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Source		The most important events of the period 15/01/2024 - 31/01/2024	Autor: Radu Ion, lector AS Financial Markets
1		Emerging trends and risks	
1	UK NCA	<p>[23/January/2024] Amber ALERT - Financial Sanctions Evasion, Money Laundering & Cultural Property Trafficking Through the Art Storage Sector</p> <p>The National Crime Agency(NCA) has issued an alert to artwork storage facilities, warning of potential criminal exploitation of the sector by individuals subject to Russia sanctions. High-net-worth individuals, such as Russian oligarchs hold art in specialist storage facilities for a range of reasons, including secure storage of art as an investment or as a store of value for tax benefits. It is known that criminals, including sanctioned individuals, are exploiting these services to evade sanctions and launder the proceeds of crime. Inadequate or irregular due diligence checks open the door for criminals or corrupt professional service providers to circumvent legislation, putting the sector at risk and undermining the sanctions regime.</p> <p>https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/who-we-are/publications/692-0735-necc-amber-alert-sanctions-evasion-money-laundering-in-the-art-sec/file</p>	
2		Warnings and reports, thematic analyzes of national and international authorities	
2	UN	<p>[29/January/2024] Thirty-third report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2610 (2021) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities</p> <p>The threat of terrorism from Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, QDe.115, hereinafter "ISIL (Da'esh)"), Al-Qaida (QDe.004) and their affiliates remains high in the conflict zones and neighbouring countries. Formal threat levels have risen in some other regions, including Europe. Where terrorist threat is suppressed, a risk of resurgence is identified in certain circumstances. Some shifts in terrorist tactics have been observed: a reduction in internecine fighting; a reduction in claims for attacks perpetrated; and, in some regions, a reduction in the number of attacks, offset by an increase in lethality.</p> <p>https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N23/431/79/PDF/N2343179.pdf</p>	
2	UNDOC	<p>[16/January/2024] Casinos and cryptocurrency: major drivers of money laundering, underground banking, and cyberfraud in East and Southeast Asia</p> <p>The report found that casinos, junkets, and cryptocurrency have emerged as a critical piece of the underground banking and money laundering infrastructure in East and Southeast Asia, fuelling transnational organized crime in the region. The study highlights the nexus between illegal online casinos, e-junkets, and cryptocurrency exchanges that have proliferated in recent years alongside surging cross-border criminality throughout the region.</p> <p>https://www.unodc.org/roseap/uploads/documents/Publications/2024/Casino_Underground_Banking_Report_2024.pdf</p>	
3		Terrorism and International Sanctions updates	
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>	


3	EU	<p>European Union Consolidated Financial Sanctions List</p> <p>https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fsd/fsf/public/files/pdfFullSanctionsList/content?token=n002g3ky</p> <p>https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/consolidated-list-of-persons-groups-and-entities-subject-to-eu-financial-sanctions?locale=en</p>
3	UN	<p>United Nations Security Council Consolidated List</p> <p>https://scsanctions.un.org/consolidated/</p>
3	US	<p>[31/January/2024] OFAC - Counter Terrorism Designations; Iran-related Designation; Burma-related Designations; Sudan Designations; Russia-related Designation Removal; Issuance of Burma-related General License</p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (added) with 5 individuals and 8 entities related to Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Qods Force (IRGC-QF) and Hizballah financial network, Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Burma's military regime</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20240131</p>
3	US	<p>[30/January/2024] OFAC - Counter Terrorism Designations</p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (added) with 3 individuals related to cybersecurity experts and financial facilitator affiliated with the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) for providing ISIS leadership and supporters with cybersecurity training, enabling their use of virtual currency, and supporting the terrorist group's recruitment.</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20240130</p>
3	EU	<p>[30/January/2024] COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2024/422 amending Decision 2014/512/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine</p> <p>Decision 2014/512/CFSP has been renewed for a further six months, until 31 July 2024.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202400422</p>
3	EU	<p>[30/January/2024] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2024/426 implementing Regulation (EU) No 101/2011 concerning restrictive measures directed against certain persons, entities and bodies in view of the situation in Tunisia</p> <p>3 persons have been deleted from Annex I to Regulation (EU) No 101/2011.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202400426</p>
3	US	<p>[29/January/2024] OFAC - Iran-related Designations; Counter Terrorism Designation</p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (added) with 12 individuals related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the network of individuals that targeted Iranian dissidents and opposition activists for assassination at the direction of the Iranian regime; - the owner and president of the board of directors of Iraq's Al-Huda Bank, for his support to the IRGC-QF, including through support for its proxy militia groups in Iraq. <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20240129</p>

3	EU	<p>[29/January/2024] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2024/417 implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1998 concerning restrictive measures against serious human rights violations and abuses</p> <p>4 persons and 1 entity related to deterioration of the human rights situation in Russia have been added in the list of natural or legal persons, entities or bodies subject to restrictive measures in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2020/1998.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024R0417</p>
3	US	<p>[25/January/2024] OFAC Counter Terrorism Designations</p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (added) with 4 individuals that have supported the Houthis' recent attacks against commercial vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, including holding civilian crews hostage.</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20240125</p>
3	US BIS	<p>[24/January/2024] COMMERCE STRENGTHENS CONTROLS AGAINST RUSSIA AND BELARUS IN RESPONSE TO RUSSIA'S CONTINUED WAR AGAINST UKRAINE</p> <p>The Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) expands the scope of the EAR's Russian and Belarusian Industry Sector Sanctions by adding 94 6-digit Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) codes to the list of items requiring a license for export, reexport, or transfer (in-country) to Russia or Belarus. The expanded list of items includes certain chemicals, lubricants, and metals, and it covers the entirety of Chapter 88 of the HTS (aircraft, spacecraft, and parts thereof), thereby further restricting Russia's access to inputs for its defense industrial base and better aligning U.S. controls with those implemented by U.S. partners and allies.</p> <p>https://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/documents/about-bis/newsroom/press-releases/3439-commerce-strengthens-rules-against-russia-and-belarus/file</p>
3	US	<p>[23/January/2024] OFAC - Cyber-related Designation</p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (added) with 1 individual. The Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), in coordination with Australia and the United Kingdom, designated Alexander Ermakov (Ermakov), a cyber actor who played a pivotal in the 2022 ransomware attack against Medibank Private Limited, an Australian healthcare insurer.</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20240123</p>
3	EU	<p>[22/January/2024] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2024/384 implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/2147 concerning restrictive measures in view of activities undermining the stability and political transition of Sudan COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2024/383 amending Decision (CFSP) 2023/2135 concerning restrictive measures in view of activities undermining the stability and political transition of Sudan</p> <p>6 entities have been added in the list of natural and legal persons, entities and bodies in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2023/2147.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024R0384</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024D0383</p>
3	US	<p>[22/January/2024] OFAC Counter Terrorism Designations; Issuance of Counter Terrorism General License and Frequently Asked Question</p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (added) with 13 individuals, 6 entities and 2 aircrafts. OFAC designated Iraqi airline Fly Baghdad and its CEO for providing assistance to the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF) and its proxy groups in Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon. Also imposed a fifth round of sanctions on Hamas since the October 7 terrorist attack on Israel and targets networks of Hamas-affiliated financial exchanges in Gaza, their owners, and associates, and particularly financial facilitators that have played key roles in funds transfers, including cryptocurrency transfers, from the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Qods Force (IRGC-QF) to Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) in Gaza.</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20240122</p>




3	EU	<p>[22/January/2024] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2024/362 implementing Regulation (EU) No 36/2012 concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING DECISION (CFSP) 2024/380 implementing Decision 2013/255/CFSP concerning restrictive measures in view of the situation in Syria</p> <p>6 individuals and 5 entities have been added to the list of natural and legal persons, entities or bodies subject to restrictive measures set out in Annex II to Regulation (EU) No 36/2012.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024R0362</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024D0380</p>
3	EU	<p>[19/January/2024] COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2024/386 establishing restrictive measures against those who support, facilitate or enable violent actions by Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2024/385 establishing restrictive measures against those who support, facilitate or enable violent actions by Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad</p> <p>6 individuals have been added to the list of natural and legal persons, entities or bodies subject to restrictive measures</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024R0386</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024D0385</p>
3	US	<p>[18/January/2024] OFAC - Russia-related Designations and Designation Update; Counter Terrorism Designation Update; Issuance of Russia-related General Licenses and Amended Frequently Asked Question</p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (added) with 1 entity and 18 vessels, a shipping company registered in United Arab Emirates linked to a price cap violation.</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20240118</p>
3	EU	<p>[18/January/2024] COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2024/372 amending for the 341st 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</p> <p>Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 881/2002 is amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation, 14 entries are updated.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024R0372</p>
3	EU	<p>[17/January/2024] COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION (EU) 2024/214 on GUIDELINES setting out the methodology for data gathering and processing for the preparation of the annual report on the control of exports, brokering, technical assistance, transit and transfer of dual-use items pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2021/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=OJ:L_202400214</p>
3	EU	<p>[17/January/2024] COMMISSION DELEGATED DIRECTIVE (EU) 2024/242 (of 27 September 2023) amending Directive 2009/43/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the updating of the list of defence-related products in line with the updated Common Military List of the European Union of 20 February 2023</p> <p>The Annex to Directive 2009/43/EC is replaced by the text set out in the Annex to this Directive.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024L0242</p>

3	US	<p>[17/January/2024] US- Terrorist Designation of the Houthis</p> <p>The Department of State has designated of Ansarallah, commonly referred to as the Houthis, as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist group, effective 30 days from 17/Jan/2024.</p> <p>https://www.state.gov/terrorist-designation-of-the-houthis/</p>
3	US	<p>[17/January/2024] OFAC - Global Magnitsky Designation and Designations Removals; Issuance of Counter Terrorism General Licenses</p> <p>The SDN* list has been updated (added) with 1 individual from Guatemala</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20240117</p>
3	EU	<p>[16/January/2024] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2024/338 implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/1686 imposing additional restrictive measures directed against ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaeda and natural and legal persons, entities or bodies associated with them</p> <p>Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2016/1686 was amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation. 1 individual deleted and 1 added.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024R0338</p>
3	EU	<p>[16/January/2024] COUNCIL IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2024/329 implementing Article 2(3) of Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 on specific restrictive measures directed against certain persons and entities with a view to combating terrorism, and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1505</p> <p>The list of the persons, groups and entities to which Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001 applies has been updated accordingly, and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/1505 was repealed.</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024R0329</p>
4		EU ML/TF SupraNational Risk Assessment
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>
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>
5		Information and assessments by national authorities on risks at national level

5	MALTA	<p>[18/January/2024] Malta's 2023 National Risk Assessment</p> <p>Key findings from the NRA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Malta's overall money laundering residual risk has decreased when compared to the 2018 NRA; -financial institutions, real estate agents, and dealers in high-value goods registered lower levels of risk. Nevertheless, compared to others, these sectors are susceptible to a higher risk of money laundering. -some of the higher risks identified include laundering proceeds from drug trafficking, foreign organised crime, and fraud (including cybercrime). -money laundering typologies presenting a higher level of residual risk include the abuse of cash and cash-based businesses, the use of Maltese registered companies lacking sufficient links to Malta, complex corporate structures, and the acquisition of high-value movable and immovable property. -residual risks associated with terrorism financing, proliferation financing, and targeted financial sanctions were found to be moderate. <p>https://www.ncc.gov.mt/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/PublicNRA_Dec2023.pdf</p>
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>
6		Specific guidelines, guides, instructions or warnings
6	EBA	<p>[16/January/2024] Guidelines on money laundering and terrorist financing risk factors regarding crypto-asset service providers (CASPs). (EBA/GL/2024/01)</p> <p>These Guidelines amend the EBA's revised ML/TF Risk-Factors Guidelines (EBA/GL/2021/02). The European Banking Authority (EBA) extended its Guidelines on money laundering and terrorist financing risk factors to crypto-asset service providers (CASPs). The new Guidelines highlight ML/TF risk factors and mitigating measures that CASPs need to consider, representing an important step forward in the EU's fight against financial crime. Given the interdependence of the financial sector, the new Guidelines also include guidance addressed to other credit and financial institutions that have CASPs as their customers or which are exposed to crypto assets. This risk is increased where credit and financial institutions engage in business relationships with providers of crypto-asset services which are not authorised under Regulation (EU) 2023/1114.</p> <p>https://www.eba.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2024-01/a3e89f4f-fbf3-4bd6-9e07-35f3243555b3/Final%20Amending%20%20Guidelines%20on%20MLTF%20Risk%20Factors.pdf</p>
7		Warnings, fines and convictions for violating the KYC/AML/CTF/FiSa/ Compliance legislation in financial market
7	USFINCEN	<p>[29/January/2024] FinCEN Finds Iraq-based Al-Huda Bank to be of Primary Money Laundering Concern</p> <p>FinCEN issued a finding and notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that identifies Al-Huda Bank, an Iraqi bank that serves as a conduit for terrorist financing, as a foreign financial institution of primary money laundering concern. Along with its finding, FinCEN proposed imposing a special measure that would sever the bank from the U.S. financial system by prohibiting domestic financial institutions and agencies from opening or maintaining a correspondent account for or on behalf of Al-Huda Bank.</p> <p>Al-Huda Bank has exploited its access to U.S. dollars to support designated FTOs, including Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and IRGC-Quds Force (IRGC-QF), as well as Iran-aligned Iraqi militias Kata'ib Hizballah (KH) and Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq (AAH). Moreover, the chairman of Al-Huda Bank is complicit in Al-Huda Bank's illicit financial activities including money laundering through front companies that conceal the true nature of and parties involved in illicit transactions, ultimately enabling the financing of terrorism.</p> <p>https://www.fincen.gov/news/news-releases/fincen-finds-iraq-based-al-huda-bank-be-primary-money-laundering-concern-and</p>
7	USDFS	<p>[19/January/2024] DFS \$30 million Settlement with Industrial And Commercial Bank Of China Ltd. For multiple compliance failures</p> <p>Department of Financial Services (DFS) announced that Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd. (ICBC) and its New York branch have agreed to pay \$30 million in penalties pursuant to a Consent Order entered into with the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS). The Consent Order resolves the Department's investigation into numerous Bank Secrecy Act/Anti-Money Laundering (BSA/AML) compliance deficiencies and violations of New York law.</p> <p>https://www.dfs.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2024/01/ea_co_icbc_20240117.pdf</p>

7	USDOJ	<p>[17/January/2024] Former Banking Executive Pleads Guilty to Evading Anti-Money Laundering Regulations</p> <p>The former vice president of a bank located in Missouri pleaded guilty to assisting high-risk bank customers in evading the bank's anti-money laundering controls. According to court documents, between April 2014 and July 2022, McVey assisted high-risk bank customers engaged in deceptive sweepstakes and short-term online loan activities in evading the bank's anti-money laundering controls.</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/former-banking-executive-pleads-guilty-evading-anti-money-laundering-regulations</p>
7	ROASF	<p>[16/January/2024] Groupama Asigurări S.A. fined 115,500 (23,205EUR)RON for the following breaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -failure to comply with the provisions of art. 23 para. (5) of Law no. 129/2019 (AML Act) for the prevention and combating of ML&TF, in correlation with the provisions of art. 12 para. (4) of A.S.F. Regulation no. 13/2019; -non-compliance with the provisions of art. 24 para. (1) of Law no. 129/2019 in correlation with the provisions of art. 4 para. (1), art. 21 par. (1) and para. (6) and art. 47 par. (3) and par. (7) of A.S.F. Regulation no. 13/2019; -failure to comply with the provisions of art. 25 para. (1) of Law no. 129/2019 in correlation with provisions art. 13 par. (1) and art. 47 par. (3) and par. (7) of A.S.F. Regulation no. 13/2019; -failure to comply with the provisions of art. 7 para. (3) of Law no. 129/2019 in correlation with the provisions of art. 35 para. (1) of A.S.F. Regulation no. 13/2019, regarding the obligation to report external transfers to and from accounts, in lei or foreign currency, to the FIU.; -failure to comply with the provisions of art. 24 of Law no 129/2019 in correlation with the provisions of art. 11 para. (5) of A.S.F. Regulation no. 13/2019. <p>https://asfromania.ro/ro/a/2902/decizii-de-sanctionare-si-alte-masuri-adoptate-de-consiliul-a.s.f.-in-luna-decembrie-2023</p>
7	CSSF LUXEMBURG	<p>[16/January/2024] Administrative penalty imposed on PFS Reference Financial Services S.A.</p> <p>CSSF imposed an administrative fine amounting to EUR 114,000 on the specialised PFS Reference Financial Services S.A. ("PFS"), for non-compliance with anti-money laundering / counter financing of terrorism ("AML/CFT") professional obligations , as following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the name screening controls aiming at detecting persons subject to prohibitions and restrictive measures in financial matters had not been carried out over a period of several years; - the process of entering into business relationships and keeping client files up to date which was deficient and therefore did not permit the professional to have complete and duly documented information where appropriate; - the ongoing due diligence applied to the transaction monitoring was insufficient; <p>https://www.cssf.lu/wp-content/uploads/S_12_PSF_SP_Reference_Financial_Services_S.A._160223_en.pdf</p>
7	SECUS	<p>[16/January/2024] J.P. Morgan to Pay \$18 Million for Violating Whistleblower Protection Rule</p> <p>The Securities and Exchange Commission settled charges against J.P. Morgan Securities LLC (JPMS) for impeding hundreds of advisory clients and brokerage customers from reporting potential securities law violations to the SEC. JPMS agreed to pay an \$18 million civil penalty to settle the charges. According to the SEC's order, from March 2020 through July 2023, JPMS regularly asked retail clients to sign confidential release agreements if they had been issued a credit or settlement from the firm of more than \$1,000. The agreements required the clients to keep confidential the settlement, all underlying facts relating to the settlement, and all information relating to the account at issue. In addition, even though the agreements permitted clients to respond to SEC inquiries, they did not permit clients to voluntarily contact the SEC.</p> <p>https://www.sec.gov/news/press-release/2024-7</p>
8		Law enforcement actions for money laundering and international sanctions crimes

8	EPPO	<p>[31/January/2024] Romania: 12 indicted for €4 million fraud involving medical and IT research</p> <p>The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in Iași (Romania) brought charges against six individuals and six companies for aggravated fraud and money laundering, in an investigation into a suspected criminal organisation that obtained €4 million in EU funds for medical and IT research. According to the EU financing contracts, the beneficiaries had to provide proof of payment of their private contribution, amounting to 30% of the value of each invoice issued by the suppliers of the equipment, and only afterwards were they entitled to obtain the payment of the remaining 70%. However, according to the investigation, the suspects simulated the procedure for granting the acquisition contracts for the necessary equipment, in order to award them to a company under their control, which did not have the capacity or resources to purchase it.</p> <p>https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/news/romania-12-indicted-eu4-million-fraud-involving-medical-and-it-research</p>
8	EUROPOL	<p>[24/January/2024] Three arrested for exporting military goods to Russia</p> <p>In January 2024, Dutch, German, Latvian and Lithuanian authorities conducted an action day against criminals suspected of circumventing EU sanctions against Russia. Investigations revealed that a Dutch company were ordering dual-use goods from Germany, and then shipping them directly to Latvia and Lithuania. From there, the goods would cross the border into Russia.</p> <p>https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/three-arrested-for-exporting-military-goods-to-russia</p>
8	US	<p>[24/January/2024] Money Launderer Sentenced to 48 Months and Ordered to Pay Over \$1 Million in Restitution</p> <p>Flavia Annang, 60, Maryland, was sentenced to 48 months in prison and ordered to pay over \$1 million in restitution to 19 victims. Between May 2018 and April 2022, Annang laundered money for scammers who lured victims into various online frauds. In some instances, the victims believed they were sending money to support an online romantic partner who falsely stated they needed to pay taxes and fees to release an inheritance or gold bars.</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/usao-az/pr/money-launderer-sentenced-48-months-and-ordered-pay-over-1-million-restitution</p>
8	UK	<p>[24/January/2024] NCA investigation ends in eight year jail term for east London money launderer who took payments for small boats crossings</p> <p>Iranian Asghar Gheshlaghian, 48, was convicted of running an unregistered money services business from an office block in Wood Green, as part of a network of bankers transferring money using the hawala system. He acted as a trusted middleman, accepting payments from migrants or their families, and then releasing money to the criminal gangs following the completion of their journeys to the UK, charging a commission at the same time.</p> <p>https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/nca-investigation-ends-in-eight-year-jail-term-for-east-london-money-launderer-who-took-payments-for-small-boats-crossings</p>
8	US	<p>[20/January/2024] U.S. Department of State \$15 million reward</p> <p>Rewards for Justice is offering a reward of up to \$15 million for information leading to the disruption of financial mechanisms of the U.S.-designated terrorist organization Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Hossein Hatefi Ardakani is Iranian businessman who has helped acquire and supply sophisticated technology that has supported IRGC weapons production and sales. Since 2014, Ardakani has used his network of intermediary companies, including Malaysia- and Hong Kong-based front companies and UAE logistics businesses, to procure and to facilitate the transfer of sensitive U.S.- and foreign-origin materials, components, and technology to the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran) for Iran's weapons programs.</p> <p>https://rewardsforjustice.net/rewards/hossein-hatefi-ardakani/</p>

8	USDOJ	<p>[19/January/2024] CEO of Crypto Investment Platform Charged in Multi-Million Dollar International Fraud Scheme</p> <p>Horst Jicha, a German national, was charged with securities fraud and conspiracies to commit securities fraud, wire fraud, and money laundering for his role in a cryptocurrency scheme called USI Tech. USI Tech was an online platform that began in Europe and purported to make cryptocurrency investments easy and accessible to the average retail investor. In reality, it was a multilevel marketing scheme that relied on investors recruiting other investors below them to buy various purported cryptocurrency investments. Jicha was one of USI Tech's founders and its Chief Executive Officer.</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/ceo-crypto-investment-platform-charged-multi-million-dollar-international-fraud-2</p>
8	US	<p>[18/January/2024] Businessman Arrested for Scheme to Illegally Export Semiconductors and Other Controlled Technology to Russia</p> <p>Ilya Kahn, 66, a citizen of the United States, Israel and Russia, was arrested yesterday in Los Angeles for his alleged involvement in a years-long scheme to secure and unlawfully export sensitive technology from the United States for the benefit of a Russian business. Defendant allegedly used network of businesses in China and other countries to illegally transfer hundreds of thousands of semiconductors to sanctioned business with ties to Russian military and Russian intelligence agencies</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/businessman-arrested-scheme-illegally-export-semiconductors-and-other-controlled-technology</p>
9		Threats, alerts and typologies
		Nothing relevant during this period
10		Corruption Perception Indices and Country Reports
10	Transparency International	<p>[30/January/2024] 2023 Corruption Perceptions Index</p> <p>The 2023 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 23 countries have fallen to their lowest scores yet. Here is the score for some relevant countries from each risk class : Denmark 90(=) ranked first; Austria 71(=); Lithuania 61(=); Malta 51(=); Romania 46(4=); Moldova 42(+3); Pakistan 29(+2); Somalia 11(-1) ranked last. The average score of Western Europe&EU is 65, with max Denmark 90(=) and min Hungary 42(=). The biggest changes have been registered by Afghanistan 20 dropped the most (-4) and Egypt 35 increased the most (+5).</p> <p>https://images.transparencycdn.org/images/CPI-2023-Report.pdf</p>
11		Mutual evaluation reports or lists of states or jurisdictions that have KYC/AML/CTF deficiencies
11	FATF	<p>[30/January/2024] 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>



11	FATF	<p>[30/January/2024] Nigeria's progress in measures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing</p> <p>Overall, Nigeria has made significant progress in addressing the technical compliance deficiencies identified in its Mutual Evaluation.</p> <p>The country has been re-rated on the following Recommendations:</p> <p>Recommendation 1 is upgraded from Partially Compliant to Largely Compliant Recommendation 2 is upgraded from Partially Compliant to Largely Compliant Recommendation 6 is upgraded from Partially Compliant to Largely Compliant Recommendation 8 is upgraded from Non Compliant to Compliant Recommendation 33 is upgraded from Partially Compliant to Compliant Recommendation 34 is upgraded from Partially Compliant to Compliant Nigeria has 32 Recommendations rated C/CL.</p> <p>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/fsrb-fur/Nigeria-GIABA-Follow-Up-Report-ENG-2024.pdf.coredownload.inline.pdf</p>
11	FATF	<p>[30/January/2024] Mali's progress in strengthening measures to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing</p> <p>Mali has made significant progress in addressing the technical compliance deficiencies identified in its MER on Recommendations 2,6, 7, 8, 28 and 34.</p> <p>Recommendation 2 is upgraded from Partially Compliant to Largely Compliant Recommendation 6 is upgraded from Partially Compliant to Largely Compliant Recommendation 7 is upgraded from Partially Compliant to Largely Compliant Recommendation 8 is upgraded from Non-Compliant to Partially Compliant Recommendation 28 is upgraded from Non-Compliant to Partially Compliant Recommendation 34 is upgraded from Partially Compliant to Compliant The Republic of Mali has 16 Recommendations rated NC/PC.</p> <p>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/fsrb-fur/Mali-GIABA-Follow-Up%20Report-2024.pdf.coredownload.inline.pdf</p>
11	FATF	<p>[30/January/2024] Kyrgyz Republic's progress in strengthening measures to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing</p> <p>The Kyrgyz Republic has made significant progress in rectifying the technical compliance shortcomings identified in its 2020 mutual evaluation. As a result of this progress, the country has been re-rated on the following Recommendations.</p> <p>Recommendation 8 has been re-rated from partially compliant to largely compliant. Recommendation 15 has been re-rated from partially compliant to largely compliant.</p> <p>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/fsrb-fur/Kyrgyz-Republic%20FUR-2024.pdf.coredownload.inline.pdf</p>
11	FATF	<p>[23/January/2024] Jamaica's progress in strengthening measures to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing</p> <p>Overall, Jamaica has made significant progress in addressing the technical compliance deficiencies identified in its Mutual Evaluation.</p> <p>The country has been re-rated on four Recommendations.</p> <p>Recommendations 22, 23 and 28 have been re-rated from partially compliant to largely compliant Recommendation 24 has been re-rated from partially compliant to compliant Jamaica has 37 Recommendations rated C/LC.</p> <p>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/dam/fatf-gafi/fsrb-fur/Jamaica-FUR-2024.pdf.coredownload.inline.pdf</p>

11	EU	<p>[16/January/2024] The EU list of high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies has been updated</p> <p>The Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1675 regarding high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies has been updated by C.D.Reg. 2024/163 as follows: Cayman Island and Jordan exit ; NO entries:</p> <p>The list contains 27 countries : 1/Afghanistan(2016) 2/South Africa (2023) 3/Barbados(2020) 4/Burkina Faso(2022) 5/Cameroon(2023) 6/D.R.Congo(2023) 7/Filipine(2022) 8/Gibraltar(2023) 9/Haiti(2022) 10/Jamaica(2020) 11/Mali(2022) 12/Myanmar(2020) 13/Mozambique(2023) 14/Nigeria(2023) 15/Panama(2020) 16/Senegal(2022) 17/Syria(2016) 18/South Sudan(2022) 19/Trinidad and Tobago(2018) 20/Tanzania (2023) 21/Uganda(2016) 22/Vanuatu(2016) 23/Vietnam(2023) 24/Yemen(2016) 25/United Arab Emirates(2023) 26/Iran(2016) 27/D.P.R.Korea(2016)</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1675</p> <p>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32024R0163</p>
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>
11	EU	<p>EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes has been upadeted 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>
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.</p> <p>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>
12		Relevant information from credible and reliable organizations

12	NASDAQ	<p>[20/January/2024] NASDAQ- 2024 Global Financial Crime Report</p> <p>The report concludes that in 2023, more than three trillion dollars in illicit funds flowed through the global financial system. Fueling trillions of dollars in illicit flows and money laundering activity were a range of destructive crimes, including an \$782.9 billion in drug trafficking activity and \$346.7 billion in human trafficking, as well as \$11.5 billion in terrorist financing. In addition, fraud losses totaled \$485.6 billion from a range of devastating fraud scams and bank fraud schemes, worldwide.</p> <p>https://nd.nasdaq.com/rs/303-QKM-463/images/2024-Global-Financial-Crime-Report-Nasdaq-Verafin-20240119.pdf</p>
12	CREA	<p>[20/January/2024] Insuring an invasion: UK insures EUR 46.4 bn Russian oil since sanctions</p> <p>Despite the EU/G7 countries' sanctions on Russian oil, a majority of vessels carrying Russian oil and oil products are owned and/or insured in the EU and G7 countries. Despite the strong set of tools to cut revenues for the Kremlin's war chest, EU/G7 countries have allowed the proliferation of the Russian oil trade by insuring tankers transporting Russian oil. Centre for Research on Energy and Clear Air (CREA) analysis has found that the UK — the largest insurer of seaborne Russian oil globally — insured ships that transported Russian oil worth EUR 120.6 bn from March 2022, just after Russia's invasion of Ukraine¹, until the end of November 2023.</p> <p>https://energyandcleanair.org/insuring-an-invasion-uk-insures-eur-46-4-bn-russian-oil-since-sanctions/</p>
12	ICIJ	<p>[19/January/2024] Isabel dos Santos charged with 12 crimes in Angola over her dealings as Sonangol chair</p> <p>The ultra-rich daughter of Angola's former president and her advisors are accused of defrauding the country of \$219 million, including through financial schemes uncovered by ICIJ.</p> <p>https://www.icij.org/investigations/luanda-leaks/isabel-dos-santos-charged-with-12-crimes-in-angola-over-her-dealings-as-sonangol-chair/</p>
12	Chainalysis	<p>[18/January/2024] 2024 Crypto Crime Trends</p> <p>2023 saw a significant drop in value received by illicit cryptocurrency addresses, to a total of \$24.2 billion. Crypto scamming and hacking revenue both fell significantly in 2023, with total illicit revenue for each down 29.2% and 54.3% respectively. Ransomware and darknet markets, are two of the most prominent forms of crypto crime that saw revenues rise in 2023, in contrast with overall trends. Sanctioned entities and jurisdictions together accounted for a combined \$14.9 billion worth of transaction volume in 2023, which represents 61.5% of all illicit transaction volume we measured on the year.</p> <p>https://www.chainalysis.com/blog/2024-crypto-crime-report-introduction/</p>
12	ICIJ	<p>[17/January/2024] Malaysian politician under Pandora Papers probe linked to \$52 million offshore trust and UK, US property investments</p> <p>Family members of Malaysia's embattled former finance minister Daim Zainuddin are beneficiaries of a multimillion-dollar trust with investments in U.K. and U.S. real estate, documents obtained by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists reveal. The new findings come amid an ongoing investigation by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission in response to Pandora Papers revelations linking Daim and others in his inner circle to offshore entities worth at least \$31 million.</p> <p>https://www.icij.org/investigations/pandora-papers/malaysian-politician-under-pandora-papers-probe-linked-to-52-million-offshore-trust-and-uk-us-property-investments/</p>
13		Information from statistical organizations and academia & others
		Nothing of relevance during this time period
14		Relevant information on ML/FT risks from mass - media

14	Mass-media	<p>[30/January/2024] Woman tried in London over alleged bitcoin laundering from \$6.3 bln China fraud</p> <p>A woman converted bitcoin into cash and property to help launder the proceeds of a 5 billion pound (\$6.3 billion) fraud which was perpetrated in China, prosecutors told a London court on Monday. Wen Jian is charged with helping to hide the source of money alleged to have been stolen from nearly 130,000 Chinese investors in fraudulent wealth schemes between 2014 and 2017. The 42-year-old, who denies three counts of money laundering, is not alleged by prosecutors at London's Southwark Crown Court to have been involved in the underlying fraud.</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/woman-tried-london-over-alleged-bitcoin-laundering-63-bln-china-fraud-2024-01-29/</p>
14	Mass-media	<p>[29/January/2024] Senior US Treasury official travels to Iraq to counter illicit finance</p> <p>The U.S. Treasury Department's top sanctions official traveled to Baghdad on Sunday, a Treasury spokesperson said, as Washington seeks to counter Iran's sanctions evasion in Iraq and bring the country's financial sector in line with international standards. Treasury's Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Brian Nelson, traveled to Iraq from Sunday to Monday, where he met with senior Iraqi officials, including Prime Minister Mohammed Shia Al-Sudani, as part of work on countering illicit finance, the spokesperson said.</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/senior-us-treasury-official-travels-iraq-washington-takes-action-against-bank-2024-01-29/</p>
14	Mass-media	<p>[29/January/2024] Saudi arts hub CEO arrested for money laundering: statement</p> <p>The head of a tourism and heritage project meant to help establish Saudi Arabia as a global arts hub has been arrested on suspicion of money laundering, authorities announced late Sunday. Amr bin Saleh Abdulrahman AlMadani, chief executive of the Royal Commission for AlUla in the northwestern Medina region, "was arrested for his involvement in crimes of abuse of authority and money laundering", the official anti-corruption authority said in a statement. Both before and after he assumed his position, AlMadani was allegedly involved in illegally obtaining contracts for a separate company in which he has an ownership stake, the statement said, putting the value of the contracts at around 207 million Saudi riyals (\$55 million).</p> <p>https://www.macaubusiness.com/saudi-arts-hub-ceo-arrested-for-money-laundering-statement/</p>
14	Mass-media	<p>[27/January/2024] Imbert: \$6b in suspicious transactions in 2023</p> <p>FINANCE Minister Colm Imbert said the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) received 950 suspicious transaction reports/ suspicious activity reports (STRs/SARs) last year. "The total monetary value of the 950 STRs/SARs received amounted to \$5,954,472,732.00 of which 784 (TT\$1,392,564,730) were completed transactions and represented a 12 per cent decrease when compared to the previous reporting period (in 2022)." He added that 226 of the STRs/ SARs were attempted transactions with a total monetary value of \$4,561,908,002.00.</p> <p>https://newsday.co.tt/2024/01/26/imbirt-6b-in-suspicious-transactions-in-2023/</p>
14	Mass-media	<p>[27/January/2024] OneCoin lawyer sentenced to 10 years in prison over laundering \$400 million</p> <p>In a landmark judgment, Mark Scott, formerly a high-ranking lawyer at Locke Lord LLP, received a 10-year prison sentence on Jan. 25 for laundering \$400 million derived from the infamous OneCoin Ponzi scheme. The sentencing at the Southern District of New York followed Scott's 2019 conviction on multiple counts of bank fraud and money laundering. Inner City Press first reported the sentencing from the courtroom.</p> <p>https://cryptoslate.com/onecoin-lawyer-sentenced-to-10-years-in-prison-over-laundering-400-million/</p>
14	Mass-media	<p>[26/January/2024] Canada's TD Bank faces penalty for faulty anti-money laundering controls - The Globe and Mail</p> <p>Canada's TD Bank (TD.TO), opens new tab faces a significant monetary penalty after an examination by the financial-crimes watchdog found faulty anti-money laundering controls. The Globe reported the monetary penalty is expected to exceed C\$10 million (\$7.44 million), which could be the biggest ever penalty slapped on a Canadian financial institution by the country's anti-money laundering agency. The Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC), which is preparing to impose the penalty, completed an assessment of the lender in late 2023 and deemed its anti-money laundering compliance to be unsatisfactory, the report said, citing five people familiar with the matter.</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/sustainable-finance-reporting/td-bank-faces-penalty-faulty-controls-prevent-money-laundering-globe-mail-2024-01-26/</p>

14	Mass-media	<p>[26/January/2024] Ex-Infrastructure Malta CEO investigated for money laundering, fraud</p> <p>The European Public Prosecutors Office (EPPO), the EU's anti-fraud office, has been granted an investigation order into former Infrastructure Malta CEO Fredrick Azzopardi under "reasonable suspicion" of money laundering, EU finances fraud and bribery. The ruling ordered almost 80 banks, money transfer services, government entities and gambling companies linked to Azzopardi to provide access and financial documentation to police inspectors.</p> <p>https://theshiftnews.com/2024/01/26/ex-infrastructure-malta-ceo-investigated-for-money-laundering-fraud/</p>
14	Mass-media	<p>[26/January/2024] Time to Clean House: Unpacking the Harms of Massive Money Laundering in the Real Estate Sector</p> <p>Researchers at FACT-member Global Financial Integrity have found that, at a bare minimum, \$2.3 billion has been laundered through real estate in the U.S. from 2016 to 2021, with the real number likely much higher. Anonymous shell companies and complex corporate structures are often common features of these cases. In its recent report, A Welcome Mat for Corruption, FACT member Transparency International U.S. compared the U.S. anti-money laundering protections in the real estate market to 21 other jurisdictions, mostly in the OECD.</p> <p>https://thefactcoalition.org/time-to-clean-house-unpacking-the-harms-of-massive-money-laundering-in-the-real-estate-sector/</p>
14	Mass-media	<p>[21/January/2024] 'Significant' money laundering through property market</p> <p>The volume of money laundering taking place through the property market could be "significant", according to a national assessment of Malta's financial crime risks. The 200-page national risk assessment seeks to identify the country's money laundering threats and vulnerabilities. This assessment, led by a committee that includes the police and FIAU, says the full scale of money laundering through the property sector is unknown. However, the share of real estate assets frozen in Malta in 2021 was estimated at €44.6 million, thereby indicating that money laundering through the real estate sector is "significant", the report says.</p> <p>https://timesofmalta.com/articles/view/significant-money-laundering-property-market.1079268</p>
14	Mass-media	<p>[20/January/2024] China defies sanctions to make Russia its biggest oil supplier in 2023</p> <p>Russia leapfrogged Saudi Arabia to become China's top crude oil supplier in 2023, data showed on Saturday, as the world's biggest crude importer defied Western sanctions to purchase vast quantities of discounted oil for its processing plants. Russia shipped a record 107.02 million metric tons of crude oil to China last year, equivalent to 2.14 million barrels per day (bpd), the Chinese customs data showed, far more than other major oil exporters such as Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Imports from Saudi Arabia, previously China's largest supplier, fell 1.8% to 85.96 million tons, as the Middle East oil giant lost market share to cheaper Russian crude.</p> <p>https://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/china-defies-sanctions-russia-biggest-031655422.html</p>
14	Mass-media	<p>[18/January/2024] Singapore minister Iswaran charged in rare corruption case</p> <p>A Singapore cabinet minister has been charged with corruption, in a rare case that has shocked a nation which prides itself on squeaky-clean governance. Charge sheets released by prosecutors revealed allegations that he was gifted more than \$119,145 worth of flights, hotel stays and Grand Prix tickets, in exchange for advancing property tycoon Ong Beng Seng's business interests. He is also accused of receiving tickets to West End musicals and football matches.</p> <p>https://www-bbc-co-uk.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-68014625.amp</p>
14	Mass-media	<p>[18/January/2024] EU edging toward first-ever sanctions on Israeli settlers</p> <p>EU countries are preparing new sanctions against extremist Israeli settlers as well as Palestinian militant group Hamas. The proposed EU visa ban on violent Israeli settlers is being discussed by human rights and Middle East expert-groups in the EU Council. "There was listings input [lists of proposed Israeli names] from a number of member states, led by France. So yes, there is backing," an EU diplomat said.</p> <p>https://euobserver.com/world/157947</p>

14	Mass-media	<p>[16/January/2024] UBS Wins as Credit Suisse Money-Laundering Probe Axed</p> <p>UBS Group AG got a boost in one of the litany of legal disputes it inherited from Credit Suisse, as authorities dropped a money-laundering probe into the defunct firm's handling of a rogue banker who fleeced his rich clients. A year and a half after seeing grounds for indicting Credit Suisse, Geneva's top financial prosecutor Yves Bertossa told the parties that his investigation failed to find evidence of "any money laundering acts" by Patrice Lescaudron or third parties within the firm</p> <p>https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/bloomberg/ubs-wins-as-credit-suisse-money-laundering-probe-axed/49131300</p>
14	Mass-media	<p>[16/January/2024] North Korean hackers sharing money-laundering networks in Southeast Asia: UN report</p> <p>North Korean hackers are sharing money-laundering and underground banking networks with fraudsters and drug traffickers in Southeast Asia, according to a United Nations report, with casinos and cryptocurrency exchanges emerging as key venues for organised crime. The UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said without elaborating it had observed "several instances" of such sharing in the Mekong area – which includes Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia – by hackers including North Korea's Lazarus Group.</p> <p>https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/east-asia/article/3248532/north-korean-hackers-sharing-money-laundering-networks-southeast-asia-un-report</p>
<p> Legislative initiatives and changes</p>		
15	EU	<p>[18/January/2024] Anti-money laundering: Council and Parliament strike deal on stricter rules</p> <p>The provisional agreement on an anti-money laundering regulation will, for the first time, exhaustively harmonise rules throughout the EU, closing possible loopholes used by criminals to launder illicit proceeds or finance terrorist activities through the financial system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The Council and Parliament agreed that credit and financial institutions will undertake enhanced due diligence measures when business relationships with very wealthy (high net-worth) individuals involve the handling of a large amount of assets. -An EU-wide maximum limit of €10 000 is set for cash payments, which will make it harder for criminals to launder dirty money. Member states will have the flexibility to impose a lower maximum limit if they wish. In addition, according to the provisional agreement, obliged entities will need to identify and verify the identity of a person who carries out an occasional transaction in cash between €3 000 and €10 000. -The agreement sets the beneficial ownership threshold at 25% <p>https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/01/18/anti-money-laundering-council-and-parliament-strike-deal-on-stricter-rules/</p>
<p>Author : Ion Radu  https://www.linkedin.com/in/ion-radu-aml/</p>		
<p>*) Note: all property and interests in property of the designated individuals and entities that are in the U.S. 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> <p>In addition, financial institutions and other persons that engage in certain transactions or activities with sanctioned entities and individuals may expose themselves to sanctions or be subject to an enforcement action.</p>		