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1	1	 Tendințe, probleme și riscuri emergente, rapoarte mediatice pentru sectorul financiar-bancar	
2		Nothing relevant during this period	
3	2	 Avertizări și rapoarte, analize tematice ale autorităților naționale și internaționale	
4	2	European Parliament [05/September/2024] Protecting whistle-blowers in the EU The Think Tank of European Parliament has published the briefing "Protecting whistle-blowers in the EU" that is addressed to the Members and staff of the European Parliament as background material to assist them in their parliamentary work. The document describe the directive, the international framework, recent developments and transposition, issues with transposition , commission reports and whistle-blower tools. https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/EPRS_BRI(2023)747103	
5	2	US OFAC [04/September/2024] ALERT - Russian Attempts to Evade Sanctions Using New Overseas Branches and Subsidiaries OFAC issued the alert "Russian Attempts to Evade Sanctions Using New Overseas Branches and Subsidiaries," to warn foreign jurisdictions and financial institutions about Russia's attempts to evade sanctions by opening new overseas branches and subsidiaries of Russian financial institutions. https://ofac.treasury.gov/media/933146/download?inline	
6	2	EUROPOL [03/September/2024] EMPACT 2023 Results Factsheets In 2023, EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats) led to 15 644 investigations initiated (with more than 7 500 victims identified and safeguarded), 13871 arrests, 797 million € seized (in assets and money), 197 tons of drugs seized, 821 high-risk criminal networks identified (Decoding the EU's most threatening criminal networks - Europol), 155 high-value targets revealed, enhanced cooperation with non-EU partners to combat criminal activities in the Western Balkans, in Latin America, and in the context of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and many more achievements. https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/empact-factsheet-2023.pdf	
7	2	European Parliament [03/September/2024] Anti-money-laundering authority (AMLA): Countering money laundering and the financing of terrorism The Think Tank of European Parliament has published the briefing "Anti-money-laundering authority (AMLA): Countering money laundering and the financing of terrorism" that is addressed to the Members and staff of the European Parliament as background material to assist them in their parliamentary work. The document describe the EU AML framework, general tasks of the authority, governance and cooperation, funding, accountability , seat, operation and legislative process . https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2022/733645/EPRS_BRI(2022)733645_EN.pdf	

8	2	European Parliament	<p>[03/September/2024] Understanding the EU's response to money laundering: New EU anti-money laundering package</p> <p>The Think Tank of European Parliament has published the briefing "Understanding the EU's response to money laundering: New EU anti-money laundering package" that is addressed to the Members and staff of the European Parliament as background material to assist them in their parliamentary work. The document describe the money laundering process, the international framework and cooperation and the EU respons and legal framework.</p> <p>https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2024/762387/EPRS_BRI(2024)762387_EN.pdf</p>
9	3	 Alerte de terorism și schimbări în regimurile de sancțiuni	
10	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>
11	3	EU	<p>European Union Consolidated Financial Sanctions Lis* https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fsd/fsf/public/files/pdfFullSanctionsList/content?token=n002q3ky</p> <p>https://data.europa.eu/data/datasets/consolidated-list-of-persons-groups-and-entities-subject-to-eu-financial-sanctions?locale=en</p>
12	3	UN	<p>United Nations Security Council Consolidated List https://scsanctions.un.org/consolidated/</p>
13	3	US	<p>[05/September/2024] Russia-related Designations; Issuance of Russia-related General License</p> <p>OFAC designated (SDN* list) 2 entities registered in India under Secondary sanctions* See Section 11 of Executive Order 14024) and 2 vessels related to export liquefied natural gas.</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20240905</p>
14	3	US	<p>[04/September/2024] OFAC - Russia-related Designations; Issuance of Russia-related General License; Publication of Russian Sanctions Evasion Alert; Publication of Amended Russia-related Frequently Asked Question</p> <p>OFAC designated (SDN* list) 10 individuals and 2 entities as part of a coordinated U.S. government response to Moscow's malign influence efforts targeting the 2024 U.S. presidential election. Russian state-sponsored actors have long used a variety of tools, such as generative artificial intelligence deep fakes and disinformation, in an attempt to undermine confidence in the United States' election processes and institutions.</p> <p>https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20240904</p>
15	4	 Evaluarea riscurilor la nivel european realizată de Comisia Europeană	
16	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%20R%20EP%202023%2021.pdf</p>

17	4	EU	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] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022DC0554 https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52022SC0344
18	5	 Informații și evaluări efectuate de autoritățile naționale competente cu privire la riscurile la nivel național, declarații și avertizări politice sau expuneri de motive pentru legislația relevantă	
19	5	ROMANIA	The main findings and conclusions of the Romania ML/TF National Risk Assessment (NRA) was published on [22/November/2022] 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
20	6	 Orientări, ghiduri, instrucțiuni sau atenționări punctuale, dar și, după caz, motivări ale aplicării amenzilor pentru încălcarea reglementărilor aplicabile SB/FT	
21	6	Luxembourg	[05/September/2024] Clarifications on the Identification and Verification of the Identity of the Ultimate Beneficial Owner(s) The purpose of this circular is to provide guidance to all professionals subject to AML/CFT on the practical implementation of the identification requirements of the ultimate beneficial owner as well as on the reasonable measures that should be taken to verify the identity requirements, so that they are satisfied that they know who the ultimate beneficial owner(s) is (are). The identification goes beyond the mere collection of a name or document or check in a registry. https://www.cssf.lu/wp-content/uploads/cssf24_861eng.pdf
22	6	EU	[05/September/2024] European Commission updated FAQs related to the Russia sanctions regime. 05/September Asset freeze and prohibition to provide funds or economic resources - ref Council Regulation (EU) No 269/2014. 05/September Provision of services - ref Article 5n of Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014. 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
23	7	 Avertismente, amenzi și condamnări pentru încălcarea legislației KYC/AML/CTF/FiSa/Compliance pe piața financiară	
24	7	US SEC	[04/September/2024] SEC Charges Broker-Dealer Nationwide Planning and Two Affiliated Investment Advisers with Violating Whistleblower Protection Rule The Securities and Exchange Commission charged against three affiliated registrants, Commission-registered broker-dealer Nationwide Planning Associates, Inc. and investment adviser NPA Asset Management, LLC, and state-registered investment adviser Blue Point Strategic Wealth Management, LLC, for impeding brokerage customers and advisory clients from reporting securities law violations to the SEC. The firms agreed to pay combined civil penalties of \$240,000 to settle the SEC's charges. https://www.sec.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2024-115
25	7	US FINRA	[02/September/2024] FINRA fined 900.000USD Brex Treasury LLC From 2020 through 2021, Brex Treasury's anti-money laundering (AML) program failed to include reasonably-designed procedures for verifying the identities of customers or for identifying and verifying the identities of beneficial owners of legal entity customers based on the risks presented by the firm's customer base, its online account-opening methods, and the nature of the cash management accounts it offered. The firm relied on regulatory technology that was not reasonably designed to verify the identities of new customers and approved hundreds of potentially-fraudulent small business and other corporate accounts. It also failed to have AML policies and procedures reasonably designed to cause the filing of suspicious activity reports (SARs) in connection with transactions in these accounts when required. https://www.finra.org/sites/default/files/fda_documents/2021071100401%20Brex%20Treasury%20LLC%20%20CRD%20299606%20AWC%20lp.pdf

26	7	HONG KONG	<p>[02/September/2024] Disciplinary action against WeChat Pay Hong Kong Limited</p> <p>The Monetary Authority (MA) has ordered WeChat Pay Hong Kong Limited (WPHK) to pay a pecuniary penalty of HK\$875,000 (~100,00EUR) for contravening AML legislation. The disciplinary action follows the filing of a self-report by WPHK and further investigation by the HKMA which found that, during the period from 25 August 2016 to 24 October 2021, WPHK failed to have in place adequate and appropriate systems of control to comply with the relevant paragraphs of the Guideline on Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Financing of Terrorism . Specifically, the contravention relates to deficiencies in WPHK's systems of control in two areas, namely:</p> <p>(a) undertaking customer due diligence (CDD) review upon trigger events; and</p> <p>(b) applying enhanced due diligence measures to mitigate and manage the risks in a situation that by its nature may present a high money laundering and terrorist financing risk.</p> <p>https://www.hkma.gov.hk/eng/news-and-media/press-releases/2024/08/20240830-7/</p>
27	8	 CURSULUI	<p>Ațiuni de aplicare a legii pentru infracțiunile de spălare a banilor și sancțiuni internaționale</p>
28	8	US DOJ	<p>[05/August/2024] TV Presenter Who Worked for Channel One Russia Charged with Violating U.S. Sanctions Imposed on Russia</p> <p>The Department of Justice issued two indictments charging Dimitri Simes, 76, and Anastasia Simes, 55, both of Huntly, Virginia, and Russia with two separate schemes to violate U.S. sanctions. As alleged in the first indictment, Dimitri and Anastasia Simes participated in a scheme to violate U.S. sanctions for the benefit of sanctioned Russian broadcaster Channel One Russia (OFAC SDN designated entity) and to launder \$1 million obtained from that scheme.</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/tv-presenter-who-worked-channel-one-russia-charged-violating-us-sanctions-imposed-russia</p>
29	8	US DOJ	<p>[03/September/2024] Dual U.S. and Iranian Citizen Arrested for Unlawfully Exporting U.S. Technology to Iran</p> <p>An Iranian citizen who resides in Texas is charged by criminal complaint with smuggling parts and components used in the production of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), as well as other manned aircraft, from the United States to Iran. The defendant purchased U.S.-origin aircraft components from U.S.-based suppliers and then exported them to Iran – typically through Dubai, UAE. He also traveled to and from Iran multiple times per year and concealed aircraft parts and other items in his checked luggage. If convicted, he faces a penalty of up to 10 years in prison for the charge of smuggling goods and a possible \$250,000 maximum fine.</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/dual-us-and-iranian-citizen-arrested-unlawfully-exporting-us-technology-iran</p>
30	8	US DOJ	<p>[03/September/2024] Two Foreign Nationals Sentenced for Victimizing U.S. Companies Through Business Email Compromise Scheme</p> <p>A Nigerian national was sentenced to five years and three months in prison and ordered to pay nearly \$5 million in restitution for participating in a computer hacking and business email compromise scheme that caused over \$5 million in losses to multiple victims in the United States and elsewhere. Franklin Ifeanyichukwu Okwonna, 34, pleaded guilty on May 20 to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and aggravated identity theft for his role in the scheme. According to court documents and evidence presented at Umeti's trial, between February 2016 and July 2021, Umeti, Okwonna, and their co-conspirators caused millions of dollars in unauthorized wire transfers by sending victim businesses phishing emails.</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/two-foreign-nationals-sentenced-victimizing-us-companies-through-business-email-compromise</p>
31	8	EUROPOL	<p>[03/September/2024] 19 migrant smugglers detained in Romania</p> <p>Romanian law enforcement executed 40 search warrants and intercepted 19 members of a criminal network engaged in migrant smuggling. Europol supported this operation, which is the result of a common investigation between Hungarian, Italian, Romanian and Slovenian authorities. The criminals concealed the migrants among merchandise or squeezed them into compartments in modified vehicles, displaying the utmost disregard for their safety and well-being. Offering and organising their trips on messenger apps, the criminals would offer to clandestinely take migrants, many of which had a temporary work visa in Romania, from Romania over Hungary and Slovenia to Italy. The Bangladeshi, Indian, Nepali or Pakistani nationals making use of this illicit service paid between EUR 2 500 and EUR 3 000 for the journey.</p> <p>https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/19-migrant-smugglers-detained-in-romania</p>

32	8	US DOJ	<p>[02/September/2024] United States Seizes Aircraft Used by Nicolás Maduro Moros in Violation of U.S. Export Control and Sanctions Laws</p> <p>The Justice Department announced the seizure of a Dassault Falcon 900EX aircraft owned and operated for the benefit of Nicolás Maduro Moros and persons affiliated with him in Venezuela. The aircraft was seized in the Dominican Republic and transferred to the Southern District of Florida at the request of the United States based on violations of U.S. export control and sanctions laws. In August 2019, the President issued Executive Order 13884, which prohibits U.S. persons from engaging in transactions with persons who have acted or purported to act directly or indirectly for or on behalf of, the Government of Venezuela, including as a member of the Maduro regime. According to the U.S. investigation, in late 2022 and early 2023, persons affiliated with Maduro allegedly used a Caribbean-based shell company to conceal their involvement in the illegal purchase of the Dassault Falcon 900EX aircraft (which at the time was valued at approximately \$13 million) from a company based in the Southern District of Florida. The aircraft was then illegally exported from the United States to Venezuela through the Caribbean in April 2023.</p> <p>https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/united-states-seizes-aircraft-used-nicolas-maduro-moros-violation-us-export-control-and</p>
33	9		Amenințări, alerte și tipologii
34			Nothing relevant during this period
35	10		Indici de percepție a corupției și rapoarte de țară
36	10	Transparency International	<p>2023 Corruption Perceptions Index has been released on [30/January/2024]</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(=); 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>
37	11		Rapoarte de evaluare reciprocă sau liste de state sau jurisdicții care au deficiențe KYC/AML/CTF
38	11	FATF	<p>FATF has updated the high risk countries lists on [28/June/2024]</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: Jamaica and Turkey exit; enter in the list : Monaco and Venezuela. The grey list contains 21 countries : 1/Bulgaria 2/Burkina Faso 3/Cameroon 4/Congo D.R. 5/Croatia 6/Haiti 7/Kenya 8/Mali 9/Monaco 10/Mozambique 11/Namibia 12/Nigeria 13/Philippines 14/Senegal 15/South Africa 16/South Sudan 17/Syria 18/Tanzania 19/Venezuela 20/Vietnam 21/Yemen <p>https://www.fatf-gafi.org/content/fatf-gafi/en/publications/High-risk-and-other-monitored-jurisdictions/increased-monitoring-june-2024.html</p>
39	11	EU	<p>The list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes has been updated by EU on [20/February/2024]</p> <p>The EU list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes has been updated. Bahamas, Belize, Seychelles and Turks and Caicos Islands have been removed from the black list, no country added to the black list - Annex I. The black list contains the following countries: 1/ American Samoa 2/ Anguila 3/ Antigua & Barbuda 4/ Fiji 5/ Guam 6/ Palau 7/ Panama 8/ Rusia 9/ Samoa 10/ Trinidad & Tobago 11/ US Virgin I. 12/ Vanuatu. For the grey list see Annex II</p> <p>https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/70365/st06776-en24.pdf</p>


40	11	EU	<p>The EU list of high-risk third countries with strategic deficiencies has been updated on [18/January/2024]</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>
41	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>
42	12	 Informații relevante de la organizații credibile și de încredere	
43	12	Chainalysis	<p>[05/September/2024] Russia's Cryptocurrency Pivot: Legislated Sanctions Evasion</p> <p>In response to mounting financial pressures of Western sanctions, Russia enacted significant legislation legalizing cryptocurrency mining and permitting the use of cryptocurrency for international payments. The bills were signed into law on August 8th by President Vladimir Putin and crypto payment trials are slated to start this month. This represents a significant departure from the government's previous stance in the country, where the Central Bank of Russia (CBR) had pushed for a complete ban on cryptocurrencies as recently as 2022. The new laws, set to take effect in September for cross-border payments and November for crypto mining, will enable Russian businesses to engage in international trade using cryptocurrencies and authorize approved entities to mine digital assets. Key officials, including bill author Anton Gorelkin and CBR Governor Elvira Nabiullina, have specifically acknowledged that this legislative change is aimed at mitigating the impact of sanctions and facilitating international payments.</p> <p>https://www.chainalysis.com/blog/russias-cryptocurrency-legislated-sanctions-evasion/</p>
44	12	OCCRP	<p>[05/September/2024] Secretive Cyprus-Registered Funds Were Used to Hide Megayachts and Luxury Real Estate Linked to Sanctioned Russian Banker</p> <p>In Cyprus, a new type of investment fund was marketed to clients as a way to avoid disclosing their ownership of assets. In one case, these funds were used to obscure the ownership of offshore companies that allegedly held luxury assets linked to powerful Russian banker Andrei Kostin, including two megayachts worth tens of millions.</p> <p>https://www.occrp.org/en/project/russian-asset-tracker/secretive-cyprus-registered-funds-were-used-to-hide-megayachts-and-luxury-real-estate-linked-to-sanctioned-russian-banker</p>
45	12	Global Network on Extremism & Technology	<p>[04/September/2024] Inside Hamas' Pocketbook: Financing Terrorism Through Online Financial Platforms</p> <p>This Insight analyses Hamas' use of these online financial platforms, address two major misconceptions about terror financing, and illustrate how Hamas targets and abuses certain platforms by operating semi-sophisticated financial mechanisms (meaning manually operated technologies rather than fully automated mechanisms).</p> <p>https://gnet-research.org/2024/09/04/inside-hamass-pocketbook-financing-terrorism-through-online-financial-platforms/</p>

46	12	OCCRP	<p>[02/September/2024] Steward Gave Controversial Consultants an Interest in Malta Company At Heart of Huge Graft Scandal</p> <p>Shaukat Ali, a Pakistani businessman who helped U.S.-based Steward Health Care secure a massive public contract in Malta, says he and his son were paid only normal consulting fees for their work. Leaked documents show they were promised much more.</p> <p>https://www.occrp.org/en/scoop/steward-gave-controversial-consultants-an-interest-in-malta-company-at-heart-of-huge-graft-scandal</p>
47	13		Informații de la organizațiile de statistică și mediul academic și altele
48			Nothing relevant during this period
49	14		Informații relevante privind riscurile SB/FT din mass-media
50	14	Mass-media	<p>[06/September/2024] Nearly 90% of crypto registrations in UK failed due to 'weak' fraud, AML controls</p> <p>Nearly 90% of crypto firms applying to be registered in the United Kingdom in the last 12 months failed to meet the standards of the country's financial watchdog. According to the UK Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) annual report for 2024, crypto firms had trouble getting approved due to insufficiencies in their fraud protection and money laundering protocols. The regulator only approved four of the 35 applications for crypto firm registration in the last year, with 15 applications withdrawn and nine rejected.</p> <p>https://cointelegraph.com/news/87-percent-crypto-registrations-failed-uk-money-laundering-controls</p>
51	14	Mass-media	<p>[06/September/2024] Treasury recovers \$1.3 billion in unpaid taxes from high-wealth tax dodgers</p> <p>The IRS has collected \$1.3 billion from high-wealth tax dodgers since last fall. In 2023 and 2024 the IRS launched a series of initiatives aimed at pursuing high-wealth individuals who have failed to pay their tax debts. The IRS said the campaign is focused on taxpayers with more than \$1 million in income and more than \$250,000 in recognized tax debt.</p> <p>https://apnews.com/article/irs-treasury-tax-wealth-ira-2932f286c89b19b9c9ecaaca2f4f2c2b</p>
52	14	Mass-media	<p>[06/September/2024] Moscow takes control over assets of Western companies</p> <p>Kremlin has been seizing assets of some Western companies in Russia through decrees signed by President Vladimir Putin and court orders related to lawsuits over halted projects or blocked funds amid Western sanctions. Among the list of the companies affected so far are: COMMERZBANK; DEUTSCHE BANK; JPMORGAN CHASE; RAIFFEISEN</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/business/moscow-takes-control-over-assets-western-companies-2023-07-27/</p>
53	14	Mass-media	<p>[05/September/2024] Russian court freezes Raiffeisen shares in local bank, blocking sale</p> <p>A Russian court froze the shares in Raiffeisen Bank International's local arm, the biggest Western bank in Russia blocking the sale of the unit and escalating a standoff between Moscow and the West. Austria-based RBI had vowed to spin off its Russian business, which provides a payment lifeline to hundreds of companies there, after coming under pressure from international regulators. But more than two years into the war between Russia and Ukraine, little has changed. Russian authorities had made it clear to RBI, which has around 2,600 corporate customers, 4 million local account holders and 10,000 staff, that they wish it to stay because it enables international payments.</p> <p>https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/raiffeisen-banks-russian-arm-ownership-frozen-ban-imposed-by-court-2024-09-05/</p>

54	14	Mass-media	<p>[05/September/2024] California beauty queen accused of stealing millions from friends in Ponzi scheme</p> <p>Authorities charged Maria "Dulce Pino" Dickerson for running a Ponzi scheme she allegedly used to fund a lavish lifestyle of private jet trips to Las Vegas, designer shopping sprees, and luxe vacations that she flaunted on social media. Dickerson now faces a litany of 24 counts of wire fraud, seven counts of money laundering and a securities fraud charge. According to the Department of Justice, she could face up to 50 years in prison and nearly \$13 million in fines and penalties.</p> <p>https://finance.yahoo.com/news/california-beauty-queen-accused-stealing-233347581.html</p>
55	14	Mass-media	<p>[04/September/2024] US Fed slaps Texas bank with cease-and-desist order for servicing crypto firms</p> <p>The Fed slapped the Dallas-based bank United Texas Bank, one of the shrinking cast of domestic lenders still banking crypto firms, with a cease-and-desist order citing "significant deficiencies" in its adherence to anti-money laundering laws related to the bank's dealings with crypto customers, among other alleged infringements.</p> <p>https://www.dlnews.com/articles/regulation/us-fed-slaps-texas-bank-with-crypto-cease-and-desist-order/</p>
56	14	Mass-media	<p>[04/September/2024] Cyprus' Former Transport Minister Charged for Money Laundering & Corruption Through Golden Passport Program</p> <p>Cyprus' former Transport Minister, Marios Demetriades, has been charged in the Golden Passport program for offences related to money laundering, corruption and bribery. In addition, the police under Law Office supervision, are investigating over 20 naturalisation cases acquired through the Citizenship by Investment scheme of Cyprus. The indictment consists of over 50 charges against eight persons and two legal entities. These include the father of the former Transport Minister and two siblings, with interests in the family's law firm, through which the naturalisations were being made.</p> <p>https://schengen.news/cyprus-former-transport-minister-charged-for-money-laundering-corruption-through-golden-passport-program/</p>
57	14	Mass-media	<p>[04/September/2024] Former Jumbo boss faces money laundering charges: FD</p> <p>The former CEO of supermarket chain Jumbo is facing charges of money laundering as well as tax fraud, corruption and forgery. Prosecutors believe Van Eerd used Jumbo's sponsorship of sports events such as the Dutch Masters of Motocross to launder money. Police found €445,000 in cash at his home in Noord-Brabant and investigated transactions in real estate and the motor trade.</p> <p>https://www.dutchnews.nl/2024/09/former-jumbo-boss-faces-money-laundering-charges-fd/</p>
58	14	Mass-media	<p>[04/September/2024] Iran pays millions in ransom to end massive cyberattack on banks, officials say</p> <p>A massive cyberattack that hit Iran last month threatened the stability of its banking system and forced the country's regime to agree to a ransom deal of millions of dollars, people familiar with the case say. An Iranian firm paid at least \$3 million in ransom last month to stop an anonymous group of hackers from releasing individual account data from as many as 20 domestic banks in what appears to be the worst cyberattack the country has seen, according to industry analysts and western officials briefed on the matter. A group known as IRLeaks, which has a history of hacking Iranian companies, was likely behind the breach</p> <p>https://www.politico.eu/article/iran-millions-ransom-massive-cyberattack-banks/</p>
59	14	Mass-media	<p>[03/September/2024] Sanctioned former central banker to become Russia's IMF representative</p> <p>Ksenia Yudaeva, an adviser to Bank of Russia Governor Elvira Nabiullina, will become Russia's new executive director at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Yudaeva is under U.S. sanctions. Yudaeva joined the Bank of Russia at the same time as Nabiullina in 2013 and served as first deputy governor until August 2023, when she made the switch to Nabiullina's adviser.</p> <p>https://finance.yahoo.com/news/sanctioned-former-central-banker-become-153749015.html</p>

60	14	Mass-media	<p>[03/August/2024] Are luxury watches used for money laundering in Türkiye-based crime groups?</p> <p>Türkiye's luxury watch market has seen an unprecedented boom, with the country surpassing many wealthier nations in Swiss timepiece imports. According to the Swiss Watch Industry Federation (Fédération de l'industrie horlogère suisse), from January to July 2024, Türkiye imported luxury watches worth a staggering \$170.1 million. This surge in demand places Türkiye ahead of countries like Qatar, Canada, Austria, Ireland and Kuwait – nations with higher per capita incomes but smaller populations. Why are luxury watches, which can cost more than a house in some cases, becoming so popular? The answer lies not just in a growing appreciation for Swiss craftsmanship but in the darker world of illicit finance.</p> <p>https://www.turkiyetoday.com/turkiye/are-luxury-watches-used-for-money-laundering-in-turkiye-based-crime-groups-48412/</p>
61	14	Mass-media	<p>[03/August/2024] Lebanon's ex-central bank chief Salameh arrested for embezzlement</p> <p>Lebanon's former central bank governor, Riad Salameh, was arrested following a judicial hearing in the capital Beirut. Salameh has been charged in Lebanon with financial crimes including money-laundering, embezzlement and illicit enrichment. He has denied all wrongdoing. He is wanted by authorities in France for alleged financial crimes, with Interpol issuing Red Notices targeting him. Lebanon does not extradite its citizens. It is the first time Salameh has appeared before Lebanon's judiciary since he left his post of 30 years at the end of July last year without a successor. Lebanon has frozen Salameh's bank accounts, while Britain, Canada and the United States have slapped sanctions on the former official. In June, a German court cancelled an arrest warrant against Salameh because he could no longer use his post to suppress evidence, prosecutors said. The court ruling, however "confirmed the urgent suspicion with regard to the accusations made against the suspect".</p> <p>https://www.france24.com/en/middle-east/20240903-lebanon-s-ex-central-bank-chief-salameh-arrested-for-embezzlement</p>
62	14	Mass-media	<p>[02/September/2024] Finland plans to ban Russians from buying property</p> <p>Finland's government is proposing to ban most Russian citizens from buying property in the Nordic country in a move to protect national security. The proposed ban on real estate purchases would exempt dual citizens and Russians with permanent residence in Finland or other European Union nations, and is subject to expert consultations before a later vote by parliament. Finland is already monitoring some 3,500 properties in the country linked to Russian owners, the minister said without elaborating. Helsinki has for some time sought to limit Russian citizens' property acquisitions near strategic locations based on existing regulations, blocking three in October last year and another three in January this year.</p> <p>https://www.yahoo.com/news/finland-plans-ban-russians-buying-095316459.html</p>
63	14	Mass-media	<p>[02/September/2024] Russia Imports \$30M in U.S. Dollar, Euro Banknotes From Rwanda Despite Sanctions</p> <p>Russia imported more than \$29 million in U.S. dollar and euro banknotes from Rwanda this year, despite Western sanctions on cash imports. The United States and the European Union banned the export of their banknotes to Russia in March 2022 following the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Since then, an estimated \$2.27 billion in dollars and euros has been sent to Russia from countries like Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and others that have not imposed such restrictions. According to Vyorstka, on Jan. 23, Russia's state-controlled arms exporter Rosoboronexport imported \$29.21 million worth of \$100 bills from Rwanda's Defense Ministry. Earlier, on Jan. 18, a lesser-known company called Aero-Trade, which provides duty-free shopping services for flights and airports, registered two shipments into Russia: one worth \$20 million and another for 20 million euros (\$22.14 million). These were reportedly the last imports of what Russia publically refers to as "toxic" currencies until at least April 30. Reuters identified Aero-Trade as the only company that declared foreign currency imports for 2022 and 2023, reporting a total of \$1.5 billion in banknotes across 73 shipments, each valued at \$20 million in either dollars or euros.</p> <p>https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2024/09/02/russia-imports-30m-in-us-dollar-euro-banknotes-from-rwanda-despite-sanctions-vyorstka-a86226</p>
64	14	Mass-media	<p>[02/September/2024] US seizes Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro's airplane in the Dominican Republic</p> <p>The United States has seized Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro's airplane after determining that its acquisition was in violation of US sanctions, among other criminal issues. It's the latest development in what has long been a frosty relationship between the US and Venezuela, and its seizure in the Dominican Republic marks an escalation as the US continues to investigate what it regards as corrupt practices by Venezuela's government. The plane has been described by officials as Venezuela's equivalent to Air Force One and it has been pictured in previous state visits by Maduro around the world. The Dominican Republic's President Luis Abinader said the plane seized by the US was not registered under the name of the Venezuelan government, but rather under "the name of an individual." Foreign Minister of the Dominican Republic Roberto Álvarez said the country's Attorney General's Office received an order last May from a national court to "immobilize" the plane. The US had requested it be immobilized so they could search it for "evidence and objects linked to fraud activities, smuggling of goods for illicit activities and money laundering," he said. In a statement, US Attorney General Merrick Garland said that "the Justice Department seized an aircraft we allege was illegally purchased for \$13 million through a shell company and smuggled out of the United States for use by Nicolás Maduro and his cronies."</p> <p>https://edition.cnn.com/2024/09/02/politics/us-seizes-venezuela-president-maduros-airplane/index.html</p>

65	14	Mass-media	<p>[02/September/2024] How IS-K group linked to Taylor Swift terror plot is increasing in strength and influence</p> <p>Exclusive data shows how a rise in online propaganda and a surge in global plots has made the Afghanistan branch of the terror group "the greatest external terror threat" to Europe. Sky News has analysed new data from the Centre for Information Resilience (CIR) that shows a sharp rise in propaganda produced by the group, which is being disseminated in more languages than ever. Aside from focusing their content on successful attacks and capitalising on local issues in key countries like Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to rally supporters, the group publishes propaganda that touches on wider global conflicts.</p> <p>https://news.sky.com/story/how-is-k-group-linked-to-taylor-swift-terror-plot-is-increasing-in-strength-and-influence-13206097</p>
66	14	Mass-media	<p>[02/September/2024] HKMA Takes Action Against WeChat Pay for Failing AML Standards</p> <p>The Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) announced the conclusion of an investigation and subsequent disciplinary proceedings against WeChat Pay Hong Kong Limited (WPHK), resulting in a fine of HK\$875,000 (\$112,000). The enforcement action follows WPHK's self-report and an extensive review by the HKMA, which spanned from August 25, 2016, to October 24, 2021. The investigation revealed significant shortcomings in WPHK's anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-financing of terrorism (CFT) systems. Particularly, the inquiry focused on WPHK's non-compliance in two critical areas: undertaking customer due diligence (CDD) review upon trigger events and applying enhanced due diligence measures to address and manage high-risk situations potentially involving money laundering and terrorist financing.</p> <p>https://www.crowdfundinsider.com/2024/08/229480-hkma-takes-action-against-wechat-pay-for-failing-aml-standards/</p>
67	14	Mass-media	<p>[02/September/2024] Swiss court convicts 2 top PetroSaudi executives in fallout from 1MDB Malaysian fund scandal</p> <p>A Swiss criminal court has convicted two top managers of a Saudi oil company facing charges including fraud and money laundering in a scam that swiped at least \$1.8 billion from a Malaysian state-owned investment fund. PetroSaudi executive Tarek Obaid, a Saudi-Swiss dual national, received a seven-year sentence and British-Swiss associate Patrick Mahony was handed a six-year sentence from the Federal Criminal Court in southern Bellinzona, officials said. Over a six-year span starting in 2009, the executives and an adviser to Malaysia's then-Prime Minister Najib Razak hatched a joint venture with 1MDB built in part around false claims that PetroSaudi had access to oil fields in Argentina and Turkmenistan — leading the fund to pour money into the project.</p> <p>https://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/swiss-court-convicts-2-top-petrosaudi-executives-fallout-113211064</p>
68	14	Mass-media	<p>[02/September/2024] Philippine authorities file money laundering charges against "POGO Mayor" Alice Guo and co-conspirators</p> <p>The Philippines' Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC), in conjunction with the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission (PAOCC), has filed several counts of money laundering against fugitive "POGO Mayor" Alice Guo and 35 other individuals with the Department of Justice. According to the AMLC, Guo and her co-conspirators are alleged to have been involved in a complex scheme of money laundering linked to the crimes of estafa, qualified trafficking in persons, and violations of the Securities Regulation Code. An AMLC investigation conducted together with NBI and PAOCC revealed that Guo and her co-conspirators generated proceeds of over US\$1.8 million between June 2020 and January 2024 from their criminal activities.</p> <p>https://www.asgam.com/index.php/2024/09/01/philippine-authorities-file-money-laundering-charges-against-pogo-mayor-alice-guo-and-co-conspirators/</p>
69	14	Mass-media	<p>[02/September/2024] FINRA imposes \$900k fine on Brex Treasury</p> <p>Brex Treasury LLC has agreed to pay a fine of \$900,000 as a part of a settlement with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Brex Treasury primarily relied on an automated identity-verification algorithm that was not reasonably designed to achieve compliance with the applicable AML requirements. Beginning in early 2021, the algorithm incorporated a machine learning model to assign a score to each customer that helped determine how to evaluate the results of certain fraud checks. Brex Treasury's identity-verification algorithm was not reasonably designed to achieve compliance with the applicable AML requirements. The algorithm had substantive weaknesses, including that it did not collect all of the identifying information required from customers and that it allowed accounts to be opened without a reasonable review of information from the firm's fraud checks that may have raised red flags about the true identity of a legal entity customer or beneficial owner.</p> <p>https://fxnewsgroup.com/forex-news/regulatory/finra-imposes-900k-fine-on-brex-treasury/</p>

70	14	Mass-media	<p>[02/September/2024] Court summons Cardoso over Binance 'money laundering' case</p> <p>A federal high court in Abuja has summoned Olayemi Cardoso, governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), to appear before it regarding the money laundering case brought against Binance Holdings Limited and its executives. In April, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) arraigned Binance, a cryptocurrency firm, and Tigran Gambaryan, over allegations bordering on money laundering.</p> <p>https://www.thecable.ng/court-summons-cardoso-over-binance-money-laundering-case/</p>
71	15	 Inițiative și schimbări legislative	
72	15	EU	<p>[05/September/2024] DRAFT - COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) amending Regulation (EU) 2021/821 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the list of dual-use items</p> <p>This delegated act presents the respective amendments to the EU list of dual-use items concerning the control parameters, the technical definitions and descriptions, and the addition or removal of dual use items.</p> <p>Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2021/821 is replaced by the text in the Annex to this Regulation.</p> <p>This Regulation shall enter into force on the day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.</p> <p>https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=C(2024)6093&lang=en</p>
73	<p>Author : Ion Rindu https://www.linkedin.com/in/ion-radu-aml/</p>		
74	<p>*) Note:</p> <p>-US: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>-EU: restrictive measures ('sanctions') establish that the freezing of funds and economic resources covers the assets belonging to, owned, held or controlled by those specifically listed in the respective annexes to the EU legal acts.</p>		
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