

# BORDER SECURITY REPORT

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

## COVER STORY

**STRENGTHENING TRUST AND COOPERATION AT THE  
EASTERN BORDER OF THE EU.  
CURRENT AND FUTURE TRENDS IN EU BORDER MANAGEMENT**



### SPECIAL REPORT



Beyond Borders - A Journey along six world borders.p.36

### AGENCY NEWS



A global review of the latest news and challenges from border agencies and agencies at the border. p.30

### SHORT REPORT



Frontex to expand cooperation with Operation IRINI p.22

### INDUSTRY NEWS



Latest news, views and innovations from the industry. p.60

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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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## Biden, the Wall and the border dilemma!

As the Trump administration came to a chaotic, messy and frankly shameful end, the Biden administration will quickly have to come to terms with the thorny issue of border security.

And it won't be easy!

For, despite having already put a temporary halt to the building of the wall, whilst the administration looks at cost, contractual obligations etc., there are still plenty of people in the US, on both sides of the political divide, for whom illegal immigration remains the incendiary issue that probably put Donald Trump in the White House in the first place.

The challenge will be what to do about the future of the wall and the border, and balance that with the liberal values on which the US was built.

For many, the wall is a success, and they fear a surge in illegal migration under the new administration. But that seems unlikely given that President Biden has already stated that he will not be taking down what has already been erected.

It is likely that expanding the so called 'virtual wall' will be one of the chosen policies. This allows the administration to be seen to be taking tough action, whilst not endorsing Trump's wall building policy.

The problem is that phrases like 'virtual wall' or 'virtual barrier' are misnomers.

These 'walls and barriers' are nothing of the kind, as they have no physical attributes to actually stop people crossing the border. What they are is sophisticated surveillance systems that can merely detect attempted crossings or at best deter.

Border agency personnel will still be required to interdict illegals, and that requires manpower, which is always the most expensive element of any system. In fact, more effective surveillance may actually make the CBP's challenges more acute.

Because increased detection will increase the number of interceptions that the CBP will have to deal with. In the past, undetected illegals simply disappeared into the general population, and became another agencies problem.

Increased detection will create an expectation that all illegal crossings will be detected and intercepted, and given the current CBP resource overstretch, combined with the distances involved and difficult terrain, that may not be possible.

A physical barrier is designed to stop or at least delay an attempted crossing until officers can arrive at the scene. The other problem with the 'virtual' approach is that with nothing to stop or delay them, the illegal is already across the border before they can be intercepted. That means the illegal migrant has then to be processed, with all the associated costs, both financial, emotional and often political.

The reality is that walls do work. Not 100% of the time, but they do work. Because for many, if not most illegals that are happy to try chancing their arm at getting across a notional demarcation line and dodging the thinly spread US Customs and Border Patrol officers, a 30m wall is enough to stop them.

For the determined, the more sophisticated and organised, and that usually means traffickers, it most certainly is not. The game of whack-a-mole between the CBP and the traffickers will go on, wall or no wall.

But for President Biden, the whole issue is a politically toxic one, for which there are no easy solutions.

Tony Kingham  
Editor

# CONTENTS

## BORDER SECURITY REPORT



**6 STRENGTHENING TRUST AND COOPERATION AT THE EASTERN BORDER OF THE EU. CURRENT AND FUTURE TRENDS IN EU BORDER MANAGEMENT**

**14 CROSS BORDER CRIMES IN AFRICA AND THE URGENCY OF STRONG INSTITUTIONS**

**18 AGENCY REPORTS**

**24 MS-13'S HIGHEST-RANKING LEADERS CHARGED WITH TERRORISM OFFENSES IN US**

**32 AGENCY NEWS**

**36 BEYOND BORDERS - A JOURNEY ALONG SIX WORLD BORDERS**

**40 WILDLIFE CRIME: CLOSING RANKS ON SERIOUS CRIME IN THE ILLEGAL ANIMAL TRADE**

**45 2021 WORLD BORDER SECURITY CONGRESS**

**53 WEBINARS LIBRARY**

**55 INDUSTRY NEWS**







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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.

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- Tatiana Kotlyarenko, Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues, OSCE
- James Garcia, Assistant Director, Cargo & Biometrics – Global Targeting Advisory Division National Targeting Center – U.S. Customs and Border Protection
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## Minister Pekcan announces anti-smuggling figures at customs in 2020

Turkey's Minister Pekcan, in his speech at the "Anti-Smuggling Assessment Meeting for the Year 2020" held at the Command and Control Center of the Ministry, witnessed that 2020 was a very difficult year for the whole world, and the negative and severe consequences of the global epidemic conditions in international trade as in many areas. he said they were.

Stating that international goods shipments and human mobility have slowed down due to the epidemic, Pekcan said, "Despite the difficult and extraordinary conditions, our customs enforcement organization and all our Ministry staff continue to work with great devotion in our country, especially in our border gates, and in 2020, we have ensured the flow of our trade as well as in the fight against smuggling. They also achieved significant success. " used the expressions.

Pekcan stated that they made seizures in many different areas from electronic goods to textile products, from historical artifacts and cultural assets to endangered creatures, especially drugs, tobacco and tobacco products, alcoholic beverages that threaten the health of the public last year, "Last year 4 thousand 149 In the incident, we captured illegal goods worth TL 4 billion 403 million. Thus, we increased our seizure figure from TL 3 billion 165 million in 2019 by 40 percent in 2020. Friends, 'we made a seizure worth 8 thousand 377 TL per minute.' they say, and I thank them. " he spoke.

Pointing out that last year was the scene of record-catching thanks to the anti-smuggling capacity and the devoted efforts of the personnel, despite the decreasing economic activity and dynamism due to the epidemic, Pekcan said:

"We have left behind a bleaching year, especially in the fight against drug trafficking. In this context, we seized a total of 9.7 tons of drugs in the drug operations carried out by our customs enforcement teams in 2020. Thus, the 8.7 tons of our seizure in 2019 We have exceeded 11.5 percent.

Moreover, our friends have also achieved 5 records in the field of drugs this year. In the first months of the year, we caught 2 tons of 70 kilograms of cannabis in a truck in Kapıkule, the highest amount of drugs seized at black customs gates in the history of our country. We also seized 540 kilograms of cocaine in a container

in Kocaeli, the highest cocaine capture at sea customs of all time. We caught 260 kilograms of liquid methamphetamine as a result of a search in the fuel storage of a truck at Dilucu Customs Gate. In addition, 2020 witnessed important record catches such as the seizure of 2 million 80 thousand pieces of ecstasy at a time and 216 kilograms of khat, also known as yemen grass, for us."

Minister Pekcan stated that they achieved significant results in the fight against all kinds of smuggling, especially tobacco, tobacco products and alcohol smuggling, as well as drug smuggling, and said, "We have seized 10.8 million packs of smuggled cigarettes in 2020 with the work we conducted. In addition, 144 million macarons. and we seized 3.5 million pieces of cigarette paper, 44 thousand electronic cigarettes, 261 thousand electronic cigarette tobacco. " said.

Pekcan stated that a total of 705 thousand liters of illegal alcoholic beverages were seized in the operations carried out by customs enforcement teams, and that 2 thousand 98 tons of smuggled fuel and 176 tons of tea were seized by determining the fuel and tea smuggling that caused a serious tax loss in the country.

Minister Pekcan shared some remarkable examples of smuggling, and after checking with x-ray and detector dogs in suspicious containers in a port in Kocaeli, 624 thousand 800 packs of cigarettes, 40 thousand packs of electronics hidden in the trailer base of a truck at the Sarp Customs Gate. cigarette tobacco, said they seized 37 million macarons in Izmir.

Noting that in another operation carried out in İzmir, 3,560 liters of fake alcoholic drinks, 20 tons of tea without declaration in a truck in Kapıkule, 26 tankers of 591 tons of fuel oil were caught at Gürbulak Customs Gate, in the fuel storage of a truck in Akçakale. and in Habur, 1083 mobile phones were caught, again at the wheel points of a truck.

Explaining that 50 thousand bottles of fake perfume in Istanbul and 5 thousand tons of GMO rice were seized in a warehouse in Hatay, Pekcan said, "We understand from the seizures we carried out in 2020 that as we achieve great success by carrying our anti-smuggling capacity to a higher level every day, smugglers they try to develop different methods. "

# STRENGTHENING TRUST AND COOPERATION AT THE EASTERN BORDER OF THE EU.

## CURRENT AND FUTURE TRENDS IN EU BORDER MANAGEMENT

*By Rimutis Klevečka, Ministry  
of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania,  
Ambassador at Large*

The border environment is complex and comprises a variety of actors with conflicting interests.

Integrated border management describes how improved regulatory efficiency and effectiveness can be realized through better coordination among border agencies [1]. With the increasing mobility of persons and goods in times of fear of pandemic, terrorism and organized crime, states need to ensure the

right balance between open, while at the same time secured and controlled borders. 'Integrated Border Management' (IBM) can combine these two objectives

A well-functioning process of information exchange between and within border agencies involved in border security and management is one of the main factors contributing to the successful management of the border. Modern IT technologies



allows for border agencies smooth, timely and continuous information exchange.

### **Regional, national initiatives and ongoing projects**

Single Window (SW) is one of the key components in a modern border management practice.

In a Single Window implementation, it is especially important to define the scope, objectives, activities, roles, responsibilities, and deliverables in cooperation with all stakeholders.

Successful implementation of SW contribute Modern Border Management, facilitate legitimate trade and ensure safety and security and increasing effective coordination among border agencies.

With respect to the regional experience in employing Single Window in Border Security and Management, the article presents some regional initiatives and ongoing projects:

- Customs Eastern Land Border Expert Team (CELBET3)
- Baltic Automated Number Plate Recognition System (ANPRS)
- Development of joint data exchange network of X-ray scanners used by customs services of Baltic States: BAXE project
- Port Community Single Window
- Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic



### **Customs Eastern Land Border Expert Team (CELBET)**

Thanks to the Customs 2020 program, 11 countries (participating in the Customs Eastern and South-Eastern Land Border Expert Team (CELBET) exchange best practices and coordinate controls at 174 border crossing points. The idea of CELBET was born in 2014 in Cracow, Poland

Cracow in the city where nowadays Eleven different countries working together as a team and that what is most important – working out practical and useful operational and management solutions for customs services on land border that is almost 9 300 km long. Thanks to the Customs 2020 program, 11 countries (participating in the Customs Eastern and South-Eastern Land Border Expert Team (CELBET) exchange best practices and coordinate controls at 174 border crossing points.

The project was born because of

already well-known and unresolved problems:

- Lack of harmonization – e.g. customs border control and risk management
- Need for changes in current paradigm where every MS acts on its own way
- Need for more uniform approach

Countries participating in the Expert Team: Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece.

The Project desired result: ensure high quality and agreed level of the controls at the Eastern EU land border.

CELBET [2] helps to improve the control of external border and preventing the entry of dangerous goods that could be harmful to people or to our environment or to the EU's, the Member States' and citizens' financial interest. The improved controls also contribute

to smoother and faster border crossing.

The expert team is working in six areas:

- risk management
- operational controls
- equipment and procurement
- training,
- evaluation/performance measurement,
- Co-operation with border guards and neighboring countries.

CELBET Cooperation Team conducted follow-up mission in border crossing point in Lavoriskes, Lithuania. Representatives of Customs service and Border Guards emphasized benefits of recently implemented pilot of synchronized checks. One of the tangible result is that border crossing time for incoming trucks decreased up to 20%. Lithuanian Customs officers asked truck drivers about their opinion on synchronized checks. The feedback is very positive and highly motivating. This is the best proof that Lithuanian customs and Border Guards with CELBET Cooperation Team's assistance and support have created a good synergy to provide a better service to our clients.

### What is synchronized checks?

One trained and competent authority carries out the first line control on behalf of the others at least in limited and specified cases (for example Border Guard officer

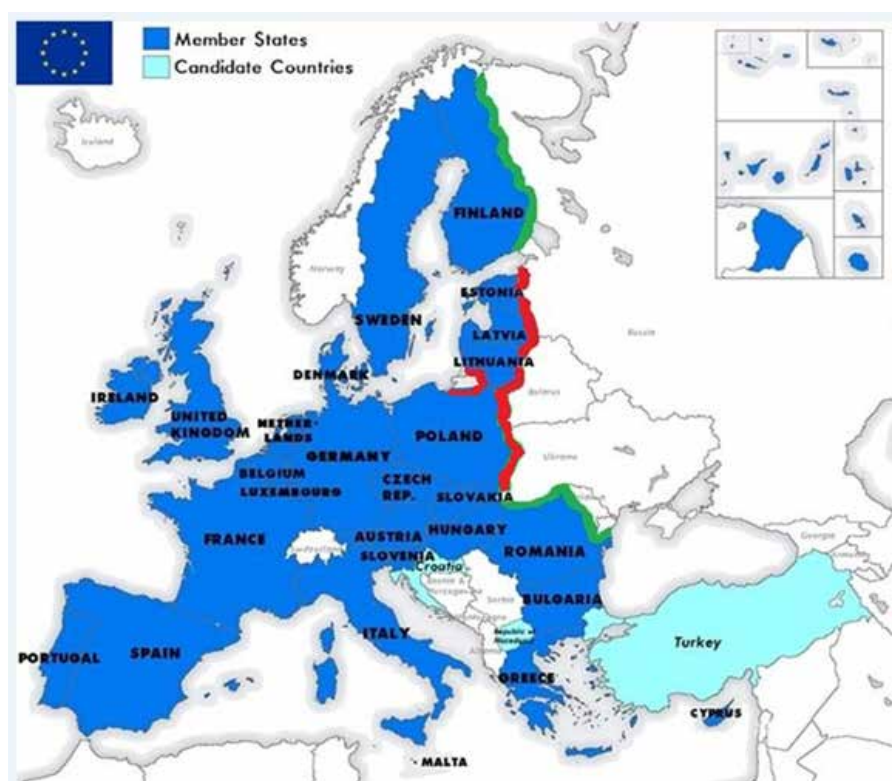
performs border and customs control of cars when at the same time Customs officer performs passport control of truck drivers additionally to applying customs procedures). CELBET experts provided significant support for Lithuanian Customs and Border Guard in preparations of the pilot on the solution. One of the tangible result is that border crossing time for incoming trucks decreased up to 20%.

### Automated Number Plate Recognition Systems (ANPRS)

The idea of the automated number plate recognition system (hereinafter referred to as the Baltic ANPRS) interface was to make the numbers of vehicles registered in three countries mutually visible and the system could transmit

alert messages. In Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia Customs for risk management purpose in 2014 implemented „Baltic Automated Number Plate Recognition System (ANPRS)“ The main idea of the project was use ANPRS as a powerful tool for Risk management process. It might use as component of EU legal acts fraud prevention policy.

Poland has also recently joined to Baltic Automated Number Plate Recognition System (ANPRS) the ANPRS is not the system-for-itself. It is the powerful tool for Risk management process; it used as component of EU legal acts fraud prevention policy Interfacing ANPRS between EE, LV, LT and Poland





Key principles of Interfacing Automatic Number Plate Recognition Systems between Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and Poland:

- Automatic exchange of events (border crossing information)
- Administrative enquiries to another countries (order to carrying out the controls) on EU external border points;
- Information exchange based on Council Regulation (EC) No 515/97.

75 recognition points in joined network: Estonia – 29, Latvia – 7, Lithuania – 19, Poland – 20. So far, 9 Mobile equipment kits are installed in patrol vehicles.

Nearest rollout step – interconnection of joint Baltic ANPRS with similar system used by Finnish customs. We hope that after implementation of internal legal procedures Slovakia, Hungary, Romania also join to ANPRS.

Opportunities of expansion and integration of the ANPRS

Improvement of traffic organization on land border crossing points

Improvement of alarm messages delivery to end users

Interlinking of Baltic NPRS with other EU countries

Information exchange with OLAF and other EU law enforcement agencies.

### **Baltic X-Ray images Exchange (BAXE) network**

What prompted and accelerated the emergence of the BAXE project?

There were no possibility to share image data between scanners and operators in one single interface:

- All X-ray scanners operated individually
- Image data was not shared and centralized
- Lack of possibility for quick exchange of X-ray images between operators

- Different brands of scanners created images in their own formats
- No teaching and training software
- No centralized supervision (at national or EU level)

### **Main achievements**

- Created tool for exchange of X-ray images
- Adopted common universal format of X-ray images
- Implemented common database of X-ray images and infringements detected
- Introduced tool for teaching and training of X-ray operators
- Approved facility for X-ray operators 'training (in Lithuanian Customs Training
- Center as well as in Latvia Central Customs Office)
- Introduced possibility of interlinking of Baltic X-ray databases with similar databases in other EU countries
- Prepared direct access to BAXE data for authorized remote users via web based application
- Implemented data exchange interface between BAXE and Risk Management System (RIKS) (Lithuania only)
- Implemented remote X-ray image analysis using BAXE software resources.

Map of scanners involved in BAXE.

### **BAXE project development perspectives:**

- Integration of the new x-ray scanners in Estonia, Latvia and



Lithuania

- Integration of the railway x-ray scanners to the BAXE
- Upgrading the BAXE class by adapting it to work with different software
- Usage of BAXE training facilities for international trainings
- Involvement of new countries in the BAXE project
- Delivery of BAXE Universal Raw Format to the WCO

### Port Single Window Concept. Freight and Goods Information System (KIPIS)

KIPIS [3] designed for transferring and processing information on freight movement via the port of Klaipeda. The system is available by more than 500 companies operating in the Port and state enterprises.

Primarily the project focused on economic and social benefits instead of financial ones. The KIPIS system accelerate exchange of data and information between various

participants in the logistics chain, and provide conditions to enhance competitive capacity of the port of Klaipeda. The Port Authority obtain statistical information, which it is obliged to provide to the Statistical Office of the European Commission (EUROSTAT) pursuant to the European Council Directive 95/64/EC on statistical returns in respect to carrying goods and passengers by sea. KIPIS will also generate other reports and accounts needed for the Port Authority to make decisions related to strategic port management.

The system's benefits for the port companies consist of facilitation and acceleration of freight/goods movement through the port by way of exchanging electronic data. The system allows for the elimination over 40 different paper documents going between the ship agency, forwarding, stevedoring companies, customs offices and other state authorities controlling freight and goods traffic. This paperwork includes a variety of permits to

import, export, handle and reload goods, handling operations reports, quality certificates and so on. Forwarders, agents, and stevedoring companies will be able to submit and receive electronic documents through a single access point to each other and to the state authorities and institutions without wasting time like the old method.

KIPIS provided the possibility the customs services and other inspection authorities to receive preliminary information and documents for risk assessment and operative, real-time and statistical information on the freights and goods at the port. The features provided by the system help control the port operations in a simpler and easier manner and render better quality public services.

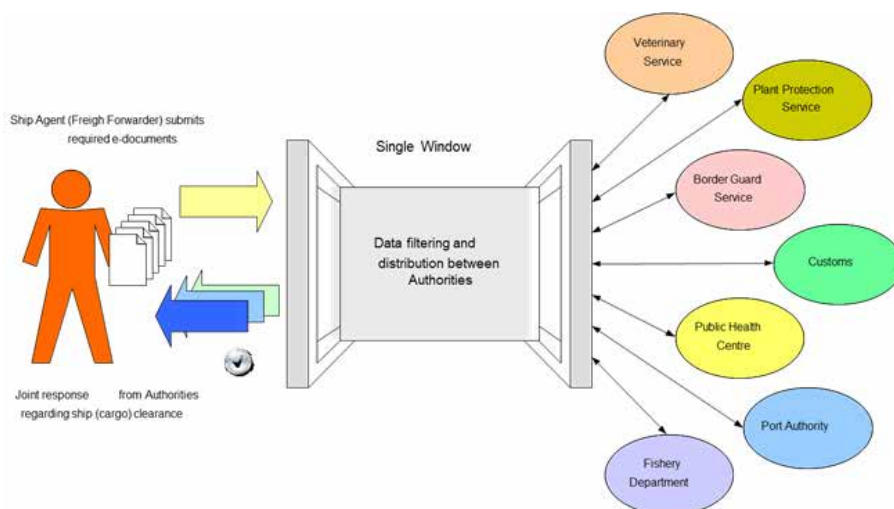
KIPIS Single windows User Groups:

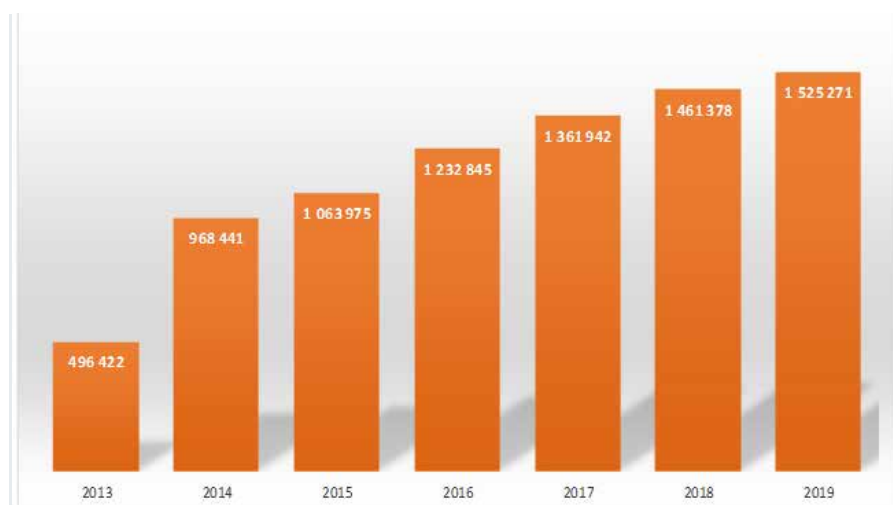
- Freight forwarders
- Stevedoring companies (port terminals)
- Customs
- State Food and Veterinary Service
- State Plant Protection Service
- Klaipeda Public Health Centre
- State Border Guard Service
- Fishery Department
- Klaipeda State Seaport Authority

### E-doc's per year

Benefits for business:

- Reduction of physical cargo inspections





## Summary

Presented regional initiatives and ongoing projects with participation of Lithuania border guards, customs and other institutions related to border management, brings us closer to creation internationally recognized border control standards. This innovative approach to border management pays a way to work more efficiently on implementation European and National Integrated border management strategies for states on the Eastern border of EU. Synergies between services, integration of new control measures (personal health control) into the control process needed. The effective operation of border control services to ensure the continuous movement of persons and goods in the event of a pandemic.

## References

1. Mariya Polner. *Coordinated border management: from theory to practice*. *World Customs Journal*, Volume 5, Number 2, pp. 49-64, September 2011.
2. *The official Twitter page of Customs Eastern and South-Eastern Land Border Expert Team*. <https://twitter.com/CELBET3>
3. *Port of Klaipėda. KIPIS – Freight and Goods Information System* <https://www.portofklaipeda.lt/kipis-freight-and-goods-information-system/>

- Saving time of port companies (simplified process)
- Increase of port competitive advantage
- Benefits of authorities:
- Improvement of quality of services
- More reliable risk assessment
- Saving human resources
- Increase of public safety

## Lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic

### Joint coordinated actions

There is a clear need for joint and coordinated action by the countries of the region in the field of border control in order to reduce the risks of epidemic outbreaks. With the view to possible further developments of the epidemiological situation, common control measures at the external and internal borders, adhering to uniform standards, are beneficial.

### Human resources

The regulatory mechanism for mobilizing the forces of other law

enforcement institutions (police, customs) to support the SBGS, as set out in the national legislation of the Republic of Lithuania, had an exceptionally positive effect. Cadets of the Border Guard School used to support the SBGS functions. Officials provided with safeguards (masks, gloves, disinfectants) in a situation of market shortage; maximized use of infrastructure and human resources.

### Legal framework for border management in case of pandemic

EU Member States have taken action at internal borders due to health threats on their own, as the EU legal framework does not foresee a coordinated action in cases of crisis, such as current pandemic. It became evident, that such legal framework at EU level would contribute to a better crisis management and help addressing the related challenges, including by means of providing necessary financial support to the Member States.



## Ukraine State Border Guard Service enhance International Cooperation



Within the framework of the Black Sea Border Cooperation Forum, at the initiative of the Ukraine State Border Guard Service, a new working group “Countering drug smuggling and other illegal activities in the Black Sea” has been established.

The activities of the State Border Guard Service in the field of international cooperation are aimed at maximally promoting the implementation of the main tasks of the agency through joint cooperation with partners on threats to national and international security at the state border of Ukraine.

The effectiveness of countering terrorism, international organized crime, cybercrime, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as corruption, smuggling, illegal migration, etc., depends on the level of cooperation both bilaterally and within international organizations.

The State Border Guard Service of Ukraine has established a partnership and maintains contacts with border and law enforcement agencies of neighboring countries as well as Georgia, Azerbaijan, the Turkish Coast Guard, except for Russia.

Within the framework of the strategic course for Euro-Atlantic integration of Ukraine, cooperation with the border agencies of the USA, Canada, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Germany, Great Britain, the Government of Japan, the Border and Coast Guard Agency FRONTEX, NATO, OSCE and the International Center for Migration Development has been intensified. In addition, the development of cooperation with the Border Assistance Mission to Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, the EU Advisory Mission, continued.

Within the framework of the Black Sea Border Cooperation Forum, at the initiative of the State Border Guard Service, a new working group “Countering drug smuggling and other illegal activities in the Black Sea” was established.

In addition, the State Border Guard Service and its partners implement international technical assistance projects. Last year alone, 26 international technical assistance projects were implemented, within the framework of which 360 million UAH in assistance was received, and 6 new projects with a budget of about 350 million UAH were initiated.

## CBP Announces New Facial Biometric Comparison Technology at San Ysidro, Otay Mesa Border Crossings

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has announced the implementation of Simplified Arrival at the San Ysidro and Otay Mesa pedestrian border crossings in San Diego, CA.

Simplified Arrival, an enhanced international arrival process that uses facial biometrics to automate the manual document checks that are already required for admission into the United States, provides travelers with a secure, touchless travel experience while fulfilling a longstanding Congressional mandate to biometrically

record the entry and exit of non-U.S. citizens.

San Ysidro is the world's busiest land border crossing, located between San Diego and Tijuana. In Fiscal Year 2019 alone, CBP processed nearly 40 million passengers. Although travel dropped due to COVID 19 restrictions in FY 2020, the crossing still saw more than 24 million travelers last year. Located east of San Ysidro, Otay Mesa is the nation's fourth largest POE, with approximately 16 million travelers crossing the border in 2019 and 10 million last year.

## Number of Central African refugees soars as violence intensifies



UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is calling for the immediate end to all violence in the Central African Republic (CAR) as nearly 60,000 people have been forced to seek refuge in neighbouring countries since December, a two-fold rise in just one week.

Most have fled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), across the Ubangui River, where the number of arrivals topped 50,000 after 10,000 Central African refugees arrived in a single day on 13 January.

Some 58,000 people are still displaced inside CAR's affected regions, according to the Population

Movement Commissions, and nearly 9,000 refugees have arrived in neighbouring Cameroon, Chad, and the Republic of Congo this past month.

UNHCR commends neighbouring governments for continuing to grant Central African refugees access to territory and asylum despite border restrictions brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNHCR and partners in CAR are gathering reports of abuses by armed groups, including of sexual violence, attacks on voters and pillaging.

UNHCR is calling for an immediate return of all parties to meaningful dialogue and progress towards peace.

The events of the last months – since reports of election-related violence began – reverse the trend of recent years of Central African refugees returning home.

UNHCR and its partners are scaling up assistance for the new arrivals, despite poor infrastructure hampering the humanitarian response.

UNHCR was already seeking \$151.5 million this year to respond to the CAR situation. The needs of the recently displaced Central Africans are mounting, and we will soon face a substantial funding shortfall.

## EUBAM Libya: new Head of Mission appointed

Natalina Cea has been appointed Head of Mission of the EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) in Libya. She will take up her duties on 1 February 2021 succeeding Vincenzo Tagliaferri, who has been Head of Mission since 1 September 2016.

Natalina Cea is an Italian civil servant who has worked at a senior level for more than 20 years, both in Italy – as Director of the International Cooperation and Technical Assistance Office of the Italian Customs Administration – and internationally, leading missions, programs and projects in the civilian security sector,

particularly in the field of border management and related security and justice issues.

On 22 May 2013, the Council of the European Union gave the green light for EUBAM Libya, a civilian Mission under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), to support the Libyan authorities in improving and developing the security of the country's borders. This civilian Mission supports the Libyan authorities in developing border management and security at the country's land, sea and air borders.

# CROSS BORDER CRIMES IN AFRICA AND THE URGENCY OF STRONG INSTITUTIONS

*Martin Igwe is Director Media and Advocacy Center. West Africa Action Network on Small Arms in Nigeria @igwemni*

In recent times Ethiopia has witnessed conflict at Alfashada border, this Area borders Ethiopia troubled Tigray region causing tens of thousands to be homeless. In Central African Republic rebels operating from neighbouring countries are threatening the countries democratic election. From July 2019 to June 2020 the united Nations documented 880

incidents of conflicts\abuse affecting civilians {thehumanitarian.org.} Abduction of school children and farmers in Nigeria, kidnapping and illegal migration is almost a weekly occurrence. In a continent being crippled by COVID 19 pandemic economically, if Africa must tap from the gains of African continental free trade opportunities the need to change the ugly narratives remain a





from Nigeria where consumer prices are highly subsidized. These two informal cross border trade (ICBT) have in the past accounted for large share of Benin income, employment and fiscal revenue.

Magama and Jibiya community leaders in Katsina state Nigeria confirmed to us that it is only water that does not pass through their community to Niger Republic. Despite regional and global efforts to eradicate transborder crime in Africa, Nigeria constitutes the largest number of victims in transnational crime network in Africa. (Journal of Peace & Conflict Studies Vol. 41 No. (2014) 61-84)

Strong institutions in our borders have an important redistributive role in the economy. They make sure resources are properly allocated and ensure that economic resources are protected. They also encourage trust and provide policy and justice systems which adhere to a common set of laws. Covid-19 economic consequences are worrisome, unconventional strategies capable of reviving African Global economy has become imperative Integration of best technology is an emergency. In Nigeria for example, government should make sure that in every international border, there should be a joint security team comprising of police, Army, Airforce, Navy, Immigration, Customs, National Intelligence Agency (NIA) National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP),

necessity.

Institution, an organized system of social relationship which embodies certain common values and procedures and meets certain basic needs of the society (Horton & Hunts Sociology, 1964) is an important ingredient needed for a peaceful border community. Social institutions which transmit social heritage like family, Legal and religious institutions which controls and solves social problems remain an important tool to Peace even beyond borders.

Defeating this global concern (trans-border crime) requires African states to go beyond military campaign and think of harmonized institutional framework capable of relaunching trade, improving public services, developing infrastructure, enacting laws stringent enough to deter criminal elements.

Religion and cultural proximity of Nigerian Borno state which each year attracts large members of Chadian immigrants has facilitated recruitment of transborder criminals in Borno communities. School enrolment is poor, access to public services is also epileptic. Infact, the ratio of doctor to patients is 1:140,000 (Crises group-org. fighting boko haram in chad). The planned effort to resolve agricultural activities in Chad basin through channeling water from Ubangi river in the Democratic Republic of Congo to Chad lake has remained a pipe dream hence, these communities remain a hot arena for criminals. Benin Republic was a major cocoa exporter during Nigerian civil war despite non-existent of production of this product in their country. Nigeria cocoa was diverted through Benin. Benin illegally imports a large proportion of its petroleum products

Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corp (NSCDC), and the Federal Road Safety Corp (FRSC). There is the need for churches, mosques, banks, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), ECONOMIC and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), Markets, Prisons, Hospitals, Mobile courts, schools at the border communities. The National Orientation Agency (NOA), and News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) are also relevant institutions in this area that should be saddled with the responsibility of educating the larger community what to and what not to do for peace and national

development. These institutions if strengthened and trained in line with global best practices will have shared sense of purpose, strong synergy, distributing duties among themselves while allowing for enough overlap capable of checkmating the excesses of another and taking advantage of what is available to solve problems. Civil society desk in all international borders is long overdue, they represent a strong institution whose responsibilities cut across other institutional activities. Border security and security as a whole should be every body's business. It is a flawed assumption that issues of security must remain strictly

within the ambit of agencies with the lawed responsibilities. Even security agencies cannot function effectively without citizen alliance and community assistance. One of the fundamental ingredients to addressing crime is intelligence and it does not jump out from the colored screen of television or computer hence, the relevance of citizen participation and the support of stake holders. Formal and informal strong institutions in African countries and Nigeria in particular have the wherewithal to turn this challenge to economic opportunity. Let the change promised by the government begin from her borders.

## Nine arrests in hit against network smuggling migrants via the Greek-Turkish land border

The network used violence against the migrants who paid up to €2500 for the illegal journey

Hellenic Police (Ελληνική Αστυνομία), supported by Europol, dismantled an organised crime group smuggling migrants from Turkey to Greece by land. After passing the border crossing, the migrants were forced to walk in groups of 3 to 10 people for several days until they reached a predefined location. From there, members of the smuggling network would pick them up by car to bring them to a safe house in Northern Greece. Afterwards, the migrants were transported to Thessaloniki and from there on to Athens, using sophisticated methods to avoid police detection. The investigation identified that the network, active since December 2019, owned over 130 vehicles, most of them purchased with fake documents. Over 10 cars were often registered under the same owner.

Relatives of the migrants were paying between €900

and €2500 per person for the smuggling services, transferring the payments via the hawala network. Members of the criminal group were using violence against the migrants to ensure the payments. A high ranked member of the group is believed to be in Turkey.

Results: 9 suspects arrested (5 in Thessaloniki, 2 in Katerini, 2 in Athens); The leader of the network is one of the 9 arrested; 4 house searches performed; 5 vehicles seized; Genuine and fake documents and electronic equipment seized

Europol provided continuous operational support, tailored analytical support and cross-checking of operational information against Europol's databases. Europol also supported the action day on the spot by the deployment of a Europol Guest Officer. This allowed for the real-time cross-checking of operational information against Europol's databases.

## CARICOM IMPACS and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) collaborate to detect and counter-terrorists and serious criminals' travel using passenger data

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) signed today a Memorandum of Agreement and a Memorandum of Understanding related to the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme.

The agreements will help the fifteen (15) Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Member States enhance their capacity to detect the travel of terrorists and serious criminals while upholding human rights, in compliance with Security Council resolutions and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards.

The signing took place during a virtual ceremony between the Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, and CARICOM IMPACS Executive Director (Ag.), Lieutenant Colonel Michael Jones. "The Agreements signed today," Mr. Voronkov said, "are a symbol of the solid joint commitment of CARICOM IMPACS and the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme of my Office to assist CARICOM countries in enhancing detection capabilities using passenger data through an 'all-ofUN' concerted effort." "This partnership is one that is mutually beneficial to both entities. On the one hand, it allows CARICOM to receive expertise from the UN, especially in the area of data privacy legislation and to strengthen its ability to undertake risk assessments.

In addition, it gives CARICOM the opportunity to lend its vast experience to the UN as it continues to develop its software system to capture maritime passenger information, which CARICOM has been doing for the last 14 years," said Lieutenant Colonel

Jones.

The Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, a flagship global initiative of UNOCT, assists beneficiary Member States in building their capabilities to detect and intercept terrorists and serious criminals by using Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data linked to INTERPOL and other international and national databases of known and suspected terrorists and criminals.

The Programme also enhances international information exchange, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), and 2482 (2019) and relevant privacy laws. Through a partnership with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Office of Information and Communication Technology (OICT), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Programme comprehensively assists beneficiary Member States in legislative, operational, transport industry engagement, and technical areas.

The support includes the donation and deployment of the United Nations "goTravel" software system. The Programme has been designed in accordance with human rights principles and United Nations policies and standards. Since the Caribbean Community has vast experience with the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS), this partnership will also be mutually beneficial in relation to its extension to the maritime domain.



## Returning Foreign Fighter Arrested in Spain



Europol supported an operation of the Spanish National Police (Policía Nacional) leading to the arrest of a member of the so-called Islamic State. The suspect had recently returned from the conflict zone on the border of Iraq and Syria. Two other individuals associated with the suspect were also arrested during the operation in Barcelona.

Law enforcement officers detected a potentially

dangerous individual that had recently arrived in Spain. The investigation determined that this individual was hiding out in a run-down property in Barcelona. Officers later discovered that the suspect was not living there alone. The fact that the suspect was so determined to cover their tracks and the risk of their location meant officers were swift to act and arrest the individuals.

The individual, a jihadist returning from the Iraqi-Syrian conflict zone, would have been active as a member of the so-called Islamic State for a considerable amount of time. On his way back from the conflict zone, the suspect travelled through Iraq, Turkey and Senegal where he continued his terrorist activity. Before entering Spain, the suspect was based in Algeria, where he was in touch with a branch of the so-called Islamic State in North Africa. This arm of the so-called Islamic State has been subject to significant law enforcement operations in recent weeks..

## EUROPOL and EUROJUST Sign New Agreement Expanding Cooperation on SIRIUS

Europol and Eurojust signed a contribution agreement that will expand their partnership in supporting law enforcement and judicial authorities with cross-border access to electronic evidence. This new agreement, in place from January 2021 to June 2024, reinforces the success of the SIRIUS project and sets about its second phase of development and enhancement.

Launched by Europol in 2017, the SIRIUS project

aims to foster the co-development of practical and innovative tools and solutions for EU law enforcement and judicial authorities that can support internet-based investigations. Eurojust has made a significant contribution to the SIRIUS project by providing the perspective of EU judicial authorities. Under this new agreement, Eurojust becomes a full partner of the project.

## Customs Thwart Illegal Cigarette Trade in EU & UK

Law enforcement authorities from 15 EU Member States\* and the UK teamed up last month to dismantle a criminal network illegally trading cigarettes. Supported by Europol and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the joint operation took place between 2 and 13 November 2020. Led by the customs departments of Lithuania and the UK, the operation was facilitated by intelligence analysis of excise duty suspension abuse. The fraud scheme consisted of illegally diverting cigarettes from EU internal and

external transit customs procedures to the black market without paying millions in taxes.

The operation led to 17 suspects arrested; 67 million cigarettes and 2.6 tonnes of tobacco seized worth €35.82 million, with 88% of the cigarettes seized produced in Belarus.



## International operation disrupts supply of firearms to terrorists



A seven-day operation saw law enforcement officers intercept illicit firearms, ammunition and explosives, and disrupt the trafficking networks used to supply terrorists across West Africa and the Sahel.

Under Operation KAFO II, coordinated jointly by INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), frontline officers targeted smuggling hotspots at airports, seaports, and land borders in Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger.

Officers checked more than 12,000 individuals, vehicles, containers and goods against international criminal databases, and carried out physical searches, to determine if suspects were using stolen travel documents, were known to police in any of INTERPOL's 194 member countries, or were travelling in a stolen vehicle.

The Operation mobilized 260 officers from police, gendarmerie, national commissions for the control of small arms and light weapons, customs and anti-trafficking airport units, and border and prosecution services in all four countries.

## Forestry crime: targeting the most lucrative of environmental crimes

Worth almost USD 152 billion a year, the illegal timber industry accounts for up to 90% of tropical deforestation in some countries and attracts the world's biggest organized crime groups. It causes serious economic, environmental and social damage and fuels conflict in forest regions where criminal gangs compete for available markets.

Tax evasion, corruption, violent crime, fraud and money laundering, and even the hacking of government websites to obtain permits, are commonplace on the forestry crime landscape.

Human encroachment into forested areas, driven by

illegal logging and agricultural expansion, is increasing human contact with wildlife's infectious diseases. This drives their transmission to humans, particularly when the demolition of forests displaces disease-carrying species out of the forest and into urban areas.

Ten years of INTERPOL action against forestry crime has seen a shift in focus from the front line timber criminals to the conglomerates and organized crime groups behind the industry. The world's police community has reacted by working together across the entire timber supply chain to disrupt criminal networks and the financial flows that facilitate forestry crime.

## Terrorist groups using COVID-19 to reinforce power and influence

The impact of COVID-19 on global terrorism, trends and potential risks related to attacks on vulnerable targets and bioterrorism is the focus of a new report issued by INTERPOL.

As COVID-19 cases subside in some regions and surge in others, the report underlines the critical need to monitor the reaction and response by terrorist networks, violent extremist groups, and other potentially dangerous NSAs.

Early in the pandemic, certain terrorist groups and other NSAs used the pandemic to reinforce their power and influence, particularly among local populations, or to expand their external financial resources. The report also highlights how the impact of COVID-19 on

the global economy is likely to indirectly affect funding available to terrorist organizations.

The use of disinformation and conspiracy theories also appears as a common denominator across all idealistic spectrums, and as an indicator of prevailing threats against priority targets.



## Sweden takes over OSCE Chair



Sweden takes over the OSCE Chair today, and will in the coming year focus on defending the European security order, addressing protracted conflicts and enhancing democracy and gender equality.

"Sweden is honoured to take over the Chair of the OSCE at a time when our region needs to come

together to focus on our common security, based on the principles and commitments we all have made," said Ann Linde, Sweden's Foreign Minister and the new OSCE Chairperson-in-Office. "While conflicts and political crises continue to challenge security, international law, democratic principles and sustainable development, the OSCE can serve as a crucial multilateral platform to tackle these challenges and build stronger societies together."

"Our priorities as Chair will be to emphasize the fundamental tasks of the OSCE; defending the European security order, upholding the OSCE concept of comprehensive security and to contribute to resolving the conflicts in our region. On 14 January, I will present our programme in detail to the OSCE Permanent Council," Linde added.

## OSCE train-the-trainer regional seminar to build capacities in Central Asia to prevent violent extremism

A regional train-the-trainers seminar is guiding twenty future facilitators in learning how to train women leaders in civil society to prevent violent extremism. The Action against Terrorism Unit of the OSCE Transnational Threats Department organized the seminar in co-operation with OSCE field operations in Central Asia.

The seminar is part of the OSCE's Leaders against Intolerance and Violent Extremism (LIVE) Initiative, which emphasizes the role civil society plays to help identify and address grievances that make individuals

more vulnerable to the influence of violent extremist groups.

"Through the seminar, future facilitators build their capacity to engage with civil society and to make a lasting impact in addressing violent extremism," said Anara Jeenbekova, Senior Programme Assistant in the OSCE Programme Office in Bishkek. "Being held at the regional level, the seminar is also a chance for facilitators to expand their discussions and knowledge beyond the national context."

## OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan supplies Border Academy with devices for verifying travel document authenticity

The OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan handed over 25 devices for verifying travel document authenticity during the signing of a donation agreement with the Border Academy of the Committee for National Security of Kazakhstan. The Academy will use the devices to train its current and future border controllers to identify forged travel documents.

"Within the scope of our border security and management assistance to Kazakhstan, we are providing these devices for checking travel documents. These devices have already proven to be useful, not only for training border controllers but, most

importantly, in practice," said György Szabó, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan. "We are confident that these devices will enhance the Academy's capabilities and support the training of cadets and other border control specialists."





## IOM to Portuguese EU Presidency: Reform of Migration Policy Key to Recovery



As 2021 begins with a promising COVID-19 vaccine in sight, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) encourages the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) to advance an ambitious, forward-looking reform of European migration policy that engenders recovery from the pandemic and long-term resilience.

In recommendations to the Presidency released, IOM outlines four targeted policy proposals that highlight well-managed human mobility and community-centred actions as key contributors to achieving a global, digital, safe and resilient Europe.

“Our recommendations converge on the view that integrating migration and reimagining mobility across sectors – including health, climate, development and the digital agenda – can help us build back from the pandemic and strengthen our approach to the challenges on the horizon,” said António Vitorino, IOM Director General.

“It is crucial – for migrants and societies alike – that the Presidency advances negotiations to realise the key principles of the Pact on Migration and Asylum put forward by the European Commission last September,” IOM’s Director General said.

## Thousands of Migrants Forced to Sleep Rough after Closure, Destruction of Bosnia Camp



The IOM is stepping up its assistance to the thousands of migrants who will be sleeping rough tonight in Bosnia,

which has become a bottleneck as people try to reach the European Union. A humanitarian emergency was caused when the Lipa Emergency Tent Camp, run by the local authorities with support from IOM, was closed earlier today. Minutes after the closure, it was destroyed by fire.

Days of negotiation on the camp’s future ended without a positive solution, meaning 1,400 people will join the growing number of migrants sleeping rough in Una Sana Canton, on Bosnia’s border with EU member Croatia.

## EU Voluntary Relocations from Malta Top 270 People in 2020 amid COVID-19

The IOM has supported the voluntary relocation of 270 people from Malta to other EU Member States this year. Almost a quarter of those relocated this year from Malta were women, and 28 were children under the age of 12.

“Despite the many challenges presented by the outbreak of COVID-19, including logistics and increased health concerns, we continue to see a steady number of relocations,” said Laurence Hart, Director of IOM’s Coordinating Office for the Mediterranean in Rome.

“IOM is proud to support relocation, which is a humane,

concrete demonstration of intra-European solidarity with Malta and other countries on the EU Mediterranean shore.”



THE UNITED NATIONS MIGRATION AGENCY

## Frontex to expand cooperation with Operation IRINI



Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency and Operation EUNAVFOR MED IRINI have agreed last Friday to expand their cooperation to address challenges and threats to EU security in the Central Mediterranean region.

Under a new working arrangement, Frontex will be supporting Operation IRINI with information gathered as part of the agency's risk analysis activities, such as tracking vessels of interests on the high seas, as well as data from its aerial surveillance in the Central Mediterranean. The agreement also foresees the exchange of experts. Currently, an EUNAVFOR MED expert is based at the Warsaw headquarters of Frontex to support information exchange and cooperation in

search and rescue operations.

"Operation IRINI is a as a valuable operational partner for us. Frontex will provide information that will help tackle security challenges in the Central Mediterranean. We also work together to help save lives at sea," said Frontex Director Fabrice Leggeri.

"I am happy to sign the agreement with Frontex in order to strengthen our common action in order to ensure the security of EU borders and stem illicit traffic in the Mediterranean Sea," said Admiral Fabio Agostini, IRINI Operation Commander, during the virtual ceremony.

The working arrangement was signed during a virtual ceremony by Frontex's Executive Director Fabrice Leggeri and Rear Admiral Fabio Agostini, the Commander of Operation IRINI and attended by Director-General for Migration and Home Affairs Monique Pariat.

Cooperation with EU's Common Security and Defense Policy missions is an integral part of Frontex's activities. Before the launch of IRINI, the agency worked with EUNAVFOR Med Sophia to together combat people smuggling and trafficking and helped the mission build a comprehensive picture of cross-border criminal activities in the Central Mediterranean.

## Frontex and Europol to exchange liaison officers

In December, Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, and Europol signed an agreement to exchange liaison officers.

The agreement is part of the Joint Action Plan signed by the Executive Directors of the two agencies last year, aimed at strengthening the agencies' common effort in enhancing the security of EU citizens.

The liaison officers will contribute to information exchange between both agencies.

"I am looking forward to welcoming the first Europol liaison officer in Warsaw later this year. The exchange of information between the two agencies will improve the work of border guards and support investigations," said Frontex Executive Director Fabrice Leggeri.

"I am glad to welcome the Frontex liaison officer to our headquarters in The Hague. With more than 250 officers from almost 50 countries and agencies, Europol hosts the biggest law enforcement network in Europe. Liaison officers meet and network daily under one roof; they build strong international working relationships, coordinate operational cooperation, and securely share criminal information and best practices," added Europol Executive Director Catherine de Bolle.



## Conclusions of the Frontex Management Board's meeting of January 2021

Frontex Management Board met virtually in January and after two-day discussions, the Management Board has reached the following conclusions:

### **Conclusions of the Management Board's meeting on the preliminary report of its Working Group on Fundamental Rights and Legal Operational Aspects of Operations in the Aegean Sea**

The Management Board thanks the Working Group Fundamental Rights and Legal Operational Aspects of Operations for swift delivery of findings and takes note of its preliminary report. It welcomes in particular that the Working Group has involved also Frontex's Fundamental Rights Officer, as well as the Fundamental Rights Agency and the Consultative Forum in its discussions.

The Management Board takes note that five out of 13 incidents that have been examined still require further inquiry by the Working Group and additional clarifications.

The Management Board takes note that on the eight incidents that the Working Group could close at this stage and, on the basis of the information provided, it could not establish evidence of fundamental rights violations.

The Management Board is very concerned that the Agency missed to provide information on three incidents identified by the Working Group in time, so that the Working Group could not yet draw any conclusions with a view to certain cases.

The Management Board invites the Executive Director of the Agency to immediately provide the missing information and to implement the recommendations made in the report for the improvement of the Agency's internal process and procedures

The Management Board requests the Executive Director to report, by 19 February 2021, on the state of implementation of the above recommendations and to submit a roadmap developed in cooperation with the Fundamental Rights Officer on any further steps that the Agency needs to take in this respect, with a view to guarantee their swiftest possible implementation.

The Management Board notes, furthermore, that the European Commission has accepted the request of the Working Group to elaborate on a number of questions that concern in particular the interpretation of certain legal provisions and application of jurisprudence of the ECtHR to the sea borders and the impact of that jurisprudence on the interpretation of provisions of Regulation (EU) 656/2014.

For its next extraordinary meeting, the Management Board asks the Working Group to complete the examination of the incidents and to submit, by 26 February 2021, its final report on its work.

### **Conclusions of the Management Board's meeting on the standing corps, in particular category 1**

The Management Board was informed about the state of play regarding the EBCG standing corps establishment.

The Management Board welcomes, as the first successful step, the deployment of the first teams of the standing corps, largely composed of Member States' category 2 and category 3 officers who are already deployed in the Agency's activities.

In accordance with the Regulation 2019/1896, as of January 2021 the Agency is obliged to start the deployment of the standing corps teams, including in particular the statutory staff under category 1 of the standing corps. In accordance with the Management Board Decision of 3 April 2020 on the annual and multiannual planning of the standing corps, 700 category 1 statutory staff were to be ready for the deployment as team members of the standing corps as of 1 January 2021.

In this context, the Management Board is very concerned that the Agency has effectively recruited 419 standing corps officers in 2020, however, of which only 255 have completed the basic training to be ready for deployment as of January 2021.

While the Management Board acknowledges that this situation is significantly influenced by the global pandemic, it should be resolved as a matter of priority to ensure the effectiveness of the standing corps support for the Member States at the external borders and in return operations in 2021.



# MS-13'S HIGHEST-RANKING LEADERS CHARGED WITH TERRORISM OFFENSES IN US

On January 14th an indictment was unsealed in Central Islip, New York charging 14 of the world's highest-ranking MS-13 leaders who are known today as the Ranfla Nacional, which operated as the organization's Board of Directors, and directed MS-13's violence and criminal activity around the world for almost two decades.

Specifically, the indictment charges the defendants with conspiracy to provide and conceal material support to terrorists, conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism transcending national boundaries, conspiracy to finance terrorism and narco-terrorism conspiracy in connection with the defendants' leadership of the transnational

criminal organization over the past two decades from El Salvador, the United States, Mexico and elsewhere.

Defendant Borromeo Enrique Henriquez, aka "Diablito de Hollywood," is widely recognized as the most powerful member of the Ranfla Nacional. Three of the indicted defendants, Fredy Ivan

Jandres-Parada, aka “Lucky de Park View” and “Lucky de Park View,” Cesar Humberto Lopez-Larios, aka “El Grenas de Stoners” and “Oso de Stoners,” and Hugo Armando Quinteros-Mineros, aka “Flaco de Francis,” remain at large and should be considered armed and dangerous.

Henriquez and 10 other defendants are in custody in El Salvador. The United States is exploring options for their extradition to the United States with the government of El Salvador.

Acting Attorney General Rosen said, “The indictment announced today is the highest-reaching and most sweeping indictment targeting MS-13 and its command and control structure in U.S. history. When Attorney General Barr announced the creation of JTFV in August 2019, he envisioned a whole-of-government approach that would combine proven prosecution tools from the past with innovative strategies designed specifically to eliminate MS-13 leadership’s ability to operate the gang and direct its terrorist activity. This indictment reflects an important step toward achieving that goal. By working side-by-side with our U.S. law enforcement partners and with our partners in El Salvador, we have charged MS-13’s highest-ranking leaders with operating a transnational criminal organization that utilizes terror to impose their will on neighborhoods, businesses and innocent civilians across the United States and Central America.”

### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MOST WANTED FUGITIVE?



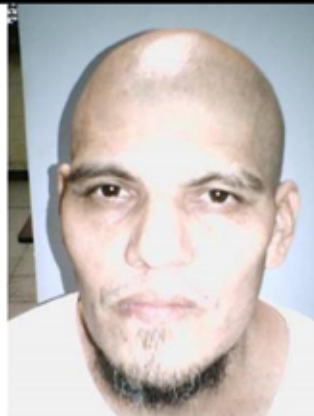
**WANTED FOR HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT  
IN THE DIRECTION OF MS-13 ACTIVITY  
IN THE UNITED STATES, MEXICO, AND  
EL SALVADOR**

**Freddy Ivan Jandres-Parada**  
**AKA: Lucky de Park View**

**DATE OF BIRTH:** December 2, 1975  
**PLACE OF BIRTH:** El Salvador  
**LAST KNOWN LOCATION:** Has ties to Mexico  
**HEIGHT:** 6' 0" **SKIN TONE:** Light  
**WEIGHT:** 180 lbs **EYES:** Brown  
**GENDER:** Male **HAIR:** Brown

[www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov)

### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MOST WANTED FUGITIVE?



**WANTED FOR HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT  
IN THE DIRECTION OF MS-13 ACTIVITY  
IN THE UNITED STATES, MEXICO, AND  
EL SALVADOR**

**Cesar Humberto Lopez-Larios**  
**AKA: El Grenas de Stoners**

**DATE OF BIRTH:** November 27, 1978  
**PLACE OF BIRTH:** El Salvador  
**LAST KNOWN LOCATION:** North Hollywood  
**HEIGHT:** 5' 8" **SKIN TONE:** Medium  
**WEIGHT:** 240 lbs **EYES:** Brown  
**GENDER:** Male **HAIR:** Brown

[www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov)

### HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MOST WANTED FUGITIVE?



**WANTED FOR HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT  
IN THE DIRECTION OF MS-13 ACTIVITY  
IN THE UNITED STATES, MEXICO, AND  
EL SALVADOR**

**Hugo Armando Quinteros-Mineros**  
**AKA: Flaco de Francis**

**DATE OF BIRTH:** November 16, 1972  
**PLACE OF BIRTH:** El Salvador  
**LAST KNOWN LOCATION:** Has ties to Mexico  
**HEIGHT:** 5' 7" **SKIN TONE:** Light  
**WEIGHT:** 165 lbs **EYES:** Brown  
**GENDER:** Male **HAIR:** Black

[www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov)

“MS-13 is responsible for a wave of death and violence that has terrorized communities, leaving neighborhoods on Long Island and throughout the Eastern District of New York awash in bloodshed,” said DuCharme. “Even when incarcerated, the Ranfla Nacional continued to direct MS-13’s global operations, recruit new members, including children, into MS-13, and orchestrate murder and mayhem around the world. Today’s groundbreaking indictment seeks to demolish MS-13 by targeting its command and control structure and holding MS-13’s Board of Directors accountable for their terroristic actions.”

“The FBI is committed to combatting all forms of terrorism that threaten the American people as well as our international partners,” said FBI Director Wray. “In collaboration with our federal, state, local and international partners, we took aggressive steps to target and pursue some of the highest levels of leadership of MS-13. This operation is a clear signal to others who engage in this type of transnational criminal activity: the FBI will work tirelessly to bring them to justice wherever they are based.”

“For over a decade, HSI has remained steadfast in our resolve to dismantle transnational gangs like MS-13,” said HSI’s Benner. “As one of the most violent and dangerous criminal enterprises, MS-13 and Ranfla Nacional were directly responsible for unthinkable violence and criminal activity in communities

across the United States and throughout Central America. As a result of the hard work and substantial resources dedicated to Joint Task Force Vulcan by our domestic and international law enforcement partners, this indictment will have a lasting disruptive effect on the future global illicit activities of this transnational criminal organization.”

As alleged in the indictment, the Ranfla Nacional comprises the highest level of leadership of MS-13. In approximately 2002, the defendants and other MS-13 leaders began establishing a highly organized, hierarchical command and control structure as a means to effectuate their decisions and enforce their orders, even while in prison. They directed acts of violence and murder in El Salvador, the United States and elsewhere, established military-style training camps for its members and obtained military weapons such as rifles, handguns, grenades, improvised explosive devices (IED) and rocket launchers. As leaders of MS-13, the defendants controlled swaths of territory and engaged in public relations efforts on behalf of the transnational criminal organization. Further, the defendants used MS-13’s large membership in the United States to engage in criminal activities, such as drug trafficking and extortion to raise money to support MS-13’s terrorist activities in El Salvador and elsewhere, and directed members in the United States to commit acts

of violence, including murders, to further its goals.

As further alleged in the indictment, a central theme of the rules implemented by the Ranfla Nacional was the requirement of loyalty to MS-13, or to the “barrio.” The requirement for loyalty was central to all aspects of life for MS-13 members. Members who disobeyed the rules, showed disloyalty to the gang or to its leaders, cooperated with law enforcement, or disrespected other members were subject to severe punishment, including death. The rules put in place by the Ranfla Nacional allowed the gang to flourish in parts of the United States, including within the EDNY where, under the defendants’ command, MS-13 has committed numerous acts of violence—including murders, attempted murders, assaults, kidnappings, drug trafficking, extortion of individuals and businesses, obstructed justice and sent dues and the proceeds of criminal activity by wire transfer to MS-13 leaders in El Salvador.

As further outlined in the indictment, the Ranfla Nacional has exercised its power over the government of El Salvador by committing acts of violence and intimidation over government officials, law enforcement and the population of El Salvador at large. In doing so the Ranfla Nacional has ordered the killing of law enforcement and government officials in El Salvador as well as ordering a “green light,” or killing, of an FBI Special Agent



detailed to El Salvador investigating MS-13 and its members.

Moreover, by controlling the level of MS-13's violence, the Ranfla Nacional exercised leverage with the government of El Salvador. For example, as alleged in the indictment, from approximately 2012 until approximately 2015, the Ranfla Nacional entered into a "truce" with the then-government of El Salvador. As part of this agreement, the Ranfla Nacional directed MS-13 to reduce homicides in El Salvador in exchange for improved prison conditions, benefits and cash payments. In 2015, when this agreement collapsed, the Ranfla Nacional blamed the United States, believing that the U.S. government pressured the government of El Salvador to end the "truce" as a condition of receiving funds from the United States. Thereafter, in early 2016, the Ranfla Nacional began planning for a major campaign of coordinated violence in El Salvador in retaliation for the harsher measures imposed on its members after the end of the "truce." As alleged in the indictment, the defendants ordered all cliques in El Salvador to create a specialized unit of MS-13 members to target police officers, military members, and government officials in El Salvador. These members underwent military training at MS-13 military training camps in El Salvador. The defendants also ordered all cliques, including those in the United States and in the EDNY, to provide profits from their MS-13-related criminal activity to

be used to purchase weapons for the planned attacks on police in El Salvador. In total, the defendants collected over \$600,000 for this fund which was used to purchase weapons, including M-16s and M-60 machine guns, grenades, IEDs and rocket launchers. Furthermore, the defendants ordered increased violence, including murders, in the EDNY and other parts of the United States, which saw a dramatic increase in MS-13 violence in 2016 and 2017.

Finally, as alleged in the indictment, the Ranfla Nacional directed the expansion of MS-13 activities around the world, most significantly into Mexico, where several high-ranking leaders were sent to organize operations there. In Mexico, MS-13 leaders made connections to obtain narcotics and firearms, conducted business with Mexican drug cartels such as the Zetas, Gulf Cartel, *Cártel de Jalisco Nueva Generación* (CJNG) and Sinaloa Cartel, and engaged in human trafficking and smuggling.

In August 2019, Attorney General William P. Barr created JTFV to carry out the recommendations of the MS-13 subcommittee formed under the Attorney General's Transnational Organized Crime Task Force (TOC Task Force). The Attorney General's TOC Task Force resulted from President Donald J. Trump's February 2017 Executive Order directing the Departments of Justice, State, and Homeland Security and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to

coordinate a whole-of-government approach to dismantle transnational criminal organizations, such as MS-13, and increase the safety of the American people.

Since its creation, JTFV has successfully implemented a whole-of-government approach to combating MS-13, including increasing coordination and collaboration with foreign law enforcement partners, including El Salvador, Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala; designating priority MS-13 programs, cliques and leaders, who have the most impact on the United States, for targeted prosecutions; and coordinating significant MS-13 indictments in U.S. Attorney's Offices across the country, including the first use of national security charges against MS-13 leaders.

JTFV has been comprised of members from the Department of Justice's National Security Division and the Criminal Division, as well as U.S. Attorney's Offices across the country, including the EDNY; the District of New Jersey; the Northern District of Ohio; the District of Utah; the Eastern District of Virginia; the District of Massachusetts; the Eastern District of Texas; the Southern District of New York; the District of Alaska; the Southern District of Florida; the Southern District of California; the District of Nevada; and the District of Columbia. In addition, all Department of Justice law enforcement agencies are involved in the effort, including the

FBI; the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the U.S. Marshals Service; and the U.S. Bureau of Prisons. In addition, HSI also plays a critical role in JTFV.

Acting Attorney General Rosen expressed his sincere thanks to Attorney General Raul Melara of El Salvador for the assistance of his office, as well as investigators from

El Salvador's Policía Nacional Civil, Centro Antipandilla Transnacional unit for their invaluable cooperation. Additionally, numerous Department of Justice components contributed to this indictment, including: the National Security Division's Counterterrorism Section; the Justice Department's Office of International Affairs; the Criminal Division's Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance and Training; and

Organized Crime and Gang Section; and the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces Executive Office. Finally, consistent with President Trump's Executive Order and the Attorney General's whole of government approach, the Department of State has provided critical support for JTFV's mission.

If convicted, the defendants face a maximum sentence of life in prison.

## Criminal organization dedicated to large-scale international cocaine trafficking dismantled



Agents from the Guardia Civil, the Spanish National Police and the Tax Agency, have disbanded a criminal organization dedicated to large-scale international cocaine trafficking. 2,065 kilograms of cocaine have been apprehended and 12 people have been arrested, allegedly accused of bringing notorious amounts of cocaine into Spain.

The investigations began in early 2020 on a nucleus of individuals settled in the provinces of Murcia and Seville, leading to the identification of a criminal organization whose purpose was to create a legal-looking business fabric, importing charcoal between South America and Europe to be able to introduce, undetected, large quantities of cocaine into Spain through the main Spanish ports.

With this objective, the organization began its activity through the Port of Barcelona, arriving to introduce

dozens of containers of the referred coal.

Once the containers arrived in Barcelona, they were transferred to a warehouse that the organization had rented in Tarragona, so that later, some of those investigated would be in charge of unloading the narcotic substance.

After several months, as a consequence of the limitations derived from the coronavirus pandemic and in order to make customs control more difficult, those investigated were forced to close said entry route, having to generate all the infrastructure and logistics again in the Port of Algeciras since mid-April.

The next step was made up of individuals who created companies with the intention of simulating a traffic of legal merchandise with products such as coal, rice, molasses or sanitary products, in high demand in the current sanitary crisis.

The latter were settled in Seville and operated in the towns of Marbella, Algeciras, Cádiz and the Andalusian capital itself. The leaders of the organization included figureheads in all the companies in order to conceal their true identity and obtain abundant benefits after the introduction of the merchandise.

The link between the top of the organization and the business branch was consolidated in Valencia with an expert in money laundering who channeled the organization's money to capitalize on the drug trafficking operation, diversifying its methods of action and concealment with the use of cryptocurrencies.

## Chief of Latvia State Border Guard receives two awards



The Latvian Minister of the Interior Sandis Ģirģens handed out two awards to General Guntis Pujāts, the Chief of the State Border Guard (SBG).

By the Order of the Ministry of the Interior on active participation and a significant contribution to the implementation of international operations, the Chief of the State Border Guard was awarded the “Award of the State Border Guard for contributing to international missions and operations”, as well as the Award of the “Border Management Program in Central Asia - Phase 9” (BOMCA 9) for an excellent contribution to the “Border Management in Central Asia - Phase 9” Project.

On June 11, 2015 the Grant Agreement No.DCI-ASIE/2015/358-348: “Border Management in Central Asia - Phase 9 (BOMCA 9)” was signed between the

Mission of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic and the State Border Guard of the Republic of Latvia. In accordance with the Grant Agreement on June 15, 2015 the implementation of project activities was launched. The State Border Guard of the Republic of Latvia was designated as the leading authority for the management of the Consortium of participating countries of the BOMCA 9 Project.

From May 2019, at the final phase of the Project, General Guntis Pujāts ensured the full functioning of the Consortium. Cooperation with Project Beneficiaries and Consortium Partners was facilitated. Work on gathering information on the results of the implementation of recommendations, developed during the Project in the area of border security and promotion of trade, was successfully organised. As a result of extensive work, the border guarding systems of the CA countries, as well as the procedures for control of goods and cargo, were improved. In addition, an important step was taken to ensure that the CA countries’ national legislation complies with international standards. As a result of the work of General Guntis Pujāts, the State Border Guard participated in the tender announced by the European Union for the implementation of the next BOMCA phase and gained the right to manage the next Project phase and to lead the Consortium.

## IPR Center forges formal partnership to stop counterfeit goods globally

The National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center) announced a formal partnership with the International AntiCounterfeiting Coalition (IACC) to protect legitimate manufacturers, retailers and consumers, across every sector of the global economy, by preventing illegal counterfeit goods from entering the United States. Derek N. Benner, Executive Associate Director for Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), a division of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement which oversees the IPR Center, and Bob Barchiesi, IACC President, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) during a virtual ceremony.

The IPR Center’s partnership with IACC provides

a framework to enhance investigative efforts into intellectual property crime through joint events, law enforcement training, community outreach and information sharing.

Counterfeits are often made with substandard and dangerous components, posing a serious health and safety risk for consumers. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the international trade in counterfeit and pirated goods represented up to 3.3% of world trade or \$509 billion as of 2016. In 2019, U.S Customs and Border Protection made more than 27,000 seizures with a manufacturer’s suggested retail price valued at more than \$1.5 billion.



## Nearly 50 properties seized in action against money laundering in Italy and Spain



Seized artwork (photos © Policia Nacional, ES)

Italian and Spanish authorities have seized nearly 50 properties and provisionally arrested 13 persons as the result of a Eurojust-coordinated operation against money laundering, tax evasion and corruption in Italy's northwestern province of Cuneo and Malaga province in Spain. Eurojust supported the setting up of a joint investigation team (JIT) which led to a series of actions in both countries as of December last year. During these actions three luxury cars as well as cash, jewellery, valuable watches and works of art were seized, with an estimated value of over EUR 1.5 million. The value of the seized properties in Italy is estimated to be at least EUR 5 million. The value of the seized properties in Spain is still pending official assessment.

The properties belong to an Italian suspect, who had moved to Spain in the late 1980's and has been convicted in both countries for various crimes, including fencing, the issuing of fake invoices, corruption, tax evasion and money laundering. For his criminal purposes, he had set up around 40 companies in Spain over the years, often with help from Italian acquaintances, who acted as managers merely on

paper.

Cooperation via Eurojust and the JIT enabled good reconstruction of the full criminal record and all of the main suspect's illegal activities, both in Italy and Spain. A new investigation into this suspect and his family in Italy that started two years ago and was led by the Guardia di Finanza revealed large-scale money laundering of millions of euros worth of profits from illegal activities in Spain. Between 2006 and 2016, approximately EUR 12 million euro had been transferred from Spanish bank accounts in his name and that of his daughter to Switzerland and back to Spain, in order to dissimulate criminal proceedings.

In Cuneo province, a luxurious real estate property and 52 plots of land have been seized, with an estimated value of EUR 5 million while in Malaga province, the properties seized totalled 47. Furthermore, over 100 bank accounts have been frozen by the Spanish judicial authorities. Eurojust organised coordination meetings to ensure seamless coordination between the Italian and Spanish authorities and a coordination centre was set up in March last year to support and prepare the actions.

The operations on the ground were led by the Public Prosecutor's Office (PPO) of Asti and the Guardia di Finanza. In Spain, the Anti-Corruption Prosecutor's Office and the Investigative Court no. 6 of the Audiencia Nacional, the Spanish Judicial Police and the Policia Nacional executed the seizures and took charge of the arrests. The Court of Turin has already scheduled a hearing of the main suspect for next month, following execution of a European Arrest Warrant.

## Formal indictments in major Swedish drug trafficking case

The Swedish public prosecution services have today formally indicted two suspects for their involvement in the large-scale trafficking of cannabis from Portugal between June 2019 and February 2020. Their arrests in Portugal were possible due to support from Eurojust, which coordinated the exchange of cross-border judicial information between Sweden, Portugal and Spain.

Several European Investigation Orders were executed by Portuguese prosecutors in direct contact with

the Swedish prosecutor who led the investigation. Eurojust assisted with the coordination throughout the investigation process and organised two coordination meetings on this case.

The suspects allegedly ran a major illicit operation, which came to an end with their arrests and the seizure of 400 kg of cannabis by the Swedish police in February last year, with an estimated street value of EUR 3.8 million. A number of luxury watches were also seized.

## AMERIPOL Coordinate \$123 million drugs seizure



The operation seized 1,539 kilos of cocaine and 5 kilos of amphetamines and was carried out by the Anti-narcotics Directorate in coordination with the National Navy, when it was known from human sources that apparently 10 unknown persons boarded a ship that had departed from Vancouver (Canada) and would transit in the city of Cartagena.

Immediately the National Police arrived at the boat, made the profiling of the containers that were on deck, selecting 20 of them according to the critical routes, which allowed discovering three of them contaminated; In the first container, 28 tulas were found, in the second 15 and in the third eight, for a total of 51 tulas

with alkaloid, in addition, five packages with a pink substance were found, once the Approved Preliminary Identification Tests (PIPH) had been performed. It was confirmed positive for cocaine hydrochloride and amphetamines.

Once it left Cartagena, the ship would transit in a port in Valencia (Spain), so it is believed that the drug would be marketed in that country; Five people who did not correspond to the crew were found on the boat, who are linked to the investigation. With this seizure, the National Police affects the finances of organizations dedicated to drug trafficking by more than 123 million dollars and is carrying out an investigative process to determine the transnational network that would be behind these cocaine shipments.

The Anti-Narcotics Directorate of the National Police seized 7,652 kilos of cocaine hydrochloride in Cartagena during 2020 and will continue to block the way to illicit drug trafficking, thanks to the strict controls that are exercised in that maritime terminal in the country; Likewise, it reiterates the invitation to report through the Anti-drug line 167, "Everyone against drug trafficking," where citizens can report any activity or information related to drug trafficking.s.

## Police find 8,590 doses of Cocaine, destined for USA, in Postal Agencies



Agents from the Anti-narcotics Investigation Headquarters of Zone 8, carried out the operations "Del Verano" and "Trébol", in the middle of which they seized 8,590 of cocaine, which was destined for the

international consumer market .

Anti-narcotics during a routine inspection at a parallel postal agency located on Av. Las Américas found a package that contained four bags of Del Verano nuts, which when registered, found 7,120 doses of cocaine, which was destined for the city of the Bronx, in the United States.

In another operation, a parcel in the warehouse of the Sur Express postal agency, the anti-drug agents found 1,470 doses of cocaine inside two pairs of black shoes, which had as destination New York City, United States.

The cases were placed under the orders of the flagrante delicto prosecutor on duty, who upon finding out, ordered that the procedure be continued and that the drug be admitted to the Center for the Collection of Evidence and Evidence of the Anti-Narcotics Headquarters, for the pertinent legal purposes.

# AGENCY NEWS AND UPDATES

**M**aritime Department of Polish Border Guard detained man wanted for drug offenses



Polish Border Guard officers and policemen stopped a Citroen for a road check. It turned out that the driver of the vehicle was wanted by the court for drug offenses. The man's place of residence was also searched because it was suspected that the citizen of Gdańsk might store drugs there. The suspicions were not unfounded.

On the property, officers found dried plants, white powder, and crystals packed in a few bags and jars, goods worth over 71 thousand PLN. A drug detection dog helped with the search. The expert found that the substances found were over a kilogram of marijuana, amphetamines and ecstasy.

**C**BP Announces New Facial Biometric Comparison Technology at San Ysidro, Otay Mesa Border Crossings

U.S. CBP has announced the implementation of Simplified Arrival at the San Ysidro and Otay Mesa pedestrian border crossings in San Diego, CA.

Simplified Arrival, an enhanced international arrival process that uses facial biometrics to automate the manual document checks that are already required for admission into the United States, provides travelers with a secure, touchless travel experience while fulfilling a longstanding Congressional mandate to biometrically record the entry and exit of non-U.S. citizens.

**C**BP Officers Intercept Marijuana Worth Over \$141K at the World Trade Bridge

CBP Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers at the World Trade Bridge



seized marijuana with a street value of over \$141,000 in one enforcement action.

"Although anti-terrorism is our primary mission, CBP officers continue to maintain their vigilance to ensure commercial entries are safe and free of contraband, as this narcotics seizure illustrates," said Acting Port Director Eugene Crawford, Laredo Port of Entry.

A 2003 Ford truck was referred for a canine and non-intrusive imaging system inspection, resulting in the discovery of 661 packages containing 709 pounds of alleged marijuana within the shipment.

**S**everal arrests in the Franco-German border area



As part of the intensified control and search measures in the border area with France, German Federal Police officers arrested three wanted criminals.

A 33-year-old Afghan national who had previously arrived from Strasbourg was arrested during a check in Kehl train station. He was wanted with two arrest warrants for a violation of the Narcotics Act and insult.

A 29-year-old Somali national was arrested during a check in a cross-border TGV on the journey from Strasbourg to Offenburg. He was wanted for dangerous physical harm. Also in Kehl, a 50-year-old Romanian who was wanted for fraud was arrested in a cross-border long-distance coach.

## **M**an charged after \$675,000 worth of MDMA concealed in wine bottles seized



Foreign Minister of Iran Mohammad Javad Zarif met with Pakistan Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa and discussed common borders, which is called the border of peace and friendship between the two countries.

## **G**uardia Civil dismantles a criminal organization

## **dedicated to trafficking in persons from Algeria to Spain**



The Guardia Civil of Almería, within the framework of Operation Limestone, has dismantled in Almería a criminal organization trafficking people from Algeria to Spain. Three people have been arrested for alleged crimes against foreign citizens and belonging to a criminal group.

The investigation began at the end of July 2020, upon learning that a person living in Fuente Álamo (Murcia) is part of a network with a stable structure in North African countries and Spain.

This criminal network had specialized in the introduction of people from North Africa bound for the eastern part of Spain.

For this, members of the network operated on the border between the North African countries, facilitating the passage of people who were transferred and housed in homes located in Oran (Algeria), where they remained until they could board a boat destined for the coast.

## **M**ore than 4 thousand kilos of marijuana transported in a Brazilian flag truck seized

During the control of the transport, which had entered the Argentina through the "Tancredo Neves" international crossing, the gendarmes



observed on the outside of the vehicle that the security rope was loose, which attracted the attention of the uniformed men .

Faced with this situation, a more exhaustive search of the semi-trailer was carried out with the assistance of the "León" narcotics detector, which reacted as it normally does in the presence of narcotics. By using a scanner, the possible presence of organic substance was observed.

In the presence of witnesses and with the authorization of the Federal Court and the Federal Prosecutor's Office of Posadas, the officials cut the seal and when opening the semi-trailer, they found 175 packages containing 3,987 rectangular packages inside .

In the seat of the unit of the force , members of Forensic and Forensic Studies conducted tests narcotest field, which showed positive for marijuana with a total weight of 4,061 kilos 53 grams..

## **P**hilippines Bureau of Customs Seizes Smuggled Chinese Medicines In Pasay City

Through intensified efforts to



crackdown on illegal and smuggled medicines, the Philippines Bureau of Customs (BOC) through the Manila International Container Port's (MICP) Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) and Enforcement and Security Service (ESS) in coordination with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) apprehended Chinese medicines in Pasay City.

Armed with a Letter of Authority (LOA), members of the joint team proceeded to a storage facility located in Pasay City. Upon serving the LOA, the team inspected the facility which revealed the existence of a makeshift clinic, as well as various Chinese medicines. One of the apprehended medicines was identified as RIBAVIRIN which is used for treatment of pneumonia and bronchitis, thus leading to strong suspicion that the clinic was treating COVID-related cases. The medicines were estimated to have an estimated value of Php 1.5 Million.

The medicines were seized and are now undergoing further inventory and investigation for violation of Section 1113 of R.A. 10863 also known as Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (CMTA). Investigation is also underway to identify those responsible in operating the makeshift clinic.

## NCA charge 4 men after cash and cocaine seizures



Four suspected members of an Albanian organised crime group have been charged with money laundering and drug supply offences after £340,000 in cash and cocaine worth £400,000 was seized.

Officers from the Organised Crime Partnership, a joint National Crime Agency (NCA) and Metropolitan Police Service unit, arrested the men at addresses across London and Essex.

Rrustem Dauti, 30, and Fisnik Kurtucan, 32, were arrested by officers on Cambridge Road North, Chiswick, on suspicion of money laundering after officers recovered a bag containing approximately £100,000 cash.

The OCP arrested another man, Florian Meshi, 22, for immigration and drug supply offences whilst searching Dauti's property on Trotwood, Hainault, where a further £140,000 in cash and a cutting agent for cocaine was seized.

A search of Meshi's address was carried out where officers arrested a fourth man, Azem Gashi, 26, for drug offences after four kilos of cocaine were found at the property, along with approximately £100,000 in cash.

## Bosnian Police Bust Another Migrant Smuggling Ring

In an operation codenamed "Lipa", executed on the orders of the Prosecutor's Office of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Bosnian Border Police, together with partner police and security agencies, on Wednesday arrested members of an organised crime group suspected of smuggling hundreds of illegal migrants from Bosnia to EU member Croatia.

In a press release, the prosecution stated that "the investigation established that more than 20 Bosnian citizens, mostly from the northwestern city of Bihac and its surroundings, in the second half of 2020, committed continuous illegal activities in finding, recruiting, smuggling, transporting a large number of illegal migrants, mostly citizens of the Middle East and other Afro-Asian countries."

The prosecution documented about 30 organised smuggling transports, in which different numbers of illegal migrants were smuggled, most often in groups of dozens or even hundreds.

"The suspects mostly transported migrants near the land or river border with Croatia, most often on the stretch between cities Bihac and Gradiška, and organised further transport for them, or directed them to cross the border illegally," the state prosecution said in a statement.

## India will meet national security challenge: Jaishankar on China border row

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday said India was being



tested in the seven-month-long border standoff with China in eastern Ladakh and expressed confidence that the country will meet the national security challenge.

Calling the “events” along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh “very disturbing”, Jaishankar also said what has happened there was not in China’s interest as it is facing the prospect of losing goodwill in India that was developed carefully in the recent decades.

He said these events have raised some very “basic concerns” as the “other party” has not abided by agreements on respecting the LAC.

Participating in an interactive session at the annual general meeting of the industry body FICCI, he declined to be drawn into a discussion on any timeline for a resolution of the standoff.

## **BSF: No Rohingya infiltration found at Indo-Bangla border**

The Border Security Force (BSF) on Friday informed that no instance of Rohingyas’ infiltration has been found at the India-Bangladesh border under its South Bengal Frontier in West Bengal this year so far.

On the Rohingyas’ infiltration, BSF Inspector General (South Bengal Frontier) Ashwini Kumar Singh said,

“Our mandate is to maintain the sanctity of the international border. We are against any sort of border violation. No such incident about the Rohingyas has been noticed not only in the recent past but also in this whole year in this area.”

BSF and BGB have jointly decided to check the incidents of firing between themselves across the border.

Besides anti-smuggling operations, simultaneous coordinated patrolling-joint patrolling, breach of border fence, measures to check violation of sanctity of international border and illegal cross border movement were also discussed by the BSF and BGB..

## **Kenyan police call for vigilance in border region**



Kenyan police called on members of the public to remain vigilant as dozens of al-Shabab fighters have crossed into Kenya to carry out terror attacks along the regions bordering Somalia.

The police said about 40 militants plan to stage attacks in parts of Amuma and Hemey regions, Garissa County in northeast Kenya.

This, the police said in a report, has caused tension and alertness in the area especially among government officials who may be targets..

## **ITBP to induct 10,000 personnel amid India-China standoff**

With no end to the India-China standoff along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh insight, Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) is preparing to raise seven new battalions comprising 10,000 soldiers, bringing up the strength of nearly 90,000 troops to around 1 lakh.

Sources have said that close to 10,000 new personnel will be inducted in the ITBP to guard the sensitive northern borders.

The ITBP is deployed over India and China boundary that stretches over 3,488 km from the Karakoram in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh. Induction of more troops will only mean further fortification of borders.

The move comes amid news of fresh intrusions into India in the Chanthang area of Ladakh.

## **Ukraine Maritime Guard's Patrol Catch Poachers and Smugglers**

The Maritime Guards carried out 15 sorties for guarding the state border during the first weeks of January 2021. The ships and boats covered more than 560 nautical miles in the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, as well as on the Danube River.

The stay and navigation of 240 vessels and crafts were controlled in the area of responsibility, 13 of them were inspected. The case of the border regime violation was prevented, namely the departure of a small vessel for fishing outside the base point.

# BEYOND BORDERS - A JOURNEY ALONG SIX WORLD BORDERS

By Ekansh Tambe, border explorer  
[www.instagram.com/ekt\\_photos](https://www.instagram.com/ekt_photos)

About four years ago, the political landscape of the United States on the issues of border security and immigration began to shift dramatically, and those issues dominated the headlines every day. Heated national debate and compelling arguments on both sides of the political spectrum had made it difficult for me to understand the real problem. There were more

questions than answers. What drives people to undertake the dangerous journey to cross any border? What is it to be a refugee? What do Border Patrol agents experience? What does the border look like? Of course, there was really only one way to find out the truth: seeing it for myself.

The impact the border has on





citizens, residents, immigrants, and federal agents began to unfold, and I realized there was an urgent need to document the escalating humanitarian crisis and thus, what was meant to be a short weekend trip to a mere segment of the US-Mexico border, wound up turning into a multi-year photojournalism project that has led me to six world borders on five continents. As I became more invested in my travels, I began to fear the unknown less, leading me all over the world to diverse people with incredible stories.

Meet the Border Patrol Agents who serve in some of the most geographically isolated locations in the world. Their missions are often mentally and physically exhausting and dangerous, as the person they are about to apprehend could be a pregnant woman, a child, an innocent asylum seeker, a drug

dealer, or a criminal. It's equally possible that they may bump into a dead body. It is a hard job, and it should come as no surprise that some agents pay the ultimate sacrifice protecting our borders. They deserve our respect.

A Mexican immigrant makes the long, arduous journey North and crosses the border, struggling to make ends meet. Decades later, she raises her son alone, who goes on to serve in the U.S. army. She narrated this story to me a little over three years ago with tears and pride in her eyes, completely changing my perspective on life and people.

Drug trafficking is another real problem at the US Mexico border. A police officer at the border in Nogales, Arizona told me that, there, drugs fly on kites. Drugs are stitched inside dogs and sent through the fence. Drugs are

transported in vehicles that pass undetected through border patrol checkpoints. I asked agents and residents at the border how to solve the problem, and many of them had a similar answer: stop the demand and the supply will automatically stop.

One of the world's most dangerous borders lies between North and South Korea, where a nuclear war could erupt at a moment's notice. Thousands of land mines are still active in the Demilitarized Zone, which acts as a 160 mile long, 2.5 mile wide buffer between the two nations. At one point, I was nervous and a little frightened to be standing just meters away from the spot where a North Korean soldier was shot twice while defecting to the South days earlier. I explored the underground tunnel that North Korea dug to invade the South many years ago and got a first hand look into the areas destroyed by the Korean war. My discussions with the Korean people as a whole and those affected by the Korean War led me to believe that peace is paramount to them, as is the need for the unification of Korean peninsula.

In stark contrast to the heavily fortified Korean DMZ, the border between Colombia and Peru is largely unguarded and rich in nature. Meet the villagers who live along the banks of this Amazon river border. The only means of transport to the villages at the banks of the river is by boat, and



in the evenings the villagers gather on a small island in the middle of the two countries for bouts of wrestling and swimming. As the sun set over the river, my sister and I joined them in playing soccer on the island. Kids there don't own iPhones or play video games; instead, they swim with the dolphins in the Amazon and play in the mud; their lifestyle really made me rethink luxury.

In Hebron, Palestine, an Israeli woman detailed a massacre in which many Jews were killed, but she also recounted a Muslim friend sheltering Jewish refugees, saving their lives. This taught me that even during times of tragedy and in moments of despair, there is always a ray of hope.

It shook me to the core to learn that a mother had to make the impossible decision between giving away her two year old daughter to human traffickers or sending her

floating across the border to the U.S. in the hopes of adoption.

In Colombia, in the summer of 2019, I was inspired to learn about a resident who was once a convicted drug dealer, but now aspires to bring prosperity to and eliminate gang violence in his community. Colombia's Comuna 13 neighborhood was once known for dangerous gang violence and all kinds of illegal drug activity. In the past, hatred between neighboring communities in Comuna 13 was so intense that you could be killed for accidentally crossing the border into one other than your own. However, recently, the residents accomplished the impressive feat of putting an end to violence and embracing peace and prosperity through determination and resilience.

The truth should be the guiding principle in whatever we do. This is

how we maintain society and not fall prey to our divisions—divisions that are often amplified by uninformed and baseless assertions. We divide ourselves because we disagree on how the problem should be solved, and, often in the ensuing chaos and debate, a great many perspectives are lost. If considering every perspective is what is necessary to find common ground, then it is our duty to the world and every one of its citizens to do so, not because it is easy, but because it is right. My journey has cemented my belief that every perspective matters and every story needs to be told. Now, as an author and as a keynote speaker at various national conferences, I share these inspiring and heartbreaking stories I heard, encouraging others to use their passions for the greater good of the community, to live with a sense of empathy and compassion, and to be the change that they wish to see in the world.





# BORDER SECURITY REPORT

For the world's border protection, management and security industry policy-makers and practitioners



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**Webinar: A View to a Border: Data vs. Borders -  
1. Cross-border cooperation & information sharing**

Thurs 11th Feb - 9am EST / 2pm UK / 3pm CET

**Webinar: A View to a Border: Data vs. Borders -  
2. The operational role of terrorist watchlists**

Weds 10th Mar - 9am EST / 2pm UK / 3pm CET

**Webinar: A View to a Border: Data vs. Borders -  
3. The role of border communities and border security and management strategies**

Weds 14th Apr - 9am EST / 2pm UK / 3pm CET

**Webinar: A View to a Border: Data vs. Borders -  
4. The use of new technologies and challenges on data protection**

Weds 12th May - 9am EST / 2pm UK / 3pm CET

For more details and to register visit [www.border-security-report.com/webinars](http://www.border-security-report.com/webinars)

# WILDLIFE CRIME: CLOSING RANKS ON SERIOUS CRIME IN THE ILLEGAL ANIMAL TRADE

*A decade tackling wildlife trafficking through global police cooperation.  
Courtesy of INTERPOL*

Wildlife crime has far-reaching and devastating consequences for society, public health and global economics. Often overlooked and under-prosecuted, it is a sophisticated serious crime with high demand driving high prices and violence.

The profile of the wildlife criminal has changed. Today they are organized, innovative, well connected, and run global

syndicates that commission the mass slaughter and capture of protected species in all parts of the world.

These criminals import and export endangered species for international trade via the same routes they use to smuggle weapon, drugs and other illicit goods. The international characteristics of these crimes and their links with organized crime make the role of



police cooperation across borders fundamental to tackling wildlife crime.

INTERPOL set up a dedicated Environmental Security Programme in 2010. This week, to celebrate the programme's first decade of action, we focus on how INTERPOL has enabled countries in all parts of the world to address wildlife crime comprehensively, from detection to arrest, investigation and prosecution.

A decade of INTERPOL action: ten years in ten feats

1. Changed mindsets: Most police forces did not prioritize wildlife crime investigations ten years ago. A decade on, INTERPOL has alerted the global police community to the fact that wildlife crime is serious organized crime which feeds into money laundering, tax evasion and corruption. Many police forces have now created specific wildlife crime units within their national police structure, using



INTERPOL to reach beyond their borders to work with countries across the globe in wildlife crime detections, arrests, investigations and prosecutions.

2. The full face of the law: For the past decade, INTERPOL has been an active member of the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife and Forest Crime (ICCWC) through which five organizations strengthen criminal justice systems and

provide coordinated support at national, regional and international level to combat wildlife and forest crime. Established in 2010, ICCWC is a unique and powerful partnership with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the World Bank and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

3. Levelling the playing field: As the world's largest police organization with a mandate to share and process criminal information globally, INTERPOL has spent a decade ensuring not one country, region or agency is left to tackle the illegal wildlife trade alone. Today, wildlife investigators across the globe work together forming a powerful network of wildlife crime experts.

4. Strengthening police skillsets: INTERPOL has tailored its training courses to ensure law enforcement has the expertise required to tackle contemporary wildlife crime,





integrating methods for tackling emerging crime as soon as it arises. INTERPOL's current training syllabus addresses ways to tackle cyber-enabled wildlife trafficking, the use of digital tools in wildlife trafficking, including via online platforms. With increasing amounts of digital evidence recovered during wildlife crime investigations, digital forensics is also high on the training agenda, with courses covering mobile device technology, email and network forensics, electronic evidence and processing crime scenes electronically.

5. More investigations: the past decade has seen a significant increase in the volume of wildlife crime investigations pursued by the global law enforcement community via INTERPOL. As police forces become aware of the serious crime groups involved in wildlife crime, they turn to INTERPOL to carry their investigations beyond their borders. Countries have requested a wide

range of INTERPOL notices over the past decade, either seeking the arrest of suspected wildlife fugitives or alerting to emerging threats and new trends.

6. Following the money: INTERPOL boosts financial intelligence exchange so our member countries can detect cross-border transactions and disrupt international money flows from wildlife crime. Using financial and money laundering investigative techniques, we have helped frontline countries coordinate financial enforcement efforts over the years, revealing a large convergence picture in terms of fraud, money laundering and tax evasion linked to wildlife crime.

7. Wildlife forensics: Getting sufficient evidence can be difficult with wildlife crime, which is why INTERPOL has spent a decade exploring new forensic solutions, integrating them into training and

investigations. The evidence stored on criminal's mobile devices – photographs, GPS information, incoming and outgoing phone calls- is precious evidence for investigations and prosecutions. DNA sequencing, fingerprint analyses and facial recognition are used today to determine the identity of poached or illegally traded wildlife products, or to identify the species, geographic origin, relatedness, individual identity and age of samples.

8. Dismantling the networks: The last ten years have seen a clear investigative shift from low level poachers and traders to identifying the key individuals and networks behind the global trade. Boosting the sharing of crime intelligence over the decade has enabled INTERPOL today to map out the majority of wildlife crime networks, enabling countries to target their members for prosecution. INTERPOL investigative support has focused on the fact that wildlife crime networks engage in many crime areas simultaneously, using the same routes to transport wildlife contraband as they do to traffic people, firearms or drug and other prohibited goods. INTERPOL-led investigations and operations have helped to build evidence against the people who lead the smuggling syndicates resulting in the dismantling of several organized crime groups.

9. Bird's eye view of emerging threats: With criminals constantly changing the way they work,





operations over the past decade. The intelligence-led operations have helped identify trafficking hotspots and criminal targets, while ensuring the seizure of protected wildlife products ranging from live big cats and primates to reptiles, birds and derived merchandise such as clothing, beauty products, food items, traditional medicines and handicrafts.

Wildlife crime is rising 5% to 7% annually, 2-3 times the growth rate of the global economy

Since its first leg in 2017, the 'Thunder' series of INTERPOL operations has seen more than 7000 seizures of protected wildlife and forestry species and the arrest of more than 3,500 offenders. Thunder operations are coordinated with the World Customs Organization.

INTERPOL has monitored the wildlife crime landscape closely for the past decade to ensure the global law enforcement community can address emerging threats effectively. The trade in wildlife and wildlife products is currently moving online, particularly social media platforms, to advertise and

sell wildlife, and INTERPOL is delivering tailored training to help the global police community adapt and strengthen online investigative skills.

10. Iconic operations: INTERPOL has coordinated more than 50 regional and global wildlife crime



## WorldBorderSecurity.net

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

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

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

**WorldBorderSecurity.net** is open to all World Border Security Congress government agency delegates past and present.

Access is restricted to government and intergovernmental personnel; border, customs, immigration agency officials and specialist law enforcement officers.

Non-delegate agency officials will also be welcome but by member invitation only.



## Indian Coast Guard apprehend Sri Lankan boat with Heroin and Weapons in daring operation



Indian Coast Guard received information from intelligence agencies regarding an illegal consignment of narcotic drugs (Heroin) being transhipped through a Sri Lankan boat in India through sea route on the Tamil Nadu Coast.

ICG deployed 5 ships to carry out extensive search for the suspected boat. Two ICG aircraft were also continuously deployed to augment sea-air coordinated search. Post extensive well planned search in the

area, suspicious Sri Lankan boat was identified south of Thoothukudi. Indian Coast Guard Ship Vaibhav carried out boarding on the suspected vessel at about 10 NM off Kanyakumari.

Search of the suspicious boat revealed 99 packets of heroin, 20 boxes of synthetic drugs, five 9mm pistols and a thuraya satellite phone set. The drugs and weapons were unearthed since hidden in an unapproachable location in the boat. The cost of the entire narcotics catch is approx Rs.1000 crore in the international market.

During initial investigation, the crew members revealed that the drugs were transferred onto Sri Lankan vessel 'Shenaya Duwa' on the high seas by a Pakistani dhow from Karachi. The drugs were meant to be sent to western countries and Australia. The suspected Sri Lankan vessel entered Tuticorin harbour under escort of ICGS Vaibhav. The joint interrogation of the apprehended 06 crew members was undertaken at Tuticorin by all security agencies.

## PRODUCT FOCUS

## BORDER SECURITY REPORT

*For the world's border protection,  
management and security industry  
policy-makers and practitioners*

In this interview with Paul Hollingshead, Head of Europe, Middle East and Asia for Anduril Industries, Tony Kingham, Editor of Border Security Report magazine discusses Anduril's systems and technologies for the maritime border security community.





# BORDER MANAGEMENTS ANNUAL GATHERING

## EVENT PREVIEW



### NEW DATES

**8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021**  
**Athens, Greece**  
[www.world-border-congress.com](http://www.world-border-congress.com)

After the disappointment of COVID postponement of the 2020 World Border Security Congress (WBSC), the organisers are delighted to be able to announce new dates for the WBSC to reconvene in Athens, Greece on the 8th-10th June 2021.

Whilst there is no need for explanation for the postponement of the face-to-face congress this year, the organisers have decided not to go down the virtual route. This was because they believe that the fraternal community nature of WBSC is at the very heart of what makes it such an important event for the global border community, and why it attracts more than 250 delegates from over 50 countries each year.

Therefore, with the continued support of the Greek Ministry of Immigration & Asylum, the organisers look forward to meeting old friends and new in Athens in June 2021 and continuing to develop cooperation, collaboration and networking opportunities for international border community.

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.

Co-hosted by:



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.

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 & Sylum 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](http://www.world-border-congress.com/registration).

We look forward to welcoming you to Athens, Greece on 24th-26th November 2020.

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Networking Reception Sponsor:



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Further details can be viewed at [www.world-border-congress.com](http://www.world-border-congress.com).



## Closed Agency Workshops

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

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

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

This year's Closed Agency Only Workshop topics are:

### Challenges of Inter-Agency And International Information Sharing

*Chair: TBC*

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](http://www.world-border-congress.com/agency-reg)

## AFRICAN UNION ECOSOCC WORKSHOP

### MIGRATION - CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN AFRICA



**Tuesday 8th June 2021 :  
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](http://www.world-border-congress.com)





## CONGRESS PROGRAMME

## TUESDAY 8TH JUNE

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 9TH JUNE

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** - Andy Smith, Director, Global Government & Industry Relations, Border Management & Immigration Services, 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 10TH JUNE

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 8TH JUNE – 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](http://www.world-border-congress.com)



Watch the latest webinar recordings at [www.border-security-report.com/webinar-library](http://www.border-security-report.com/webinar-library)

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### **API/PNR (Part 3) – Future Systems to Fight Global Terrorism and Cross Border Crime**

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## Romanian Border Police Invest in Safety at Their Borders

Public safety organisations worldwide are seeing increasing challenges and greater demands on resources. In Romania, the Border Police have seen a significant increase in the number of people crossing the country's border checkpoints.



According to the 2019 activities report published by the Romanian Border Police, the number grew by 10.7 % in 2019 in comparison to 2018 and 19,384 illegal acts were detected, including illegal border crossings, smuggling of goods and customs fraud. To increase efficiency, protect their personnel and enhance accountability, the Romanian Border Police has invested in more than 3,000 Motorola Solutions VB400 body-worn cameras. These will be deployed alongside back-end evidence management software, VideoManager, across the force.

"It is a priority for our institution that during specific control missions at the country borders, both the Romanian border police officer who is enforcing the law and any citizen who is complying and crossing

the border, feel protected and respected. Using the new body-worn camera solution will help to prove that the border police officer is managing the operational situation with impeccable conduct, and at the same time, the citizens and individuals crossing can feel protected", stated the General Inspector of the Romanian Border Police, chief police quaestor Liviu Bute.

"According to our customers, body-worn camera technology has proven to be an invaluable tool for frontline officers to increase transparency. It helps to ensure the accountability of all parties by capturing objective evidence and assisting in the prosecution of cases", said Michael Kaae, regional vice president of Europe at Motorola Solutions.

## FLIR Receives Awards Worth Up to More than \$23M from US Customs and Border Protection to Deliver Improved Capabilities for Ground and Air Surveillance

FLIR Systems has announced it has received awards from the United States (U.S.) Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to deliver improved air and ground surveillance capabilities using advanced thermal imaging and drone technology.



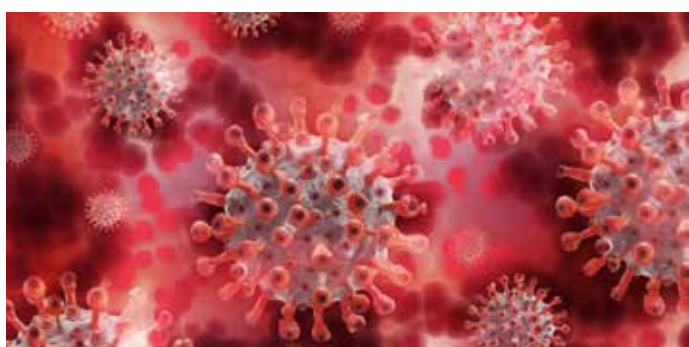
All awards are potentially worth more than \$23 million, including for delivery of the next-generation FLIR LVSS™ (Lightweight Vehicle Surveillance System) for CBP's Mobile Surveillance Capability (MSC) program and delivery of FLIR SkyRaider™ drone tether kits, FLIR StormCaster™-T sensor payloads, and other technology for CBP's Low Altitude Autonomous Safety and Situational Awareness for Officers (LASO) program. The LASO contract has a base value of \$545,000 and was awarded from a competitive

General Solicitation under authority of the Department of Homeland Security's Commercial Solutions Opening Pilot Program. The MSC order is for 19 new FLIR LVSS systems that will be deployed on the southwest and northern U.S. borders. Following delivery, CBP will have a total of 27 LVSS units deployed, fitted with TacFLIR® 380-HD cameras and FLIR R20SS radar. In November, the company delivered a capability upgrade to CBP's current fleet of R80D SkyRaider UAS.,



## Kromek receives Innovate UK funding to advance Biological-Threat Detection solution

Kromek has announced that it has commenced a programme to customise its biological threat-detection solution for the automated detection of all airborne viruses, including COVID-19, to support end-use cases.



The Group's solution is designed to be deployed in high footfall locations, such as airports, hospitals, retail outlets and entertainment venues. The base technology, which is fully developed, samples the air in-situ to detect and analyse airborne pathogens using DNA sequencing. In response to the pandemic, the initial focus is on productising the technology to develop a system that will rapidly test for the presence of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. It will run automatically and the results will not require analysis by trained individuals or specialist laboratories.

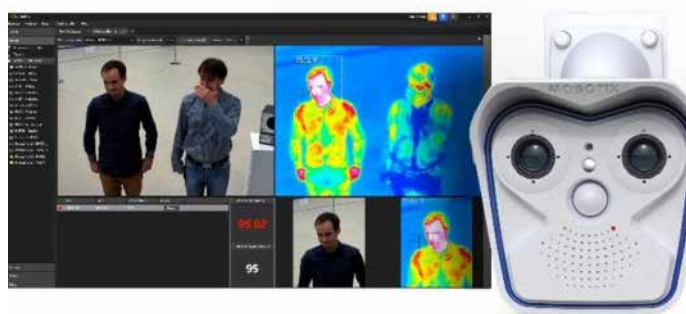
By detecting the virus in the air in real time, rather than solely relying on the

testing of individuals or development of symptoms in individuals, the system will enable earlier identification of potential infection exposure to help reduce transmission. It will also support facilities management such as by enabling site operators to know what level of ventilation is required from the HVAC system or when decontamination is necessary.

In addition, the system will have the capability to test for a wide spectrum of viruses, including mutations of SARS-CoV-2. This will support the development of a bio-resilience solution against the spread of new strains of COVID-19 or other novel viruses that could result in future pandemics.

## Panasonic i-PRO and MOBOTIX Partner on a Thermal Camera Solution

Panasonic i-PRO Sensing Solutions Corporation of America announces the availability of a new thermal camera solution aimed at helping organizations maintain the health and safety of those entering their facilities.



This solution combines MOBOTIX M16/S16 cameras with the functionality of a new plug-in from Panasonic i-PRO's Video Insight video management systems (VMS) to automatically detect when an individual's body temperature exceeds a pre-set threshold and provides an alert to the appropriate personnel.

"We are committed to developing and delivering better solutions to help organizations restore and maintain operations during and after the global COVID-19 pandemic," said Bill Brennan, President, Panasonic i-PRO Sensing Solutions Corporation of America. "Our new Video Insight plug-in for MOBOTIX

offers businesses, schools, retail stores, and other public facilities another tool to keep their staff and guests safe."

Panasonic i-PRO's Video Insight VMS plug-in and MOBOTIX thermal cameras combined functionality trigger an alarm when a user-defined, pre-set temperature threshold is detected. The solution can define multiple areas of interest to set up temperature readings and can be set up in either Celsius or Fahrenheit. The system also allows you to edit the temperature threshold and review the detailed thermal readings at any time.



## Iceland to Register Travellers' Biometric Data Starting From 2022 Through Border Surveillance Technology

Iceland's government will launch border surveillance technology created by IDEMIA company, from 2022, which will record entry and exit information on every person outside the Schengen Zone wishing to visit Iceland.

The new system, which among other things, protects Schengen Zone's external borders will record entry and exit data of travellers, through fingerprints and facial portrait. The data then will be added to an EU database, and will be held for three years, SchengenVisaInfo.com reports.

The primary purpose of this measure is to detect if travellers stay within the Schengen Area for a more extended period than they are permitted to.

The chief of police for the border division of the National Police, Jón Pétur Jónsson, has stressed that it could be used "in case that any person who doesn't obtain any identification does not identify themselves to the police, it will be possible to identify them by comparing their photo to what's in the database."

## Veridos paves the way for secure and autonomous border crossing

In light of the current Covid-19 pandemic, Veridos offers solutions that support seamless and contactless automated border control. In addition to state-of-the-art automated border control solutions such as kiosk and eGate systems, Veridos is taking part in EU-funded research projects to enable the next generation of on-the-fly identity verification, investigating new biometric modalities.

Passport control is one of the most tiresome processes at airports, costing passengers time and testing their patience. For border control officers, checking identity documents involves a great deal of work. And Covid-19 adds additional stress: nobody wants to wait in long queues – especially with small distances between people – to finally present their passport to a border control officer.

This situation is mitigated by the autonomous identity

verification solutions already in place, such as kiosks and eGates. With Veridos' kiosk solution, the passenger can autonomously start the process of retrieving the data stored in the identity document's chip. While the data is compared to databases, incoming travelers can already answer key questions about their stay. Thus, the actual time at the manual border control station is greatly reduced, and queues can be avoided.

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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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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 Olumu Babatunde Olukayode, Deputy Comptroller of Customs, Nigeria Customs
- Sanusi Tasiu Saulawa, Deputy Superintendent of Customs, Nigeria Customs Service
- Heiko Werner, Head of Security Group, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany
- Gerald Tatzgern, Head of Joint Operational Office, Public Security Austria
- Peter Nilsson, Head of AIRPOL
- Wayne Salzgaber, Director, INTERPOL Washington
- Tatiana Kotlyarenko, Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues, OSCE
- James Garcia, Assistant Director, Cargo & Biometrics – Global Targeting Advisory Division National Targeting Center – U.S. Customs and Border Protection
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