross-border movement of synthetic drugs, and particularly methamphetamine, has grown substantially.

Link between development and fighting the drugs trade

In our meetings on a recent trip to the province, we were impressed with local efforts to develop the region in a sustainable way. It really struck home how integrally linked development and improving people's livelihoods are to fighting the drugs trade, and tackling the corrosive effects drug abuse and criminality have on individuals and communities. While there are considerable challenges, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, we were also inspired by the community resilience and commitment to improve the welfare of all.

The border regions between Thailand and its neighbours, along the Mekong River, have experienced a continuous expansion of drug production, trafficking and use, particularly of synthetic drugs, for the better part of a decade.

In 2019, seizures of harmful methamphetamine in East and Southeast Asia reached 140 tons, with the vast majority produced in Myanmar's Shan State, just across the border from Thailand. With the rise of production in Myanmar, its borders with Thailand and Laos have become one of the most significant drug trafficking points in the world.

Billions in illicit profits

It is estimated that drug production and trafficking in the region last



year generated profits of at least \$71 billion, with methamphetamine accounting for \$61 billion, four times what it was six years ago. Today, the production and trafficking of methamphetamine is the financial backbone of transnational organized crime and the ethnic armed groups that they partner with for control of autonomous territories in Myanmar, fuelling conflict and insecurity in the country, and along its borders including with Thailand.

In addition, despite record amounts of methamphetamine seizures, the supply has surged and the price of the drug has recently dropped to its lowest point in a decade. One methamphetamine tablet, known as "yaba" in Thailand and the Mekong region, currently costs only about 50 baht (\$1.60) in the northern area of Thailand, making the drug much more accessible to drug users or potential users.

In part, as a result of the low street price and affordability, Thailand has seen a significant increase in use, particularly among youth. Considering 80 per cent of the Thai prison population is incarcerated due to methamphetamine-related charges of one form or another, it is very evident that increased trafficking and decreased prices of the drug have accelerated and exacerbated challenges to the criminal justice system and related human rights in the country.

Coordination and education

Border Liaison Offices supported by UNODC have been an important component in border management and control in the region, as well as a practical way to improve cross-border cooperation between authorities. Coordination efforts between police, customs, army, navy and border patrol police in the region have gathered and

exchanged intelligence to take on organized criminal groups.

Employing new technologies including X-ray devices, from hand-held to lorry-sized machines, Thai authorities have new tools to be used against illicit trafficking, including of drugs and precursor chemicals – vital to countering the destructive trade.

The number of border checkpoints has been increased in response to COVID-19, reducing the transit of drugs through the province. However, criminal networks have very quickly adapted; traffickers have changed their routes to circumvent Chiang Rai and go through other provinces or via Laos and back into Thailand, with marginal increased costs and inconvenience affecting the trade.

Innovating for a sustainable future

Chiang Rai's economy will probably remain largely based on agriculture, tourism and cross-border trade for the foreseeable future. In the agriculture and tourism sectors, innovative approaches are providing examples for a sustainable future. The Mayor of Chiang Rai City, for example, is promoting an approach that supports sustainable and chemical-free agriculture, connecting Chiang Rai's farmers with schools, hospitals and export markets.



Image © UNODC Gita Sabharwal, UN Resident Coordinator in Thailand (right), and UNODC's Jeremy Douglas (centre) receive a briefing at the Customs house in Mae Sai in the north of the country.

Hill tribe villages have been encouraged, through civil society and social entrepreneurs, including the Mae Fah Luang Foundation, to move to alternative cash crops. More innovative support of this kind will help affected communities in Thailand, neighbouring countries and beyond, to move away from the drugs trade, towards sustainable livelihoods. There is a stark need for more alternative livelihoods, and crops, in agriculture-dependent communities, if they are to be a part of sustainable development.

We are fortunate to engage with so many partners working towards sustainable development in Chiang Rai and look forward to providing more support as we collectively build back better from the pandemic."

By The UN Resident Coordinator

The UN Resident Coordinator, sometimes called the RC, is the highest-ranking representative of the UN development system at the country level. In this occasional series, UN News is inviting RCs to blog on issues important to the United Nations and the country where they serve.

Sponsored Feature

KIOSK SYSTEMS — THE KEY TO BORDER CONTROL?

Over the last two decades, [secunet](#) has emerged as an innovative market leader in Europe offering mature and future-proof solutions for electronic identity protection as well as for reliable and efficient verification. e.g. ABC gates and self-service kiosks for secure and convenient biometric border control.

It may have been an unprecedented year for travel, but as borders start to re-open and flights resume, robust border control systems that are quick and easy to use remain essential. And while self-service technology has long been an essential part of the travel experience, kiosk systems will now play a pivotal role internationally to securely and efficiently manage new border control procedures.

EES

In Europe, deployment of kiosks is being driven by the rollout of the common biometric Entry/Exit System (EES), which all travellers

from third countries will need to register with from 2022 onwards as part of the European Parliament's Smart Borders Initiative. When entering the Schengen area via land, sea and air borders, Third Country Nationals (TCN) will be required to register with four fingerprints and facial image. This biometric data will be stored in the EES along with the traveller's biographical and other information taken from their travel document.

While the policy will strengthen the EU's borders, it will be complex and time consuming, presenting first-line border control officers with new

challenges related to how they can most efficiently use their time to focus on the most suspicious and high-risk travellers. Additionally, if queues build up at the border control point, it could affect transfer times, baggage collection and even flight schedules.

One answer is to deploy automated and self-service kiosks. These have the advantage of optimising the passenger flow while also compensating for the extra time needed due to the additional step of biometric acquisition at the border.

When a traveller is first registered, their biometric data is checked against an estimated 300 million records to ensure that they have not already been registered under a different identity, a process known as 'deduplication'. This can take between 20 and 30 seconds because of the volume of data that has to be searched. Self-service systems can compensate for the long response time of the central EES system by allowing prior data registration and breakdown of the process times, as the time during which the passenger is moving to the border control desk can be used for the EES queries. Additionally, kiosks can also be used both for first-time registration and to help optimise processes for return travellers.

By enabling pre-enrolment of biometric data and prior interviewing of incoming travellers, kiosks massively reduce the workload of the border guards performing these controls. Language barriers can be overcome by conducting the

entry interview at the kiosk in the traveller's native language with the answers being directly translated for the official. With their integrated security mechanisms, kiosks also guarantee consistent data quality for the border control process. They ensure that the facial images captured are of a consistent quality and meet the requirements of ISO 19794-5:2011 and that fingerprints comply with NFIQ 2.0. State-of-the-art liveness detection, monitoring functions and detection of spoofing attacks for face and fingerprint scans complete the high-level security line-up.

Cost

Automated systems represent good value for money. When considering total cost of ownership, kiosks often require lower levels of investment than traditional infrastructure and staffing models, are more flexible and easily scalable, and are more cost-effective in the long run.

Space

Border control points have long been concerned with how they can make most efficient use of space.

Kiosks are highly flexible because the waiting areas of self-service systems and stationary desks can be kept separate from each other. Also, because of their integrated monitoring functions, they do not need to be within view of the border control desks and can be configured in the most suitable way for a given location, such as next to each other in a row, at an angle in the middle of a room, back to back or in a circle.

System requirements

To ensure the maximum benefits are achieved from the use of kiosks, the system must be designed specifically for border control applications and satisfy all EES requirements, as well as performing quickly, securely, reliably and to a high standard. Compliance with ISO 19794-5:2011 and NFIQ 2.0 is essential for facial image acquisition and fingerprint capture.

Another important system element is the use of anti-circumvention security based on presentation attack detection (PAD) technology. This will prevent spoofing attacks by recognising forged and falsified identity documents, spoofed faces





or fake fingerprints, as well as other types of attack.

The kiosk system should also feature additional surveillance cameras and smart security functions that detect inadmissible or suspicious situations, so that passengers can be monitored conveniently from a distance.

Kiosks are a crucial element of Europe's smart border control infrastructure. When deployed correctly they benefit not only the border control authorities, but also all other stakeholders, from airlines, airport and infrastructure operators to the travellers themselves.



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BORDER SECURITY: A QUARANTINED PANDEMIC

by Igwe Martin, Co-ordinator Waansa
Nigeria Media and Advocacy Centre

Pandemic are epidemic occurring on a scale that crosses international boundaries and affects a large number of people. Influenza, Ebola and Corona fall into this category. Corona virus a highly alleged pathogenic viral infection caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome with fatality rate of almost a million and millions quarantined all over the world. The case in Africa was linked to passengers who disembarked from the airport and land borders of African territories with little or no health check from relevant authorities. It is a sad reality that

the global economy was on locked down with a likely long decade of minus in development efforts and the negative indices still palpable. Billions of dollars which could have been used to address development and improve infrastructure have been rechanneled to address increasing health emergencies brought about by corona virus made worse by the neglect of border security. Cross border crimes in African sub region which started in the form of smuggling of goods as a means of livelihood has transformed into a criminal enterprise with

sophisticated network involving illicit trafficking of persons, prostitution, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, recruitment of child soldiers, narcotic peddling, cattle rustling has exacerbated due to Border Insecurity.

The direct negative impact of cross border criminality is worse than that of COVID 19 Pandemic but the pandemic has been given global attention more than border security. Regional discourse on African development has never prioritized border security hence remnants of Chad and Libya rebels who have lost their cause have criminalized African borders to the points of challenging the legitimacy, sovereignty of surrounding countries. The continental body language that gives the impression that border security matters needs to be constantly in quarantine must stop in the spirit of maximizing the benefits of recently flagged off of African continental free trade area. Socio economic and political issue capable of addressing issues of poverty, unemployment and democratic governance has become imperative. There are always verifiable links between the levels of poverty and incidents of criminality.

In the last one year, the office of the Nigerian National Security Adviser has supervised a joint border security network not comprising the imperatives of inter agency collaboration. At least it is no more business as usual as steps are being taken to stem the influx of



small arms light weapons, drugs and human trafficking, which are drivers of terrorism and other forms of border criminalities. Nigeria is presently improving in food sufficiency; agricultural product are getting a boost as the partial border closure has reduced rice smuggling sparking up job opportunities in the informal sector of the economy and guaranteeing of foreign exchange earnings.

As at 31st August, 2020 this joint effort has recorded an estimated monetary value of seizures worth Eleven billion, thirty million sixty two thousand nine hundred and fifty two naira fifty kobo, one thousand two hundred and forty three irregular immigrants arrested, millions of liters of premium motor spirit (Pms) and eight hundred and thirteen parks of tramadol drugs. confiscated. One of the lessons

of Covid 19 is the need to share knowledge and information. Lack of information sharing can cause an avoidable human error turn into a global social and economic catastrophe. The need to focus on technological opportunities made available by new emerging technologies in fighting old, new and emerging forms of cross border crime has become an emergency. Countries with comparative advantage must stand up to save the borders.

Regional integration which is one of the key components of transformation agenda of African development bank should look into sensitization of legitimate businesses in sub Saharan African borders. High percentage of traders at the borders are women who employ more than one person in their activities and support the need



of about six persons. Revenues from this trade are sources of social safety and provides basic needs which compliments the efforts of the regional government to curtail the menace of unemployment. Globally pandemic can be prevented through detection of early warning signals, building capacity to contain the pandemic in advance

and coordinated global research and information sharing. If border security with its immediacy of threat capable of disrupting regional global development is given the global resilience given to Ebola and COVID 19. The world can be free of border pandemic. Time to put words into action is how.

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eu-LISA and EASO Sign a Three-Year Cooperation Plan

Collaboration is a major factor in ensuring border and asylum management as well as internal security for Europe and its citizens. eu-LISA and EASO have had a formal Working Arrangement in place to support one another across all business areas they have in common since 2014. Within the framework of this agreement, the two European Union Agencies have signed a multiannual Cooperation Plan, which sets out actions and activities that will enhance the cooperation and highlight the results of both parties from 2020 to 2022.

Core business areas such as border, migration and asylum management, which are of vital importance to both agencies, constitute the principal areas of cooperation. However, these are not the only topics covered in the plan. Transversal or horizontal services such as Research and Development, Business Continuity, Data Protection and Communication are all foreseen as domains in which the agencies can provide one another with advice on best practices and support. Examples of some of the

specific planned actions are the sharing of expertise in the field of training for Member States and jointly developing recommendations, digital brochures, as well as practical guides on the operational use of asylum-related IT systems.

“Digital transformation has become an essential part of our lives. It influences every aspect of people’s daily activities in Europe and globally. Today, we are more connected than ever and exchange enormous amounts of information. At the same time, the challenges that Europe faces in the area of asylum and migration are very complex. Their very nature suggests that to develop a comprehensive and timely response, close cooperation, pooling of expertise and information sharing are required. In this respect, the Cooperation Plan between eu-LISA and EASO, signed today, will facilitate the efforts of both agencies to increase their contribution to the Member States and to the EU as a whole”, noted Krum Garkov, Executive Director of eu-LISA.

EUBAM Advisory Board encourages to continue the good progress achieved in border management

The 34th Advisory Board Meeting of the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine took place in videoconference format. Representatives of the Foreign Ministries, border, customs and law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, the European Union Delegations to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, the International Organization for Migration, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and United Nations Development Programme participated in the meeting.

The Advisory Board appreciated the progress achieved by the Mission and its Partner Services in the challenging situation emerged due to COVID-19 outbreak and encouraged the parties to continue working with the same dedication and high professionalism. EUBAM's and its Partner Services' sustained contribution to launching an inclusive dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol, as well as the support to the establishment of joint control along Moldova-Ukraine state border, together with the efforts in preventing, detecting and investigating cross-border crimes were among the most important achievements highlighted by the Advisory Board.

The European Union Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, H.E. Peter Michalko welcomed and appreciated the commitment of the Moldovan and Ukrainian partners to the EU Border Assistance Mission, including during the COVID-19 situation and the complications it brought with it. "Over the next period, I hope and I trust that collectively we can mark progress in further rolling out the joint border control concept along the Moldova-Ukraine border, so that citizens on both sides can travel easier from one side to the other. EUBAM's contribution towards offering and implementing EU expertise and best practices in border management is testimony to the European Union's lasting partnership with both the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, on the one hand, and a clear expression of its will to further assist in resolving the Transnistrian issue, on the other."

The European Union Ambassador to Ukraine, H.E. Matti Maasikas emphasized the particular importance

of smooth and transparent border management cooperation in the current challenging times: "Joint border crossing points reduce waiting times for people and goods which is important also from an epidemiological point of view. They are effective in fighting cross border crime and smuggling. The EU has finalised the reconstruction of two border crossing points between Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova and provided substantial investment. Now, we encourage the Ukrainian side to also go ahead with agreed renovation works and provision of infrastructure in order to swiftly launch joint border operations, to the benefit of people and trade."

Mr Gheorghe Leucă, State Secretary within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova appreciated EUBAM's valuable expertise and assistance offered to the national authorities of both countries over the last ten months in achieving progress under all three pillars. „Despite the emerging difficulties due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Mission continued to advance the work on supporting confidence building measures, implementing integrated border management and combating cross-border crime. We remain convinced that EUBAM represents a substantial tool for border management and risk analysis in line with the interests of the population of both countries, Moldova and Ukraine. Hence, we reconfirm our interest in working further with the Mission aimed at ensuring stability and security in the region."

Mr. Serhii Saienko, Deputy Director General of the Directorate for the European Union and the NATO of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated „We cannot overestimate the Mission's contribution to the infrastructure development of BCPs to be launched in October this year and increasing the technical equipment level of the Ukrainian-Moldovan borders. We highlight joint actions lead by EUBAM to counter illicit trafficking in arms /CBRN materials within the recently established Working Group and other violations during joint operations and investigations in the border areas."

Government of Denmark equips the Ghana Immigration Service to Combat Document Fraud



The project “Strengthening Border and Migration Management in Ghana” (SMMIG), funded by the Danish Embassy in Accra and implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), donated 30 computers, 2 multifunction printers, a 4x4 vehicle, a camera, 2 high-level document verification devices, 3 forensic magnifiers and 320 3-in-1 magnifiers (for examining travel and source documents at the borders) to the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS).

The SMMIG project is designed to support the

Government of Ghana in strengthening its institutional and operational capacities to manage irregular migration flows, with a specific focus on document fraud detection. It is a well-known fact that criminals often hide behind fake documents to hide their identity and avoid detection, which is why this project is both timely and pertinent.

Within the framework of the project, ICMPD has been working closely with the GIS Document Fraud expertise Centre (DFEC) to strengthen their capacity and that of frontline officers to detect document fraud. In addition to the equipment, the project has trained 100 GIS officers on document examination, with training of another 300 officers foreseen in the coming months. The project also supported the drafting of training materials and handbooks on document security for GIS frontline officers, to ensure continuous training and retraining of GIS officers on document fraud detection. The donation will contribute to further strengthening the capacity of the GIS officers to achieve their mandate of combatting irregular migration and managing migration flows.

Operation Irini has declared the Full Operation Capability



Hundreds of vessels and dozens of flights were investigated by Operation EUNAVFOR MED Irini in more than 4 months of activity monitoring sea, air and land possible illicit flows. That permitted to board, inspect and divert a merchant vessel for suspected violation of the arms embargo off the Libyan Coast and to send 14 special reports to UN Panel of Experts concerning from both sides of the conflict in Libya.

With the arrival of the Greek frigate HS Limnos, Irini reached its Full Operational Capability. This means that the Operation

now is fully capable to undertake all the necessary actions to accomplish its mandate, including boarding suspect embargo breakers which show uncooperative or opposed behaviours. With this achievement, the Operation has now entered its crucial stage.

To date, in addition to the aforementioned inspection at sea and diversion, EUNAVFOR MED Irini has performed 12 visits on collaborative merchant vessels and monitored 10 ports and landing points, 25 airports and landing strips. Irini has acquired a deep knowledge of its Area of Interest, also thanks to satellite images provided by the EU Satellite Centre, which fulfilled up to 250 specific requests coming from Irini.

Now, Operation Irini has three naval vessels provided by Italy, Germany and Greece, four aircraft in direct support, provided by Luxembourg, Poland, France and Greece and one drone provided by Italy. In associated support to the Operation there are also aerial and naval assets offered by France and Italy. These assets cooperate with Irini remaining under their National control.

ICMPD and Tajikistan formalise and deepen their relations

The Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population of the Republic of Tajikistan informed ICMPD that the government gave its approval to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with ICMPD. This was the positive news that ICMPD received at an online meeting with a high-level delegation from Tajikistan, headed by the Labour Minister Ms. Gurlu Jabborzoda.

The MOU will become the cornerstone of a deeper, more targeted cooperation and pave the way for the establishment of a Migrant Resource Centre (MRC) in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The meeting also covered ICMPD's further expert support in the development of strategic documents on productive employment as well as capacity-building activities of the Ministry of Labour of Tajikistan in catering for the needs of Tajik migrants during these challenging times created by the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

"In light of steady annual population growth, migration abroad is inevitable; however the migration processes

should be well managed. The current global pandemic not only highlights the challenges we face in migration management, but also the opportunities" underlined Ms. Gulru Jabborzoda, the Labour Minister. "Therefore, the establishment of the Migrant Resource Centre will be a sustainable initiative that will focus on capacity-building and strengthening existing Ministry structures; hence we look forward to future cooperation with ICMPD".

A responsive, efficient and sustainable MRC is needed to improve migration governance and mobility. The MRC's additional goals will be to reduce the vulnerabilities and challenges faced by migrants in living and working abroad by providing them with adequate, timely and reliable information and guidance on migration.

The Memorandum of Understanding is expected to be signed in the coming weeks. The Migrant Resource Centre is to be established under the framework of the "Improving Migration Management in the Silk Routes Countries" project, funded by the European Union.

EU-funded Programme on Border Management in Central Asia holds the Final Conference of the 9th Phase

The 9th phase of the EU-funded Programme on Border Management in Central Asia (BOMCA) held its closing event to summarise the achievements from over the five years of its implementation. The Regional Steering Group meeting and the Final Conference, held online, gathered over 100 high-level representatives of the BOMCA implementing Consortium, national border management agencies in Central Asia, EU Delegations, international organisations, and EU MS Embassies. During the final event, BOMCA presented and disseminated the project's results and tools for further strengthening border management, migration governance, and trade facilitation measures in the Central Asian region.

The first BOMCA operations in Central Asia began in 2003, and since then, BOMCA has been playing a positive role in promoting cooperation among border management

agencies through the concept of Integrated Border Management, as well as helping the countries of the region to approximate the border control practices to international and European Union standards. The European Union allocated EUR 40.1 million to BOMCA so far for the whole period spanning from 2003 – 2020; out of this amount, EUR 6.6 million was assigned to its 9th implementation phase (2015 - 2020).

H.E. Ambassador Peter Burian, EU Special Representative for Central Asia, opened the conference. He appreciated the joint work with the governments of the region, stressing that partnering for resilience and partnering for prosperity are closely linked with efficient and integrated border management: "regional cooperation and integration offer the best tools for addressing common challenges, and is instrumental in ensuring security and stability".

BORDER MANAGEMENTS ANNUAL GATHERING

EVENT PREVIEW



24th-26th November 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 24th-26th November 2020.

Since our last congress, in March 2019, the world has changed, and once again the border management community is in the front line of those changes.

Unprecedented national lockdowns and border closures have happened the world over and new technologies

have been rushed into service.

Changes in the traveller information requirements have been put in place unilaterally by individual countries and continue to evolve.

What is certain is that the pandemic has changed forever, international travel and therefore border management.

Added impetus has now been attached to implementing and enhancing Advanced Passenger Information (API) sharing.

Co-hosted by:



All this against a backdrop of continued issues of mass migration, human trafficking, drug smuggling and terrorism.

There is much to be discussed, and this year's World Border Congress will be one of the first opportunities for the border community to gather together to discuss the challenges going forward.

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.

Co-hosted by the Ministry of Immigration & Syllum and 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 24th-26th November 2020.

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

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AFRICAN UNION
Economic, Social and Cultural Council
AU-ECOSOCC



International Association of
CIP Professionals



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 24th November 2020 :
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 24TH NOVEMBER

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

2:15pm - 3:30pm OPENING KEYNOTE

Mr Notis Mitarachi, Minister of Migration & Asylum of Greece
 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

Sharipov Zafar, Tajik Border Troops & Abdulloev Khairullo, Tajik Customs Service, Tajikistan

Insider Threats at Ports

Peter Nilsson, Head of Airpol

Senior Representative, INTERPOL Washington

Senior Representative, Greek National Police

David Bannister, Chief Inspector - Counter Terrorism Border Operations Centre, Counter Terrorism Policing – National Operations Centre (CTP-NOC)*

Carlos Dettleff Beros, General Director for Borders, The National Department of State Borders and Boundaries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile



WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER

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?

The use of API/PNR data to fight trafficking in Human Beings and people smuggling

Valdecy Urquiza, Assistant Director - Vulnerable Communities - INTERPOL General Secretariat

Alvaro Rodriguez-Gaya, Head of Strategy, European Migrant Smuggling Centre, EUROPOL

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

Gerald Tatzgern, Head of Joint Operational Office, Public Security Austria

The fight against illegal migrants and corruptions on border crossing points - Ph. D. Vladimir Pivovarov, National coordinator for integrated border management, Ministry of Interior, North Macedonia

AIG Moses Ambakina Jitoboh mni, Assistant Inspector General of Police, Nigeria

Achieving Effective Border Security in Africa through Youth Engagement - Jude Gabriel Imagwe MON, Chief Executive, Advance for World Unity

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 - Sean Buckley, PMP, Program Director, Parsons

TBC - Senior Representative, Smiths Detection

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

How Technology and Collaboration between nations enable focus on detecting Foreign Terrorist Fighters - Kier-co Genitsen, Business Development Director, SITA

Beyond the Passport: Truth, Lies or Threats? - Dr. Enrique Segura, president and CEO of Securiport

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 Gonçalves, Immigration and Border Management Training Specialist, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Capacity Building and Design Thinking - Dr Katerina Poustourli, Scientific/Technical Officer, International University of Greece

Global Border Security and Management (BSM) Programme - Margherita Natali, Associate Programme Officer, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, Counter Terrorism Centre, Border Security and Management Unit

Olasunkanmi John Oba - Nigerian Representative, AU-ECOSOCC

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

Alvaro Rodriguez-Gaya, Head of Strategy, European Migrant Smuggling Centre, 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

Big Data Strategy - migration trends and risks - Florian Forster, Head, Immigration and Border Management (IBM), International Organization for Migration (IOM)

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

Cristina Gatões, National Director, Portuguese Immigration and Border Service (SEF)

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

Vice Admiral Aan Kurnia, Director General, Indonesia Maritime Security Agency

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, Celebrite

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, Bligher Surveillance Systems

Border Security – AI and Human Machine Teaming - Paul Hollingshead, Head of EMEA, Anduril Industries, Inc



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 Suld, 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

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

Uche Chukwuma Azuka-Osadebe – Executive Chairman, Oshimili South Local Government Council of Delta State

Gabor Kemeny, OSCE Skopje

THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

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

Angelisa Corbo, Border Adviser, OSCE

Dr Anna Makakala, Tanzania Immigration Service

Nosakhare Igbinere – Executive Director, The Major Resources Nigeria

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

Antiquities Smuggling as Transnational Threat - Orfeas-Konstantinos Sotiriou, National Centre for Public Administration and Local Government

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 Training Responding to Operational Needs and Practices in Law Enforcement Units : Cultural Heritage Protection - Angeliki Aloupi, Director of the Committee of Prevention and Management of Social Exclusion - Hellenic Community for Behavior Analysis

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

Judith Knöpfli, Project Manager, 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 Barriers

Comprehensive Border Governance - Tony Stefan Mihaitoia, Senior Border Management and Security Adviser, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

4:00PM

CONGRESS ROUND UP AND CLOSE



SITE VISITS TO PORT OF PIRAEUS / ATHENS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER – 8.30AM-12NOON

PORT OF PIRAEUS



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



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
24th-26th Nov 2020
ATHENS, GREECE
www.world-border-congress.com

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Challenges at Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay Borders in the Context of Counter-Terrorism and Related Transnational Organized Crime

In partnership with the
United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre

View directly at www.border-security-report.com/tri-border-webinar



Border Security and Migration Challenges in South East Europe

In partnership with the OSCE

View directly at www.border-security-report.com/osce-border-security-seeurope



Coronavirus Pandemic and Its Effects on Safe and Dignified Migration in West Africa

In partnership with the
Ghana Immigration Service

View directly at www.border-security-report.com/west-africa-migration



Digital Intelligence for Safer Borders

by Cellebrite

View directly at www.border-security-report.com/cellebrite-digital-intelligence

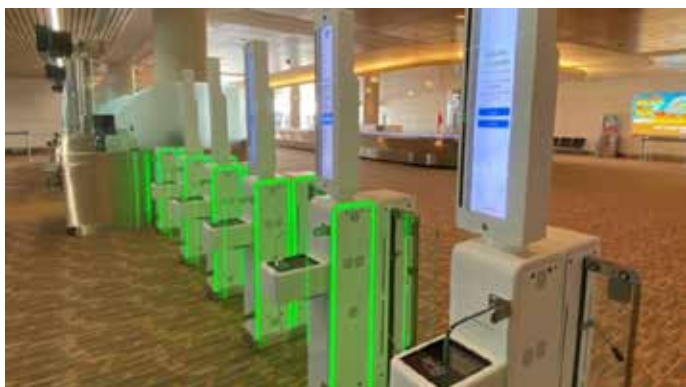


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Winnipeg International Airport Launches Vision-Box Automated Border Control eGates for NEXUS Travellers

Winnipeg Airports Authority (WAA) contracted Vision-Box to deploy six of its newest generation ABC GT-11 eGates with biometric facial clearance for the NEXUS Program..



Beginning September 1, 2020, six Vision-Box Automated Border Control (ABC) eGates will greet arriving travellers enrolled in the NEXUS Program at Winnipeg International Airport. As the only international airport in the Province of Manitoba, Winnipeg is an important travel hub for the region, having served close to 5 million aviation passengers in 2019.

NEXUS is a trusted traveller program operated by Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) that expedites border crossings for pre-approved and enrolled Canadian, American, and Mexican

citizens. Travellers enrolled in the NEXUS program avoid border entry lines by using specially reserved lanes equipped with identity screening platforms for expedited checks when entering the country from anywhere in the world.

The ABC eGates will facilitate and speed up the border clearance of arriving NEXUS enrolled passengers from all international locations using safe and secure automated biometric facial matching.

This is the first time that ABC Biometric eGates are being deployed to process NEXUS enrolled travellers instead of the regularly used NEXUS kiosks.

Republic of Seychelles deploys Travizory technology to streamline travel authorization

The Republic of Seychelles is today going live with Travizory technology to facilitate the collection and analysis of traveler documentation to ensure re-opening of the borders in the safest manner. This is a mere three weeks after the agreement was signed, following Cabinet of Ministers' approval for the installation and deployment of the technology.



The new technology allows Seychelles health authorities to collect identity and health information directly from the traveler via easy to use web and mobile apps. The information is fed securely into a single system, providing advance information about all travelers wishing to travel to the Seychelles. The system gives authorities the capability to run rapid and efficient vetting procedures to minimize COVID-19 risks and other security risks.

Alan Renaud, Principal Secretary for Civil Aviation, Ports & Marine, said, "Streamlining the process

this way makes it faster and more accurate for our authorities, and reduces paperwork. We wanted to move to a digital and paperless gathering of information, following the recommendations of ICAO, IATA, and the WTTTC for touchless and paperless travel. The new system removes the guesswork for airlines at check-in and boarding. And, perhaps most importantly, it makes the passenger journey smoother and provides more peace of mind to travelers that they will not be stopped on their way".

Swedish Police Authority awards multi-year contract to Thales for innovative travel and identity documents

Thales has announced that its shareholding company AB Svenska Pass has been awarded the contract to manufacture, personalize and deliver around 12 million ePassports, national ID cards and other identity documents for Swedish citizens.



In addition, Thales will provide a next generation enrolment kiosk solution to easily and securely capture applicants' biometric data in more than 110 locations in Sweden. The deal also includes the personalization of temporary passports and support and maintenance for the duration of the contract.

The Swedish ePassports and national ID cards were initially introduced in October 2005. Sweden was one of the first countries in the world to launch such a project, and the Swedish passport is often ranked as one of the most secure passports in the world.

"Having supported our Swedish customers for more than two decades in multiple industries, this is yet another example of Thales' strong commitment and local presence in the Nordic countries. Moreover, this contract reflects the continued growth of the secure identity market and Thales' leadership in travel document solutions, bringing superior standards of technology," said Tommi Nordberg, VP Europe, Identity and Biometric Solutions at Thales..

CONTROP is to supply surveillance and observation systems for new ships currently being built for the Vietnamese Border Guard

CONTROP has been selected to supply iSea-25HD observation systems for installation on the new ships under construction at L&T's shipyards in India, and vessels being built for the Vietnamese Border Guard, by Hong Ha shipyards in Vietnam. The systems will be delivered during 2020 and 2021.



Easily interfaced with other onboard systems, the iSea-25HD offers a full solution for naval and maritime operations. Featuring a unique, cutting-edge gyro-stabilized system, it enables a stable, continuous and uninterrupted line-of-sight (LOS) view, ensuring a very clear picture, even in the roughest of seas, and is robust enough to withstand even the harshest environmental conditions including fog, moisture, salinity and excessive splashing.

Capable of maintaining boresight even in conditions

where there are shocks and vibrations, the iSea-25HD incorporates digital and mechanical compensatory mechanisms developed by CONTROP to significantly enhance image quality.

The iSea-25HD lightweight system provides maximum range surveillance using highly sensitive sensors, including a high-performance thermal imaging (TI) camera using 3-5μ IR detector with a continuous zoom lens, a high-sensitivity color day camera, and an eye-safe laser range finder (LRF).

Smiths Detection wins contract with U.S. Customs and Border Protection for rail cargo inspection solutions

Smiths Detection has been awarded an indefinite-delivery-indefinite-quantity (IDIQ) contract with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to provide HCVT advanced X-ray scanners for use at US railway checkpoints at both the northern and southern borders. The initial order value is \$13.5M with initial deliveries planned for 2021.



The HCVT is a side-view, high-energy X-ray inspection scanner used to screen moving rail cars and wagons for dangerous or illegal cargo. Enabling for both more effective and faster screening methods, the HCVT can penetrate over 12 inches (300mm) of steel and screens single or double-stacked containers at normal operating speeds. It can also be connected with Custom networks and other HCV scanners to enable remote analysis, image comparison and knowledge sharing amongst homeland security agencies.

Shan Hood, President of Smiths Detection Inc., said:

"Smiths Detection's HCVT gives U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers 24/7 capabilities to intercept dangerous goods and contraband transported throughout the U.S. by rail. Equipping CBP with HCVT technology is key in making the delivery of freight safer while allowing the logistical chain to keep moving."

The IDIQ contract with CBP has a \$379m ceiling, allows for multiple orders of SDI products and services under a single contract over five years, and provides flexibility for the customer in follow-on order decisions. The contract also includes an option for service over a ten-year period.

Improving Airport Passenger Experience with Contactless Temperature Monitoring at Istanbul Grand Airport

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world, it impacted the aviation industry particularly severely. Airports were seen as places that were particularly susceptible to spreading COVID-19.



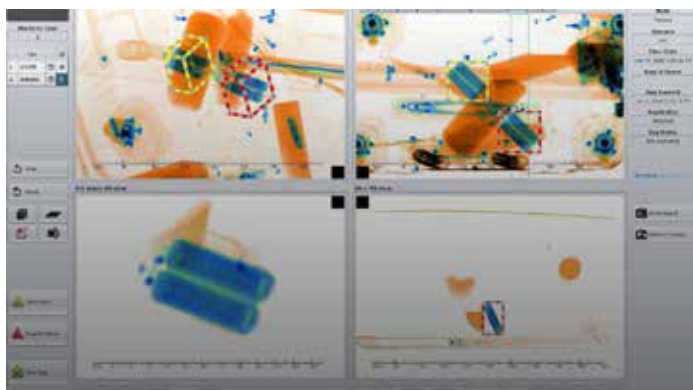
IGA had to find an efficient and practical way to minimize this risk, ensure passengers could pass through the airport safely, and keep the airport and air travel going as much as possible during lockdown. Istanbul Airport is different from many other large hub airports in that security checks take place before passengers and visitors enter its terminal building. There are seven separate entrances, each manned by a team of security guards. To spot anyone coming into the airport with a high-temperature range, guards used handheld devices to measure each person. But this was slow, inefficient and,

because of the high volume of people, the devices would start to overheat and not work effectively.

IGA considered several different solutions, but finally decided on one from MOBOTIX. It was chosen for the knowledge and experience of the team, and the flexibility and scalability of the MOBOTIX technology for additional applications such as high-performance perimeter protection. IGA's technical team was particularly impressed with the accuracy and intelligence of the MOBOTIX thermal camera technology and its ability to manage even the most critical challenges.

SITA Smart Path transforms the passenger experience at Beijing Capital International Airport (BCIA)

Biometrics and contactless technologies mean passengers can now glide through the airport in an entirely touchless experience.



SITA has announced its most extensive biometric deployment to date and a new completely contactless experience for passengers traveling through Beijing Capital International Airport (BCIA).

As the busiest airport in China and the second busiest in the world, BCIA has completely automated the entire passenger journey using SITA technology – from check-in and bag drop through to immigration, security and finally boarding. Passengers only need to enroll once during check-in, then experience a seamless journey through the airport enabled by facial recognition. Improved processing efficiency means

shorter queuing time and more social distancing for all passengers. An added benefit during the COVID-19 era is that the process removes the need to touch any airport equipment, reducing the risk of infection.

SITA Smart Path has already proven that it can significantly speed up passenger processing at BCIA, processing over 400 passengers boarding an Airbus A380 in less than 20 minutes. Beyond passenger processing, SITA Smart Path also enables hands-free and touchless Duty-Free payment, removing the need to retrieve and show a boarding pass at check out. This significantly improves

the customer experience making Duty-Free quick, contactless and convenient at a time when airports need increased revenue.

The SITA Smart Path solution is the largest rollout of its kind and enables passengers to glide through the airport using only their face as their boarding pass, eliminating the need for physical touchpoints

and minimizing the risk of COVID-19 infection for passengers.

The deployment included the implementation of over 600 biometric checkpoints through the airport including 250 lanes of automatic gates, 80 kiosks, and 30 self-bag drop stations which will process passengers from international flights.

Airbus delivers first of 16 advanced law enforcement H125 helicopters to U.S. CBP

Airbus Helicopters, Inc. (AHI) has delivered the first of 16 new H125 helicopters uniquely configured for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Air and Marine Operations (AMO). AMO collaborated with AHI as part of a long-term fleet upgrade initiative, and the resulting configuration has led to one of the most advanced, high-tech law enforcement helicopters ever developed.



“Our mission is to safeguard the nation by anticipating and confronting security threats,” said Steve Boyer, Deputy Executive Assistant

Commissioner for AMO. “Airbus Helicopters’ continued commitment to designing, manufacturing, and delivering quality products will enable AMO

personnel to successfully and safely carry out this mission."

The first helicopter for the new configuration was tested and delivered from Airbus Helicopters, Inc.'s facility in Grand Prairie, Texas. The remaining aircraft are being built in Columbus, Miss, where a workforce made up of 40 percent U.S. veterans also produces the UH-72A Lakota for the U.S. Army and has delivered more than 450 single-engine H125 aircraft for the North American market.

Following a rigorous analysis of its mission needs and next generation aerospace technology, AMO developed a set of requirements for the new helicopters, which Airbus put in place through nearly 30 Supplemental Type Certificates (STCs). The series of STCs are tied together through a

primary all-encompassing STC that ensures all of the systems interact properly with one another and with the basic aircraft.

Airbus and AMO have a longstanding relationship of more than 30 years, during which Airbus has delivered more than 100 helicopters from the H120 and H125 family. This new acquisition was made possible through a partnership with Davenport Aviation, an SBA-certified woman-owned small business and HUBZone contractor specializing in the supply of aerospace equipment to federal, state and local government agencies.

Known for its power, versatility and excellent performance in hot and high conditions, the H125 features dual hydraulics, dual channel engine FADEC, a crash resistant fuel system, and

advanced glass-panel cockpit displays. The H125 is the single most popular law enforcement helicopter in the U.S., accounting for nearly half

of all helicopters delivered for that mission in North America over the last decade.

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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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- 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
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