



S.C. AS Financial Markets SRL
 România, Sibiu 550400, P-ța Crișan nr.1
 Nr. ORC J32/493/31.05.2013 CUI 31725262
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#	Source	The most important events of the period 16/12/2023 - 31/12/2023
1	1	Emerging trends and risks
2		Nothing of relevance during this time period
3	2	Warnings and reports, thematic analyzes of national and international authorities
4	2	<p>EUROPO L</p> <p>18/December/2023] Online Jihadist Propaganda - 2022 in review</p> <p>This report is the fifth edition of the annual review of online jihadist propaganda. It analyses the major trends and developments in the propaganda of the most prominent Sunni jihadist organisations – the self-proclaimed Islamic State (IS) and al-Qaeda (AQ) – as well as their branches and offshoots. The review addresses the trajectories of these groups, and how they have responded to shifting dynamics and attempted to overcome setbacks. It further identifies the dominant themes and types of productions exploited by the two groups during this period, while highlighting changes in key areas related to online jihadist propaganda, such as main narratives and the abuse of technology for propaganda dissemination. In order to shed light on changes in the groups’ narratives and online communication patterns, the research examined primary sources, including the groups’ operational claims, publications, statements, videos and audio speeches.</p> <p>https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/Online_jihadist_propaganda_2022_in_review.pdf</p>
5	3	<p>Terrorism and International Sanctions updates</p>
6	3	<p>US</p> <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>



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7	3	EU	<p>European Union Consolidated Financial Sanctions List https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fsd/fsf/public/files/pdfFullSanctionsList/content?token=n002g3ky https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/consolidated-list-of-persons-groups-and-entities-subject-to-eu-financial-sanctions?locale=en</p>
8	3	UN	<p>United Nations Security Council Consolidated List https://scsanctions.un.org/consolidated/</p>
9	3	EU	<p>[29/December/2023] COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2023/2920 of 21 December 2023 amending Regulation (EU) 2022/2578 as regards the prolongation of its period of application</p> <p>Regarding the temporary market correction mechanism ('MCM') for orders placed for trading derivatives linked to the Union's virtual trading points ('VTPs') with maturities between month-ahead and year-ahead. Considering the gas prices are still considerably higher than they were prior to the beginning of the crisis in Europe following Russia's weaponisation of energy and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, with inevitable consequences on Union citizens' purchasing power and on the competitiveness of Union businesses, the prolongation stated within Regulation (EU) 2022/2578 is extended by one year, until 31 January 2025.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R2920</p>
10	3	EU	<p>[29/December/2023] COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2023/2919 amending Regulation (EU) 2022/2576 as regards the prolongation of its period of application</p> <p>Regarding the gas supply crisis caused by Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine and the need for the Union to respond with temporary measures in a spirit of solidarity between Member States. Extends the application of Regulation (EU) 2022/2576 by one year, until December 31, 2024.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R2919</p>



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11	3	US	<p>[28/December/2023] Counter Terrorism Designations</p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (added) with 1 individual and 3 entities responsible for facilitating the flow of Iranian financial assistance to Houthi forces and their destabilizing activities.</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20231228</p>
12	3	EU	<p>[22/December/2023] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/2905 implementing Regulation (EC) No 1183/2005 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo</p> <p>2 persons deleted and 2 persons added to the list of individuals and entities subject to restrictive measures.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R2905</p>
13	3	US	<p>[20/December/2023] Russia-related Designations; Counter Narcotics Designations Removals; Issuance of Russia-related General Licenses</p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (added) with 1 vessel and 4 entities based in Hong Kong and UAE.</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20231220</p>
14	3	EU	<p>[20/December/2023] Judgment of the General Court in Case T-313/22 - Abramovich v Council</p> <p>General Court of the European Union dismissed the action brought by Mr Roman Arkadyevich Abramovich and upheld the restrictive measures taken against him</p> <p>https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2023-12/cp230195en.pdf</p>
15	3	US	<p>[19/December/2023] Iran-related Designations; Non-Proliferation Designations</p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (added) with 4 individuals and 10 entities based in Iran, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Indonesia supporting Iran's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) production.</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20231219</p>



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16	3	EU	<p>[19/December/2023] COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2023/2877 amending Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria</p> <p>In order to respond to the continuing urgency of the humanitarian crisis in Syria, which has been exacerbated by the earthquake, and with a view to facilitating the rapid delivery of aid and providing predictability and legal certainty for certain defined categories of actors involved in humanitarian activities in Syria benefiting from the exemption adopted in Decision (CFSP) 2023/408 and Regulation (EU) 2023/407, the exemption was extended until 1 June 2024, in line with the current end date of the application of Decision 2013/255/CFSP.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R2877</p>
17	3	US	<p>[19/December/2023] Iran-related Designations; Non-Proliferation Designations</p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (added) with 4 individuals and 10 entities based in Iran, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Indonesia supporting Iran's unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) production.</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20231219</p>



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18	3	EU	<p>[18/December/20203] COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2023/2878 amending Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine</p> <p>COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/2874 amending Decision 2014/512/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine</p> <p>The 12th package of sanctions against Russia - additional import and export bans on Russia and combat sanctions circumvention :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-import ban on Russian diamonds: import restrictions on non-industrial diamonds, mined, processed, or produced, in Russia.-import ban on raw materials for steel production, processed aluminium products and other metal goods-export restrictions: additional export restrictions on dual-use and advanced technological and industrial goods-new export controls on dual use/advanced tech, including chemicals, thermostats, DC motors and servomotors for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), machine tools and machinery parts.-new export bans on EU industrial goods, including machinery and parts, construction-related goods, processed steel, copper and aluminium goods, lasers, and batteries.-addition of 29 Russian and third country entities to the list of entities associated to Russia's military-industrial complex (including entities registered in Uzbekistan and Singapore).-prohibition to provide enterprise and design-related software to the Russian government or Russian companies.-new measures to more closely monitor the sale of tankers to third countries, as well as require more detailed attestation requirements.-new import ban on liquified petroleum gas (LPG), impacting annual imports worth over €1 billion, with grandfathering of existing contracts for a period of maximum 12 months-obligation for operators to contractually prohibit the re-export of certain categories of sensitive goods to Russia, including goods related to aviation, jet fuel, firearms and goods on the Common High Priority list.-introduction of a new measure that will require the notification of certain transfers of funds out of the EU from EU entities directly or indirectly owned by more than 40% by Russians or entities established in Russia. <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R2878</p>
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19	3	EU	<p>[18/December/2023] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2023/2875 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>61 persons and 86 entities responsible for actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine should be added to the list of persons, entities and bodies subject to restrictive measures set out in Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 269/2014. See PDF version to find the list.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R2875</p>
20	3	EU	<p>[18/December/2023] COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2023/2873 amending 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>COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2023/2871 amending Decision 2014/145/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine</p> <p>New listing criterion: -new listing criterion to include persons who benefit from the forced transfer of ownership or control over Russian subsidiaries of EU companies -possibility to keep deceased persons on the asset freeze list, in order to prevent the freezing measure from potentially being undermined.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023R2873</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32023D2871</p>
21	3	EU	<p>[16/December/2023] COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2023/2616 of 15 September 2023 amending Regulation (EU) 2021/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the list of dual-use items</p> <p>Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2021/821 establishes the common list of dual-use items has been updated.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202302616</p>
22	4	^	<p>EU ML/TF SupraNational Risk Assessment</p>



23	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>
24	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>
25	5	^	Information and assessments by national authorities on risks at national level
26	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 EN: http://www.onpcsb.ro/pdf/Summary%20of%20the%20National%20Risk%20Assessment%20Report%20on%20Money%20Laundering%20and%20Terrorism%20Financing.pdf</p>
27	6	^	Specific guidelines, guides, instructions or warnings
28	6	UK	<p>[22/December/2023] Complying with professional and business services sanctions related to Russia - Updated Guidance</p> <p>This Guide contains information on services sanctions in the Russia (Sanctions) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 ('the Russia Regulations'). It also sets out guidance on applying for licences and considers what information to include in the cover letter of licence applications related to the prohibitions in regulation 54C and 54D of the Russia Regulations.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/professional-and-business-services-to-a-person-connected-with-russia/professional-and-business-services-to-a-person-connected-with-russia</p>



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29	6	US	<p>[20/December/2023] US Treasury Tightens the Price Cap - Updated Guidance</p> <p>OFAC in coordination with the Price Cap Coalition, updated the Guidance on Implementation of the Price Cap Policy for Crude Oil and Petroleum Products of Russian Federation Origin. These actions are in line with commitments made by Leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) on December 6, 2023 to tighten compliance and enforcement of the price cap policy on Russian oil, including by imposing sanctions on those engaged in deceptive practices and by updating compliance rules and regulations as necessary.</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/media/931036/download?inline</p>
30	6	EUROPE	<p>[19/December/2023] Online fraud schemes: a web of deceit (IOCTA 2023)</p> <p>The Spotlight Report 'Online fraud schemes: a web of deceit', looks into online fraud schemes, a major crime threat in the EU and beyond. Online fraud schemes comprise a wide range of criminal activities that are exclusively or primarily perpetrated online or via computers. Fraudsters generate multiple billions in illicit profits every year to the detriment of individuals, companies and public institutions.</p> <p>https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/Spotlight-Report_Online-fraud-schemes.pdf</p>
31	6	EU	<p>[22/December/2023] European Commission updated numerous FAQs related to the Russia sanctions regime.</p> <p>The updates cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">22 December 2023 : Divestment from Russia22 December 2023 : Transit of listed goods via Russia22 December 2023 : Imports, purchase and transfer of listed goods22 December 2023 : Transit of listed goods via Russia18 December 2023 : Twelfth package of restrictive measures against Russia <p>https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_23_6642</p> <p>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</p> <p>https://finance.ec.europa.eu/document/download/66e8fd7d-8057-4b9b-96c2-5e54bf573cd1_en?filename=faqs-sanctions-russia-consolidated_en.pdf</p>



32	6	LU CSSF	<p>[18/December/2023] UPDATE - FAQ Virtual Assets – Undertakings for collective investment</p> <p>The list of questions & answers (FAQs) in relation to virtual assets with the aim of providing investment professionals with concise answers to the main practical issues they are facing has been updated</p> <p>https://www.cssf.lu/wp-content/uploads/FAQ_Virtual_Assets_UCI.pdf</p>
33	7	^	<p>Warnings, fines and convictions for violating the KYC/AML/CTF/FiSa/ Compliance legislation in financial market</p>
34	7	USDOJ	<p>[28/December/2023] NuDay Charity Sentenced for Illegal Exports to Syria</p> <p>The New Hampshire charity NuDay, was sentenced for export offenses to five years of probation, the maximum penalty for an organizational defendant. NuDay was also ordered to pay a \$25,000 fine. On September 8, 2023, NuDay pleaded guilty to three counts of Failure to File Export Information. Between 2018 and 2021, NuDay made over 100 shipments to Syria, a country that was subject to sanctions and export restrictions. NuDay claimed that these shipments were worth over \$100 million. NuDay had the items shipped to Mersin, Turkey, where another company would transship them into Syria. U.S. Department of Commerce regulations require exporters, such as NuDay, to report true and accurate information about the items being exported, including the shipment’s description, end user, and monetary value. However, NuDay falsely reported that the end destination of the shipments was Turkey and not Syria, and artificially deflated the value of the goods to be below the \$2,500 reporting threshold.</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/usao-nh/pr/nuday-charity-sentenced-illegal-exports-syria</p>



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35	7	USDOJ	<p>[22/December/2023] Founder Of Cryptocurrency Ponzi Scheme "IcomTech" Pleads Guilty</p> <p>DAVID CARMONA pleaded guilty for his role in founding and promoting a large-scale cryptocurrency Ponzi scheme known as IcomTech. IcomTech was an alleged cryptocurrency mining and trading company that promised to profit from investor-victims in exchange for their purchase of alleged cryptocurrency-related investment products. In reality, IcomTech did not engage in cryptocurrency trading or mining for its investors, and CARMONA and other IcomTech promoters used victim funds to pay other victims, further promote the schemes, and enrich themselves.</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/founder-cryptocurrency-ponzi-scheme-icomtech-pleads-guilty</p>
36	7	RONBR	<p>[22/December/2023] Banca Transilvania S.A. sanctioned with warning</p> <p>Banca Transilvania S.A. has been sanctioned with warning by National Bank of Romania (Order of the First Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Romania no. 120/27.11.2023) for the following breaches of the KYC/AML/CFT legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-inadequate application of standard know-your-customer measures relating to identifying the beneficial owner and taking reasonable steps to verify the identity of the beneficial owner.-inadequate application of standard know-your-customer measures consisting of continuous monitoring of the business relationship, including updating the data and information held on the customer with the frequency set out in the internal regulations to ensure that they are up-to-date and relevant-failure to develop adequate analysis/control tools on some operational activities carried out at the level of support functions or AML functions.-failure to comply with/improper implementation of supervisory measures imposed on the credit institution by order of the First Deputy Governor of the National Bank of Romania. <p>https://www.bnr.ro/Sanc%C8%9Biuni-emise-de-BNR-pentru-nerespectarea-legisla%C8%9Biei-incidente--20132.aspx#peloc</p>



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37	7	OFAC	<p>[21/December/2023] OFAC Settles with Privilege Underwriters Reciprocal Exchange for \$466,200 Related to Apparent Violations of the Ukraine-/Russia-Related Sanctions Regulations</p> <p>The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) announced a \$466,200 settlement with Privilege Underwriters Reciprocal Exchange (PURE). PURE agreed to settle its potential civil liability for 39 apparent violations of OFAC's Ukraine-/Russia-Related sanctions. Between May 2018 and July 2020, PURE engaged in transactions related to four insurance policies involving a blocked Panama-based company owned by Specially Designated National Viktor Vekselberg (Vekselberg). The settlement amount reflects OFAC's determination that PURE's apparent violations were not voluntarily self-disclosed and were non-egreious.</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/media/932486/download?inline</p>
38	7	USDOJ	<p>[21/December/2023] Former Swiss Executive Pleads Guilty to Tax Fraud Conspiracy</p> <p>Rolf Schnellmann the former head of Allied Finance Trust AG, a Zurich-based financial services company and a subsidiary of the Allied Finance Group in Liechtenstein, pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud the United States for his role in a scheme to help high-net-worth U.S. taxpayers conceal their income and assets in offshore accounts.</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-swiss-executive-pleads-guilty-tax-fraud-conspiracy</p>
39	7	UKNCA	<p>[18/December/2023] Banker charged with bribery</p> <p>A former Director of Corporate Banking at First Bank of Nigeria (UK) has been charged with a bribery offence following a National Crime Agency investigation. Adetunji Fadahunsi-Jones, aged 45, of Hertfordshire, led the bank's relationship with a prominent businessman in the Nigerian oil, gas and petroleum industry, who is also subject to NCA investigation. The NCA suspects that he accepted bribes including money and a vehicle while working for FBN (UK), and in return overlooked the conduct of the account holder. This would have been in breach of his duties and code of conduct of his employment, and an offence under Section 2 of the Bribery Act 2010.</p> <p>https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/banker-charged-with-bribery</p>
40	8	^	Law enforcement actions for money laundering and international sanctions crimes



41	8	EPPO	<p>[22/December/2023] Romania: Four charged with fraud involving funds for young farmers from diaspora</p> <p>European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in Bucharest (Romania) filed an indictment at the Bucharest Tribunal against four Romanian citizens, for fraud and forgery of documents involving funding for young farmers from the diaspora. At issue are EU funds aimed at supporting young farmers living abroad, to help them come back to work in the agricultural sector in Romania. In order to obtain this support, the candidates had to certify that they had had a job in agriculture, veterinary, the agri-food sector or in the agrarian economy, outside Romania's borders, for at least three months, in the two years prior to submitting the application. In June 2021, the defendants submitted an application to obtain non-reimbursable funds from the EU budget to the amount of €120 000 (RON 584 196).</p> <p>https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/news/romania-four-charged-fraud-involving-funds-young-farmers-diaspora</p>
42	9	^	Threats, alerts and typologies
43			Nothing relevant during this period
44	10	^	Corruption Perception Indices and Country Reports
45	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>
46	11	^	Mutual evaluation reports or lists of states or jurisdictions that have KYC/AML/CTF deficiencies



47	11	FATF	<p>[21/December/2023] FATF consolidated countries assessment ratings</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>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/fatf-gafi/en/publications/Mutualevaluations/Assessment-ratings.html</p>
48	11	FATF	<p>[21/December/2023] Lebanon's measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing</p> <p>Lebanon has no clear policy in place to identify, freeze and confiscate the proceeds of crime on regular basis. On this note, competent authorities have not demonstrated their pursuit to confiscate criminal proceeds as a policy objective or as part of their criminal justice system, given that they were not able to convert the preventive measures regarding freezing and seizure into a final ML confiscation, except for one case, despite the good legal framework in place (the National Fund for the Management and Investment of Assets under Recovery or Recovered Related to Crimes and Proceeds during the freezing or seizure phase) . In addition, there is no clear policy or measures to identify the priorities of recovering the assets held or moved to other jurisdictions, considering the related risks. In this context, confiscations in Lebanon were limited only to local predicate offenses.</p> <p>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/srb-mer/MENAFATF-MER-Lebanon-2023.pdf.coredownload.inline.pdf</p>
49	11	FATF	<p>[21/December/2023] Brazil's measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing</p> <p>The FATF/GAFILAT mutual evaluation report of Brazil underscores the country's improved international cooperation, risk assessment, and policy coordination since the last evaluation in 2010. However, key challenges remain, including the need for enhanced cooperation and coordination among authorities, particularly the Police, Prosecution Authority, and Tax Office. The country also needs to show major improvements to prosecution of money laundering, including to tackle environmental crimes and laundering of proceeds. As a major economy in the world, Brazil has the largest banking and securities sectors in South America and as a result, is exposed to various cross-border threats, further aggravated by the porosity of the borders.</p> <p>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/mer/Brazil-Mutual-Evaluation-2023.pdf.coredownload.inline.pdf</p>



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50	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>
51	11	EU	<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>



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52	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>
53	11	Moneyva I	<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-amer-romania/1680abfd1c</p>
54	12	^	Relevant information from credible and reliable organizations



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55	12	OCCRP	<p>[21/December/2023] Central Asian Cotton Powers Russia's Sanctioned Gunpowder Plants</p> <p>Sanctions have complicated Russia's effort to secure foreign-made military technology. But when it comes to sourcing the inputs for gunpowder — the explosive powering the army's relentless artillery fire — Moscow can still rely on two Central Asian neighbors who have ramped up exports of cotton pulp, a key ingredient, since the invasion.</p> <p>While Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have officially taken a neutral stance on the war in Ukraine, they have increased exports of cotton pulp, a key ingredient in gunpowder, to Russia since the 2022 invasion. The cotton pulp has been bought by Russian importers who supply it to military factories specialized in producing gunpowder and other propellants, according to documents obtained by reporters. Some Uzbek suppliers have also sent direct shipments to the Russian plants.</p> <p>The Russian military plants receiving the Central Asian cotton pulp are sanctioned by Ukraine, the U.S., and Switzerland.</p> <p>https://www.occrp.org/en/investigations/central-asian-cotton-powers-russias-sanctioned-gunpowder-plants</p>
56	12	ICIJ	<p>[20/December/2023] Alleged Hamas financier holds stake in Cyprus company that mines Egyptian gold, leaked files reveal</p> <p>An accused financier of Hamas has extensive business ties in Europe and owns a stake in a lucrative Cyprus firm that mines Egyptian gold, a new investigation by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and the Israeli news outlet Shomrim reveals. Sudanese businessman Abdelbasit Hamza, an ally of former Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, was sanctioned by the United States in the aftermath of the Oct. 7 Hamas terror attack on Israel for managing Hamas' investments and for his involvement in the transfer of almost \$20 million to the organization, including funds sent directly to a senior Hamas financial officer.</p> <p>https://www.icij.org/investigations/cyprus-confidential/alleged-hamas-financier-holds-stake-in-cyprus-company-that-mines-egyptian-gold-leaked-files-reveal/</p>



57	12	OCCRP	<p>[19/December/2023] Glamorous Cyprus Resort's Investors Linked to Infamous 'Magnitsky Affair'</p> <p>A glitzy development built on an environmentally sensitive Cypriot coast was partly financed by companies owned by figures connected to the notorious Russian tax fraud. One of the first purchasers of a villa at the Cap St Georges luxury resort was a company owned by Dmitry Klyuev, who was identified by the U.S. as the alleged ringleader of a criminal group behind a huge tax fraud now known as the "Magnitsky Affair." One of the companies originally behind the resort was part-owned by Russian businessman Igor Sagiryan, whose Panamanian company received \$2 million from Klyuev-owned companies. These Klyuev-owned companies had themselves been paid by companies that received proceeds of the fraud, according to exhibits presented by the U.S. Department of Justice in a U.S. civil case.</p> <p>https://www.occrp.org/en/cyprus-confidential/glamorous-cyprus-resorts-investors-linked-to-infamous-magnitsky-affair</p>
58	13	^	Information from statistical organizations and academia & others
59			Nothing of relevance during this time period
60	14	^	Relevant information on ML/FT risks from mass - media
61	14	Mass-media	<p>[29/December/2023] Wirecard lawsuit against EY claims 1.5 billion euros in damages</p> <p>Accountancy firm EY is facing a new lawsuit claiming 1.5 billion euros (\$1.66 billion) in damages over its role in auditing Wirecard's books before the German payments company collapsed in 2020. It is one of several lawsuits EY is facing in the matter, including an investor suit filed last week claiming more than 700 million euros in damages.</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/wirecard-lawsuit-against-ey-claims-15-billion-euros-damages-2023-12-29/</p>



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62	14	Mass-media	<p>[29/December/2023] Hong Kong Customs detects first-ever money laundering case via transnational diamond trading</p> <p>Hong Kong Customs on Thursday announced that it has smashed a large-scale transnational money laundering syndicate that had laundered about 500 million Hong Kong dollars (about \$64 million), the first-ever money laundering case using transnational diamond trading detected by Customs. The investigation revealed that the syndicate members established diamond trading companies in both Hong Kong and India. The syndicate was suspected to have exported synthetic diamonds of low value from Hong Kong to India, but lodged a false declaration as natural diamonds of high value in 2021 in a bid to transfer significant amounts of suspicious funds from India to Hong Kong. The total amount of suspicious transactions reached 500 million Hong Kong dollars in the cited period.</p> <p>https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202312/29/WS658e18aaa31040ac301aa0b3.html</p>
63	14	Mass-media	<p>[29/December/2023] DFSA fines Dubai financial firm Dh5 million for inadequate compliance systems, controls</p> <p>Dubai's regulatory authority for financial services and products, Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA), said that it had imposed a fine of \$1.36 million (Dh5,023,375) on R.J. O'Brien (MENA) Capital Limited. The authority fined the company for a number of contraventions of DFSA legislation, including for having inadequate compliance systems and controls.</p> <p>https://gulfnews-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/gulfnews.com/amp/business/banking/dfsa-fines-dubai-financial-firm-dh5-million-for-inadequate-compliance-systems-controls-1.1703840544985</p>
64	14	Mass-media	<p>[26/December/2023] BNP Paribas caught up in French money laundering investigation</p> <p>French prosecutors have opened an investigation into alleged "aggravated money laundering" related to transfers made by a Cypriot brokerage firm that worked with BNP Paribas' custodian unit. The preliminary probe is focused on transfers worth several hundreds of millions of euros and dollars made by TCR International Limited between 2019 and 2021.</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/bnp-paribas-caught-up-french-money-laundering-investigation-le-monde-2023-12-26/</p>



65	14	Mass-media	<p>[24/December/2023] Remote gaming firm fined €223,000 over regulatory breaches</p> <p>A remote gaming operator has been fined nearly €223,000 after the Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit (FIAU) found it guilty of several regulatory breaches. Although Tranel International Limited had a policy regulating customer risk assessments, a significant portion of its customers who reached the €2,000 deposit threshold were not assigned a risk rating, the FIAU said in its decision following an off-site compliance examination carried out in October 2020. The company's failure to conduct documented assessments for the majority of its customer base not only constituted a breach of its obligations but also ham</p> <p>https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/remote-gaming-firm-fined-223000-regulatory-breaches.1073769</p>
66	14	Mass-media	<p>[24/December/2023] India arrests two senior employees of Chinese smartphone maker Vivo</p> <p>The arrests come two months after the Enforcement Directorate arrested four industry executives, including one Chinese national, working for Vivo's Indian unit in a case of alleged money laundering, charges the firm has denied. India has stepped up scrutiny of Chinese businesses and investments following a deadly border clash in 2020.</p> <p>https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/south-asia/article/3246139/india-arrests-two-senior-employees-chinese-smartphone-maker-vivo</p>
67	14	Mass-media	<p>[22/December/2023] To stem North Korea's missiles program, White House looks to its hackers</p> <p>The Biden administration has spent much of the last two years bracing key U.S. networks and infrastructure against crippling cyberattacks from Russia, Iran and China. But it is following a different playbook as it ramps up its efforts to thwart digital threats from North Korea: Follow the crypto — and stop it. Convinced North Korea primarily sees hacking as a way to funnel money back to the cash-strapped Kim Jong Un regime, the White House has focused on blocking the country's ability to launder the cryptocurrency it steals through its cyberattacks. In the last year, the administration has unveiled a flurry of sanctions against North Korean hacking groups, front companies and IT workers, and blacklisted multiple cryptocurrency services they use to launder stolen funds.</p> <p>https://www.politico.com/news/2023/12/21/north-korea-missiles-program-hackers-00132871</p>



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68	14	Mass-media	<p>[21/December/2023] Efama proposes SFDR overhaul for improved transparency</p> <p>The EU Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) improves sustainable finance transparency, yet its adoption as a de facto ESG labelling regime by market participants has strayed from its original purpose, posing challenges, according to the European Fund and Asset Management Association (Efama). Recommending solutions, Efama suggested that the European Commission's current review must focus on making SFDR provide clearer, more meaningful information for retail investors, promoting transition finance and aligning with other relevant legislation. Urgent corporate-level sustainable changes require a well-functioning regulatory framework, enabling sustainable investors to contribute more efficiently to economic and technological transitions, shared Efama. The body recommended implementing a categorisation system for financial products based on sustainability intentions, incorporating objective criteria, clear product descriptions, outlined ESG strategies and specified credible key performance indicators.</p> <p>https://www.funds-europe.com/news/efama-proposes-sfdr-overhaul-for-improved-transparency</p>
69	14	Mass-media	<p>[20/December/2023] Former governor of Bank of Latvia receives actual prison sentence</p> <p>Latvia - Riga District Court found former governor of the Bank of Latvia Ilmārs Rimšēvičs (2001-2019) guilty in the bribery criminal case and sentenced him to six years in prison with one year of probation. The court also sentenced Rimšēvičs to confiscation of property. This includes several pieces of real estate owned by him. Rimšēvičs is accused of accepting a bribe – a paid vacation – and a bribe in the form of cash. He is also accused of money laundering. Rimšēvičs denies his guilt.</p> <p>https://bnn-news.com/former-governor-of-bank-of-latvia-receives-actual-prison-sentence-252465</p>



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70	14	Mass-media	<p>[20/December/2023] Germany aims to seize €720M of frozen Russian money</p> <p>The initiative represents an escalation of Germany's efforts to sanction Russia – as well as a potential windfall. Germany's top federal prosecutor on Wednesday announced a motion to confiscate about €720 million held by a Russian financial institution in a Frankfurt bank account. The seizure of frozen Russian money is not without international legal precedent. In May, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland announced the first transfer of forfeited Russian assets for use in Ukraine. This month, the European Commission presented a plan to use Russian assets frozen in the EU to help rebuild Ukraine, though wider agreement on that plan is by no means assured.</p> <p>https://www.politico.eu/article/germany-to-seize-720-million-euros-russian-assets-budget-crisis/</p>
71	14	Mass-media	<p>[16/December/2023] Ex-IMF chief Rato could face long jail term in corruption trial</p> <p>Former International Monetary Fund chief Rodrigo Rato, who spent two years in prison on charges of embezzlement as chairman of Spanish lender Bankia, could face a long jail term in a corruption trial that began in Madrid. Rato, who chaired the IMF from 2004-2007 and Bankia from 2010-2012, has denied wrongdoing. A prosecutor has requested a sentence of 61-83 years for 11 charges against the tax authorities and other corruption and money laundering offences. The latest charges relate to kickbacks he is accused of receiving from Bankia advertising. He is accused of transferring illegal funds back to Spain, concealing 8.6 million euros from the tax authorities, according to the prosecutor. He also faces charges for falsifying documents, using shell companies with bank accounts in the Bahamas, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Monaco and Britain, for investments which the prosecutor said were taxable between 2005 and 2015.</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/disgraced-ex-imf-chief-rato-goes-trial-tax-evasion-2023-12-15/</p>



72	14	Mass-media	<p>[16/December/2023] Senior cardinal convicted in Vatican corruption trial</p> <p>Cardinal Angelo Becciu, the most senior Catholic Church official ever to stand trial before a Vatican criminal court, was convicted of embezzlement and fraud and sentenced to five-and-a-half years in jail. In all, 10 defendants were accused of crimes including fraud, abuse of office and money laundering. All denied wrongdoing. The court said Becciu had been irresponsible and "highly speculative" to invest more than \$200 million with Mincione's fund between 2013-2014, noting this was about a third of the holdings of the Secretariat of State at the time.</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/cardinal-nine-other-defendants-await- verdicts-vatican-trial-2023-12-15/</p>
73	15	^	Legislative initiatives and changes
74	15	UK	<p>[16/December/2023] PEP Amendment - The Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Regulations 2023</p> <p>For the purposes of assessments of the MLRs, where the customer is a domestic PEP (a politically exposed person), or a family member or known close associate of a domestic PEP, the starting point for the assessment is that the customer presents a lower level of risk than a non-domestic PEP. The extent of enhanced customer due diligence measures to be applied in relation to that customer should be less than for non-domestic PEPs, unless enhanced risk factors apply. Coming into force in 10th January 2024</p> <p>https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksti/2023/1371/made</p>
75	Author : Ion Radu in https://www.linkedin.com/in/ion-radu-aml/		
76	<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.</p>		