

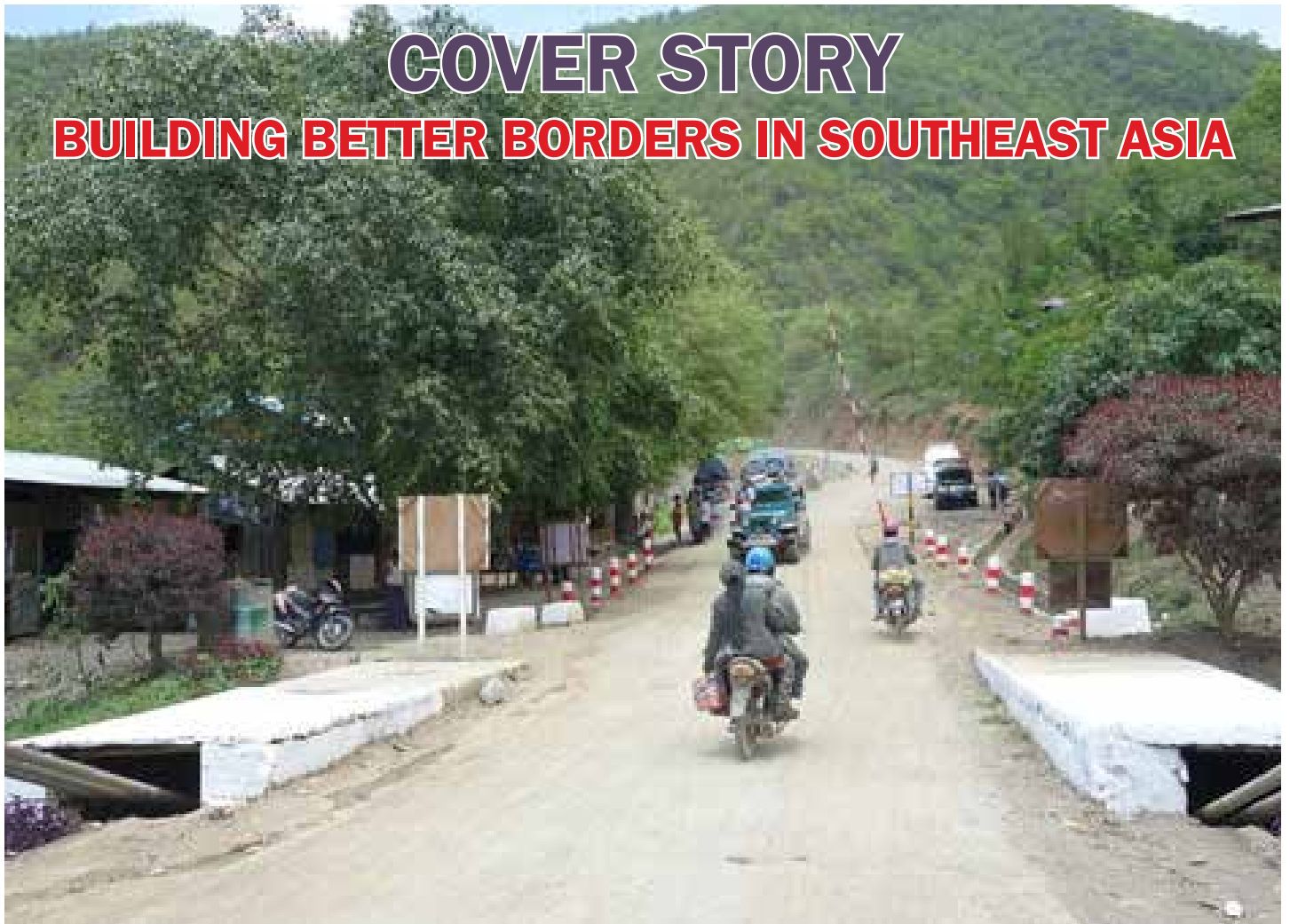
BORDER SECURITY REPORT

VOLUME 24
MAY / JUNE 2021

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

COVER STORY

BUILDING BETTER BORDERS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



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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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EU's Southern Borders Under Growing Pressure

In its monthly report Frontex has estimated that the number of illegal border crossings at Europe's external borders has reached 36,100 in the first four months of 2021. About a third higher than a year ago.

This report suggests that last year, irregular migration dropped due to travel limitations linked to the outbreak of COVID.

But given that illegal border crossings are not subject to COVID travel restrictions, this may not be the whole story.

For instance, last week an estimated 6000 migrants in a single day swam or paddled around the border fence in the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, in North Africa.

Now this particular incident is not typical and may be more about a diplomatic row between the Spanish and Moroccan authorities over the medical treatment in Spain of Brahim Ghali, who leads the Polisario Front, fighting for the independence of the Western Saharan.

But regardless, the overall pressure on Europe's southern borders is upwards and as spring gives way to summer, that trend is likely to continue and accelerate.

So, what is the answer?

Additional Border Security

The Frontex Standing Corps is beginning to look like an operational border agency, but recruitment and training is naturally a slow process. Of the proposed ten thousand Standing Corps officers, currently only 503 have been recruited, of which about half have been deployed to Frontex operations, while the other half continue the obligatory six-month training. So, whilst the Standing Corps is part of the medium to long term answer, it is not going to have a big

impact on this year's upturn in migrant numbers.

Even when Standing Corps reaches full strength, ten thousand sounds like a lot, but if you divide that number into three or four working shifts, take away routine days off, holidays, sickness, paperwork and training courses, you are probably left with only hundreds actually working at any one time, rather than thousands.

So, ten thousand doesn't seem that many, given the size of the EU borders. True, they are there to assist local agencies, but local agencies were already massively over-stretched, which was why Standing Corps was created in the first place.

Additional funding for frontline border states for the procurement of technology, such as drones, patrol vessels, screening equipment, surveillance systems, vehicles and vessels can act as a real force multiplier. Especially airborne systems like drones and aerostats, that enable agents to see further, for longer and cover much more territory.

But again, procurement, deployment and training of personnel in their use, all takes time.

So, beefed up border security can only ever be part of the answer, even in the long term.

If this year looks like another surge is developing, deploying other assets like Europe's already over stretched military, is probably the only practical solution if agencies on the southern borders are not to be overwhelmed and tragedies avoided.

Medium to long term, pushing the border further south by expanding the good work being done with some North African countries, to interdict migrant and trafficking routes, needs to be better funded and expanded.

But again, these are not long-term solutions, because they don't deal with the core issue, which is the pull factor of rich nations living side by side with poor nations and failed states.

Instead of a fortress Europe approach, perhaps we should be altogether more ambitious. The only long-term solution is surely to reduce the pull factor by helping to create political and economic development in those neighbouring states. Take a partnership approach and offer participating African nations some sort of Customs Union + and learning

from the Marshall Plan and the Chinese belt and road initiative, offer cheap loans for north/south transport links, telecommunications and other infrastructure.

Of course, none of this will deal with any surge this year or anytime soon. But unless we come up with some sort of long-term strategy, we will still be discussing the same issue in twenty years' time.

Tony Kingham
Editor

US Southern Surge – Biden's Border Crisis



As the migrant surge on the US southern border continues, the Department of Homeland Security has sent a request to the Defense Department to keep around 4000 US National Guardsmen at the U.S.-Mexico border beyond September.

"It is evident that the border patrol agents -- though they work so hard -- are overwhelmed and really need assistance. So, I hope that will be approved or that active-duty forces will assist," said Senator Susan Collins during a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing

According to article in The Hill, figures from April show that more than 178,000 people were caught illegally entering the U.S. — a 944 percent increase from a year ago.

The Biden administration are putting this down to a seasonal spike, but the figures just don't support this claim.

Republicans claim it is the Biden administrations more liberal attitude to immigration that has encouraged migrants and traffickers alike to believe that they now have a much greater chance of success. Whether that is through legal and illegal means, of getting across the border.

Like Europe, the Biden administration is caught in one of the great dilemmas of our age. How do you square liberal democratic values of freedom and compassion with the drivers of south to north migration - lack of economic opportunity, poor governance, violence, corruption and crime?





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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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- Sanusi Tasiu Saulawa, Deputy Superintendent of Customs, Nigeria Customs Service
- Heiko Werner, Head of Security Group, Federal Office for Migration and Refugees, Germany
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- 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
- Valdecy Urquiza, Assistant Director – Vulnerable Communities – INTERPOL General Secretariat
- Hans Peter Wagner, National Expert, Senior Chief Inspector, Federal Police
- Mile Milenkoski, Senior adviser, Department for borders, passports and overflights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of North Macedonia
- Manoj Kumar, Second in Command, Indian Border Security Force
- Rear Admiral Mohammed Ashrafual Haque, Director General, Bangladesh Coast Guard Force

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UNODC engages public-private partnerships in the fight against human trafficking

The global pandemic has had an increasingly destructive impact on vulnerable populations, placing them at a higher risk of becoming victims of crimes; such as human trafficking.

As a champion for crime prevention, UNODC continues to act as a forum where governments, businesses and NGOs can join forces and mutually reinforce each other's work; by forging fruitful Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) that improve the lives of vulnerable populations worldwide.

A recent regional expert group meeting for Asia-Pacific region hosted by the Office represented a major milestone in a PPP project, currently being implemented by UNODC with the support of the Federal Government of Germany. The event convened dozens of experts under the banner of "Public Private Partnerships to Counter and Prevent Trafficking in Persons" and marked the path forward for further collaboration in combating human trafficking.

Two key recommendations were put forward by the participants, including Member State representatives and private sector professionals:

- Both the government and the private sector must seek innovative ways to ensure that the Public Private Partnerships (PPP) mechanism to combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) remains a successful endeavour. Governments can, from their side, facilitate this by enacting laws and policies to reduce business' dependency on cheap labour, or any vulnerable situations that can increase the risk of becoming a victim of human trafficking. While the private sector must play an important role in facilitating early intervention and prevention.

- Financial support is key in assisting survivors of human trafficking, and it can help avoid re-trafficking. The private sector can assist by committing to employing former victims.

The event welcomed State representatives from Australia, Cambodia, Germany, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. The event also garnered the interest of the private sector; professionals from companies such as British Petroleum, Facebook,

HSBC, Microsoft, Far Eastern International Bank, MAST Human, Outland Denim, the Bayat Group and others were in attendance.

The meeting was opened by Sabine Baun, Director of International Employment and Social Policy at the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of the Government of Germany — the main donor behind this initiative.

Ms. Baun pointed out how more than 80% of global trade is conducted through supply chain networks, but only 20% of European companies adequately fulfil their due diligence requirements to avoid —even indirectly— engaging in exploitative conducts. Ms. Baun used this opportunity to present Germany's new legislation: the Act on Corporate Due Diligence and Supply Chains, that will be adopted in June 2021.

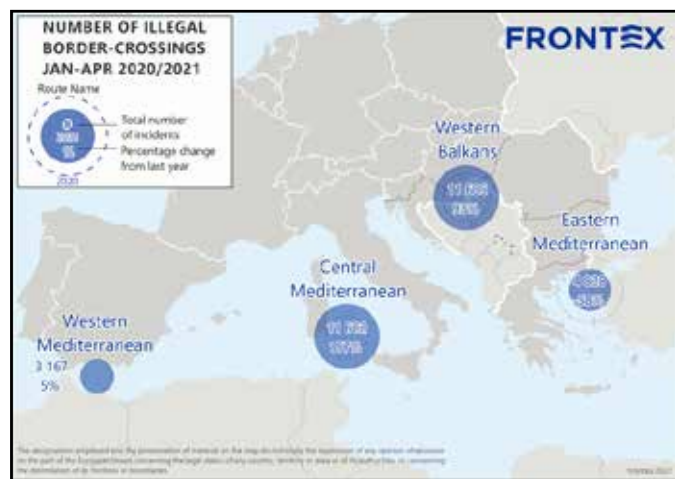
The new legislation will significantly penalize misconduct by businesses, and simultaneously create a new legal regime for the protection of human rights throughout the supply chain. The German legal framework sets a good example for strengthening human rights-based due diligence in global supply chains.

Celia Hevesi, from the People Smuggling and Human Trafficking Task Force in Australia, discussed the Bali Process and emphasized that multi-stakeholder partnerships are key in combating child labour, forced labour and human trafficking — even more so during the ongoing pandemic.

Roy Soemirat from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, noted that migrants, especially women and girls, are more vulnerable to becoming victims of human trafficking. Moreover, he added that specific sectors —such as the fishing industry— are more prone to exploitation and human trafficking. He regards a focus on these vulnerabilities as crucial and in line with this, Mr. Soemirat called for the enhancement of transparency and traceability along supply chains.

Serena Grant from Walk Free Foundation, stressed the importance of being cognizant to get the right people to the table to discuss a wide range of issues linked to human trafficking.

Situation at EU external borders – Detections rise from record lows a year ago



The number of illegal border crossings at Europe's external borders in the first four months of 2021 reached 36,100, about a third higher than year ago when irregular migration dropped due to travel limitations linked to the outbreak of COVID, according to preliminary calculations.

In April, the number of illegal border crossings reached over 7,800, a four-fold rise from the record low recorded in the same month of last year.

Western Africa

More than 1000 irregular migrants reached the Canary Islands in April, three times the total from the same month of last year.

In the January-April period, nearly 4 500 irregular migrants arrived on the Canary Islands, more than double the total from the same period of 2020.

Nationals from sub-Saharan countries, most claiming to be from Mali and Morocco, accounted for the largest number of arrivals.

Central Mediterranean

The number of migrants crossing the Central Mediterranean doubled in April to almost 1 550 compared to a year ago.

Between January and April of this year, the total number of illegal crossings on this route more-than-doubled to 11 600.

Nationals of Tunisia and Ivory Coast accounted for the two main nationalities on this migratory route.

Western Mediterranean Sea

There were fewer than 300 detections of illegal border crossings in the Western Mediterranean in April, around 70% more from the same month of 2020.

The total for the first four months of 2021 stood at over 3 200, or 5% more than in the same period in the previous year.

Algerians accounted for three of every four detections on this route this year, while Moroccans made up most of the remaining arrivals.

Eastern Mediterranean

According to the most recent data, there were around 1 850 detections of illegal crossings reported in April on the Eastern Mediterranean route, a 12-fold rise from the same month last year.

In the January-April period, the total number of detections fell 58% to over 4 800.

Nationals of Turkey and Syria accounted for the largest number of detected migrants.

Western Balkans

There were an estimated 3 100 detections of illegal border crossings reported so far on the Western Balkan route in April, a 33-fold rise from the record low a year ago amid the COVID outbreak.

In the first four months of this year, 11 600 migrants were detected at EU's border with the Western Balkan countries, nearly double the total from the same period of 2020.

The two main detected nationalities were Syrians and Afghans.

BUILDING BETTER BORDERS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

By Felipe De La Torre, Valentina Pancieri, and Liam Kirkpatrick, UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

Southeast Asia is one of the globe's most diverse regions, home to varied natural landscapes, remarkable biodiversity, and dozens of peoples. Land, river, and maritime borders divide the region's 650 million people into 11 countries with distinct social, political, and economic realities. From the megacities of Bangkok and Jakarta to villages in mountainous regions of Myanmar and Lao

PDR, Southeast Asia's aggregate GDP of more than US\$3 trillion conceals disparities in economic development between and within countries. Following the violence and instability that plagued parts of the region in the mid-20th century, certain countries, notably Thailand, Viet Nam, and Malaysia, have experienced rapid economic growth, becoming middle-income countries by the 2000s. In neighboring

Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Myanmar, meanwhile, economic development has come more recently, fueled by growing Chinese investment in the region. These gaps in political and economic development in Southeast Asia make the region vulnerable to emerging security risks that threaten the socioeconomic advancements made in the past quarter century.

Over the past decade, the security landscape in Southeast Asia has transformed. Historical patterns of transnational organized crime have accelerated and new illicit markets have emerged, together generating billions of dollars each year for criminal organizations. Southeast Asia is a global hub for illicit drug production, trafficking in persons, migrant smuggling, and wildlife and timber trafficking. The region is both a source of and destination for illicit goods, as well as a transshipment point connecting global criminal networks. Transnational organized crime presents a serious threat to security and stability in Southeast Asia and neighbouring regions, harming the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities, compromising the rule of law, and undermining legitimate economic development.

The region's economic, social, and political conditions present criminal organizations with lucrative opportunities across multiple illicit markets. Easy access to the necessary inputs to manufacture narcotics—both synthetic and



plant-based drugs—supports a rapidly growing market which generates more than US\$60 billion per year for organized crime. Migrant smuggling networks prey on the region's poorest communities, exploiting their desperate circumstances by smuggling unskilled workers to more developed countries with a high demand for cheap labour, often employing coercive tactics. Even the region's natural splendour is affected by organized crime; many wild animals are poached or bred in captivity for their body parts and biproducts to be sold and consumed in Southeast Asia and neighbouring countries. These conditions have allowed criminals across illicit markets to establish complex operations spanning the region.

While each illicit market is shaped by unique dynamics, the region's porous borders facilitate all types of organized crime. Illicit operations—whether engaged in drug trafficking or migrant smuggling—rely on value chains which span national borders

in the region and connect Southeast Asia to global criminal networks. Within the region, most trafficking occurs along the region's land and river borders where enforcement measures are limited. Historically, traffickers relied on remote trafficking routes crossing borders through mountainous terrain or jungle to evade detection. However, as investments in infrastructure and the growth of intra-regional trade have accelerated over the past two decades, smugglers have adopted new tactics, concealing ever-larger consignments of contraband among legitimate goods on trucks and river boats. Government policies intended to encourage trade and economic integration have not been met with similar investments in shared security, leaving border officials ill-equipped to effectively interdict growing trafficking activity.

The challenges authorities face at land borders in Southeast Asia are two-fold: the technical capacity of law enforcement agencies is limited, and mechanisms



Local residents cross the Mekong River in the Golden Triangle region of Lao PDR (UNODC 2019).

for coordinating investigations into transnational crime are underdeveloped. Frontline officers at land border crossings in the region often receive limited training prior to assuming their positions and lack the resources to conduct investigations into the complex criminal networks operating across borders. Furthermore, law enforcement institutions in the region remain nationalized; agencies that investigate trafficking activity seldom cooperate or share information with their cross-border counterparts. As a result of these shortcomings, trafficking frequently goes undetected and investigations often end at national borders, culminating in individual arrests and seizures instead of more significant disruptions to regional criminal networks.

Adding to these challenges, transnational organized crime in

Southeast Asia is highly flexible to changing circumstances. Criminal operations able to adapt rapidly to increased law enforcement operations in certain border areas, diverting operations to neighbouring jurisdictions with weaker enforcement, often in the region's poorest countries. Criminal organizations have also shown their resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic; despite restrictions on movement and the closure of most land borders in the region, illicit operations continue to move contraband across borders concealed among ongoing essential trade and exploiting weak enforcement along riverine borders in the Mekong region. To effectively dismantle the criminal organizations operating in Southeast Asia, frontline officers across all land borders in the region need tools to conduct sophisticated criminal

investigations: modern equipment, advanced training, and institutional mechanisms which facilitate cross-border cooperation.

Recognizing these challenges, governments in the region are working to enhance multilateral cooperation on border management through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Addressing transnational organized crime is a growing priority of the ASEAN Political – Security Community. In 2019, Thailand, as ASEAN Chairman, hosted the High-Level Regional Conference on Enhancing Cooperation on Border Management, with support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Delegates from across the region discussed the enforcement challenges the region faces and the importance of developing a coordinated response. Since the conference, UNODC has provided technical and policy support to Thailand, who is the lead shepherd of a new ASEAN Border Management Cooperation Roadmap. The roadmap, now in the final stages of development, is a comprehensive plan of action that outlines key steps governments should take in concert to effectively address and prevent illicit trafficking across borders.

UNODC has supported and promoted cross-border cooperation to counter illicit trafficking for more than 20 years through the establishment of a network of border liaison offices (BLOs), in partnership with governments in the

region. The Regional BLO Network is an institutional mechanism that facilitates cooperation on issues related to transnational organized crime between domestic law enforcement agencies and cross-border counterparts. It is made up of over 100 offices at land or river border crossings throughout the region facing a heavy volume of illicit trafficking activity. At an operational BLO, officers from multiple law enforcement agencies with mandates related to transnational organized crime—anti-narcotic police, customs, immigration, border guards, forestry enforcement, etc.—work together to share intelligence, coordinate investigations, and collect information related to illicit activity.

By creating a mechanism for rapid information sharing and data collection at frontline border crossings—instead of through national agencies in faraway capital cities—BLOs provide officers with awareness of their counterparts' activities. This enables authorities to quickly open investigations into criminal activity based on accurate intelligence, avoiding unnecessary delays. In 2019, officers stationed at BLOs coordinated in response to illicit activity or conducted joint operations more than 4000 times at land and river border crossings across the five countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion. Through these interactions, officers at BLOs supported nearly 10,000 criminal investigations into illicit trafficking activity, primarily related



The Prime Minister of Thailand, Prayut Chan-o-cha, UNODC Director of Operations, Miwa Kato, and UNOD Regional Representative, Jeremy Douglas, attend a regional conference on enhancing cooperation on border management. (UNODC 2019)

to drug trafficking (7085 cases) and human trafficking (2325 cases). The network also provides authorities with a framework for coordination in response to other cross-border challenges. In 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNODC and national governments mobilized the BLO Network to deliver essential information and personal protective equipment to frontline officers to prevent the spread of disease at and across land borders. As a platform for inter-agency coordination and cross-border cooperation, the Regional BLO Network offers a solution to a range of border management challenges.

UNODC supports law enforcement operations and the broader

agenda of the ASEAN Political – Security Community through the framework of the Regional BLO Network. To assist frontline officers in their efforts to interdict cross-border trafficking, UNODC equips BLOs with equipment based on their operational needs and trains officers to support investigations into organized crime. UNODC also advances the policy dialogue on border management issues at the national and regional level by convening regular workshops and consultations for representatives from the network. At these meetings, delegates from BLOs and central authorities discuss challenges and share best practices to advance new policy solutions.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Map of the Regional BLO Network (UNODC 2021).

By equipping officers with modern equipment and providing agencies with an interface for cooperation and information sharing, UNODC

is helping law enforcement agencies in Southeast Asia address transnational organized crime more effectively.



Map of the Regional BLO Network (UNODC 2021).

A representative from UNODC presents new equipment to frontline officers during a National BLO Network Consultation in Luang Prabang, Lao PDR (UNODC 2019)

Although governments and law enforcement agencies play a central role in addressing illicit trafficking, they alone cannot extinguish transnational organized crime in the region. Criminal networks are deeply entrenched in the socio-economic fabric of Southeast Asia and a comprehensive approach to addressing organized crime in Southeast Asia must acknowledge the role communities play in countering cross-border trafficking. Residents of villages and towns in border areas are often exploited by criminals who make them lucrative offers to carry contraband across national borders. As a result, low level-traffickers—sometimes referred to as ‘mules’—are arrested for

trafficking offences while regional criminal networks go unpunished. By engaging communities in efforts to improve border management, law enforcement and policy makers can conduct more effective investigations into transnational organized crime.

To assess the impact of trafficking on border communities and understand their role in addressing criminal activity, UNODC is conducting surveys with the support of local volunteers in villages and towns across Southeast Asia. The full findings of the project will be summarized in a forthcoming report; however, it has already uncovered promising findings. In North-eastern Thailand, communities on the banks of the Mekong River (which separates the kingdom from Lao PDR) have formed volunteer surveillance units, monitoring suspicious activity in their communities and alerting authorities

to suspected smuggling activity. With community members as their eyes and ears, law enforcement are interdicting trafficking cases that would otherwise go undetected.

Criminal networks in Southeast Asia are extensive, resilient, and resourceful. Crimes committed by their agents have a detrimental effect on the economic development, good governance, and well-being of communities throughout the region. Although illicit activity varies considerably across the region, transnational crime invariably relies on cross-border trafficking. By working together—national governments, law enforcement agencies, border communities, and the international community—to ensure the region’s borders are protected from illicit trafficking, we can stop transnational organized crime in its tracks.

\$685K of Counterfeit Currency Seized by Chicago CBP



At Chicago's International Mail Facility (IMF) U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers process 57 million packages a year. Nightly, CBP officers usually seize 40 to 50 packages containing unapproved medications, narcotics, counterfeit jewelry, electronics and many other illegitimate goods. Other prohibited

items officers often intercept is counterfeit currency. During a three day stretch, CBP stopped 24 packages all containing counterfeit currency totaling \$685,000.

All of the shipments were coming from China and was heading to various cities throughout the U.S., to include cities in Illinois and Indiana. All of the shipments were manifested as bar prop. Even though these counterfeits were going to be used as prop money, it is a violation of federal law to reproduce currency. Violators can be arrested.

The currency was in the form of \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 bills. One shipment that was heading to Bronx, New York contained 976 \$100 bills, while another package heading to Louisville contained 101 \$20 bills and 103 \$50 bills. The counterfeit currency was turned over to Homeland Security Investigations and U.S. Secret Service for further investigation.

South American Crackdown on Illegal Gun Trade Reveals Serious Trafficking Despite Pandemic

A police operation targeting firearms trafficking across South America has seen thousands of illicit firearms seized, thousands of arrests and investigative leads generated on crime networks and smuggling routes.

Over three weeks, Operation Trigger VI saw the arrest of almost 4,000 suspects across all 13 South American countries, with some 200,000 illicit firearms, parts, components, ammunition and explosives recovered.

Coordinated by INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the joint operation enabled police, customs, border and prosecution services to work together, carrying out nearly 10,000 checks against INTERPOL databases to track illegal firearms and identify potential links with organized crime.

Whilst investigations continue across the region, initial results and highlights include:

- Uruguayan arrest of members of a gang using social media to promote violence by posting photographs of themselves flaunting illegal guns.
- Seizure in Peru of large amounts of ammunition arriving from the Brazil-Argentina-Paraguay tri-border area, and arrest of two US-wanted fugitives the subject of INTERPOL Red Notices for serious drug crime. In Lima, explosives experts intercepted and recovered undetonated grenades in a public square further to a lead exchanged during operations.

- Chilean arrest of a Colombian national wanted via an INTERPOL Red Notice for firearms trafficking and serious drug crime.

- Detection of the illegal sale of 90,000 pieces of ammunition, with investigations expected to lead to arrests in the days to come.

With firearms trafficking intrinsically linked to a wide range of other serious crime, results also included:

- Police forces in Brazil's 27 states detected a clear link between firearms trafficking and fraud, including the sale of counterfeit guns between gangs.

- Seizure by Brazil's Army and Federal Police of more than 60 illegal firearms at a dealership suspected of using counterfeit documents to divert firearms and ammunition. Officers arrested the man suspected of heading the counterfeiting and smuggling network.

- Destruction of 27 cocaine labs across Bolivia including one at a reserve in the Gran Chaco region on the Paraguayan border with a camouflaged runway for small planes and sophisticated telecommunications systems.

- Rescue of 33 suspected human trafficking victims thought to be from Haiti during a firearms raid at La Paz bus terminal.

- Collective seizure of almost 40 tonnes of cocaine, marijuana and precursor chemicals.

NAPTIP DG Seeks Support of Northern Governors to Combat THB



Director General of the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), Imaan Sulaiman – Ibrahim, has disclosed that the Agency is on the mission to gain confidence of driver partners and smooth the existing relationship among stakeholders in order to achieve the desired result in the fight against human trafficking and Child abuse across the Country.

The Task Force on Human Trafficking being supported by some partners including International Organization for Migration (IOM), is a counter trafficking measure aimed at getting the full support of State actors in order

maximally address the menace from the grassroots.

The NAPTIP Director General shared her renewed Vision of the Agency which comes strongly from the preventive and growth angle and also enable collaboration adding that working closely with State Governments and committed stakeholders remained a key factor in the operations of the Agency.

She further stated that the Project 4S and 4R aligns with President Muhammadu Buhari's Vision of Securing the Country, diversifying economy and also lifting 100 million people out of poverty in 10 years and solicited for the supports of the Governor and that of his members in the Northern Governors Forum in realizing the Agency's vision, making the people of the region less vulnerable and less accessible to the human traffickers.

In response, the Governor after Highlighting their Trafficking challenges in the State and reiterated his confidence in NAPTIP and assured the DG of his 100% support toward the fight against human trafficking and any form of human degradation and exploitation.

CBP Officers Seize More Than a Ton of Methamphetamine in Medical Supplies

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers at the Otay Mesa Commercial Facility seized close to 2,500 pounds of methamphetamine concealed in a shipment of medical supplies.

A driver entered the Otay Mesa Commercial Facility with a tractor-trailer shipment. The cargo was manifested as various medical supplies. A team of CBP officers were roving through the lanes of trucks that had entered the port and were waiting for their inspection. One CBP officer targeted the truck, driver, and shipment for a more intensive inspection. The officer referred the driver, truck, and shipment for an x-ray screening.

CBP officers screened the truck using the port's imaging system and found anomalies within the cargo shipment. The truck was moved to an inspection

dock where a CBP officer with a canine screened the boxes of cargo; the dog alerted to one of the pallets of medical products. Officers offloaded the shipment and discovered 120 packages comingled with various medical supplies.

Officers offloaded the shipment and discovered 120 packages comingled with various medical supplies. CBP officers extracted approximately 2,425 pounds of methamphetamine worth an estimated \$5.5 million. CBP officers seized the narcotics and conveyance. The driver, a 29-year-old Mexican male, was arrested and turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations. The driver is facing federal charges and has been transported to the Metropolitan Correctional Center.

AN UNHOLY ALLIANCE: LINKS BETWEEN EXTREMISM AND ILLICIT TRADE IN EAST AFRICA

*A report by Sir Ivor Roberts for the Counter Extremism Project.
To read the full report, visit: www.counterextremism.com/content/unholy-alliance*

East Africa, which has experienced relative stability on the African continent and is considered a key security partner in the war on terror, is at a critical juncture. As it struggles to recover from the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic, the region finds itself engaged in a struggle against extremism, crime and corruption.

Surrounded on all sides by potent

terror groups, deeply penetrated by domestic and international crime groups and undermined from within by corrupt members of its business, civic and political classes, East Africa's fragile institutions face a dire threat.

At the heart of this struggle is the persistent menace of illicit trade. Illicit trade exacts a terrible cost from East African society,



breeder of corruption in both East Africa and its surrounding regions.

This report shows how:

- In recent years, East Africa's developed trans- port infrastructure and increasingly affluent consumer markets have seen the region become a prime target for illicit trade networks.
- Weak border controls, security infrastructure and market surveillance tools have facilitated the emergence of a mass market for illegally imported and exported goods, including counterfeit pharmaceuticals, alcohol and tobacco.
- Militant groups such as Al Shabaab and Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jamaah exploit the illegal wildlife trade to pay their soldiers and fund their campaigns of violence, while causing huge damage to precarious populations of elephant, rhino and pangolin.
- Illegal wildlife trafficking has continued during the pandemic despite increasing international awareness of the threat posed by zoonotic diseases which may originate in the illicit transfer of animal products.

corroding its economic and social structures, threatening precious wildlife populations and leeching vital resources that should rightly be directed to sustainable development goals.

Illicit trade networks in East Africa are intimately connected to zones of political instability in neighbouring countries, such as Somalia, the

Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as northern Mozambique. The conflicts in these regions are sustained by a two-way traffic of illicit goods with East Africa.

This report demonstrably reveals that illicit trade has also become the principal financier of extremism, funder of criminal enterprises and

- Ongoing conflicts in central African nations such as the Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic are fuelled by the illegal expropriation and smuggling of environmental resources, including diamonds and wildlife. These illicit goods are commonly routed through East Africa on their

way to international markets.

- Asian crime syndicates target East Africa to import illicit animal products and export narcotics and counterfeit goods. Their penetration of the region has been greatly enabled by the rise of digital technologies and the absence of any meaningful digital security infrastructure.

- Organised crime groups from South America, West Africa and Europe also use the region as an important staging post for international drug trafficking. Rising addiction rates suggest the region is fast becoming a destination market for illegal narcotics.

- International and regional crime groups, as well as corrupt officials, have moved quickly to exploit the COVID-19 pandemic, selling counterfeit sanitising gels and coronavirus testing kits. The same groups are poised to intercept legitimate COVID-19 vaccine supply chains with counterfeit and potentially dangerous substitutes.

Illicit trade is the lifeblood which sustains extremist groups operating in East Africa and its surrounding regions, including Al Shabaab, ISIS and the Janjaweed to the north, the Lord's Resistance Army and dozens more rebel militias in Central Africa, and the ISIS-linked Ahlu Sunnah Wal Jamaah in northern Mozambique. Similarly, urban gangs and international crime syndicates operating throughout the region, as well as corrupt state officials and businessmen, all thrive

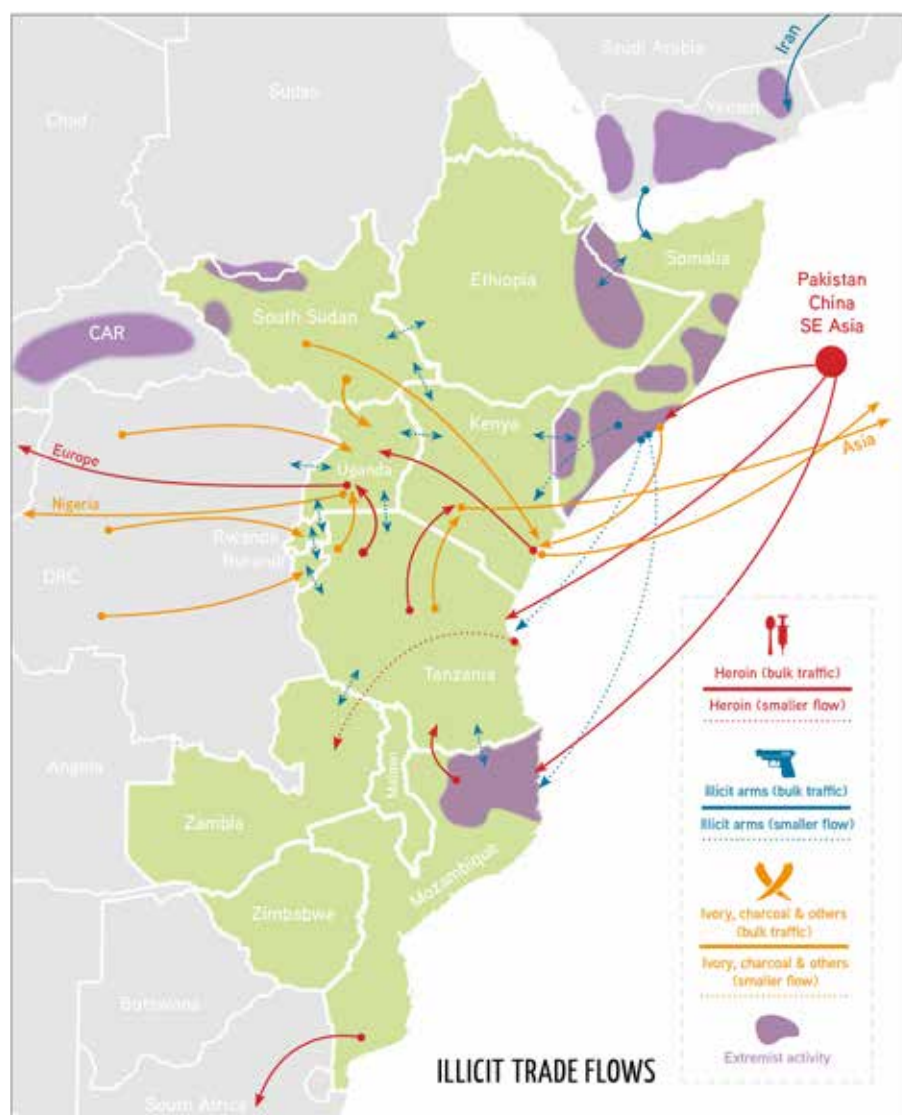
off the shadow economy.

Illicit trade is not only a key enabler of extremism, crime and corruption in East Africa, it is also the common denominator which connects them.

Globalisation has enabled a rapid convergence of illicit trade networks, opening up markets to international crime groups while facilitating coordination between illegal organisations. In recent years, this trend has become

increasingly apparent in East Africa, with illicit trade providing a basis for cooperation between myriad malefactors, such as between Al Shabaab and the street gangs of Nairobi, as well as South American narco-traffickers and corrupt elements of Mozambique's political classes.

The scale of the problem is staggering. A recent market survey conducted by the Kenya Association





of Manufacturers determined that 40% of consumer products, including cigarettes, alcohol and water, are illicit. As much as 70% of the alcohol available in Uganda is thought to be illegal.

At every link in the illicit chain, economic, social and political harm is done to East African society.

Illicit trade causes environmental despoliation and labour exploitation, while exposing consumers to unregulated and potentially unsafe products and reducing civic trust. It also diverts critical tax revenues. Every year, Kenya loses USD 900 million to counterfeit products, according to the country's Anti-Counterfeit Authority. Illegal tobacco alone costs the region USD 100 million annually.

Combatting illicit trade is therefore a regional and international imperative, but also an unenviable task. East Africa's vast land and sea borders make the detection of smuggling particularly difficult.

Weak security and market controls further ease the penetration of illicit goods.

Despite all this, there are signs of hope.

There is increasing awareness of the deep connections between illicit trade, extremism, crime and corruption, leading national governments and, to a lesser extent, regional bodies, to take more concerted action to clamp down on illegal trafficking in all its forms. International assistance targeting specific categories of illicit trade, such as anti-narcotics training programmes overseen by the United States' Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), have also been helpful.

As this report makes clear, however, there is a great need for coordinated action against illicit trade across the whole East African region. It is not enough for individual countries to take isolated measures targeting only specific categories of illicit trade.

The region is only as strong as its weakest link. As Kenya has improved its maritime security, heroin traffickers have begun redirecting their shipping routes to the coasts of Tanzania and Mozambique, where enforcement agencies are weaker. Similarly, Uganda's lack of factory inspections has created a gaping hole in the East African Community's customs union, allowing illicit goods to enter the market unchecked, while sowing distrust amongst regional trading partners.

In order for East African countries to rebuild following the COVID-19 pandemic, return to positive economic growth and secure the future for its young, bustling populations, illicit trade must be tackled as a matter of highest priority. Clawing back a portion of the tax revenue lost to illicit trade every year would greatly aid the region's post-COVID-19 economic recovery, while negating the need to raid an already over-stressed and narrow tax base. To do this, East Africa desperately requires updated and enhanced tools to fight back against illicit trade, and these must be adopted uniformly across the region.

In the Recommendations section, a five-point plan illustrates how national governments and their international allies can effectively combat illicit trade and, in so doing, turn off the taps for extremism.

Access to Legal Documentation for Migrants in Mauritania



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Mauritania, supported by funding from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM), signed a partnership agreement to facilitate access to individual documents for migrants residing in Mauritania. The partnership with the local NGO "Association for the Fight against Poverty and Underdevelopment" (Association pour la Lutte contre la Pauvreté et le Sous-Développement - ALPD) will provide legal and paralegal assistance to migrants in the country.

This pilot initiative intends to assist 150 migrants in vulnerable situations in preparing their application for residence permits and birth certificates for their Mauritanian-born children.. This will help reduce cases of exploitation and/or violation of migrants' rights in the country. Thus, the Mauritanian authorities aim to promote access-right to birth certificate and legal identity for every child, whether national or foreign.

EUROPOL Launch 5th Annual Report on Migrant Smuggling

Migrant smuggling and trafficking in human beings (THB) are core activities of serious and organised crime in the EU and are set to remain threats to the EU for the near future, with victims exploited by criminal networks originating from all over the world. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted that global crises do not significantly disrupt migration flows. Criminal networks have continued to thrive,

"This partnership also aims to support migrants in documentation procedures to demystify the process, sometimes unknown or complex, and to promote a better knowledge of these procedures within migrant communities, as a way to promote their empowerment" explained Ms. Laura Parker, IOM Mauritania Protection Officer.

To support these efforts, IOM is collaborating with the National Agency for the Population Registry and Secure Documents (Agence Nationale du Registre des Populations et des Titres Sécurisés - ANRPTS) to facilitate the obtaining of these documents. IOM and the ANRPTS will produce and disseminate awareness-raising materials for migrants, such as videos and flyers in local languages, that will include information on documentation procedures.

Documentation challenges faced by migrant communities in Mauritania and the arising need for such innovative activities were discussed during a meeting between the ALPD, consular representatives from The Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Sierra Leone, Senegal, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Mauritanian authorities (ANRPTS and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and Mauritians Abroad) This exchange framework will strengthen partnership between the different stakeholders and provide practical solutions to issues relating to the individual documentation of migrants.

displaying a high degree of adaptability and as such, Europol's operational support and services have been increasingly requested, despite the challenges in providing on-the-spot support. In its 5th annual report for the European Migrant Smuggling Centre, Europol provides an overview of recent activities and looks ahead at expected challenges.

Eurojust supports action by Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania against steroid trafficking network



With judicial support from Eurojust, authorities in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Romania have taken action against an organised crime group (OCG) which was involved in the production, distribution and sale of steroids and other illegal hormonal substances. During an action day coordinated by Eurojust, a production facility in Romania was seized and dismantled, and more than 20 suspects were arrested. The estimated profits of the OCG amounted to several million EUR.

The criminal network was mainly comprised of Czech and Slovak nationals and was active in several countries. They coordinated their illegal activities from the Czech Republic and Slovakia, while the substances themselves were produced in Romania. The end products were repackaged in the Czech Republic and Slovakia and distributed via postal services to

consumers in various other EU Member States, such as Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands.

The production and sale of steroids and similar hormonal substances is illegal in the European Union, due to the serious public health risks they pose. Steroids are often used in fitness centres to produce muscular mass in a rapid and artificial way and are sold illegally to generate high profits for the criminal organisations responsible for their distribution.

During the action day, more than 50 places were searched and several cars, communication equipment, real estate and cash were seized. Investigations into the network by the Czech police started in 2019 and were supported by Eurojust, the Agency setting up a joint investigation team (JIT) between Czech, Slovak and Hungarian authorities with analytical support from Europol. Eurojust assisted in the execution of European Investigation Orders and requests for Mutual Legal Assistance, which were issued by the Czech authorities.

In preparation for the action day, a coordination meeting was held and a coordination centre set up to support the operations, which were conducted by the Prosecutor's Office attached to Arad County Court and the Arad Service for Combatting Organized Crime in Romania, the Municipal Public Prosecutor's Office in Prague and National Drug Headquarters in the Czech Republic and Regional Public Prosecutor's Office Bratislava and National Crime Agency in Slovakia.

BOC NAIA, PDEA, NAIA-IADITG nabbed claimant of Php3.11m worth of Ketamine concealed in coffee sachets

Bureau of Customs Port of NAIA (BOC NAIA), Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and NAIA Interagency Drug Interdiction Task Group (NAIA-IADITG) nabbed Kristopher Segumbang for claiming 622 grams of Ketamine "party drugs" worth Php3,110,000 during a joint controlled delivery operations in Caloocan City.

The authorized representative of the consignee, was arrested by the authorities for claiming the subject package .

Records show that the subject package arrived from Malaysia, and was declared as "snacks". The seized illegal drugs were initially discovered when its package was subjected to non-intrusive x-ray scanning by the X-ray Inspection Project (XIP NAIA) and K-9 sweeping.

Upon physical examination conducted by the Customs Examiner, it was found as 15 sachets of white coffee containing a total of 622 grams of Ketamine, which is classified as a dangerous drugs under the R.A. 9165 otherwise known as the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Smuggling Network Connected to 4 Deaths at Sea Dismantled

Europol supported the Spanish National Police (Policía Nacional) in dismantling an organised crime group involved in migrant smuggling from Morocco to Spain through the Strait of Gibraltar. More than 150 police officers were deployed in Spain to arrest the suspects, considered dangerous because of their history of violent crimes and suspected possession of weapons.

The criminal network was composed of Spanish and Moroccan nationals. The suspects smuggled Moroccan nationals through the Strait of Gibraltar on

different vessels, some of them stolen. The boats were fuelled at sea to avoid suspicions from the authorities.

The migrants, mainly young individuals and often minors were paying about €2,500 per person for the smuggling services. The suspects transported the migrants in life-threatening conditions without any safety measures in case of emergency at sea. Evidence suggests links between the network and a deadly shipwreck, which took four lives in February.

Three Arrested in Spain for Encouraging Terrorist Attacks Against France

Officers of the Spanish National Police (Policía Nacional) with the support of Europol swooped on the members of a terrorist cell in the city of Granada. A total of three individuals were arrested on suspicion of encouraging terrorist attacks against France.

After the French magazine Charlie Hebdo republished caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad in September of

last year, the arrestees posted numerous videos on their social media accounts threatening to carry out violent actions against France, its citizens and interests abroad to avenge the said-publication.

The Spanish National Police used its specialist capabilities to identify the individuals behind these social media profiles with totalled almost 19 000 followers.

Over €1m in Cash Seized during Investigation into Tobacco Smuggling Ring



An international law enforcement operation coordinated by Europol and Eurojust with the involvement of 3 countries has resulted in the arrest of 12 suspects, including the masterminds, belonging to a Russian-speaking organised crime group involved in the illegal cigarette trade. The arrests took place in Belgium (11) and France (1) and included the leaders of the criminal organisation.

Some 28 premises belonging to the crime gang were searched in Belgium (17), France (10) and the

Netherlands (1). The investigators seized over €1 million in cash, alongside 11 vehicles and hundreds of counterfeit cigarette cartridges. The necessary supplies to make 1.8 million cigarette packages were also discovered at one of the searched locations. Two of the individuals arrested in Belgium are awaiting surrender to the French authorities under a European arrest warrant.

This international sweeps follows a complex investigation initiated in July 2020 by the Belgian Federal Judicial Police of Leuven (Federale Gerechtelijke Politie Leuven), in close cooperation with the Belgian Customs (Douane), the French Gendarmerie (Gendarmerie Nationale), the French Judicial Customs (SEJF), the Dutch Fiscal Information and Investigation Service (FIOD), with international activities coordinated by Europol and Eurojust.



More than 56,400 cultural goods seized and 67 arrested



Pandora operation targeting the illicit trafficking of cultural goods has been the most successful to date, with more than 56,400 cultural goods seized. These include archaeological objects, furniture, coins, paintings, musical instruments and sculptures.

Pandora V saw the involvement of customs and other law enforcement authorities from 31 countries.

During the operational phase, tens of thousands of checks and controls were carried out in various airports, ports, border crossing points, as well as in auction houses, museums and private residences. As a result, more than 300 investigations were opened, and 67 individuals arrested.

Given the global nature of this crime, operation coordination units working 24/7 were established by Europol on one side, and INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, to support the exchange of information as well as disseminate alerts, warnings and perform cross-checks against international and national databases.

This operation was led by the Spanish Civil Guard (Guardia Civil), with the international coordination supported by Europol, INTERPOL and the WCO. PANDORA V was carried out in the framework of the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT).

INTERPOL launches app to better protect cultural heritage

An app launched by INTERPOL will help identify stolen cultural property, reduce illicit trafficking, and increase the chances of recovering stolen works and artefacts.

INTERPOL's ID-Art app enables users ranging from law enforcement to the general public to get mobile access to the INTERPOL database of stolen works of art, create an inventory of private art collections and report cultural sites potentially at risk.

Using cutting-edge image-recognition software, ID-Art is free to download from the (Android or Google) Play

Store and the (Apple) App Store.

"In recent years we've witnessed the unprecedented ransack by terrorists of the cultural heritage of countries arising from armed conflict, organized looting and cultural cleansing," said INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock.

"This new tool is a significant step forward in enhancing the ability of police officers, cultural heritage professionals and the general public to protect our common heritage," added Secretary General Stock.

INTERPOL counter-terrorism border operation detects suspects, bomb-making chemicals

Boosting the ability of frontline officers at air, land and sea border crossings to detect a traveler as a potential terrorist or criminal was the focus of an operation coordinated by INTERPOL across Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

With local and regional terrorist networks preying on insecure borders, Operation Simba III (19 – 28 March) saw the seizure by Ugandan authorities at the Mutukula border point of some 25 kg of ammonium nitrate and other materials used by terrorists to manufacture improvised explosive devices.

Highlighting how terrorist activity is often linked to other crime areas, some 4.6 million checks were carried

out at border crossings against INTERPOL global databases, leading to the identification of men and women wanted for terrorism and other serious crimes.



OSCE Mediterranean Partnership discussion: Fight against transnational organized crime depends on multilateral co-operation



To maximize impact in the fight against transnational organized crime (TOC), it is essential to double-down prevention efforts and to leverage multilateral platforms and regional partnerships, participants said at the OSCE Mediterranean Partnership of Co-operation Group meeting.

“We can only be successful in fight against transnational organized crime when we co-ordinate our actions and take advantage of experiences and good practices, “we” meaning the participating States with the Mediterranean Partners, “we” the OSCE with other international organizations and bodies,” said Ambassador Adam Hałaciński, Permanent Representative of Poland to the OSCE, who chaired today’s meeting.

Ghada Waly, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), said: “I strongly believe that we are now at a defining moment for our post-pandemic future. Weakened by the health emergency and the economic downturn, our world needs to mobilize against organized crime threats, if we are to build fairer societies, and emerge stronger from the crisis. To advance shared responses, we need to leverage our common framework: the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its protocols addressing human trafficking, migrant smuggling, and illicit firearms.”

One of the key issues explored was how the OSCE and its Mediterranean Partners could more concretely reflect implementing international provisions and conventions that facilitate transnational co-operation in their national strategies, such as the UNTOC and the Doha Declaration.

Alena Kupchyna, OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats, noted that during the pandemic, organized crime groups had taken advantage of the economic recession to create new avenues of profit. “The fight against TOC can be effective only if we have a common and shared agenda and if we include a strong prevention component in all our endeavours.” said Kupchyna.

OSCE conference works to foster regional co-operation in countering terrorist financing and transnational organized crime

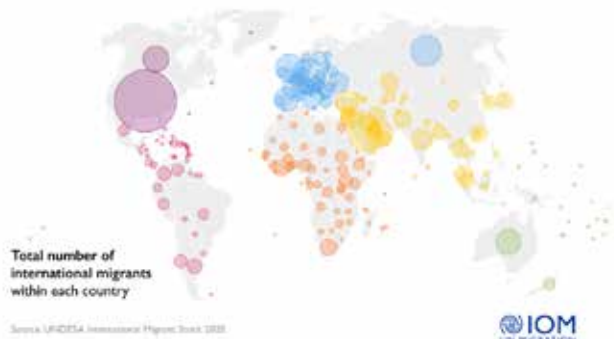
Fostering regional co-operation in addressing terrorist financing and organized crime was the focus of the OSCE Regional Conference on Countering Terrorist Financing and Transnational Organized Crime.

“The work of the OSCE is rooted in a strong mandate to address transnational threats, in particular preventing and combatting terrorism, by promoting a multi-dimensional and multi-stakeholder approach in the implementation of the international legal framework against terrorism,” said Alena Kupchyna, OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to address Transnational Threats. “This conference is timely as it took stock of efforts undertaken at the regional level and lessons learned since 2019 to address the challenges posed by terrorist financing and transnational organized crime.”

Participants exchanged good practices, lessons learned, and recommendations for policy options for developing effective ways of detecting and suppressing terrorist financing channels and combating organized crime. They also explored how to strengthen human rights-compliant approaches, co-operation and information sharing in countering terrorist financing.



World Migration Report Launches Dynamic New Data Visualization Platform



The IOM flagship publication has launched a dynamic new webpage that connects fact-based narratives on migration with interactive data visualizations on some of the latest global migration data and information. It is the first microsite of its kind since the World Migration

Report (WMR) series began more than two decades ago.

“The WMR’s usefulness as a tool for policy officials, researchers, journalists, academics and others interested in global migration issues and trends has been greatly enhanced by these new interactive elements that include the very latest data from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs,” said Marie McAuliffe, IOM’s head of research and WMR editor.

“It will be updated in the coming months ahead of the launch of the 2022 WMR later this year.”

The platform contains some of the latest global and regional international migrant stock estimates, allowing users to interact with data and quickly identify important migration trends and patterns over the last 30 years across all the six global regions.

New Study Examines Challenges Facing Families of Missing Migrants in the UK



A new report from the International Organization of Migration (IOM)’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre and Missing Migrants Project shows this is not the case for people across the United Kingdom who have missing migrant relatives.

“The families who participated in the research in the UK are some of the tens of thousands of people living worldwide with the pain of not knowing the fate of their loved ones who went missing or died during migration journeys,” said Frank Laczko, Director of IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) in Berlin.

Over the past two years, IOM GMDAC has carried out qualitative research funded by Switzerland’s Federal Department of Foreign Affairs with families searching for missing migrants in several countries. The twin aims of the research are to amplify the voices of the families of missing migrants and develop a series of recommendations to drive action to support them.

This new report shows that cases of missing migrants in the UK extend far beyond the English Channel.

IOM Provides 160 Bangladeshi Migrants Return Assistance from Libya

The IOM, in close coordination with the Government of Bangladesh, this week facilitated the safe return of 160 Bangladeshi migrants stranded in Libya via its Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme.

The flight left Benghazi, Libya, and landed safely at Dhaka’s Hazrat Shajalal International Airport (HSIA) the following day. The migrants were stranded in Libya due to COVID-19 and the challenging security situation in the country. IOM worked closely with Libyan authorities

and the Embassy of Bangladesh in Libya to assist these people in getting home.



Frontex and OSCE discuss preventing document fraud



Frontex and OSCE met online to exchange views on the prevention of document fraud in South Eastern Europe.

During the meeting, participants reaffirmed the strategic role of document checks both for the borders control and combatting cross-border crime, also in view of the recent surge in forged documents connected with COVID-19.

The experts set up a list of minimum recommended capabilities in document checks at border control. This was a follow-up to the recommendations issued jointly by ICMPD, INTERPOL, IOM, Frontex, OSCE, UNODC and others during a conference on document checks held in 2019.

Experts from the Frontex Centre of Excellence for Combating Document Fraud stressed that cooperation between international, regional and national stakeholders is crucial to effectively fight this crime.

Artificial Intelligence - based capabilities for European Border and Coast Guard

In 2019, Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, commissioned RAND Europe to carry out an Artificial intelligence (AI) research study.

The purpose of the study was to provide an overview of the main opportunities, challenges and requirements for the adoption of AI-based capabilities in border management. Frontex's intent was also to find synergies with ongoing AI studies and initiatives in the EU and contribute to a Europe-wide AI landscape by adding the border security dimension.

Some of the analysed technologies included automated border control, object recognition to detect suspicious vehicles or cargo and the use of geospatial

data analytics for operational awareness and threat detection.

As part of the study, RAND provided Frontex with a comprehensive report and an executive summary with conclusions and recommendations.

The findings will support Frontex in shaping the future landscape of AI-based capabilities for Integrated Border Management, including AI-related research and innovation projects which could be initiated by Frontex (e.g. under EU Innovation Hub) or recommended to be conducted under the EU Research and Innovation Programme (Horizon Europe)..

Situation at EU external borders – Detections down because of drop in Eastern Mediterranean

The number of illegal border crossings at Europe's external borders fell 7% in the first three months of 2021 compared to a year ago to around 24 000*, largely because of a drop in arrivals in Eastern and Western Mediterranean, according to preliminary calculations.

In March, the number of illegal border crossings

reached over 5 750, about 4% more than in the same month of last year.



Baltic countries benefit from EMSA's regional RPAS service for enhanced maritime surveillance



EMSA's regional RPAS service for enhanced maritime surveillance in the Baltic Sea began this week under the coordination of the Estonian Police and Border Guard, following initial steps taken in 2020.

Using remotely piloted aircraft to gain a better picture of what is happening at sea will be particularly useful in

this region where busy shipping lanes and high cargo traffic make maritime safety and security a challenge. The RPAS service will be hosted by the Estonian Police and Border Guard in the first instance, followed by the Finnish Border Guard later in the year.

Independently of where the flights take off, operational cooperation is possible among all the participating member states which, in addition to Estonia and Finland, also include Latvia and Sweden. The information collected on board the remotely piloted aircraft is shared simultaneously with these neighbouring countries, thereby helping them to create a common maritime picture and respond in close coordination with each other. The service is a great example of how one resource can be used by several countries for multiple purposes to enhance maritime safety and security with maximum efficiency.

Hellenic Coast Guard dismantle network of illegal trafficking of migrants



The Minister of Shipping and Island Policy, Mr. Giannis Plakiotakis, expressed his satisfaction for the dismantling of a network of illegal trafficking of migrants by the Coast Guard - Hellenic Coast Guard.

"The officers of the Coast Guard, once again, operated with determination and efficiency", stressed Mr. Plakiotakis. "Greece has guarded its maritime borders and is fighting trafficking networks that exploit desperate people, often under the protection of the Turkish Coast

Guard. Many congratulations to the officers of the Coast Guard for the successful completion of their mission".

Specifically, the executives of the Port Authority of Kos, with the assistance of executives of the Special Missions of the Port Authority of Kos, the Port Authority of Kalymnos and the Directorate of Security and Protection of the Maritime Borders (DAPTHAS) carried out an operation to dismantle Greece - their stay in Kos and then facilitate their promotion inland with forged documents.

In particular, in the context of systematic investigations and utilization of information, a 43-year-old foreigner was identified yesterday morning, accompanying a 23-year-old and a 27-year-old foreigner in a taxi waiting area within the city. The foreigners were arrested outside Kos airport for violating Laws 3386/2005 and Laws 4251/2014, because during the inspection they showed travel documents of dubious authenticity, which they were going to use to travel. These documents were confiscated.

HEALTH PASS SOLUTIONS — HELPING GOVERNMENTS RESUME INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Sponsored feature by Idemia



The Covid pandemic has had a significant impact on the global economy, and no industry has been left untouched. However, the effects have been acute in the aviation, tourism and hospitality sectors. They have suffered from the travel restrictions that were imposed to fend against the global spread of the virus. The restrictions were necessary to protect the health of citizens worldwide,

however they will be gradually lifted as vaccination programs progress around the world. Even so, there is one critical concern for governments - the guarantee that health certificates contain the correct test result or vaccine confirmation so that they are trusted worldwide.

To support governments in this critical situation, global



standard-setting bodies, such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) have been developing standards to specify minimum security and interoperability requirements for health certificates. The European Union has also been proposing a Digital Green Certificate regulation based on strong data protection, ensuring inclusiveness for all.

Fraud, a challenge when accessing accurate health information

Nowadays, border control agents and airlines need to observe extensive entry requirement guidance and determine the authenticity of the health certificates presented to them. However, just as with identity documents, counterfeit

health certificates are in circulation. Additionally, the use of fraudulent health certificates has increased since the administration of vaccines. These fake health certificates are a significant risk to public health, and influence the trust that needs to be established worldwide. As trusted actors, governments are in the best position to guarantee the authenticity of health certificates and the identity of those presenting them.

Health Pass, leveraging proven technologies

In order to ensure interoperability and harmonization worldwide, ICAO has released a standard that has been tailor-made for health certificate purposes – Visible Digital Seal (VDS). The VDS is a special 2D barcode that has been adapted

to meet the current health travel requirements and is signed using a Country Signing Certification Authority (CSCA) Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). Governments can therefore leverage this existing PKI infrastructure that is already in use for ePassports or set-up a new one for health purposes. Thanks to this, a country can rapidly roll out digitally sealed health certificates called Health Passes, adapting these solutions to its needs while complying with international health certificate standards. The use of proven technologies by governments facilitates adoption and feasibility.

Inclusiveness and data privacy

The Health Pass is for all use cases and environments. Various type of health certificates exists, and will co-exist in the future. For this reason, it is crucial the Health Pass is able to include all types of certificates, such as PCR tests, proof of immunity and vaccinations. It is only by doing so that governments can guarantee the solution will not discriminate against individuals who, for various reasons, have not been vaccinated. Health Passes should be also available in various forms including, a downloadable government-issued health mobile wallet, a PDF document sent by email or a sticker to put on a passport visa page. Health Passes can also be printed and handed to a traveler directly in a laboratory.

There must be no compromise

when it comes to the protection of personal data. At IDEMIA, we suggest a privacy-by-design approach is the best way to ensure information concerning a traveler's personal health is always protected. This allows the user to be the sole holder of their Health Pass without the need of centralizing sensitive health data.

Online and offline verification

The seamless integration of the Health Pass into the existing process of the passenger journey is the key. Border control agencies, as well as airlines and airport operators, are searching for the solution to upgrade their processes for verifying Health Passes. They have the option to either upgrade their touchpoints with Health Pass verifications, integrate Health

Pass verification with a traveler's biometrics during the pre-check-in process, or provide personnel with a mobile app/SDK verifier.

During check-in, border control or boarding, a biometric match between the passenger's face and their passport photo validates their identity, and the Health Pass is verified against the identity of its holder. This confirms the authenticity of the health test result or vaccine confirmation and its allocation to the passenger. This quick process for both travelers and security staff will guarantee convenience and cut airport congestion when restrictions to international air travel are lifted. Online and offline capabilities will guarantee access to verification from anywhere anytime.

Conclusion

The global economy is dependent on the deployment of secure, trusted and interoperable Health Pass solutions to kickstart its recovery. Governments play a key role in ensuring international public trust, and aviation industry leaders are ready to assist them in developing technologies that combine safety and ease of use. At IDEMIA, we are focused on our mission to support governments around the world with end-to-end border solutions and identity programs. Thanks to our expertise, we position our Health Travel Pass as an initiative that paves the way to return to free movement.

IDEMIA and INTERPOL Further Their Partnership to Supply Brand New Multi-Biometric System



Following the renewal of an existing contract, IDEMIA will deliver INTERPOL's new identification system that will usher in enhanced capabilities such as higher matching accuracy and more user-friendly interfaces. Designed and scaled so that police officers in member states can carry out an unlimited number of searches and analysis at will, MBIS, IDEMIA's

latest technological biometric solution, will allow up to one million forensic analysis searches per day. This includes fingerprints, palm prints and faces, making it the top performing automated biometric identification system on the market.

These capabilities pave the way for introducing the application of biometrics to other sectors. In addition to police investigations, INTERPOL plans to enable its members to query their database from border control stations.

This latest alliance further strengthens IDEMIA's 20-year relationship with INTERPOL. Collaboration began in 2000 when IDEMIA delivered the first Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). AFIS was designed to make cooperation easier between police forces from INTERPOL's 194 member states, by giving them access to a shared fingerprint database of suspects in criminal cases.

NAPTIP Rescues 52 Victims, Arrests 4 Suspected Human Traffickers In Kano



The National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), has rescued 52 victims and arrested four suspected human traffickers in Kano Zonal Command.

The NAPTIP Director General, Mrs Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim, made the disclosure while briefing newsmen on Monday in Kano.

The Director General was represented by NAPTIP Kano Zonal Commander, Mr Abdullahi Babale. She said human trafficking is a modern day slavery, which involved the exploitation of victims.

She explained that 48 of the rescued victims were females while four were males, aged between 16

and 34. Sulaiman-Ibrahim also said that out of the four suspected traffickers, three were males and one female.

The Director General added that 17 of the victims were rescued by Immigration officials in Jigawa and Katsina states.

"The agency received intelligence report that the victims are on transit from Delta, Imo, Edo, Ogun, Oyo and Ondo States enroute to Europe via Libya.

"On receiving the information, a special operation was coordinated in Kano, Katsina and Jigawa States to rescue the victims

"The operation is still ongoing to arrest other suspects and to rescue more than 100 victims," she said. The suspects were arrested by NAPTIP/Joint Border Task Force officers.

The @dgnaptip, Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim reiterated the agency's commitment to fighting human trafficking and the rehabilitation and empowerment of survivors. She also pledged that the agency would make it difficult for human traffickers and their agents to succeed in their evil operations.

She commended the Nigerian Diaspora Commission and the security agencies, the Nigeria Immigration Service, for their support to NAPTIP..

Customs Enforcement Teams Caught Drugs in Microwave Oven, Electronic Cigarettes and Accessories in the Warehouse in Istanbul

In the first operation carried out at different addresses in Istanbul by the Customs Enforcement teams of the Ministry of Commerce, 5 kilograms of heroin hidden in a microwave oven, and in the second operation, approximately 10 thousand electronic cigarettes and accessories were seized in a warehouse.

Another operation at Habur Customs Gate was the starting point of the drug operation carried out by the Istanbul Customs Guard, Smuggling and Intelligence Directorate. 5 kg of heroin was caught hidden in a plasma TV found on a bus that was seen as suspicious and sought by the Customs Enforcement teams

in Habur recently. The information and documents obtained after this capture were examined and it was determined that another party of drugs might have been sent to Istanbul.

Some parts of the oven, to which the narcotic detector dog also reacted, was disassembled and opened. It was found that several packages were hidden in the compartment where the side walls of the oven were located. It was determined that the powder substance in these packages was heroin in the control performed with a drug test device. As a result of the operation, 5 kilos of heroin were seized.

FIGHTING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

The European Commission presents a new strategy to prevent trafficking, break criminal business models, protect and empower victims.

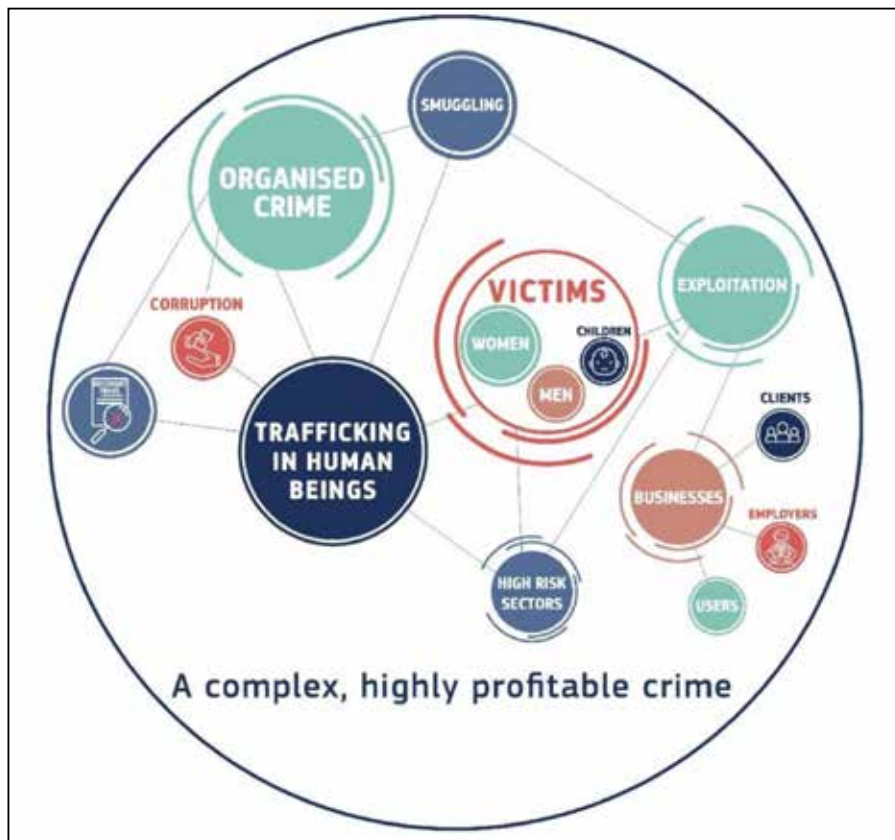
Trafficking in human beings remains a serious threat in the EU despite progress achieved in the past years. Victims are mainly women and girls trafficked for sexual exploitation. The third report on the progress made in the fight against trafficking in human beings, published in October 2020, provides a factual overview on the progress made, presents patterns and challenges and key issues in addressing trafficking in human beings in the EU.

As trafficking in human beings is often perpetuated by organised

crime groups, the Strategy on Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings is closely linked to the EU Strategy to Tackle Organised Crime also presented today. Protecting society from organised crime, including tackling trafficking in human beings, is a priority under the EU Security Union Strategy.

The new Pact on Migration and Asylum also highlighted the importance of the early identification of potential non-EU victims of trafficking in human beings.

The European Commission is presenting a new Strategy on



mostly for sexual exploitation. We owe the victims protection, and we need to bring to justice the perpetrators who treat human beings as a commodity. We will look at the rules in place to check if they are still fit for purpose and we will assess the possibility of criminalising the use of exploited services from trafficking victims”.

The strategy builds on the EU’s comprehensive legal and policy framework in place to address trafficking in human beings, rooted in the Anti-trafficking Directive. The Commission will continue to support Member States in the implementation of the Directive and, if necessary, will propose revisions to make sure it is fit for purpose. The EU anti-trafficking coordinator will continue to play a key role in the implementation of this strategy.

In addition, the Strategy focuses on:

Reducing demand that fosters trafficking: The Commission will assess the possibility of establishing minimum EU rules criminalising the use of exploited services of trafficking victims and will organise - together with national authorities and civil society organisations - a prevention campaign targeting high-risk sectors. The Commission will also consider strengthening Employers’ Sanctions Directive and will propose legislation on corporate governance to clarify the responsibilities of companies and will provide guidance on due diligence to help prevent forced labour.

Combatting Trafficking in Human Beings (2021-2025), focusing on preventing the crime, bringing traffickers to justice and protecting and empowering victims. Between 2017 and 2018, there were more than 14,000 registered victims within the European Union. Globally, traffickers make estimated profits of €29.4 billion in a single year. With demand for exploitation expected to continue, traffickers moving their acts online and the pandemic likely to create the conditions for increased exploitation, today’s strategy sets out the measures that will allow the EU and its Member States to continue strengthening their response.

Vice-President for Promoting our European Way of Life, Margaritis Schinas, said: “Fighting trafficking in human beings is part of our work towards building a Europe that protects. Traffickers prey on people’s vulnerabilities. With today’s Strategy, we are taking a three-pronged approach, using legislation, policy and operational support and funding in tandem to reduce demand, break criminal business, and empower victims of this abominable crime.”

Commissioner for Home Affairs, Ylva Johansson, said: “Trafficking in human beings is a crime that should have no place in our societies. Yet, criminals continue to traffic victims, mainly women and children, and

Breaking the business model of traffickers, online and offline: The Commission will conduct a dialogue with internet and technology companies to reduce the use of online platforms for the recruitment and exploitation of victims. The Commission will encourage systematic training of law enforcement and judicial practitioners on detecting and addressing trafficking in human beings.

Protecting, supporting and empowering the victims with a specific focus on women and children: The Strategy seeks to improve the early identification of victims and their referral for further assistance and protection, strengthen victim empowerment programmes and facilitate re-integration. The Commission will also fund gender-specific and child-sensitive training to help police, social workers, border guards or healthcare staff detect victims.

Promoting international cooperation: With half of the victims identified in the EU being non-EU citizens, cooperation with international partners is key to address trafficking. The EU will use a range of foreign policy instruments and operational cooperation to help combat trafficking in countries of origin and transit including through dedicated human rights and security dialogues, enhanced cooperation with the Council of Europe and regular and targeted

communication, action and exchange of information with EU delegations in partner countries. The upcoming Action Plan against Migrant Smuggling will also help disrupt traffickers' business in moving victims for exploitation to Europe.

Conclusion

Trafficking in human beings is a serious and complex crime, which mostly affects women and children. It brings enormous revenues to criminals while causing tremendous suffering to victims and high costs to our society. Despite progress made over the last decade to reinforce the Union's response against trafficking in human beings, the threat of being trafficked remains high for any vulnerable person. Trafficking in human beings impacts the fabric of society, rule of law and sustainable development in EU Member States and in our partner countries.

With this strategy, the Commission sets out a renewed commitment and a strong policy framework to protect vulnerable individuals from being trafficked, to empower victims, to bring perpetrators to justice, and to safeguard our communities. Women and children are at the centre of this commitment.

The priorities and actions set out in this strategy will be implemented in the period from 2021 to 2025. Meanwhile, the Commission will be ready to react swiftly to any new developments or trends based on

continuous monitoring and analysis of how trafficking in human beings evolves – in the EU and beyond. Together, the EU and its Member States must stay ahead of criminals, users and exploiters of victims.

The Commission is committed to the timely and effective implementation of this strategy. As combatting trafficking in human beings needs the engagement of all, the Commission will work closely with all partners to maximise the impact of the foreseen actions. The EU antitrafficking coordinator will help ensure coordination and coherence among EU institutions, EU agencies, Member States and international actors, in the implementation of this strategy. Joining forces in the fight against trafficking in human beings is essential for ensuring European security, protecting vulnerable people and the economy, and for the safeguarding of the rule of law and fundamental rights.

The Commission will also systematically monitor and report on the implementation of this Strategy, including to the European Parliament and the Council.

Download the full report at www.border-security-report.com/eu-trafficking-report-2021.pdf

Giant Drug Operation Busted by Turkish Customs - over 6 million drug pills seized



In an operation carried out by the Turkish Customs Enforcement teams of the Ministry of Commerce in a port in Iskenderun, 6 million 264 thousand captagon-type drug pills were seized. The seizure in question was the highest amount of narcotic pills ever carried

out by Customs Enforcement teams.

The item declared as “building stone” in 17 containers arriving at a port in Iskenderun for transit to the United Arab Emirates was evaluated as risky by the personnel of the Hatay Customs Enforcement, Smuggling and Intelligence Directorate.

When the detector dog reacted to some of the products in the control performed in the presence of a narcotic detector dog, the stones suspected of containing drugs were broken one by one. In the examination, it was understood that the transparent packages hidden inside the stones were full of drugs.

In the search, 6 million 264 thousand 259 units of “Captagon” type drug pills weighing 1 ton 72 kilograms were seized in 11 containers. It was determined that the market value of the seized item was approximately 313 million TL.

Ukraine Border Guarding - a Year in Numbers

By the Day of the Border Guard of Ukraine, border guards summarize the results of service activities. Some figures reflect quite interesting trends.

Thus, from April 25, 2020 to April 25, 2021, border guards allowed 22.6 million persons and 5.6 million vehicles to cross the state border of Ukraine, and 25.3 thousand people were denied entry to Ukraine during border control measures.

In addition, during the verification of documents, the

State Border Guard Service stopped 2,500 attempts to cross the border using invalid and 360 with forged and alien passports. Another 230 people tried to cross the border without documents and with forged SBGS stamps.

In total, as a result of exercising their powers during the reporting period, border guards drew up 35.8 thousand protocols on administrative offenses, including 2.5 thousand for illegal border crossing, and imposed fines of almost UAH 58 million.

Eurojust supports Spanish action against international fraud

Eurojust has supported an operation against large-scale VAT fraud, money laundering and forgery of documents, which have cost the Spanish tax authorities EUR 26 million in missed revenues. In record time, the Agency coordinated the judicial cooperation with Slovakia, Belgium and the Netherlands to halt the fraud scheme. The scammers had set up a series of fake companies to avoid paying VAT within the internal market. During an action

day, 22 suspects were arrested and 24 places were searched. A total of 13 properties and 16 vehicles were seized, and tens of bank accounts were frozen.

Investigations into the swindle started at the end of 2019 by the Spanish authorities, with the suspects using a series of so-called front companies in Spain, Slovakia, Romania, Belgium and the Netherlands for at least one-and-a-half years to pretend a trade in goods took place.

New Zealand's measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing



New Zealand's measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing are delivering good results, but the country needs to focus more on improving the availability of beneficial ownership information, strengthening supervision and implementation of targeted financial sanctions.

New Zealand faces money laundering threats from proceeds of crime generated both domestically and internationally. The country's large scale terrorist financing risks are mainly in relation to overseas-based groups. Using a comprehensive multi-tiered risk assessment process, the country has developed a robust understanding of these money laundering and terrorist financing risks. New Zealand has implemented an AML/CFT system that is effective in many respects.

This includes the effective use of financial intelligence and investigation tools to support money laundering investigations, prosecutions and criminal asset recovery, with a particularly strong focus on restraint and forfeiture of criminal assets. New Zealand is also particularly effective at cooperating with its international partners to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

National AML/CFT policies and activities address New Zealand's money laundering and terrorist financing risks to a substantial extent. However, measures to stop money laundering in the non-financial sector are new and businesses need to better understand and

mitigate their risks. New Zealand's three AML/CFT supervisors have a good understanding of the money laundering and terrorist financing risk profiles of their respective sectors, but there is scope to improve the use of effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions. Supervision of the banking sector in particular needs greater resourcing.

New Zealand has taken steps to mitigate the money laundering and terrorist financing risks associated with legal persons and arrangements, but those could be undermined by loopholes regarding beneficial ownership and nominee directors and shareholders.

New Zealand's authorities remain alert to funds being used for domestic terrorist attacks following the Christchurch attack on March 2019. New Zealand's investigations of terrorist financing have been thorough, quick, and well-coordinated. But there are gaps in New Zealand's implementation of targeted financial sanction measures.

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) assessed New Zealand's anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing (AML/CFT) system. The report is a comprehensive review of the effectiveness of New Zealand's measures and their compliance with the FATF Recommendations. This includes an assessment of New Zealand's actions to address the risks emanating from UN and domestically designated terrorists and terrorist organisations. The report does not address the justification that led to the domestic designation of an entity as a terrorist or terrorist group or organisation.



Operation Apolo Seizes Illegal Substances



The Ecuadorian National Police, through the National Anti-Drug Investigation Directorate, carried out in the Metropolitan District

of Guayaquil, operation "Apolo", focused on counteracting the international traffic of cataloged substances subject to control.

The police action was carried out in the Port terminal, through a coordinated effort between the National Unit for the Investigation of Ports and Airports (UNIPA), the National Canine Unit (UNAC) and the Special Mobile Anti-Drug Group. (GEMA), based on risk analysis,

observation and profiling techniques, a pre-shipment inspection of several export containers was carried out, in one of which, the can of names: "Layka" gave an alert and positive indication of possible contamination on the door, after opening, 18 packages were observed that contained a total of 1073 rectangular packages, with wrapping from the outside to the inside, brown packing tape, black latex and a transparent plastic sleeve, which contained a compact, whitish-colored substance, the same that when subjected to chemical reagents during the preliminary homologation test, gave positive for cocaine, weighing: 01 ton 66 kilos 640 grams (10'666,400 doses).

The container was destined for Spain and as an export product canned tuna. The police institution together with its Directorates and Specialized Units continue with the pertinent investigations to bring those involved in this act to the orders of the competent authority. The National Police of Ecuador reiterates its frontal fight against drug trafficking.

More Than \$400k Seized in Counterfeit Merchandise

The National Police through the National Directorate of Judicial Investigation (DIJ) highlights the results of operations carried out, in the first four months of 2021, in prosecution of crimes against Intellectual Property.

The police units have carried out 30 search procedures in coordination with the Public Ministry, allowing the confiscation of \$435,698 dollars in various merchandise and counterfeit drugs.

Due to these events, three people have been made available to the judicial authorities, two of these Panamanians and one foreigner.

Within the framework of the International Intellectual Property Day, the National Police reaffirms its commitment to raising public awareness and fighting against those who break the Law.

38 Kilos of Narcotics Seized by POLFA

Through the Tax and Customs Police in coordination with the National Tax and Customs Directorate (DIAN), an operation was carried out that resulted in the seizure of a vehicle and 38 kilos of cocaine, which would have a value that would exceed \$200,000.

Through information provided by a human source, which gave an account of the passage of some subjects in a vehicle, transporting narcotics through the roads of Cesar to La Guajira, the Fiscal and Customs Police (POLFA) deployed a strong operation

in the municipality of La Paz with its group of Judicial Police, verifications and uniformed personnel, where they carry out registration activities in the entry and exit roads of the municipality of Cesar, as well as verify parking lots and other places where they could hide the car, after an intense search The authorities managed to locate a white car within the urban area on the public highway of the aforementioned municipality, which had been abandoned moments before due to the strong pressure exerted by the police.

AGENCY NEWS AND UPDATES

Border patrol seizes nearly \$4.7 million in meth, cocaine at Texas crossings



Two separate, same-day seizures by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers in Texas netted illegal narcotics with an estimated street value of nearly \$4.7 million on Wednesday.

In the first incident, CBP officers discovered 94 packages of suspected methamphetamine, weighing an estimated 216 pounds, concealed within a Ford F-150 being driven by a 37-year-old U.S. citizen from McAllen, Texas. The narcotics are valued at more than \$4.3 million and were intercepted at the Hidalgo-Reynosa International Bridge.

Meanwhile, a CBP officer discovered 18 packages of suspected cocaine, weighing an estimated 45 pounds,

concealed within a Chrysler 200 driven by a 21-year-old U.S. citizen from Reynosa, Mexico. The narcotics are valued at about \$345,000 and were intercepted at the Anzalduas International Bridge.

Security tightened at Burmese border as Tachileik nightlife venues re-open



Security patrols are being stepped up along the Thai-Burmese border amid reports that nightlife venues in Tachileik are set to re-open. The Burmese town is just across the border from Chiang Rai's Mae Sai district. It hit the headlines last year when a number of Thai nationals working in the town crossed back into Thailand illegally, bringing Covid-19 with them.

Most of the Thais were employed at the 1G1-7 Hotel, a luxury, 100 room, 4 storey hotel, located just 1.5 kilometres from the border checkpoint in Chiang Rai's Mae Sai district.

Now, with news of nightlife re-opening in Tachileik, border officials are on the lookout for Thais crossing illegally in the other direction, seeking work or gambling opportunities in Myanmar.

Rwanda, Tanzania police chiefs hold talks on cross-border cooperation



Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Dan Muniyuza is in Tanzania where he held a bilateral meeting with his counterpart, Simon Nyakoro Sirro, to strengthen cross-border cooperation against transnational and organized crimes.

The meeting is in line with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between Rwanda National Police (RNP) and Tanzania Police Force (TPF) in 2012 to partner in security-related matters, including joint exercises, operations, training and timely exchange of security information.

IGP Muniyuza expressed the commitment of Rwanda and RNP in particular to the existing cooperation framework to jointly combat cross-border security threats.

More surveillance to curb illegal crossings



Thai National police chief Pol Gen Suwat Jangyodsuk has ordered all police units to ramp up surveillance in order to prevent the entry of illegal migrants, as the country continues to struggle to combat its third wave of Covid-19 infections.

Pol Gen Damrongsak Kittiprapat, deputy national police chief, said all police units will be coordinating closely with local authorities and security agencies to curb illegal border crossings, out of concerns for a possible outbreak of highly contagious coronavirus variants from neighbouring countries.

He said checkpoints would also be set up in the inner provinces with manpower allocated to work around-the-clock to stop the transport of illegal migrants.

Public Works to issue tender for border security



The South African Department of Public Works issued out tenders as part of its long term solution to secure the country's borders.

This came after the R40 million botched Beitbridge border fence that was put up as a division between Zimbabwe and South Africa, ahead of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Two sentenced after law enforcement uncovers illegal aliens in 100 degree trailer

A 28-year-old Laredoan has been ordered to federal prison for conspiring to transport illegal aliens, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Jennifer B. Lowery.

CBP officers approached the US-83 Border Patrol checkpoint driving a semi-truck and trailer. Soon after his arrival, a K-9 alerted to the presence of contraband in the trailer.

Authorities cut the seal on the trailer and found 40 illegal aliens, including three unaccompanied minors. The inside temperature was approximately 109 degrees. Law enforcement also observed coffee grounds scattered around the trailer.

Upon further investigation, authorities identified a location suspected to be the stash house for the illegal aliens. Law enforcement conducted surveillance and stopped a vehicle leaving the house.

Authorities searched the home and found a total of 22 illegal aliens, including more unaccompanied minors.

CBP announces \$46 million rail refresh



U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) unveiled a \$46 million dollar initiative today to enhance the security and efficiency of rail cargo inspections at locations throughout the United States.

Under the initiative, CBP will replace aging rail scanning systems at twelve rail ports of entry on the U.S. southern and northern land borders with high energy rail scanners. The new scanners use linear accelerators to generate X-rays from electricity rather than radioactive isotopes, producing high-quality images that support faster and more secure cargo inspections.

CBP will install the new scanning equipment at the following locations, which process approximately 60 percent of the rail cargo imported into the United States.

The installation and testing of the new scanners are expected to begin in fall 2021 and will increase the efficiency of commercial rail inspections.

Stolen BMW Car Detailed at Ukrain Border



From the Czech Republic to Crimea, the route of the BMW car, which was stopped by border guards of the Kherson BG detachment at the Kalanchak entry-exit check point Ukraine on the administrative border with Crimea.

The inspection revealed that the man was traveling in a foreign car, which was stolen this year in the Czech Republic, and the vehicle was wanted by Interpol. The duty officer of the Ukrainian bureau of Interpol in Kyiv was informed about the car. The car was handed over to the National Police.

In total, since the beginning of the year, as a result of responding to the operation of the Interpol database, officers of the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine have identified 20 stolen vehicles.

Eurojust launches new scheme for urgent JIT funding



To further step up the fight against serious organised cross-border crime, Eurojust is announcing the launch of a new scheme for the urgent funding of the cross-border operational activities of joint investigation teams (JITs). This offers targeted, short-term grants for JITs' urgent and/or unforeseen activities.

Eurojust already provides financial and logistical support to JITs through the regular funding cycle of eight calls for proposals, which are published throughout each financial year. JITs may apply for funding within the set deadlines of one of the eight calls for proposals..

ABF border officials uncover 300kg of ice concealed inside a barbecue shipment



Australian Border Force and NSW Police seized more than \$100 million worth of methylamphetamine hidden inside barbecues and heaters which had been shipped from Thailand.

Police said more than 300kg of ice was discovered in electric barbecues and water heaters which had arrived at Port Botany from Thailand on May 4.

Inside the shipment was 62 large cardboard boxes which, according to their paperwork, claimed to carry food items and electric barbecue grills.

They then searched the boxes and uncovered 316kg of a crystallised substance which was later tested and proven to be methylamphetamine – also known as 'ice'.

Migrant arrivals in northeast Italy up by 20% this year

Authorities in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region in northeast Italy along the border with Slovenia report that from January 1 to May 10, the territory had seen a 20% increase in migrants entering compared with the same period of 2020.

"As concerns immigration, the figures are rising even along the Balkan route. In the the Friuli Venezia Giulia region" of northeastern Italy, along the border with Slovenia, "from the first of January to May 10, we saw a 20% increase on the same period of 2020" of migrant entrances, regional councillor Pierpaolo Roberti said.

He was speaking at a May 12 videoconference meeting of the Security Commission of the Conference of Regions.

"Since it is one of the gates of entrance to Italy, exactly like Sicily, we must arrange quarantine areas for 14 days for those entering our territory," Roberti said.

Iranian police seize over 1 ton drugs in southeastern borders

Second Brigadier General Ahmad Taheri announced anti-narcotics



police forces identified members of an armed and organized drug-trafficking gang who intended to transport a large consignment of narcotics from the border areas to these cities and then to the center of the country.

The smugglers, who were trying to transfer the consignment of drugs by three Peugeots and one truck, tried to escape quickly when they were caught in an ambush by the provincial police forces, he added.

In addition to the arrest of four smugglers, the police forces also confiscated 1,275 kg of narcotics, including 1,255 kg of opium and 20 kg of hashish, Taher noted.

In this operation, two AK-47 and 65 rounds of bullets were also seized, according to the police chief.

Two ISIS militants arrested crossing border from Syria

Iraqi forces arrested two Islamic State (ISIS) militants crossing the border from Syria, one of whom committed crimes against Yazidis, Iraq's security media cell announced.

The ISIS militants were detected with thermal cameras crossing the border from Syria into Iraq, the security media cell said.

One of them was responsible for planting booby-traps in the town of Baaj in Nineveh province, and the other was a so-called leader of raid forces and "participated in the captivity of the Yazidis," it added.

Canadian National Sentenced for Human Smuggling Conspiracy

A Canadian national was sentenced to 32 months in prison for conspiracy to bring undocumented immigrants to the United States for private financial gain in connection with his role in a scheme to smuggle undocumented immigrants from Sri Lanka through the Caribbean and into the United States.

Sri Kajamukam Chelliah, aka Mohan, aka Richie, 55, of Sri Lanka, pleaded guilty on Feb. 24, to conspiracy to bring aliens to the United States for private financial gain. Chelliah admitted to conspiring with others to facilitate the travel of undocumented immigrants from Sri Lanka through Haiti, Turks and Caicos Islands, and the Bahamas to the United States.

During the course of the conspiracy, Chelliah worked with other human smugglers, arranging housing and transport for undocumented immigrants en route to Canada through the United States. Chelliah arranged for the individuals to be transported from the airport in Port Au Prince, Haiti, to a hotel where Chelliah housed and provided them with food. Chelliah then arranged for transportation by boat from Haiti to Turks and Caicos Islands, then to the Bahamas, and then by boat to Miami, Florida. Chelliah accompanied the individuals, including traveling with them by boat during their journey.

The actions undertaken by Chelliah and co-conspirators in furtherance of their smuggling activities were done in exchange for payment.

Migrants reach Spain's Ceuta enclave in record numbers



At least 6,000 migrants have reached Spain's Ceuta enclave from neighbouring Morocco, a record number Spanish officials say.

They say the migrants, who include about 1,500 minors, either swam around the border fences that jut out into the sea or walked across at low tide.

They are said to be mostly from Morocco. Spain says it has already returned some 2,700.

At the other enclave, Melilla, which also marks the border with Morocco, 86 sub-Saharan Africans got in via its southern jetty, despite its formidable border fence, whilst several hundred migrants were blocked.

Most of the migrants are said to be young men, but there were also several families. Many had used inflatable rings and rubber dinghies.

AFRICA BORDER SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

by Igwe Martin, Director Media & Advocacy, WAANSA Nigeria

In 2015 the United Nation outlined 17 life changing goals aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for every one by 2030.

Grateful for this global commitment to work together to ensure no one is left behind, I am constrained to bring to the attention of the world a critical factor that can serve as

obstacles towards the realization of these great goals. While some of these global goals do not have inbuilt strategies to solve border security and trans-border crime, not solving border criminality can be linked to non- realization of these goals. Hence, the urgency of United Nation to double efforts in tackling world border security problems.

1. Sustainable goal 1 (No Poverty)



remains a pipe dream in Africa. Order insecurity has frustrated economic activities in our orders, as private sector motivated economic activities keeps dwindling. Thus, frustrating and threatening the realization of this goal. The numbers of poor people continue to rise in Sub Sahara Africa. Presently, more than a quarter of hungry live on African continent. www.worldbank.org

2. While the United sustainable goal 2 is to fight against hunger, Trans-border criminality has increased farmers/herders clashes, kidnapping, cattle rustling, frustrating agricultural activities thereby exacerbating hunger. Experts have warned that areas like the Sahel region may face catastrophe unless action is taken to improve agriculture. Somalia and Southern Sudan have been proclaimed a hunger emergency by UN, IN 2017, 28 Countries in Africa depended on food Aid (Food Agricultural Organization).

3. In some Northeast states despite

frantic effort to curtail insurgency in border communities the ratio of patient to a doctor remains more than 1/ 5000. Health workers are victims of kidnapping and often time killed. Presently, Sub-Saharan African Countries has the highest infant mortality rate 1 out of 11 children dies before their 5th birthday. Covid 19 pandemic which sneaked through our borders has left thousands of children orphans. The conflict in Ethiopia; Tigray region is presently worsening health situations in Aksum an ancient city once declared as world heritage by UNESCO.

4. Conflicts have caused the diversion of resources for educational development. Cross border criminals kidnap school children and cross with them. Presently, the number of girl child out of school has increased to 3 million in Sub-Saharan Africa. The fear of being kidnapped by these trans- border unknown gun men has made parents to keep their kids out of school. 59 million children

between the ages of 15-17 work instead of go to school.

5. Empowering women and girls to take control of their lives is a panacea to the realization of the SDGs. In Africa, women are still subjected to harmful practices, women are used as suicide bombers, drug peddlers by these trans-border criminal actors. International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance reports that it will be difficult to achieve global goal of gender parity come 2030.

6. The combinations of climate change, continuous infiltration of illegal migrant herders have increased resource ownership conflict. Dryness of Sahara has made herders move, open human defecation, animal waste, increasing the number of people without safe drinking water to a staggering 320 million population in Africa lacks access to water and sanitation.

7. Energy is central to almost every developmental challenge but insurgency has disrupted coordinated effort to realize affordable and clean energy. No doubt trans-border criminals vandalize infrastructure around the borders and discourage potential investors who have interest to compliment the efforts of the government to guarantee clean affordable energy.

8. A high number of young dependents make economic prosperity almost impossible. Many youths die daily in the hands of

human trafficking cartels, thus, directly undermining the engine room of the African economy. Sustainable development goals remain a ruse without a gainfully employed youth population.

9. The Lake Chad, basin that borders Nigeria, has suffered great loss in infrastructure and Industries, due to acts of insurgency. Construction and innovation is hampered by trans- border conflicts. In Nigeria for example, railway engineers changed some rail tracks because the initial design passed through communities with conflicts at their borders.

10. Global human traffickers, drug peddlers, explore the inequality presently. In Nigeria for example, OXFAM reports confirms that the combined wealth of 2 Nigerians which is up to \$29.9 billion could end extreme poverty at the National level. In Ghana, one of the richest men earns more in a month than one of the poorest women can earn in 1,000 years.

11. According to world wild fund for nature, one of the main causes of habitat loss is land for human habitation. This pressure has increased due to conflicts in many countries in Africa compounded by climate change.

12. There cannot be responsible consumption and production in conflict inflicted areas. Responsible consumption and production of food have been hampered by border conflicts. In Northern Mali which

produces majority of livestock, rice, wheat and sorghum for the entire country has greatly been hurt by conflict. Adamawa and Borno States in Nigeria are states worse hit by 'boko haram' insurgency. Agricultural activities have been drastically affected as human mobility reduced due to fear being exposed to danger.

13. Climate change is causing a growing negative impact on the African continent; hitting the most vulnerable and contributing to food insecurity and displacement. Trans-border criminality goes beyond human trafficking and proliferation of arms and light weapons, it extends to utilization of porous borders to smuggle assorted industrial waste, toxic materials which increases ocean toxification and marine pollution till date.

14. From Northeast Nigeria to Mali, Southern Sudan, Ethiopia borders, the number of internally displaced persons continue to rise due to trans-border conflicts. Victims of conflict in the name of several relocate to forest, destroy bushes. This cause severe damage to natural habitat and life on land.

15. PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTION have eluded African communities before the sustainable development Goals were initiated. No thanks to border conflicts from Mali, to Central African Republic, Sahel Regions, conflict remain African Biggest Challenge, (Relief Web) and development cannot be achieved in

a conflict society. Institution remains weaken due to lack of funding and inadequate training.

16. Promoting international trade and helping developing countries increase their export are the gains of sustainable goal.

17. Banditry, conflict political instability and insurgency is yet to make African feel the impact of partnership for development.

When Sustainable Development Goals were born at the United Nation Conference on Sustainable development in Rio De Janeruo, Japan in 2012 and adopted in 2015. The purpose was to produce a set of Universal goals that would help combat urgent environmental, and Economic Challenges facing the world. Protecting our borders from illegal movement of weapons, drugs, contraband and people while promoting lawful trade, travels deploying well trained personnels and technology can complement effort towards the realization of all the seventeen Sustainable development Goals. In the face of impossible odds those who love their country can change it.

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**BORDER SECURITY
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OTHER WEBINARS

Webinar: Trends, Threats and Securing Extended Land Borders

Weds 16th June - 9am EST / 2pm UK / 3pm CET

For more details and to register visit www.border-security-report.com/webinars

CONSIDERING AEROSTAT OPERATIONS

Recent years have seen a significant growth of interest in the use of aerostats as solutions to long-loitering observation and border monitoring applications.

by Stuart Haycock, Airborne Operations

While aerostats undoubtedly have significant advantages in this application, there is often a lack of understanding in the broader issues surrounding the selection of the most appropriate system to use, and the longer term requirements in their operation and support. Lighter-than-air (LTA) systems have been used for many decades, and still offer unrivalled performance in their field.

The plethora of different systems offered by suppliers all have their own advantages, but this article

hopes to provide some guidelines in the various types and their applications. There are four key factors that will determine the optimum solution for your mission. These are 1) What you want to carry, 2) How high you want to take it, 3) Where in the world you are, and 4) How you want to retrieve the data from your payload. To begin the process of selecting a system, profiling your mission in these terms is the first step.

Understanding the threats you face, and the tools available to

combat them is key to selecting an aerostat system. Where the threat is, the data you need to identify it, and the tools required to interpret that data will all provide you with the parameters for selecting the optimum solution.

Aerostats can operate with wide range of payloads including cameras, radar and an expanding selection of electronic surveillance devices. From Infra red to ultra-violet, there are camera solutions to meet all requirements, from detecting incursions, to pollution monitoring. Geo-location and object tracking have become standard features on most of these systems, but the higher the quality and the more sophisticated the solution, the heavier it tends to be. Inroads in this area have been considerable, and performance is advancing rapidly, so designing your system for easy upgrade makes sense. Communication location and interception is also becoming lighter and more capable, so mixed payloads will provide a much richer picture of the world around you. Since weight is the enemy of any LTA system, select carefully to maximise your operational efficiency. Many of the tools you need might already be in use in other sections of your security toolbox, and it makes sense to go with commonality for ease of maintenance and support.

The higher you fly, the further you can see, but this also requires a more capable and consequentially heavier payload. From an altitude



of 1000m, you will have a view to the horizon of over 100km. However, when flying at 1000m, the aerostat is not only lifting its own weight and that of the payload, but is now also lifting a longer tether, and this too must be part of the overall consideration. Finding the optimum altitude for operation is the product of a number of these factors, and each one can have a significant impact on the design of the system. A lightweight camera can let you go higher, but will not provide the resolution at full range to render it useful. Matching the payload to the mission is key, but it is important to understand the limitations of the platform.

Among the factors that will impact on your choices, the region and the climate for operations is one of the most important. The higher your launch site, and higher you want to fly, the larger the aerostat needed. Like other aircraft, hot and high operations require more power, which in the case of an aerostat is its lift gas. Air pressure

and temperature both have a significant impact on the lift gas, so understanding these issues will assist your selection. Helium expands with both altitude and temperature, so the system must be designed to accommodate that expansion and still meet your operational needs. Systems must be selected to operate in the worst-case scenario, so your mission profile will be an important factor.

Once you have determined the location, and chosen your payload parameters, there are a number of options for getting power to your payload, and the data from it back to the ground. Most commonly used is the complex tether that can contain both power conductors and optical fibres for data. The alternatives are batteries and radio links. Both add weight to the payload, but the complex tether facilitates far longer loitering times at the expense of that increased weight. Increasingly advanced radio links are suitable for tactical systems, so the planned mission

duration is key to the selection of power and data methodology.

There are many types of aerostats available these days, from the smallest spherical systems to the larger pressurised aerostats, and the common factors they all share are that they use helium as a lifting gas, and are tethered to a base of some sort. In relation to their lifting capacity and duration, they always offer a very low cost option for carrying cameras, radars and other electronic surveillance sensors to altitude.

Smaller spherical systems, even when fitted with a stabilising net, are the least stable type, and while their spherical shape is the most efficient for lift, it provides the lowest level of stability. Larger systems are based on variants of the traditional blimp design with fins and a rudder to provide both stability, and to ensure that they weathercock into the wind. These larger aerostats also generate aerodynamic lift which contributes further to their stability. As with other forms of aircraft, the most critical phases of operation are launch and recovery, where turbulent low-level winds are most likely to buffet the system. In overall terms, when carrying an expensive and sensitive military payload, the docility of the system in the launch and recovery phases is very important.

In terms of size, there are several factors that will impact on the system the client needs to select.

The most important are the weight of the payload, and the height at which it is to be operated. As previously noted, currently, all aerostats use helium as their lift gas, though small inroads are being made in returning to hydrogen. The lift capacity of helium in very general terms, is one kilogram per cubic metre, and while this changes with temperature and pressure, as a general rule of thumb this ratio makes calculations easier. The weight you have to consider is not just the payload and its power and data management systems, but also that of the aerostat itself, and the weight of its tether it is lifting when at altitude.

The helium lifting gas will expand or contract in response to changes in both altitude and temperature, so the design must accommodate this. Most modern aerostats require a pressure management system to maintain the shape of the aerostat as the gas expands and contracts, and to accommodate wind conditions.

Until the use of hydrogen becomes widespread, the standard lift gas is still helium. Helium is not a renewable resource, but is a by-product of exploration of other materials. While there have been significant fluctuations in supply over recent years, the supply situation is gradually improving, but at the same time, the number of industries using helium in processes from semiconductor production to



MRI medical scanners, there is an increasing demand on the suppliers. The rising cost of helium and limited supply means that designing the most efficient aerostat system is key to ensuring the long term viability of the system. An oversized aerostat may provide spare capacity to add payload in the future, but will pay the price of higher helium use and consumption.

Operating and maintaining LTA systems is not very different to operating other forms of aircraft since all require regular inspection and maintenance, with facilities required to respond to damage, component replacement and payload support. Aerostats can be large, so hangars and access

equipment will form part of any committed system introduction. The suppliers approach to modular power and data systems, and to repair and maintenance requirements will also impact on both the long term cost of operation, and its reliability.

It is important to remember that all aerostats require monitoring 24/7. While most can be launched and recovered by a crew of three to five individuals, they still present a hazard to air traffic, especially in the even of a breakaway, so require constant monitoring to ensure that they are performing safely throughout the mission profile. Decisions regarding the appropriate window for launch and recovery, and the weather limitations of

operations require comprehensive training, and a detailed understanding of the system itself. Another key to effective operations is therefore the quality of training that your operations team have, and whether it is conducted at the suppliers base, or preferably on your own operational site, selecting the right crew, and the quality of the training program will have a significant impact on the effectiveness of the mission.

In summary, the key to planning and implementing successful aerostat systems depends largely on you, the customer having a comprehensive understanding your mission, in the context of the advantages and the limitations of aerostat systems. As the user, the

deeper your understanding of your needs, the better able you will be to select the most effective solution. Every supplier will claim to have a solution, and purchasing without a comprehensive understanding of your specific mission requirements can result in some very expensive mistakes. Knowing in detail what you need will prepare you for seeking out focussed quotations and tenders.



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.



Combating Maritime Crime in Comoros



Comoros is strategically situated within the Indian Ocean's Mozambican channel, nestled between Madagascar and Mozambique. This Small Island Developing State (SIDS) sits along the ocean's Southern Route; placing it at a prime advantage for maritime trade, but also squarely within the heroin and wildlife trafficking route between Africa and Asia.

Recent data sourced by UNODC reveals that the amounts of heroin seized along the Indian Ocean trafficking route have more than doubled over 2018 and 2019, with the island State of Comoros sitting right at the heart of this strategic passage between the two continents. Wildlife trafficking has also seen a boon due to widespread poverty in the region and an increase in the demand for exotic animal products from abroad, fueling the poaching of African wildlife.

The island state is highly dependent on the ocean as a means of sustenance, and its primarily coastal population is often employed in the fishing industry. This is what led the nation to delineate the Comoros' Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), a vast expanse of water whose maritime boundaries border with those of the Seychelles, Mozambique, Tanzania, Madagascar and Mayotte.

The challenges in patrolling such an extensive territory cannot be understated, particularly when Comoros population is dependent on the trade and fishing industries flourishing within the borders of the EEZ. To protect this most precious resource from maritime crime, in 2020 the State embarked on a thorough review of the outdated Penal Code; to continue build on their successes in terms of maritime trade and industry by strengthening its primary legal framework.

To incorporate the Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) into its new national legislation, Comoros sought out the assistance of the UNODC Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP). By February 2021, with UNODC's legal and technical support, the country promulgated the new Penal Code; amending specific provisions on maritime crimes, in a bid to align these with international law.

PRODUCT FOCUS

BORDER SECURITY REPORT

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

As SITA marks 25 years in the border security business, Tony Kingham interviews Jeremy Springall to discuss SITA's past, present and future!

PRODUCT FOCUS

BORDER SECURITY REPORT

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BORDER MANAGEMENTS ANNUAL GATHERING

EVENT PREVIEW



NEW DATES

5th-7th OCTOBER 2021
Athens, Greece

www.world-border-congress.com

In view of the ongoing challenges created by the global coronavirus pandemic, and in consultation with our local and international partners and sponsors, we have regretfully taken the decision to postpone World Border Security Congress to 5th-7th October 2021.

This is to ensure that as many of the delegates from around the world that have already registered to attend, will be able to, ensuring a successful and productive event.

Unfortunately, this action was unavoidable, and we really appreciated the patience, support and understanding of all those involved.

We are delighted that the Ministry of Migration and Asylum for Greece has concurred with this decision and plans to join us for the rescheduled Congress.

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

Unprecedented national lockdowns and border closures have happened the world over and new technologies have been rushed into service.

Changes in the traveller information requirements have been put in place unilaterally by individual countries and

Co-hosted by:



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.

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

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

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of Airport and Seaport Police



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

AFRICAN UNION ECOSOCC WORKSHOP

MIGRATION - CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN AFRICA



**Tuesday 5th October 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



CONGRESS PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 5TH OCTOBER

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 6TH OCTOBER

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: 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.

BSRBCC (Baltic Sea Region Border Control Cooperation) – A model for long term cross-border cooperation – Hans-Peter Wagner, National Expert, Senior Chief Inspector, Federal Police, Germany

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 Ashraful 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, Cellebrite

Addressing the challenge of land and sea borders

Nicholas Phan, Market Manager Border Control and Passenger Flow Facilitation, IDEMIA

Now Is The Time For The Right Kind of RADAR At Borders

Senior Representative, 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 7TH OCTOBER

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

Image Manipulation Attack Resolving Solutions (iMARS) - Christoph Busch, Member of the Board at European Association for Biometrics

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 Junaïd 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 5TH OCTOBER – 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



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Veridos reaches halfway point and first results in D4FLY project

Two years ago, the EU-funded "D4FLY" project started, with the aim of improving document and identity verification techniques at border-crossing points.



One of the objectives is to speed up the border control process for travelers while ensuring high verification accuracy and security. In addition to contributing to several work packages, Veridos is the overall coordinator of the project. At the halfway point of the project, D4FLY has achieved its first positive results, despite challenges due to the ongoing pandemic.

Passport control can be a time-consuming and stressful process for travelers and border control officers alike. The D4FLY project, which is funded by the EU research framework program Horizon 2020, is therefore researching new solutions for innovative identity verification at

border crossings.

Veridos has been coordinating the project since 2019, working with 18 partners, including representatives from border control authorities, universities, research institutes, and industrial companies. The vision is a seamless on-the-fly border control solution that allows faster identity verification with high accuracy.

One focus area covers the evaluation and advancement of biometric technologies such as iris verification "on the move", 3D face image verification, and somatotype analysis based on a full-body image.

3DX-Ray has announced a contract for the sale of a ThreatScan®- LS1 x-ray scanner system to the German Customs Service

The conventional EOD role for these systems is for identifying hidden Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) but they also have an important role in customs and border security.



The ThreatScan®-LS1 flat screen scanner is a highly portable, flexible and powerful tool that allows border officers to rapidly and safely inspect vehicle tyres, fuel tanks, doors and other internal spaces within a vehicle, without having to gain access to that vehicle. Each system consists of a portable I-Gen x-ray generator, a detection panel and an operator's workstation running 3DX-Ray's market-leading image processing software.

The advantage of the I-Gen generator used in the ThreatScan system is that it has 360 degrees of rotation, on an adjustable stand and rubber feet, meaning the

operator is able to place the I-Gen on any horizontal surface of a vehicle or trailer and change the angle of the scan.

ThreatScan® is lightweight, incredibly thin and has a large imaging area of 600 x 460mm, enabling large areas to be scanned. This system can penetrate up to 34mm of steel at 120kV while producing high quality, sub-millimetre resolution images.

ThreatScan® can also be used to inspect suspect bags and packages in border transit areas, such as ports, rail and bus stations, airports and vehicle check points.

SITA marks a 25-year milestone in border management

SITA, today celebrates the 25th anniversary of its border management business, a journey that started in 1996 in readiness for the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney..



A quarter of a century on, SITA's border solutions are used by over 60 governments to seamlessly process two billion border crossings every year.

SITA's extensive knowledge and experience in serving the air transport industry includes delivering solutions and services for airlines, airports, and on aircraft. This has enabled the organization to diversify its portfolio over the last few decades into border management and security for governments worldwide with significant success.

Jeremy Springall, VP of SITA AT BORDERS, said: "We're immensely proud to celebrate this 25-year milestone for our borders business. We started our journey in 1996 in

Australia and since then our border solutions have processed over seven billion transactions. Our business is focused on the safe movement of people. Whether it is major events such as the Olympic Games in Sydney, the FIFA World Cup in South Africa, or a family going on holiday, we have been there to make it easier and more secure."

It is this expertise, as well as leveraging SITA's wider air transport industry experience, that has enabled SITA to support governments with the latest challenges following the COVID-19 pandemic. SITA's Health Protect solution was developed rapidly this year to help countries safely manage their borders.

Aeronautics Group introduces its Orbiter 4 small tactical UAS, capable of performing long-range, long-endurance maritime patrol missions

The Orbiter 4's high-performance EO/IR and MPR payloads are ideal for maritime monitoring, gas and oil rigs protection, illegal activity tracking, and search & rescue.



It has already been fully integrated into the operational environment of navy vessels, and meets the requirements of navy operations.

With the Orbiter 4, Aeronautics continues the evolution of its Orbiter product line of small tactical UAS, delivering top mission performance with the lightest, most versatile, and most advanced covert platform available today. Based on the successful aerodynamic structure and properties of the Orbiter 3 STUAS, the Orbiter 4's exclusive abilities include endurance of over 24 hours, and the ability to carry and

operate multi payloads simultaneously.

With advanced image processing capabilities, automatic takeoff and recovery system, and the ability to navigate with or without GPS/ datalink, Orbiter 4 delivers superior performance capabilities, operational flexibility and cost-effectiveness in a small tactical UAS that is unique in its category. Airstrip independent, it is able to take-off and land on any type of vessel. Operated by only three personnel, it is easy to use, maintain, and carries a low logistical footprint.

Raytheon Intelligence & Space to deploy airport screening equipment nationwide for TSA

Raytheon Intelligence & Space, a Raytheon Technologies will expand the deployment of checked baggage screening equipment to all federally managed airports nationwide under a five-year, \$318 million contract with the Transportation Security Administration.



Through its longstanding partnership with TSA on critical passenger baggage screening and security procedures, Raytheon Intelligence & Space was previously responsible for installing new and upgrading existing checked

baggage screening equipment in 155 airports in the Central U.S. region. Under this contract, the scope will expand to all of the approximately 430 federal airports across the country.

Elbit Systems Completes Acceptance Tests for Hellenic Coast Guard Combat Suites

Elbit Systems has announced that it successfully completed the acceptance tests for new patrol vessels of the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG). In March 2019, the Company reported that it was awarded a contract from Cantiere Navale Vittoria SpA to supply combat suites and perform systems' integration for the new patrol vessels of the HCG.



The acceptance tests were conducted in the Aegean maritime arena and included integration level tests of the combat systems

and subsystems onboard the vessels as well as live firing tests from the onboard Remote Controlled Weapon Stations.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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- Dr 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 Salzgeber, Director, INTERPOL Washington
- Tatiana Kotlyarenko, Adviser on Anti-Trafficking Issues, OSCE
- James Garcia, Assistant Director, Cargo & Biometrics – Global Targeting Advisory Division National Targeting Center – U.S. Customs and Border Protection
- Valdecy Urquiza, Assistant Director – Vulnerable Communities – INTERPOL General Secretariat
- Hans Peter Wagner, National Expert, Senior Chief Inspector, Federal Police
- Mile Milenkowski, Senior adviser, Department for borders, passports and overflights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of North Macedonia
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