




	Source	The most important events of the period [15/03/2023 - 14/04/2023 ]	Autor: Radu Ion, lector AS Financial Markets
1		<b>Emerging trends and risks</b>	
1	EUROPOL	<p><b>[05/April/2023] New Modus Operandi: How organised crime infiltrates the ports of Europe</b></p> <p>Maritime ports in the EU handle some 90 million containers each year, but authorities are able to inspect only between 2% and 10% of them. This report presents some of the main methods that criminal networks use to attempt to bypass security at EU ports and carry out illicit business, and presents new methods that are gaining traction with criminal networks – notably the modus operandi of misappropriated container reference codes, also known as PIN code fraud. It also explains some of the wider trends and incentives at play in criminal activity at EU, with corruption as a key facilitator for traffickers of illegal goods.</p> <p><a href="https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/Europol_Joint-report_Criminal%20networks%20in%20EU%20ports_Public_version.pdf">https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/Europol_Joint-report_Criminal%20networks%20in%20EU%20ports_Public_version.pdf</a></p>	
1	US FinCEN	<p><b>[30/March/2023] FinCEN Analysis of Business Email Compromise in the Real Estate Sector</b></p> <p>Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) issued a Financial Trend Analysis on patterns and trends identified in Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) data relating to business email compromise (BEC) in the real estate sector in 2020 and 2021.</p> <p>FinCEN’s analysis of BEC incidents specific to the real estate sector revealed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-The most common victims of impersonation were individuals and entities involved in the title and closing processes within a real estate transaction.</li> <li>-Money mules were often involved in the movement of funds following these incidents.</li> <li>-Nearly 88% of all incidents involved initial transfers of fraudulent funds to accounts at U.S. depository institutions as opposed to accounts outside the United States.</li> <li>-Fraudsters engaged in multiple types of fraud and used the same accounts to receive funds from these acts as the accounts used to receive funds from real estate BEC scams</li> <li>-In several incidents, illicit funds quickly moved from bank accounts to online payment platforms, or were used to purchase convertible virtual currencies, most commonly in the form of bitcoin.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.fincen.gov/sites/default/files/shared/FinCEN%20Alert%20Mail%20Theft-Related%20Check%20Fraud%20FINAL%20508.pdf">https://www.fincen.gov/sites/default/files/shared/FinCEN%20Alert%20Mail%20Theft-Related%20Check%20Fraud%20FINAL%20508.pdf</a></p>	
1	EBF	<p><b>[28/March/2023] European banking industry sets out a vision for digital euro</b></p> <p>The European Banking Federation (EBF) has published a vision paper on a Digital Euro Ecosystem. The EBF sets forth its perspective on the digital money ecosystem of the future, where a retail digital euro, a wholesale CBDC (central bank digital currency) and bank-issued money tokens could all play a role in enabling innovation, supporting customer needs and ensuring that Europe stays at the forefront of digital finance and the digital economy. It argues that a retail digital euro could be envisaged in the mix of new tools and solutions to meet evolving payment needs, as long as it adds value to consumers, is appropriately designed, in close cooperation with the private sector, and mitigates ex ante the accompanying risks. The paper focuses on the retail digital euro – given its prominence in the current debate – but also sets out main principles for the other elements of a digital money ecosystem.</p> <p><a href="https://www.ebf.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EBF-Digital-Euro-paper-2023_final.pdf">https://www.ebf.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/EBF-Digital-Euro-paper-2023_final.pdf</a></p>	

1	EUROPOL	<p><b>[27/March/2023] The criminal use of ChatGPT</b></p> <p>The following three crime areas are amongst the many areas of concern identified by Europol's experts:</p> <p>1/Fraud and social engineering: ChatGPT's ability to draft highly realistic text makes it a useful tool for phishing purposes. The ability of LLMs (large language models) to re-produce language patterns can be used to impersonate the style of speech of specific individuals or groups. This capability can be abused at scale to mislead potential victims into placing their trust in the hands of criminal actors.</p> <p>2/ Disinformation: ChatGPT excels at producing authentic sounding text at speed and scale. This makes the model ideal for propaganda and disinformation purposes, as it allows users to generate and spread messages reflecting a specific narrative with relatively little effort.</p> <p>3/ Cybercrime: In addition to generating human-like language, ChatGPT is capable of producing code in a number of different programming languages. For a potential criminal with little technical knowledge, this is an invaluable resource to produce malicious code.</p> <p><a href="https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/Tech%20Watch%20Flash%20-%20The%20Impact%20of%20Large%20Language%20Models%20on%20Law%20Enforcement.pdf">https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/Tech%20Watch%20Flash%20-%20The%20Impact%20of%20Large%20Language%20Models%20on%20Law%20Enforcement.pdf</a></p>
1	Singapore MSA	<p><b>[20/March/2023] Secure digital platform for FIs to share information on customers that exhibit multiple red flags</b></p> <p>The Monetary Authority of Singapore will establish and maintain a secure digital platform for FIs to share information on customers that exhibit multiple red flags indicative of potential illicit activities with each other. The platform will focus on three key financial crime risks:1/ abuse of shell companies, 2/misuse of trade finance for illicit purposes, 3/proliferation financing. This initiative will allow FIs to alert each other and will eliminate the possibility for criminals to exploit FI "information silos" that allow them to make illicit transactions through a web of accounts between different FIs and moving from one FI to another avoiding detection.</p> <p><a href="https://www.mas.gov.sg/news/speeches/2023/explanatory-brief-for-financial-services-and-markets-amendment-bill">https://www.mas.gov.sg/news/speeches/2023/explanatory-brief-for-financial-services-and-markets-amendment-bill</a></p>
1	EUROPOL	<p><b>[16/March/2023] Darkweb's largest cryptocurrency laundromats washed out</b></p> <p>ChipMixer, an unlicensed cryptocurrency mixer set up in mid-2017, was specialised in mixing or cutting trails related to virtual currency assets. The ChipMixer software blocked the blockchain trail of the funds, making it attractive for cybercriminals looking to launder illegal proceeds from criminal activities such as drug trafficking, weapons trafficking, ransomware attacks, and payment card fraud. Deposited funds would be turned into "chips" (small tokens with equivalent value), which were then mixed together - thereby anonymising all trails to where the initial funds originated. A service available both on the clear and on the darkweb, ChipMixer offered full anonymity to their clients. This type of service is often used before criminals' laundered crypto assets are redirected to cryptocurrency exchanges, some of which are also in the service of organised crime. At the end of the process, the 'cleaned' crypto can easily be exchanged into other cryptocurrencies or directly into FIAT currency through ATM or bank accounts.</p> <p><a href="https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/one-of-darkwebs-largest-cryptocurrency-laundromats-washed-out?mtm_campaign=newsletter">https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/one-of-darkwebs-largest-cryptocurrency-laundromats-washed-out?mtm_campaign=newsletter</a></p>
1	US	<p><b>[15/March/2023] Treasury Targets Actors in Bosnia and Herzegovina Undermining Stability and Perpetuating Corruption</b></p> <p>OFAC designated three individuals in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) pursuant to Executive Orders (E.O.) 14033 or E.O. 14059. These designations build on other recent OFAC sanctions in the region and, collectively underscore the United States' willingness to hold accountable those who are undermining democratic institutions and furthering their agendas for political and personal gain, at the expense of peace, stability, and progress in the Western Balkans.</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy1344">https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy1344</a></p>
2		<p><b>Warnings and reports, thematic analyzes of national and international authorities</b></p>



2	IMF	<p><b>[11/April/2023] IMF Approach to Central Bank Digital Currency Capacity Development</b></p> <p>The global central banking community is actively exploring Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDCs), which may have a fundamental impact on both domestic and international economic and financial stability. Over 40 countries have approached the IMF to request assistance through CBDC capacity development (CD). Current IMF CBDC CD efforts have focused on facilitating peer learning and developing analytical underpinnings for staff advice to member countries. The paper 1/explains the IMF's approach to CBDC CD; 2/summarizes member countries' emerging questions and challenges regarding CBDC; and 3/introduces the CBDC Handbook by motivating its scope and elucidating its governance structure.</p> <p><a href="http://www.imf.org/-/media/Files/Publications/PP/2023/English/PPEA2023016.ashx">www.imf.org/-/media/Files/Publications/PP/2023/English/PPEA2023016.ashx</a></p>
2	US	<p><b>[07/April/2023] 2023 DeFi Illicit Finance Risk Assessment</b></p> <p>U.S. Department of the Treasury releases the 2023 DeFi Illicit Finance Risk Assessment, the first illicit finance risk assessment conducted on decentralized finance (DeFi) in the world. This risk assessment explores how illicit actors are abusing what is commonly referred to as decentralized finance (DeFi) services as well as vulnerabilities unique to DeFi services. The assessment finds that illicit actors, including ransomware cybercriminals, thieves, scammers, and DPRK cyber actors, are using DeFi services in the process of transferring and laundering their illicit proceeds.</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/DeFi-Risk-Full-Review.pdf">home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/DeFi-Risk-Full-Review.pdf</a></p>
2	BIS	<p><b>[04/April/2023] BIS Working Papers - Crypto carry</b></p> <p>This study is focused on the large difference between spot and futures prices, the so-called futures basis or "crypto carry". It analyzes cryptocurrencies for the two major digital assets, Bitcoin and Ethereum, and sheds light on its economic drivers and studies how these are related to the boom-and-bust dynamics often seen in crypto markets.</p> <p><a href="http://www.bis.org/publ/work1087.pdf">www.bis.org/publ/work1087.pdf</a></p>
2	UK House of Commons	<p><b>[31/March/2023] Progress combatting fraud - Forty-Third Report of Session 2022–23</b></p> <p>Fraud now accounts for 41% of all crimes committed in England and Wales, with 3.8 million incidents of actual or attempted fraud in the year to June 2022. The Home Office's most recent estimate of the cost of fraud to individuals is £4.7 billion, and it still cannot quantify the potential cost of fraud to businesses. Becoming a victim of fraud can be deeply distressing for many people and in some cases can cause lasting psychological damage. The report details 6 conclusions and recommendations.</p> <p><a href="https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/34609/documents/190751/default/">https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/34609/documents/190751/default/</a></p>
2	UK FIU	<p><b>[27/March/2023] SARs Reporter Booklet</b></p> <p>This booklet contains summary of feedback from UK law enforcement agencies on their use of SARs and includes pertinent information and updates from the UKFIU. This booklet is aimed at: 1/sharing perspectives on the use of SARs with regime participants; 2/sharing and encouraging best practice amongst reporters; 3/providing a feedback mechanism to the UKFIU about the operation of the regime.</p> <p><a href="https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/642-sars-reporter-booklet-march-2023/file">https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/642-sars-reporter-booklet-march-2023/file</a></p>

2	EPPO	<p><b>[21/March/2023] Operation against criminal group under investigation for massive VAT fraud</b></p> <p>The fraudulent scheme, which took place between 2017 and 2022, involved 170 shell companies in different countries, including Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, Czechia, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and the USA. The electronic equipment (mainly AirPods) were ostensibly traded through these companies, using fictitious invoices, in order to evade the payment of VAT. The goods were ultimately sold at very competitive prices through large organised distribution companies in several parts of Italy, creating serious competition distortions in this market. The criminal profits were then laundered and also reinvested in metal companies selling copper and wire rods.</p> <p><a href="https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/news/operation-italy-against-criminal-group-under-investigation-massive-vat-fraud-12-arrests">https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/news/operation-italy-against-criminal-group-under-investigation-massive-vat-fraud-12-arrests</a></p>
2	US DT	<p><b>[17/March/2023] Russia Illicit Finance Report</b></p> <p>U.S. Department of the Treasury has published Russia Illicit Finance Report, that identifies any additional regulations, statutory changes, enhanced due diligence, and reporting requirements that are necessary to better identify, prevent, and combat money laundering linked to Russia. The document addresses the following relevant regulatory areas: 1/BO of anonymous companies; 2/CDD requirements for the real estate sector, law firms, and other trust and corporate service providers; 3/KYC procedures and screening for transactions involving Russian political leaders, SOE, and known Russian transnational organized crime figures; 4/a permanent solution to collecting information nationwide to track ownership of real estate.</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Treasury-NDAA-Ru-IFR-508.pdf">https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Treasury-NDAA-Ru-IFR-508.pdf</a></p>
2	UNDOC	<p><b>[16/March/2023] Global Report on Cocaine 2023</b></p> <p>The report examines the emergence of new hubs for cocaine trafficking as well as the modalities of cocaine traffickers, with findings showing that countries in Southeastern Europe and Africa – particularly those in West and Central Africa – are increasingly being used as key transit zones for the drug. Ports on the North Sea like Antwerp, Rotterdam, and Hamburg, meanwhile, have eclipsed traditional entry points in Spain and Portugal for cocaine arriving in Western Europe. Traffickers are also diversifying their routes in Central America by sending more and more cocaine to Europe, in addition to North America.</p> <p><a href="https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2023/March/need-for-enhanced-cooperation-to-address-cocaine-surge-highlighted-at-unodc-global-report-launch.html">https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/press/releases/2023/March/need-for-enhanced-cooperation-to-address-cocaine-surge-highlighted-at-unodc-global-report-launch.html</a></p>
2	UK FCA	<p><b>[16/March/2023] Dear CEO - FCA PRIORITIES FOR PAYMENTS FIRMS</b></p> <p>The letter points out the following KYC/AML/CFT common issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-business-wide risk assessments that are not supported by a robust and effective methodology;</li> <li>-failure to regularly review and refresh risk assessments and control frameworks in an evolving threat landscape;</li> <li>-failure to ensure name screening solutions from third party providers are appropriately and adequately calibrated to meet their business requirements;</li> <li>-a lack of appropriately knowledgeable and experienced personnel to provide payments services and issue e-money, including amongst key functions such as Money Laundering Risk office and other compliance staff;</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/correspondence/priorities-payments-firms-portfolio-letter-2023.pdf">https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/correspondence/priorities-payments-firms-portfolio-letter-2023.pdf</a></p>
3		<b>Terrorism and International Sanctions updates</b>
3	US	<p>OFAC-Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons List</p> <p><a href="https://www.treasury.gov/ofac/downloads/sdnlist.pdf">https://www.treasury.gov/ofac/downloads/sdnlist.pdf</a></p>


3	EU	European Union Consolidated Financial Sanctions Lis <a href="https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fsd/fsf/public/files/pdfFullSanctionsList/content?token=n002g3ky">https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fsd/fsf/public/files/pdfFullSanctionsList/content?token=n002g3ky</a>
3	UN	United Nations Security Council Consolidated List <a href="https://scsanctions.un.org/consolidated/">https://scsanctions.un.org/consolidated/</a>
3	EU	<b>[13/April/2023] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/755</b> implementing Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine <b>COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/756</b> amending Decision 2014/145/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine  Two entities was added to sanctions list - Wagner Group and RIA FAN (Federal News Agency LLC_- part of the Patriot Media Group.  <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0755">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0755</a>  <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0756">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0756</a>
3	US	<b>[12/April/2023] OFAC -Russia-related Designations; Issuance of Russia-related General Licenses and Frequently Asked Question; Revocation of Russia-related General License</b>  The SDN list has been updated (add) with 19 vessels, 33 individuals and 91 entities (including International Investment Bank, a Russia-controlled financial institution in Budapest, Hungary) with touchpoints in 20 jurisdictions related to Russia's access to the international financial system through facilitators and their businesses.  <a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230412">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230412</a>
3	US	<b>[11/April/2023] OFAC - Counter Terrorism Designation and Designations Updates</b>  The SDN list has been updated (add) with 1 individul from Jordan.  <a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230411">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230411</a>
3	US	<b>[05/April/2023] OFAC -Cyber-related Designation; Global Magnitsky Designation</b>  The SDN list has been updated (add) with 1 individuals and 1 entitiy - Genesis Market, one of the world's largest illicit marketplaces, for its part in the theft and sale of device credentials and related sensitive information. Genesis Market gains unauthorized access to victim devices and offers stolen data, including usernames and passwords, for sale.  <a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230405">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230405</a>
3	US	<b>[04/April/2023] OFAC -Lebanon Designations</b>  The SDN list has been updated (add) with 2 individuals and 3 entities related to corrupt practices that contribute to the breakdown of the rule of law in Lebanon  <a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230404">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230404</a>


3	EU	<p><b>[03/April/2023] COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/727 amending Decision 2011/235/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities in view of the situation in Iran</b></p> <p>The EU Council extended the Iran Human Rights sanctions regime with one year till April 13, 2024</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0727">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0727</a></p>
3	EU	<p><b>[03/April/2023] COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2023/720 amending certain Council Regulations concerning restrictive measures in order to insert provisions on a humanitarian exemption</b>  <b>COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/726 amending certain Council Decisions concerning restrictive measures in order to insert provisions on a humanitarian exemption</b></p> <p>The humanitarian exemptions to UN sanctions set out by UNSC Resolution 2664 (09/December/2022) in respect of its Iran, DRC, Sudan, South Sudan, Libya, North Korea, terrorism and Mali sanctions regimes were implemented.</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0720">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0720</a></p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0726">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0726</a></p>
3	US	<p><b>[31/March/2023] OFAC -Global Magnitsky Designation; Issuance of Global Magnitsky General License and Frequently Asked Question</b></p> <p>The SDN list has been updated (add) with 1 entity from Paraguay involved in wholesale of food, beverages and tobacco industry.</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230331">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230331</a></p>
3	US	<p><b>[30/March/2023] OFAC -North Korea Designation; Counter-Narcotics Designations Removals; Venezuela-related Designation Removal</b></p> <p>The SDN list has been updated (add) with 1 individual related to arms deals between North Korea and Russia</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230330">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230330</a></p>
3	US	<p><b>[28/March/2023] OFAC -Counter Terrorism Designations; Syria Designations</b></p> <p>The SDN list has been updated (add) with 6 individuals and 2 entities related to Syrian Regime and Lebanese actors involved in illicit drug production and trafficking</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230328">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230328</a></p>
3	US	<p><b>[24/March/2023] OFAC - Burma-related Designations; Belarus Designations and Designation Update; Publication of Belarus Sanctions Regulations; Publication of Jet Fuel Alert</b></p> <p>The SDN list has been updated (add) with 9 individuals, 3 entities and 1 aircraft related to Belarus complicity in the Russian Federation’s ongoing unjustified war of choice against Ukraine</p> <p>The SDN list has been updated (add) with 2 individuals and 6 entities that are connected to Burma’s military and that have enabled the military regime’s continuing atrocities, including through the importation, storage, and distribution of jet fuel to Burma’s military.</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230324">https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230324</a></p>

3	Finland	<p><b>[23/March/2023] Russian fertiliser restrictions</b></p> <p>On 9 March, the National Enforcement Authority Finland imposed interim measures to freeze a shipment of fertilisers, loaded on board at the Port of Kotka. The fertilizers were suspected of being under control of a person listed in the EU sanctions against Russia. An investigation, carried out in cooperation among authorities, confirmed the link between the shipment of fertilisers and a sanctioned individual.</p> <p>The Ministry for Foreign Affairs received a request for authorisation from the purchaser of the fertilisers on 19 March. The Ministry granted the authorisation on 22 March. The authorisation is granted under the condition that the fertilisers are exported to a third country to promote food security. The Ministry has endeavoured to ensure that this condition is met by including in its authorisation special conditions that relate to the confirmation of the fertilizers destination.</p> <p><a href="https://um.fi/current-affairs/-/asset_publisher/gc654PySnjTX/content/ulkoministerio-myonsi-poisluvan-kotkan-satamaan-pysaytetylle-venalaiselle-lannoitekuljetukselle/35732">https://um.fi/current-affairs/-/asset_publisher/gc654PySnjTX/content/ulkoministerio-myonsi-poisluvan-kotkan-satamaan-pysaytetylle-venalaiselle-lannoitekuljetukselle/35732</a></p>
3	US	<p><b>[21/March/2023] OFAC - Iran-related Designations; Non-Proliferation Designations</b></p> <p>The SDN list has been updated (add) with 3 individuals and 4 entities related to procurement of equipment, including European-origin UAV (drone) engines, in support of Iran's UAV and weapons programs.</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230321">https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230321</a></p>
3	EU	<p><b>[20/March/2023] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/645 implementing Regulation (EU) No 359/2011 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Iran</b>  <b>COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION (CFSP) 2023/646 implementing Decision 2011/235/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities in view of the situation in Iran</b></p> <p>8 persons and 1 entity related to widespread and disproportionate use of force by the Iranian security forces against non-violent protestors</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0645">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0645</a></p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0646">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0646</a></p>
3	US	<p><b>[15/March/2023] OFAC -Balkans-related Designations; Counter Narcotics Designation</b></p> <p>The SDN list has been updated (add) with 3 individuals related to Bosnia and Herzegovina</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230315">https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230315</a></p>

3	US	<p><b>[15/March/2023] The shareholders have decided to liquidate INSTEX</b></p> <p>The INSTEX shareholders :Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, and the UK – have decided to liquidate INSTEX. INSTEX was set up by France, Germany, and the United Kingdom in 2019 to facilitate legitimate trade between Europe and Iran, particularly in humanitarian goods. Over the past 4 years, INSTEX has consistently tried to facilitate trade exchanges between Europe and Iran. In light of Iran’s persistent refusal to engage with the company, the INSTEX shareholders have reached the conclusion that there is no more ground for maintaining INSTEX operational. The INSTEX shareholders have voted in favour of the dissolution of INSTEX at the extraordinary general assembly of 9 March 2023.</p> <p><a href="https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iran/news/article/the-10-instex-shareholder-states-have-decided-to-liquidate-instex-due-to">https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/iran/news/article/the-10-instex-shareholder-states-have-decided-to-liquidate-instex-due-to</a></p>
4		<p><b>EU ML/TF SupraNational Risk Assessment</b></p>
4	EU	<p>The EU report of the risk of money laundering and terrorist financing affecting the internal market and relating to cross-border activities (<b>EU SNRA</b>) was issued on [27/October/2022]</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0554">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0554</a>  <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022SC0344">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022SC0344</a></p>
5		<p><b>Information and assessments by national authorities on risks at national level</b></p>
5	CA	<p><b>[28/March/2023] Assessment of Inherent Risks of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing in Canada</b></p> <p>The inherent risk assessment consists of an assessment of the money laundering and terrorist financing threats and inherent money laundering and terrorist financing vulnerabilities in Canada as a whole (e.g., economy, geography, demographics) and the country’s key economic sectors and financial products, while taking into account the consequences of money laundering and terrorist financing. The overall inherent money laundering and terrorist financing risks were assessed by matching the threats with the inherently vulnerable sectors and products through the money laundering and terrorist financing methods and techniques that are used by money launderers, terrorist financiers and their facilitators, to exploit these sectors and products. By establishing a relationship between the threats and vulnerabilities, a series of inherent risk scenarios were constructed, allowing one to identify the sectors and products that are exposed to the highest money laundering and terrorist financing risks.</p> <p><a href="https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/fin/programs-programmes/fsp-psf/nira-neri/NIRA%20Report%20Final-%20EN.pdf">https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/fin/programs-programmes/fsp-psf/nira-neri/NIRA%20Report%20Final-%20EN.pdf</a></p>
5	US	<p><b>[15/March/2023] US National Risk Assessments for Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing, and Proliferation Financing</b></p> <p>The U.S. Department of the Treasury issued the 2022 National Risk Assessments (NRAs) on Money Laundering (NMLRA), Terrorist Financing (NTFRA) and Proliferation Financing (NPFRA). These documents highlight the most significant illicit finance threats, vulnerabilities, and risks facing the United States. The United States is vulnerable to all three forms of illicit finance because of the size and sophistication of the U.S. financial system and centrality of the U.S. dollar in the payment infrastructure of global trade.</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/2022-National-Money-Laundering-Risk-Assessment.pdf">https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/2022-National-Money-Laundering-Risk-Assessment.pdf</a>  <a href="https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/2022-National-Terrorist-Financing-Risk-Assessment.pdf">https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/2022-National-Terrorist-Financing-Risk-Assessment.pdf</a>  <a href="https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/2022-National-Proliferation-Financing-Risk-Assessment.pdf">https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/2022-National-Proliferation-Financing-Risk-Assessment.pdf</a></p>





5	ROMANIA	<p>The main findings and conclusions of the <b>Romania ML/TF National Risk Assessment</b> (NRA) was published on [22/November/2022]</p> <p><b>RO:</b> <a href="http://www.onpcsb.ro/pdf/Rezumat%20NRA%20Public.pdf">http://www.onpcsb.ro/pdf/Rezumat%20NRA%20Public.pdf</a></p> <p><b>EN:</b> <a href="http://www.onpcsb.ro/pdf/Summary%20of%20the%20National%20Risk%20Assessment%20Report%20on%20Money%20Laundering%20and%20Terrorism%20Financing.pdf">http://www.onpcsb.ro/pdf/Summary%20of%20the%20National%20Risk%20Assessment%20Report%20on%20Money%20Laundering%20and%20Terrorism%20Financing.pdf</a></p>
6		<b>Specific guidelines, guides, instructions or warnings</b>
6	EBA	<p><b>[01/April/2023] Guidelines on policies and controls for the effective management of ML/TF risks when providing access to financial services - EBA/GL/2023/04</b></p> <p>These Guidelines clarify the interaction between the access to financial services and institutions' AML/CFT obligations, including in situations where customers have legitimate reasons to be unable to satisfy Customer Due Diligence requirements. They make clear that before making a decision to reject a customer, several options need to be considered. In addition, they set out the steps institutions should take when considering whether to refuse or terminate a business relationship with a customer based on ML/TF risk or AML/CFT compliance ground</p> <p><a href="https://www.eba.europa.eu/sites/default/documents/files/document_library/Publications/Guidelines/2023/1054144/Guidelines%20on%20MLTF%20risk%20management%20and%20access%20to%20financial%20services.pdf">https://www.eba.europa.eu/sites/default/documents/files/document_library/Publications/Guidelines/2023/1054144/Guidelines%20on%20MLTF%20risk%20management%20and%20access%20to%20financial%20services.pdf</a></p>
6	EBA	<p><b>[01/April/2023] Guidelines amending Guidelines (EBA/GL/2021/02/) on customer due diligence and the factors credit and financial institutions should consider when assessing the ML/TF risk - EBA/GL/2023/03</b></p> <p>This guidelines is an Annex to the EBA ML/TF risk factors Guidelines (EBA/GL/2021/02), which set out what financial institutions should do to identify and assess ML/TF risk associated with customers who are Not-for-Profit organisations (NPOs). The guidance contained in the Annex will help financial institutions understand better how NPOs are organised, how they operate in practice, and what ML/TF risk factors are particularly relevant when dealing with such customers. This is to support them in managing ML/TF risks associated with NPOs effectively, instead of denying them access to financial services.</p> <p><a href="https://www.eba.europa.eu/sites/default/documents/files/document_library/Publications/Guidelines/2023/1054143/Amending%20GLs%20to%20the%20RFGs%20in%20relation%20to%20NPOs.pdf">https://www.eba.europa.eu/sites/default/documents/files/document_library/Publications/Guidelines/2023/1054143/Amending%20GLs%20to%20the%20RFGs%20in%20relation%20to%20NPOs.pdf</a></p> <p><b>EBA/GL/2021/02/ - The ML/TF Risk Factors Guidelines - FIRST REVISION</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.eba.europa.eu/sites/default/documents/files/document_library/Publications/Guidelines/2021/963637/Final%20Report%20on%20Guidelines%20on%20revised%20ML%20TF%20Risk%20Factors.pdf">https://www.eba.europa.eu/sites/default/documents/files/document_library/Publications/Guidelines/2021/963637/Final%20Report%20on%20Guidelines%20on%20revised%20ML%20TF%20Risk%20Factors.pdf</a></p>
6	EU	<p><b>[31/March/2023] CONSULTATION- Guidelines on the export of cyber-surveillance items under Article 5 of Regulation (EU) No. 2021/821</b></p> <p>The EU Dual Use Regulation (EU) 2021/821 strengthens export controls on cyber-surveillance items not listed in its Annex I and that may be intended, in their entirety or in part, for use in connection with internal repression and/or the commission of serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. The Regulation mandates the Commission to make available guidelines for exporters in relation to Article 5 : " Where an exporter is aware, according to its due diligence findings, that cyber-surveillance items which the exporter proposes to export, not listed in Annex I, are intended, in their entirety or in part, for any of the uses referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the exporter shall notify the competent authority. That competent authority shall decide whether or not to make the export concerned subject to authorisation."</p> <p>The consultation runs until 09 June 2023</p> <p><a href="https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/files/01fa24dd-e15e-4546-befc-6ccb9293b720/cfca0f91-f576-4fef-b93c-b64711b16e08">https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/files/01fa24dd-e15e-4546-befc-6ccb9293b720/cfca0f91-f576-4fef-b93c-b64711b16e08</a></p>


6	EBA	<p><b>[29/March/2023] CONSULTATION- Guidelines on risk-based AML/CFT supervision to include crypto-asset service providers - EBA/CP/2023/05.</b></p> <p>The European Banking Authority (EBA) launched today a public consultation on amendments to its Guidelines on risk-based anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) supervision. The proposed changes extend the scope of these Guidelines to AML/CFT supervisors of crypto-asset service providers (CASPs).</p> <p>The amendments include guidance on the sources of information competent authorities should consider when assessing ML/TF risks associated with CASPs. They also highlight the importance of a consistent approach to setting supervisory expectations where multiple competent authorities are responsible for the supervision of the same institutions and stress the importance of training to ensure that staff from competent authorities have the technical skills and expertise necessary for the execution of their functions.</p> <p>The consultation runs until 29 June 2023.</p> <p><a href="https://www.eba.europa.eu/sites/default/documents/files/document_library/Publications/Consultations/2023/Consultation%20on%20draft%20Guidelines%20amending%20Risk%20Based%20Supervision%20Guidelines/1054077/CP%20on%20Guidelines%20amending%20Risk%20Based%20Supervision%20Guidelines.pdf">https://www.eba.europa.eu/sites/default/documents/files/document_library/Publications/Consultations/2023/Consultation%20on%20draft%20Guidelines%20amending%20Risk%20Based%20Supervision%20Guidelines/1054077/CP%20on%20Guidelines%20amending%20Risk%20Based%20Supervision%20Guidelines.pdf</a></p>
6	US FINCEN	<p><b>[24/March/2023] FinCEN Issues Initial Beneficial Ownership Information Reporting Guidance</b></p> <p>Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) published its first set of guidance materials to aid the public, and in particular the small business community, in understanding upcoming beneficial ownership information (BOI) reporting requirements taking effect on January 1, 2024. The new regulations require many corporations, limited liability companies, and other entities created in or registered to do business in the United States to report information about their beneficial owners—the persons who ultimately own or control the company—to FinCEN.</p> <p><a href="https://www.fincen.gov/news/news-releases/fincen-issues-initial-beneficial-ownership-information-reporting-guidance">https://www.fincen.gov/news/news-releases/fincen-issues-initial-beneficial-ownership-information-reporting-guidance</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.fincen.gov/boi">https://www.fincen.gov/boi</a></p>
6	EU	<p><b>[31/March/2023] European Commission updated numerous FAQs related to the Russia sanctions regime.</b></p> <p>The updates cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>31 March 2023: Export-related restrictions for dual-use goods and advanced technologies</li> <li>21 March 2023: Intellectual property rights</li> <li>21 March 2023: Crypto assets</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://finance.ec.europa.eu/eu-and-world/sanctions-restrictive-measures/sanctions-adopted-following-russias-military-aggression-against-ukraine/frequently-asked-questions-sanctions-against-russia_en">https://finance.ec.europa.eu/eu-and-world/sanctions-restrictive-measures/sanctions-adopted-following-russias-military-aggression-against-ukraine/frequently-asked-questions-sanctions-against-russia_en</a></p> <p><a href="https://finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/66e8fd7d-8057-4b9b-96c2-5e54bf573cd1_en?filename=faqs-sanctions-russia-consolidated_en.pdf">https://finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/66e8fd7d-8057-4b9b-96c2-5e54bf573cd1_en?filename=faqs-sanctions-russia-consolidated_en.pdf</a></p>
6	EU EGBA	<p><b>[15/March/2023] AML Guidelines for Online Gambling Sector</b></p> <p>The European Gaming and Betting Association (EGBA) has published its first AML guidelines for online gambling sector. The document contains practical, sector-specific guidance on how online gambling operators should conduct customer and business risk assessments, customer due diligence processes, suspicious transaction reporting, record keeping, and other essential areas which require strong AML compliance.</p> <p><a href="https://www.egba.eu/uploads/2023/03/230306-EGBA-Guidelines-on-AML-for-Online-Gambling-FINAL.pdf">https://www.egba.eu/uploads/2023/03/230306-EGBA-Guidelines-on-AML-for-Online-Gambling-FINAL.pdf</a></p>
7		<p><b>Warnings, fines and convictions for violating the KYC/AML/CTF/Compliance legislation</b></p>


7	RO ANI	<p><b>[12/April/2023] Unexplained wealth order for former Transport Secretary of State</b></p> <p>Romania's National Integrity Agency (ANI) has notified the Special Commission for Investigation of Wealth of the Court of Appeal that it has identified an unjustified difference amounting to approximately 824,898 RON (165,000 EUR), representing unjustified wealth belonging to a former Transport Secretary of State and current Legal Director of the Romanian Administration of Air Traffic Services - R.A. ROMATSA.</p> <p><a href="https://www.integritate.eu/Comunicate.aspx?Action=1&amp;NewsId=3466&amp;M=NewsV2&amp;PID=20">https://www.integritate.eu/Comunicate.aspx?Action=1&amp;NewsId=3466&amp;M=NewsV2&amp;PID=20</a></p>
7	US OFAC	<p><b>[07/April/2023] OFAC settles with Microsoft Corporation for \$2,980,265.86 related to apparent violations of multiple OFAC Sanctions Programs</b></p> <p>Microsoft has agreed to remit \$2.98 million to settle its potential civil liability for 1,339 apparent violations of Sanctions Regulations (Cuba, Iran, Syria and Ukraine/Russia) involving the exportation of services or software from the US to comprehensively sanctioned jurisdictions and to SDN or blocked persons. The settlement amount reflects OFAC's determination that Microsoft's conduct was non-egregious and voluntarily self-disclosed.</p> <p>Also, US Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) issued an order imposing an administrative penalty of \$0.62 million on Microsoft.</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/media/931591/download?inline">https://ofac.treasury.gov/media/931591/download?inline</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/documents/about-bis/newsroom/press-releases/3259-2023-04-06-bis-press-release-bis-ofac-microsoft-settlement/file">https://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/documents/about-bis/newsroom/press-releases/3259-2023-04-06-bis-press-release-bis-ofac-microsoft-settlement/file</a></p>
7	UK Gambling Commission	<p><b>[05/April/2023] Gambling business TGP Europe fined £316,250</b></p> <p>Gambling operator TGP Europe Limited will pay a £316,250 penalty for anti-money laundering (AML) and social responsibility failures. The operator, which runs 19 websites, will also receive an official warning and have conditions added to its licence.</p> <p>Anti-money laundering failures included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-not having a money laundering and terrorist financing risk assessment which adequately addressed risks, such as customers providing false or stolen identification documentation and risks linked to complex or unusually large transactions</li> <li>-not adequately considering and mitigating the money laundering risks posed by their business-to-business relationships</li> <li>-having ineffective policies and procedures in relation to due diligence undertaken prior to white label agreements.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/news/article/gambling-business-tgp-europe-fined-gbp316-250">https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/news/article/gambling-business-tgp-europe-fined-gbp316-250</a></p>
7	US OFAC	<p><b>[31/March/2023] Uphold fined for violation of sanctions programs</b></p> <p>OFAC settles with Uphold HQ Inc. for \$72,230.32 related to apparent violations of multiple sanctions programs. Between March 2017 and May 2022, Uphold or its affiliates processed 152 transactions totaling \$180,575.80 in apparent violation of OFAC's sanctions against Iran, Cuba, and Venezuela. These apparent violations included processing transactions for customers who self-identified as being located in Iran or Cuba and for employees of the Government of Venezuela (GoV).</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/media/931556/download">https://ofac.treasury.gov/media/931556/download</a></p>

7	US OFAC FRB	<p><b>[30/March/2023] Wells Fargo fined for violation of sanctions programs</b></p> <p>OFAC announced a settlement with Wells Fargo (5th biggest bank in the world) for \$30 million regarding alleged violations of sanctions programs against Iran, Syria and Sudan between 2008 and 2015. Also US Federal Reserve Board announced that it has fined Wells Fargo \$67.8 million for the firm's unsafe or unsound practices relating to historical inadequate oversight of sanctions compliance risks.</p> <p><a href="https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/126/20230330_wells_fargo.pdf">https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/126/20230330_wells_fargo.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/files/enf20230330a1.pdf">https://www.federalreserve.gov/newsevents/pressreleases/files/enf20230330a1.pdf</a></p>
7	US DOJ	<p><b>[30/March/2023] Swiss Executive Pleads Guilty to Conspiracy to Defraud the IRS</b></p> <p>An executive of the holding company that owns Privatbank IHAG pleaded guilty today to conspiring to conceal over \$60 million of undeclared assets held by wealthy American clients of the Swiss private bank. The scheme involved a number of steps designed to obscure these undeclared accounts by stripping them of any indicia of U.S. ownership. Known as the "Singapore Solution," members of the conspiracy sent over \$60 million dollars on "round trips" across the globe. The money was sent from Privatbank IHAG accounts in Switzerland to a bank in Hong Kong before returning to Privatbank IHAG in accounts held by a Singaporean asset manager owned and controlled by the Swiss bank's holding company.</p> <p><a href="https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/swiss-executive-pleads-guilty-conspiracy-defraud-irs">https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/swiss-executive-pleads-guilty-conspiracy-defraud-irs</a></p>
7	UK Gambling Commission	<p><b>[28/March/2023] William Hill Group businesses to pay record £19.2m</b></p> <p>The following AML deficiencies were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Allowing customers to deposit large amounts without conducting appropriate checks</li> <li>-Customers were able to stake large amounts of money without being monitored or scrutinised to a high enough standard – the operator failed to request Source of Funds</li> <li>-Policies, procedures and controls lacked guidance on appropriate action to take following the results of customer profiling and how its findings should be used to establish the appropriate outcome.</li> <li>-Procedures and controls lacked hard stops to prevent further spend and mitigate against money laundering risks before customer risk profiling is completed.</li> <li>-AML staff training provided insufficient information on risks and how to manage them</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://gamblingcommission.gov.uk/news/article/william-hill-group-businesses-to-pay-record-gbp19-2m-for-failures">gamblingcommission.gov.uk/news/article/william-hill-group-businesses-to-pay-record-gbp19-2m-for-failures</a></p>
7	US CFTF	<p><b>[27/March/2023] CFTC Charges Binance and Its Founder, Changpeng Zhao, with Willful Evasion of Federal Law and Operating an Illegal Digital Asset Derivatives Exchange</b></p> <p>US Commodity Futures Trading Commission(CFTC) has filed a civil enforcement action against BINANCE, Changpeng Zhao - CEO and Samuel Lim- former Chief Compliance Officer for: 1/failed to implement basic compliance procedures designed to prevent and detect terrorist financing and money laundering. 2/willful implementing an internal framework that instructed its employees and customers to circumvent compliance controls, such as: -did not require its customers to provide any identity- verifying information before trading on the platform, -communicated with customers through a messaging app that was set to automatically delete written communications; -instructed customers to access the trading facility through a virtual private network to avoid Binance's IP address-based controls or create "new" accounts through off-shore shell companies to evade Binance's KYC-based controls.</p> <p><a href="https://www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/PressReleases/8680-23">https://www.cftc.gov/PressRoom/PressReleases/8680-23</a></p>



7	UK Gambling Commission	<p><b>[23/March/2023] Gambling Commission fines 32Red and Platinum Gaming £7.1m</b></p> <p>Two online operators 32Red Limited and Platinum Gaming Limited, both part of Kindred Group plc, will pay a £7.1 million penalty for social responsibility and anti-money laundering failures.</p> <p>Anti-money laundering failures included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-32Red failed to thoroughly implement the measures described by the Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Transfer of Funds (Information on the Payer Regulations 2017).</li> <li>-The customer account reviews identified that financial triggers for Anti-Money Laundering (AML) reviews at 32Red were too high and not appropriate to effectively manage money laundering and terrorist financing risks.</li> <li>-32Red customers subject to a Source of Funds (SOF) / Source of Wealth (SOW) request were, in most cases, not restricted from depositing and gambling during the two-week period allowed by the operator to respond to the request.</li> <li>-In relation to 32 Red, there was an over reliance on confidence that funds coming through Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) regulated firms mitigated/removed proceeds of crime risk.</li> <li>-Platinum Gaming’s policies, procedures and controls in relation to AML were not appropriate.</li> <li>-Platinum Gaming failed to ensure that it’s policies, procedures and controls were kept under review and revised appropriately to ensure that they remained effective.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/news/article/gambling-commission-fines-32red-and-platinum-gaming-gbp7-1m">https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/news/article/gambling-commission-fines-32red-and-platinum-gaming-gbp7-1m</a></p>
7	US DOJ	<p><b>[21/March/2023] Head of Legal and Compliance of OneCoin charged in the massive fraud scheme</b></p> <p>Irina Dilkinska, Head of Legal and Compliance of OneCoin was extradited from Bulgaria to US and charged for her role in \$4 billion Cryptocurrency Pyramid Scheme. OneCoin, a company setup in 2014 in Sofia-Bulgaria, operated as a MLM network through which members received commissions for recruiting others to purchase cryptocurrency packages. The founder of OneCoin, Ruja Ignatova, a.k.a “the Cryptoqueen”, was charged with fraud and money laundering in the US in 2017 and added to the FBI’s Top Ten Most Wanted List in June 2022.</p> <p><a href="https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/bulgarian-woman-charged-role-multi-billion-dollar-cryptocurrency-pyramid-scheme-onecoin">https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/bulgarian-woman-charged-role-multi-billion-dollar-cryptocurrency-pyramid-scheme-onecoin</a></p>
7	MALTA FIAU	<p><b>[20/March/2023] Collective Investment Scheme - administrative Penalty of €49,969</b></p> <p>A retail Collective Investment Scheme was fined for non-compliance with AML regulation as following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Customer Risk Assessment (CRA)</li> <li>- Record-Keeping</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://fiaumalta.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Publication-Notice-22032023-1.pdf">https://fiaumalta.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Publication-Notice-22032023-1.pdf</a></p>

7	ROMANIA NBR	<p><b>[17/March/2023] TERRA CREDIT IFN S.A. sanctioned by NBR</b></p> <p>The National Bank of Romania (NBR) has fined TERRA CREDIT IFN S.A. with amount of 20.000RON(~4.000EUR), Order of the first vice-governor of the BNR no. 15/02.02.2023 for not complying with the Romanian AML Law, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- lack of KYC internal regulation;</li> <li>- lack of risk methodology for ML/FT risk assessment on customers, products and services, distribution channels and also on enterprise wide risk assessment;</li> <li>- lack of AML/CTF risk policy;</li> <li>- inadequate process of identification and verification of customers before starting the business relationship;</li> <li>- failure to verify information regarding the source of funds used for loan repayment, based on credible and independent sources;</li> <li>- did not obtain information about the customer's occupation, PEP status , as well as about UBO;</li> <li>- lack of job description for employee who must comply with AML/CTF requirements;</li> <li>- inadequate KYC/AML/CFT training program;</li> <li>- inadequate internal control measures for KYC/AML/CFT processes</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.bnr.ro/Sanc%C8%9Biuni-emise-de-BNR-pentru-nerespectarea-legisla%C8%9Biei-incidente--20132.aspx">https://www.bnr.ro/Sanc%C8%9Biuni-emise-de-BNR-pentru-nerespectarea-legisla%C8%9Biei-incidente--20132.aspx</a></p>
7	US US Attorneys	<p><b>[15/March/2023] Former Mexican governor and presidential candidate sentenced for money laundering</b></p> <p>The former governor of Tamaulipas, Mexico, Tomas Yarrington Ruvalcaba, 66, has been sentenced to nine years in prison for accepting over \$3.5 million in illegal bribe money and using it to fraudulently purchase property in the United States. Yarrington accepted bribes from individuals and private companies in Mexico to do business with the state of Tamaulipas while he served as governor. Yarrington was in that position from 1999 to 2005. He was also an Institutional Revolutionary Party candidate for president of Mexico in 2005.</p> <p>Yarrington used the bribery money he received while governor to purchase properties in the United States. He had - <b>nominee buyers</b> -purchase property in the United States to hide Yarrington's ownership of the properties and the illegal bribery money used to purchase them. Yarrington laundered his illegally obtained bribe money in the United States by purchasing beachfront condominiums, large estates, commercial developments, airplanes and luxury vehicles.</p> <p><a href="https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/former-mexican-governor-and-presidential-candidate-sentenced-money-laundering">https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdtx/pr/former-mexican-governor-and-presidential-candidate-sentenced-money-laundering</a></p>
8		<b>Threats, alerts and typologies</b>
8	REPO Task Force	<p><b>[09/March/2023] Global Advisory on Russian Sanctions Evasion</b></p> <p>The Russian Elites, Proxies, and Oligarchs (REPO) Task Force, consisting of Finance Ministry and Justice or Home Ministry participation in each member jurisdiction (Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Commission), has used their respective authorities to track Russian sanctioned assets and heavily restrict sanctioned individuals and entities from accessing the international financial system. The REPO Task Force published this advisory that contains the following typologies : the use of family members and close associates to ensure continued access and control; the use of real estate to hold value, benefit from wealth; the use of complex ownership structures to avoid identification; the use of enablers to avoid involvement, leverage expertise; and the use of third- party jurisdictions, false trade information to facilitate sensitive goods shipment to Russia.</p> <p><a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1141536/REPO_Joint_Advisory_FINAL.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1141536/REPO_Joint_Advisory_FINAL.pdf</a></p>
9		<b>Corruption Perception Indices and Country Reports</b>

9	Transparency International	<p>2022 <b>Corruption Perceptions Index</b> was issued on [31/January/2023]</p> <p>The 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) was published by Transparency International. The global average remains unchanged for over a decade at just 43 out of 100. More than two-thirds of countries score below 50, while 26 countries have fallen to their lowest scores yet. 155 countries out of 180 have made no significant progress against corruption or have declined since 2012. Here is the score for some relevant countries from each risk class : Denmark 90(88in2021); Austria 75(74in2021); Lithuania 62(61in2021); Malta 51(54in2021); Romania 46(45in2021); Moldova 39(36in2021); Pakistan 27(28in2021); Somalia 12(13in2021). The average score of Western Europe&amp;EU is 66, with max Denmark 90 and min Hungary 42.</p> <p><a href="https://images.transparencycdn.org/images/Report_CPI2022_English.pdf">https://images.transparencycdn.org/images/Report_CPI2022_English.pdf</a></p>
10		<p><b>Mutual evaluation reports or lists of states or jurisdictions that have KYC/AML/CTF deficiencies</b></p>
10	EU	<p><b>EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes</b> was issued on [14/February/2023]</p> <p>The EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes has been updated. The black list contains the following countries: 1/American Samoa; 2/Anguilla; 3/Bahamas; 4/British Virgin Islands(new); 5/Costa Rica(new); 6/Fiji; 7/Guam; 8/Marshall Islands(new); 9/Palau; 10/Panama; 11/Russia(new); 12/Samoa; 13/Trinidad and Tobago; 14/Turks and Caicos Islands; 15/US Virgin Islands; 16/Vanuatu. For the grey list see Annex <b>II</b></p> <p><a href="https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6375-2023-INIT/en/pdf">https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-6375-2023-INIT/en/pdf</a></p>
10	EU	<p>The <b>EU high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies</b> list has been updated on [24/February/2023]</p> <p>The Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1675 regarding high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies has been updated by C.D.Reg. 2023/410 as follows: exit : Nicaragua, Pakistan &amp; Zimbabwe, new entries: D.R.Congo, Gibraltar, Mozambique, Tanzania &amp; United Arab Emirates.</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0410">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0410</a>  <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1675">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1675</a></p>
10	FATF	<p><b>FATF has reviewed and update the black and gray lists</b> on [24/February/2023]</p> <p>FATF has reviewed and published : - the lists of jurisdictions subject to a <b>Call for Action</b>, list remained unchanged : North Korea; Iran; Myanmar; - list of <b>jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring</b>, the updates are: 2 countries exit : Cambodia and Morocco and 2 countries enter in the list : Nigeria and South Africa. The list contains 23 countries : 1/ Albania [Feb.20] 2/ Barbados [Feb.20] 3/ Burkina Faso [Feb.21] 4/ Cayman Islands [Feb.21] 5/ Congo[Oct.22] 6/Gibraltar [Jun.22] 7/Haiti [Jun.20] 8/Jamaica [Feb.20] 9/Jordan [Oct.21] 10/ Mali [Oct.21] 11/ Mozambique [Oct.22] 12/ Nigeria [Feb.23] 13/Panama [Jun.19] 14/Philippines [Jun.21] 15/Senegal [Feb.21] 16/South Africa [Feb.23] 17/South Sudan[Jun.21] 18/Syria [Feb.10] 19/Tanzania [Oct.22] 20/Turcia [Oct.21] 21/ Uganda [Feb.20] 22/United Arab Emirates [Feb.22] 23/Yemen [Feb.10]</p> <p><a href="https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/High-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/Call-for-action-February-2023.html">https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/High-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/Call-for-action-February-2023.html</a>  <a href="https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/High-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/Increased-monitoring-february-2023.html">https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/High-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/Increased-monitoring-february-2023.html</a></p>
10	FATF	<p><b>[03/April/2023] FATF consolidated countries assessment ratings</b></p> <p>This table provides an up-to-date overview of the FATF ratings that assessed countries obtained for effectiveness and technical compliance with the 40 recommendations.</p> <p><a href="https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf/documents/4th-Round-Ratings.xlsx.coredownload.inline.xlsx">https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf/documents/4th-Round-Ratings.xlsx.coredownload.inline.xlsx</a></p>

10	FATF	<p><b>[03/April/2023] Venezuela's measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing</b></p> <p>In general terms, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has limited legislative and regulatory instruments and structures to combat ML/TF effectively.</p> <p><a href="https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/fsrb-mer/CFATF-Mutual-Evaluation-Venezuela.pdf.coredownload.pdf">https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/fsrb-mer/CFATF-Mutual-Evaluation-Venezuela.pdf.coredownload.pdf</a></p>
11		<p><b>Relevant information from credible and reliable organizations</b></p>
11	OCCRP	<p><b>[07/April/2023] A Fake Bank Was Shut Down in Spain. Now a New One Has Popped Up in the U.K.</b></p> <p>In 2017, Spanish authorities cracked down on over two dozen shell companies, masquerading as a bank in Madrid, that were allegedly laundering money for criminal clients. Since then, figures linked to that operation, which used the name "Bandenia," have gone on to open hundreds of new companies in the U.K. and other jurisdictions — even one that pretends to be a thriving British bank.</p> <p><a href="https://www.occrp.org/en/investigations/a-fake-bank-was-shut-down-in-spain-now-a-new-one-has-popped-up-in-the-uk">https://www.occrp.org/en/investigations/a-fake-bank-was-shut-down-in-spain-now-a-new-one-has-popped-up-in-the-uk</a></p>
11	Global Initiative	<p><b>[05/April/2023] Convergence of wildlife crime and other forms of transnational organized crime in Eastern and Southern Africa</b></p> <p>The huge growth in wildlife crime during this century has captured headlines, attracted celebrity attention and public interest and generated policy discussions. Narratives have concentrated largely on the 'war on poaching' and how wildlife trafficking generates income for terrorist groups. This focus has led to overly militarized and tactical responses that have missed the real threats and challenges of wildlife crime and have broken down trust and the legitimacy of conservation efforts.</p> <p><a href="https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/crime-convergence.pdf">https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/crime-convergence.pdf</a></p>
11	Global Initiative	<p><b>[29/March/2023] The vulnerable millions: Organized crime risks in Ukraine's mass displacement</b></p> <p>Conflict has long been recognized as a driver of trafficking, from forced labour and sexual exploitation to the recruitment of child soldiers. This report assesses the extent to which the criminal actors succeeded in exploiting the opportunities within Ukraine and in Europe in 2022 – and where future risks may lie.</p> <p><a href="https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/The-vulnerable-millions-Organized-crime-risks-in-Ukraines-mass-displacement-GI-TOC-March-2023.pdf">https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/The-vulnerable-millions-Organized-crime-risks-in-Ukraines-mass-displacement-GI-TOC-March-2023.pdf</a></p>
11	OCCRP	<p><b>[24/March/2023] Israeli Disinformation Expert Linked to Faked Bank Accounts in Serbian Smear Campaign</b></p> <p>A leaked report sheds light on the source of a mysterious media attack on the Serbian president's political rival. A pro-government media campaign targeting former Belgrade mayor Dragan Đilas was based on a "global bank scan".</p> <p><a href="https://www.occrp.org/en/storykillers/israeli-disinformation-expert-linked-to-faked-bank-accounts-in-serbian-smear-campaign">https://www.occrp.org/en/storykillers/israeli-disinformation-expert-linked-to-faked-bank-accounts-in-serbian-smear-campaign</a></p>



11	The Institute for Economics and Peace	<p><b>[22/March/2023] Global Terrorism Index 2023</b></p> <p>The 10th edition of the Global Terrorism Index 2023 has been issued. The Global Terrorism Index (GTI) is a comprehensive study analysing the impact of terrorism for 163 countries which covers 99.7% of the world's population. Here are some conclusions: 1/ideologically motivated terrorism continues to be the most common type of terrorism; 2/violent conflict remains the primary driver of terrorism, with over 88% of attacks and 98% of terrorism deaths in 2022 taking place in countries in conflict; 3/drones are rapidly evolving and changing the way conflicts are conducted; 4/terrorist attacks became more deadly in 2022, killing on average 1.7 people per attack in 2022 compared to 1.3 deaths per attack in 2021; 5/ Islamic State and its affiliates remained the world's deadliest terrorist group in 2022. Here are a few countries score from each risk category (10/8/6/4/2/0): Afghanistan 8.82, Pakistan 8.16, Egypt 6.63, Turkey 5.60, USA 4.79, France 4.41, Germany 4.24, UK 3.84, Russia 3.79, Italy 3.29, Austria 2.67, Netherlands 2.12, Cyprus 1.39, Romania 0.68, Denmark 0.15, Hungary 0.00, Poland 0.00.</p> <p><a href="https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/GTI-2023-web-270323.pdf">https://www.visionofhumanity.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/GTI-2023-web-270323.pdf</a></p>
11	Global Initiative	<p><b>[22/March/2023] The Russo-Ukrainian war and the illegal arms trade</b></p> <p>This report explores the current situation in Ukraine in terms of the spread of weapons into non-state hands and clandestine supply chains. It considers the prospects for more serious levels of proliferation after the end of hostilities, and makes practical recommendations for Ukraine and its foreign partners.</p> <p><a href="https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Mark-Galeotti-and-Anna-Arutunyan-Peace-and-proliferation-The-Russo-Ukrainian-war-and-the-illegal-arms-trade-GI-TOC-March-2023.pdf">https://globalinitiative.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Mark-Galeotti-and-Anna-Arutunyan-Peace-and-proliferation-The-Russo-Ukrainian-war-and-the-illegal-arms-trade-GI-TOC-March-2023.pdf</a></p>
11	Center for the Study of Democracy	<p><b>[16/March/2023] Illicit Financial Flows and Disinformation in Southeast Europe</b></p> <p>Illicit financial flows (IFFs) underpin state and media capture oligarchic networks across SEE. Amounting to 6% of the region's GDP, IFFs are more pervasive in the Balkans than the global average, which stands at 3-5% of world GDP. Widespread disinformation is one of the most insidious symptoms of media capture in SEE. Serbia in particular has emerged as the primary launchpad for both illicit financial flows and pro-Kremlin disinformation in the Western Balkans. However, Bulgaria's experience has demonstrated that even EU membership does not wipe these problems away if state and media capture practices persist.</p> <p><a href="https://csd.bg/fileadmin/user_upload/publications_library/files/2023_03/BRIEF_126_ENG_WEB.pdf">https://csd.bg/fileadmin/user_upload/publications_library/files/2023_03/BRIEF_126_ENG_WEB.pdf</a></p>
12		<b>Information from statistical organizations and academia</b>
13		<b>Relevant information on ML/FT risks from mass - media</b>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[13/April/2023] Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan's Security In-charge Arrested in Money Laundering Case</b></p> <p>Pakistan's top investigating agency has arrested a close aide of former prime minister Imran Khan in a money laundering case. The Anti-Money Laundering Cell of the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has busted an active racket involved in a money laundering operation based in Lahore. Iftikhar Rasool Ghumman, Khan's security-in charge was arrested along with two others. The arrests have exposed the network of people allegedly involved in money laundering operations through Hundi and Hawala channels. The racket involved using more than 40 fake companies for transferring money to other countries, the report said.</p> <p><a href="https://www.outlookindia.com/international/aide-of-former-pakistan-pm-imran-khan-arrested-in-money-laundering-case-news-278203">https://www.outlookindia.com/international/aide-of-former-pakistan-pm-imran-khan-arrested-in-money-laundering-case-news-278203</a></p>

13	Mass-media	<p><b>[12/April/2023] 'Bitcoin is a gambling token, and it doesn't have any intrinsic value' – Warren Buffett</b></p> <p>The nonagenarian said there's been an "explosion of gambling" while comparing Bitcoin to roulette, sports booking and chain letters. Buffett ventured speculation on Bitcoin's longevity in another 2014 CNBC interview, stating that he "would not be surprised if Bitcoin is not around in 10 or 20 years." At the time, he also said Bitcoin couldn't be considered a currency because it is "inevitably based on the value of the dollar."</p> <p><a href="https://cointelegraph.com/news/bitcoin-is-a-gambling-token-and-it-doesn-t-have-any-intrinsic-value-warren-buffett">https://cointelegraph.com/news/bitcoin-is-a-gambling-token-and-it-doesn-t-have-any-intrinsic-value-warren-buffett</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[12/April/2023] On the hunt for the businessmen behind a billion-dollar scam</b></p> <p>A global scamming network has robbed ordinary investors of more than a billion dollars. BBC Eye identified a shadowy network of businessmen who appear to be behind it. The network is known to police as the Milton group, a name originally used by the scammers themselves but abandoned in 2020. We identified 152 brands, including Solo Capitals, that appear to be part of the network. It operates by targeting investors and scamming them out of thousands - or in some cases hundreds of thousands - of pounds. Five names appeared again and again, listed as directors of the Milton trading platforms or supporting tech companies - David Todua, Rati Tchelidze, Guram Gogeshvili, Joseph Mgeladze, and Michael Benimini. We plugged the five names into the Panama Papers, a massive 2016 leak detailing offshore companies, and discovered that four of them - Tchelidze, Gogeshvili, Mgeladze and Benimini - were listed as directors or senior figures within a group of linked offshore companies or subsidiary companies that pre-dated the Milton group. Many of these non-Milton companies led back in some way to one figure: David Kezerashvili, a former Georgian government official who served for two years as the country's defence minister.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bbc.com/news/world-65038949">https://www.bbc.com/news/world-65038949</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[11/April/2023] Terra Classic DEX Loses \$2 Million in Exploit Days After Launch</b></p> <p>A hacker drained all liquidity pools on Terraport, a newly launched DeFi platform on Terra Classic. Terraport notified users of the exploit in an April 10 update, saying the team had tracked the stolen funds and was working with major exchanges to freeze assets associated with the hacker's address. Over the course of a few hours, the hacker drained all \$2 million worth of liquidity from the newly launched decentralized exchange. Terraport went live on March 31 on the Luna Classic blockchain, the original network that hosted LUNA and the algorithmic stablecoin USDT. Terra Classic's native token has been renamed LUNC and is currently trading at a value of \$0.0001249.</p> <p><a href="https://unchainedcrypto.com/terra-classic-dex-loses-2-million-in-exploit-days-after-launch/">https://unchainedcrypto.com/terra-classic-dex-loses-2-million-in-exploit-days-after-launch/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[10/April/2023] Crypto Exchange GDAC Halts Deposits and Withdrawals Following \$13 Million Hack</b></p> <p>The exchange's team notified its users on April 9 that hackers exploited the Gdac Hot Wallet and transferred a significant amount of cryptocurrencies to an unidentified wallet. Hackers drained almost \$13 million worth of digital assets from the South Korean cryptocurrency platform GDAC.</p> <p><a href="https://cryptopotato.com/crypto-exchange-gdac-halts-deposits-and-withdrawals-following-13-million-hack/">https://cryptopotato.com/crypto-exchange-gdac-halts-deposits-and-withdrawals-following-13-million-hack/</a></p>

13	Mass-media	<p><b>[07/April/2023] Bank Regulator Drops Case Against Ex-Rabobank U.S. Compliance Chief</b></p> <p>A U.S. banking regulator has dropped a case against a former Rabobank NA compliance chief who allegedly tried to cover up problems in the bank's anti-money-laundering program, finding the judge in the case hadn't given her a fair hearing. The U.S. Office of the Comptroller of the Currency said it would "reluctantly" end its case against Laura Akahoshi, a onetime OCC employee who later worked as Rabobank's compliance chief. She was accused of obstructing OCC efforts to investigate Rabobank by allegedly working to hide a critical report produced by an accounting firm. Rabobank NA, a California subsidiary of Netherlands-based Rabobank that closed in 2019 after selling its assets, in 2018 pleaded guilty in federal court to conspiring to conceal its problems from the OCC, agreeing to forfeit about \$369 million. The OCC brought a related case against Ms. Akahoshi that year in its own internal court.</p> <p><a href="https://www.wsj.com/articles/bank-regulator-drops-case-against-ex-rabobank-u-s-compliance-chief-549fa78f">https://www.wsj.com/articles/bank-regulator-drops-case-against-ex-rabobank-u-s-compliance-chief-549fa78f</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[06/April/2023] Italian drugs cartels conceal payments via Chinese shadow banks</b></p> <p>Drugs cartels operating in Italy are increasingly using shadow networks of unlicensed Chinese money brokers to conceal cross-border payments, according to Italian judicial and law enforcement authorities. In Italy, authorities are seeing an increased use of the money transfer networks, which operate without an easily traceable trail and facilitate rapid payments, seven judicial and law enforcement officials told Reuters. The transfer method involves depositing a sum with a money broker in one country while another agent in the network elsewhere in the world pays the equivalent amount to the intended recipient. Official wire transfers between Italy and China have shrunk over the past decade, which one senior investigator said suggested that the Chinese community in Italy had reduced their use of the official banking system. According to Bank of Italy data, remittances from Italy to China totalled 22 million euros in 2021, down from a high of 2.67 billion euros in 2012.</p> <p><a href="https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italian-drugs-cartels-conceal-payments-via-chinese-shadow-banks-2023-04-06/">https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/italian-drugs-cartels-conceal-payments-via-chinese-shadow-banks-2023-04-06/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[05/April/2023] Vontobel severs business ties with Russia-based clients</b></p> <p>The Swiss private banking and investment group Vontobel has announced that it has terminated business with clients in Russia as a result of the war in Ukraine. Many Swiss companies have taken a nuanced approach to the Russian market, it showed. Nine entities remain open in Russia with significantly downsized operations. They include banks UBS, Credit Suisse and Julius Bär, the logistics giant Kühne + Nagel, and the building materials manufacturer Sika. The situation is reportedly difficult for the banks, in part because the Russian state has intervened: a court, for example, barred Credit Suisse from selling its two Russian subsidiaries.</p> <p><a href="https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/business/vontobel-severs-business-ties-with-russia-based-clients/48418552">https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/business/vontobel-severs-business-ties-with-russia-based-clients/48418552</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[04/April/2023] Bank accounts of New York 'roofie murder' victims drained via facial recognition technology</b></p> <p>High-tech phones carry new risk for unsuspecting victims of robbery rings. Facial recognition technology makes unlocking your smartphone a breeze. But with the convenience, comes a disturbing new crime trend for bandits. It involves "drug-facilitated robbery" schemers who knock their victims out with date rape drugs, unlock the victims' phones with their unconscious faces and drain their bank accounts of tens of thousands of dollars. While robberies involving incapacitated victims are nothing new, the technology offers thieves quick and easy access to incapacitated victims.</p> <p><a href="https://www.foxnews.com/us/bank-accounts-new-york-roofie-murder-victims-drained-via-facial-recognition-technology">https://www.foxnews.com/us/bank-accounts-new-york-roofie-murder-victims-drained-via-facial-recognition-technology</a></p>

13	Mass-media	<p><b>[03/April/2023] Actor Leonardo DiCaprio testifies in money laundering and bribery trial</b></p> <p>Leonardo DiCaprio testified in a federal court as part of a trial involving international money laundering, bribery and a prominent rap artist. Prakazrel "Pras" Michel – a founding member of the iconic 1990s hip-hop group, The Fugees – is accused of funneling money from a fugitive Malaysian financier through straw donors to Barack Obama's 2012 re-election campaign. At the heart of the case is Low Taek Jho, usually known as Jho Low. He is accused of masterminding an international money laundering and bribery scheme that stole billions from the Malaysian state investment fund known as 1MDB. DiCaprio's connection with the case comes from his years-long relationship with Low, who was one of the primary financiers of the movie The Wolf of Wall Street. Low is currently a fugitive but has maintained his innocence.</p> <p><a href="https://amp.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/apr/03/leonardo-dicaprio-money-laundering-bribery-jho-low">https://amp.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/apr/03/leonardo-dicaprio-money-laundering-bribery-jho-low</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[01/April/2023] Lazarus Heist: The intercontinental ATM theft that netted \$14m in two hours</b></p> <p>In 2018, several men in Maharashtra state thought they were accepting a bit-part in a movie - but in fact they were being tricked into being money mules, collecting cash in an ambitious bank heist. The raid took place over a weekend in August 2018, and centred on Cosmos Co-operative bank, which has its headquarters in Pune. On a quiet Saturday afternoon, staff in the bank's head office suddenly received a string of alarming messages. They were from the card payment company Visa in the United States, warning it could see thousands of demands flooding in for large cash withdrawals from ATMs - by people apparently using Cosmos Bank cards. But when the Cosmos team checked their own systems, they saw no abnormal transactions. About half-an-hour later, just to be safe, they authorised Visa to stop all transactions from Cosmos bank cards. This delay would turn out to be extremely costly. The next day, Visa shared the full list of suspect transactions with the Cosmos head office: about 12,000 separate withdrawals from different ATMs around the world. The bank had lost nearly \$14m.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bbc.com/news/world-65130220">https://www.bbc.com/news/world-65130220</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[31/March/2023] B.C. INTRODUCES 'UNEXPLAINED WEALTH ORDERS' TO TARGET MONEY LAUNDERING, ORGANIZED CRIME</b></p> <p>British Columbia has expanded legislation to crack down on organized crime assets, through a tool called unexplained wealth orders. In order to get an unexplained wealth order, the court must agree there is reason to suspect the person or organization is engaged in unlawful activity, or is a politically exposed foreign person. The person must also hold assets in B.C. worth at least \$75,000, that can not be explained by lawful employment or activity. The changes are expected to come into effect in 2025.</p> <p><a href="https://www.iheartradio.ca/am-1150/news/b-c-introduces-unexplained-wealth-orders-to-target-money-laundering-organized-crime-1.19457995">https://www.iheartradio.ca/am-1150/news/b-c-introduces-unexplained-wealth-orders-to-target-money-laundering-organized-crime-1.19457995</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[31/March/2023] £21bn of public money lost in fraud since COVID pandemic began and most will never be recovered</b></p> <p>Tens of billions of pounds have been lost to fraud since the start of the COVID pandemic, according to the National Audit Office (NAO), with little chance of the majority being reclaimed. Of the £21bn identified by the NAO to have been lost by the government, more than £7bn is linked to schemes introduced during the pandemic. And it says it is "very unlikely" that the bulk of the taxpayers' money will be recovered. Levels of fraud rose almost fourfold from £5.5bn two years before the pandemic to £21bn in the following two years.</p> <p><a href="https://news.sky.com/story/21bn-of-taxpayer-money-lost-in-fraud-by-government-since-pandemic-began-says-spending-watchdog-12845271">https://news.sky.com/story/21bn-of-taxpayer-money-lost-in-fraud-by-government-since-pandemic-began-says-spending-watchdog-12845271</a></p>


13	Mass-media	<p><b>[30/March/2023] Gold smugglers use South African banks, bribes to launder money</b></p> <p>Several key officials at three major South African banks are helping a gold smuggling gang launder millions of dollars of dirty cash in exchange for regular bribes, an Al Jazeera investigation has found. The officers at Standard Bank, ABSA Bank and Sasfin Bank have been on the payroll of Mohamed Khan, a money launderer working for cigarette magnate and smuggler Simon Rudland, thousands of documents and interviews with Khan's former colleagues reveal.</p> <p><a href="https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/30/gold-smugglers-use-south-african-banks-bribes-to-launder-money">https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/30/gold-smugglers-use-south-african-banks-bribes-to-launder-money</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[30/March/2023] Four bankers who helped 'Putin's wallet' set up Swiss accounts convicted</b></p> <p>Four bankers who helped Vladimir Putin's close friend Sergei Roldugin move millions of francs through bank accounts in Zurich have been convicted of financial crimes in Switzerland. The four were found guilty on Thursday of failing to carry out proper checks on financial transactions involving Roldugin's accounts with the Swiss branch of the Russian bank Gazprombank. The banking executives helped Roldugin deposit huge sums between 2014 and 2016 in private Swiss bank accounts.</p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/mar/30/four-bankers-who-helped-putin-wallet-sergei-roldugin-set-up-swiss-accounts-convicted">https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/mar/30/four-bankers-who-helped-putin-wallet-sergei-roldugin-set-up-swiss-accounts-convicted</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[29/March/2023] Top Venezuela oil official pleads guilty to taking bribes</b></p> <p>The former general counsel for Venezuela's state-owned oil company pleaded guilty in Miami federal court on money laundering charges in connection to a conspiracy to siphon at least \$550 million from state coffers through corrupt currency deals. As part of his plea agreement, Alvaro Ledo Nass acknowledged taking \$11.5 million in bribes between 2012 and 2017, a period largely overlapping with his senior roles at Petroleos de Venezuela SA, or PDVSA. Nass, 43, in February became the latest among several dozen former Venezuelan officials to be charged or convicted in the U.S. as part of Operation Money Flight, a sprawling, multi-year investigation that seeks to untangle how Venezuelan insiders stole billions in oil wealth from their country.</p> <p><a href="https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/top-venezuela-oil-official-pleads-guilty-taking-bribes-98216711">https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/top-venezuela-oil-official-pleads-guilty-taking-bribes-98216711</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[29/March/2023] Peru prosecutors probe president over alleged money laundering</b></p> <p>Peruvian prosecutors said they were investigating President Dina Boluarte and her ousted predecessor Pedro Castillo for alleged money laundering and illegal campaign financing during the 2021 presidential election. The probe is an expansion of an investigation against the pair over allegations of illegal financing. Boluarte, Castillo and his former adviser Henry Shimabukuro were being investigated for "the crimes of prohibited financing of political organizations, money laundering and criminal organization," the public prosecutor's office said on Twitter.</p> <p><a href="https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20230329-peru-prosecutors-probe-president-over-alleged-money-laundering">https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20230329-peru-prosecutors-probe-president-over-alleged-money-laundering</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[28/March/2023] Armenian Proxies Travel the World to Help Oligarchs Secretly Move Millions</b></p> <p>Since 2017, nearly 100 Armenian citizens have served as proxy directors for a network of companies that have been used by prominent Eastern European oligarchs to move millions of dollars, shift assets from shuttered banks abroad, and pay for lobbying services in the United States. Many of the companies are shareholders of each other and nearly all of them have similar websites that were created by two men. Some of the companies have even been directly involved in the Russian laundromat, where \$1 billion was stolen from Moldova. Most of the companies moved money using invoices for goods such as textiles, equipment, and agricultural items, although it's doubtful there was any physical exchange of goods. Some of the companies also used a Bulgarian brokerage company to transfer money via security trades. Reporters from Forensic News and Hetq interviewed many of the directors, and analyzed invoices, court cases and bank records to get an understanding of how the scheme worked.</p> <p><a href="https://hetq.am/en/article/154418">https://hetq.am/en/article/154418</a></p>

13	Mass-media	<p><b>[28/March/2023] Prosecutors raid French banks in multi-billion-euro tax fraud investigation</b></p> <p>French authorities have raided the Paris offices of five banks suspected of tax fraud as part of a widening European investigation of a scheme that allowed investors to avoid paying billions of euros in tax. Some 150 investigators from the financial prosecution office conducted searches of Société Générale, BNP Paribas and its Exane unit, HSBC and the investment bank arm of the BPCE banking group, in central Paris and the La Défense financial district on the outskirts of the French capital. The raids follow preliminary investigations opened in December 2021 into a dividend arbitrage trading scheme, in which investors quickly trade shares close to dividend payout days in order to obscure the question of ownership and allow several parties to illegally reclaim tax rebates.</p> <p><a href="https://amp-rfi-fr.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/amp.rfi.fr/en/france/20230328-prosecutors-raid-french-banks-in-multi-billion-euro-tax-fraud-investigation">https://amp-rfi-fr.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/amp.rfi.fr/en/france/20230328-prosecutors-raid-french-banks-in-multi-billion-euro-tax-fraud-investigation</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[27/March/2023] Police fine a Slovak bank €2m for counter-terrorist financing failings</b></p> <p>The police imposed a fine of €2 million on 365.bank, which wants to go to court. The fine relates to cashless and cash transactions worth millions of euros. The police conclude that the bank did not pay special attention to the risk of money laundering and terrorist financing, despite the fact that the transactions were unusually large and of an unusual nature. In response, the bank states that the field of combating money laundering is an extremely complex and dynamic area, in which legislation and practical guidelines regarding transactions are constantly changing.</p> <p>"Unlike the police, which evaluate these transactions after several years, the financial institution itself must evaluate client transactions exclusively on the basis of information available in real time," says the bank.</p> <p><a href="https://spectator.sme.sk/c/23151326/slovak-bank-fine-for-counter-terrorist-financing-failings.html">https://spectator.sme.sk/c/23151326/slovak-bank-fine-for-counter-terrorist-financing-failings.html</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[26/March/2023] Deutsche Bank settles suit over \$1.6 billion Madoff claims</b></p> <p>Deutsche Bank AG is settling a US lawsuit it filed against a pair of offshore feeder funds that backed out of an alleged deal to sell the German lender \$1.6 billion in claims against Bernard Madoff's bankrupt investment advisory business. The funds, founded in the British Virgin Islands in 1994, funneled \$1.7 billion of client money to Madoff's firm before his \$20 billion Ponzi scheme collapsed in 2008. They agreed to sell their claims against Madoff's firm to Deutsche Bank for 66 cents on the dollar in 2011, but backed out after getting "sellers' remorse" when the value of the claims increased, Deutsche Bank alleged.</p> <p><a href="https://www-livemint-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/www.livemint.com/companies/news/deutsche-bank-settles-suit-over-1-6-billion-madoff-claims/amp-11679841955619.html">https://www-livemint-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/www.livemint.com/companies/news/deutsche-bank-settles-suit-over-1-6-billion-madoff-claims/amp-11679841955619.html</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[24/March/2023] ECB pressures Austria's Raiffeisen bank to quit Russia</b></p> <p>The European Central Bank is pressing Austria's Raiffeisen Bank International to unwind its highly profitable business in Russia. The pressure comes after a top US sanctions official raised concerns about Raiffeisen's business in Russia on a visit to Vienna last month. The push from Washington and the ECB is upping the stakes for Austria and its second-biggest bank, which plays a key role in the Russian economy but also an increasingly contested one as Moscow's year-long war in Ukraine drags on. Many Western companies, including French bank Société Générale, have already left Russia. While the ECB is not asking Raiffeisen to leave the country immediately, it wants a plan of action for unwinding the business, such a plan could include the sale or closure of its Russian bank.</p> <p><a href="https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/ecb-pressures-austrias-raiffeisen-bank-to-quit-russia/">https://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/ecb-pressures-austrias-raiffeisen-bank-to-quit-russia/</a></p>

13	Mass-media	<p><b>[23/March/2023] Bulgaria to extradite top ex-magistrate to Austria over money laundering</b></p> <p>Bulgaria will extradite Ivan Dimov, a former member of the Bulgarian Supreme Judicial Council, to Austria as he is wanted for laundering €170,000, the Court of Appeal in Plovdiv decided on Tuesday. In January, the prosecutor's office in Wels, Austria, issued a European Arrest Warrant against Dimov for having allegedly transferred €170,800 he received from Austrian bank accounts to various Bulgarian ones between 14 March to 10 May 2022. In its decision, the Court of Appeals found the European Arrest Warrant issued by Austria to be in accordance with the law and that no criminal proceedings had yet been initiated in Bulgaria against Dimov for the same crime. Dimov is currently the chairman of the International Court of Arbitration at the Association "Alliance for Legal Interaction". In addition to being a member of the Supreme Judicial Council from 2007 to 2010, he was a military judge, a member of parliament (1997-2001) and the president of the District Court in Sliven.</p> <p><a href="https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/bulgaria-to-extradite-top-ex-magistrate-to-austria-over-money-laundering/">https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/bulgaria-to-extradite-top-ex-magistrate-to-austria-over-money-laundering/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[22/March/2023] Venezuela Oil Minister Resigns Amid Political Fight With Criminal Ramifications</b></p> <p>The resignation of Venezuela's Oil Minister Tareck El Aissami, just days after the arrest of one of his most important allies, may be a sign of a major political rift between some of Venezuela's most powerful state-embedded criminal networks. El Aissami's resignation came just days after the arrest of the head of the Superintendency of Cryptocurrencies (Superintendencia Nacional de Criptoactivos - Sunacrip), Joselit de la Trinidad Ramírez Camacho. Ramírez has been described in the Venezuelan press as El Aissami's right-hand man. Two judges and a municipal mayor were also arrested on separate corruption charges over the same period. In 2017, the US Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated El Aissami as a Specially Designated Narcotics Trafficker, accusing him of working with Venezuelan drug traffickers Walid Makled and Hermágoras González Polanco, as well as Mexican and Colombian drug trafficking organizations. In 2019, the Southern District of New York indicted El Aissami on charges of violating and evading OFAC sanctions through the use of private aircraft. In March 2020, the same court issued another indictment, accusing El Aissami of further sanctions violations and money laundering through bulk-cash smuggling.</p> <p><a href="https://insightcrime.org/news/venezuela-most-powerful-corrupt-politicians-about-to-fall/">https://insightcrime.org/news/venezuela-most-powerful-corrupt-politicians-about-to-fall/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[22/March/2023] Moneyval Chief Departs Role After Report Links Family to Russian Intelligence</b></p> <p>The executive secretary of the Financial Action Task Force's affiliate in Europe, Russian national Igor Nebyvaev, has left his position following revelations about his family ties to Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service, or SVR.</p> <p><a href="https://www.moneylaundering.com/news/moneyval-chief-quits-after-report-links-him-to-russian-intelligence/">https://www.moneylaundering.com/news/moneyval-chief-quits-after-report-links-him-to-russian-intelligence/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[21/March/2023] Two Mercedes Employees In Hot Water Over Alleged Million-Dollar Bribery Scandal</b></p> <p>Germany's federal criminal police office, the LKA, searched a Mercedes plant over allegations that two employees in the purchasing department were taking bribes. The automaker says it is the injured party in this case, and has filed a complaint against the employees. German criminal investigators were in Mercedes' Sindelfingen plant late last week and, while there, they confiscated a mobile phone and a computer, among other objects, reports Germany's Bild. The focus of the police's attention is said to have been on the plant's purchasing department, and the two individuals are said to have been involved in one of Mercedes' largest-ever bribery scandals that could be worth millions of euros.</p> <p><a href="https://www.carscoops.com/2023/03/two-mercedes-employees-in-germany-investigated-over-bribery-scandal-that-could-be-worth-millions/">https://www.carscoops.com/2023/03/two-mercedes-employees-in-germany-investigated-over-bribery-scandal-that-could-be-worth-millions/</a></p>

13	Mass-media	<p><b>[21/March/2023] JPMorgan and Deutsche Bank to face lawsuits accusing them of enabling Jeffrey Epstein's sex trafficking</b></p> <p>The decision could expose the banks to financial and reputational damage for keeping Epstein as a client after the deceased financier registered as a sex offense. JPMorgan and Deutsche Bank have said they had no legal duty to protect women from Epstein and denied accusations they knew about his abuses. Epstein was a client of JPMorgan from 2000 to 2013, and Deutsche Bank from 2013 to 2018. The acting attorney general of the US Virgin Islands, Carol Thomas-Jacobs, said her office's case would help ensure banks act as "a first line of defence in identifying and reporting potential human trafficking, as the law expects".</p> <p><a href="https://news.sky.com/story/jp-morgan-and-deutsche-bank-to-face-lawsuits-accusing-them-of-enabling-jeffrey-epsteins-sex-trafficking-12839189">https://news.sky.com/story/jp-morgan-and-deutsche-bank-to-face-lawsuits-accusing-them-of-enabling-jeffrey-epsteins-sex-trafficking-12839189</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[20/March/2023] From Medellín to Malta: Italian in €440 million fraud laundered money through Malta</b></p> <p>An Italian national wanted back home for his role in a €440 million embezzlement fraud who is about to be extradited from Columbia laundered his ill-gotten gains through Malta, according to Colombian authorities. According to the extradition file, Roberto Amoruso laundered the proceeds of the crime through cryptocurrencies, gold bars and current accounts in Malta, Cyprus and Madeira. According to Italian investigators, Amoruso was the brains behind a criminal organisation that illegally pocketed hundreds of millions of euros in state incentives associated with the Covid-19 pandemic between 2019 and 2020, which involved at least 70 people.</p> <p><a href="https://theshiftnews.com/2023/03/20/from-medellin-to-malta-italian-in-e440-million-fraud-laundered-money-through-malta/">https://theshiftnews.com/2023/03/20/from-medellin-to-malta-italian-in-e440-million-fraud-laundered-money-through-malta/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[20/March/2023] Credit Suisse's troubles - spies, money laundering and takeover</b></p> <p>Credit Suisse had embarked on an overhaul to recover from scandals, losses and lawsuits, but its shares slumped last week on fears of contagion from a banking crisis in the United States. Here are some of the crises the bank has faced in the last few years (in reverse chronological order):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MATERIAL WEAKNESSES :Credit Suisse's 2022 annual report identified "material weaknesses" in internal controls over financial reporting.</li> <li>-COCAINE-RELATED MONEY LAUNDERING - In June 2022, the bank was convicted of failing to prevent money laundering by a Bulgarian cocaine trafficking gang. The court found deficiencies within Credit Suisse regarding both its management of client relations with the criminal organisation and its monitoring of the implementation of anti-money laundering rules.</li> <li>- BERMUDA TRIAL: A Bermuda court ruled in March 2022 that former Georgian Prime Minister Bidzina Ivanishvili and his family are due damages of more than half a billion dollars from Credit Suisse's local life insurance arm. Credit Suisse has said it expects the case, which it is appealing, to cost it around \$600 million.</li> <li>-SUISSE SECRETS' : Credit Suisse denied allegations of wrongdoing after dozens of media outlets in February 2022 published results of coordinated, Panama Papers-style investigations into a leak of data on thousands of customer accounts in previous decades.</li> <li>- CHAIRMAN EXIT : Chairman Antonio Horta-Osorio resigned in January 2022 after flouting COVID-19 quarantine rules. Less than a year earlier, Horta-Osorio was brought in to clean up the bank's corporate culture.</li> <li>- ARCHEGOS DEFAULT : Credit Suisse lost \$5.5 billion when U.S. family office Archegos Capital Management defaulted in March 2021. An independent report into the incident criticised the bank's conduct, saying its losses were the result of a fundamental failure of management and control at its investment bank.</li> <li>- SPYING SCANDAL : Credit Suisse CEO Tidjane Thiam was forced to quit in March 2020 after an investigation found the bank hired private detectives to spy on its former head of wealth management Iqbal Kahn after he left for arch rival UBS.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/business/credit-suisse-troubles-spies-money-laundering-and-takeover/articleshow/98807990.cms">https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/business/credit-suisse-troubles-spies-money-laundering-and-takeover/articleshow/98807990.cms</a></p>



13	Mass-media	<p><b>[19/March/2023] Qatar charges ex-finance minister with bribery, embezzlement</b></p> <p>Qatar's former finance minister Ali Sherif al-Emadi will face a criminal trial following his 2021 arrest over embezzlement allegations. Al-Emadi was arrested in May 2021 but little has been made public about his case. He will face trial, with an unspecified number of others, over the charges, the state-run Qatar News Agency (QNA) said in a short statement on Sunday. "Since evidence extracted from the case documents proved that the accused committed the crimes ascribed to them, the Attorney General issued an order to refer the accused to the Criminal Court to punish them for the crimes ascribed to them, which included bribery, appropriation of public money, abuse of office, abuse of power, damage to public money and money laundering," the QNA report said. The report did not elaborate on how much money the former minister is accused of stealing.</p> <p><a href="https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/19/qatar-charges-ex-finance-minister-with-bribery-embezzlement">https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/3/19/qatar-charges-ex-finance-minister-with-bribery-embezzlement</a></p>
13		<p><b>[16/March/2023] Bahamas ex-minister charged in bribes-for-contracts scheme</b></p> <p>Bahamas former youth, sports and culture minister Lanisha Rolle was slapped with a slew of charges related to bribery and a government contracts scheme during her time as minister for deals valued at over \$700,000. Rolle was charged with one count of bribery and 14 counts of conspiracy to commit fraud by false pretenses. Prosecutors say the former minister doled out more than a dozen public works contracts without proper vetting.</p> <p><a href="https://news.yahoo.com/bahamas-ex-minister-charged-bribes-231349904.html">https://news.yahoo.com/bahamas-ex-minister-charged-bribes-231349904.html</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[15/March/2023] Trump's Media Company Reportedly Under Federal Investigation For Money Laundering Linked To Russia</b></p> <p>A federal criminal investigation into former President Donald Trump's media company Trump Media has expanded to include potential money laundering violations linked to an \$8 million loan with Russian ties, potentially further threatening the ex-president's media company and its planned merger with special purpose acquisition company Digital World Acquisition Corp. The payments were reportedly made in two installments, with \$2 million being paid to the company in December 2021 and another \$8 million was paid two months later. The payments came from Paxum Bank, which is registered in Dominica, and ES Family Trust, and the Guardian reports Paxum Bank is partly owned by Anton Postolnikov, an apparent relation of Aleksandr Smirnov, an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin who worked for Putin's government until 2017 and now runs the Russian-controlled maritime company Rosmorport.</p> <p><a href="https://www.forbes.com/sites/alisondurkee/2023/03/15/trumps-media-company-reportedly-under-federal-investigation-for-money-laundering-linked-to-russia/">https://www.forbes.com/sites/alisondurkee/2023/03/15/trumps-media-company-reportedly-under-federal-investigation-for-money-laundering-linked-to-russia/</a></p>
13	Mass-media	<p><b>[15/March/2023] Ukraine war: 100 cases identified for potential violations of sanctions</b></p> <p>Switzerland has flagged around 100 suspicious cases for potential violations of sanctions related to the Russian aggression against Ukraine. The suspicious cases were reported by the Federal Office for Customs and Border Security (FOCBS). Proceedings have so far been opened in 23 cases, with the two latest ones concerning Russia's ally Belarus. A majority of the suspected cases involve possible violations of sanctions on goods, including luxury goods or goods of economic importance to Russia. One official cited vehicle parts, computers, watches, luxury bags or other goods.</p> <p><a href="https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/politics/ukraine-war--some-100-cases-identified-for-potential-violations-of-sanctions/48359866">https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/politics/ukraine-war--some-100-cases-identified-for-potential-violations-of-sanctions/48359866</a></p>
14		Legislative changes

## [28/March/2023] New EU measures against money laundering and terrorist financing

MEPs from the Economic and Monetary Affairs and Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs committees adopted their position on three pieces of draft legislation on the financing provisions of EU Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) policy. The package consists of:

1/the EU "single rulebook" - regulation - with provisions on conducting due diligence on customers, transparency of beneficial owners and the use of anonymous instruments, such as crypto-assets, and new entities, such as crowdfunding platforms. It also includes provisions on so-called "golden" passports and visas.  
2/The 6th Anti-Money Laundering - directive - containing national provisions on supervision and Financial Intelligence Units, as well as on access for competent authorities to necessary and reliable information, e.g. beneficial ownership registers and assets stored in free zones.  
3/The regulation establishing the European Anti-Money Laundering Authority (AMLA) with supervisory and investigative powers to ensure compliance with AML/CFT requirements.

-To restrict transactions in cash and crypto assets, MEPs want to cap payments that can be accepted by persons providing goods or services. They set limits up to €7000 for cash payments and €1000 for crypto-asset transfers, where the customer cannot be identified. Given the manifest risk of misuse by criminals, MEPs want to ban any citizenship by investments schemes ("golden passports") and impose strong AML controls on residence by investment schemes ("golden visas").  
-MEPs also want member states to aggregate information on ownership of goods such as yachts, planes and cars worth over €200 000 or goods stored in free zones. MEPs agreed that beneficial ownership means having 15% plus one share, or voting rights, or other direct or indirect ownership interest, or 5% plus one share in the extractive industry or a company exposed to a higher risk of money laundering or terrorist financing.  
-The new AMLA would monitor risks and threats within and outside the EU and directly supervise specific credit and financial institutions, classifying them according to their risk level. MEPs wish to extend the agency's competence to drawing up lists of high-risk non-EU countries.

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230327IPR78511/new-eu-measures-against-money-laundering-and-terrorist-financing>