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#	Source	The most important events of the period 01/01/2024 - 15/01/2024
1	1	Emerging trends and risks
2	1 RO ONPCSB	<p>[11/January/2024] ONPCSB- MONEY MULE typology</p> <p>Romanian FIU (ONPCSB) has published the typology Money laundering using the money mule. The analysis describes the characteristics of the typology, the illicit financial flows generated as a result of the fraud, the profile of the persons involved, the indicators of suspicion specific to the typology and other relevant information. The typology draws attention to the financial flows to West Africa involving companies registered in Romania, with suspicions linked to drug trafficking.</p> <p>https://www.onpcsb.ro/uploads/articole/attachments/659bfceada35e379454300.pdf</p>
3	2	Warnings and reports, thematic analyzes of national and international authorities
4	2 EBA	<p>[12/January/2024] EBA Q3 2023 quarterly Risk Dashboard</p> <p>Operational risks remained high, driven by cyber and data security, followed by conduct and legal risks, as in the previous assessment. Fraud is ranked as the main operational risk. The most significant ML/TF risks have been identified with reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Customers and transactions related to jurisdictions that are subject to international sanctions ; - Customers dealing in crypto-asset; - Customers whose ownership and control structure is opaque or unduly complex <p>https://www.eba.europa.eu/publications-and-media/press-releases/banks-remain-robust-higher-interest-rates-could-impact-their</p>

5	2	UK	<p>[10/January/2024] Guidance on money laundering reporting obligations</p> <p>The purpose of this guidance is to set out the government position on money laundering reporting obligations in the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) as amended by the Economic Crime and Corporate Transparency (ECCT) Act 2023 following Royal Assent. Reporters should consider how they can apply this guidance to streamline their reporting process and to maintain the wider effectiveness of the suspicious activity reports (SARs) regime.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/money-laundering-reporting-obligations/guidance-on-money-laundering-reporting-obligations-in-relation-to-the-daml-exemption-provisions-introduced-by-the-economic-crime-and-corporate-transpa</p>
6	2	UK	<p>[09/January/2024] FinCEN Issues Analysis of Identity-Related Suspicious Activity</p> <p>The report explores how bad actors exploit identity-related processes involved in processing transactions as well as opening and accessing accounts. FinCEN identified over 14 typologies commonly indicated in identity-related reports. The most frequently reported were fraud, false records, identity theft, third-party money laundering, and circumvention of verification standards. These top five typologies accounted for 88% of identity-related reports and 74% of the total identity-related suspicious activity amount reported during calendar year 2021.</p> <p>https://www.fincen.gov/resources/financial-trend-analyses</p>
7	3	^	Terrorism and International Sanctions updates
8	3	US	<p>OFAC-Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons (SDN) List https://www.treasury.gov/ofac/downloads/sdnlist.pdf</p> <p>OFAC-Sectoral Sanctions Identifications (SSI) List https://www.treasury.gov/ofac/downloads/ssi/ssilist.pdf</p> <p>OFAC-List of Foreign Financial Institutions Subject to Correspondent Account or Payable-Through Account Sanctions (CAPTA List) https://www.treasury.gov/ofac/downloads/capta/captalist.pdf</p>

9	3	EU	<p>European Union Consolidated Financial Sanctions List</p> <p>https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fsd/fsf/public/files/pdfFullSanctionsList/content?token=n002q3ky</p> <p>https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/consolidated-list-of-persons-groups-and-entities-subject-to-eu-financial-sanctions?locale=en</p>
10	3	UN	<p>United Nations Security Council Consolidated List</p> <p>https://scsanctions.un.org/consolidated/</p>
11	3	EU	<p>[15/January/2024] COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2024/290 amending Decision (CFSP) 2022/2319 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Haiti</p> <p>COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2024/291 implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/2309 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Haiti</p> <p>4 persons has been added to the list of persons and entities subject to restrictive measures.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024D0290</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024R0291</p>
12	3	EU	<p>[15/January/2024] COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2024/254 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Guatemala</p> <p>COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2024/287 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Guatemala</p> <p>All funds and economic resources belonging to, owned, held or controlled by any natural or legal person, entity or body as listed in Annex I shall be frozen. The Annex does not contain any person/entity.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024D0254</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024R0287</p>

13	3	US	<p>Designation Update</p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (added) with 2 entities and 4 vessels related to commodity shipments financing Iran's Qods Force and Houthis</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20240112</p>
14	3	US	<p>[11/January/2024] Russia-related Designations and Designations Updates; Cyber-related Designation Update</p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (added) with 1 individual, 2 entities and 3 aircrafts</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20240111</p>
15	3	UN	<p>[10/January/2024] Security Council ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee Amends Fourteen Entries to Its Sanctions List</p> <p>The Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities enacted the amendments specified with strikethrough and/or underline in 14 entries on the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List of individuals and entities subject to the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo set out in paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 2610 (2021), and adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.</p> <p>https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15560.doc.htm</p>
16	3	EU	<p>[05/January/2024] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2024/212 implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1770 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Mali</p> <p>In view of the termination of the UN sanctions regime on Mali, all the entries in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2017/1770 have been deleted.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024R0212</p>

17	3	UN	<p>[05/January/2024] Security Council ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee Amends Seven Entries to Its Sanctions List</p> <p>The Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities enacted the amendments specified with strikethrough and/or underline in the 7 entries on its ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List of individuals and entities subject to the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo set out in paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 2610 (2021), and adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations.</p> <p>https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15556.doc.htm</p>
18	3	UN	<p>[05/January/2024] Security Council 1718 Sanctions Committee Amends Two Entries on Its Sanctions List</p> <p>The Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006) enacted the amendments, specified with strikethrough and underline, in 2 entries on its Sanctions List of individuals and entities.</p> <p>https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15555.doc.htm</p>
19	3	EU	<p>[03/January/2024] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2024/196 implementing Regulation (EU) No 269/2014 concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine</p> <p>Pavel Alekseevich MARINYCHEV, CEO of Alrosa and PJSC Alrosa have been included in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 269/2014. PJSC Alrosa is the largest diamond-mining company in the world, owned by the Russian state and accounts for over 90% of all Russian diamond production.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024R0196</p>
20	4	^	<p>EU ML/TF SupraNational Risk Assessment</p>

21	4	EBA	<p>EBA Opinion on money laundering and terrorist financing risks across the EU was published on [13/July/2023]</p> <p>https://www.eba.europa.eu/sites/default/documents/files/document_library/Publications/Opinions/2023/1058335/EBA%20Op%202023%2008%20Opinion%20on%20MLTF%20risks%20EBA%20REP%202023%2021.pdf</p>
22	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 (EU SNRA) was issued on [27/October/2022]</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0554 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022SC0344</p>
23	5	^	<p>Information and assessments by national authorities on risks at national level</p>
24	5	GUERNSEY	<p>[03/January/2024] GUERNSEY 2023 NATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT REPORT ON MONEY LAUNDERING, TERRORIST FINANCING AND PROLIFERATION FINANCING</p> <p>The Bailiwick of Guernsey has carried out its second National Risk Assessment (NRA) of the money laundering and terrorist financing risks presented by individual sectors and products within the jurisdiction. As with the first NRA, the finding of the second NRA with regard to money laundering risks is that, as an international finance centre with a low domestic crime rate, Guernsey's greatest money laundering risks come from the laundering of the proceeds of foreign criminality. The money laundering risks from domestic criminality, while much lower, primarily arise from drug trafficking and fraud. Also consistent with the first NRA, the finding of the second NRA with regard to terrorist financing risks is that the greatest risks come from the jurisdiction's cross-border business being used to support foreign terrorism, by funds being passed through or administered from Guernsey. However, this risk is much lower than the money laundering risks. The assessment of the risks of financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction finds that the risks are the same or lower than the jurisdiction's terrorist financing risks.</p> <p>https://www.gov.gg/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=174174&p=0</p>

25	5	ROMANIA	<p>The main findings and conclusions of the Romania ML/TF National Risk Assessment (NRA) was published on [22/November/2022]</p> <p>RO: http://www.onpcsb.ro/pdf/Rezumat%20NRA%20Public.pdf</p> <p>EN: http://www.onpcsb.ro/pdf/Summary%20of%20the%20National%20Risk%20Assessment%20Report%20on%20Money%20Laundering%20and%20Terrorism%20Financing.pdf</p>
26	6	^	Specific guidelines, guides, instructions or warnings
27	6	RO ANI	<p>[09/January/2024] Romania - Integrity National Agency updated the list of PEP functions</p> <p>The list of Romanian prominent public functions managed by National Integrity Agency has been updated.</p> <p>https://www.integritate.eu/Files/Files/Lista_functii/00%20Lista%20functiilor%20importante.pdf</p>
28	6	US OFAC	<p>[03/January/2024] Guidance for Foreign Financial Institutions on OFAC Sanctions Authorities Targeting Support to Russia's Military-Industrial Base</p> <p>OFAC issued this advisory to provide guidance to foreign financial institutions on the amendments to E.O. 14024, including practical guidance on how to identify sanctions risks and implement corresponding controls.</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/media/932436/download?inline</p>
29	7	^	Warnings, fines and convictions for violating the KYC/AML/CTF/FiSa/Compliance legislation in financial market

30	7	USDFS	<p>[12/January/2024] \$8 Million Penalty Against Genesis Global Trading, Inc. After DFS Investigation Finds Significant Failings in Anti-Money Laundering and Cybersecurity Programs</p> <p>New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS) announced that Genesis Global Trading will pay an \$8 million penalty to New York State for compliance failures that violated DFS’s virtual currency and cybersecurity regulations and left the company vulnerable to illicit activity and cybersecurity threats. Under Superintendent Harris, the Department has imposed its first penalties against virtual currency companies, to date levying more than \$140 million to hold companies accountable.</p> <p>https://www.dfs.ny.gov/reports_and_publications/press_releases/pr2024011224</p>
31	7	USSEC	<p>[12/January/2024] SEC Charges Morgan Stanley and Former Executive Pawan Passi with Fraud in Block Trading Business</p> <p>The Securities and Exchange Commission today charged investment banking Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC and the former head of its equity syndicate desk, Pawan Passi, with a multi-year fraud involving the disclosure of confidential information about the sale of large quantities of stock known as “block trades.” The SEC also charged Morgan Stanley with failing to enforce its policies concerning the misuse of material non-public information related to block trades.</p> <p>Firm agrees to pay more than \$249 million to settle fraud charges and for failing to enforce information barriers.</p> <p>https://www.sec.gov/news/press-release/2024-6</p>
32	7	lingCommi	<p>[10/January/2024] £6m fine for online operator Gamesys</p> <p>Gamesys Operations Limited which operates 12 websites including ballycasino.co.uk, doublebubblebingo.com and jackpotjoy.com, will pay a £6 million penalty after a Commission investigation revealed social responsibility and Anti-Money Laundering (AML) failings.</p> <p>https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/news/article/gbp6m-fine-for-online-operator-gamesys</p>
33	8	^	<p>Law enforcement actions for money laundering and international sanctions crimes</p>

34	8	UKNCA	<p>[12/January/2024] Two more convictions in £100 million 'cash in suitcases' conspiracy</p> <p>Two men from London have become the fifteenth and sixteenth members of a £100m+ money laundering network to be convicted, following a major National Crime Agency investigation into cash smuggling from the UK to the UAE. They were part of a network which smuggled more than £104 million during 83 separate London to Dubai trips between November 2019 and October 2020.</p> <p>https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/two-more-convictions-in-100-million-cash-in-suitcases-conspiracy</p>
35	8	US DOJ	<p>[10/January/2024] SAP to Pay Over \$220M to Resolve Foreign Bribery Investigations</p> <p>SAP SE (SAP), a publicly traded global software company based in Germany, will pay over \$220 million to resolve investigations by the U.S. Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) into violations of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/sap-pay-over-220m-resolve-foreign-bribery-investigations</p>
36	8	US DOJ	<p>[04/January/2024] Sentences for Wire Fraud and Money Laundering Conspiracy</p> <p>Pierre Yvelt Almonor, 51, of Miami Gardens, Florida, was sentenced to 51 months in prison followed by two years of supervised release for his role in a conspiracy to launder the proceeds of an e-compromise scheme -business email that defrauded law firms and other companies of more than \$1 million.</p> <p>A business email compromise scheme, or BEC, is a sophisticated scam, often targeting businesses involved in wire transfer payments. The fraud is carried out by fraudsters compromising and/or "spoofing" legitimate business email accounts through social engineering or computer intrusion techniques, to cause employees of the victim company or other individuals involved in legitimate business transactions to transfer funds to accounts controlled by the scammers.</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdnc/pr/florida-man-sentenced-money-laundering-stemming-business-email-compromise-scheme</p>

37	8	USDOJ	<p>[03/January/2024] Nigerian National Arrested In Ghana Facing Federal Charges For An Alleged \$7.5 Million Business Email Compromise Scheme Involving Two Charitable Organizations</p> <p>Olusegun Samson Adejorin, of Nigeria, is charged with wire fraud, aggravated identity theft and unauthorized access to a protected computer related to a \$7.5 million scheme to defraud two charities by impersonating employees and gaining access to employee email accounts.</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/usao-md/pr/nigerian-national-arrested-ghana-facing-federal-charges-alleged-75-million-business</p>
38	9	^	Threats, alerts and typologies
39			Nothing relevant during this period
40	10	^	Corruption Perception Indices and Country Reports
41	10	Transparency International	<p>2022 Corruption Perceptions Index 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&EU is 66, with max Denmark 90 and min Hungary 42.</p> <p>https://images.transparencycdn.org/images/Report_CPI2022_English.pdf</p>
42	11	^	Mutual evaluation reports or lists of states or jurisdictions that have KYC/AML/CTF deficiencies

43	11	FATF	<p>FATF lists have been updated on [27/October/2023]</p> <p>FATF has reviewed and published :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- the lists of jurisdictions subject to a Call for Action(BLACK), list remained unchanged : North Korea; Iran; Myanmar;- list of jurisdictions under Increased Monitoring(GREY), the updates are: Albania, Cayman I, Jordan and Panama exit; enter in the list : Bulgaria. The grey list contains 23 countries : 1/Barbados 2/ Bulgaria 4/Burkina Faso 3/Cameroon 4/Congo D.R. 5/Croatia 6/Gibraltar 7/Haiti 8/Jamaica 9/Mali 10/Mozambique 11/Nigeria 12/Panama 13/Philippines 14/Senegal 15/South Africa 16/South Sudan 17/Syria 18/Tanzania 19/Turcia 20/Uganda 21/United Arab Emirates 22/Vietnam 23/Yemen <p>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/High-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/Increased-monitoring-october-2023.html</p> <p>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/publications/High-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/Call-for-action-october-2023.html</p>
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44	11	EU	<p>The EU Commission has issued a new regulation amending Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1675 to be published in the Official Journal. Cayman Island and Jordan were removed from the list https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=C(2023)8595&lang=en</p> <p>The EU list of high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies has been updated on [18/October/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. 2023/2070 as follows: NO exit; New entries: Cameroon & Vietnam</p> <p>The list contains 29 countries : 1/Afghanistan(2016) 2/South Africa (2023) 3/Barbados(2020) 4/Burkina Faso(2022) 5/Cameroon(2023) 6/Cayman I.(2022) 7/D.R.Congo(2023) 8/Filipine(2022) 9/Gibraltar(2023) 10/Haiti(2022) 11/Jordan(2022) 12/Jamaica(2020) 13/Mali(2022) 14/Myanmar(2020) 15/Mozambique(2023) 16/Nigeria(2023) 17/Panama(2020) 18/Senegal(2022) 19/Syria(2016) 20/South Sudan(2022) 21/Trinidad and Tobago(2018) 22/Tanzania (2023) 23/Uganda(2016) 24/Vanuatu(2016) 25/Vietnam(2023) 26/Yemen(2016) 27/United Arab Emirates(2023) 28/Iran(2016) 29/D.P.R.Korea(2016)</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2023/2070/oj</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1675</p>
45	11	EU	<p>EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes has been updated on [17/October/2023]</p> <p>The EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes has been updated. Antigua and Barbuda, Belize and Seychelles were added, British Virgin Islands, Costa Rica and Marshall Islands were removed. The black list contains the following countries: 1/ American Samoa 2/ Anguila 3/ Antigua & Barbuda 4/ Bahamas 5/ Belize 6/ Fiji 7/ Guam 8/ Palau 9/ Panama 10/ Rusia 11/ Samoa 12/ Seychelles 13/ Trinidad & Tobago 14/ Turk & Caicos I. 15/ US Virgin I. 16/ Vanuatu For the grey list see Annex II</p> <p>https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/67379/st13879-en23.pdf</p>

46	11	Moneyval	<p>Romania MONEYVAL Mutual Evaluation Report [18/July/2023]</p> <p>The report provides a comprehensive assessment of the country's level of compliance with standards set by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). MONEYVAL notes that Romania has achieved moderate levels of effectiveness in all areas assessed except for international cooperation, where it has achieved a substantial level of effectiveness and has been commended by other countries for its constructive assistance. MONEYVAL's mutual evaluation of Romania highlights that the country demonstrates a fair understanding of ML risks and, to a lesser degree, of TF risks. Romania needs to immediately start implementing mitigating actions that target the highest risks to which the country is exposed.</p> <p>https://rm.coe.int/moneyval-2023-5-mer-romania/1680abfd1c</p>
47	12	^	Relevant information from credible and reliable organizations
48	12	Wolfsberg Group	<p>[11/January/2024] Wolfsberg Guidance on Swift Relationship Management Application (RMA) Due Diligence</p> <p>The Wolfsberg Group revised the guidance on Swift RMA due diligence in light of ISO 20022 migration.</p> <p>https://db.wolfsberg-group.org/assets/ed52141f-81ce-4cdf-9815-ceff95cb941c/Swift%20RMA%20Guidance.pdf</p>
49	12	Transparency International	<p>[03/January/2023] TEN YEARS OF UK-RUSSIAN TRADE-BASED MONEY LAUNDERING: A COLLECTION OF LONG STORIES</p> <p>This paper analyses for the first time criminal cases of trade-based money laundering (TBML) between Russia and the UK over the last ten years. It looks at how the illicit transactions took place, who the main actors were and through which systems, goods or services the transactions were carried out. In addition, the analysis sheds light on previously unknown cases and suggests what we can expect in the future.</p> <p>https://ti-russia.org/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/12/ten-years-of-uk-russian-tbml.pdf</p>
50	13	^	Information from statistical organizations and academia & others
51			Nothing of relevance during this time period

52	14	^	Relevant information on ML/FT risks from mass - media
53	14	Mass - media	<p>[13/January/2024] Commentary: Case of director of 980 companies drives home a problem for business-friendly Singapore</p> <p>Can a person reasonably be a director of 980 companies, even without going into whether this should raise red flags for regulators? That staggering number jumped out for many when one such Singaporean was sentenced to four weeks' jail and fined S\$57,000 in December last year, for multiple charges including failing to exercise his duties as a nominee director. Two of the companies were found to be used for money laundering. If not 980, how about 185 companies? This was the case of another Singaporean, who was reportedly director and shareholder for multiple companies, including several linked to the S\$2.8 billion money laundering scandal that has been the talk of the town since last September.</p> <p>https://www.channelnewsasia.com/commentary/director-980-companies-money-laundering-abuse-business-4042861</p>
54	14	Mass - media	<p>[12/January/2024] JPMorgan CEO Denounces Bitcoin as Valueless, Citing Illicit Uses, Despite Firm's Role in BlackRock's Bitcoin ETF</p> <p>In his latest critique of Bitcoin, Jamie Dimon, CEO of JPMorgan, has reiterated his skepticism towards the cryptocurrency. The bank chief coupled his concerns with a caution about a possible recession within the year. Dimon said the appeal of cryptocurrencies lies partly in their anonymous nature and the difficulty in tracing transactions.</p> <p>https://www.ccn.com/news/jpmorgan-ceo-denounces-bitcoin-valueless-citing-illicit-uses-despite-firm-role-blackrock-etf/</p>

55	14	Mass - media	<p>[11/January/2024] Gary Gensler's Begrudging Bitcoin ETF Concession: 'We Did Not Approve or Endorse Bitcoin'</p> <p>U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chair Gary Gensler conceded that the regulator's loss in court over rejecting Grayscale's application for a spot bitcoin exchange-traded fund (ETF) left it little recourse but to approve about a dozen such proposals. Gensler called the approvals "the most sustainable path forward" in a statement issued just after the agency issued the decisions eagerly awaited by the crypto industry and investors. "We did not approve or endorse bitcoin," Gensler said. "Investors should remain cautious about the myriad risks associated with bitcoin and products whose value is tied to crypto."</p> <p>https://finance.yahoo.com/news/did-not-approve-endorse-bitcoin-220707169.html</p>
56	14	Mass - media	<p>[11/January/2024] Law firm Clyde & Co fined \$635K for breaching UK money laundering rules</p> <p>Global law firm Clyde & Co was fined 500,000 pounds (\$635,613) for multiple breaches of money laundering regulations relating to a long-standing client. The London-founded firm admitted it failed to conduct adequate due diligence on a shipping industry client – identified only as Company A – in relation to 14 transactions between 2014 and 2018. Clyde & Co said in a statement that it "sincerely regrets any compliance failings", which it said it identified in 2018 and reported to the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA). A spokesperson added that the firm has since "significantly enhanced our risk management and regulatory compliance capabilities". Clyde & Co's 500,000-pound fine equals the previous record SRA fine imposed on Dallas-based law firm Locke Lord in 2017.</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/legal/legalindustry/law-firm-clyde-co-fined-635k-breaching-uk-money-laundering-rules-2024-01-11/</p>

57	14	Mass - media	<p>[10/January/2024] Former TD employee charged with money laundering, accepting bribes in drug-trafficking case</p> <p>A former Toronto-Dominion Bank TD-T employee at a New Jersey branch allegedly accepted bribes and helped to shuttle millions of dollars in drug-trafficking proceeds from the United States to Colombia through accounts linked to shell companies, according to documents filed in a New Jersey court. A criminal complaint filed by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reveals details of potential weaknesses in TD's anti-money-laundering controls as Canada's second-largest lender faces the prospect of significant penalties stemming from an investigation by U.S. law enforcement and regulatory authorities.</p> <p>https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-td-bank-employee-money-laundering/</p>
58	14	Mass - media	<p>[08/January/2024] Morgan Stanley and Allen & Overy helping oligarch's efforts to seize Russian oil firm</p> <p>An oligarch who has supplied building materials to the Russian military machine and for construction in occupied areas of Ukraine is being assisted by Morgan Stanley and Allen & Overy in his attempt to gain control of a huge Russian oil asset, the Guardian can reveal. Sergey Kolesnikov, originally from Russia but now a Maltese citizen under its "golden passport" scheme is estimated to be worth \$1.2bn (£940m) as a result of the building materials business he co-founded. Only Poland has imposed sanctions on the 51-year-old but Ukraine has included him on its list of people it wants the EU to use sanctions against.</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/business/2024/jan/08/morgan-stanley-allen-overy-helping-oligarch-efforts-seize-russian-oil-firm-sergey-kolesnikov</p>
59	14	Mass - media	<p>[08/January/2024] Canada's anti-money laundering body to leverage AI bets to crack down on bad actors</p> <p>Canada's anti-money laundering agency is increasing its reliance on artificial intelligence (AI) to detect suspicious transactions, betting the use of the latest technology will help better fight financial crimes, a top official said. FINTRAC's Deputy Director for Supervision Donna Achimov told Reuters that AI is allowing humans who have the right mindset to analyze much more data than ever before and making it easier to detect more suspicious activity.</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/canadas-anti-money-laundering-body-leverage-ai-bets-crack-down-bad-actors-2024-01-08/</p>

60	14	Mass - media	<p>[05/January/2024] US offers up to \$10M reward for info that derails Hamas financial network</p> <p>The Department of State is offering rewards of up to \$10 million for information that will lead to the disruption of the financial network of the terror group Hamas amid its ongoing war with Israel. The department's Rewards for Justice program is looking for information on five financial facilitators who help manage Hamas's investment portfolios and aid the group's activities. They are looking for information on Amer Kama Sharif Alshawa, Ahmed Sadu Jahleb and Walid Mohammed Mustafa Jadallah, who are operatives and part of Hamas's network in Turkey. They also seek information on Abdelbasit Hamza Elhassan Mohamed Khair in Sudan and Muhammad Ahmad 'Abd Al-Dayim Nasrallah.</p> <p>https://news.yahoo.com/us-offers-10m-reward-derails-161620361.html</p>
61	14	Mass - media	<p>[05/January/2024] Gold-mining company sacks CEO over 'serious misconduct' allegations</p> <p>The gold producer Endeavour Mining has fired its chief executive, Sébastien de Montessus, for alleged "serious misconduct" over allegations of an "irregular payment" of \$5.9m (£4.7m). London-headquartered Endeavour said it was also investigating whistleblower allegations made against De Montessus "relating to his personal conduct with colleagues". Shares in the company fell by 12% on Friday, making it the biggest faller on the FTSE 100.</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/business/2024/jan/05/endeavour-mining-sacks-ceo-over-serious-misconduct-allegations</p>
62	14	Mass - media	<p>[03/January/2024] JPMorgan CEO Denounces Bitcoin as Valueless, Citing Illicit Uses, Despite Firm's Role in BlackRock's Bitcoin ETF</p> <p>In his latest critique of Bitcoin, Jamie Dimon, CEO of JPMorgan, has reiterated his skepticism towards the cryptocurrency. The bank chief coupled his concerns with a caution about a possible recession within the year. Dimon said the appeal of cryptocurrencies lies partly in their anonymous nature and the difficulty in tracing transactions.</p> <p>https://www.digi24.ro/stiri/actualitate/investigatie-hotnews-ro-cum-se-obtine-cetatenia-romana-cu-acte-false-pe-axa-ucraina-romania-2636575</p>
63	15	^	Legislative initiatives and changes
64	14		Nothing of relevance during this time period

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*) 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.

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