

BORDER SECURITY REPORT

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THE JOURNAL OF BORDER SECURITY AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME FOR THE WORLD'S BORDER
PROTECTION, / MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY INDUSTRY POLICY-MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS

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Offshore Migrant Processing: Does it Work, Will it Work?



Mass migration, and how to deal with it remains a divisive subject right across the western world. It's probably the most politically charged and contentious subject of a generation. It has the power to make and break political careers and political parties, and after the economy, migration is probably the issue that generates some of the most heated discourse amongst citizens.

The two issues are in fact inextricably linked, for good and bad, depending on your standpoint. For some, too many migrants are part of the problem, taking jobs, stretching resources such as housing, health care, schools etc. Whilst for others, migrants are part of the solution, filling the jobs that westerners don't want to do, bringing new skills and expanding the tax base for an aging western population.

And of course, as in most things, the answer is not black and white, but grey, both things true simultaneously. Most people accept that migrants are needed if western economies are to continue to grow and prosper, but it is how to deal with 'illegal' migrants, around which most of the argument swirls.

As the UK government struggles to put its 'Rwanda Plan' for processing illegal migrants offshore, into effect, other EU states and even the EU itself are beginning to look at versions of the plan

as a possible solution to illegal migration.

But will they work?

Australia, the pioneer of offshore processing, had the advantage of being able to divert migrant vessels straight to PNG and Nauru. Initially they found it to be effective, but over time it has become incredibly expensive as a result of multiple legal challenges and compensation claims.

The UK has no such advantage, so migrants will still need to be housed and processed initially in the UK before being flown to Rwanda for full processing. The legal problems the UK government has experienced until now, just in trying to get the scheme off the ground, will be but nothing to the challenges they will face if they ever get it going at all. And if Denmark, Austria, Germany and others follow suit, the likelihood is the results will be the same.

The jury is also out on the Biden administration set up of immigration processing centres in Colombia, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Ecuador. I'm still not convinced by the 'provide legal routes' to solve the problem argument, as there is no evidence that it has any effect on traffickers, economic migrants and those queue jumpers that believe they stand a better chance if they can just get across the border.

It would seem to me that the only current scheme that stands any real chance of working is Italy's agreement with Albania. It has the advantage of redirecting migrant traffic from the Mediterranean directly to Albania and Albania are really motivated to make it work, as their EU membership application, which Italy could veto, may well be riding on it.

Only time will tell!

Tony Kingham
Editor

New IOM Strategic Plan: Saving Lives, Driving Solutions, Facilitating Regular-Migration Pathways



The International Organization for Migration (IOM) launched its global five-year strategic plan aimed at delivering on the promise of safe, orderly, and regular migration while supporting the world's most vulnerable.

The plan – which will guide the Organization's activities through 2028 – was developed after extensive internal consultations, including with migrants themselves, as well as dialogue with Member States, with other partners and other United Nations agencies.

"The evidence is overwhelming that migration benefits communities around the globe, yet climate change, conflict and growing inequality are making the migration landscape more complex and challenging," IOM Director General Amy Pope said at the launching event of the strategic plan held 10 January in Chad's capital, N'Djamena. "This plan is designed to meet those challenges so migration can be a full and powerful force for development, prosperity and progress."

The strategic plan sets out three overarching goals:

- Saving lives and protecting people on the move, a core function of IOM's broad and global humanitarian work
- Driving solutions to displacement, with IOM combining its data and expertise to proactively address crises before they get wider and more expensive.

- Facilitating pathways for regular migration, which will help migration become safer and more orderly and dismantle the incentives for smuggling, trafficking, exploitation, and abuse.

IOM's new global strategic plan emphasizes reducing the risks and impacts of climate change, which evidence shows is now the top driver of migration. It also aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, because migration is integral to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

IOM launched the plan in Chad, a nation facing many of the complex migration trends IOM is attempting to address. Conflict in neighbouring Sudan has displaced more than 7 million people, many of whom have fled to Chad. This displacement, magnified by the effects of climate change and entrenched poverty, is a significant humanitarian crisis that needs much greater global attention.

Building on IOM's 70-plus years of experience, the strategic plan applies innovative thinking and technology to help migrants, their families, communities, and societies flourish.

"There is not a corner of the globe that is not touched by, or is in some way invested in, the issue of migration," DG Pope said. "This new Strategic Plan enables IOM to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow while enabling us to continue to do what we do best: help people in need."



THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT IN NORTH AFRICA

*By Major Colonel: Salah Sakli,
former National Guard of the
Tunisian Republic Land Border
Directorate.*

There is no doubt that conflicts and violence in various parts of the world in recent years have exacerbated the security and socio-economic development problems facing many states.

And due to the process of globalization and the spread of technology, profound changes in the nature and scale of border risks and threats have been taking place all over the world,

And one of the main trends is the diversification of illicit activities in which organized crime groups

engage and which are mainly played out at borders, as well as the increase in the number of countries and regions affected by this transnational phenomenon.

As far as North Africa is concerned, there is no shortage of challenges and threats on the borders of this strategic region, where the North African frontiers are supposed to be closed, but in reality they are not, being practically permeable and porous.

Armed with tools designed for the pre-Arab Spring environment,

Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt face a complex new world of transnational actors exploiting their borders for profit and as a safe haven.

The magnitude and multiplicity of the challenges and threats linked to border management in North Africa generally materialize in the spectre of a rapprochement between terrorism and organized crime, as well as in the social tension and political violence that are being played out at the borders and seem to be taking shape day by day at regional and continental level.

Terrorism has become a growing regional threat, operating mainly in border areas, and is supported by complex organizations combining religious doctrine and criminal networks, which in turn share the same deadly ideology and desire for expansion.

Cross-border crime has taken on many forms, all of which threaten the stability of the region.

One flow of contraband in particular - prohibited products such as petroleum and even subsidized foodstuffs - has reached such a proportion that its sales value exceeds the national security budget of many countries in the region.

The transformation of North Africa into a transit region for narcotics traffickers from other parts of the world to Europe has created an airlift, encouraging new players to get involved in the trade, and subordinate players to take ever greater risks in order to expand.

As a result, the use of drugs



- particularly cannabis, but also cocaine, heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants - has spread to large sections of the North African population, and become a public health and safety problem throughout the region.

The impact of trafficking in arms, ammunition, explosives and other sensitive materials on the region's security is, in turn, causing considerable concern.

Since 2011, the influx of arms from Libya has posed a serious threat to the stability of all the countries in the region and their neighbors, a threat that seems to have become a reality, particularly in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, Sudan and elsewhere.

In addition, illicit trade is booming in North Africa, posing a pernicious security, economic and fiscal problem for all the countries in the region.

Recent massive migratory movements of economic migrants and asylum seekers have also added to the challenges facing North African states in effectively managing their borders.

Human trafficking, which is a subset of migration, reached its peak in 2018 and 2019, with slave markets mainly in Libya, where individuals were sold from one trafficking organization to another.

Insecure security, radicalism and kidnapping for ransom complete the picture of challenges and threats on North African borders.

In addition to the obvious threat posed by terrorism and transnational crime, the lines between extremist groups and mafia networks operating in and around North Africa are becoming increasingly blurred.

North African states are also hard hit by the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters, whether as countries of origin and transit, or as neighboring states in conflict zones.

And just like criminal networks, terrorist networks have established connections with the world of the border to ensure the recruitment, preparation and departure of jihadists to multiple fronts in the first instance, before working in the second instance to set up reception camps for foreign terrorist fighters



in anticipation of their departure to other conflict zones or their return to North Africa or even Europe to hide, prepare and perpetrate unpredictable attacks.

It is also estimated that advances in communication technologies have opened up new prospects for highly sophisticated crime, and in particular, a significant increase in Internet fraud exploited by terrorists and mafia groups.

This is all the more true given that law enforcement agencies are under-equipped in terms of equipment and manpower, and are often slow to adapt to new trends, whereas organized crime groups know how to adapt and quickly adopt the fruits of technological progress, thanks to the immense profits they derive or expect from their illicit activities.

In some countries, the profits from certain criminal activities are large

enough to buy the complicity of officials employed in the highest spheres of government, undermining governance and security at national, regional and even international level.

The insecurity inherent in the political system in this region is usually countered by a “security first” approach and centralization of power and resources.

The result is social, economic and

political tensions, aggravated by a political order in most North African countries that is itself a source of insecurity.

This isolates the marginalized population and increases the divisions between powers and populations, particularly in outlying regions.

In fact, border areas in North Africa have always received less political and economic attention than other areas, which has seriously compromised their development and the human security of local populations.

These populations are usually regarded as major players in most illicit activities and, as such, pose a danger to the rest of the region.

This perception has led to the disassociation of border populations and a general stigmatization.

As a result, these populations have suffered limited access to education, healthcare and employment



opportunities: their fundamental rights are often trampled underfoot.

The majority of North Africa's border regions have thus become a social incubator and breeding ground for extremist ideologies.

These challenges and threats are not necessarily in the same order of priority, as this order varies from country to country, but no one can deny that they constitute a permanent source of instability for the whole of North Africa, and that no member country can face them alone.

That said, instead of joining forces to effectively manage transnational security phenomena, the highly disunited countries of North Africa are still favouring a national approach to these threats.

Worse still, their head-in-the-sand policies and the climate of suspicion that reigns between them encourage the proliferation of risks, not least the arms race.



The problem of illegal migration offers an ideal example of the solitary flight forward of North African countries. Perceived as a threat north of the Mediterranean, this phenomenon has always been chaotically managed in the south.

And instead of seeing this transnational problem as a factor in intra-regional cooperation, each state has instead exploited

it to discredit its neighbour, while appearing to be the best guardian of Europe's security.

In the face of such inadequacies, North African countries will remain subcontractors when it comes to border control, and the regional and subregional integration projects that galvanized all the peoples of the region will not advance one iota.

A radical change is therefore needed in North Africa's approach to border management, to make this region a space of peace and shared prosperity, promoted as a common interest and an essential challenge for the entire region. Going it alone should no longer be an option in North Africa.

Indeed, overcoming the border and promoting it as a bridge linking one state to another can offer North Africa an opportunity to give new impetus to the ongoing enterprise of socio-economic integration and the strengthening of regional unity, as well as to efforts to promote



peace, security and stability through structural conflict prevention.

And if North Africans want to be taken seriously abroad, in Europe and around the world, when they speak of peace, rights and equality, they must first achieve peace, integration and, above all, unity within their own region.

In absolute terms, the countries of North Africa have more elements that unite them than disunite them.

With a widely shared language, history, culture and religion, the small number of states that make up North Africa seem perfectly predisposed to at least initiate, and succeed in, a rapprochement in terms of border management.

This objective cannot be achieved unless the countries of the region pool their efforts.

In this pooling, each country must contribute what it can in order to put it at the disposal of its community and that of its neighbouring countries, which should in principle represent the strategic depth of the other, and whose stability must be ensured, not the opposite.

Based on these principles, North African leaders are called upon, first and foremost, to unite their efforts to change laws and policies that have proved ineffective, in collaboration with civil society, which must be fully involved in this process.

A reformulation of border management policies in North Africa, taking into account the ethnic, cultural and socio-economic requirements of the peoples they separate, coupled with a redefinition of the border and its functions by States, could help build one of the best community spaces for peace, security, stability and social cohesion, growth and development.

It is therefore imperative that the North African authorities must therefore implement a regional strategy for the integrated management of their borders, based on a multi-dimensional approach that prioritizes prevention, and provides for joint consultation and response mechanism.

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Eurojust and Panama sign Working Arrangement to step up cooperation against organised crime



Eurojust and the Attorney General of the Republic of Panama, Mr Javier E. Caraballo Salazar, have signed a Working Arrangement today to enable structured and closer cooperation in the fight against organised crime. The agreement formalises Eurojust's existing Contact Points in Panama and ensures closer communication to speed up the execution of judicial cooperation requests on both sides. Panama is the first Latin American country to sign a Working Arrangement with the Agency.

Eurojust President Mr Ladislav Hamran said: "With Panama's rich tradition as a bridge maker between continents in mind, I am delighted to sign into effect the Working Arrangement that will bring closer the European and Panamanian communities of prosecutors and judges. We share a similar criminal threat picture on both sides of the Atlantic as well as the resolve to intensify our joint judicial response. Eurojust therefore looks forward to engaging with colleagues in Panama; for instance, in the fight against organised crime and drug trafficking."

Mr Javier E. Caraballo Salazar, Attorney General of Panama, stated: "The effective fight against organised crime requires an increase in international cooperation, shared experiences, the development of joint investigations, the exchange of information and

best practices, as well as direct, frank and trustworthy communication between justice officials. Eurojust is an international source of reference for this close collaboration in the fight against serious cross-border organised crime, which is why working jointly with Eurojust to disband criminal groups with ties to Panama and Europe is vital to the Office of the Attorney General of Panama.

As the main link between North and South America, Panama remains a very important partner in the fight against serious cross-border crime, with a focus on areas such as money laundering, trafficking of human beings and drug trafficking. The Working Arrangement Agreement, which enters into force today, includes arrangements for the exchange of strategic information and communication with the Contact Point, as well as data protection provisions.

In August 2022, Eurojust signed a Working Arrangement with the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors. The purpose of this working arrangement is to encourage and develop cooperation between the parties in the fight against serious crime affecting the European Union and Latin America, particularly transnational organised crime, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, cybercrime and terrorism.

Eurojust cooperation with third countries

Working Arrangements are only one of the tools of Eurojust's international cooperation.

Eurojust is actively connected with over 70 jurisdictions worldwide through its Contact Point network. These connections enable prosecutors from Member States to establish quick contact and liaise with their counterparts in a third country when a crime extends beyond the European Union's borders.

STRENGTHENING EUROPE'S INTERNAL SECURITY WITH THE EES AND ETIAS

*By Francois Laruelle, Director of the
ETIAS Central Unit Division, Frontex*

In today's interconnected world, ensuring the security and integrity of our borders is paramount. The European Union, with its vast Schengen Area where internal border controls have been abolished, faces unique challenges in this sphere.

As a major travel destination, the EU sees over 700 million border crossings taking place at its external borders each year. Yet, at the same time there is no comprehensive

system to reliably track those entering and exiting, especially for travellers who do not need a visa and who account for approximately half of annual border crossings.

This has posed significant security risks, along with less than effective identification of those without a right to enter or who have remained in the EU beyond the permitted period. The lack of automated border control procedures has made it easier for criminals to use fake identities and

travel documents while putting visa-free travellers at a disadvantage as the lack of advance information of their arrival translates into longer waiting times at borders.

European border management is currently undergoing an unprecedented transformation to address these security gaps thanks to the introduction of the Entry/Exit System (EES) and the European Travel Information and Authorisation System (ETIAS). These ground-breaking initiatives are set to revolutionise the way European borders are managed, and given their magnitude and intricacy, they are undoubtedly among the EU's most ambitious undertakings to date.

Biometric identification at entry and exit

The introduction of the EES in the second half of 2024 represents a significant shift in how the EU processes short-stay travellers at its external borders.

A system for registering non-EU travellers each time they cross the EU's external borders, the EES replaces the manual stamping of passports at borders. When crossing the border for the first time, the travellers will have to register in the EES their names, travel document information, facial images and fingerprints. The registered data will be then verified during subsequent border crossings. The system will also register the date and place of entry and exit every time travellers cross the border.



These measures will have a direct impact on European security. The automated border control procedures will help prevent terrorism or other serious criminal offences. It will also become more difficult for non-admissible persons to enter the Schengen Area as thanks to the EES information about refusals of entry will be available to the national authorities across Europe. Biometric check each time travellers cross the external borders will also allow for a more systematic and effective detection of overstayers.

Given the size of the Schengen Area, the changes introduced by the EES affect more than a small number of people: in 2022 alone, over 141 thousand non-EU nationals were refused entry at the border, while over one million were found to be staying illegally in the EU, according to statistics from Eurostat.

Pre-travel screening of visa-exempt travellers

ETIAS represents another step towards bridging the security gaps at the European external borders. Scheduled to be launched in mid-2025, the system will carry pre-travel screening of visa-free travellers to determine whether they pose a security, illegal immigration or public health risk.

With ETIAS, visa-exempt travellers will be required to apply online for a travel authorisation before starting their short-stay trip to most European countries. Each application will then be automatically cross-checked by the system against other EU security databases, such as the EES, the Schengen Information System, ECRIS-TCN and the Europol database.

If there is a hit against one of the databases, the application will be reviewed by the ETIAS Central Unit



hosted by Frontex – the European Border and Coast Guard Agency – and sent to the relevant ETIAS National Unit located in one of the 30 countries using the system for a further analysis leading to an approval or a rejection of the application.

Once operational, it is estimated that 50-70 million travel authorisation applications will be processed through the system annually. As a result, national border authorities will be able to receive the relevant information on incoming travellers well before they arrive at border crossings.

Combatting identity fraud

Identity and document fraud constitute a key enabler for many other types of cross-border crime, such as trafficking in human beings, smuggling and terrorism. The new EU border management systems will

further strengthen, document and identity control at external borders in order to help secure the Schengen Area.

Take the EES, for instance: with increasingly sophisticated security features of modern passports, criminal networks have changed their methods. Rather than counterfeiting documents, they resort to other forms of document fraud, using genuine passports and impersonating the identity of their legitimate holders. However, with the processing of biometric data, the system will effectively help detect those employing fraudulent identities or passports of lookalike persons.

As the EES and ETIAS are introduced as part of a larger initiative aimed at making the EU's security information systems interoperable (capable of information exchange), it is paramount to

ensure that every individual has only one identity file across different databases. To this end, the EU will crossmatch all biometric and biographic data stored in the information systems, to detect cases of potential identity fraud and to facilitate identity checks for travellers.

This process is called Multiple Identity Detection (MID). It will automatically flag profiles with similarities that require further analysis. The profiles raising concerns will be manually handled by EU and national authorities.

Facilitating travel to Europe

While the new EU border management systems are being developed to maintain a high level of internal security in the EU, they will also help ensure smooth border crossings for travellers.

As a pre-travel screening system, ETIAS will contribute to reducing administrative burdens at borders. Currently border authorities in Europe assess whether visa-exempt travellers pose a security risk only after they have already arrived at the border. ETIAS will allow for the assessment to be carried out before travellers commence their journeys, making their travel easier and more convenient. When travellers arrive at the border, the automated border control procedures brought by the EES will make entering most European countries more efficient. The EES will also make it easier for

short-term visitors to check how long they can still stay in Europe.

However, travellers must be vigilant to ensure trouble-free travel. Whilst the launch of ETIAS is still over a year away, it is troubling to observe the appearance of over 60 fake or unofficial ETIAS websites. Some of these websites are run by genuine businesses, as the use of commercial intermediaries and of other third parties is permitted under the EU regulation establishing the system, others may be acting dishonestly.

Considering that they will be collecting travellers' sensitive data – names, nationality, date of birth, addresses, credit card numbers among others – these websites may pose serious personal data protection concerns and security threats which could range from selling personal data, cloning credit cards information, extorting payments to potential data leaks, document forgery, identity theft and even people smuggling. Some of those websites may also be used by third parties to spread misinformation.

Therefore, the best way to apply for an ETIAS travel authorisation is through the EU's official ETIAS website: europa.eu/etias, which ensures that the submitted information will not be misused.

The introduction of the EES, followed by ETIAS is set to transform travel to Europe. It will



streamline the experience for genuine travellers while making it harder for those who seek to exploit the system for illicit gains or other form of criminal activity. As both systems will also have a profound impact on the way borders in Europe are managed and kept secure, their implementation is a challenging task, requiring seamless coordination among four EU institutions and 30 national authorities. Such collaborative efforts are essential to safeguard the Schengen Area for the safety and well-being of all its residents and visitors alike.

Major bust of a notorious narcotics clan in Spain and Portugal



Europol has supported the Spanish Civil Guard (Guardia Civil) and the Portuguese Judicial Police

(Policia Judiciaria) in a hit against suspected members of a notorious criminal gang known to be involved in drug trafficking in the Galicia region of Spain since the 1980s. This international investigation was also supported by Eurojust. The action day resulted in the arrests of 9 Spanish nationals, 12 house searches in Spain and 1 in Portugal. The arrested individuals are suspected of being involved in drug trafficking operations in the Spanish cities of Pontevedra, Ourense, A Coruña and the Portuguese city of Monção. During earlier actions for this operation, law enforcement authorities seized more than two tonnes of cocaine and various documents, which served as evidence in the investigation.

Crackdown on material designed to ‘educate’ future terrorists

Europol's EU Internet Referral Unit coordinated a Referral Action Day (RAD) on terrorist online content. The operational action also involved special units from Czechia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Finland, Slovakia, Spain and the United Kingdom, and different units at Europol specialised in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear substances and explosives (CBRNE), as well as weapons and explosives. The referral process took place via the PERCI platform and content was

assessed and referred according to participants' national legislation and terms of service.

The referral actions targeted online content, including instruction materials and manuals used by terrorists with various ideological motivations (jihadist, right-wing and left-wing extremist, anarchist, etc). The actions focused on materials comprised of topics related to the means, but also the techniques of committing violent acts: how to prepare and carry out terrorist attacks.

Cryptojacker arrested in Ukraine over EUR 1.8 million mining scheme

The National Police of Ukraine, with the support of Europol, has arrested an individual believed to be the mastermind behind a sophisticated cryptojacking scheme.

A 29-year-old individual was apprehended in Mykolaiv, Ukraine. Three properties were searched to gather evidence against the main suspect. The arrest comes after months of intensive collaboration between Ukrainian authorities, Europol and a cloud provider, who worked tirelessly to identify and locate the individual behind the widespread cryptojacking operation.

The suspect is believed to have mined over USD 2 million (EUR 1.8 million) in cryptocurrencies.

Cryptojacking in a cloud environment is a malicious activity; malicious actors gain unauthorised access to cloud computing infrastructure and use its computational power to mine cryptocurrencies. By stealing cloud resources to mine cryptocurrencies, the criminals can avoid paying the necessary servers and power, the cost of which typically outweighs the profits..



257 suspected migrant smugglers and human traffickers arrested'



An INTERPOL-coordinated operation against people smuggling and human trafficking across the Americas has led to 257 arrests, the rescue of 163 potential

victims and the detection of nearly 12,000 irregular migrants from 69 different countries.

During Operation Turquesa V, authorities in 33 countries carried out more than 850,000 checks at major transit points to disrupt the transnational organized crime groups profiting from smuggling routes to the USA and Canada.

Throughout the five-day operation, INTERPOL set up an Operational Coordination Unit in Costa Rica. Officers from the Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants unit were also deployed to the land border in Tabatinga, Brazil, and to the Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama, where they used INTERPOL Mobile Devices to perform live checks against its global databases.

2,114 seizures of endangered animals and timber in major international law enforcement operation

Customs and police officers coordinated some 500 arrests worldwide and more than 2,000 confiscations of animals and plants that are protected under the : Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) due to their threatened status. Any trade performed in breach of CITES is illegal.

The global operation, named Operation Thunder, involved police, customs, border control, environment, wildlife and

forestry officials in 133 countries who worked together across borders. This marked the highest participation rate in Operation Thunder since the annual law enforcement campaign was launched in 2017.

Among the 2,114 seizures were more than 300kg of ivory, thousands of turtle eggs, 30 tonnes of plants, dozens of big cat body parts and rhino horns, as well as primates, birds and marine species.

USD 300 million seized and 3,500 suspects arrested in international financial crime operation

A transcontinental police operation against online financial crime has concluded with almost 3,500 arrests and seizures of USD 300 million (approx. EUR 273 million) worth of assets across 34 countries.

The six-month Operation HAECHI IV targeted seven types of cyber-enabled scams: voice phishing, romance scams, online sextortion, investment fraud, money laundering associated with illegal online gambling, business email compromise fraud, and e-commerce fraud.

Investigators worked together to detect online fraud and freeze associated bank and virtual asset service provider (VASP) accounts using INTERPOL's Global Rapid Intervention of Payments (I-GRIP), a stop-payment mechanism which helps countries work together to block criminal proceeds.



OSCE provides technical equipment to the General Police Inspectorate of Moldova



The OSCE Transnational Threats Department (TNTD) participated in an event to mark the 33rd anniversary of the Moldovan Police at the invitation of the General

Police Inspectorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. During the event, the police underscored the need for an integrated approach to tackle the hybrid threats Moldova is facing.

TNTD officials handed over technical equipment to strengthen the Moldovan General Police Inspectorate's data and crime analysis capabilities.

"This project has empowered the Inspectorate with the necessary computer equipment and software to support our ability to develop analysis and act. As we combat transnational organized crime, this technology is critical to our operational capacities," said Viorel Cernăuțeanu, Head of the Moldovan General Police Inspectorate upon receiving the equipment.

Criminal intelligence analysis: OSCE delivers training programme for Albanian State Police

The OSCE Secretariat's Transnational Threats Department and the OSCE Presence in Albania delivered in Tirana, Albania a training programme for 40 junior analysts from the Albanian State Police Intelligence and Criminal Archives Directorate.

The analysts learned about the OSCE model of intelligence-led policing and basics of criminal intelligence analysis, focusing on the practical application of a wide range of analytical tools.

"The Albanian State Police considers intelligence-led

policing key to success in the fight against crime and intelligence analysis as one of the most important elements in its police operations. This is why, within the framework of the criminal police reform, we focus on the capacity-building of the police personnel," said Neritan Nallbati, Director of the Criminal Police Department.

The training programme not only laid a solid foundation for improved intelligence-led policing capabilities within the Albanian State Police, but also paved the way for future initiatives.

Cyprus assumes the Chair of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation

January marks the opening session of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) under the Chairpersonship of Cyprus, during which Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Constantinos Kombos outlined the country's priorities for its Chairpersonship.

"We are assuming the Chair of the Forum with a great sense of responsibility and with strong commitment to further promote the knowledge which has emerged from the previous Chairs, in close co-operation with the FSC Troika as well as the Chairpersonship of the OSCE, our good partner Malta. We are fully aware that our Chairpersonship coincides with an extended period of deep reflection, due to Russia's unjustified

war of aggression, which has devastating impacts on its victims, while also gravely affecting the security and stability of our continent and beyond," said Minister Kombos, who underlined the special importance of international law, the rules-based order and multilateralism for Cyprus.



IOM Issues Migration Recommendations to the Belgian and Hungarian EU Presidencies

The IOM has presented recommendations on migration and mobility to the Belgian and Hungarian governments, which will hold the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) in 2024, coinciding with the adoption of the EU's New Pact on Migration and Asylum.

"This is a pivotal moment for the EU to deliver on the promise of migration for partner countries, migrants, economies and societies," said IOM Director General, Amy Pope. "We encourage the EU and its Member States to keep migrant rights and workable solutions at the heart of

policy and practice."

In its recommendations, IOM encourages the Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies to ensure that the adoption and implementation of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum leads to more predictable, coordinated and humane response across all dimensions of migration and asylum. Implementation will be key, and IOM is ready to support EU Member States with rights-based and humane application.

International Community Must Not Turn Its Back on World's Largest Displacement in Sudan



The IOM's Director General, Amy Pope, has called on the international community to step-up funding efforts, and to not abandon millions of civilians who bear the brunt of the nine months conflict in Sudan. A coordinated and continued humanitarian response is

urgently needed to address the mounting needs of the world's largest displacement crisis.

More than 7.7 million people have been forced to flee their homes in Sudan since fighting began on 15 April 2023, according to IOM's latest Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) report released on 16 January. Six million of those are displaced within Sudan, while 1.7 million more have fled across borders into neighbouring South Sudan, Chad, Ethiopia, Egypt, the Central African Republic and Libya.

"A ceasefire in Sudan is urgently needed to enable people rebuild their lives with dignity. We must not turn our back on the suffering of millions of people affected by such devastating conflict," IOM Director General, Amy Pope said following her recent visit to Eastern Chad where she saw first-hand the impact of the conflict on displaced people.

IOM Facilitates Safe Voluntary Return of 141 Gambians Migrants Stranded in Tunisia

The IOM has facilitated the voluntary return of 141 stranded Gambian migrants from Tunisia. This marks the highest chartered voluntary return of stranded migrants from the country in a single day, since the establishment of the Organization's operations in the country in 2001.

Most of the migrants, all of whom are men, were stranded in Al Amra and Jebeniana localities of Sfax. Prior to departure, the Organization supported the migrants with registration and documentation services, safe accommodation, health assessments, transportation

assistance, and counselling services.

IOM is scaling up its operational capacity in Tunisia to respond to increasing migrant requests for voluntary return.



Irregular border crossings into EU so far this year highest since 2016



2023 has seen a significant rise in the number of irregular border crossings, which increased by 17% in the first 11 months to reach over 355,300. This number has already

surpassed the entire total for 2022, marking the highest value recorded since 2016.

The Western African route has seen the biggest rise in the number of irregular crossings, which doubled so far this year to over 32,400. This unprecedented rise is the highest since Frontex began collecting data in 2009. The number of arrivals in November jumped over 500% compared to the same month of last year to nearly 4,700.

Frontex's commitment to safeguarding the EU's borders remains steadfast, with nearly 2,600 officers and staff engaged in various operations. Most recently, the agency provided an additional 50 officers to support Finland in handling the unusually high number of arrivals at its Eastern Border with Russia.

Massive seizures at EU's external borders: nearly 16 million illegal cigarettes and almost 108 kilogrammes of narcotic substances detected



The third edition of Joint Action Day (JAD) Finestra 3 – took place focusing on detecting the smuggling of excisable and illegal goods, from cigarettes and raw tobacco to vaping and heated alternatives of the conventional nicotine products. The results yielded

detection of impressive quantities of such products.

The Finestra 3 operation was led by Romania and co-led by Lithuania and Frontex. It aimed at reinforcing cooperation with the Western Balkan and Eastern Partnership countries in the area of border management and cross-border crime detection.

In addition to the detection of the illegal products, the participating officers identified and registered 202 illegal border crossings, 261 refusals of entry, and 17 cases of document fraud. Also, the cooperation between Frontex border guards, national border guards, customs and law enforcement resulted in the recovery of three sniper rifles with optical scopes and seven stolen motor vehicles.

Frontex-Morocco outlining the next steps for closer cooperation

The Executive Director of Frontex, Hans Leijten, visited Rabat with an aim to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the country's border management authorities.

The visit took place in the framework of the Frontex-Morocco Comité Mixte, co-chaired together with Mr Khalid Zerouali, Wali, Director of Migration and Border Surveillance at the Ministry of Interior of Morocco. The objective of the Comité Mixte – an annual gathering –

is to agree on a roadmap for joint activities, which in 2024 both Sides intend to focus on cooperation on risk analysis, exchanges of knowledge and good practices in the areas of return and reintegration, cross-border crime, and coast guard functions, as well as the shared efforts to protect the most vulnerable at the borders.



Tackling major organised drug crime top priority for Belgian EU Presidency



The Belgian Presidency of the Council of the European Union will put a particular focus on tackling serious organised drug-related crime. Special attention will be paid to the use of logistic hubs for this type of cross-border crime and, more specifically, how to combat drug trafficking via major ports. The Presidency will also prioritise the importance of victims' rights and small-scale detention as an alternative to prisons for small groups of offenders with short sentences.

Commenting on the priorities of the Belgian EU Presidency, Ms Hilde Vandevoorde, National Member for Belgium at Eurojust, said: 'The Belgian Presidency has put forward different priorities that are of direct importance in the daily work of the judicial practitioners. Tackling large-scale drug-related organised crime groups using logistic hubs and, more specifically, large ports is the top priority. As this crime type always has a major cross-border aspect, the role of Eurojust is essential in helping EU Member States and third countries to cooperate.'

Belgium currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the EU until 30 June 2024. With regard to major drug-related cross-border crime, during the Belgian Presidency Eurojust will work closely with its judicial partners in third countries, from which large-scale illicit exports of drugs take place. For this purpose, the Agency can build on a network of over 70 Contact Points worldwide and its counterparts in Latin America.

These include, in particular, the Association of Ibero-American Public Prosecutors (AIAMP) and the Ibero-American Network of International Legal Cooperation

(IberRED). In view of extending cross-border judicial cooperation, the European Commission is negotiating international agreements with Argentina, Brazil and Colombia, which will further enable collaboration via Eurojust.

In its priorities for judicial cooperation during its Presidency, Belgium will also underline the role of small-scale detention as an alternative to prisons. Across Belgium, around 700 spaces will be created in small-scale detention for prisoners who have received up to three years of imprisonment as a sentence.

For groups of 20 to 60 offenders per centre, a programme has been set up to work on their reintegration and abilities to live independently. For the Belgian authorities, the detention houses play a major role in preventing prisoners from committing new offences.

During the Presidency, the importance of victims' rights will also be highlighted. Victims' rights play an essential cross-cutting role in the judicial process in Belgium, and to promote the international dimension a dedicated symposium will be held at Eurojust in April this year.

An estimated 15 % of European citizens fall victim to crime every year, with Eurojust also focusing specifically on the importance of their interests in judicial proceedings.

The Belgian Presidency will also concentrate on pending legal initiatives, which are currently still being discussed with the European Parliament, particularly those concerning trafficking in human beings, violence against women and the transfer of proceedings.



SAFEGUARDING NORTH AFRICA : A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO COMBATTING SYNTHETIC DRUG MENACE

By Adnane Kaab, a former senior officer at the Royal Moroccan Air Forces and holds a PhD in International Law.

The US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken Opening Remarks at a Virtual Ministerial Meeting to Launch the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drugs on July 7, 2023 :

« According to the United Nations, more than 34 million people around the world use methamphetamines or other synthetic stimulants annually. (..) The criminal organizations that traffic synthetic drugs are extremely adept at exploiting weak links in our interconnected global system (..) When one government aggressively restricts the precursor chemical,

traffickers simply buy it elsewhere. When one country closes off a transit route, traffickers quickly shift to another. This is the definition of a problem that no country can solve alone. That's why we're creating this global coalition.».

This strategic plan addresses the growing threat of synthetic drug trafficking along the borders of North African countries. Spearheaded by a coalition led by the United States, the initiative combines legal and enforcement measures with proactive prevention and

rehabilitation strategies. On the legal front, the plan advocates for a comprehensive legal framework, specialized task forces, and international collaboration to disrupt the supply chain and dismantle transnational networks. Simultaneously, prevention and rehabilitation initiatives, including public awareness campaigns, school-based education, and community support networks, aim to fortify resilience and reject synthetic drug use within border communities. This multidimensional approach recognizes the intricate dynamics of the synthetic drug trade, emphasizing the crucial role of border security specialists in safeguarding the region against this evolving menace.

Introduction

In response to the escalating challenges posed by synthetic drug trafficking, particularly along the borders of North African countries, a strategic coalition has been formed, spearheaded by the United States. Recognizing the transnational nature of the synthetic drug trade and its implications for regional stability, this collaborative initiative seeks to fortify border security through a multifaceted approach. By leveraging the expertise and resources of various nations, this coalition aims to not only enhance legal and enforcement measures but also to implement targeted prevention and rehabilitation strategies. This comprehensive plan is tailored to address the intricate dynamics of synthetic drug trafficking, emphasizing the crucial



role of border security specialists in safeguarding the region against this evolving menace.”

1/ Legislation and Law Enforcement :

Border security is at the forefront of the fight against synthetic drug trafficking, demanding a robust legal framework, specialized task forces, and international collaboration. This section delineates a comprehensive plan to fortify legislation and law enforcement efforts in curbing the menace along North Africa's borders.

a/ Legal Framework:

The foundation of an effective strategy against synthetic drug trafficking lies in the augmentation of existing legal frameworks. The legislative landscape must be agile, capable of adapting to the evolving nature of synthetic substances. It is imperative to define and categorize synthetic drugs with precision, ensuring that the legal framework is comprehensive enough to encompass emerging variations. Legislators should work in tandem

with border security experts and legal professionals to draft laws that address production, distribution, and trafficking, taking into account the unique challenges posed by synthetic drugs.

Penalties play a pivotal role in deterrence. Therefore, the legal framework must stipulate severe consequences for individuals involved in synthetic drug-related activities. This includes not only the traffickers but also those engaged in the production, financing, and facilitation of these illegal operations. Additionally, legal provisions should allow for the confiscation of assets acquired through illicit activities, providing a strong disincentive for involvement in the synthetic drug trade.

b/ Specialized Task Forces:

Border security demands a specialized and well-equipped task force dedicated to combating synthetic drug activities. These units should operate at the forefront of intelligence gathering, employing advanced technology and analytical skills to identify emerging trends and

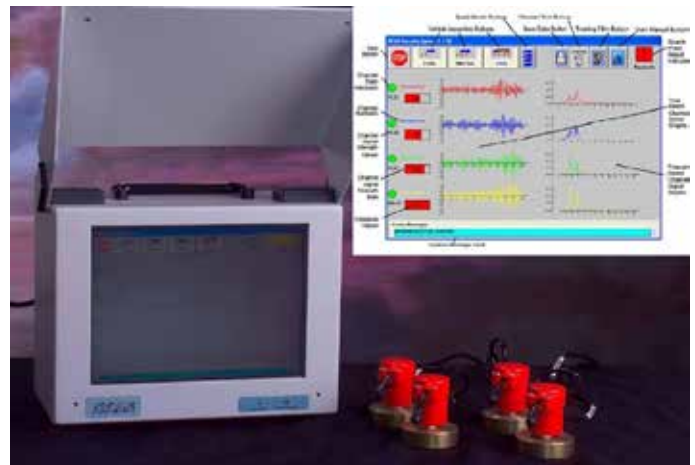
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trafficking routes. Their focus must extend beyond traditional methods, encompassing the innovative techniques employed by traffickers to evade detection.

Training is paramount for these specialized units. Border security professionals should undergo rigorous programs that familiarize them with the intricacies of synthetic drugs, the latest detection technologies, and the methodologies employed by traffickers. Interagency collaboration is crucial, fostering synergy between border security forces, intelligence agencies, and specialized drug enforcement units.

Technological integration is imperative for effective border security. High-tech surveillance systems, including drones, satellite imagery, and CCTV cameras, should be deployed strategically along key transit routes and border areas. Additionally, the establishment of checkpoints equipped with advanced scanners enhances the capability to detect synthetic drugs concealed within vehicles, cargo containers, or personal belongings.

c/ International Collaboration:

The battle against synthetic drug trafficking transcends national boundaries, necessitating a collaborative approach. The formation of international alliances and partnerships is instrumental in addressing the global nature of the synthetic drug trade. The United States, in coordination with North African countries, should spearhead efforts to establish joint task forces, fostering collaboration among border

security agencies, intelligence services, and law enforcement entities.

Information exchange platforms should be developed to facilitate real-time sharing of intelligence related to synthetic drug activities. This involves creating secure channels for the rapid dissemination of data on known traffickers, routes, and emerging trends. The establishment of joint databases enhances the collective understanding of the synthetic drug landscape, enabling more informed and targeted actions.

Training and capacity-building initiatives should be a cornerstone of international collaboration. Workshops, seminars, and joint exercises should be organized to enhance the skills of border security professionals in intelligence gathering, analysis, and the utilization of advanced drug detection technologies. Cross-border intelligence-sharing agreements should be formalized to streamline the flow of information and facilitate coordinated operations against synthetic drug networks.

In conclusion, a fortified legal framework, specialized task forces, and international collaboration are integral components of a holistic approach to combat synthetic drug trafficking along North Africa's borders. The synergy between these elements strengthens the collective ability to detect, deter, and dismantle synthetic drug networks, safeguarding the region from this pervasive threat. Border security

specialists play a pivotal role in implementing and operationalizing these measures, serving as the frontline defenders against the evolving tactics of synthetic drug traffickers.

2/ Prevention and Rehabilitation Initiatives

a/ Public Awareness Campaigns:

In the complex landscape of border security, the fight against synthetic drug trafficking extends beyond law enforcement operations. Comprehensive prevention strategies are vital in curbing the demand for synthetic drugs, and a central element of this approach involves targeted public awareness campaigns.

Given the dynamic and transnational nature of synthetic drug trafficking, it is imperative to educate the public about the risks and consequences associated with these substances. Public awareness campaigns will be strategically designed to reach a wide audience, employing various media channels such as television, radio, social media, and community outreach programs.

The campaign's messaging will emphasize the detrimental impact of synthetic drugs on individuals, families, and communities. Highlighting the health risks, potential legal consequences, and the destabilizing effect on regional security, the aim is to dissuade individuals from engaging in synthetic drug use and to foster a sense of collective responsibility.

Additionally, the campaigns will



seek to debunk myths surrounding synthetic drugs and provide accurate information about their composition, effects, and potential dangers. By dispelling misconceptions, the public can make more informed decisions, contributing to a reduction in demand.

b/ School-Based Education:

A key battleground in the fight against synthetic drug use is within our educational institutions. Implementing targeted school-based education programs is essential to reach the younger demographic and instill a sense of awareness and resilience against synthetic drug temptations.

Curriculum Integration : Integrate modules on the dangers of synthetic drugs into school curricula at various levels. These modules will cover age-appropriate information, addressing the risks, consequences, and peer pressure associated with synthetic drug use. The goal is to empower students with the knowledge and skills needed to make informed decisions and

resist involvement in drug-related activities.

Interactive Workshops and Seminars : Conduct interactive workshops and seminars featuring experts, law enforcement officers, and individuals who have overcome synthetic drug addiction. These sessions will provide students with real-life perspectives and practical strategies to resist the lure of synthetic drugs. Emphasizing the role of community support and personal responsibility, the workshops aim to create a resilient and informed youth population.

Parental Involvement : Engage parents in the educational process by organizing awareness sessions and distributing informational materials. Parents play a crucial role in reinforcing the messages delivered in schools and fostering open communication with their children about the dangers of synthetic drugs.

c/ Community Support Networks:

Recognizing the interconnected nature of border security and

community well-being, the plan incorporates the establishment of robust community support networks. These networks serve as a vital resource for individuals struggling with synthetic drug addiction and contribute to the overall resilience of communities against the influence of trafficking networks.

Rehabilitation Programs :

Collaborate with healthcare professionals, addiction specialists, and non-governmental organizations to establish rehabilitation programs within communities. These programs will provide accessible and confidential support for individuals seeking assistance in overcoming synthetic drug addiction. Offering counseling, medical interventions, and support group sessions, rehabilitation programs aim to facilitate recovery and prevent relapse.

Community Policing Initiatives

: Enhance community policing initiatives that promote a collaborative approach between law enforcement and local residents. Establishing trust and open communication channels is crucial for gathering intelligence on potential synthetic drug activities and ensuring a swift response to emerging threats. Community policing fosters a sense of shared responsibility, making communities active partners in the fight against synthetic drug trafficking.

Youth Engagement Programs

: Develop and support youth engagement initiatives that offer alternative activities and positive



become the vanguard, disseminating accurate information to the public and dispelling misconceptions surrounding synthetic drugs. School-based education ensures that the younger generation is equipped with the knowledge and resilience needed to resist the allure of synthetic substances. Community support networks, in turn, provide a crucial safety net for those battling addiction, fostering a sense of community and support.

The success of this plan hinges on the collective commitment of nations within the coalition, emphasizing the importance of collaboration across borders. Border security specialists play a pivotal role in the execution of these strategies, as they stand as the guardians of the region, ensuring the integrity of borders against the illicit flow of synthetic drugs.

As we embark on this concerted effort, let us recognize that securing our borders against synthetic drug trafficking is not merely a mission but a collective duty. Through unwavering collaboration and the meticulous execution of this plan, we can fortify our borders, protect our communities, and stand as a united front against the pervasive threat of synthetic drugs in North Africa.

outlets for young individuals. By providing constructive opportunities for personal development, such as sports, arts, and community service, these programs contribute to building resilience and reducing the vulnerability of youth to synthetic drug influences.

In conclusion, the prevention and rehabilitation initiatives outlined in this plan are integral components of a holistic approach to combatting synthetic drug trafficking. Public awareness campaigns, school-based education, and community support networks serve as proactive measures to reduce the demand for synthetic drugs, strengthen community resilience, and foster a collaborative environment that complements law enforcement efforts along the borders.

Conclusion:

In the realm of border security, the challenge of synthetic drug

trafficking demands a nuanced and collaborative approach. The outlined plan, combining legislative and law enforcement measures with prevention and rehabilitation initiatives, serves as a strategic blueprint to fortify North African borders against the menace of synthetic drugs.

The legal framework proposed ensures that the legal apparatus is finely tuned to address the evolving nature of synthetic substances. This, coupled with the establishment of specialized task forces, creates a formidable front line capable of gathering intelligence, tracking supply chains, and executing targeted operations. International collaboration further strengthens this front, as a unified effort emerges to disrupt global synthetic drug networks.

On the prevention and rehabilitation front, public awareness campaigns



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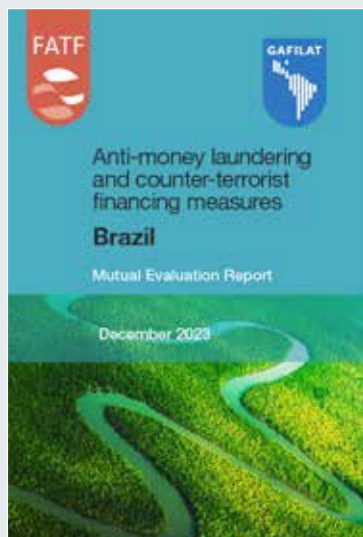
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Brazil's measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing



Brazil has made important strides to improve its system to combat money laundering and terrorist financing and is achieving some positive results. Brazil needs to strengthen cooperation and coordination between certain authorities and improve prosecution of money laundering.

The FATF/GAFILAT mutual evaluation report of Brazil underscores the country's improved international cooperation, risk assessment, and policy coordination since the last evaluation in 2010. However, key challenges remain, including the need for enhanced cooperation and coordination among authorities, particularly the Police, Prosecution Authority, and Tax Office. The country also needs to show major improvements to prosecution of money laundering, including to tackle environmental crimes and laundering of proceeds.

As a major economy in the world, Brazil has the largest

banking and securities sectors in South America and as a result, is exposed to various cross-border threats, further aggravated by the porosity of the borders.

The FATF/GAFILAT mutual evaluation report of Brazil highlights that Brazil has a deep understanding of its money laundering risks, in particular for money laundering risks arising from corruption, organized crime, tax crime, drug trafficking, and environmental crimes.

Brazil demonstrated strong supervision of most of the financial sector, but the country should address the gaps in supervision of its non-financial sector which is currently leaving sectors such as lawyers completely unregulated for AML/CFT/CPF. Brazil should enhance the recovery of assets linked to crime and terrorism. With the exception of corruption-related assets, its confiscation results are not entirely in line with the risks the country faces.

Brazil's measures to combat the financing of terrorism have improved in recent years but there is need for significant advancements in implementation for the measures to be more effective. The risks of terrorist financing are relatively low in Brazil, however, the country should enhance risk understanding and mitigation from terrorist financing risks.

Thoughtfully deployed, digital technologies could represent a key way to support implementation of the EU New Pact on Migration and Asylum

What seemed close to impossible in recent years—an EU-wide agreement on migration—is now likely to become reality, with the New Pact on Migration and Asylum in the last stages of negotiation and hoped-for approval before European elections next June. Yet even if the pact is finalized, it must pass another test before policymakers can claim victory: translation of the complex legal construct into something that works in practice and can withstand spikes in migrant arrivals and other challenges.

Digital technologies, already increasingly used in European migration and asylum systems, could be leveraged to support the pact's implementation. The stakes for implementation could not be higher, given asylum seeker and migrant inflows at levels unseen since 2015-16, the arrival of more than 4 million displaced Ukrainians and soaring political tensions around migration, as a Migration Policy Institute Europe policy brief outlines.

AGENCY NEWS AND UPDATES

Border guards in Volyn region received vehicles and other essential equipment



Ukraine border guards have recently received valuable assistance, facilitated by charitable donations and patrons, was made possible through the collaboration of the leadership of the Volyn Regional Military Administration and the Regional Council.

The support provided to the Volyn Border Guard Units includes the acquisition of various resources essential for their operational needs. These items include transportation vehicles, Starlink satellite communication systems, thermal imagers, charging stations, generators, portable stoves, and lighting equipment. Given the current circumstances, this equipment proves to be crucial for the military personnel as they execute their

tasks in safeguarding and defending the state borders.

Mexican Army and State Attorney General's Office secure more than 270 kg of drugs

As a result of inter-institutional coordination to strengthen the rule of law and detect criminal organizations with a presence in said federal entity and with the information obtained by the authorities, a property was located in the Paseo de las Misiones subdivision, in the municipality of Hermosillo, allegedly used for carry out illegal activities.

Based on the evidence collected, members of the Mexican Army established a security perimeter, while FGJE agents completed a technical investigation order, detaining 2 people and ensuring the following: Approximately 194 kg of possible methamphetamine; 64 kg of probable heroin; 19 kg of possible marijuana.

The detainees and what was seized were placed at the disposal of the

competent authorities, in order to continue the investigations and expert actions that make it possible to determine the characteristics of the weapons, magazines and cartridges, as well as the type and quantity of drugs.

Firearms, drugs and native wildlife seized at WA property



Australian Border Force (ABF) has seized weapons, drugs and native wildlife from a home north of Perth, Western Australia, during a multi-agency operation targeting illicit firearms.

ABF and Western Australia Police Force (WAPF) officers executed a search warrant at a Yanchep property and confiscated the following items: 16

unlicensed firearms, including a loaded sawn-off shotgun; Two electric shock devices; A quantity of illicit drugs, including methamphetamine and cannabis; and Unlicensed native wildlife, including a carpet python snake and 34 geckos.

Officers also found evidence of the sale of firearms, drugs and native wildlife, and of importing prohibited weapons, including flick knives and a pistol grip slingshot.

Officers from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions attended to appropriately remove the native wildlife.

Big Bust by CBP Officers at the Area Port of Douglas

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Field Operations, Area Port of Douglas officers arrested a 19-year-old male attempting to smuggle nearly 492,000 blue fentanyl pills into the United States.

Officers at the Area Port of Douglas referred a 19-year-old United States Citizen male, for additional inspection of his pickup truck as he attempted to enter the United States. The search led to the discovery of 500 packages of blue pills which were concealed in a compartment in bed of the pickup. Initial testing of the pills was positive for the properties of fentanyl. The weight of the packages was just 122.98 pounds, which equates to approximately 492,000 pills.

Douglas Area Port Director, Martin Gomez commended the results and successes of his personnel. "Continued layered enforcement actions and our entire team's joint efforts are key to

fulfilling our mission of protecting the homeland. Our officers are keeping deadly drugs off our streets."

Officers seized the drugs and vehicle, while the subject was arrested and turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

Husband and wife arrested over alleged airline crew smuggling plot



A couple have been arrested as part of a National Crime Agency investigation into cash smuggling and corruption involving airline employees. The man and his wife were detained on suspicion of money laundering at their home address.

Around £15,000 cash was seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act following searches of the property, along with high value items worth an estimated £150,000.

The pair are suspected of using airline staff to smuggle criminal cash and other high value items out of the UK via Heathrow Airport. They remain in custody and are being questioned by NCA investigators.

To date, Border Force have seized around £150,000 in cash and goods worth £100,000 from aircraft crew, seizures the NCA are now investigating.

Malaysian Driver Jailed for Smuggling Around \$73,000 Worth of E-Vaporisers



The Health Sciences Authority (HSA) has prosecuted a 31-year-old male Malaysian lorry driver for smuggling into Singapore a total of 750 e-vaporisers and 3,150 related components, worth an estimated \$73,000. He was sentenced to 40 days' imprisonment.

Officers from the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) at Tuas Checkpoint detected anomalies in the scanned images of a Malaysia-registered lorry that Maran was driving. The officers had directed the lorry for further checks and uncovered numerous boxes of e-vaporisers and components concealed among cartons containing shampoo products.

HSA's investigations revealed that Maran's job was to deliver cosmetic products such as shampoos to Singapore twice a week. He would receive a notification from his employer on the delivery details and proceed with the delivery of the items into Singapore.

MAOC-N supports Spanish seizure of 500kg of cocaine

The Spanish authorities, in a joint operation by the National Police, the Civil Guard, and the Spanish Customs (DAVA), successfully intercepted and seized over 500kg of cocaine on board

a go-fast in the Atlantic Ocean.

After an intense search exercise, the Spanish patrol boat CONDOR of the Customs Surveillance Service was deployed, managing to intercept the target approximately 100nm South of Restinga (Canary Islands), resulting in the seizure of 519.2 kg of cocaine – distributed through 22 bales – and the arrest of 4 crew members.

This successful operation was possible through extensive international cooperation between the aforementioned Spanish law enforcement agencies, the National Crime Agency from the UK, the US Drugs Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Portuguese Judicial Police, supported by MAOC-N.

Record drug seizures as Border Force cracks down on illegal drugs



Border Force have made the highest number of illegal drug seizures since records began, as action at the border helps stop illegal drugs reaching the country.

During the past year Border Force made a total of 25,834 drug seizures, a 24% increase from last year and the highest on record.

Over 92 tonnes of illegal drugs were seized by police and Border Force.

In addition, record quantities of so-called party drugs, cocaine and ketamine, were also taken off the streets last year through relentless police action and a zero-tolerance approach to illegal drug use. The total quantity of cocaine seized by the police rose by 100% to 3.36 tonnes, while the quantity of ketamine confiscated rose 189% to 500kg.

ROC-Clark prevents an export shipment containing P7.507 million worth of Shabu



The Bureau of Customs – Port of Clark stopped an attempt to export P7.507 million worth of methamphetamine hydrochloride in a shipment declared as “shaft drive model” bound for New Zealand.

The export shipment originating from Parañaque City was initially tagged as suspicious by X-ray Inspection Project personnel. It immediately underwent K9 sniffing and physical examination, which resulted in the discovery of three packs of white crystalline substances weighing 1,104 grams concealed inside a shaft drive.

The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency’s chemical laboratory analysis confirmed that the substances were indeed methamphetamine hydrochloride, commonly known as

“shabu,” a dangerous drug under R.A. No. 9165.

Mongolia launches Passenger Information Unit with support of the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme

Mongolia launched its new Passenger Information Unit (PIU) to detect and prevent the movement of terrorists and criminals, becoming the fourth Member State to achieve this milestone. The PIU was established under the framework of the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CT Travel) which is coordinated by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT). It will utilize the United Nations software solution “goTravel” and is located within Mongolia’s General Authority for Border Protection.

An inauguration ceremony organized by the National Counter Terrorism Council of Mongolia was held in Ulaanbaatar to mark the occasion, while also highlighting the benefits of the country’s ‘whole-of-Government’ approach.

Integrating the expertise and mandates of the three national entities, Mongolia’s new PIU includes enhanced operational and technical capabilities in the areas of passenger data collection, analysis and response to detect and prevent the movement of terrorists and criminals, in compliance with the requirements of United Nations Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014), 2396 (2017), and 2482 (2019), international standards and recommended practices, relevant privacy laws, and human rights principles.

UN Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security successfully concludes in Vietnam

Viet Nam became the fifth Member State to formally conclude the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Threat Assessment Models for Aviation Security ("TAM Programme"). This marks a significant milestone for the Government, which has demonstrated a streamlined, cohesive approach to inter-agency cooperation for the identification, assessment, and management of terrorist threats against critical civil aviation infrastructure.

Viet Nam's successful development and implementation of the new inter-agency coordination framework is expected to serve as a benchmark for other Member States across the Southeast Asia region and around the world.

The TAM Programme supports global counter-terrorism efforts by providing Member States with technical assistance and capacity-building tools to enhance national information-sharing mechanisms on terrorist threats to civil aviation. The Programme works to strengthen national interagency cooperation on threat information and supports risk-based decision-making to secure global civil aviation systems as called for by Security Council resolution 2309 (2016) and in line with the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of June 2023.

BOC-Clark uncovers P103.1-M worth of Shabu in three parcels disguised as "brochures"



The Bureau of Customs – Port of Clark successfully busted three parcels containing 14,944 grams of Shabu, with an estimated street value of P103,113,600.00.

Marked "suspicious" by the port's X-ray Inspection Project, three parcels declared as "brochures" originating from Texas, Pennsylvania, and Illinois, USA arrived and underwent K9 sniffing. After conducting physical inspection, these were found to contain plastic pouches containing white crystalline materials suspected to be Shabu.

PDEA chemical laboratory analysis confirmed that the substances were indeed Methamphetamine Hydrochloride, commonly known as "Shabu", a dangerous drug under R.A. No. 9165.

K-9 sniffs out 250k worth of Liquid Methamphetamine in a truck's gas tank

El Centro Sector Border Patrol agents arrested a 39-year-old male for attempting to smuggle liquid methamphetamine.



A Border Patrol K-9 unit working at the Highway 86 Immigration checkpoint alerted to the driver side wheel well of a truck. The agent referred the truck to secondary for further investigation. In secondary agents checked the gas tank and noticed anomalies in the liquid inside the gas tank. The liquid was tested and was positive for the characteristics of methamphetamine.

A total of 166.8 pounds of methamphetamine with an estimated street value of 250k was removed from the gas tank by a hazmat team. The driver, a Mexican citizen was placed under arrest for the transportation of a controlled substance, and along with the vehicle and narcotics were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration for further prosecution.

BEYOND BORDERS: REVOLUTIONISING CROSS-BORDER SECURITY WITH SOLAR- POWERED SURVEILLANCE

By Simon Legrand, CMO & Co-Founder at Sunstone Systems - Delivering clean energy systems for Defence, Energy, Transport and Construction

In an interconnected world, securing international borders is a paramount concern, and solar-powered surveillance and telecommunications systems have emerged as a transformative solution for remote locations and extreme environments. Combining renewable energy and cutting-edge technology, these systems play a crucial role in monitoring and fortifying borders. Securing vast stretches of international borders demands a reliable and continuous surveillance solution. Solar-powered surveillance systems, equipped with

advanced cameras and sensors, offer an efficient and cost-effective means to monitor border areas. Operating off-grid and in remote locations, these systems provide 24/7 surveillance, ensuring no potential threats escape notice. By harnessing solar energy, border surveillance becomes sustainable and resilient, reducing reliance on traditional power sources vulnerable to disruptions.

Solar-powered surveillance systems utilise photovoltaic panels to capture sunlight and convert it into electrical energy. This energy is stored in

batteries, ensuring continuous operation, even during nighttime or cloudy conditions. Advanced cameras and sensors, powered by this stored energy, enable real-time monitoring and data transmission. This off-grid capability makes these systems ideal for remote border regions, ensuring uninterrupted surveillance.

The real-time data transmission capabilities of these systems are invaluable for border security agencies. One of the key strengths lies in their ability to facilitate real-time data transmission. Unlike traditional surveillance setups that may face limitations due to power constraints or infrastructure dependencies, solar-powered systems ensure continuous live feeds from surveillance cameras via wireless, cellular or satellite networks. This capability forms the foundation for robust situational awareness, offering border security agencies a constant and unfiltered view of activities along the border.

These technologies empower authorities with live feeds, allowing them to monitor border activities as they unfold. This immediacy is critical in identifying and responding to potential security threats promptly. Whether it's tracking the movement of individuals, monitoring vehicles, or detecting suspicious behaviour, real-time live feeds provide a comprehensive and up-to-the-minute understanding of the border environment.

The enhanced situational awareness afforded by these systems enables border security agencies to respond rapidly to security breaches and border violations. With a constant



stream of live data, authorities can make informed decisions in real-time, deploying resources and assets precisely where they are needed. This proactive approach is crucial for preventing and mitigating security incidents before they escalate.

Also, they can leverage artificial intelligence (AI) to analyse live feeds intelligently. Advanced analytics algorithms automatically detect and alert personnel to suspicious activities, fortifying the system's capabilities against illegal border crossings or smuggling attempts. AI-powered detection significantly reduces the burden on human operators, allowing them to focus on strategic decision-making rather than manually monitoring vast amounts of data.

The integration of real-time situational awareness fortifies border security on multiple fronts. Swift responses to emerging threats, early detection of illegal activities, and intelligent analytics contribute to a comprehensive and proactive

defence strategy. This not only safeguards territorial integrity but also protects the safety of border communities and facilitates efficient law enforcement.

What are the key benefits for Border Security?

Low Environmental Impact Solar-powered systems contribute to lower carbon footprints, aligning with environmental sustainability goals. This eco-friendly approach minimises the impact on the natural surroundings, making it an environmentally responsible choice for border security. Also, utilising sustainable and environmentally friendly technologies positively impacts public perception. Communities residing near border regions may view these systems favourably, potentially fostering cooperation and support for border security initiatives.

Reduced Infrastructure Dependency
They can decrease reliance on traditional infrastructure, such as power grids. This is particularly



advantageous in remote border regions where establishing traditional power sources may be impractical or expensive. The reduced infrastructure dependency enhances flexibility and efficiency in deployment.

Scalability and Modularity They are inherently scalable and modular, allowing for easy expansion or adjustments based on changing security needs. This adaptability ensures that the technology can grow in tandem with evolving border control requirements.

Quick Deployment in Emergency Situations These systems can be rapidly deployed in emergency situations or areas where immediate security measures are needed. Their standalone nature allows for swift implementation without the need for extensive infrastructure preparation.

Operational Independence Solar-powered systems operate independently of the main power grid, making them less susceptible to power outages or disruptions. This operational independence ensures

continuous functionality, crucial for maintaining border security, even in challenging conditions.

Extended Lifespan and Minimal Maintenance These technologies often have longer lifespans and require minimal maintenance compared to traditional power sources. This reduces the overall operational costs and enhances the reliability of border security systems over an extended period.

Enhanced Coverage in Challenging Terrains The flexibility of solar-powered surveillance systems allows for strategic placement in challenging terrains, such as deserts or mountainous regions. This adaptability ensures comprehensive coverage of border areas that may be difficult to access with traditional power sources.

Interoperability with Other Technologies Solar-powered surveillance and telecommunications systems can be seamlessly integrated with other border security technologies. This interoperability enhances the overall effectiveness of the border control infrastructure by creating a comprehensive and interconnected security network.

Simon Legrand from Sunstone Systems said, “securing international borders in our interconnected world is a critical imperative, and solar-powered surveillance emerges as a revolutionary solution. Operating off-grid in remote locations, these technologies redefine border security, providing an efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable means of continuous surveillance. By harnessing solar

energy and leveraging cutting-edge technology, they can ensure resilient 24/7 border surveillance, even in challenging conditions. Also, the real-time data transmission capabilities empower security agencies with invaluable insights, fostering robust situational awareness and enabling prompt responses to potential threats.”

As technology evolves, solar-powered surveillance systems continue to advance cross-border security. Drone technology and aerial surveillance enhance monitoring in remote border regions, improving situational awareness and response capabilities. The integration of facial recognition and biometric systems holds promise for more efficient border control, accurately identifying potential threats.

Transcending borders, these systems empower nations to safeguard territorial integrity and promote cross-border security. By harnessing renewable energy and innovative technologies, they offer effective, eco-friendly, and sustainable solutions to the complex challenges of border control. With real-time situational awareness, international cooperation, and threat deterrence, solar-powered surveillance becomes indispensable in the mission for safer and more secure borders. As technology advances, the future holds immense potential for cross-border security, marking a transformative journey toward a safer and more interconnected world.

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New Report Calls for Major Investments and Reforms to Build a U.S. Border Control System that Can Address Present and Future Challenges



A new report out calls for major reforms and investments — including for immigration functions not always understood to be part of the border enforcement system — to address unprecedented migration challenges at the U.S.-Mexico border. Drawing from visits to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) facilities along the entire southwest border and extensive interviews of governmental and nongovernmental officials in the United States, Mexico, Guatemala and Costa Rica, the Migration Policy Institute (MPI) report emphasizes that border control cannot be achieved at the border alone. Success will require, among other things, significant investments in building capacity as well as collaboration with regional partners to address the increasingly complex migration patterns now being seen throughout the Western Hemisphere.

The report traces the factors that have stretched the U.S. border management system beyond its capabilities: The current record level of encounters of asylum seekers and other migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border, sharp diversification in nationalities and the shift in the characteristics of arrivals, with families now accounting for an increasing share.

While the Biden administration last year began to implement a far-reaching strategy that seeks to incentivize orderly and legal arrivals and disincentivize unauthorized crossings, the early results have been mixed, the MPI researchers find. Longstanding processing capacity, policy coordination and resource limitations across the agencies that have a role in screening arriving migrants are among the significant hurdles to success.

The report, *Shifting Realities at the U.S.-Mexico Border: Immigration Enforcement and Control in a Fast-Evolving Landscape*, offers a series of recommendations to create a more effective, durable system of border control. Among them, the U.S. government should:

- Establish multi-agency border processing centers, where federal agencies and NGO partners would operate, streamlining migrant screening and referrals and creating surge capacity to respond to spikes in arrivals. Beyond CBP and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) should be co-located with representatives of certified NGOs and legal service providers to enable more efficient operations.
- Create a federal mechanism to redirect migrants without U.S. ties to interior destinations that have available services and capacity, akin to what already occurs with refugee admissions. This directed distribution, supplementing the existing work of border NGOs, would enable shared responsibility beyond just a few destinations such as New York, Chicago and Denver, while accommodating desires by communities such as Pittsburgh to welcome border arrivals.
- Implement asylum system reforms to ensure timely and fair decisions, and adequately fund essential agencies. Because the border enforcement and asylum systems are now inextricably linked, ensuring necessary investments for the agencies that play the leading roles in the asylum process — USCIS and the immigration

courts — is essential to effective border control. USCIS and the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) require significant investments in personnel, technology and capacity building to be able to streamline asylum adjudications and address massive backlogs. Deciding incoming asylum cases in months, not years, is critical to effective border control. Increased legal representation and case management support would ensure that asylum seekers understand and comply with the various steps of the process. And ICE must be sufficiently funded to ensure repatriation of those whose cases are denied.

- Further strengthen engagement and cooperation with Mexico on migration management. Beyond collaboration on enforcement measures, the U.S. government should address specific challenges its Mexican counterparts face in meeting the humanitarian needs of migrants waiting in Mexico for CBP One appointments, as well as support and assist Mexico in building its own immigration and protection systems as a migrant-destination country.
- Develop robust refugee processing and resettlement programs within the Western Hemisphere. Realizing the potential of the Safe Mobility Offices to provide migrants access to protection and new labor mobility pathways closer to home requires developing trust and communication with local networks of community intermediaries that are assisting intending migrants with protection needs.

“The volume and diversity of migrant arrivals have strained U.S. border enforcement beyond its capabilities, overwhelming an immigration and

enforcement system not built for them,” analysts Ariel G. Ruiz Soto, Colleen Putzel-Kavanaugh and Doris Meissner write. “The Biden administration has advanced an ambitious, wide-ranging set of post-Title 42 policies that aim to establish border control and humane enforcement. But their success requires vastly expanded resources to overcome breakdowns in the government’s ability to, for example, decide asylum cases in a timely and fair fashion, fully process expedited removal cases and provide funding to NGO partners, whose work with migrants is essential in border communities and destination cities.”

They note that congressional action is essential to strengthen and modernize the U.S. border control system by greatly increasing its capacity. “Without such efforts, managing migration at the southwest border will continue to be a reactive exercise, rather than a cohesive strategy that proactively identifies migration patterns and responses across the region and addresses migrant protection needs and border control imperatives,” the authors conclude.



ENHANCING MARITIME CAPACITY - A TRAINING YEAR IN PUNTLAND

Throughout 2023, EUCAP Somalia's Field Office Puntland dedicated efforts to strengthening the capabilities of the Puntland Maritime Police Force – Maritime Police Unit. The year-long training comprised two semesters covering fundamental and advanced levels, conducting monthly seminars.

The primary objective was to enhance the PMPF-MPU's (PMPF-MPU) law enforcement capabilities, including various aspects of maritime and policing skills and specific maritime related matters such as safety and security at sea, seamanship, navigation, communication, search and rescue (SAR) techniques, visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS), Maritime Ship and Port Facility Security (MSPS), human rights, gender, environmental challenges, and

internal investigation procedures. Practical exercises followed each theoretical session to apply the acquired skills. Recognizing the importance of Maritime English, an intensive 108-hour course was conducted in collaboration with the East African University.

Interagency cooperation in boat maintenance and engine repair training

Realizing the importance of a holistic approach to Coast Guard functions,

a specialized team training was provided to mechanics of the Mogadishu-based Somali Police Force – Department of Coast Guard (SPF-DGC). FOPL facilitated the participation of two PMPF-MPU mechanics in this training as part of interagency cooperation.

Collaboration and Joint Exercises

EUCAP Somalia actively collaborated with EUNAVFOR Operation Atalanta to enhance the operational capabilities of Somali Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies. This collaboration led to joint exercises between PMPF-MPU and EUNAVFOR vessels outside Somalia's territorial waters. Efforts were made to strengthen Somali capacities related to maritime awareness, SAR, and Man Overboard procedures.

Establishment of Maritime Operations Centre

Furthermore, EUCAP Somalia's Field Office Puntland (FOPL) also established the PMPF-MPU Maritime Operations Centre (MOC) in Bossaso. This included refurbishment, drafting SOPs, and integrating the Indo-Pacific Regional Information Sharing (IORIS) platform, an internationally recognized information sharing and maritime domain awareness platform, provided by the EU project CRIMARIO II. MOC staff demonstrated proficiency in using the platform during various training sessions. An important step forward in operationalising MOC was the provision of VHF radios and the necessary licenses.



Adhering to international regulations mandated by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), licensing for Maritime Radios was necessary. With guidance provided by EUCAP, PMPF - MPU applied for and successfully obtained 23 licenses by early December. With these licenses in hand, the PMPF – MPU can now officially participate in maritime radio communication.

Training and Prosecution Cooperation

The Legal Reform Advisers at FOPL conducted extensive training sessions for PMPF-MPU officers, aiming to enhance their capabilities in handling internal misconduct investigations. The training centered on investigative methodologies, meticulous documentation, and the crucial aspects of human rights and gender-related discrimination. FOPL further supported the officers in formulating a Code of Conduct and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the Internal Affairs Unit (IAU). This initiative reflects

PMPF-MPU's demonstrates PMPF MPU's commitment to fostering a positive work environment, without harassment, and preserving the organizational integrity, that EUCAP Somalia mentors promote.

This investment in IAU training and capacity building demonstrates PMPF MPU's commitment to fostering a positive working environment without harassment and upholding organizational integrity that EUCAP-Somalia mentors promote.

Most recently, FOPL conducted advisory meetings to strengthen police-prosecution cooperation, emphasizing legal frameworks and best practices for investigating and prosecuting maritime crimes. Additionally, the PMPF-MPU officers participated in workshops addressing gender-based violence and human trafficking at sea, aligned with the global "16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" campaign.

DEA Innovates to Fight Fentanyl



In 2023, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration marked its 50th anniversary as the only federal agency dedicated to fighting deadly drugs and drug-related violence. This milestone celebrated a half century of dedication to fighting drug trafficking in the United States and around the world, which threatens the public safety, health, and national security of our nation. DEA also ushered in a transformation of DEA's organization and strategy to meet this extraordinary moment in time as the United States confronts the deadliest drug threat our country has ever faced—fentanyl.

Today, fentanyl is the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 45. In calendar year 2023, DEA seized more than 77 million fentanyl pills and nearly 12,000 pounds of fentanyl powder. This is the most fentanyl seized by DEA in a single year. It amounts to more than 386 million deadly doses of fentanyl—enough to kill every American.

The DEA Chicago Field Division seized 1.9 million fentanyl pills and nearly 500 pounds of fentanyl powder in calendar year 2023.

The fentanyl we see today is even deadlier than before. Fentanyl pills today are more potent. DEA laboratory testing in 2023 showed that 7 out of 10 pills tested contain a potentially deadly dose of fentanyl. This is an increase from 4 out of 10 pills in 2021 and 6 out of 10 pills in 2022. A potentially deadly dose is considered just two milligrams of fentanyl, which is approximately the amount that fits on the tip of a pencil.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is predicting record numbers of drug poisonings for 2023, with their latest estimate for the 12-month period ending June 2023 at 112,323 American lives lost. Nearly 70% of these drug poisonings are from fentanyl.

DEA has responded to this unprecedented threat with unprecedented action. DEA's mission is to save American lives by defeating the two cartels that are responsible for the vast majority of fentanyl that is flooding our country: the Sinaloa Cartel and the Jalisco Cartel. DEA has built a new strategic layer of Counter Threat Teams to focus on each cartel and the illicit finance networks that fund them both. These Counter Threat Teams draw on the intelligence from our 334 offices around the world to map the cartels' global networks and to identify targets for investigation and prosecution. While the cartels' operations are based in Mexico, DEA has identified more than 50 additional countries where these criminal networks operate. DEA has also traced the cartels' global supply chain around the world. The cartels purchase chemicals from companies in China, mass produce the fentanyl in Mexico, and then traffic and distribute finished fentanyl widely throughout the United States. In 2023, DEA took actions to disrupt every step of this fentanyl supply chain—from bringing the first-ever charges against Chinese chemical companies and their owners for supplying precursor chemicals, to charging and extraditing leaders, enforcers, and associates of the cartels in Mexico, to tracking down the criminal organizations and individuals in our communities responsible for the last mile of distribution of fentanyl on our streets and on social media.

These are DEA's latest actions in our unwavering commitment to protect the lives of Americans. DEA remains relentlessly focused on one unifying mission—saving American lives. DEA will continue to act, innovate, and follow a data-driven, intelligence-led approach, to defeat the fentanyl threat and meet the challenges of tomorrow.

US CBP canine sniffs out 38 pounds of deadly fentanyl hidden in spare tire

San Diego Sector Border Patrol agents seized more than 38 pounds of fentanyl during a vehicle stop on Interstate 5.

Agents assigned to the San Clemente Border Patrol Station conducted a vehicle stop on a grey sedan heading northbound on Interstate 5 near the Vista Hermosa Highway exit. A Border Patrol canine team conducted an air sniff of the vehicle and the canine alerted to the probable presence of narcotics near the trunk. Agents searched the trunk and noticed the spare tire to be heavier than normal. Agents transported the vehicle and driver to the San Clemente Border Patrol Station for further inspection. At the station, 15 cellophane wrapped packages containing blue pills were discovered inside the spare tire.

Subsequent tests of the pills indicated the presence of fentanyl. The pills weighed more than 38 pounds with an estimated street value of \$1,720,000.00. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration's publication, Facts About Fentanyl, one kilogram of fentanyl has the potential to kill half a million people.

The driver and narcotics were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration for federal prosecution. The vehicle was seized by U.S. Border Patrol.

This seizure is part of the recently announced Operation Apollo. Operation Apollo is a joint regional operation comprised of federal, state, and local agencies working to combat the threat from fentanyl and other illicit narcotics.

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THE UNIQUE SCREENING SOLUTIONS HELPING SOLVE THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING

By Thierry Ball, Business Development Manager Ports & Borders, Smiths Detection

The uniqueness of the challenge

The global effort to combat drug trafficking across land, sea and air borders involves numerous entities working towards one common goal - customs, border control agencies, and more recently also courier services as traffickers exploit the surge in e-commerce and use freight forwarding and mail delivery companies to transport narcotics.

The detection of these narcotics using X-ray technology faces distinctive challenges, however. To either stretch the product to increase profits or generate a different effect on the user, they are often mixed with other substances, which changes their physical characteristics, and are inconsistent in shape and form. This makes narcotics detection more complex, especially compared to the very

regulated detection of explosives, which must have certain known characteristics to “work” and be an actual threat.

Thanks to major technological developments, there are now several highly effective solutions available to help tackle this challenge:

- Augmented X-Ray (AXR) algorithms for High-Energy X-ray Transmission based non-intrusive vehicle inspection systems.
- Advanced object recognition and material discrimination algorithms augmenting conventional X-ray and Computed tomography (CT) scanners for air cargo and baggage screening.
- X-ray diffraction (XRD), a well proven and established method for material-specific detection based on molecular structures.

Augmented X-ray: A quantum leap in screening cargo and vehicles

Non-intrusive inspection (NII) systems, using High-Energy Transmission based X-Ray, are traditionally being used for cargo and vehicle screening to intercept contraband at land and sea borders. These systems can now be taken into a completely new era by deploying Augmented X-ray (AXR) algorithms.

Augmented X-ray, for example, has the capability to identify overlapping objects of different materials (and therefore areas with potential anomalies) on the X-ray image.



By ‘de-overlapping’ or removing material, it can re-calculate the hidden substance, discriminate more accurately, and display more relevant information on the material.

The smart algorithms can also remove steel container or vehicle walls from the X-ray image to highlight organic materials throughout the entire screening area irrespective of depth location and thereby significantly support operators in detecting concealed narcotics.

These advances are made possible by capturing substantially more data using small-pitch detectors and enable new image processing algorithms. Critical information can be extracted from the data to support fast and accurate image analysis. Operators can focus on specific areas of interest, spotting anomalies and hidden items quickly and efficiently.

Harnessing the power of CT for parcel and baggage inspection...

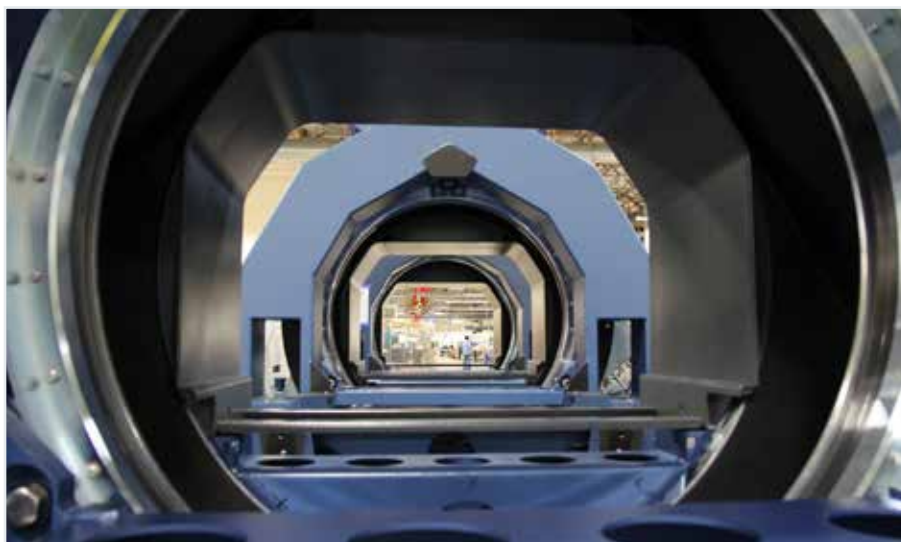
CT scanning is a sophisticated imaging technique that employs X-rays to create detailed three-dimensional images of objects, which enable operators to make fast and accurate judgements on the content of a bag or a parcel.

It has also proven to be very effective in automatically detecting explosives and more recently also contraband, prohibited items, dangerous goods, and other targeted objects in parcels and bags.

When it comes to automatic narcotics detection, CT scanners have two powerful tools in their arsenal:

- material discrimination and
- object recognition algorithms.

Both come with their individual benefits and challenges in terms of narcotics detection.



Material discrimination relies on image processing to segment and classify items based on X-ray absorption characteristics, such as density or effective atomic number (Zeff). On this basis, it then leverages machine learning to determine if a threat is present or not. This approach is exemplified in automatic explosives detection.

While the further development of algorithms continuously improves the detection capabilities, it is most effective for substances with known physical characteristics and can therefore detect relatively pure narcotics with a high degree of probability.

Object recognition, on the other hand, leverages deep learning to develop algorithms that mimic the human brain's data processing. These algorithms learn to identify patterns in the shape and texture of objects by analysing thousands of X-ray images. While material

characteristics are considered, the focus is primarily on colour and intensity in the X-ray image, such as identifying metal in blue and organic material in orange.

Several smart, adaptable deep learning algorithms are in common use for detecting dangerous (e.g. lithium batteries) and prohibited goods, achieving high detection rates and low false alarm rates.

They can also be used to identify pills and blister packs based on their shape. The optical signature is however often similar to benign tablets. In addition, substances lacking a distinct shape, like powders or liquids, pose difficulties for this technique.

In essence, CT technology relies on either clear physical characteristics or a distinct shape to automatically detect narcotics. X-ray diffraction adopts an entirely different approach...

...And enhancing it with the power of XRD

XRD is a technique that exploits the interference patterns generated when X-rays interact with the molecular structure of materials. It is well-established in many industries and recent technological advances now make it a viable option for customs screening as well.

Each atom inside a molecule scatters the incoming X-ray waves. Depending on the spacing between atoms, different interference patterns occur. The resulting signals offer insights into this spacing. As each substance possesses a unique spacing pattern, XRD employs these measurements to generate a 'diffraction fingerprint,' facilitating differentiation between materials, even those with closely matched densities.

By comparing these patterns with a database of known narcotics, authorities can determine the composition of suspicious substances. This precise approach makes it particularly suitable for detecting constantly changing powder, liquid or solid compounds such as narcotics.

Collaboration is key

Collaboration with authorities, along with the extensive collection of samples and images of substances to train algorithms, supports the continuous development of increasingly effective solutions.

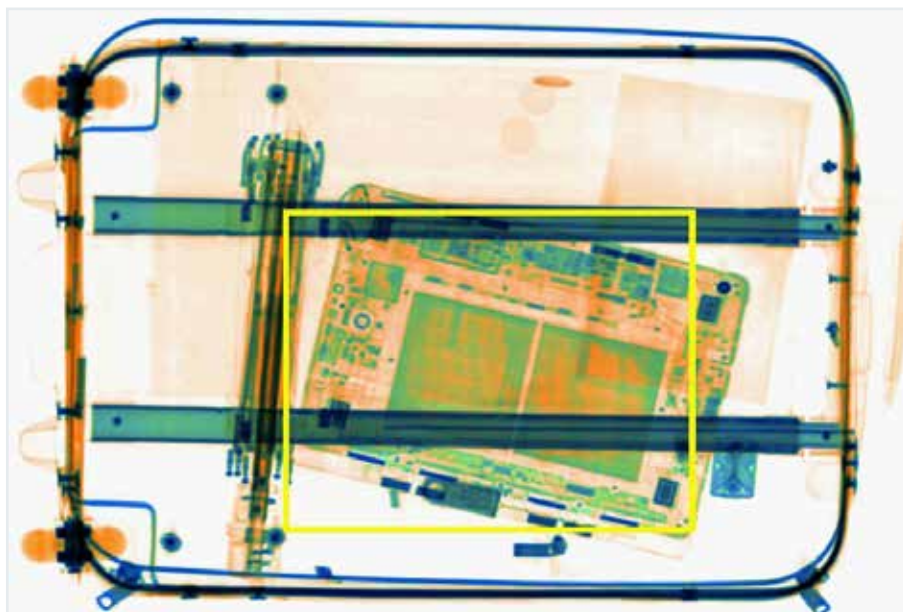
To this end Smiths Detection, a developer of smart learning algorithms in security screening, is part of an EU consortium to develop an intelligent customs border control screening system (BAG-INTEL) that will automatically detect narcotics in passenger baggage. The BAG-INTEL consortium brings together technology providers and customs agencies to solve customs and border control challenges by targeting specific bags needing manual inspection. The algorithm will be developed by leveraging a combination of material discrimination as well as shape-based, deep learning.

Where we go next

Recognising that no singular security screening method can guarantee 100% interception of all threats and contraband across the variety of border crossing points and transportation routes is crucial. Deploying adapted means of screening using multiple complementary scanning techniques is the way forward to combat drug trafficking.

The answer for detection, therefore, involves employing a blend of NII vehicle inspection systems, CT screening and XRD scanners, enhanced with smart detection algorithms.

Ongoing research and development efforts aim to improve sensitivity, reduce scanning times, and enhance the overall capabilities of these



technologies. Integration with artificial intelligence and machine learning also play a crucial role in refining narcotics detection processes.

Although object recognition and material discrimination can be used successfully together, it is likely that, in the longer term, XRD will provide highly accurate information about the physical composition and would be best suited for automatic narcotics detection.

In the relentless pursuit of curbing narcotics trafficking, CT and XRD have established themselves as indispensable tools. Their unique strengths, when integrated, offer a solution to the challenges faced in narcotics detection. As technology continues to advance, the collaboration between CT and XRD promises a more accurate, efficient, and sophisticated approach,

ultimately contributing to a safer and more secure global community.

Ultimately, we are likely to see CT and XRD technology combined into one unit. In this scenario, each item will be checked by both technologies simultaneously, leveraging the strengths of both techniques. This will add another line of defence for Customs agencies and security operators alike when coupled with existing technologies.

Up to 300,000 Sudanese Displaced by Latest Surge in Fighting



Up to 300,000 people have fled Sudan's second largest city, Wad Madani in Aj Jazirah state, in a new wave of large-scale displacement after fighting spread to the area, according to initial estimates by the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)

Nearly half a million men, women and children, had taken refuge in Aj Jazirah state since the start of the crisis in April. Thousands are again on the move, many in panic, fleeing fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) that broke out in the outskirts of Wad Madani on 15 December.

"This is a human tragedy of immense proportions, deepening the country's already dire humanitarian crisis," said IOM Director General Amy Pope. "The intensifying conflict and growing displacement underscore the urgency of a peaceful resolution, the need for a ceasefire and a robust response to avert a wider catastrophe."

Conflict-displaced people have sought refuge in various neighbouring states, many crossing to South Sudan through the Renk border crossing point. Given the scarcity of available transport options, many

people have reportedly fled on foot and are currently sheltering in open areas, improvised shelters, schools, and within the host community.

"For over eight months, the people of Sudan have been forced to endure the brutal realities of conflict. Their lives have been shattered, their families torn apart, and their dreams of a peaceful future lie in ruins. Continued violence would further devastate the country and destabilize the region," DG Pope added.

IOM has been at the forefront of the response since the onset of the crisis, delivering essential life-saving aid to nearly 660,000 people in Sudan and neighbouring countries.

Located 140 kilometers southeast of the conflict-torn capital Khartoum, Wad Madani, sits at the heart of Al Jazirah state, known as Sudan's agricultural breadbasket.

These latest movements will push Sudan's total displaced population beyond 7.1 million, the world's largest displacement crisis. More than 1.5 million people have fled to neighbouring countries, a staggering number in a country reeling from conflict, food insecurity, and economic collapse.

All humanitarian field missions within and from Aj Jazirah state, a vital humanitarian hub for humanitarian operations in Sudan, have been suspended, jeopardizing the already fragile delivery of critical aid to over 270,000 people in need within Wad Madani and the displaced populations fleeing the ongoing violence, according to the Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan.

Sudan is facing one of the largest humanitarian crises in the world, with nearly 25 million people requiring humanitarian assistance and protection. Access to basic necessities such as food and health care has been severely disrupted.

Winner of 2023 Milefsky Award Announced



IBRU, Durham University's Centre for Borders Research, has awarded its sixth annual Raymond Milefsky Award to Macedonian borders expert Mile Milenkoski.

Mr Milenkoski combines a background in surveying and geodetic engineering with a diplomatic career in border management.

After using his technical skills to take a leading role in the delimitation and demarcation of the border between the Republic of North Macedonia and Serbia, Mr Milenkoski proceeded to work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia to develop and implement cross-border management initiatives with both Serbia and Kosovo. He also has participated in

a number of initiatives on borders and security while serving as a member of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia's mission to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

Mr Milenkoski's work has been particularly attentive to the ways in which a state's approach to border management is impacted by its affiliations with international groupings, its level of recognition, and its role in the ever-present histories of conflict and cooperation that so often impact efforts at border management. Each of these variables have been notably present in the Balkan region, and the multifaceted Balkan environment has informed Mr Milenkoski's approach as a border professional as well as his successes in advancing border practice.

In granting the award, IBRU Director Philip Steinberg noted, "We often forget that an effective border requires effective, collaborative management as well as agreed delimitation, and this level of consensus can be difficult to achieve given the differences and rivalries that invariably occur across borders. Mile Milenkoski's work has shown the value of an integrated approach that crosses the borders of border studies as well as the borders between countries."

Migrants and drugs — need to scale up specialised drug services in Europe

Health and social responses for migrants who use drugs are explored in a new EMCDDA miniguide launched today to mark International Migrants Day. The resource is one of a series of miniguides making up the agency's latest overview of actions and interventions to respond to the consequences of illicit drug use. Presenting key issues related to migrants and drug use, the miniguide reveals gaps in service provision and limited knowledge on the extent and nature of drug problems in this group.

Substance use prevalence rates among migrants are generally lower than those of the host populations. Nevertheless, some migrants may have already been using drugs prior to arrival and require drug-related

medical care. Other migrants may be vulnerable to substance use problems over time, with risk factors including trauma, unemployment and poverty, family separation, stress and social exclusion.

According to the miniguide, while broader aspects of migrant health are often addressed, few interventions exist in Europe that focus specifically on their drug-related needs. Overcoming barriers which limit migrants' access to specialist drug services is a key issue. Migrants requiring support for a drugs problem, for example, may be unaware of available treatment services, or be reluctant to disclose their drug use out of fear of losing custody of their children or forfeiting residency rights.

AI – IT’S PROBABLY NOT WHAT YOU THINK

*By Jeff Goldfinger, XtraMile Training
and Development*

As a computer scientist by education, I tend to follow the latest technology trends. As an aerospace, defense, and security industry consultant, I restrict myself to those that are meaningful in our B2B and B2G domains. As a business development educator and professional development coach, I then must convert the, often cryptic, language of the tech products to actionable recommendations for my clients.

Since the debut of ChatGPT and Tesla’s recent preview of version 12 of their Full Self Driving (FSD v12) software, a narrative around incorporating AI for the customs community has reached a fever

pitch. Yet, while reading the wide spectrum of questions being levied at the private sector from public sector program managers and procurement officials worldwide, I felt compelled to write this article to both educate and (re)set expectations.

A Brief History of AI Time

The first formal mention of computer-generated intelligence came from Britain’s Alan Turing 75 years ago. Although science fiction movies of the 1950s and 60s anticipated a future full of AI-assistants (e.g., *Lost in Space*, *Star Trek*, *2001: A Space Odyssey*), the decades since Minsky, Edmonds,

and von Neumann's invention of the first neural network computer in 1951, have seen only small, evolutionary steps.

Until, of course, the release of GPT 3.5 went viral in November 2022.

To truly understand and exploit the power of AI, it might first be useful to compare how computers learn to how humans learn. In both cases, there are three essential components—signals from the outside world (data), thinking to make sense of the signals (algorithms), and a processor that performs the sensing calculations (compute).

Regardless of society's rapid growth over the past 5,000 years of recorded history, the algorithms in our brain have hardly changed since the emergence of imaginative humans around 50,000 years ago. Nor has our brain's compute power going back at least 250,000 years when our species first emerged on the African plains.

Not so for computers. With the invention of modern transistor circuit computers, in accordance with Moore's Law, processing power has doubled roughly every 18-24 months. And, while human memory capacity remains stagnant, digital data storage has become exponentially cheaper in accordance with Wright's Law, allowing all manner of public and private institutions to collect huge volumes of user data.

The Human and AI Learning Ladder

As infants, we first learn to make sense of the world by observing our



surroundings without doing much more than collecting all the inputs from our five senses and putting them into distinctive chunks—how many things move or don't move, taste good or bad, make us cry or make us laugh. This is our brain's way of describing the world we inhabit.

Business operations are no different. The infant stage of computers in business allowed the development of "dashboards" to display everything that had happened. How many things were sold or not sold, made better or made worse, broke vs. repaired, cost money vs. made money. Today, there are all manner of computer-based tools to organize your dashboards such as Microsoft's PowerBI, Salesforce's Tableau, and Google's Looker. Just about every profitable business of any size has taken this first step on the learning ladder called "Descriptive" analytics or "What happened in my organization?"

Sidenote, why do you think they call these business tools dashboards? A car's instrument panel, its dashboard, is a BI tool. It's telling

you what has happened with your car—how many miles have been driven, how much fuel you've burned, how hot or cold is the engine, etc.

As children, after we learned to walk, our brain started anticipating what would happen next. If I touch that hot stove, I'll burn my hand. If I run too fast, I might fall. If I eat that rotten tomato, I'll get a stomachache. There are now tools in everyday life and business that are also designed to predict the future. Cars can now not only tell us how many miles we've driven but how many more miles we can drive until our gas tank runs dry or battery pack is exhausted. Retailers use the Descriptive BI data to feed algorithms to predict how many items to stock their shelves with and at what price. Publicly traded companies are required by law to predict what their future earnings will be and make that knowledge public.

This is called the Predictive stage of AI learning or "What is likely to happen?" Predictive algorithms are rarely, if ever, 100% accurate. So,



the goal of every organization is to train the algorithms to continue shrinking the error bars. This can be done manually by financial analysts as they tweak the formulas in their spreadsheets or by use of machine learning where the algorithms learn on their own based on feedback loops from the Descriptive BI tools.

As teenagers, we start developing a sense of autonomy because not only can we now predict what might happen, we start planning which choices to make. For example, my son's descriptive brain tells him that he had a test every month in science class so his predictive algorithm lets him know that he will likely have a test next month so he should probably study to improve his outcome—a prescription to achieve a better result (while avoiding his father's ranting to do the same).

Data scientists call this the Prescriptive stage of AI learning where the algorithm answers the question: "What should I do about what's going to happen?" As a simple example, many cars have a "Get Service Now"

light that illuminates when the car's Descriptive and Predictive algorithms detect signals that are abnormal and troubling. As a more sophisticated example, online retailers and streaming video services now regularly have "Recommended for You" choices based on your prior buying habits (Descriptive BI), how accurate their prior predictions were, and combing through similar data from others just like you—age, level of education, where you live—from the personal profiling data they collect or purchase from data aggregators.

As adults, around age 25 or so, our brains are now fully formed and the "Executive Function" part of our prefrontal cortex is finally able to, as neuroscientists would say, "do the hard but right thing" such as not driving too fast on snow-covered roads or, in my case, eat more salad instead of pasta. For computers, the best example of this level of AI is the development of fully autonomous, driverless automobiles. While some cars can now automatically parallel park themselves, a few companies like Tesla, Cruise, and Waymo, have demonstrated the capability

to enter a destination and have the car navigate there with little or no intervention.

We have now reached the Semantic level of AI, where the computer reacts to a command within a particular social context. The car cannot just drive straight from point A to point B, it must observe traffic lanes, stop signs, crossing traffic, obstacles, etc. This is what made ChatGPT v3.5's debut so significant. It was the first time that you could ask the computer to do something practical—write me a business plan, correct my resume—in the Semantic context of feeding it your business idea and your employment history.

But just like fully adult humans make mistakes, so does Semantic AI. Waymo and Cruise vehicles still get stuck in the middle of roads when their software gets confused and Tesla's FSD still requires occasional intervention. We humans (mostly) learn from our mistakes as do more sophisticated AI algorithms. There's already version 4.0 of GPT which corrected some of version 3.5's errors and Tesla's FSD v12 entirely abandoned a rules-based approach in favor of 100% neural networks, far more akin to human learning than any previous version.

I See an AI in your Future

As we humans mature from infancy to adulthood, learning becomes increasingly complex requiring access to more and more data and more and more energy (best to budget now for your teenager's voracious appetite). While our

brains represent only 7% of our body's volume, they consume nearly 20% of the energy (via oxygen and glucose). Similarly, at each stage of the learning ladder—Descriptive BI, Predictive, Prescriptive, and Semantic—the amount of data consumed, and computational resources required grows exponentially. This is why we can find hundreds of Prescriptive BI tools on the market but less than a handful of Prescriptive.

What then is the meaning of all this for the customs community? There are three key challenges that must be addressed.

First, computational power is not going to be solved by the limited resources of government agencies and customs equipment manufacturers. Let the chip manufacturers and cloud computing providers solve that for us.

Second, leverage the extraordinary advantage computers have over humans in sensing. While the five human senses have a very narrow range and limited sensitivity, digital sensing systems can scan the entire electromagnetic spectrum from radio waves to gamma rays, from infrasound to ultrasound, and with airborne particle sniffers that are more sensitive than even a bloodhound's nose (which is already 10,000 times more sensitive than a human's). Vast amounts of text and imagery at ports of entry are already readily available. The key question is what is being done with it all?

The community consensus seems to be to keep the data in their existing

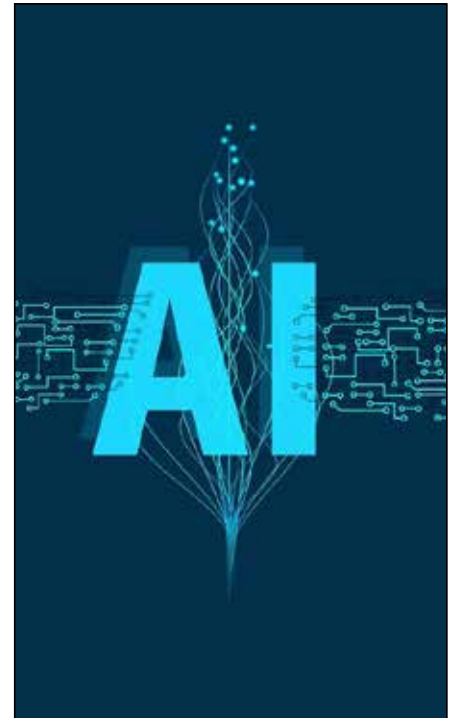
silos. Vendors stick with propriety data formats and customs agencies are timid about cross-border data sharing agreements. This has led to suboptimal resource utilization at POEs where many still operate under the assumption of assigning one agent to one scanner. This naturally has led to fractional inspection rates (1 – 5% at most crossings) or bottlenecks that severely delay the flow of commerce.

Third, AI algorithms at any of the three levels of autonomy (Predictive, Prescriptive, and Semantic) require not only large amounts of data but the data must be curated. Imagine training a car's autonomous driving on examples from crappy drivers. When Tesla first allowed consumers to install their Beta versions of FSD, before accepting their payment, they required the drivers to achieve a specific "safety score" so that the algorithms were training on high quality, real-world driving examples.

Fourth is the matter of setting expectations. While there are many Descriptive BI tools in use today by customs agencies, there are far fewer Predictive tools, perhaps only a handful of Prescriptive tools, and zero Semantic tools. By some estimates, the ability to replace human agents with Semantic AI is at least 3-5 years away and more likely a decade or more. Don't believe any vendor that tells you otherwise.

Accelerating the Ascent up the AI Learning Ladder

This is where I, as an industry consultant, tip my hat to US



company S2 Global with their CertScan AI integration platform. They have made, in my opinion, the absolutely correct strategic decision to produce an AI-enablement platform. To borrow from an old ad campaign, "They don't make the AI algorithms, they make them better." By providing access to millions of quality integrated data packages (text + imagery) to vendors and then validating the AI algorithm once in use, they have demonstrated that 100% inspection rates, increased revenue collections, and improved operator performance can be achieved today.

CROSS BORDER CRIME IN WEST AFRICA. WHY ECOWAS CHAIRMAN MUST ACT FAST

*By Martin Igwe, West African Regional
1st Vice President, West African Action
Network on Small Arms (WAANSA
Nigeria)*

The proliferation and circulation of illegal small arms and light weapons remain a significant challenge to peace and security in Nigeria and the Ecowas Region. From Zamfara North-West to Borno in North-East to Benue North-Central Nigeria, Tuaregs in Niger and Mali etc armed violence has had dire consequence on the socio Economic development, political stability and human security of the region.

FRANTZ FANON said and I quote “in any crises situation any unlooker is either a traitor or Coward”

understanding the fact that courage is not the absence of fear but the triumph over it, my team took a journey to Federal University Gusau, Zamfara State where very organized criminal elements abducted scores of students. Our series of meetings with relevant stakeholders in Zamfara and Katsina confirmed a well coordinated cross border syndicates capitalizing on our porous border to abuse ECOWAS protocol of free entry and free exit. Especially this time the border of Niger Republic is shot down due to sanctions from ECOWAS.

Our Border Communities are now shadows of itself informal trade accounting for significant majority of employment of women are no more, no thank to this criminal syndicates acting like government under legitimate government. Federal University of Gusau management and student are always living in fear, this is threatening the Educational development of our youths who will remain economic risk takers and engine room of any genuine development.

Raising creativity, productivity, stimulating entrepreneurship and technology breakthrough in education institutions remains a source bet to consolidate governments effort to gradually eliminate poverty in Nigeria and West Africa as a Region.

The vision of Economic Community of West Africa States was anchored on creating a borderless, peaceful prosperous and cohesive region built on good governance where the people have the capacity to access and harness the enormous resources through creation of opportunities for sustainable development.

Today the opposite is almost the reality, Trans Border Crime in West Africa Sub-region has increase illegal proliferation of small arms and light weapons, these weapons mostly in the hands of non state actors fuel communal conflict, political instability and pose threat



to Regional Peace and Stability. The truth is that as long as the Nigeria borders remain porous and inefficiently manned by reasonable security personal, prospect for efficient border management will be greatly undermined destroying private sector economic opportunities. Different studies indicates that women owns most of this businesses and profit channeled to uplifting family livelihood including buying foods and paying school fees. Maigatari in Jigawa State Nigeria, Congwalam in Katsina, Illela in Sokoto Nigeria remains examples of this confirmed large International border markets.

West Africa Action Network on Small Arms is of the view that time has come for President Bola Ahmed Tinubu President of Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairman ECOWAS to reawaken the Spirit of the vision of ECOWAS and mobilize member state to consider opening of Nigeria-Niger Border. Doing this will be a direct additional bold step policy initiative which will quicken

the realization of the budget of Renew Hope which seek to achieve among other things economic growth, greater access to social security with defence and security as top priority.

Regional and sub-regional organizations like ECOWAS must enforce existing International treaties and convention against defaulters whenever they are arrested to serve as deterrent to others.

ECOWAS need to develop an economic blue print capable of bringing certain aspect of legitimate economic activities in border communities such as infrastructure, social, environmental and human needs, strengthen institution working within the border area, provide modern facilities and control centers that can effectively detect movement of criminal elements and illegal importation of arms in the region of West Africa, Trans-border organized crime remains a serious security threat



that must be forcefully combated through appropriate technology, legal, political, economic, social and cultural strategies.

A threat to peace and security in West African Region remains a threat to development, with existing realities and its possible negative consequences to regional peace security and development ECOWAS NEED TO ACT NOW AND FAST TOO.

Regional 1st Vice President West Africa Action Network on Small arms (WAANSA) Mr Martin Igwe National Secretary Waansa Nigeria Alhaji Ismael Danzaki ,Nigeria Women Journalist NAWOJ Zamfara State Hajia JAMILA with the management of Federal University Gussau led by the Vice Chancellor Professor Muazu ABUBAKAR Gussau after Meeting in Zamfara State

A Historic First as NAPTIP Achieves the Conviction of a Foreign National for Trafficking

A historic feat has been recorded by the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), in a bid to eradicate the incidence of human trafficking in the Country as a Federal High Court sitting in Jos, Plateau State, presided over by His Lordship, Honourable D.V Agishi, has handed down a conviction of a Lebanese Human Trafficker, Jabr Iskandar Kfour Sleiman who sexually exploited numerous girls in Jos.

The groundbreaking judgment slammed a 12 and 17 months imprisonment without the option of a fine on the 61-year-old convict and also ordered the Honourable Minister of Interior to deport him because his conduct was contrary to the peace and order and corporate governance of the Country.

It would be recalled that the Director General, Prof. Fatima Waziri-Azi, had, on assumption of office in 2021, promised diligent prosecution of all human

traffickers in the Country irrespective of status with emphasis on the so-called high-profile traffickers.

At the time of filing this report, the Agency and some high-profile traffickers are being prosecuted. Also, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Justice, Interpol, and the Italian Government, the notorious Charity Omoye, an Italian convicted trafficker was extradited to serve her 13-year sentence.

The convicted Lebanese was arrested in 2021 by the operatives of NAPTIP with the support of some stakeholders at B/55/12 Giring Road Abattoir Jos South Local Government Area, Plateau state and charged to court on a sixteen (16) count bothering on abuse of position of vulnerability and sexual exploitation of 16 girls contrary to sections 13 (2)(b) and 16 (1) of the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act, 2015 (TIPPEA, Act, 2015).

Canada Provides CAD 21 million to Assist Displaced Afghans in Central Asia and Pakistan



The Government of Canada announced a contribution of CAD 21 million channeled through the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to support the most vulnerable Afghan populations who have fled their country looking for safety in Central Asia and Pakistan.

The resources will fund a three-year regional project to support governments and local organizations in responding to the protection, health and integration needs of Afghan nationals in their communities in five countries in the region: Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

“Those vulnerable Afghans living in conditions of protracted displacement or in search of protection are desperately in need of immediate assistance and must not be forgotten,” said IOM Director General, Amy Pope. “This generous act of solidarity from the Government of Canada towards neighbouring countries hosting vulnerable Afghans reaffirms our commitment to leave no one behind.”

“Canada’s experience shows that refugees contribute significantly to societies and economies, and Canada has a proud and long-standing tradition of responding to the needs of vulnerable people, international assistance, resettlement, and integration. This funding for IOM will support vulnerable Afghan populations

in Central Asia and Pakistan affected by the crisis,” said Marc Miller, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. “We are grateful for our partnership with the IOM and value their ongoing help to provide life-saving and essential assistance to refugees in Afghanistan and worldwide.”

The funding will support the integration of Afghan nationals by expanding local basic services in line with national policies, while improving their livelihoods and ensuring social cohesion and peaceful coexistence with host communities.

Canada’s support will also contribute to enhancing Afghans’ access to multi-sectoral services, such as health, as well as growing the knowledge and skills of health and non-health stakeholders on health security at borders.

A core component of this project is geared towards capacity-building of national and local authorities in the protection of migrants’ basic rights. In addition, the funding will support economic recovery and resilience of Afghan communities through IOM’s vocational training and economic integration schemes, designed in collaboration with national authorities and civil society.

Canada is among the top 10 donors to IOM globally, and the country has recently reached its commitment to resettle more than 40,000 Afghan refugees with the assistance of IOM since August 2021.

Currently, more than 1,460,900 Afghans are in the five countries targeted under this project.

Over 480,000 undocumented Afghans have been deported from Pakistan to Afghanistan since early November.

2024 WORLD BORDER SECURITY CONGRESS: ISTANBUL, TURKEY

24TH-26TH APRIL 2024

*Where East Meets West – Developing
Border Strategies Through
Co-operation and Technology*



24th - 26th April 2024

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Join us in Turkey, on 24th-26th April 2024, for the next gathering of the border security, protection and management community.

Turkey is arguably the most strategically positioned countries in the world and Istanbul, the most strategically positioned city. Turkey stands on the crossroads between two continents and indeed two cultures. It also sits astride the Bosphorus Strait, connecting two of the world's most important seas, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

Turkey has rail and/or road links from Armenia, Iran, and Azerbaijan

(the exclave of Nakhchivan) in the east, Georgia in the northeast, Bulgaria and Greece in the northwest, and Iraq and Syria in the southeast. And from there to the rest of the Middle East and Central Asia.

Conflict in the neighbouring countries has led to major influxes of refugees heading for Europe or simply the nearest safe haven. Turkey has an estimated four million refugees currently hosted, mainly coming from Iraq and Syria.

Terrorism is a major problem from both domestic terrorist groups

including the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), and the Gülen movement. As well as spill over from neighbouring conflicts.

Turkey's strategic position as a routeway between continents also means that it is also a major route for human trafficking, drugs, weapons and other goods bound for the lucrative European market.

The heroin trade from Afghanistan to Europe is especially a problem with Turkish organised groups controlling the wholesale traffic of heroin to Europe.

Turkey is working hard with neighbours including the EU to address these challenges including the sharing of intelligence, conducting joint operations, and offering humanitarian assistance.

With its unique position as one of the world's gateway cities, Istanbul and Turkey is the perfect place to reconvene for the next meeting of the World Border Security Congress.

2024 Topics of Discussion

- Managing Migration (organised crime as cover for migrant



- smuggling and THB)
- Terrorism and Countering Terrorism (incl. FTFs as sleepers)
- Challenges for small ports and airfields
- Maritime Border Challenges
- IT/Tech at the Border as an Enabler/Threat - Cybercrime / AI
- Countering Serious Organised Crime, Drugs, SALW, Smuggling
- ID / Document Fraud
- Future Borders

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 in today's global environment.

Border agencies and agencies at the border can benefit from the 'Closed Agency Only Workshops' with a series of behind closed door discussion and working group opportunities.

The World Border Security Congress is a high level three day event that will once again discuss and debate current and future policies, implementation issues and challenges as well as new

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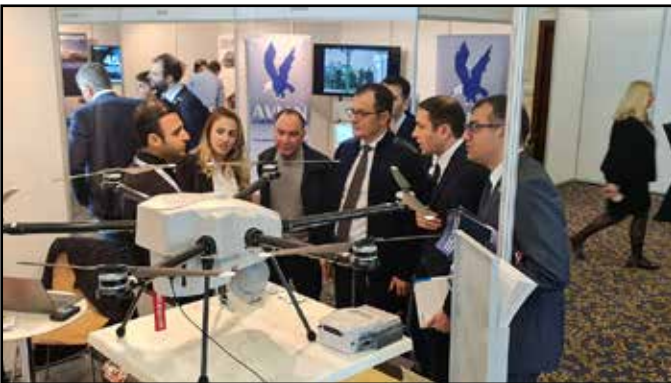
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and developing technologies that contribute towards safe and secure border and migration management. Registration is NOW OPEN at

www.world-border-congress.com, for you to apply for your delegate pass to attend this leading and exclusive discussion.

We look forward to welcoming you to Istanbul, Turkey on 24th-26th April 2024 for the next gathering of border and migration management professionals.





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ISTANBUL, TURKEY

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Where East Meets West - Developing Border Strategies Through Co-operation and Technology

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CONGRESS GUIDE AND INVITATION TO ATTEND

Your guide to the Preliminary Congress Programme and event information

The 2024 World Border Security Congress will be held on 24th-26th April 2024.

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

On behalf of the Organising Committee, you are invited to join us in Istanbul, Turkey in one of the most strategically positioned countries, on 24th-26th April for a stimulating and essential gathering of international border and migration management professionals.


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**BORDER SECURITY
REPORT**

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Welcome to your guide to the Preliminary Congress Programme of the 2024 World Border Security Congress taking place in the historic city of Istanbul on 24th-26th April 2024.

In this guide you will find all the information you require for a successful attendance, from the outline Congress Programme (correct at the time of printing) to details on the Closed Agency Only Workshops, as well as a great Accommodation Special Rate the Congress has arranged with the venue hotel and how to book your delegate place and accommodation.

If you have any queries regarding your attendance to the World Border Security Congress, including clearance to attend the Closed Agency Only Workshops, please contact Neil Walker, Event Director, World Border Security Congress at neilw@world-border-congress.com.

We look forward to welcoming you to Istanbul, Turkey this April, for the next exciting gathering of the border management and protection community, international border agencies and agencies at the border.

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Dear Colleague,

Developing Border Strategies Through Co-operation and Technology

Turkey is arguably one of the most strategically positioned countries in the world and Istanbul, the most strategically positioned city. Turkey stands on the crossroads between two continents and indeed two cultures. It also sits astride the Bosphorus Strait, connecting two of the world's most important seas, the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

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With its unique position as one of the world's gateway cities, Istanbul and Turkey is the perfect place to convene for the next meeting of the World Border Security Congress.

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

We are delighted to be co-hosted and supported by the Ministry of Interior of Turkey. The Congress is also supported by *the Organisation for Security & Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Association of Airport and Seaport Police (EAASP), African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU-ECOSOCC), Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI), African Young People Support Center, World Border Security Network and International Association of CIP Professionals*, and is the premier multi-jurisdictional global platform where the border protection policy-makers, management and practitioners together with security industry professionals, convene to discuss the international challenges faced in protecting borders.

The Congress programme (correct at the time of printing) will deliver high level discussions and a series of Closed Agency Only Workshops for promoting greater collaboration on the international challenges.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee you are cordially invited to Istanbul, Turkey on 24th-26th April 2024 for World Border Security Congress, the premier gathering of border and migration management professionals.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Neil Walker
Event Director
World Border Security Congress





Turkey's geographical location poses significant challenges for its border security and migration agencies. Straddling two continents, Turkey sits at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. Its unique position makes it a vital transit point for migrants and refugees looking to reach European countries, as well as organized criminal gangs to conduct cross border smuggling activities.

One of the main challenges arises from Turkey's extensive land and sea borders, sharing borders with eight countries, and its boundaries encompass rugged terrains, including mountains and rivers that can be difficult to patrol. Moreover, its maritime borders with Greece and Bulgaria, across the Aegean Sea, provide multiple clandestine entry points for people trying to reach Europe. The vastness and complexity of these borders necessitate considerable manpower and resources to monitor and secure effectively.

Turkey has become a major route for mass migration movements, especially since the Syrian civil war, which resulted in millions of refugees seeking asylum. This has put immense pressure on Turkey's migration management capacities. The influx of migrants not only requires border control but also humanitarian aid, asylum processing, and integration efforts. This ongoing situation leads to the challenge of balancing security measures with human rights obligations.

The geopolitical situation is another factor complicating the border control issues. The political unrest in neighboring regions and the rise of non-state actors, such as smugglers and human trafficking networks, exploit the situation, making the enforcement of border regulations even more daunting.

Turkey's location presents a unique set of challenges for border security and migration. The country has to deal with a complex border landscape, significant migration flows, geopolitical uncertainties, and the pressure of aligning with European Union standards, all of which tax its resources and policy-making decisions.



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

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

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

You are cordially invited to attend the World Border Security Congress in Istanbul, Turkey on 24th-26th April 2024.

Current Border Security Challenges:

- Migration Crisis Tests European Consensus and Governance
- Migrants and refugees streaming into Europe from Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia
- Big Business of Smuggling Enables Mass Movement of People for Enormous Profits
- Climate Change and Natural Disasters Displace Millions, Affect Migration Flows
- Europe and the United States Confront Significant Flows of Unaccompanied Child Migrants
- Tackling Southeast Asia's Migration Challenge
- Cross-border organised criminal gangs exploit human trafficking, drug smuggling and small arms proliferation
- Border Skirmishes Resonate in National Domestic Politics
- Women's Labour Migration from Asia and the Pacific

Why Attend

The 2024 World Border Security Congress will bring together the world's senior policy makers, practitioners and players, in Istanbul, Turkey in April 2024, to discuss and debate the current and future issues facing the border management, security and migration management sector.

Your attendance to the World Border Security Congress will ensure you are up-to-date on the latest issues, policies and challenges facing the world's border management, protection and security forces, as well as contribute to the discussion on how to best collaborate and cooperate to make our borders safer and more secure.

You will also gain an insight in to what the future holds for the management of migration and refugee movement, as well as systems and technologies employed in fighting illegal border activities, including drug and people trafficking.

With active senior border force officials and speakers delivering discussion and thought provoking presentations on many of the serious border protection, management and security issues and challenges facing the industry.

- High level conference with leading industry speakers and professionals
- Learn from experiences and challenges from the world's border agencies
- Gain insight into national, regional and global policy and border agency developments
- Constructive debate, educational opportunities and cooperation advocacy
- Share ideas and facilitate in valuable inter-agency cooperation
- Exhibition showcasing leading technologies and products
- Networking events and opportunities

Who is the World Border Security Congress for?

Immigration and border management and security policy makers and practitioners.

Senior representatives from national border services, police, customs, and immigration services, as well as organisations, services and suppliers to the border management and security industry, including:

- Customs and border control officials
- National / Homeland security advisors, policymakers and personnel
- Coast guard officers
- Chiefs of Police and Police and law enforcement officers
- Boundary commissioners
- Diplomats and foreign affairs officials
- Borderland planners and managers
- Defence and security departments
- Consular officials
- Policy analysts
- Global Security Risk Analyst
- Heads of Department of Economic, Management and Operation of Maritime Transport
- Heads of National Analysis Centre
- Heads of Sector, EU and Schengen
- Security system providers

CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL

8:30am - 12:00pm	Site Visits
9:30am - 12:30pm	AU-ECOSOCC/AYPSC Africa Workshop
1:30pm - 3:30pm	MINISTERIAL OPENING, WELCOME AND OPENING KEYNOTE SESSION
3:30pm - 4:00pm	Networking Coffee Break
4:00pm - 5:30pm	PLENARY - Managing Migration (organised crime as cover for migrant smuggling and THB)
7:00pm	Welcome Reception (Invitation Only)

THURSDAY 25TH APRIL

9:00am - 10:30am	PLENARY - Terrorism and Countering Terrorism (incl. FTFs as sleepers)
9:00am-10:30am	TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP
9:30am - 7:00pm	Exhibition Open
10:30am - 11:15am	Networking Coffee Break in the Exhibition Hall
11:15am - 12:30pm	BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - Challenges for small ports and airfields
	CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - Inter-Agency Cooperation and Information Sharing
12:30pm - 2:00pm	Delegate Lunch
2:00pm - 3:30pm	PLENARY - Maritime Border Challenges
2:00pm-3:30pm	TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP
3:30pm - 4:15pm	Networking Coffee Break in the Exhibition Hall
4:15pm - 5:30pm	BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - IT/Tech at the Border as an Enabler/Threat - Cybercrime / AI
	CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - Latest/New Modus Operandi
5:30pm - 7:00pm	Networking Reception in the Exhibition Hall

FRIDAY 26TH APRIL

9:00am - 10:30am	PLENARY - Countering Serious Organised Crime, Drugs, SALW, Smuggling
9:00am - 10:30am	NATO COEDAT Countering Terrorism Workshop
9.30am - 4.30pm	Exhibition Open
10:30am - 11:15am	Networking Coffee Break in the Exhibition Hall
11:15am - 12:30pm	BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - ID / Document Fraud
	CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - Watchlisting
12:30pm - 2:00pm	Delegate Lunch
2:00pm - 3:30pm	PLENARY - Future Borders
4:00pm	World Border Security Congress Round Up and Close

EXHIBITION OPENING HOURS

Wed 24th April	1.00pm to 5.30pm
Thur 25th April	9.30am to 7.30pm
Fri 26th April	9.30am to 4.30pm

ON-SITE REGISTRATION HOURS

Wed 24th April	12.00pm to 5.00pm
Thur 25th April	8.30am to 7.00pm
Fri 26th April	8.30am to 4.00pm

REGISTRATION



Government Agency / Public Sector

The World Border Security Congress is open for members of federal government, border management agencies, law enforcement or inter-governmental agencies, the European Union, INTERPOL, EUROPOL, AFRIPOL, ASEANAPOL, AMERIPOL, OSCE, IOM, EAASP and associated Agencies and members (public and official) involved in border security, management and protection. Applications will be reviewed and considered on an individual basis. Delegates are requested to register sufficiently early to ensure participation. For all above mentioned communities the World Border Security Congress **early registration (prior to 31st March 2024) is “Free of Charge”**.

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

Commercial, Industry and Other Organizations

Industry companies and other organizations sending staff members to the World Border Security Congress are required to purchase a conference pass.

Registration Fees can be found on the Registration Form at the back of this booklet, or alternately online at www.world-border-congress.com/conference/registration-fees. Early Bird registration deadline is **31st March 2024**.

Register online at www.world-border-congress.com/onlinereg

HOW TO REGISTER

1. Online at www.world-border-congress.com
2. Complete the Registration Form enclosed with this booklet and email to:
registration@world-border-congress.com.
3. Complete the Registration Form enclosed with this booklet and mail to:
World Border Security Congress, Torch Marketing, 200 Ware Road, Hoddesdon,
Herts EN11 9EY, United Kingdom.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT - deadline 31st March 2024

For Commercial, Industry and Other Organizations, register yourself and your colleagues as conference delegates by 31st March 2024 and save with the Early Bird Discount.

Discounts for Members of Supporting Associations

If you are a member of one of the following trade associations, supporters of the World Border Security Congress, then you can benefit from a special discount rate:

- National Security & Resilience Consortium (NS&RC)
- International Association of CIP Professionals (IACIPP)
- International Security Industry Organization (ISIO)

Check the Registration Form enclosed with this booklet for full details.

CLOSED AGENCY ONLY WORKSHOPS



FOR BORDER AGENCIES AND AGENCIES AT THE BORDER ONLY – If you are interested in participating in the Closed Agency Only Workshops, in order to obtain clearance to attend the Closed Workshops, please register via the Online Agency Registration complete the Agency Registration Form and return, to begin the approval process. If you have any queries please contact Neil Walker, Event Director, World Border Security Congress at neilw@world-border-congress.com.

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 key organisations and experts, with a series of behind closed door discussion and working group opportunities.

This years Closed Agency Only Workshop topics are:

Thursday 25th April 2024 - 11.15am - 12.30pm

Inter-Agency Cooperation and Information Sharing

Moderator: UNOCT | UNCCT | Border Security and Management

It is well established that inter-agency and international information sharing is essential for effectively fighting cross border crimes such as terrorism, THB, weapons and drug smuggling, the trade in cultural heritage and protected species. With no formal global organisation for agencies at the border, this Closed Agency Workshop is a mechanism and resource for agencies to discuss sharing information and how the international community can collaborate to achieve common aims.

Thursday 25th April 2024 - 4.15pm - 5.30pm

Latest/New Modus Operandi

Moderator: UNODC

This Closed Agency Workshop will enable practitioners the opportunity to share analysis on the latest trends in cross border crimes and share some of their latest experiences of changing Modus Operandi of criminal groups operating in their area, and what they have done to combat these changing criminal activities/actions.

Friday 26th April 2024 - 11.15am - 12.30pm

Watchlisting

Moderator: U.S. Department of Justice/ICITAP

This Closed Agency Workshop aims to promote the responsible and ethical use of watchlists. Why they are an essential tool for law enforcement and border agencies. It will cover what is required for an individual to be included on a watch list, what data and biometrics is included on an individual's record within a watch list, what watchlist resources are available and how to share information on a watchlist internally and with international partners, consistent with international law and legal standards.

WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL

1:30pm - 3:30pm MINISTERIAL OPENING KEYNOTE AND WELCOME

Minister of Interior, Turkey

Senior Representative, Turkish National Police

Jalel Chelba, Acting Executive Director AFRIPOL, African Union*

Gerard Waite, Head of Mission IOM Turkey

Ms Siv-Katrine Leirtroe, Head of Border Security and Management Unit, Transnational Threats Dept, Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Senior Representative, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Senior Representative, European Association of Airport & Seaport Police (EAASP)

4:00pm - 5:30pm **PLENARY SESSION - MANAGING MIGRATION (ORGANISED CRIME AS COVER FOR MIGRANT SMUGGLING AND THB)**

It is well established that organised crime groups are able to adapt and evolve to use any weakness or vulnerability at our borders as a cover for nefarious activities. The migration crises we are experiencing on the southern borders of the US and EU offer prime opportunities for criminal activities, including smuggling migrants for money, which is generally a voluntary transaction but leaves migrants dangerously exposed to death, injury and abuse, and THB, which is the forced trafficking of persons. Regions of Asia are also experiencing unprecedented levels of THB, often for the vice trade. What are the latest challenges with migrant smuggling and THB, how do these two crimes differ in terms of methodology and how does can the international community combat cross-border crimes or irregular migration?

Senior Representative, Ministry of Interior, Turkey

Vulnerable persons at the border: Protection and Prevention - Amanda Read, National Operational lead, Safeguarding & Modern Slavery, UK Border Force

Pier Rossi-Longhi, Senior Regional Immigration and Border Governance Specialist, IOM

Jorge Gobeia, General Director, SENAFRONT, Panama

Jeremy Douglas, Regional Representative, UNODC SE Asia Pacific*

Facilitating Safe and Dignified Migration in the Context of Outward Migration (ECOWAS Free Movement Protocols) - Justice Cornelius Amevor, Immigration Officer - Sector Commander, Ghana Immigration Service

Migration Flows and Their Impact on Border Management in Receiving Countries by Using Time Series Models - Iliuta Cumpanasu, Border Management Expert, Lead Evaluator in Vulnerability Assessment Unit, FRONTEX

7:00pm - 9:00pm **WELCOME RECEPTION (INVITATION ONLY)**

THURSDAY 25TH APRIL

9:00am - 10:30am

PLENARY SESSION - TERRORISM AND COUNTERING TERRORISM (INCL. FTFs AS SLEEPERS)

Whilst the threat from ISIL and Al Qaeda has diminished since the destruction of the Islamic Caliphate in Syria and Iraq, ISIL's defeat has left thousands of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF's) in captivity in the Middle East and -Stan countries, with many more yet unaccounted for. How much of a long-term threat do these unaccounted for and incarcerated FTF's pose as they are released or escape and use the THB networks to infiltrate back into their countries of origin. And how many have already made their way back to their home country without being picked up by the local criminal justice system. The UN mandated adoption of API and PNR, in combination with the more widespread use of watchlists, will be a key factor in countering the movement of FTF's.

Christine Bradley, Chief of Section, Countering Terrorist Travel, United Nations Office of Counterterrorism (UNOCT), UNCCT

Senior Representative, Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Michael Hughes, Director, INTERPOL Washington*

Valdecy Urquiza, Director of International Cooperation, Policia Federal, Brazil*

Threats and Challenges of Trade Facilitation Under Insurgency and Fragile

Borders: Nigeria Customs Experience - Sanusi Tasiu Saulawa, Chief Superintendent of Customs, Nigeria Customs Service

What can we learn from Behaviour - Sarah Jane Prew, Security Consultant, Arup

What place does AI have in Behavioural Detection? - Tamara Mulley, Security Intelligence, Heathrow Airport

Big data analytics and analyzing traveler movements - Jonas Oijevaar, Head of Product Marketing, WCC Group

9.00AM - 10.30AM

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

See some of the latest border tech solutions demonstrated and discussed during the Technology Workshop.

Developing a border security lab at the European Commission - Joint Research Centre - Guido Ferraro, Project Manager, European Commission - JRC

DNA fast-track: Unveiling VeriDNA's abilities in border security - Stefan Sauter, Senior Product Manager, Veridos GmbH

Real-time Border Crossing with Iris Recognition - Seyit Ali Kaya, Regional Manager, Iris ID Systems

Unifying Intelligence and AI for Next-Gen Border Security: Strategies and Insights - Declan Tresize, Vice President, Global Solutions Engineering, Babel Street, UK

Uninterrupted Long-Range Border Surveillance through Buried Optical Fiber Technology - David Hill, Chief Technology Officer, Sintela Ltd

Why today's C-UAS systems must be built to defend against tomorrow's USVs and UGVs - Chris Abrahams, CEO, CRFS

Kevin Davies, Chief Commercial Officer, Decision Sciences

Use and impact of Artificial Intelligence in Maritime Border Security - Malcolm Glaister, CEO & Ian Clarke, Director Business Development and Client Relations, Sirius Insight

11:15AM - 12:30PM **WORKSHOPS**

BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - CHALLENGES FOR SMALL PORTS AND AIRFIELDS

As perpetrators of trafficking human beings (THB) and international crimes, such as smuggling of drugs or illicit goods, continue to show signs of avoiding commercial airlines, there is evidence that regional airlines and airports, as well as light aircraft into small private aerodromes and fields, are being used for these activities, where the handling of these flights by departure and arrival are not through the regular border controls. Similar issues and challenges are being faced on coastal borders, with smugglers and traffickers of human beings using small boats to benefit from utilising beaches or hidden alcoves to conduct their illegal activities. What can be done to tackle the use of light aircraft and private airfields, and small boats, which are difficult to detect, highly problematic to intercept and easy for criminal to be in and out again in a matter of minutes?

Peter Nilsson, Head of AIRPOL

Project Pegasus - Michelle Conyers, Assistant Director Office Intelligence, General Aviation Multi Agency Hub and Air Passenger/Heathrow Multi Agency Hub and Thomas King, Team Leader, General Aviation Multi Agency Hub, Home Office, UK

Sjoerd Top, Executive Director, Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre (MAOC)

Ruggero Scaturro, Senior Analyst, Global Initiative

CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION AND INFORMATION SHARING

Moderator: United Nations Office on Countering Terrorism, Special Projects & Innovation Branch | CT Travel Programme

Moderator: Rocco Messina, Head of the Border Security and Management Unit, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

It is well established that inter-agency and international information sharing is essential for effectively fighting cross border crimes such as terrorism, THB, weapons and drug smuggling, the trade in cultural heritage and protected species. With no formal global organisation for agencies at the border, this Closed Agency Workshop is a mechanism and resource for agencies to discuss sharing information and how the international community can collaborate to achieve common aims.

Reducing Irregular Migration to the EU through Enhanced Regional Collaboration of Migration-related Structures in the Western Balkans - Snezana Trajanovska, Director, MARRI RC (Migration, Asylum, Refugee Regional Initiative - Regional Centre)

TBC



THURSDAY 25TH APRIL

2:00pm - 3:30pm

PLENARY SESSION - MARITIME BORDER CHALLENGES

Securing maritime borders is one of the most challenging problems facing border and associated agencies. Tens of thousands of kilometres of coastline. Thousands of secluded bays and river estuaries and inlets. Islands, islets, cliffs, beaches, marshlands and mangrove swamps. Busy ports and harbours. Numerous commercial and pleasure craft coming and going in conditions that can be anything from flat calm to gale force. Add to this the unseen; submersibles, semi-submersibles, scuba divers and underwater caches. Given the favourable conditions for criminal enterprise, no wonder smuggling is one of the oldest criminal activities. How do you secure your coasts and tackle the multitude of ingress and egress points and ensure that our coasts and maritime borders are as secure as they can be?

CDR (PRT-N) Ricardo Lopes, Cell Head CivMil Engagement - Sub Sahara, NATO Southern Hub

Senior Representative, Turkish Coast Guard

Major General Jorge Ludovico Bolas, Commander, Coastal and Border Control Unit, GNR, Portugal

Senior Representative, Coastal border control department of the Ministry of Interior Qatar

Rakesh Pal, Director General, Indian Coast Guard*

CG Admiral Ronnir Gavan, Commandant, Philippines Coast Guard*

Chris Trelawny, Deputy Secretary General, INTERPORTPOLICE*

2.00PM - 3.30PM

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

See some of the latest border tech solutions demonstrated and discussed during the Technology Workshop.

Application of Low Field - NMR (LF-NMR) for characterization and identification of products for customs purposes - Maria Carmela Emanuele, Chemist, Italian Custom

Digital Travel - Hype or Hero? - Andy Smith, Director, Government & Industry Relations, SITA

Improved Border Security Through Scalable Integrated Solutions - David Simpson, Senior Director/International Business Development, Teledyne FLIR Defense

The Shrinking World of Biometrics - David Gerulski, EVP, Integrated Biometrics

How Can Border Agencies Enhance Border Security with API-PNR Data? - Helene Dubos, Head of Marketing, Streamlane

On the move' vehicle and face recognition with mobile stand-off face capturing sensors from long distances - Fulyer Tuncer Cetin, Chief Team Lead, ASELSAN Inc, Turkey

Air Border Management: The Increasing Value of X-ray Data Generation for Air Border Screening - Sara Bracceschi, Head of Consulting & Services, Customs, Center for Adaptive Security Research and Applications (CASRA)

Digitally and optically enhanced border guard frontliners to secure air, land and sea borders - Sandra Slavinec, CEO, Doculus Lumus

4:15PM - 5:30PM

WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT SESSION - IT/TECH AT THE BORDER AS AN ENABLER/THREAT - CYBERCRIME / AI

The mandated use of API/PNR data will make travel much safer and ultimately easier. But, the more people and organisations that hold and share our personal data, the more vulnerable we all become to cyber-crime, both as individuals and as organisations. Systems using API/PNR data are and will be a target for cyber criminals. The more personal data we hold and the more we rely on data systems as enablers at the border, the more vulnerable we are malicious cyber-attacks, whether for financial gain such as ransomware attacks, identity fraud or simply to disruption of the regular flow of traffic at the border. Does this threat increase exponentially with the advent of AI or is AI the answer to protecting ourselves and our systems? Can AI be utilised to generate alerts, red flags on travellers?

Practices from Turkey and the World on Border Security and Management in the Age of Digitalization

- Asst. Prof. Dr., İbrahim İrdem, Head of Department of Security Strategies and Management, Turkish National Police Academy

Luca Tagliaretti, Deputy Executive Director, eu-LISA

Kaitlin Ball, Expert Adviser on Human Rights and New Technologies, ODIHR

Paul Igbinere, Executive Director, African Young People Support Centre

Man or morph? How morphing attack detection helps border control against identity fraud - Michael Schwaiger, Senior Product Manager, secunet Security Networks AG

CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - LATEST/NEW MODUS OPERANDI

Moderator: UNODC

This Closed Agency Workshop will enable practitioners the opportunity to share analysis on the latest trends in cross border crimes and share some of their latest experiences of changing Modus Operandi of criminal groups operating in their area, and what they have done to combat these changing criminal activities/actions.

UNODC AIRCOP/CPP Programs - Senior Representative, UNODC

Disrupting organised criminal groups facilitating irregular migration by small boat - Senior Representatives, Home Office Intel. NCA and French Police





FRIDAY 26TH APRIL

9:00am - 10:30am

PLENARY SESSION - COUNTERING SERIOUS ORGANISED CRIME, DRUGS, SALW, SMUGGLING

Criminal actors continue to be very creative in developing new techniques and channels to conduct illicit activities. There is an old saying, 'follow the money' - investigating financial transactions and use that information to indicate evidence of a crime, a suspect or criminal network. But it is not only the money that facilitates this, it's exporter, carrier, forward freighter, delivery address, destination and more. Like API/PNR for passengers, this information builds a picture of the whole transaction that will establish patterns and history vital to identifying the organised criminal gangs that smuggle drugs, weapons, people etc. What are the latest challenges in the battle against SOC and how can border and associated agencies better use the data available to them to defeat cross border organised crime.

A K M Nazmul Hasan, Director General, Border Guard Bangladesh

LTC Marcos Pérez-Mayor, Border and Customs Police Command, Guardia Civil, Spain

Tofiq Murshudlu, Head of Coordination, Border Management Branch, AIRCOP / UNODC

Casey Durst, Executive Assistant Commissioner, Operations Support, US CBP

Joseph Ahoba, Head of Small Arms Division, ECOWAS*

Border Security and Illicit Trade: A Case Study of South-Western Nigeria

- Emmanuel Oluwadare Oshoba, Deputy Comptroller of Customs, Nigeria Customs Service

Mastering security challenges from illicit trading with agile security technology

- David Vollmar, Managing Director, unival group GmbH

9.00AM - 10.30AM

NATO COEDAT COUNTERING TERRORISM WORKSHOP - AGENCY ONLY

Moderated by: Marouan Hitti, Ugur Gungor, Richard Warnes - NATO COEDAT

COE-DAT will provide an academic insight into border security in the context of CT, and use case study examples from Türkiye and Lebanon in order to highlight how theoretical understanding can be applied in practice to better equip policy-level decision makers to defend their borders against terrorist activity.

The workshop aims to provide insight at the strategic level with regards to managing the range of tools available to develop border security, though this will include understanding the requirement to ensure strategy can be implemented at the tactical level. The outcome is to view border security and CT as a holistic process, underpinned by both academic research and practical experience."

Full details at www.world-border-congress.com/natocoedat-workshop

CONGRESS PROGRAMME



11:15AM - 12:30PM WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT SESSION - ID / DOCUMENT FRAUD

Criminals and terrorists historically often make use of fake and genuine identity and travel documents to enable their illegal activities. The adoption of Entry/Exit systems and data will no doubt make this more difficult but we should anticipate that criminals and terrorists will use their undoubted ingenuity and considerable resources to circumvent this problem. So, what is the future of identity fraud and how do we put in place mechanisms to identify the vulnerabilities. And once identified the vulnerabilities in the systems how do we plug the gaps and ensure that those gaps and plugs are shared with colleagues worldwide? With different agencies having developed different programs, how can these work together to the benefit of the international border management community?

Claudio Kavrecic, Head of Centre of Excellence for Combatting Document Fraud, Operational Response Division, Frontex

Fabrizio Dicarlo, Specialized Officer, INTERPOL*

Ivanka Spadina, IBM Programme Coordinator for Turkey, International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Senior Representative, Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - WATCHLISTING

This Closed Agency Workshop aims to promote the responsible and ethical use of watchlists. Why they are an essential tool for law enforcement and border agencies. It will cover what is required for an individual to be included on a watch list, what data and biometrics is included on an individual's record within a watch list, what watchlist resources are available and how to share information on a watchlist internally and with international partners, consistent with international law and legal standards.

Moderator: Daniel Guerrero, Watchlisting Assistance Support Program (WASP) Adviser, U.S. Department of Justice/ICITAP/Amentum

Senior Representative, INTERPOL*

TBC



2:00pm - 3:30pm

PLENARY SESSION - FUTURE BORDERS

It is now clear that entry/exit systems are future of our borders and that API/ PNR data is fundamental to their successful implementation. But how is that implementation progressing, especially at our maritime and green borders where there is little or no experience in the use of these technologies and data systems, and where conditions make it much more challenging, like busy ferry ports or secluded border crossings points or harbours? As passengers in general want technology to make travel simpler, governmental movements towards new forms of border control with the use of Digital Identity are with public-private cooperation. What is the changing landscape of API/PNR and how will that data and systems be managed as it rolls out across the world and are Trusted Traveller Programmes based on API/ PNR data the future. What's the latest thought leadership in enhancing border protection and management to counter the ever-changing challenges?

ETIAS Travel Authorisation Update - Sabine Kloss-Tullius, Head of Application Handlers Unit, ETIAS Central Unit, Frontex

Secure, Seamless Travel - Diane Sabatino, Acting Executive Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Digital travel and biometrics at the security checkpoints - Austin Gould, Assistant Administrator for Requirements and Capabilities Analysis, Transportation Security Administration (TSA), USA

Integrated Border Stability Mechanism (IBSM) - Rocco Messina, Head of the Border Security and Management Unit, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

Free movement zones: Benefits and risks - Danilo Diniz Correia, Implementation Assistant, IOM Argentina & Lizeth Lema Matehu, Project Manager, IOM, El Salvador

Oksana Kurysheva, Associate Programme Officer, OSCE

Accelerating the Digitalization of Borders - Emmanuel Wang, Vice-President Europe Business Development, Public Security & Identity, Idemia

3:30pm - 4:00PM

CONGRESS ROUND UP AND CLOSE

**invited*



SITE VISITS



SITE VISITS TO ISTANBUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT; OR PORT OF ISTANBUL

WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL – 8.30AM-12NOON

ISTANBUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



Istanbul Airport is the larger of two international airports serving Istanbul, Turkey. It is located in the Arnavutköy district on the European side of the city.

It served more than 64 million passengers in 2022, making it the busiest airport in Europe and 7th-busiest airport in the world in terms of total passenger traffic and, by serving more than 48 million international passengers, the 5th-busiest airport in the world in terms of international passenger traffic according to ACI World traffic values. It serves up to 114 countries and is the hub for Turkish Airlines.

Construction of the airport was divided over four phases. When all stages are completed, the airport will have the capacity to serve 200 million yearly passengers, which would at that time have made it the world's biggest airport. The cost of the project was estimated at €7 billion.

With the co-operation of the Ministry of Interior, The World Border Security Congress is delighted to offer, a guided site visit of Istanbul International Airport for a limited number of delegates.

PORT OF ISTANBUL



Port of Istanbul is a general cargo seaport, ro-ro and container terminal, situated in Haydarpaşa, Istanbul, Turkey at the southern entrance to the Bosphorus, near Haydarpaşa Station. It is operated by the Turkish State Railways (TCDD) and serves a hinterland which includes the country's most industrialised areas.

The Port of Istanbul is one of the three major Turkey's shipping ports, along with the Port of Ambarlı, and the Port of Zeytinburnu. Haydarpaşa was the largest port in Turkey until the early 2000s, as it was surpassed in TEUs by the Port of Ambarlı. Now, it is the third-largest port in Turkey. Haydarpaşa's annual cargo volume exceeds 60 million tons.

The Port of Haydarpaşa is located at the southern entrance to the Bosphorus. Two breakwaters protect vessels in the port, which total area is 343,420 square meters. The port handles ro-ro, containers, and general cargoes.

The World Border Security Congress is delighted to offer, with the support of the Ministry of Interior, a guided site visit of BPort of Istanbul for a limited number of delegates.

For further details and book your place visit www.world-border-congress.com/site-visit

Spaces are limited so ensure you book your place on the site tour early.

24th-26^h April 2024, Istanbul, Turkey | 17

NETWORKING RECEPTION



NETWORKING RECEPTION

THURSDAY 25th APRIL

5.30pm - 7:30pm

Exhibition Floor

Networking Reception
Sponsored by:

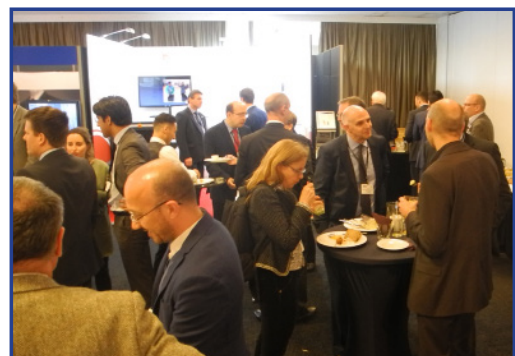
SITA

We invite you to join us at the end of the Thursday 25th April for the World Border Security Congress Networking Reception in the exhibition area at the Gorrion Hotel Istanbul, which will see the border security industry management professionals gather for a more informal reception.

With the opportunity to meet colleagues and peers you can build relationships with senior border agency and security officials in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

The Networking Reception is free to attend and open to industry professionals.

We look forward to welcoming you.



**BORDER SECURITY
REPORT**

AFRICAN YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORT CENTRE / AFRICAN SMART CITIES INNOVATION FOUNDATION / AU-ECOSOCC WORKSHOP



ADVANCING SOCIAL ECONOMIC CROSS-BORDER RELATIONS THROUGH TECHNOLOGY AND COOPERATION

WEDNESDAY 24TH APRIL - 9.30AM-12.30PM

This Workshop, organized by the African Young People Support Centre (AYPSC) in collaboration with the African Smart Cities Innovation Foundation (ASCIF), is geared towards a comprehensive exploration of social-economic cross-border relations. Although a specific emphasis on the African continent, it covers examples from other continents. The event aims to unravel the intricate interplay between trade dominance, political mediation, and technological advancements, all pivotal in fostering cross-border coordination and cooperation.

The examination of cross-border dynamics is a focal point, delving into the intricate dance between trade, politics, and institutions, including scrutinizing the correlation between trade dominance and the resulting economic interdependency that gives rise to cross-border linkages. Special attention will be given to investigating the role of local-central networks, involving government actors and other organizations, in mediating these complex processes.

In the era of global digital transformation, the Workshop will address continental advancements

in digital governance from a global perspective. It will emphasize the imperative of continental harmonization and the need for complementary global actions to influence norms on digital governance. The 'digital agenda' calls for not only national policy implementation but also high-level political investment at the continental level, coupled with global engagement on standard setting.

The Workshop underscores the need for Africa to actively shape its role in global digital geopolitics. Insights shared during the event will focus on smart border technologies and their potential to revolutionize Africa's infrastructure, whilst contributing significantly to securing peace and stability across the African continent, by efficiently connecting African capitals and socio-economic activities.

Workshop Time

Wednesday 24th April 2024 : 9.30am – 12:30pm

Delegates of the World Border Security Congress are entitled to participate in this African Young People Support Centre (AYPSC) and African Smart Cities Innovation Foundation (ASCIF) Workshop.

Register online at www.world-border-congress.com/registration

24th-26^h April 2024, Istanbul, Turkey | 19

COUNTERING THE MOVEMENT OF TERRORISTS ACROSS BORDERS WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP FACILITATED BY NATO COE-DAT

FRIDAY 26TH APRIL 9.00AM-10.30AM

For Border agencies and agencies at the border only



Moderated by: Marouan Hitti, Ugur Gungor, Richard Warnes - NATO COEDAT

A Centre of Excellence (COE) is an entity offering specialised expertise and experience to the benefit of the NATO Alliance, especially in support of Transformation. The Centre of Excellence Defence Against Terrorism (COE-DAT) is a NATO accredited, multi-national sponsored entity located in Ankara, Türkiye. COE-DAT was inaugurated in 2005 as the second among the 30 NATO Centres of Excellence that exist today. The Centre is composed of personnel from eight NATO nations and is focused on providing key decision-makers with realistic solutions to terrorism and counter-terrorism (CT) challenges. COE-DAT is designed to complement NATO's current resources while also serving three different functions: NATO's Department Head in Education and Training for CT; Education and Training Facility offering courses and other training and education opportunities; and, a strategic-level think tank.

Border Security is one of the topics that COE-DAT invests in, as it is deemed relevant to CT efforts. Border Security, Refugees and Counter-Terrorism is one of the 12 NATO-approved courses that are taught at COE-DAT.

During the COE-DAT workshop at the World Border Security Congress, COE-DAT will provide an academic insight into border security in the context of CT, and use case study examples from Türkiye and Lebanon in order to highlight how theoretical understanding can be applied in practice to better equip policy-level decision makers to defend their borders against terrorist activity.

The aim of the workshop is to allow participants to engage with subject matter experts and discuss a series of factors that contribute to border security, highlighting how technological advances need to be matched by human understanding and conventional methods in order to provide comprehensive defence against terrorism.

The workshop aims to provide insight at the strategic level with regards to managing the range of tools available to develop border security, though this will include understanding the requirement to ensure strategy can be implemented at the tactical level. The outcome is to view border security and CT as a holistic process, underpinned by both academic research and practical experience."

THE VENUE / ACCOMMODATION



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Gorrion Hotel, which was established in April 2014, is located on the Istanbul Basın Express Road and provides service with 252 rooms. With strategic location, to the Istanbul World Trade Center, Istanbul Fair Center, and Turkish Exporters Assembly, makes the hotel an ideal opportunity for business travelers.

Gorrion Hotel Istanbul also attracts visitors participating in events at IFM and CNR Exhibition Centers throughout the year. Gorrión Hotel Istanbul is located within conveniently walking distance to Star City and Istwest shopping centers, which serve as social hubs for our guests. Additionally, historical landmarks such as the Grand Bazaar, Spice Bazaar, Blue Mosque, and Hagia Sophia are only a short drive away.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION RATES FOR ATTENDEES TO THE WORLD BORDER SECURITY CONGRESS

The World Border Security Congress has negotiated special discounted rates for delegates to stay at the hotel.

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THINGS TO DO IN ISTANBUL

Istanbul, where East meets West, stuns with its rich history, vibrant culture, and breathtaking scenery. From Hagia Sophia's Byzantine grandeur to the aromatic spice bazaars, every corner whispers tales of sultans and empires. Cruise the Bosphorus, savoring waterfront palaces and sunset hues. Dive into Grand Bazaar's labyrinthine alleys, bargaining for treasures. Unwind in opulent hammams, emerging reborn. Istanbul awaits, a symphony for your senses.



More details can be found at www.istanbul.com

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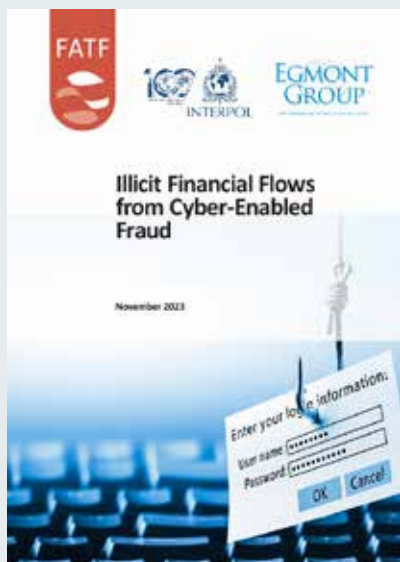


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FATF Publish Illicit Financial Flows from Cyber-enabled Fraud Report



Cyber-enabled fraud is a major transnational organised crime that has grown exponentially in recent years, both in volume of frauds reported and their global spread. Such crimes can have a devastating impact on individuals, organisations,

and economies worldwide, causing significant financial losses and eroding trust in digital systems. The transnational nature of this crime, with proceeds of cyber-enabled fraud often rapidly transferred to different jurisdictions, makes this a global concern.

As digital innovation continues to advance, so will the sophistication and scale of cyber-enabled fraud, if left unchecked. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), in partnership with the Egmont Group

and INTERPOL, analysed how the cyber-enabled fraud landscape has evolved, its links to other crimes and how criminals may exploit vulnerabilities in new technologies. The report highlights examples of national operational responses and strategies that have proven successful in tackling cyber-enabled fraud. This includes the need to break down siloes and accelerate and enhance collaboration across various sectors and on both the domestic and international levels.

It is essential that countries work together and take action to stop the escalating threat of cyber-enabled fraud. The report identifies three priority areas in which jurisdictions should act to tackle this crime and related laundering more effectively: enhancing domestic co-ordination across the public and private sectors, supporting multi-lateral international collaboration, and strengthening detection and prevention by promoting awareness and vigilance and facilitating reporting of such crimes.

The report also identifies risk indicators and useful anti-fraud requirements and controls, that may help public and private sector entities detect and prevent cyber-enabled fraud and related money laundering.

Prison for drugs gang who attempted to smuggle cocaine worth £11 million in bananast

Four members of an organised crime group have been jailed after attempting to smuggle 139 kilos of cocaine into the UK hidden in a consignment of bananas.

Mugshots of Ball, Shahu, Kaviani and IbraNational Crime Agency investigators arrested the four as they unloaded a shipping container they believed contained the £11m pounds-worth of drugs in April 2022.

The container had arrived from Ecuador and was searched at London Gateway port.

Border Force officers found a number of cocaine

packages in the roof area. These were removed and the container was resealed.

A few days later, Robert Ball, who was later found to be acting on behalf of an Albanian organised crime group, contacted the shipping line to ask them to release four containers, including the one he thought contained the drugs.

Ball arranged for a transport company to collect and move the containers to a storage company in Herald Way, Coventry.

Watch the latest webinar recordings at www.border-security-report.com/webinar-library

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The impact of the EES and ETIAS on the European security. Warning about the emergence of fake ETIAS websites

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Entry Exit System (EES) and their implications for international travel

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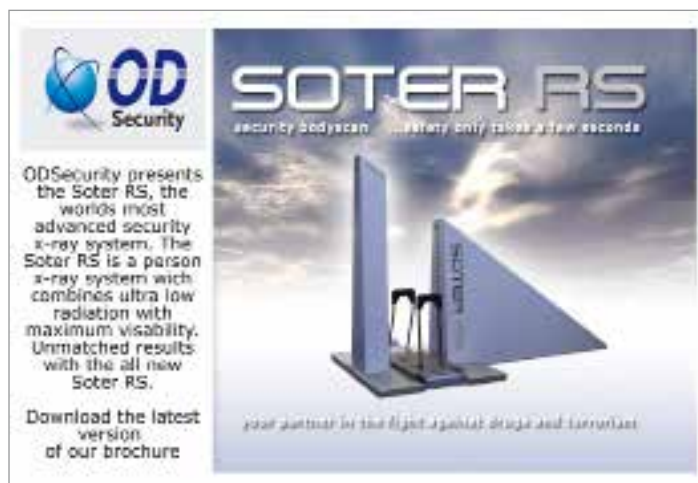


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FIRST CLASS SCREENING

3DX-RAY
Advanced screening technology

3DX-Ray have introduced their new smaller ThreatScan AS2 flat panel for their portable x-ray system

The new panel has been specifically designed for operators working in areas where access is very restricted.



A smaller footprint with a slightly improved resolution as its big brother, the AS1, using the latest glassless technology inside to reduce size and weight. It boasts an excellent dead zone cut off, down to less than 3mm on two sides. Another advantage of the new panel is that its reduced size and weight make it ideal for deployment with police, customs and border agencies.

In addition to the ThreatScan AS2 on show will be 3DX-Ray's established products already in service with

EOD units worldwide, the ThreatScan®-AS1 (ISC), ThreatScan®-LS1 and the ThreatScan®-LS3.

The 3DX-RAY ThreatScan®-AS1 (ISC) is a robust amorphous silicon portable x-ray inspection system. It comprises, as standard, a detector panel with an imaging area of 43 x 35cm, a new high penetration 150kV generator, and a laptop along with batteries, chargers, the user-friendly 3DX-RAY ThreatSpect software, wireless communication and transport case.

The New Portable Two-in-One Spectrometer-Microscope Regula 5006 for Border Checks

Regula has released a new one-of-a-kind compact device for advanced forensic analysis, both in fixed-site and mobile laboratories.



With eight light sources, up to 300x on-screen magnification, and an 11 MP camera, the Spectrometer-Microscope Regula 5006 makes it possible to fulfill a wide range of tasks to prove document authenticity or examine criminal evidence with utmost precision. Besides, it is easy to use, since it's a single-unit device which can connect to a computer directly.

The Regula 5006 is another addition to the family of advanced forensic devices that Regula has been designing and manufacturing for over 30 years. A combination

of a spectrometer and an electronic microscope, the new device significantly extends the forensic research capabilities for a great variety of objects, from multiple types of documents to various criminal evidence. Compact and portable, the Regula 5006 can be used both in fixed-site laboratories on the second-line border checks and in fieldwork. As a spectrometer, the Regula 5006 enables examination in visible and ultraviolet light, which is unique on the market.

Rohde & Schwarz Receives Transportation Security Administration Award to Supply Advanced Imaging Technology

TSA is procuring Rohde & Schwarz (R&S) QPS201 Ultra High Definition (UHD) Advanced Imaging Technology (AIT) security scanners for deployment to U.S. airport security screening checkpoints for on-person screening.



Rohde & Schwarz has announced that it has won a \$10,967,200.00 award from TSA to supply its QPS201 UHD AIT security scanners to U.S. airport security screening checkpoints.

The R&S UHD QPS201 uses safe, millimeter wave radio frequency technology to rapidly and accurately screen passengers for concealed threats. The system requires only a few milliseconds to scan passengers and its open design and hands-down scan pose makes security screening easy and accessible for travelers. The R&S UHD QPS201 achieved TSA qualification in 2022, approving it for

use in U.S. airport security screening checkpoints and has achieved the highest levels of the European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) approvals, with more than 1,000 systems deployed in the world's busiest airports and security screening operations. In the U.S., the R&S UHD QPS201 is currently deployed at Denver International Airport (DEN), LaGuardia International Airport (LGA), Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), Newark International Airport (EWR), Las Vegas McCarran International Airport (LAS) and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA).

A major order for its AARTOS drone detection system

With AARTOS DDS, AARONIA AG offers flexible, customizable solutions for all requirements and budgets. From the mobile laptop versions X2 and X5 for limited applications to the high-end solutions X7 and X9. AARTOS thus covers all civil and military areas in which drones can pose a threat.



"An order of this volume, including detection and jamming technology, is for us both confirmation and motivation," says Thorsten Chmielus, CEO and founder of AARONIA AG. "It underlines the performance and reliability of our CUAV system. The trust we have received encourages us to consistently develop AARTOS further to offer our customers the best possible protection against drone attacks at all times.

The company claims that some of the unique features that distinguish AARTOS from competitors' systems are likely to have been a decisive factor in the award of the contract. For example, the system not only determines the position and speed of

drones, but also their altitude. It ensures high-speed localization of drone activity. To do this, it scans the entire frequency spectrum, including simultaneous scans of different frequencies, enabling it to locate all drones that use radio signals. The positioning of the drone as well as the operator is provided by AARTOS in real time. AARONIA's proprietary software solution RTSA-Suite PRO plays a central role in this process. The powerful real-time spectrum analysis software enables the integration of a wide variety of hardware components for evaluation, thus guaranteeing simple, efficient and optimal use of the respective system.

Lithuanian State Border Guard Service orders three H145s

Airbus Helicopters and the Lithuanian State Border Guard Service have announced a contract for three five-bladed H145 multi-mission helicopters at the 2023 European Rotors trade show, expanding the service's fleet.



These three additional H145s bring the total number of Airbus helicopters in service with the Lithuanian government to eleven, further strengthening Airbus Helicopters' position in this mission segment. The helicopters will be operated for a wide range of missions including search and rescue, disaster relief and medevac,

border patrol, firefighting, transport of donor organs, and operational deployment of the Lithuanian Special Forces.

The new version of Airbus' best-selling H145 adds a new, innovative five-bladed rotor to the multi-mission H145, increasing the useful load of the helicopter by 150 kg.

QinetiQ wins contract with the USDHS for TARS

The Tethered Aerostat Radar System (TARS) is an American low-level airborne ground surveillance system that uses aerostats as radar platforms for border security.



QinetiQ has announced that it has won a 5-year \$170m contract with the US Department of Homeland Security for TARS.

TARS provides detection, tracking and monitoring capabilities in diverse environments at and beyond the US borders. Under this 5-year contract, QinetiQ will deliver aerostat operations,

air-surface radar operations, ground control and data networking systems monitoring, and data analysis in support of border security and air sovereignty missions. The programme will be delivered through the provision of mission support, operations and maintenance, and lifecycle and programme management.

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With a total border boundary of some 4,000 miles, about three-quarters is maritime, including coastlines along the Black Sea, the Aegean, and the Mediterranean, as well as the narrows that link the Black and Aegean seas.

The 'EU-Turkey deal', a 'statement of cooperation' between EU states and the Turkish Government, means Turkey can take any measures necessary to stop people travelling irregularly from Turkey to the Greek islands, and currently manages over 5 million migrants and refugees.

Turkey is a top destination for victims of human trafficking, as well a global trafficking hub for South American cocaine, fuelling rising demand for the drug in Eastern Europe and the Persian Gulf.

Many challenges face the region, which impacts globally, and therefore, an excellent place for the hosting of the next 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.

We look forward to welcoming you to Istanbul, Turkey on 24th-26th April 2024 for the next gathering of border and migration management professionals.

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CONFIRMED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

- AEAC Diane Sabatino, Acting Executive Assistant Commissioner (AEAC) for the Office of Field Operations (OFO), US CBP
- Amanda Read, National Operational lead, Safeguarding & Modern Slavery, UK Border Force
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- Colleen Ryan, Border Advisor, Border Security & Management Unit, Transnational Threats Department (TNTD), OSCE
- Dr Maria Carmela Emanuele, Customs Officer -Chemist, Italian Customs and Monopolies Agency
- Emmanuel Oshoba, Deputy Comptroller of Customs, Nigeria Customs Service
- Guido Ferraro, Project Manager, Joint Research Centre, European Commission
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