





Source	The most important events of the period [15/05/2023 - 14/06/2023 ]	Autor: Radu Ion, lector AS Financial Markets
1	 <b>Emerging trends and risks</b>	
1	<b>INTERPOL</b> <b>[07/June/2023] INTERPOL issues global warning on human trafficking-fueled fraud</b> <p>INTERPOL has been closely observing a growing crime phenomenon: large-scale human trafficking where victims are lured through fake job ads to online scam centres and forced to commit cyber-enabled financial crime on an industrial scale. The crime trend, which has seen tens of thousands trafficked in Southeast Asia and many more defrauded around the world, has attracted media attention and prompted government and civil society responses. Nevertheless, new INTERPOL research warns that the Modus Operandi is escalating rapidly, taking on a new global dimension, and that the crime trend is likely much more entrenched than previously thought. The Organization has issued an Orange Notice to its membership on the trend – a global warning regarding a serious and imminent threat to public safety.</p> <p><a href="https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2023/INTERPOL-issues-global-warning-on-human-trafficking-fueled-fraud">https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2023/INTERPOL-issues-global-warning-on-human-trafficking-fueled-fraud</a></p>	
1	<b>BIS</b> <b>[31/May/2023] BIS Innovation HUB: Project AURORA - The power of data, technology and collaboration to combat money laundering across institutions and borders.</b> <p>The project was initiated with the aim of addressing the most pressing limitations in the battle against money laundering. The payments systems landscape involves a complex interplay of private and public entities, including commercial banks, payment services providers, fintech companies, central banks and regulatory authorities. This complexity often results in fragmentation, which criminals exploit. Project Aurora started by leveraging a comprehensive synthetic data set that represents real-world domestic and international payments data. To ensure the protection of sensitive information, advanced privacy-enhancing technologies were employed, drawing on machine learning and other advanced analytical tools while the data remain encrypted. Subsequently, algorithms were trained on this synthetic data set to detect various patterns, known as "typologies," associated with money laundering activities across institutions and countries. The project involved exploring different views on the synthetic data to represent various monitoring scenarios, including siloed, national and cross-border. Additionally, different approaches to collaborative analysis, including centralised, decentralised and hybrid models, were considered at both national and cross-border levels. The project findings highlighted the effectiveness of employing advanced analytics and technologies that adopt a behavioural-based analysis approach, which focuses on understanding the relationships between different individuals and businesses and identifying anomalies from normal behaviour. The results demonstrated that such methods are more effective in detecting money laundering networks than are the current rules-based approach, which is limited by its siloed nature.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bis.org/publ/othp66.pdf">https://www.bis.org/publ/othp66.pdf</a></p>	
1	<b>RO FIU</b> <b>[30/May/2023] Money laundering by purchasing real estate and luxury cars</b> <p>The Romanian National Office for Prevention and Control of Money Laundering (the FIU) published a new typology: money laundering related to crimes on the territory of other states by purchasing real estate and luxury cars</p> <p><a href="https://www.onpcsb.ro/uploads/articole/attachments/646df54b77175323514503.pdf">https://www.onpcsb.ro/uploads/articole/attachments/646df54b77175323514503.pdf</a></p>	
1	<b>US FINCEN</b> <b>[19/May/2023] FinCEN and BIS urge continued vigilance for potential Russian Export Control evasion attempts</b> <p>The U.S.Department of the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network(FinCEN) and the U.S.Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security(BIS) previously issued a joint alert (2022Alert) urging financial institutions to be vigilant against efforts by individuals and entities to evade BI Sexport controls implemented in connection with the Russian Federation's(Russia) further invasion of Ukraine.This supplemental joint alert provides financial institutions additional information regarding new BIS export control restriction srelated to Russia,as well as reinforces ongoing U.S.Government engagements and initiatives designed to further constrain and prevent Russia from accessing needed technology and goods to supply and replenish its military and defense industrial base. This alert further details evasion typologies,highlights for financial institutions nine high priority. FinCEN and BIS are also providing anadditional select 9 potential red flag indicators of export controle vasion that may be relevant to financial institutions.</p> <p>Previous joint alert (2022) LINK : <a href="https://www.fincen.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/FinCEN%20and%20Bis%20Joint%20Alert%20FINAL.pdf">https://www.fincen.gov/sites/default/files/2022-06/FinCEN%20and%20Bis%20Joint%20Alert%20FINAL.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.fincen.gov/sites/default/files/shared/FinCEN%20and%20BIS%20Joint%20Alert%20_FINAL_508C.pdf">https://www.fincen.gov/sites/default/files/shared/FinCEN%20and%20BIS%20Joint%20Alert%20_FINAL_508C.pdf</a></p>	
1	<b>EPPO warning</b> <b>[16/May/2023] 40 house searches in Romania and France in investigation into €30 million fraud</b> <p>According to the investigation, between 2020 and 2023, in the framework of several projects benefitting from EU funding, several letters of guarantee were issued by fictitious banks or dubious financial entities that did not have the necessary cash to cover the insured damages. In particular, a fictitious bank apparently operating in the Comoros Islands issued letters of guarantee by which it assured the public authorities in Romania the payment of sums totalling almost €20 million. Similarly, financial institutions that apparently operate in Czechia, Latvia and Spain issued letters of guarantee to be used in Romania, without having the right to do so, and without the necessary funds to cover the insured damages.</p> <p><a href="https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/news/eppo-carries-out-40-house-searches-romania-and-france-investigation-eu30-million-fraud">https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/news/eppo-carries-out-40-house-searches-romania-and-france-investigation-eu30-million-fraud</a></p>	

1	CANADA FINTRAC	<p><b>[16/May/2023] Special Bulletin on Russia-linked money laundering activities</b></p> <p>This Special Bulletin, issued by Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC), provides background and updated information relevant to Russia-linked money laundering. It aims to inform reporting entities on the characteristics of completed or attempted financial transactions related to the laundering of the proceeds of crime. The content of this Bulletin can be leveraged by reporting entities to identify and assess money laundering and terrorist activity financing risks, apply controls and measures to mitigate these risks, and effectively detect and report suspicious transactions.</p> <p><a href="https://fintrac-canafe.canada.ca/intel/bulletins/rlml-eng.pdf">https://fintrac-canafe.canada.ca/intel/bulletins/rlml-eng.pdf</a></p>
2		<p><b>Warnings and reports, thematic analyzes of national and international authorities</b></p>
2	EUROPOL	<p>[14/June/2023] European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend report 2023</p> <p>The report is a situational overview, presenting figures and developments within the terrorism landscape in the EU and gives a unique insight into threats by compiling the findings of EU Member States and Europol on trends emerging in the terrorist landscape over the preceding 12 months. It is made to inform policymakers, law enforcement staff and the wider public about the latest developments in terrorism and extremist ideologies that can influence terrorism.</p> <p><a href="https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/Europol_TE-SAT_2023.pdf">https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/Europol_TE-SAT_2023.pdf</a></p>
2	UK HMRC	<p><b>[12/June/2023] HMRC gives offshore customers chance to come clean</b></p> <p>UK residents who were named in the leaked Pandora Papers are being given the chance to correct their tax affairs. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is writing to UK residents named in the files of 14 offshore financial service providers. These providers specialise in companies, trusts, and foundations in low, or no tax, jurisdictions. The letters, which started going out this month, warn recipients to report all their overseas income or gains that they owe UK tax on, or face penalties of up to 200% of any tax due or prosecution.</p> <p><a href="https://www.mynewsdesk.com/uk/hm-revenue-customs-hmrc/pressreleases/hmrc-gives-offshore-customers-chance-to-come-clean-3258737">https://www.mynewsdesk.com/uk/hm-revenue-customs-hmrc/pressreleases/hmrc-gives-offshore-customers-chance-to-come-clean-3258737</a></p>
2	EBA	<p><b>[12/June/2023] EBA 2022 Annual Report</b></p> <p>The European Banking Authority (EBA) published the Annual Report that sets out the activities and achievements in 2022 and provides an overview of the key priorities for 2023.</p> <p>In 2022, the EBA operated in a challenging and uncertain environment mainly triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Other disruptive factors included the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the inflationary pressures and increasing supply chain concerns, the interest rate volatility, and the fallout from Brexit.</p> <p>The Report also presents the strategic priorities for 2023, which include finalising the Basel III implementation in the EU, performing an enhanced EU-wide stress test, putting data at the service of stakeholders, working on digital finance and delivering on Digital Operational Resilience Act (DORA) and the Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation (MiCAR) mandates, enhancing capacity to fight money laundering and the financing of terrorism in the EU, and executing the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) roadmap.</p> <p><a href="https://www.eba.europa.eu/sites/default/documents/files/document_library/About%20Us/Annual%20Reports/2022/1056351/EBA%202022%20Annual%20Report.pdf">https://www.eba.europa.eu/sites/default/documents/files/document_library/About%20Us/Annual%20Reports/2022/1056351/EBA%202022%20Annual%20Report.pdf</a></p>
2	UNCTAD	<p><b>[08/June/2023] First-ever official data on illicit financial flows now available</b></p> <p>Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Colombia, Ecuador, Maldives, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal and Peru have produced the first-ever national estimates of illicit financial flows (IFFs) related to drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants with the support of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime . The estimates are published on the UN's Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Indicators Database. And a recent UNCTAD infographic report showcases preliminary estimates and findings on tax and commercial IFFs from 11 African countries.</p> <p><a href="https://unctad.org/news/first-ever-official-data-illicit-financial-flows-now-available">https://unctad.org/news/first-ever-official-data-illicit-financial-flows-now-available</a></p>
2	World Economic Forum	<p>[07/June/2023] Reimagining Digital ID</p> <p>This report provides analysis, tools and frameworks, summarizing the barriers to implementation facing decentralized ID and offering a set of recommendations for stakeholders seeking to adopt this approach.</p> <p><a href="https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Reimagining_Digital_ID_2023.pdf">https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Reimagining_Digital_ID_2023.pdf</a></p>
2	UK HM Treasury	<p><b>[01/June/2023] The digital pound: A new form of money for households and businesses?</b></p> <p>This consultation paper sets out analysis by HM Treasury and the Bank of England on the potential case for a UK central bank digital currency – a “digital pound” and consult on the key features of a potential model.</p> <p>A digital pound would be a new form of digital money for use by households and businesses for their everyday payments needs. As part of the wider landscape of money and payments it would sit alongside, not replace, cash – a digital counterpart to familiar, trusted banknotes and coins, subject to rigorous standards of privacy and data protection. Unlike crypto assets and stable coins, the digital pound would be a central bank digital currency or CBDC - sterling currency issued by the Bank of England and not the private sector.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-digital-pound-a-new-form-of-money-for-households-and-businesses">https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-digital-pound-a-new-form-of-money-for-households-and-businesses</a></p>

2	RO FIU	<p><b>[31/May/2023] FIU 2022 Activity Report</b></p> <p>The Romanian National Office for Prevention and Control of Money Laundering (the FIU) published 2022 activity Report. Here are some conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-the main crime generating illicit funds in 2022 was, as in 2021, tax evasion, followed by deception/fraud and offences under Law No 31/1990 on companies, republished.;</li> <li>-in terms of the nationality of the suspects, the main share is held by persons of Romanian nationality, followed by persons of Sri Lankan nationality and persons of Italian nationality;</li> <li>-the main sectors of activity from which the laundered money originated in 2022 were: domestic and foreign trade followed by service sector and real estate</li> </ul> <p>Regarding the STR submitted to the FIU in 2022, the most recurrent suspicious transaction indicators, mainly concerned the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-suspicion of criminal activity (fraud, deception, high risk of money laundering, corruption, falsification of documents when opening an account);</li> <li>-cash withdrawals from the account immediately after the funds have been deposited;</li> <li>-financial transactions related to gambling;</li> <li>-financial transactions carried out by individuals that indicate untaxed commercial transactions, including salary payments from personal accounts;</li> <li>-cash deposits followed by the purchase of goods (real estate, cars, etc.);</li> <li>-high value cryptocurrency receipts whose source cannot be verified;</li> <li>-refusal by the customer to provide supporting documents or submission of doubtful supporting documents;</li> <li>-receipts from external partners followed by payments to the countries of origin of the funds;</li> <li>-high value transactions for a newly established company;</li> <li>-negative media reports;</li> <li>-absence of usual transactions such as utility payments or payments to the government budget</li> </ul> <p>In comparison with 2021, the number of STRs increased by less than 1%, and the increase is due to banks and money transfer services. In terms of the relevant sectors evaluated in the national risk assessment, banks rank first with 74% and capital markets among the last with 0.07%. Notably, casinos, which had 1 RTS in 2021, no longer appear in this year's report. Also, the report presents new typologies, exemplified by 6 detailed cases, identified in relation to the involvement of NGOs in money laundering ring or other crimes.</p> <p>EN: <a href="https://www.onpcsb.ro/uploads/articole/attachments/6474b08c0d177070247400.pdf">https://www.onpcsb.ro/uploads/articole/attachments/6474b08c0d177070247400.pdf</a></p> <p>RO: <a href="https://www.onpcsb.ro/uploads/articole/attachments/6474b0828e101273841000.pdf">https://www.onpcsb.ro/uploads/articole/attachments/6474b0828e101273841000.pdf</a></p>
2	MONEYVAL	<p><b>[26/May/2023] Outcomes of MONEYVAL 65th Plenary meeting</b></p> <p>The Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures and the Financing of Terrorism (MONEYVAL) held its 65th Plenary meeting from 24 to 26 May 2023. The plenary brought around 200 AML/CFT experts from approximately 50 jurisdictions and international organisations in Strasbourg/France. The Plenary discussed and approved the <b>mutual evaluation reports</b> of North Macedonia and <b>Romania</b>, and the enhanced follow-up reports of Albania and Slovenia. All adopted reports will be published in the coming weeks, in accordance with MONEYVAL's publication policy.</p> <p><a href="https://www.coe.int/en/web/moneyval/-/outcomes-of-moneyval-65th-plenary-meeting">https://www.coe.int/en/web/moneyval/-/outcomes-of-moneyval-65th-plenary-meeting</a></p>
2	European Systemic Risk Board	<p><b>[26/May/2023] Report on Cryptos and Decentralised Finance</b></p> <p>The European Systemic Risk Board (ESRB) has today published a report outlining the systemic implications of crypto markets and proposing policy options to address the risks stemming from crypto-assets and decentralised finance (DeFi). The report finds that while this past year has been turbulent for cryptos and DeFi, the impact on the financial system was limited. The crypto market has few interlinkages with the traditional financial sector and the real economy, and none of those links are currently significant. However, given the exponential growth and high volatility of cryptos, they need to be closely monitored as they may come to pose systemic risks. These risks could materialise if, for example, interconnectedness with the traditional financial system increases over time, new connections are not promptly identified, or if similar innovations – such as distributed ledger technology – are also widely adopted in traditional finance.</p> <p><a href="https://www.esrb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/reports/esrb.cryptoassetsanddecentralisedfinance202305~9792140acd.en.pdf">https://www.esrb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/reports/esrb.cryptoassetsanddecentralisedfinance202305~9792140acd.en.pdf</a></p>
2	ECB	<p><b>[26/May/2023] Digital euro - Market Research Outcome Report</b></p> <p>As part of the digital euro project investigation phase, the Eurosystem has conducted a market research exercise<sup>1</sup> to inform the ongoing investigative work on the design of a possible digital euro and to show a possible way forward should it be decided to continue the project in autumn 2023. A digital euro<sup>3</sup> would allow end users of retail payment instruments to access and transfer central bank money in electronic form. Every digital euro will always be a central bank liability, enabling end users to make and receive payments throughout the euro area in a similar way to what they are used to doing with cash. Digital money issued by the central bank would provide a monetary anchor of stability for the euro area, strengthening its monetary sovereignty and fostering innovation, competition and efficiency in the European payments landscape.</p> <p><a href="https://www.ecb.europa.eu/paym/digital_euro/investigation/profuse/shared/files/dedocs/ecb.dedocs230526.en.pdf">https://www.ecb.europa.eu/paym/digital_euro/investigation/profuse/shared/files/dedocs/ecb.dedocs230526.en.pdf</a></p>
2	ECB	<p><b>[26/May/2023] Digital euro – Prototype summary and lessons learned</b></p> <p>From July 2022 to February 2023 the European Central Bank (ECB) conducted a prototyping exercise to test how design choices for the digital euro could be technically implemented and integrated into the existing European payments landscape. The prototyping exercise is an important part of the investigation phase of the digital euro project. This project was launched by the ECB and the euro area national central banks to ensure that central bank money remains accessible in the digital age.</p> <p><a href="https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/other/ecb.prototype_summary20230526~71d0b26d55.en.pdf">https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/other/ecb.prototype_summary20230526~71d0b26d55.en.pdf</a></p>

2	IMF	<p><b>[23/May/2023] Taxing Stablecoins</b></p> <p>This Fintech Note specifically considers the challenges that tax law systems face to achieve neutrality in taxing transactions in one specific type of crypto asset: stablecoins. Stablecoins are a category of crypto assets that aim to maintain a stable value relative to a specified asset or to a pool of assets, such as sovereign currencies. In this way, they are designed to address the problem of volatility in the prices of crypto assets; price volatility generally makes these assets poor candidates to be a store of value and is one of the main impediments against their more widespread adoption as a means of payment. The prospect of a more widespread adoption of stablecoins warrants a closer look at their tax treatment and associated challenges.</p> <p><a href="https://www.imf.org/-/media/Files/Publications/FTN063/2023/English/FTNEA2023002.ashx">https://www.imf.org/-/media/Files/Publications/FTN063/2023/English/FTNEA2023002.ashx</a></p>
2	EU	<p><b>[23/May/2023] EU Digital identity: 4 projects launched</b></p> <p>The European Commission is investing €46 million from the Digital Europe Programme into piloting and enhancing the European digital identity (EUDI) wallet. The EUDI wallet will revolutionise how citizens and businesses can digitally identify themselves when accessing public and private services throughout Europe, using their smartphone in a secure and convenient manner. It will allow citizens to control their personal data stored within the wallet. The wallet will also be equipped with mechanisms to minimise the data shared for accessing services. This investment is supporting 4 pan-European pilot projects that will develop and test the usage of the EUDI wallet for individuals and businesses around a diverse range of everyday use-cases. These use-cases cover both public and private services with national and cross-border interactions.</p> <p><a href="https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/eu-digital-identity-4-projects-launched-test-eudi-wallet">https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/eu-digital-identity-4-projects-launched-test-eudi-wallet</a></p>
2	EUROJUST	<p><b>[23/May/2023] EUROJUST Annual Report 2022</b></p> <p>Eurojust contributed to the arrest of more than 4 000 suspects, the seizure and or freezing of criminal assets worth almost EUR 3 billion and the seizure of drugs worth almost EUR 12 billion. During 2022, Eurojust dealt with more than 11.500 cases across 13 categories of serious cross-border crime, ranging from trafficking in human beings and drugs to terrorism and cybercrime. The top three crime types handled by the Agency in 2022 continued to be swindling and fraud(3.683 cases), drug trafficking (2.115 cases) and money laundering (1.882 cases). More than half of all cases that Eurojust worked on in 2022 involved one of these crime types.</p> <p><a href="https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/eurojust-annual-report-2022-en.pdf">https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/sites/default/files/assets/eurojust-annual-report-2022-en.pdf</a></p>
2	IMF	<p><b>[15/May/2023] Countering the Financing of Terrorism: Good Practices to Enhance Effectiveness</b></p> <p>This book is intended to assist anti-money laundering and combating terrorism financing (AML/CFT) policymakers and practitioners in identifying key challenges and good practices for strengthening the effectiveness of counter terrorism financing frameworks. The book's six chapters cover (1) improving the understanding of terrorist financing risks; (2) the role of the private sector in detecting and disrupting terrorist financing activities; (3) the production and use of financial intelligence to counter terrorism and terrorist financing; (4) investigating, prosecuting, and sanctioning terrorism financiers; (5) terrorism-related targeted financial sanctions; and (6) international cooperation in combating the financing of terrorism. The book presents contributions by experts from the IMF, United Nations, Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, INTERPOL, and Europol.</p> <p><a href="https://www.elibrary.imf.org/downloadpdf/book/9798400204654/9798400204654.xml">https://www.elibrary.imf.org/downloadpdf/book/9798400204654/9798400204654.xml</a></p>
2	UK	<p><b>[17/May/2023] Regulating Crypto Report</b></p> <p>So-called "cryptoassets" span a wide and rapidly evolving range of digital instruments, although the market continues to be dominated by unbacked "cryptocurrencies" such as Bitcoin and Ether that we do not consider to have any intrinsic value. Given their potential impact on the financial services landscape, a close attention to cryptoassets for many years have been paying. Cryptoassets also pose significant risks. In particular, unbacked cryptoassets pose significant risks to consumers, given their significant price volatility and associated risk of losses. They can consume very large amounts of energy and are also used by criminals in scams, fraud and money laundering.</p> <p><a href="https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/39945/documents/194832/default/">https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/39945/documents/194832/default/</a></p>
2	PH AMLC	<p><b>[15/May/2023] Guidance on Sanctions Screening</b></p> <p>2022-2023 Thematic Review of the Effectiveness of Customer and Transaction Screening Systems of Covered Persons in Targeted Financial Sanctions Implementation</p> <p><a href="http://www.amlc.gov.ph/images/PDFs/Main/AMLC%20Guidance%20on%20Sanctions%20Screening.pdf">http://www.amlc.gov.ph/images/PDFs/Main/AMLC%20Guidance%20on%20Sanctions%20Screening.pdf</a></p>
2	HK HKMA	<p><b>[15/May/2023] AML Regtech: Network Analytics</b></p> <p>The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) published "AML Regtech: Network Analytics", promoting the adoption of network analytics capability to strengthen the response of banks' anti-money laundering (AML) systems to deception and other financial crimes. This report highlights the potential of combining intelligence-led analytical tools with rules-based monitoring systems, which will help banks to enhance anti-deception efforts in the prevention, detection and disruption of financial crime. It also shares the experiences of banks already using this capability, and provides practical insights and expert perspectives, guiding banks in their exploration and adoption of network analytics. Leveraging increased intelligence shared through the Fraud and Money Laundering Intelligence Taskforce (FMLIT)<sup>2</sup>, this capability has already resulted in banks increasing the number of intelligence-led suspicious transaction reports by 319% in 2022 compared with 2021, leading to an increase of 113% in criminal proceeds restrained or confiscated.</p> <p><a href="https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-functions/banking-stability/aml-cft/AML_Regtech-Network_Analytics.pdf">https://www.hkma.gov.hk/media/eng/doc/key-functions/banking-stability/aml-cft/AML_Regtech-Network_Analytics.pdf</a></p>




2	UK FIU	<p><b>[15/May/2023] SARs in action</b></p> <p>The FIU report analyses from the ML/TF risk perspective the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-romance fraud</li> <li>-money mules</li> <li>-fraud in the accountancy sector</li> <li>-recycling credit fraud</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/649-sars-in-action-issue-20/file">https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/649-sars-in-action-issue-20/file</a></p>
2	EU Parliament	<p><b>[15/May/2023] BRIEFING - Anti-money-laundering authority (AMLA): Countering money laundering and the financing of terrorism</b></p> <p>In July 2021, the European Commission tabled a proposal to establish a new EU authority to counter money laundering and the financing of terrorism (AMLA). This was part of a legislative package aimed at implementing the 2020 action plan for a comprehensive Union policy on preventing money laundering and the financing of terrorism. The AMLA would be the centre of an integrated system composed of the authority itself and the national authorities with an AML/CFT supervisory mandate. It would also support EU financial intelligence units (FIUs) and establish a cooperation mechanism among them. The Council achieved a partial political agreement on the proposal on 29 June 2022. In the European Parliament, the file was referred to the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON) and the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE). The co-rapporteurs issued their joint report in May 2022. The joint committee report was voted on 28 March 2023 and the mandate to enter trilogues was granted by the plenary on 17 April 2023. Third edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.</p> <p><a href="https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2022/733645/EPRS_BRI(2022)733645_EN.pdf">https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2022/733645/EPRS_BRI(2022)733645_EN.pdf</a></p>
2	EU Parliament	<p><b>[15/May/2023] Remaining regulatory challenges in digital finance and crypto-assets after MiCA</b></p> <p>This study analyses the need to adopt further EU financial regulation on decentralized finance after the implementation of the Markets in Crypto Asset Regulation and the revision of the Transfer of Funds Regulation, with a special view on crypto lending, crypto staking, crypto custody, the use of non-formal information, NFTs and sustainability. This study identifies policy options and discusses their upsides and downsides with regard to Decentralized Finance (DeFi), non-fungible tokens (NFTs) for financial use, crypto staking/lending, the use of non-formal communication means and sustainability related matters. In particular, it provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a brief summary of relevant EU and global market developments and trends, and an analysis of the regulatory and supervisory challenges that justify regulatory intervention considering the state of knowledge in other jurisdictions and by international standard setters such as the Financial Stability Board (FSB), International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Bank for International Settlements (BIS);</li> <li>- an overview of risk mitigating tools at EU level to address the major risks in the status quo prior to MiCA's entry into application;</li> <li>- a robustness check of the EU's upcoming MiCA framework and, assuming its adoption, the identification of remaining risks; and</li> <li>- a list of policy proposals through which the remaining risks and deficiencies identified may be addressed at EU level.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/740083/IPOL_STU(2023)740083_EN.pdf">https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2023/740083/IPOL_STU(2023)740083_EN.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Note:</b> MiCA Regulation was published in EU Official Gazeta in 09/June/2023 see <b>#15</b>  <b>Legislative changes</b> bellow</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	<p>European Union Consolidated Financial Sanctions List</p> <p><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></p> <p><a href="https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/consolidated-list-of-persons-groups-and-entities-subject-to-eu-financial-sanctions?locale=en">https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/consolidated-list-of-persons-groups-and-entities-subject-to-eu-financial-sanctions?locale=en</a></p>
3	UN	<p>United Nations Security Council Consolidated List</p> <p><a href="https://scsanctions.un.org/consolidated/">https://scsanctions.un.org/consolidated/</a></p>
3	EU	<p><b>[12/June/2026] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/1147 implementing Article 12 of Regulation (EU) No 356/2010 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against certain natural or legal persons, entities or bodies, in view of the situation in Somalia</b></p> <p>1 private individual is added to the list of persons and entities subject to restrictive measures.</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32023R1147">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32023R1147</a></p>

3	EU	<p><b>[09/June/2023] COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/1139 amending for the 336th time Council Regulation (EC) No 881/2002 imposing certain specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities associated with the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida organisations</b></p> <p>Sanctions Committee of the United Nations Security Council established pursuant to UN Security Council Resolutions 1267(1999), 1989(2011) and 2253(2015) decided to amend one entry in the list of persons, groups and entities to whom the freezing of funds and economic resources should apply.</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R1139">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R1139</a></p>
3	US	<p><b>[08/June/2023] OFAC - Counter Terrorism Designations; Iran-related Designations Updates; Non-Proliferation Designation Update</b></p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated with : added 2 individuals linked to: ISLAMIC STATE OF IRAQ AND THE LEVANT; changes 12 Vessels oil tankers</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230608">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230608</a></p>
3	US	<p><b>[06/June/2023] OFAC -Iran-related Designations; Non-Proliferation Designations; Counter Narcotics Designations</b></p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (add) with : 7 individuals and 6 entities in Iran, the People's Republic of China (PRC), and Hong Kong in connection with Iran's ballistic missile program; 2 senior members of the Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion (CJNG) engaged in trafficking high-caliber firearms from the United States and fuel theft in Mexico; 1 individual and 1 Mexican entity that provide support to CJNG by laundering illicit narcotics proceeds;</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230606">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230606</a></p>
3	EU	<p><b>[06/June/2023] COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2023/1089 amending Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine</b>  <b>COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/1094 amending Decision 2014/145/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine</b></p> <p>The applicability of sanctions (criteria for listing) has been extended to immediate family members or other natural persons benefitting from them in order to avoid the risk of circumvention of the restrictive measures</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R1089">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R1089</a>  <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D1094">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D1094</a></p>
3	US	<p><b>[05/June/2023] OFAC - Russia-related Designations</b></p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (add) with : 7 individuals, leading members of a Russian intelligence-linked malign influence group for their role in the government of the Russian Federation's destabilization campaign and continued malign influence campaigns in <b>Moldova</b>. An entity owned or controlled by one of these individuals has also been designated.</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230605">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230605</a></p>
3	EU	<p><b>[05/June/2023] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/1098 implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1998 concerning restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and abuses</b>  <b>COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/1099 amending Decision (CFSP) 2020/1999 concerning restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and abuses</b></p> <p>9 persons were added to the list related to deterioration of the human rights situation in Russia.</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R1098">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R1098</a>  <a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D1099">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D1099</a></p>
3	US	<p><b>[02/June/2023] OFAC - Iran-related Designations; Issuance of Iran-related General License</b></p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (add) with : 2 individuals and 2 entities related to Iran-based technology company known as "Arvan Cloud," two senior employees of Arvan Cloud, and an affiliated company based in the United Arab Emirates for their roles in facilitating the Iranian regime's censorship of the Internet in Iran.</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230602">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230602</a></p>


3	US	<p><b>[01/June/2023] OFAC - Counter Terrorism Designations; Sudan Designations; Russia-related Designation Removal; Issuance of Sudan General Licenses</b></p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (add) with : 5 individuals and 5 entities related to Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and its external operations arm, the IRGC-Qods Force (IRGC-QF), who have participated in a series of terrorist plots including assassination plots targeting former United States government officials, dual U.S. and Iranian nationals, and Iranian dissidents.</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230601">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230601</a></p>
3	US	<p><b>[31/May/2023] OFAC - Russia-related General License</b></p> <p>The Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) issued Russia-related General License 69 "Authorizing Certain Debt Securities Servicing Transactions Involving International Investment Bank."</p> <p>INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT BANK (IIB) , Fo utca 1, Budapest, H-1011, Hungary was desiganted on 12/April/2023.</p> <p>The license is valid until 30 June 2023.</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/media/931816/download?inline">https://ofac.treasury.gov/media/931816/download?inline</a></p>
3	UN	<p><b>[31/May/2023] Security Council 751 Sanctions Committee Adds One Entry to Its Sanctions List</b></p> <p>The Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Al-Shabaab approved the addition of one private inividual (Somalia nationality) to its Sanctions List of individuals and entities subject to the measures imposed by the Security Council and adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.</p> <p><a href="https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15299.doc.htm">https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15299.doc.htm</a></p>
3	US	<p><b>[30/May/2023] OFAC - Counter Narcotics Designations; Syria Designations</b></p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (add) with : 12 individuals and 10 entities related to international proliferation of equipment used to produce illicit drugs &amp; money service businesses that have secretly helped the Syrian regime under Bashar al-Assad and its Hizballah and Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF) allies maintain access to the international financial system in violation of international sanctions.</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230530">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230530</a></p>
3	UN	<p><b>[30/May/2023] South Sudan Sanctions extension</b></p> <p>Security Council extends Sanctions on South Sudan for 1 year, adopting Resolution 2683 (2023), including assets freezes, travel bans and an arms embargo.</p> <p><a href="https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15297.doc.htm">https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15297.doc.htm</a></p>
3	EU	<p><b>[30/May/2023] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/1046 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>  <b>COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/1048 amending Decision 2014/145/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine</b></p> <p>2 persons (<b>Moldovan</b> citizens) responsible for actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine were added to the list</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R1046">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R1046</a></p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D1048">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D1048</a></p>
3	EU	<p><b>[30/May/2023] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/1045 implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/888 concerning restrictive measures in view of actions destabilising the Republic of Moldova</b>  <b>COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/1047 amending Decision (CFSP) 2023/891 concerning restrictive measures in view of actions destabilising the Republic of Moldova</b></p> <p>5 persons were added to the sanction list related to actions destabilising the Republic of <b>Moldova</b>  Ilan SHOR(OFAC; UK); Vladimir PLAHOTNIUC (OFAC; UK); Marina TAUBER; Gheorghe CAVCALIUC; Igor CHAIKA (OFAC)</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32023R1045">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32023R1045</a></p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D1047">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D1047</a></p>

3	CANADA	<p><b>[29/May/2023] Special Economic Measures (Moldova) Regulations</b></p> <p>7 individuals and 1 entity from <b>Moldova</b> added to sanction list Vladimir Plahotniuc; Ilan Shor; Vladimir Andronachi; Veaceslav Platon; Constantin Botnari; Gheorghe Cavcaliuc; Marina Tauber; Shor Party</p> <p><a href="https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/sanctions/moldova_regulations-reglement2.aspx?lang=eng">https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/international_relations-relations_internationales/sanctions/moldova_regulations-reglement2.aspx?lang=eng</a></p>
3	EU	<p><b>[26/May/2023] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/1027 implementing Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria</b> <b>COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/1035 amending Decision 2013/255/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria</b></p> <p>2 deceased individuals are deleted from the sanction list and 19 natural persons are updated and amended.</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R1027">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R1027</a></p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D1035">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D1035</a></p>
3	US	<p><b>[25/May/2023] OFAC - Russia-related Designation; Counter Narcotics Designations Removals</b></p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (add) with 1 individual related to PRIVATE MILITARY COMPANY 'WAGNER'</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230525">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230525</a></p>
3	EU	<p><b>[25/May/2023] COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2023/996 amending Regulation (EU) 2021/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the list of dual-use items</b></p> <p>Regularly updated in order to ensure full compliance with international security obligations, to guarantee transparency, and to maintain the competitiveness of economic operators. The control lists adopted by the international non-proliferation regimes and export control arrangements is amended to include items subject to control under the Australia Group.</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0996">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0996</a></p>
3	US	<p><b>[24/May/2023] OFAC - Counter Terrorism Designations; Somalia Designations</b></p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (add) with : 24 individuals and 7 entities related to a wide range of activities in support of al-Shabaab, including financial facilitation, business activities, collection of funds on behalf of the terrorist group, proliferation of Improvised Explosive Devices, and illegal charcoal smuggling from Somalia, all of which have exacerbated local conflicts and suffering.</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230524">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230524</a></p>
3	EU	<p><b>[24/May/2023] The use of frozen and immobilised assets to support Ukraine's reconstruction</b></p> <p>European officials discuss options to use the proceeds of Russia's frozen funds to help Ukraine.</p> <p><a href="https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/mpo/2023/5/ad-hoc-working-party-on-the-use-of-frozen-and-immobilised-assets-to-support-ukraine-s-reconstruction-(331136)/">https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/mpo/2023/5/ad-hoc-working-party-on-the-use-of-frozen-and-immobilised-assets-to-support-ukraine-s-reconstruction-(331136)/</a></p>
3	US	<p><b>[23/May/2023] OFAC - North Korea Designations; Issuance of Venezuela-related General License</b></p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (add) with : 2 individuals and 4 entities related to obfuscated revenue generation and malicious cyber activities that support the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Government.</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230523">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230523</a></p>
3	EU	<p><b>[22/May/2023] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/986 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) 2023/987 implementing Decision 2011/235/CFSP concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities in view of the situation in Iran</b></p> <p>5 natural persons and 2 entities added to sanction list following the 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:32023R0986">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R0986</a></p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0987">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0987</a></p>






3	US	<p><b>[19/May/2023] OFAC - Russia-related Designations; Issuance of Amended Russia-related Directive 4, Russia-related General Licenses; Publication of Russia-related Determinations; and New and Amended Frequently Asked Questions</b></p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (add) with : 46 individuals, 194 entities, 5 vessels and 78 aircrafts related to Russia's circumvention and evasion, military-industrial supply chains, and future energy revenues.</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230519">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230519</a></p>
3	G7	<p><b>[19/May/2023] G7 Leaders' Statement on Ukraine</b></p> <p>The Leaders of the G7 reaffirmed the commitment to stand together against Russia's illegal, unjustifiable, and unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine. G7 are renewing the commitment to provide the financial, humanitarian, military and diplomatic support Ukraine requires for as long as it takes. G7 are imposing further sanctions and measures to increase the costs to Russia and those who are supporting its war effort.</p> <p><a href="https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/05/19/g7-leaders-statement-on-ukraine/">https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/05/19/g7-leaders-statement-on-ukraine/</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/64494/g7-2023-statement-on-ukraine.pdf">https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/64494/g7-2023-statement-on-ukraine.pdf</a></p>
3	US	<p><b>[17/May/2023] South Sudan Sanctions Regulations</b></p> <p>OFAC has amended the South Sudan Sanctions Regulations and reissuing them in their entirety.</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/media/931756/download">https://ofac.treasury.gov/media/931756/download</a></p>
3	EU	<p><b>[16/May/2023] COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/964 amending Decision (CFSP) 2019/797 concerning restrictive measures against cyber-attacks threatening the Union or its Member States</b></p> <p>The validity of EU Cyber Sanctions regime is extended until May 18, 2025.</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0964">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D0964</a></p>
3	US	<p><b>[16/May/2023] OFAC - Cyber-related Designation</b></p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (add) with 1 individual related to Russian Ransomware Actor Complicit in attacks on Police and U.S. Critical Infrastructure</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230516">https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20230516</a></p>
3	EU	<p><b>[16/May/2023] Humanitarian Exemption in the EU Syria Sanctions Regime</b></p> <p>Following the February 2023 earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria humanitarian exemption in the EU Syria Sanctions Regime, EU published Frequently Asked and Questions.</p> <p><a href="https://finance.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-05/230516-faqs-humanitarian-exemption-syria_en.pdf">https://finance.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-05/230516-faqs-humanitarian-exemption-syria_en.pdf</a></p>
4		<b>EU ML/TF SupraNational Risk Assessment</b>
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></p> <p><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		<b>Information and assessments by national authorities on risks at national level</b>
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	UK Gambling Commission	<p><b>[07/June/2023] Updated Casino Guidance</b></p> <p>The Gambling Commission has published the 3rd revision of the Fifth edition of the Prevention of money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism guidance that include proliferation financing</p> <p><a href="https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/licensees-and-businesses/notice/updated-casino-guidance-to-include-proliferation-financing">https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/licensees-and-businesses/notice/updated-casino-guidance-to-include-proliferation-financing</a></p>
6	UK NCA	<p><b>[02/June/2023] Guidance on Submitting Better Quality Suspicious Activity Reports</b></p> <p>The guide provides advice and examples for a more efficient filling in of the mandatory data in the report in the context of the efficiency of the analysis activity. In summary a useful SAR answers the 6 basic questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?</p> <p><a href="https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/650-guidance-on-submitting-better-quality-suspicious-activity-reports-sars-v9-0/file">https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/650-guidance-on-submitting-better-quality-suspicious-activity-reports-sars-v9-0/file</a></p>
6	EBA	<p><b>[31/May/2023] DRAFT - Amendments to the Guidelines on money laundering and terrorist financing risk factors to include crypto-asset service providers</b></p> <p>The European Banking Authority (EBA) launched a public consultation (EBA/CP/2023/11) on amendments to its Guidelines on money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF) risk factors (EBA/GL/2021/02). The proposed changes extend the scope of these Guidelines to crypto-asset service providers (CASPs). The amendments introduce new sector-specific guidance for CASPs, which highlights factors that may indicate the CASP's exposure to the higher or lower ML/TF risk. CASPs should consider these factors when carrying out the ML/TF risk assessments of their business and customers at the outset and during the business relationship. The Guidelines also explain how they should adjust their customer due diligence (CDD) in line with those risks. Furthermore, the amendments include guidance to other credit and financial institutions on risks to consider when engaging in a business relationship with a CASP or when they are otherwise exposed to crypto assets. The EBA is proposing to amend its ML/TF risk factors guidelines to set common, regulatory expectations of the steps CASPs should take to identify and mitigate these risks effectively. The consultation runs until 31 August 2023.</p> <p><a href="https://www.eba.europa.eu/eba-consults-amendments-guidelines-money-laundering-and-terrorist-financing-risk-factors-include">https://www.eba.europa.eu/eba-consults-amendments-guidelines-money-laundering-and-terrorist-financing-risk-factors-include</a></p> <p>EBA/CP/2023/11 :  <a href="https://www.eba.europa.eu/sites/default/documents/files/document_library/Publications/Consultations/2023/Consultation%20on%20revised%20Guidelines%20on%20money%20laundering%20and%20terrorist%20financing%20%28ML-TF%29%20risk%20factors/1055913/Consultation%20paper%20on%20amending%20Guidelines%20on%20ML%20TF%20risk%20factors.pdf">https://www.eba.europa.eu/sites/default/documents/files/document_library/Publications/Consultations/2023/Consultation%20on%20revised%20Guidelines%20on%20money%20laundering%20and%20terrorist%20financing%20%28ML-TF%29%20risk%20factors/1055913/Consultation%20paper%20on%20amending%20Guidelines%20on%20ML%20TF%20risk%20factors.pdf</a></p> <p>EBA/GL/2021/02:  <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	EBF	<p><b>[26/May/2023] EBF reaction to new EU AML/CFT framework</b></p> <p>The EBF has carefully studied the positions reached in both the Council and the European Parliament on the new AML Regulation, AML Directive and for the Regulation on establishing a new AML Authority and highlight several key issues of the three proposals from the perspective of European financial institutions: 1/proposal to lower the UBO threshold is not aligned with the risk-based approach and would lead to disproportionate effects; 2/ the approach to expand the scope of PEPs would impose significant burden for banks and customers alike; 3/the prohibition to entering into a business relationship with entities incorporated outside the Union whose information is not held in an EU UBO register will likely impact EU competitiveness and introduce friction into the ordinary course of business without a substantiated AML/CFT purpose; 4/the proposed 5-year limit to updating customer information will impose disproportionate requirements given the large proportion of low-risk customers whose information would change only marginally in this timeframe, if at all.</p> <p><a href="https://www.ebf.eu/ebf-media-centre/ebf-reaction-to-eu-aml-cft-framework/">https://www.ebf.eu/ebf-media-centre/ebf-reaction-to-eu-aml-cft-framework/</a></p>
6	IOSCO	<p><b>[25/May/2023] Policy Recommendations for Crypto and Digital Asset Markets - Consultation Report</b></p> <p>This consultation report proposes 18 policy recommendations that International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) plans to finalize in early Q4 this year to support greater consistency with respect to regulatory frameworks and oversight in its member jurisdictions, to address concerns related to market integrity and investor protection arising from crypto-asset activities. The recommendations have been developed under the stewardship of the IOSCO Board's Fintech Task Force (FTF) in accordance with IOSCO's CryptoAsset Roadmap published in June 2022. The proposed recommendations are principles-based and outcomes-focused and are aimed at the activities performed by crypto-asset service providers (CASPs). They apply IOSCO's widely accepted global standards for securities markets regulation to address key issues and risks identified in cryptoasset markets.</p> <p><a href="https://www.iosco.org/library/pubdocs/pdf/IOSCOPD734.pdf">https://www.iosco.org/library/pubdocs/pdf/IOSCOPD734.pdf</a></p>
6	UK OFSI	<p><b>[24/May/2023] Prior Obligations General Licence</b></p> <p>This General Licence is in place to allow a UK person to receive payment, where they are owed funds or economic resources by a Designated Persons (DP) under a contract that was signed before the DP was designated. This is of course, subject to the terms of the General Licence being met</p> <p><a href="https://ofsi.blog.gov.uk/2023/05/24/prior-obligations-general-licence/">https://ofsi.blog.gov.uk/2023/05/24/prior-obligations-general-licence/</a></p>

6	UK Department for Business & Trade	<p><b>[22/May/2023] Russia sanctions – Trade sanctions circumvention</b></p> <p>The Russia sanctions regulations impose financial, trade, aircraft, shipping and immigration sanctions for the purposes of encouraging Russia to cease actions which destabilise Ukraine, or undermine or threaten the territorial integrity, sovereignty or independence of Ukraine. Trade sanctions seek to deny Russia access to the goods, technologies and revenue necessary to pursue its illegal war. The aim of this notice is to prevent the undermining of trade sanctions, export controls, and other restrictive measures designed and implemented in response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Awareness of the risk and obligations in relation to sanctioned goods is an important first step for trade.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/notice-to-exporters-202308-russia-sanctions-trade-sanctions-circumvention/nte-202308-russia-sanctions-trade-sanctions-circumvention">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/notice-to-exporters-202308-russia-sanctions-trade-sanctions-circumvention/nte-202308-russia-sanctions-trade-sanctions-circumvention</a></p>
6	UK	<p><b>[19/May/2023] A Standard for the Counter Bribery and Corruption Professional</b></p> <p>The UK Government Counter Fraud Standards and Guidance are designed to present a consistent cross-government approach to countering fraud, raise the capability of individuals and, through this, increase the quality of organisations’ counter fraud work. This document contains the Government Counter Fraud Professional Standards and Guidance for those working in Counter Bribery and Corruption; they are the agreed standard for the Government Counter Fraud Profession. Their aim is: 1/to describe the knowledge skills and experience (Professional Standards and Competencies) needed for an individual to achieve Practitioner level in counter fraud work in their desired discipline. . 2/to provide guidance to those using the standards on the processes and products they will use to deliver the discipline and what they should seek to put in place in the organisation to deliver the discipline effectively.</p> <p><a href="https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1157904/Counter_Bribery_and_Corruption_Professional_Standard_final_.pdf">https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1157904/Counter_Bribery_and_Corruption_Professional_Standard_final_.pdf</a></p>
6	EU	<p><b>[8/June/2023] European Commission updated numerous FAQs related to the Russia sanctions regime.</b></p> <p>The updates cover: 8 June 2023 :Media</p> <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>
7		<p><b>Warnings, fines and convictions for violating the KYC/AML/CTF/Compliance legislation in financial market</b></p>
7	UK	<p><b>[05/June/2023] FCA fines ED&amp;F Man Capital Markets Ltd £17.2m for serious failings which enabled millions in illegitimate tax reclaims</b></p> <p>The FCA has fined ED&amp;F Man Capital Markets Ltd (‘MCM’) £17,219,300 for serious failings in its oversight of cum-ex trading. These failings allowed MCM to collect fees for trading strategies designed to enable its clients to illegitimately reclaim tax from the Danish authorities. It is established that £20m of the WHT reclaims made by MCM’s clients to the Danish tax authority (SKAT) were illegitimate. A Dubai based trading firm within the same corporate group as MCM participated in the trading strategy which resulted in these illegitimate WHT reclaims from SKAT. These reclaims were illegitimate because under this strategy WHT was reclaimed despite no shares being owned or borrowed, no dividend being received, and no tax being paid. MCM generated £5.06m in fees from this. MCM had inadequate compliance checks and failed to ensure that this dividend arbitrage trading was legitimate. The firm’s compliance function did not have the necessary expertise to monitor or review the trading and only carried out a high-level annual compliance review of the department responsible. It failed to take any steps to understand the trading activities or properly consider the risks of dividend arbitrage trading.</p> <p><a href="https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/final-notice/edf-man-capital-markets-ltd-2023.pdf">https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/final-notice/edf-man-capital-markets-ltd-2023.pdf</a></p>
7	MT	<p><b>[01/June/2023] Papaya Ltd Administrative Penalty</b></p> <p>FIAU Malta sanctioned Papaya LTD, an Electronic Money Institution, with €279,756 following the identification of deficiencies in the below areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- customer risk assessment;</li> <li>- certification of documentation;</li> <li>- purpose and intended nature of business relationship;</li> <li>- ongoing monitoring – scrutiny of transactions</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://fiaumalta.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Publication-Notice-01062023-1.pdf">https://fiaumalta.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Publication-Notice-01062023-1.pdf</a></p>

7	LT	<p><b>[01/June/2023] Transactive Systems UAB fined and licence revoked</b></p> <p>The Bank of Lithuania (the central bank) has determined that the electronic money institution Transactive Systems UAB seriously and systematically infringed anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing (AML/CTF) requirements and imposed a fine of €280 thousand on the company and revoked the licence.</p> <p>The main infringements and deficiencies identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- failed to properly identify clients, their representatives and beneficiaries.</li> <li>- enabled the opening of anonymous accounts</li> <li>- failed to ensure adequate monitoring of business relationships and transactions</li> <li>- failed to ensure proper implementation of international financial sanctions and restrictive measures, and its monitoring and verification systems were ineffective.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.lb.lt/en/news/transactive-systems-uab-faces-fine-and-licence-revocation">https://www.lb.lt/en/news/transactive-systems-uab-faces-fine-and-licence-revocation</a></p>
7	USDOJ	<p><b>[24/May/2023] Former Morgan Stanley Financial Advisor Sentenced to Over 7 Years in Prison for Executing a Multimillion Dollar Ponzi Scheme</b></p> <p>Shawn Edward Good of Wilmington, was sentenced today to 87 months in prison followed by three years of supervised release for carrying out a \$7 million dollar investment fraud scheme. Good pleaded guilty to wire fraud and money laundering on September 15, 2022. Good was also ordered to pay \$3,619,594 in restitution to victims. Good was employed as a registered representative and investment advisor for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, LLC in Wilmington. From 2012 to February 2022, Good executed a scheme to obtain money through an investment fraud commonly known as a Ponzi scheme. Specifically, Good solicited investments from business clients and others for purported real estate projects and tax-free municipal bonds, touting these opportunities as low-risk investments that would pay returns of between 6% and 10% over three- or six-month terms. To effectuate these investments, Good caused some clients to obtain a liquid asset line of credit (LAL) secured by their Morgan Stanley investment or retirement accounts. Good directed clients to transfer the LAL funds to their personal bank accounts and then wire the funds directly to Good's own personal bank account. Other victims paid Good by paper check and wire transfers using funds derived from sources other than Morgan Stanley accounts.</p> <p><a href="https://www.justice.gov/usao-ednc/pr/former-morgan-stanley-financial-advisor-sentenced-over-7-years-prison-executing">https://www.justice.gov/usao-ednc/pr/former-morgan-stanley-financial-advisor-sentenced-over-7-years-prison-executing</a></p>
7	CHFIMA	<p><b>[17/May/2023] FINMA concludes proceedings against crypto platform and its founder</b></p> <p>The Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority (FINMA) found that the Dohrnii Foundation and its founder and former managing director had carried out several business activities requiring a licence in the crypto sector without obtaining the relevant licence from FINMA. The foundation is currently being liquidated by the competent bankruptcy authority. The Dohrnii Foundation and its founder launched an initial coin offering (ICO) in spring 2021 for a previously newly created token, the DHN token and around 500 private individuals paid around 3 million euros.</p> <p><a href="https://www.finma.ch/en/news/2023/05/20230517-mm-dohrnii-stiftung/">https://www.finma.ch/en/news/2023/05/20230517-mm-dohrnii-stiftung/</a></p>
7	ROMANIAASF	<p><b>[15/May/2023] ASF sanctioned BRD Asset Management SAI SA with warning</b></p> <p>BRD Asset Management SAI SA was sanctioned with warning for not carried out an audit of the company's money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/FT) risk management policies, internal rules, mechanisms, IT systems and procedures, including risk assessments and the risk methodology in accordance with of ASF Regulation No 13/2019 requirements.</p> <p><a href="https://asfromania.ro/uploads/articole/attachments/646225c591eb9500380858.pdf">https://asfromania.ro/uploads/articole/attachments/646225c591eb9500380858.pdf</a></p>
8	🔔	<p><b>Law enforcement actions for money laundering and international sanctions crimes</b></p>
8	UKHMRC	<p><b>[08/June/2023] HMRC issues £3.2 million in money laundering penalties</b></p> <p>Hundreds of businesses fined a total of £3.2 million for breaching anti-money laundering rules have been named by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC). The 240 supervised businesses named were fined between 1 July and 31 December 2022 by HMRC for breaching Money Laundering Regulations aimed at preventing criminals from exploiting illicit cash.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hmrc-issues-32-million-in-money-laundering-penalties">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/hmrc-issues-32-million-in-money-laundering-penalties</a></p>
8	US	<p><b>[31/May/2023] U.S. Department of State Concludes Settlement Resolving Export Violations by VTA Telecom Corporation</b></p> <p>The U.S. Department of State has concluded an administrative settlement with VTA Telecom Corporation, to resolve six violations of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA),, and the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR). The Department of State and VTA Telecom Corporation reached this settlement following an extensive compliance review by the Office of Defense Trade Controls Compliance in the Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs. The administrative settlement between the Department of State and VTA Telecom Corporation concluded pursuant to ITAR addresses unauthorized exports and attempted exports of ITAR-controlled defense articles, including hobby rocket motors, video trackers, including related technical data, and a gas turbine engine controlled under U.S. Munitions List to Vietnam, a proscribed country for exports and temporary imports of defense articles and defense services, at the time of the violations.</p> <p><a href="https://www.state.gov/u-s-department-of-state-concludes-settlement-resolving-export-violations-by-vta-telecom-corporation/">https://www.state.gov/u-s-department-of-state-concludes-settlement-resolving-export-violations-by-vta-telecom-corporation/</a></p>



8	EUROPOL	<p><b>[30/May/2023] Global money laundering service is shut down</b></p> <p>The alleged perpetrators, who are of Italian, Albanian, Colombian, Moroccan, and Syrian nationality, had built up an international network of companies to launder dirty money. As a so-called "money laundering network controller", the criminal network offered a professional criminal service to veil the origin of proceeds generated by illegal drug trafficking from South America. This complex web of companies allowed organised crime to disguise the nature, source, location, ownership, control, origin and/or destination of illegally acquired funds and to avoid their detection. In order to launder drug profits generated in Europe, the arrested criminals offered a service of trade-based money laundering known as the "Black Market Pesos Exchange". This process reduces the risk of losing money through seizures and allows for faster access to the funds. The drug producers would provide drugs to the Italian buyers as a form of credit. The profits generated from the sale of the drugs in Europe were then picked up by brokers, introduced into companies, and used for ordering goods such as mobile phones from China, to state just one example. These goods were then shipped to the United States and further transported to Colombia, where they were offered on the market. Upon being sold, the cartels such as the Grupo Armado Organizado received the cash and thus their veiled payment for the drugs provided to European sellers.</p> <p><a href="https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/33-arrested-global-money-laundering-service-shut-down">https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/33-arrested-global-money-laundering-service-shut-down</a></p>
8	EPPO	<p><b>[30/May/2023] Romania: Customs official indicted for tax fraud scheme involving imported tobacco</b></p> <p>According to the investigation, several individuals and companies from Czechia, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine put in place a fraudulent customs circuit for the importation of processed tobacco (hookah and pipe tobacco) from the United Arab Emirates and Turkey. These tobacco products were ostensibly destined for third (non-EU) countries, such as Ukraine and Kazakhstan, and were therefore declared as being in transit via the EU, which allows for the suspension of the payment of taxes until the goods are acquired in the country of their final destination. In reality, though, according to the evidence collected, the goods did not leave the EU area, and were instead sold illegally on the black market in some EU countries, including Belgium and Germany. This was allegedly done with the complicity of a Romanian customs officer at the Siret Customs Office, which is the main customs point at the Romanian border with Ukraine.</p> <p><a href="https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/news/romania-customs-official-indicted-tax-fraud-scheme-involving-imported-tobacco">https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/news/romania-customs-official-indicted-tax-fraud-scheme-involving-imported-tobacco</a></p>
8	DE	<p><b>[22/May/2023] Indictment for commercial violation of the Foreign Trade Act through unauthorized sale of surveillance software to non-EU countries</b></p> <p>Munich prosecutors have charged 4 former executives of Munich-based technology company FinFisher with selling restricted software to a Turkish government agency without an export license, under the terms of the dual-use goods Regulation (EU) 2021/821. Prosecutors allege that former FinFisher executives tried to circumvent EU export controls by pointing to a Bulgarian subsidiary as the seller of the software and a fake Turkish customs agency as the buyer.</p> <p><a href="https://www.justiz.bayern.de/gerichte-und-behoerden/staatsanwaltschaft/muenchen-1/presse/2023/4.php">https://www.justiz.bayern.de/gerichte-und-behoerden/staatsanwaltschaft/muenchen-1/presse/2023/4.php</a></p>
8	USOFAC	<p><b>[17/May/2023] Settlement Agreements between the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control; Murad LLC, and an Individual</b></p> <p>OFAC announced a \$3,334,286 settlement with Murad LLC , and a \$175,000 settlement with a natural U.S. Person . Murad agreed to settle its potential civil liability for one apparent violation of OFAC sanctions on Iran arising from an apparent conspiracy to export goods from the United States to Iran between 2009 and 2018. OFAC determined that Murad's apparent violation was egregious, and voluntarily self-disclosed. U.S. Person separately agreed to settle their potential civil liability for three apparent violations of OFAC's Iran sanctions that occurred between 2016 and 2017 when U.S. Person appears to have caused Murad to export or reexport consumer goods to Iran and engaged in dealings related to the export or reexport of goods to Iran. OFAC determined that U.S. Person's apparent violations were egregious, and not voluntarily self-disclosed.</p> <p><a href="https://ofac.treasury.gov/media/931761/download">https://ofac.treasury.gov/media/931761/download</a></p>
8	USDOJ	<p><b>[15/May/2023] Justice Department Seizes 13 Domains Used by Lebanese Hezbollah and its Affiliates</b></p> <p>The Justice Department today announced the seizure of 13 domains used by Specially Designated Nationals (SNDs), Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGTs), and their members associated with Lebanese Hezbollah. According to court records, the United States obtained court authorization to seize five domains registered to the Public Interest Registry (PIR) – moqawama.org, almanarnews.org, manarnews.org, almanar-tv.org, and alshahid.org – and eight domains registered to Verisign Inc. – manartv.net, manarnews.net, almanar-tv.com, almanar-tv.net, alidaamouch.com, Ibrahim-alsayed.net, alemdad.net, and naimkassem.net. Additionally, these 13 domains are subject to seizure as assets of entities and organizations engaged in planning or perpetrating acts of terrorism against the United States, its citizens and residents, and their property.</p> <p><a href="https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-seizes-13-domains-used-lebanese-hezbollah-and-its-affiliates">https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-seizes-13-domains-used-lebanese-hezbollah-and-its-affiliates</a></p>
9		<b>Threats, alerts and typologies</b>
9	SINGAPORE MAS	<p><b>[26/May/2023] Strengthening Financial Institutions'(FIs) Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) Controls</b></p> <p>MAS conducted an industry-wide survey of CFT-related controls, and followed up with a series of thematic reviews to assess FIs' TF risk understanding and examine the effectiveness of their CFT-related controls. This paper sets out MAS' key observations, and highlights our supervisory expectations that FIs should review against their own controls. FIs should benchmark themselves against the practices and supervisory expectations set out in this paper in a risk-based and proportionate manner, and conduct a gap analysis. In doing so, FIs should give due regard to the risk profile of their business activities and customers. Where FIs observe any gaps in their frameworks and controls, specific remediation/enhancement measures should be identified and implemented in a timely manner.</p> <p><a href="https://www.mas.gov.sg/-/media/mas-media-library/regulation/guidance/amld/strengthening-fi-cft-controls/strengthening-fi-cft-controls.pdf">https://www.mas.gov.sg/-/media/mas-media-library/regulation/guidance/amld/strengthening-fi-cft-controls/strengthening-fi-cft-controls.pdf</a></p>
10		<b>Corruption Perception Indices and Country Reports</b>

10	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>
11		<p><b>Mutual evaluation reports or lists of states or jurisdictions that have KYC/AML/CTF deficiencies</b></p>
11	FATF	<p><b>[06/June/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/fatf-gafi/en/publications/Mutualevaluations/Assessment-ratings.html">https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/fatf-gafi/en/publications/Mutualevaluations/Assessment-ratings.html</a></p>
11	FATF	<p><b>[06/June/2023] Mexico's progress in strengthening measures to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing</b></p> <p>Overall, Mexico has made progress in addressing most of the technical compliance deficiencies identified in its 2016 Mutual Evaluation Report. The country has been re-rated on two recommendations: Recommendation 18 is upgraded from Partially Compliant to Largely Compliant. Recommendation 24 is from Partially Compliant to Largely Compliant. Of the 40 Recommendations, Mexico currently has:  10 Recommendations rated Compliant  24 Recommendations rated Largely Compliant  5 Recommendations rated Partially Compliant and 1 NC</p> <p><a href="https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/fur/Follow-Up-Report-Mexico-2023.pdf.coredownload.pdf">https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/fur/Follow-Up-Report-Mexico-2023.pdf.coredownload.pdf</a></p>
11	FATF	<p><b>[05/June/2023] Seychelles' progress in strengthening measures to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing</b></p> <p>Seychelles has made progress in resolving some of the technical compliance deficiencies identified in its 2018 Mutual Evaluation. Five recommendations have been re-rated. Recommendation 19 has been upgraded from Partially Compliant to Compliant. Recommendations 5, 25, 28, and 34 have been upgraded from Partially Compliant to Largely Compliant</p> <p><a href="https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/Mutualevaluations/fur-seychelles-2023.html">https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/Mutualevaluations/fur-seychelles-2023.html</a></p>
11	FATF	<p><b>[05/June/2023] Madagascar's progress in strengthening measures to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing</b></p> <p>Madagascar has made significant overall progress in resolving the technical compliance shortcomings identified in its 2018 Mutual Evaluation Report. Seven Recommendations have been re-rated. Recommendation 1 initially rated NC is upgraded to Compliant. Recommendation 10 initially rated NC is upgraded to Partially Compliant. Recommendation 13 initially rated Partially Compliant is upgraded to Compliant. Recommendation 16 initially rated NC is upgraded to Partially Compliant. Recommendation 19 initially rated Partially Compliant is upgraded to Largely Compliant. Recommendation 32 initially rated Partially Compliant is upgraded to Largely Compliant. Recommendation 34 initially rated NC is upgraded to Partially Compliant</p> <p><a href="https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/fsrb-fur/Madagascar-ESAAMLG-Follow-Up-Report-2023.pdf.coredownload.pdf">https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/fsrb-fur/Madagascar-ESAAMLG-Follow-Up-Report-2023.pdf.coredownload.pdf</a></p>
11	FATF	<p><b>[31/May/2023] Qatar's measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing</b></p> <p>Qatar has made substantive improvements to its system to combat money laundering and terrorism financing and its technical compliance with FATF requirements is very strong. However, Qatar needs to make some major improvements, in its criminal justice response to terrorist financing. Money laundering investigations and prosecutions remain low and authorities should continue improving their investigations to identify the role Qatar may play in complex or professional schemes. Qatar has only secured a small number of terrorist financing convictions and prosecutions. There are major inconsistencies between Qatar's risk profile and the type and extent of terrorist financing activity prosecuted and convicted. Qatar has a robust framework to implement targeted financial sanctions related to terrorist financing and used this to seize a large amount of assets, but the country needs to focus more on its implementation of proliferation financing sanctions.</p> <p><a href="https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/mer/Mutual-Evaluation-Qatar-2023.pdf.coredownload.pdf">https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/mer/Mutual-Evaluation-Qatar-2023.pdf.coredownload.pdf</a></p>

11	FATF	<p><b>[30/May/2023] Fiji's progress in strengthening measures to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing</b></p> <p>Fiji has made progress in addressing the technical compliance deficiencies identified in its 2016 Mutual Evaluation. The country has been re-rated on two recommendations:          -Recommendation 39 originally rated Partially Compliant is upgraded to Compliant.          -Recommendation 15 which was amended after Fiji's Mutual Evaluation was adopted, has been re-rated to Partially Compliant.          Fiji has 34 Recommendations rated C/LC.</p> <p><a href="https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/fsrb-fur/Fiji-APG-Follow-Up-Report-2023.pdf.coredownload.pdf">https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/fsrb-fur/Fiji-APG-Follow-Up-Report-2023.pdf.coredownload.pdf</a></p>
11	EU	<p><b>[17/May/2023] DRAFT - The EU high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies list has been updated</b></p> <p>The European Commission has updated today the list of high-risk third-country jurisdictions presenting strategic deficiencies in their anti-money laundering/countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regimes. Two third-country jurisdictions were added to it: Nigeria and South Africa, while two other jurisdictions were delisted: Cambodia and Morocco, in accordance with FATF latest update</p> <p>! The update of the list of high-risk third-country jurisdictions takes the legal form of a delegated regulation which will enter into force after scrutiny and non-objection of the European Parliament and the Council <u>over a period of one month</u> (it was not published until June 14).</p> <p><a href="https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/mex_23_2805">https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/mex_23_2805</a></p>
11	EU	<p><b>EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes</b> has been 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 II</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>
11	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: <b>exit</b> : Nicaragua, Pakistan &amp; Zimbabwe, <b>new entries</b>: 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>
11	FATF	<p><b>FATF has reviewed and updated 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(BLACK)</b>, list remained unchanged : North Korea; Iran; Myanmar; - list of <b>jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring(GREY)</b>, the updates are: 2 countries <b>exit</b> : Cambodia and Morocco and <b>2 countries enter in the list : Nigeria and South Africa</b>. 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>
12		<p><b>Relevant information from credible and reliable organizations</b></p>
12	ELIPTIC	<p><b>[07/June/2023] The Top Ten Latest Crypto Crime Typologies</b></p> <p>The study explores the ten crypto crime typologies which have emerged in recent years, and reveal the measures that can be taken to mitigate financial crime risks efficiently and effectively.</p> <p><a href="https://hub.elliptic.co/analysis/the-top-ten-latest-crypto-crime-typologies/">https://hub.elliptic.co/analysis/the-top-ten-latest-crypto-crime-typologies/</a></p>
12	RUSI	<p><b>[06/June/2023] What Russia Might Learn from Iran's Sanctions Evasion</b></p> <p>By highlighting the experience of rogue states, and in particular Iran, this paper examines the question of how Western governments, notably in Europe, and their private sectors could strengthen their sanctions implementation and enforcement strategies in light of potential changes in Russia's financial activity. It can be expected that Russia will seek to establish parallel financial relations that aim to evade the sanctions set against it by Ukraine's allies.</p> <p><a href="https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/occasional-papers/developing-bad-habits-what-russia-might-learn-irans-sanctions-evasion">https://rusi.org/explore-our-research/publications/occasional-papers/developing-bad-habits-what-russia-might-learn-irans-sanctions-evasion</a></p>

12	OCCRP	<p><b>[31/May/2023] Andrew Tate Partnered in Casinos with Alleged Romanian Organized Crime Figures</b></p> <p>The Tate brothers had a profit-sharing agreement with a gambling firm owned by Mihăiță and Sorin Doroftei, who are accused by prosecutors of leading a violent organized crime group centered around their Las Vegas casino brand. The Dorofteis are still under investigation and the Las Vegas Group has denied any wrongdoing. The agreement would see the two companies split the profits from at least six different Las Vegas casino branches.</p> <p><a href="https://www.occrp.org/en/investigations/andrew-tate-partnered-in-casinos-with-alleged-romanian-organized-crime-figures">https://www.occrp.org/en/investigations/andrew-tate-partnered-in-casinos-with-alleged-romanian-organized-crime-figures</a></p>
12	OCCRP	<p><b>[31/May/2023] The Cleaner and the Laundromat: Belarusian Cleaning Magnate Allegedly Laundered Millions Through Disgraced Latvian Bank ABLV</b></p> <p>Latvian financial investigators have frozen \$42.8 million they suspect Eduard Apsit of laundering through ABLV bank, which was one of Latvia's largest lenders until it was shut down in 2018 for large-scale money laundering. Investigators froze another 33 million belonging to a Ukrainian man investigators believe is Apsit's proxy.</p> <p><a href="https://www.occrp.org/en/investigations/the-cleaner-and-the-laundromat-belarusian-cleaning-magnate-allegedly-laundered-millions-through-disgraced-latvian-bank-ablv">https://www.occrp.org/en/investigations/the-cleaner-and-the-laundromat-belarusian-cleaning-magnate-allegedly-laundered-millions-through-disgraced-latvian-bank-ablv</a></p>
12	OCCRP	<p><b>[31/May/2023] France Indicts First FIFA Official for Corruption in Qatar World Cup Bid</b></p> <p>French prosecutors have indicted a former vice-president of FIFA for "passive corruption" in relation to bribery allegations surrounding the awarding of the 2022 World Cup to Qatar in 2010. The indictment marks the first significant development in the ongoing investigation known as the "Qatargate" case, and it could potentially lead to further legal actions against other individuals and entities.</p> <p><a href="https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/17696-france-indicts-first-fifa-official-for-corruption-in-qatar-world-cup-bid">https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/17696-france-indicts-first-fifa-official-for-corruption-in-qatar-world-cup-bid</a></p>
12	World Economic Forum	<p><b>[25/May/2023] Pathways to Crypto-Asset Regulation: A Global Approach</b></p> <p>This white paper sets out to understand and highlight the needs and challenges in developing a global approach to crypto-asset regulation. In doing so, it delves into the various regulatory approaches being adopted by different jurisdictions. The result of multistakeholder consultations with experts from the Digital Currency Governance Consortium, comprising experts from public authorities, regulators, policy-making bodies, industry and academia, the paper explores pathways to creating a responsible crypto-asset ecosystem globally.</p> <p><a href="https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Pathways_to_the_Regulation_of_Crypto_Assets_2023.pdf">https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Pathways_to_the_Regulation_of_Crypto_Assets_2023.pdf</a></p>
12	VoxEU	<p><b>[23/May/2023] The impact of EU sanctions on Russian imports</b></p> <p>The EU imposed extensive sanctions on Russia following the invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. This column analyses the impact of trade bans on Russian imports by using a unique dataset of EU trade restrictions, Russian customs data, and mirror trade statistics. It finds that flows from sanctioning countries are close to zero for restricted goods and the increase in imports from non-sanctioning countries has substituted no more than one-fourth of the missing shipments. However, there are signs of a rerouting of EU sanctioned goods through specific third countries and the evidence on sanctions' efficacy in a key strategic class of products, microchips, is mixed.</p> <p><a href="https://cepr.org/voxeu/columns/impact-eu-sanctions-russian-imports">https://cepr.org/voxeu/columns/impact-eu-sanctions-russian-imports</a></p>
12	OCCRP	<p><b>[19/May/2023] Kazakhstan Has Become a Pathway for the Supply of Russia's War Machine. Here's How It Works.</b></p> <p>Trade statistics show large increases of drone and microelectronics imports to Kazakhstan since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in early 2022. Kazakhstan's exports of drones and microelectronics to Russia have also grown enormously. Kazakh companies registered by Russians after the war are being used as intermediaries for these imports. One company called Aspan Arba, meaning "Sky Chariot," imported drones and sent them to a Russian company called "Sky Mechanics," which sold them to pro-war organizations. The two companies have the same owner. A German company owned by a Russian couple sent microchips to a Kazakh company, established shortly after the invasion, owned by their son. It then sent the chips to Russia.</p> <p><a href="https://www.occrp.org/en/investigations/kazakhstan-has-become-a-pathway-for-the-supply-of-russias-war-machine-heres-how-it-works">https://www.occrp.org/en/investigations/kazakhstan-has-become-a-pathway-for-the-supply-of-russias-war-machine-heres-how-it-works</a></p>
12	UK	<p><b>[17/May/2023] Switzerland to return USD 8.5 million to Peru in precedent-setting case of non-conviction based forfeiture</b></p> <p>It has taken nearly 20 years, but a decision by the Swiss Federal Supreme Court has cleared the way for the return of around USD 8.5 million in corruptly obtained assets to Peru. The money to be returned is part of a complex of cases linked to Vladimiro Montesinos, Head of Intelligence under former President Alberto Fujimori. It is a highly symbolic case for both Switzerland and Peru and sets an important precedent for the use of non-conviction based forfeiture laws to recover illicit assets. Such laws enable the confiscation of these assets without a criminal conviction of the defendant. In 2021, after Peru's Courts issued the confiscation order, the judicial authorities sent a mutual legal assistance request to the Swiss authorities to execute the confiscation order and return the money.</p> <p><a href="https://baselgovernance.org/news/switzerland-return-usd-85-million-peru-precedent-setting-case-non-conviction-based-forfeiture">https://baselgovernance.org/news/switzerland-return-usd-85-million-peru-precedent-setting-case-non-conviction-based-forfeiture</a></p>




12	Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime	<p><b>[15/May/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>
13		Information from statistical organizations and academia & others
14		Relevant information on ML/FT risks from mass - media
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[13/June/2023] Swiss prosecutor's meagre record in FIFA corruption scandal</b></p> <p>The Swiss attorney-general's office opened its first investigation into world football a few months before the famous police raid at Hotel Baur au Lac in Zurich. It was examining the processes behind the selection of Russia as host of the 2018 World Cup and of Qatar for 2022. The investigation was prompted by a report submitted after FIFA filed a criminal complaint against unknown persons at the end of 2014. Faced with this accumulation of financial information, the federal prosecutor set up a special task force. In all, 25 criminal investigations were opened, making it one of the largest inquiries ever undertaken by the prosecutor's office.</p> <p><a href="https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/business/swiss-prosecutor-s-meagre-record-in-fifa-corruption-scandal/48583528">https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/business/swiss-prosecutor-s-meagre-record-in-fifa-corruption-scandal/48583528</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[12/June/2023] JPMorgan Chase reaches \$290 million settlement with Jeffrey Epstein victims</b></p> <p>JPMorgan Chase has agreed to settle a lawsuit accusing the Wall Street giant of having facilitated financier Jeffrey Epstein's sex trafficking enterprise. The tentative settlement would resolve a suit that was filed in federal court last year by a woman identified as "Jane Doe 1," who claimed the bank turned a "blind eye" toward Epstein's conduct. The suit also alleged it didn't comply with federal laws for years while it provided services to him and benefited from his business.</p> <p><a href="https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/jpmorgan-chase-reaches-settlement-jeffrey-epstein-victim-rcna88807">https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/jpmorgan-chase-reaches-settlement-jeffrey-epstein-victim-rcna88807</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[11/June/2023] High Court battle begins over Ukrainian oligarchs accused of corruption</b></p> <p>Two oligarchs accused of looting nearly \$2bn from Ukraine's largest bank are set to begin their High Court battle in London, as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy battles to eliminate decades of corruption. Privatbank has accused its former oligarch owners, Ukrainian billionaires Igor Kolomoisky and Gennadiy Bogolyubov, of using sham loans and shell companies to orchestrate and cover up one of Europe's largest ever banking frauds. The money laundering scandal is claimed to have led to Privatbank's nationalisation in 2016, after the National Bank of Ukraine discovered a \$5.5bn hole in the commercial lender's balance sheet.</p> <p><a href="https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2023/06/11/high-court-battle-ukrainian-oligarchs-accused-corruption/">https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2023/06/11/high-court-battle-ukrainian-oligarchs-accused-corruption/</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[09/June/2023] Russian racing driver loses latest round of fight against sanctions</b></p> <p>Russian racing driver Nikita Mazepin has lost the latest round of a High Court fight with British government ministers after being made subject to sanctions in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Mr Mazepin, 24, used to race in Formula 1 for Haas and is looking for a new team. He wants sanctions lifted and has taken legal action against Foreign Secretary James Cleverly.</p> <p><a href="https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/russian-linden-haas-high-court-lawyers-b1086587.html">https://www.standard.co.uk/news/crime/russian-linden-haas-high-court-lawyers-b1086587.html</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[08/June/2023] New Date Set in UBS French Money Laundering Case</b></p> <p>At the end of 2021, UBS was found guilty of aiding and abetting money laundering in a second instance, when an appeals court ruled that between 2004 and 2012, the Swiss bank illegally solicited wealthy French taxpayers to encourage them to open untaxed accounts in Switzerland. The appeals court fell well short of the 2019 first-instance ruling, which had ordered UBS to pay 4.5 billion euros. The fine from the second-instance ruling is made up of a penalty payment of one billion euros and a payment of 800 million euros in damages to the French state.</p> <p><a href="https://www.finews.com/news/english-news/57692-france-ubs-tax-dispute-money-laundering">https://www.finews.com/news/english-news/57692-france-ubs-tax-dispute-money-laundering</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[07/June/2023] North Korea hackers suspected in new \$35 million crypto heist</b></p> <p>North Korean hackers were likely behind the theft of at least \$35 million from a popular cryptocurrency service. It's the latest in a string of hacks of cryptocurrency firms linked to Pyongyang that US officials worry could be used to fund the North Korean regime's nuclear and ballistic weapons programs. The hackers drained the cryptocurrency accounts of certain customers of Atomic Wallet, an Estonia-based company that claims 5 million users of its software. Atomic Wallet said that "less than 1%" of monthly users appeared to be affected by the hack. The firm has not specified how much money might have been stolen or who was behind the hack. CNN has requested comment from the firm.</p> <p><a href="https://edition.cnn.com/2023/06/06/tech/north-korea-crypto-heist/index.html">https://edition.cnn.com/2023/06/06/tech/north-korea-crypto-heist/index.html</a></p>

14	Mass-media	<p><b>[07/June/2023] Wirecard Trial Testimony: Ex-CEO Said Compliance Was 'Crap'</b></p> <p>Former Wirecard CEO Markus Braun was apparently not a big fan of compliance. During court testimony, a panel of judges in Braun's fraud trial heard that the ex-chief executive told his general counsel that compliance was "crap" and unnecessary for the now-defunct payments company.</p> <p><a href="https://www.pymnts.com/legal/2023/wirecard-trial-testimony-ex-ceo-said-compliance-was-crap/">https://www.pymnts.com/legal/2023/wirecard-trial-testimony-ex-ceo-said-compliance-was-crap/</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[07/June/2023] EU considers mandatory ban on using Huawei to build 5G</b></p> <p>The European Union is considering a mandatory ban on member-states using companies that might pose a security risk in their 5G networks, including China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, the Financial Times reported on Tuesday. The move comes as a response to increasing concerns in Brussels about certain national governments delaying action on the matter, the officials told the newspaper.</p> <p><a href="https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/eu-considers-mandatory-ban-using-huawei-build-5g-ft-2023-06-07/">https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/eu-considers-mandatory-ban-using-huawei-build-5g-ft-2023-06-07/</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[06/June/2023]U.S. Doesn't 'Need More Digital Currency' Because It Has the Dollar, Says SEC's Gensler</b></p> <p>The U.S. doesn't need any more digital currency, said the Securities and Exchange Commission chief Gary Gensler, as his agency sues Binance and Coinbase for operating unregistered securities exchanges. "We don't need more digital currency... we already have digital currency, it's called the U.S. dollar," Gensler said. "We have not seen, over the centuries, that economies and the public need more than one way to move value."</p> <p><a href="https://www.coindesk.com/policy/2023/06/06/us-doesnt-need-more-digital-currency-because-it-has-the-dollar-says-secs-gensler/">https://www.coindesk.com/policy/2023/06/06/us-doesnt-need-more-digital-currency-because-it-has-the-dollar-says-secs-gensler/</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[05/June/2023] Court finds FIAU fines unconstitutional for the third time in a row</b></p> <p>The constitutional court has ruled against the Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit in yet another case in which an FIAU fine was deemed unconstitutional. The court ruling is the third in four months that has been decided against the unit, which has seen a number of its fines dismissed and rulings ordered to be passed on to Parliament for consideration. Lombard Bank had challenged an October 2020 decision by the FIAU to fine the bank €340,058, claiming that under Article 39 (1) of the Maltese constitution, the fine should not have been issued. The fine had been issued in accordance with an article of the Prevention of Money Laundering and Funding of Terrorism Regulations. This is the third landmark case since March that found the current laws and regulations governing the FIAU's processes breach the right to a fair hearing as protected by the Constitution of Malta. Lombard's constitutional court case joined another case the bank raised against the FIAU at the appeals court.</p> <p><a href="https://theshiftnews.com/2023/06/05/court-finds-fiau-fines-unconstitutional-for-the-third-time-in-a-row/">https://theshiftnews.com/2023/06/05/court-finds-fiau-fines-unconstitutional-for-the-third-time-in-a-row/</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[05/June/2023] Austrian businessman Wolf charged in Eurofighter case</b></p> <p>The former head of car supplier Magna International, Austrian businessman Siegfried Wolf, was charged by an Austrian court on suspicion of money laundering in connection with the purchase of Eurofighter jets two decades ago. The case revolves around the Austrian government's billion-euro purchase of Eurofighter jets in 2003.</p> <p><a href="https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/austrian-businessman-wolf-charged-eurofighter-case-2023-06-05/">https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/austrian-businessman-wolf-charged-eurofighter-case-2023-06-05/</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[05/June/2023] Austrian banker loses fight against extradition to U.S. on Odebrecht charges</b></p> <p>Peter Weinzierl – former chief executive of Meinh Bank, later renamed Anglo Austrian AAB Bank – is accused of helping launder hundreds of millions of dollars in a scheme involving the use of slush funds to bribe public officials. The former chief executive of an Austrian bank can be extradited to the United States in relation to a bribery and money laundering conspiracy involving Brazilian construction company Odebrecht.</p> <p><a href="https://www.reuters.com/world/us/austrian-banker-loses-fight-against-extradition-us-odebrecht-charges-2023-06-05/">https://www.reuters.com/world/us/austrian-banker-loses-fight-against-extradition-us-odebrecht-charges-2023-06-05/</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[05/June/2023] Maltese 'digital bank' fined, months after US sanctioned one of its directors</b></p> <p>A Maltese "digital bank" has been fined by the Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit, months after one of its directors was sanctioned by the United States over his links with Russia. The €279,000 fine for anti-money laundering failures was announced by the FIAU on June 1, two years after it carried out its compliance visit on Papaya Limited. Frederic Villa, one of Papaya's directors, was among dozens of individuals and companies sanctioned by the US in February, as part of an effort to target industries that support Russia's war against Ukraine. He resigned from Papaya's board that same month.</p> <p><a href="https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/maltese-digital-bank-fined-months-us-sanctioned-one-directors.1035731">https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/maltese-digital-bank-fined-months-us-sanctioned-one-directors.1035731</a></p>

14	Mass-media	<p><b>[03/June/2023] Qatargate: Large cash withdrawals from Qatari embassy in Brussels</b></p> <p>Belgium's Financial Intelligence Processing Unit, CTIF, identified large cash withdrawals by Qatari embassy staff in Brussels between 2020 and 2022. In December 2022, in the wake of the arrests and questionings to what became known as "Qatargate", the CTIF denounced to Belgian authorities a pattern of large cash withdrawals in the preceding years, Le Soir reports. Between January 2020 and December 2021, 252,815 euro in cash had been taken out from a KBC account held by the Qatari embassy. Another account had 49,545 euro in cash withdrawn during the same period.</p> <p><a href="https://brusselstimes.com/belgium/535647/qatargate-large-cash-withdrawals-from-qatari-embassy-in-brussels">https://brusselstimes.com/belgium/535647/qatargate-large-cash-withdrawals-from-qatari-embassy-in-brussels</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[02/June/2023] EC urges Bulgaria to correct anti-money laundering laws</b></p> <p>The European Commission said it is sending a letter of formal notice to Bulgaria, the first step of opening an infringement procedure, requesting the country to correctly transpose into national legislation the EU's fifth anti-money laundering directive adopted in 2018. Although Bulgaria had already informed the Commission that the directive was transposed, the EU executive found several instances in which the national legislation did not comply with the European regulations. These cases relate to a missing obligation to register, license or regulate services providers, the lack of a mechanism to solve discrepancies of information provided by the national beneficial ownership register that is part of the commercial register as well as insufficient proper application of the concepts of "establishment" or "residence" serving to identify those who are obliged to give information on beneficial ownership.</p> <p><a href="https://seenews.com/news/ec-urges-bulgaria-to-correct-anti-money-laundering-laws-824698">https://seenews.com/news/ec-urges-bulgaria-to-correct-anti-money-laundering-laws-824698</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[31/May/2023] Report: FTX Collapse Triggered 41% Spike in UK Crypto Fraud</b></p> <p>The value of U.K. cryptocurrency fraud hit a record high following the collapse of FTX. That's according to a recent report by law firm RPC, which found that the value of fraud during the 12 months ending March 31 of this year was at £306 million, up 41% from the prior year. Around one-third of that figure was due to the downfall of FTX, the report said, with £115.6m reported lost to fraud in the U.K. during November 2022, the month the company went bankrupt.</p> <p><a href="https://www.pymnts.com/news/security-and-risk/2023/report-ftx-collapse-triggered-41-spike-in-uk-crypto-fraud/">https://www.pymnts.com/news/security-and-risk/2023/report-ftx-collapse-triggered-41-spike-in-uk-crypto-fraud/</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[30/May/2023] Bulgaria: The Prosecutor's Office requested the Immunity of Boyko Borissov for Money Laundering</b></p> <p>The Sofia City Prosecutor's Office proposed to the Chief Prosecutor of the Republic of Bulgaria - Ivan Geshev - to submit a reasoned request to the National Assembly for permission to initiate criminal prosecution against Boyko Borissov - former Prime Minister and deputy in the 49th National Assembly. The proposal was prepared in connection with a pre-trial proceeding, known in the media as "Barcelonagate". From the evidence collected in the course of the pre-trial proceedings, it can be concluded that the former prime minister provided third parties with funds acquired as a result of a committed crime for the purchase and rental of real estate abroad, says the announcement of the prosecutor's office. "Barcelonagate" is an investigation into a house in Barcelona examining a money laundering scheme linked to former Prime Minister Boyko Borissov. The name of the former Bulgarian model Borislava Yovcheva, who is suspected of having benefited from the scheme, and with whom Borissov is said to have a child, is also involved in the case. In 2018, the Catalan publication "Periodico" reported that the local authorities were checking whether she was connected to Borissov.</p> <p><a href="https://m.novinite.com/articles/220310/Bulgaria%3A+The+Prosecutor%27s+Office+requested+the+Immunity+of+Boyko+Borissov+for+Money+Laundering">https://m.novinite.com/articles/220310/Bulgaria%3A+The+Prosecutor%27s+Office+requested+the+Immunity+of+Boyko+Borissov+for+Money+Laundering</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[30/May/2023] Crown Resorts and AUSTRAC agree to \$450 million fine over money laundering breaches</b></p> <p>As part of the settlement, Crown has admitted that it failed to assess the money laundering and terrorism financing risks facing its casinos, and did not have appropriate risk-based systems in place to mitigate the risks. Crown also admitted that it "did not have a transaction monitoring program that was appropriate to the nature, size and complexity of their business", and "did not conduct appropriate ongoing customer due diligence on a range of specific customers who presented higher money laundering risks".</p> <p><a href="https://amp.abc.net.au/article/102410670">https://amp.abc.net.au/article/102410670</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[29/May/2023] BKEX freezes withdrawals amid money laundering probe</b></p> <p>Crypto exchange BKEX suspended withdrawals after funds on its platform were used for money laundering, according to a May 29 statement. BKEX stated that its users' funds were involved in money laundering, adding that it was cooperating with law enforcement agencies to gather evidence. BKEX was founded in 2018 and is registered in the British Virgin Islands. Data from CoinMarketCap showed that its trading volume was \$434.15 million during the last 24 hours.</p> <p><a href="https://cryptoslate.com/bkex-freezes-withdrawals-amid-money-laundering-probe/">https://cryptoslate.com/bkex-freezes-withdrawals-amid-money-laundering-probe/</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[29/May/2023] Japan to impose stricter AML measures for digital currencies in June 2023</b></p> <p>After years of handling it with leniency, Japanese lawmakers have confirmed plans to impose stricter Anti-Money Laundering (AML) rules for the digital currency industry. The new regime of rules is expected to be launched on June 1. Experts opine that the guidelines are designed to align Japanese AML processes to global standards following the large-scale collapses in the digital currency sector. The main focus of Japan's incoming rules is the ratification of the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) Travel Rule, requiring detailed reporting of transactions. The Travel Rule mandates digital asset exchanges to report all details of any digital asset transaction exceeding \$3,000.</p> <p><a href="https://coingeek.com/japan-to-impose-stricter-aml-measures-for-digital-currencies-in-june-2023/">https://coingeek.com/japan-to-impose-stricter-aml-measures-for-digital-currencies-in-june-2023/</a></p>

14	Mass-media	<p><b>[26/May/2023] India finds €500,000 in money laundering involving Malta iGaming companies</b></p> <p>The Enforcement Directorate reports the companies in question are registered in Malta, Cyprus and Curacao and are linked to Indian bank accounts opened in the name of proxy persons who have no links with online gaming activity. Funds collected through gaming websites are then routed through multiple bank accounts until they are finally remitted out of India by mis-declaring the purpose of remittances as being against the importation of services or goods. The companies were allegedly used for layering and sending remittances of around €450,000 supposedly for payments for goods and services that were to be imported.</p> <p><a href="https://theshiftnews.com/2023/05/26/india-finds-e500000-in-money-laundering-involving-malta-igaming-companies/">https://theshiftnews.com/2023/05/26/india-finds-e500000-in-money-laundering-involving-malta-igaming-companies/</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[25/May/2023] Using frozen Russian money for Kyiv is barmy</b></p> <p>Bad ideas never die. European officials are still discussing options to use the proceeds of Russia's frozen funds to help Ukraine. Yet funnelling the money to the war-torn country, which looks justifiable on moral grounds, would set a bad precedent. Euroclear, the Belgium-based settlement house, is sitting on some 180 billion euros of Russian central bank reserves – part of the 280 billion euros Ukraine's allies froze last year after Russia's invasion. The clearing firm also holds another 17 billion euros from sanctioned Russian individuals. Altogether the assets have already generated some 734 million euros in cash – chiefly the product of coupons or redemptions from safe euro zone government bonds the money has been invested in.</p> <p><a href="https://www.reuters.com/breakingviews/using-frozen-russian-money-kyiv-is-barmy-2023-05-25/">https://www.reuters.com/breakingviews/using-frozen-russian-money-kyiv-is-barmy-2023-05-25/</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[23/May/2023] UAE extradites 43 on money laundering charges in three years</b></p> <p>UAE authorities have extradited 899 criminals since 2020, of which 43 were involved in money-laundering crimes. Ten of those were terrorists or were financing terrorist activities. The UAE has issued fines of more than \$31.3 million in the first quarter of the year in its fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism.</p> <p><a href="https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/2023/05/23/uae-issues-fines-of-more-than-dh115-million-in-fight-against-money-laundering/">https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/2023/05/23/uae-issues-fines-of-more-than-dh115-million-in-fight-against-money-laundering/</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[23/May/2023] Japan Implements Stricter Anti-Money Laundering Rules to Crack Down on Crypto Crime</b></p> <p>Japan's Cabinet plans to enforce travel rules from June 1 to tackle money laundering and other criminal activities. The rule makes it mandatory for exchanges to pass on customers' details to the other party during crypto transactions. The development came after the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) claimed that Japan's AML laws were insufficient. FATF is a global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog. The Cabinet's decision could have also been influenced by the Group of Seven (G7) leadership's discussion on money laundering at the recent Hiroshima summit meeting.</p> <p><a href="https://beincrypto.com/japan-plans-stricter-crypto-aml-laws/">https://beincrypto.com/japan-plans-stricter-crypto-aml-laws/</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[23/May/2023] Germany issues arrest warrant for Lebanon's central bank chief</b></p> <p>Germany has informed Lebanon it has issued an arrest warrant for Central Bank Governor Riad Salameh on corruption charges, including forgery, money laundering and embezzlement. A second source familiar with the matter confirmed the arrest warrant to Reuters. Salameh has denied any wrongdoing. Salameh, 72, is being investigated in Lebanon and at least five European countries for allegedly taking hundreds of millions of dollars from Lebanon's central bank to the detriment of the Lebanese state and laundering the funds abroad. It is the second foreign arrest warrant reported to be issued for Salameh within a week. France issued a warrant for his arrest on May 16 after he failed to show up for a Paris court hearing.</p> <p><a href="https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/lebanon-verbally-informed-by-germany-an-arrest-warrant-against-central-bank-2023-05-23/">https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/lebanon-verbally-informed-by-germany-an-arrest-warrant-against-central-bank-2023-05-23/</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[22/May/2023] Fleetwood Town owner guilty of fraud and money laundering</b></p> <p>Fleetwood Town's owner has been found guilty of fraud and money laundering. A trading standards investigation found Andrew Pilley, of Thornton Cleveleys, mis-sold energy contracts and posted fake customer comments on websites. Pilley was found guilty of two counts of running a business with the intention of defrauding creditors, one count of false representation and one count of being concerned with the retention of criminal property.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lancashire-65653943.amp">https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-lancashire-65653943.amp</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[21/May/2023] Sanctioned crypto mixer Tornado Cash hijacked by hackers</b></p> <p>Tornado Cash, a service that allows users to mask cryptocurrency transactions, suffered a hostile takeover by hackers through a malicious governance proposal. Samczsun, a security researcher at crypto investment firm Paradigm, said on Twitter that an attacker granted themselves 1.2 million fake votes on Saturday. As the fake votes exceeded the 700 000 legitimate votes, it allowed the attacker to gain full control over the governance of Tornado Cash.</p> <p><a href="https://www.news24.com/fin24/companies/sanctioned-crypto-mixer-tornado-cash-hijacked-by-hackers-20230521">https://www.news24.com/fin24/companies/sanctioned-crypto-mixer-tornado-cash-hijacked-by-hackers-20230521</a></p>

14	Mass-media	<p><b>[21/May/2023] Revolut faces new legal battle over 'enabling' £600,000 fraud: Terna Energy Trading launches legal action</b></p> <p>Terna Energy Trading, listed on the Athens stock market, has launched legal action against the UK bank over claims it breached money laundering rules by failing to stop a 'fraudulent' transaction last year, court papers reveal. Terna alleges that criminals stole £600,000 from its account after bypassing Revolut's systems. Documents filed in the High Court reveal fraudsters tricked Terna into paying cash to a fake supplier, which was processed through Revolut in February 2022. The payment was initially frozen by anti-money laundering software, but a Revolut analyst in Lithuania later waved it through.</p> <p><a href="https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/markets/article-12105729/Revolut-faces-new-legal-battle-600-000-fraud.html">https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/markets/article-12105729/Revolut-faces-new-legal-battle-600-000-fraud.html</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[20/May/2023] Major Tory donor investigated over fraud and money laundering allegations</b></p> <p>A leading Tory donor who has given more than £220,000 to the party is being investigated over allegations of fraud and money laundering. Karan Chanana, head of the global rice brand Amira, is being investigated in India over claims that tens of millions of pounds of bank loans were unlawfully diverted into shell entities. Chanana has not responded to the claims. The allegations come as the UK government faces mounting pressure to tighten up rules on foreign donations and improve diligence checks. The Conservatives face calls this weekend to freeze the money donated by Chanana, pending an inquiry.</p> <p><a href="https://amp.theguardian.com/politics/2023/may/20/major-tory-donor-investigated-over-and-money-laundering-allegations">https://amp.theguardian.com/politics/2023/may/20/major-tory-donor-investigated-over-and-money-laundering-allegations</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[19/May/2023] Pakistan announces a ban on cryptocurrencies</b></p> <p>The government of Pakistan has announced that cryptocurrencies will never be legal in the country in a bid to prevent illegal digital currency transactions. According to coindesk.com, Pakistan made this decision in order to stay on the good side of the Financial Action Task Force. The same source revealed that banning cryptocurrencies in the country would prevent it from going on the FATF's 'Grey List.' Pakistan's Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Aisha Ghaus Pasha revealed that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Information Technology Ministry have been ordered to initiate a ban on cryptocurrencies. The SBP first revealed its plans to ban crypto in January 2022 thus clarifying its position on the financial technology.</p> <p><a href="https://thepaypers.com/cryptocurrencies/pakistan-announces-a-ban-on-cryptocurrencies--1262702">https://thepaypers.com/cryptocurrencies/pakistan-announces-a-ban-on-cryptocurrencies--1262702</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[19/May/2023] Property register fines worth £1bn not yet imposed</b></p> <p>The UK has so far failed to impose fines worth as much as £1bn on foreign companies breaking a landmark transparency law, BBC analysis reveals. Since January, overseas firms that own UK property can be fined up to £2,500 a day unless they declare their owners. Thousands are still to do so, including firms which have been linked to oligarchs such as Roman Abramovich, but no fines have yet been issued. The register was introduced as part of the Economic Crime Act in February 2022, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Ministers said it would reveal who ultimately owned UK property and also stop foreign criminals using UK property to launder money.</p> <p><a href="https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65611255">https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-65611255</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[18/May/2023] Bernie Madoff Was Probably A Psychopath (And What We Should Learn From That)</b></p> <p>A new study has concluded that Bernie Madoff, the New York financier responsible for defrauding thousands of investors out of some \$65 billion in the world's largest Ponzi scheme, was almost certainly a psychopath – finding that the late banker and con artist had a near-100 percent hit rate on established checklists of psychopathic traits. "Using two gauges of psychopathy [...] on one (the PM-MRV2) Madoff displays all (100 percent) of the characteristics of a corporate psychopath while on the other (the CAPP) he scores about 90 percent," reports study author Clive Boddy, Associate Professor at Anglia Ruskin University and a pioneer in the field of corporate psychopathy, in the paper. This "is well within the psychopathic range."</p> <p><a href="https://www.iflscience.com/bernie-madoff-was-probably-a-psychopath-and-what-we-should-learn-from-that-68994">https://www.iflscience.com/bernie-madoff-was-probably-a-psychopath-and-what-we-should-learn-from-that-68994</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[18/May/2023] Australian 'Big 4' bank begins trial for cryptocurrency payment blocks</b></p> <p>Westpac, one of Australia's 'Big Four' banks, is launching its first trial of scam protection measures designed to combat fraudulent activities related to cryptocurrencies. The protection measures aim to mitigate losses from scams and reduce potential risks. According to the announcement, investment scams account for approximately 50% of all customer losses linked to scams, while around one-third of all scams involve direct transfers to cryptocurrency exchanges, making them extremely difficult to trace. The Westpac ban comes on the same day Binance customers were told they could no longer use PayID to transfer Australian dollars to their accounts. Binance said a "third-party provider" had placed restrictions on the exchange, affecting bank transfer withdrawals for now.</p> <p><a href="https://cointelegraph.com/news/australian-big-4-bank-begins-trial-for-cryptocurrency-payment-blocks">https://cointelegraph.com/news/australian-big-4-bank-begins-trial-for-cryptocurrency-payment-blocks</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[18/May/2023] Deutsche Bank to pay \$75M in Epstein lawsuit settlement</b></p> <p>The suit claimed that the German lender should have seen evidence of sex trafficking by Epstein when he was a client, according to The Associated Press, citing lawyers for the women. Epstein died in August 2019 in jail while awaiting trial for sex trafficking. New York City's medical examiner ruled Epstein's death a suicide. A woman only identified as Jane Doe sued the bank in federal district court in New York and sought class-action status to represent other victims of Epstein. The lawsuit asserted that the bank knowingly benefited from Epstein's sex trafficking and "chose profit over following the law."</p> <p><a href="https://www.foxbusiness.com/economy/deutsche-bank-pay-75m-epstein-lawsuit-settlement">https://www.foxbusiness.com/economy/deutsche-bank-pay-75m-epstein-lawsuit-settlement</a></p>

14	Mass-media	<p><b>[17/May/2023] IRS flagged more than 1 million tax returns for identity fraud in 2023</b></p> <p>Tax-related identity theft occurs when criminals use a taxpayer’s personal information to file a return in their name to claim their federal tax refund. The IRS identified nearly 1.1 million tax returns as potentially fraudulent as of March 2, according to a Treasury report issued to the public Tuesday that analyzed data partway through the filing season. The associated refunds were worth about \$6.3 billion. The IRS had confirmed 12,617 of the tax returns were fraudulent as of the same date in March, Treasury reported. That figure is up from 9,626 tax returns at the same time in 2022.</p> <p><a href="https://www.cnbc.com/2023/05/17/irs-flagged-more-than-1-million-tax-returns-for-identity-fraud-in-2023.html">https://www.cnbc.com/2023/05/17/irs-flagged-more-than-1-million-tax-returns-for-identity-fraud-in-2023.html</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[17/May/2023] Influencer Extradited to U.S. In Connection With Alleged \$2 Million Romance Scam, Prosecutors Say</b></p> <p>Mona Faiz Montrage, 30, was extradited to the U.S. and pleaded not guilty to six charges, including wire fraud and money laundering, in New York federal court. At first glance, Mona Faiz Montrage appears like any other glamorous influencer posting photos of her designer bags and flaunting her opulent lifestyle online. But behind the screen, she was involved in a multimillion-dollar romance scam that preyed on vulnerable, lonely and older victims in the United States. The Ghanaian influencer, who boasts more than 4.2 million followers on Instagram where she goes by “Hajia4reall”, was extradited to the U.S. Montrage, 30, allegedly scammed followers out of more than \$2 million. She has been charged with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, money laundering conspiracy, money laundering, receipt of stolen money and conspiracy to receive stolen money</p> <p><a href="https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/national-international/influencer-extradited-to-u-s-in-connection-with-alleged-2-million-romance-scam-prosecutors-say/4343034/">https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/national-international/influencer-extradited-to-u-s-in-connection-with-alleged-2-million-romance-scam-prosecutors-say/4343034/</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[15/May/2023] North Korean hackers stole \$721 million in cryptocurrency from Japan - Nikkei</b></p> <p>Hacker groups affiliated with North Korea have stolen \$721 million worth of cryptocurrency assets from Japan since 2017, the Nikkei business daily reported on Monday, citing a study by U.K. blockchain analysis provider Elliptic. The amount is equal to 30% of the total of such losses globally, the Nikkei reported. The report comes after Group of Seven finance ministers and central bank governors said in a statement on Saturday that they support measures to counter growing threats from illicit activities by state actors, such as the theft of crypto-assets.</p> <p><a href="https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/reuters/north-korean-hackers-stole--721-million-in-cryptocurrency-from-japan---nikkei/48513480">https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/reuters/north-korean-hackers-stole--721-million-in-cryptocurrency-from-japan---nikkei/48513480</a></p>
14	Mass-media	<p><b>[15/May/2023] How El Chapo’s sons built a fentanyl empire poisoning America</b></p> <p>Collectively known as Los Chapitos, or “the little Chapos,” the four siblings were once mocked by adversaries as entitled princelings more concerned with flashing their wealth on Instagram than the grubby work of moving tons of cocaine into the United States. Yet the brothers have resuscitated a drug empire teetering after their father was locked behind U.S. bars and diversified the business by embracing a new line of synthetic drugs. Last month, U.S. authorities laid out extensive new charges against the brothers in indictments filed in multiple jurisdictions, and upped bounties for two of the siblings to \$10 million apiece, cementing their status as some of the world’s most powerful and wanted drug lords.</p> <p><a href="https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/mexico-drugs-chapitos/">https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/mexico-drugs-chapitos/</a></p>
15		Legislative changes
15	EU	<p><b>[09/June/2023] REGULATION 2023/1114 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on markets in crypto-assets, and amending Regulations (EU) No 1093/2010 and (EU) No 1095/2010 and Directives 2013/36/EU and (EU) 2019/1937</b></p> <p>This MiCA Regulation classifies crypto-assets into three types based on whether the crypto-assets seek to stabilise their value by reference to other assets. The first type consists of crypto-assets that aim to stabilise their value by referencing only one official currency. The function of such crypto-assets is very similar to the function of electronic money as defined in Directive 2009/110/EC. Like electronic money, such crypto-assets are electronic surrogates for coins and banknotes and are likely to be used for making payments. Those crypto-assets is defined as ‘<b>e-money tokens</b>’.</p> <p>The second type of crypto-assets concerns ‘<b>asset-referenced tokens</b>’, which aim to stabilise their value by referencing another value or right, or combination thereof, including one or several official currencies. That second type covers all other crypto-assets, other than e-money tokens, whose value is backed by assets, so as to avoid circumvention and to make this Regulation future-proof.</p> <p>The third type consists of <b>crypto-assets</b> other than asset-referenced tokens and e-money tokens, and covers a wide variety of crypto-assets, including utility tokens.</p> <p>The Regulation legislates the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- transparency and disclosure requirements for the issuance, offer to the public and admission of crypto-assets to trading on a trading platform for crypto-assets (‘admission to trading’);</li> <li>- requirements for the authorisation and supervision of crypto-asset service providers, issuers of asset-referenced tokens and issuers of e-money tokens, as well as for their operation, organisation and governance;</li> <li>- requirements for the protection of holders of crypto-assets in the issuance, offer to the public and admission to trading of crypto-assets;</li> <li>- requirements for the protection of clients of crypto-asset service providers;</li> <li>- measures to prevent insider dealing, unlawful disclosure of inside information and market manipulation related to crypto-assets, in order to ensure the integrity of markets in crypto-assets.</li> </ul> <p>The MiCA Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union, 09 June 2023</p> <p>There are some derogations with deadlines 29 June 2023 and 30 June 2024.</p> <p>This Regulation shall apply from 30 December 2024.</p> <p><a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32023R1114">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32023R1114</a></p>

15	EU	<p><b>[06/June/2023] DRAFT Criminal money: Council and European Parliament reach deal on access to financial information</b></p> <p>The presidency and the European Parliament today reached a provisional agreement on a proposed EU law to speed up and ease the access of national authorities to financial information. Access to financial information is an important instrument in financial investigations and in efforts to trace and confiscate the proceeds of crime. In order to comply with a soon to be adopted anti-money laundering directive, EU countries will have to make information from centralised bank account registers available through a single access point. The centralised bank account registers contain data on who has which bank account and where.</p> <p>A proposed overhaul of the EU anti-money laundering directive foresees that law enforcement authorities would be able to access and search bank account registries through a single access point. As the new anti-money laundering directive will provide access to the single access point only to financial intelligence units (FIUs), the national body which collects information on suspicious or unusual financial activity, this directive was needed to ensure the same access to law enforcement authorities.</p> <p>The agreement will have to be endorsed by member states representatives before its adoption by both the Council and the European Parliament. This adoption will go hand in hand with the adoption of other relating legislative instruments in the area Anti-Money-Laundering which are currently also under negotiation.</p> <p><a href="https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/06/06/criminal-money-council-and-european-parliament-reach-deal-on-access-to-financial-information/">https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/06/06/criminal-money-council-and-european-parliament-reach-deal-on-access-to-financial-information/</a></p>
15	EU	<p><b>[23/May/2023] DRAFT DIRECTIVE on asset recovery and confiscation</b></p> <p>MEPs vote to speed up the freezing and confiscation of criminal assets. Compared to existing legislation, the new directive would also cover trafficking in firearms, certain crimes committed as part of a criminal organisation and the violation of EU sanctions. In their position, MEPs propose to include also illegal trafficking of nuclear material, crimes falling within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court, the illegal seizure of aircraft and ships, and sabotage.</p> <p>The agreed text would close loopholes by ensuring assets can be frozen quickly, with temporary urgency measures where necessary. The proposal would also crack down on those evading confiscation with the help of a third person, and allow confiscation in certain cases where conviction is not possible, for example in cases of illness or death of a suspect.</p> <p>To make cross-border investigations more efficient, the law would harmonise the powers of asset recovery offices set up by member states, ensuring that they get access to necessary information, such as beneficial ownership registries, securities and currency information, customs data and annual financial statements of companies. Finally, to prevent assets from degrading, member states would have to set up dedicated offices to manage confiscated assets.</p> <p>The new legislation on seizing criminal assets would ensure fast and efficient freezing operations everywhere in the EU, and quicker compensation for victims.</p> <p><a href="https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230522IPR91604/meps-vote-to-speed-up-the-freezing-and-confiscation-of-criminal-assets">https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20230522IPR91604/meps-vote-to-speed-up-the-freezing-and-confiscation-of-criminal-assets</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/LIBE/DV/2023/05-22/AssetRecoveryandConfiscation-consolidated_EN.pdf">https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2014_2019/plmrep/COMMITTEES/LIBE/DV/2023/05-22/AssetRecoveryandConfiscation-consolidated_EN.pdf</a></p>
15	EU	<p><b>[16/May/2023] DRAFT Regulation on information accompanying transfers of funds and certain crypto-assets</b></p> <p>Council adopted updated rules on information accompanying the transfers of funds by extending the scope of the rules to transfers of crypto assets. This ensures financial transparency on exchanges in crypto-assets and provides the EU with a solid framework that complies with the most demanding international standards on the exchange of crypto-assets, ensuring that these are not used for criminal purposes.</p> <p>Under the new rules, crypto asset service providers are obliged to collect and make accessible certain information about the sender and beneficiary of the transfers of crypto assets they operate, regardless of the amount of crypto assets being transacted. This ensures the traceability of crypto-asset transfers in order to be able to better identify possible suspicious transactions and block them.</p> <p>This regulation is part of a package of legislative proposals to strengthen the EU's anti-money laundering and countering terrorism financing (AML/CFT) rules, presented by the Commission on 20 July 2021. The package also includes a proposal to create a new EU authority to fight money laundering.</p> <p><a href="https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/05/16/anti-money-laundering-council-adopts-rules-which-will-make-crypto-asset-transfers-traceable/">https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2023/05/16/anti-money-laundering-council-adopts-rules-which-will-make-crypto-asset-transfers-traceable/</a></p>

\*) Note: all property and interests in property of the designated individuals and entities that are in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons must be blocked and reported to OFAC. In addition, any entities that are owned, directly or indirectly, 50 percent or more by one or more blocked persons are also blocked. OFAC's regulations generally prohibit all dealings by U.S. persons or within the United States (including transactions transiting the United States) that involve any property or interests in property of designated or otherwise blocked persons.