

BORDER SECURITY REPORT

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FOR THE WORLD'S BORDER PROTECTION, MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY INDUSTRY
POLICY-MAKERS AND PRACTITIONERS



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Border Security Report is a bi-monthly electronic magazine and is the border management industry magazine delivering agency and industry news and developments, as well as more in-depth features and analysis to over 20,000 border agencies, agencies at the borders and industry professionals, policymakers and practitioners, worldwide.



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Migrant pressures building in Turkey

The flow of migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean trying to enter Europe, has certainly reduced. According to the most recent Frontex report, despite a spike in June, the total numbers for the first half of 2019 were nearly a third lower than a year ago, at around 42,000.

This of course is good news, but it's not all good news.

Tensions over the number of migrants currently being hosted in Turkey is leading to public and political disquiet. There are currently over 3.6 million refugees in Turkey, mainly Syrians hoping to get to Europe.

Turkeys recent financial issues have led to a growing anti-Syrian feeling amongst the Turkish population, and this has led to political backlash.

The Mayor of Istanbul is reported to have rounded up and deported over 6000 Syrian migrants living in that city.

According to a report in Turkey's Daily News; Turkey's Interior Minister Süleyman Soyly said that "Europe has deserted Turkey on the issue of irregular migrants" and "If Turkey does not bear this issue [of irregular migrants] with determination, no government in Europe will be able to withstand this wave for more than six months." He went on to say "those who want to turn Turkey into a centre for irregular migrants will eventually

pay a price for this indifference. It is not enough to pat Turkey's back. They will criticize Turkey from their seats in the European Parliament and behave like leftists from 300 years back,".

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu also suggested that Ankara will cancel a migrant readmission agreement with the European Union should the bloc fail to deliver on its promise of visa-free travel for Turkish citizens

He was referring to the deal struck in 2016 whereby the EU would provide a total of €6 billion in financial aid to Turkey to help care for the migrants, and importantly, stop traffic of migrants through Turkey to Europe. Another part of the deal was that guarantee that Turkish citizens would be granted visa-free travel to EU member states.

All this ramping up of rhetoric and tension maybe just simply an attempt to get the EU to fulfil its part of the current deal in full or even better it.

But immigration has a way of derailing normal political discourse these days, like no other subject. So, it is not entirely beyond the realms of possibility that if the EU deal is not concluded and the obligations met soon, Turkey could open its borders and Europe might end up facing a crisis like 2015 or worse.

Tony Kingham
Editor

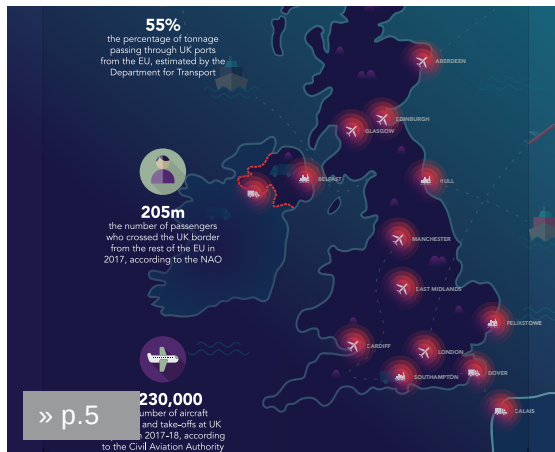
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Parallel investigations bring down sexual exploitation network and freeze criminal profits in 12 counties



Online sex trafficking ring active in Finland, Spain and Sweden busted and €1.5 million of criminal profits frozen in Hong Kong-based accounts

Operation Webmaster targeted a Finnish organised criminal group involved in human trafficking for sexual exploitation and money laundering. The joint operation led to six arrests, 16 website shutdowns and multiple seizures of cash and luxury goods. Following the action day on 26 March 2019, the suspects' bank accounts in 12 different countries were frozen. With support from Europol and Eurojust, the Spanish National Police (Policía Nacional) joined forces with national authorities from 14* other countries to bring down the trafficking ring.

Sex trafficking websites for the Nordic market operated from Spain

Spanish authorities opened an investigation in 2016 targeting a Finnish national suspected of human trafficking for sexual exploitation and money laundering. The main suspect, based in Marbella, Spain, was allegedly managing websites advertising sexual services. The operation was triggered by an investigation into an organised crime group trafficking victims of predominantly Nigerian origin. The website was advertising services of victims from different countries based in Sweden and Finland. Other organised criminal groups involved in similar activities were also advertising the services of their victims on these websites.

The suspected leader of the criminal group was carried

out criminal activities in at least 15 countries. He used intermediaries to channel criminal proceeds to international multi-currency bank accounts. In addition to using foreign companies and bank accounts, the money laundering scheme also included relatively small investments in cryptocurrencies.

Nearly €3 million in seizures and frozen assets

A Joint Investigation Team was set up between Finland, Spain and Sweden to speed up the investigations. European investigation orders have been issued to Bulgaria, Estonia, Germany, Malta, Romania, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Issuing International Letter of Requests to China, Panama and Russia facilitated the financial investigation into the money laundering scheme.

On the joint action day, law enforcement authorities in Finland, Hong Kong, Malta, Romania and Spain operated simultaneously. Seventeen house and bank searches were carried out and six suspects were arrested. The seizures included luxury cars, jewellery, approximately €30 000 in cash, digital evidence and documentation related to the money laundering investigation, and real estate in Finland. Company shares and bank accounts with €1.5 million were frozen.

Europol has supported the joint investigation by organising coordination and operational meetings and providing analytical support since the establishment of the Joint Investigation Team in 2016.

Europol supported the action day by deploying experts in fighting human trafficking, cybercrime and asset recovery to three of the countries involved in the operational activities to cross-check operational information in real time against Europol's databases. Europol activated the Virtual Command Post at the Coordination Centre set up at Eurojust to coordinate the action and supported the seizure of the online domains, collaborating with US hosting service providers. Europol also prepared the 'splash' page appearing on the website after the domain seizure.

*The following countries were involved in the investigation: ten EU Member States (Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Malta, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom) and five third-party countries (China, Colombia, Panama, Russia, the United States).

WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING: ORGANIZED CRIME HIT HARD BY JOINT INTERPOL-WCO GLOBAL ENFORCEMENT OPERATION

From 4 – 30 June, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization (WCO) coordinated Operation Thunderball, with police and customs administrations leading joint enforcement operations against wildlife and timber crime across 109 countries.

A joint worldwide customs and police operation has resulted in the seizure of large quantities of protected flora and fauna across every continent.

Road inspections by Mexico's Fiscalia General de la Republica intercept this white tiger cub concealed in a pick-up van

The intelligence-led operation identified trafficking routes and crime hotspots ahead of time, enabling border, police and environmental officers to seize protected wildlife products ranging

from live big cats and primates to timber, marine wildlife and derived merchandise such as clothing, beauty products, food items, traditional medicines and handicrafts.

A team of customs and police officers together coordinated global enforcement activities from an Operations Coordination Centre at INTERPOL's Global Complex for Innovation in Singapore.

Initial results have led to the identification of almost 600 suspects, triggering arrests



worldwide. Further arrests and prosecutions are anticipated as ongoing global investigations progress.

Global seizures reported to date include:

- 23 live primates;
- 30 big cats and large quantities of animal parts;
- 440 pieces of elephant tusks and an additional 545 Kg of ivory;
- Five rhino horns;
- More than 4,300 birds;
- Just under 1,500 live reptiles and nearly 10,000 live turtles and tortoises;
- Almost 7,700 wildlife parts from all species, including more than 30 kg game meat;
- 2,550 cubic meters of timber (equivalent to 74 truckloads);
- More than 2,600 plants;

Almost 10,000 marine wildlife items, such as coral, seahorses, dolphins and sharks.

The operation saw half a tonne of pangolin parts bound for Asia seized in Nigeria, and the arrest of three suspects in Uruguay attempting to smuggle more than 400 protected wildlife species.

The operation highlighted the continuing trend for online wildlife trade, with 21 arrests in Spain and the seizure in Italy of 1,850 birds resulting from two online investigations.

Wildlife crime is rife, global, on the increase, and closely linked to organized crime

“Wildlife crime not only strips our environment of its resources, it also has an impact through the associated violence, money laundering and fraud,” said INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock.

“Operations like Thunderball are concrete actions targeting the transnational crime networks profiting from these illicit activities. We will continue our efforts with our partners to ensure that there are

consequences for criminals who steal from our environment,” added the INTERPOL Chief.

Police-customs cooperation: a sustainable approach against organized wildlife crime

“As clearly illustrated by the results of Operation Thunderball, close cooperation at international and national levels to combat wildlife crime must never be underestimated,” said WCO Secretary General Kunio Mikuriya.

INTERPOL and the WCO have a long history of cooperation, regularly supporting each other’s operations in the field. Operation Thunderball marks a new direction in their partnership, bringing them together as joint operational partners on the frontline to ensure wildlife trafficking is addressed comprehensively, from detection to arrest, investigation and prosecution.

“Such initiatives will be replicated to raise awareness within the global law enforcement community on the gravity of global wildlife crime and to better coordinate cross-agency efforts, including the engagement of civil society groups to detect and deter wildlife criminal networks,” added Dr Mikuriya.

Slight declines in the seizures of certain species are a sign that continued enforcement efforts are bearing fruit, and that compliance levels are improving.

“For the sake of our future generations and the world we live in, it is vital that we stop criminals from putting livelihoods, security, economies and the sustainability of our planet at risk by illegally

exploiting wild flora and fauna,” said Ivonne Higuero, CITES Secretary General.

CITES is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora which ensures that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

“Operation Thunderball sends a clear message: we will continue to work closely with our International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) partners in support of efforts to implement CITES and address wildlife crime, deploying our collective strength and expertise to ensure that no stone is left unturned and wildlife criminals face the full force of the law,” added Ms Higuero.

Throughout Operation Thunderball, customs and police officers, supported by environmental authorities, wildlife and forestry agencies, border agencies and CITES management authorities,



worked together to identify and intercept shipments containing flora and other species protected and regulated under the CITES convention.

Coordinated jointly by INTERPOL's Environmental Security Programme and the WCO Environment Programme, Operation Thunderball is the third in the “Thunder” series, following Thunderbird in 2017 and

Thunderstorm in 2018.

Operation Thunderball is financially supported by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Development and Cooperation as a deliverable of the ICCWC, the US Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the United States Agency for International Development, the Norwegian International Climate and Forest Initiative and the UK Government, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.



New task force at Europol to target the most dangerous criminal groups involved in human trafficking and migrant smuggling



On 2 July, the Joint Liaison Task Force Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings (JLT-MS) was launched at Europol. This new operational platform will allow liaison officers from all EU Member States to step up the fight against constantly adapting criminal networks.

The new task force, coordinated by Europol's European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC), will focus on intelligence-led coordinated action against criminal networks involved in migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings. Liaison officers from all EU Member States

and potentially operational cooperation partners will work even closer together to identify networks, prioritise, prepare and execute cross-border operations

The JLT-MS will increase the support mechanism already available in the EMSC, including analytical capabilities and tools, such as the Joint Operational Team (JOT) MARE and its Information Clearing House (ICH). The task force will provide a joint platform for direct contact and better coordination and cooperation between law enforcement authorities.

The JLT-MS platform will also facilitate the joint development of stronger operational strategies which will help disrupt international criminal networks even more efficiently. The task force will enable the support and investigation of an increased number of high priority cases. JLT-MS operational joint activities will focus on the identification and further investigation of high value targets (HVTs).

Additionally, the new operational platform offers an opportunity to target the proceeds of crime.

Weapons Confiscated During EU-Coordinated Joint Operation 'Orion'

Some 300 pieces small arms, almost 1,500 pieces of light weapons, more than 140,000 pieces ammunition and



over 200 kg explosives were seized by the Moldovan and Ukrainian law enforcement agencies during a Joint Operation (JO) codenamed "ORION", coordinated by the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) in cooperation with the European Law Enforcement Agency (Europol).

Moreover, public awareness campaigns on voluntarily handing over the illegally possessed firearms, without

facing any criminal liability, were organized during the JO "ORION" and proved to be also successful as 2,027 light weapons, 54 small arms and 2,025 ammunitions with different calibres, as well as 67 pneumatic and gas pistols were voluntarily handed over by Moldovan and Ukrainian citizens.

The JO "ORION" was carried in three operational phases, from September 2018 till January 2019 and covered the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

This Operation provided a great opportunity for information exchange on people, modi operandi and smuggling channels and it was part of EUBAM, EUROPOL, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Member States' common efforts undertaken to tackle the threats related to cross-border crime in the region and it contributed to improving the situational picture in illegal weapons trafficking.



PONANT and INTERPOL partner to enhance maritime security

INTERPOL is expanding its I-Checkit programme to include PONANT cruise line as part of efforts to further strengthen security for the global cruise industry.

The phased roll-out from 1 July of the I-Checkit passenger screening system across PONANT's cruise operations follows the successful completion at the end of March of a three-month pilot phase.

The trial saw passenger travel documents checked against

INTERPOL global databases to demonstrate the system's ability to further strengthen security for the cruise industry.

The integration of I-Checkit into PONANT's global passenger check-in process will enable INTERPOL to undertake the secure screening of travel documents against its databases, including the Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) database which contains more than 87.5 million records from 177 countries.

INTERPOL Chief in Cyprus for high level meetings



Discussions with the Minister of Justice and Public Order, George Savvides, Chief of Police, Kypros Michaelides and Deputy Chief of Police Stylianos Papatheodorou touched upon a range of domestic and international crime areas including terrorism, trafficking of illicit goods and cybercrime.

Cyprus also recently hosted a training course for Middle East countries as part of INTERPOL's Project Litmus which

develops skills to identify, detect, investigate and successfully prosecute those planning, preparing or committing a chemical explosive incident.

"No country or region can address today's crime threats alone," said the INTERPOL Chief, highlighting illegal immigration as a key area for cooperation.

"Cyprus continues to demonstrate its strong commitment to the global law enforcement community as an active and strong INTERPOL member country," added the Secretary General.

The INTERPOL Chief was updated on the increased use by Cyprus of the Organization's global databases, including nominals, stolen and lost travel documents and stolen motor vehicles by the head of the National Central Bureau (NCB) in Nicosia, Ioannis Charalambous.

With the NCB in Nicosia regularly cooperating closely with INTERPOL's stolen Works of Art unit, the Secretary General also met with the Director of Cyprus's Antiquities Department.

INTERPOL and UN publish joint handbook for online counter-terrorism investigations

Foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) use the Internet and social media for a diverse range of terrorist activities: from recruitment and radicalization to planning and funding.

In response, INTERPOL and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) have jointly produced a handbook to help investigators collect, analyse and share information found online, particularly on social media platforms.

Given the immediacy and global reach of online terrorist activities, it is critical for law enforcement officers to understand how best to use the Internet to generate online investigative leads and collect and preserve electronic

records – often across international borders – in order to contribute to successful prosecutions.



Combating human trafficking the focus of OSCE roundtable discussion

Developing effective methods of providing assistance to the victims of human trafficking was the central topic discussed at an OSCE roundtable meeting in Ashgabat.

Representatives from a number of relevant Turkmen ministries and organizations were present. They included the Mejlis (parliament) of Turkmenistan, the Prosecutor General's Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court, the Bar Association of Ashgabat and Women's and Youth Unions, amongst others.

"Combating human trafficking and providing support for

its victims remains a key priority for the OSCE's Human Dimension in all 57 of its participating States," said Ambassador Natalya Drozd, Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat.

Drozd underlined the importance of co-operation between international organizations, civil society and other interested parties in order to develop effective anti-trafficking measures. "It is only through broad co-operation and joint activities that we may achieve the most positive results in our attempts to combat trafficking and provide all necessary support for its victims."

OSCE and UNODC train Kazakhstan trainers on countering terrorist financing

Strengthening the capacity of Kazakhstan to counter terrorist financing was the aim of a two-day train-the-trainers course held at the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna. The event was organized by the OSCE's Transnational Threats Department, the OSCE Programme Office in Nur-Sultan, and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime's Global Programme against Money Laundering.

The course focused on the financial disruption of terrorist networks and on listing terrorists and terrorist organizations for sanctions pursuant to relevant UN sanctions regimes. The training process focused on localized scenarios based on real-life cases. Together with OSCE and UNODC international experts, the six national

trainers who participated in the course will continue delivering training courses for Kazakhstan participants upon their return to their country.

The course helped the participants to understand how improving inter-agency co-operation can help to identify and disrupt terrorist financial networks. It highlighted specific instruments and techniques that could significantly improve their ability to counter terrorist financing. The activity is part of a comprehensive capacity-building programme to assist in the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and OSCE commitments and support national efforts in Central Asia.

OSCE workshop to promote the identification of victims of trafficking

A workshop on identifying victims of human trafficking in migration flows concluded today in Sarajevo. Organized jointly by the OSCE Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings (OSR/CTHB) and the OSCE's field operations in South-Eastern Europe, the workshop focused on implementing the OSCE's uniform guidelines to identify victims of human trafficking.

More than 40 practitioners from six countries of the region participated in the workshop, which focused on how the guidelines could be adapted to national legislation and operations in South-Eastern Europe.

"Our needs assessment report highlighted a clear opportunity for a uniform identification procedure that could be shared and used by all front-line responders," said Valiant Richey, OSCE Acting Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings."



IOM Director General António Vitorino and UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi Welcome Consensus on Need for Action on Libya, Mediterranean

Discussions in Paris with European States on addressing the situation on the Mediterranean Sea, and preventing loss of life in Libya, are welcome and much-needed. The violence in Tripoli in recent weeks has made the situation more desperate than ever, and the need for action critical.

We welcome the consensus on a need to end the arbitrary detention of refugees and migrants in Libya. There needs to be a process of orderly release of people in detention centres either to urban areas, or to open centres that allow reasonable freedom of movement, shelter, assistance and protection from harm, plus independent monitoring and regular unhindered access for humanitarian agencies. In light of the risks of abuse, maltreatment or death, no one should be returned to detention centres in Libya after being intercepted or rescued at sea.

The renewed commitment from States to preventing loss of life on the Mediterranean Sea is also encouraging. The

status quo, where search and rescue operations are often left to NGO or commercial vessels, cannot continue. An EU State search and rescue operation, similar to programmes we have seen in recent years, is needed.

The crucial role played by NGOs must be acknowledged. They should not be criminalised nor stigmatised for saving lives at sea. Commercial vessels, who are increasingly being relied upon to conduct rescue operations, must not be requested to transfer rescued people to the Libyan Coast Guard, nor directed to disembark them in Libya, which is not a port of safety.

Discussions on establishing a temporary, predictable arrangement for disembarking people after they have been rescued at sea, and sharing responsibility amongst States for hosting them afterwards, were promising. We encourage these talks to progress further. A joined-up approach to this situation is in everyone's interests.

First Reception Centre for Victims of Trafficking Opens in Niger



Niger, a major migratory hub in West and Central Africa, sees numerous vulnerable migrants transiting the country, including victims of trafficking (VoTs) and potential VoTs. Between 2016 and 2019, IOM assisted 326 VoTs, most of them minors (34%) coming from Nigeria (49%), Niger (24%), and Benin (14%). In addition, many Nigerien nationals fall prey to trafficking and exploitation, in Niger and abroad.

Ahead of World Day against Trafficking in Persons on July 30, IOM and the National Agency for the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons (ANLTP) in Niger, opened, the first

reception centre for victims of trafficking in the country, situated in the region of Zinder.

In order to respond to the growing need for tailored assistance for vulnerable cases, the reception centre was built as part of the project Enhancing Capacities to Fight Trafficking in Persons in Niger, implemented between February 2017 and January 2020, in alignment with the National Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons (NAP) and its priorities, and with support from the US Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP).

To reinforce authorities' capacity to combat trafficking in persons in Niger, the project has proposed using shelters for VoTs, as well as a media campaign among host communities impacted by migration flows to raise awareness about human trafficking and its risk factors.



INTERPOL Databases Enhanced Access



This project promotes effective border management and systematic use of INTERPOL's databases in countries in the European Union, to combat terrorism and transnational crime.

Strengthening border security

Project IDEA, sponsored by the European Commission, helps selected EU member countries to secure their borders by strengthening their technical infrastructure and migrating to the latest versions of INTERPOL systems.

The ultimate aim is to better detect dangerous criminals and terrorists and prevent their travel.

In particular, INTERPOL's database of Stolen and Lost Travel Documents (SLTD) can help detect criminals trying to cross borders illegitimately.

Law enforcement officers at frontline locations around

the world can scan a travel document against the SLTD database in real time to check its validity, then take any follow-up action that may be necessary.

Improving processes and standards

The technical aspect of the project will encompass a number of workshops, advisory groups and exchange visits among EU member countries. These will contribute to the improvement of processes and standard operating procedures (SOPs) related to the use of the SLTD database.

Protecting passengers

Project IDEA raises awareness among the general public of the importance of keeping their ID and travel documents safe.

Stolen and lost passports are of immense value to fugitives and terrorists as they can use them to cross borders undetected. In several major terrorist attacks in recent decades, the perpetrators had travelled internationally using invalid passports to conceal their identity.

Once a passport or ID document has been reported as lost or stolen, it should not be used for travel. Even if you find your lost travel document again, do not attempt to travel on it. You could find yourself denied boarding and run the risk of identity theft.

EU support

Running from 2019 to 2020, Project IDEA is funded by the European Union's Internal Security Fund – Police.

OSCE Issue Invitation to Bid on Construction works and ICT installation services for fifteen Border Police Stations in the Republic of North Macedonia

The Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) have put out a tender for procurement of ICT installation services in the Republic of North Macedonia.

Scope of work includes:

LOT No. 1. Construction, Electrical and Low Voltage works;
LOT No. 2. Microwave Link (MW) and Fiber Optic works and services;

LOT No. 3. Alarm system installation works and services;
LOT No. 4. CCTV system installation works and services;
LOT No. 5. Access control system installation works and services.

Deadline: 12:00h.(CET) Thursday, 15th of August 2019

With a expected contract duration for 6 months

Further details and the Request for Bidding Documents can be found at <https://procurement.osce.org/tenders/construction-works-and-ict-installation-services-fifteen-border-police-stations-republic>.

The tender is issued on behalf of the OSCE Mission to Skopje, whose mission monitors and conducts regular visits to local communities and maintains a communication network with political representatives, civil society members, religious leaders and law enforcement officials.

You might soon be travelling without a passport – this is how



The future of air travel is... paperless. Or will be, under an initiative introduced by the World Economic Forum.

The Known Traveller Digital Identity (KTDI) programme will allow people to fly document-free between international destinations. Testing for the scheme is underway, and passengers enrolled in the pilot project will be able to travel between Canada and the Netherlands using their mobile phone instead of a passport.

Globally, the air travel system is under pressure as rising passenger numbers outstrip growth in airport capacity. KTDI aims to speed up the flow of passengers through airports and reduce the risk of cross-border identity fraud.

"By 2030, international air arrivals are expected to reach 1.8 billion passengers, up 50% from 2016. Under today's systems, airports cannot keep up with this growth," says Christoph Wolff, Head of Mobility at the World Economic Forum. "This project offers a solution. By using an interoperable digital identity and other KTDI technologies we are offering travellers a holistic answer to secure and seamless travel. This will shape the future of aviation and security."

Go with the flow

Passengers arriving at participating airports will already have their identity data encrypted and stored on their mobile phone, instead of on a passport microchip.

Relevant information is sent to airlines, border authorities and others before passengers reach the airport. Individual consent is needed each time data is sent, which gives travellers more control over their personal data than the existing passport system.

Using biometric technology – such as fingerprinting or facial recognition – passengers can enjoy seamless, and paperless, transit through departures, onto their flight and on arrival at their destination.

A landmark moment

Trials of the KTDI programme will run throughout 2019, with the first digitally documented end-to-end journey expected to take place in 2020.

Speeding the flow of passengers through the world's airports could ease the pressure on an industry facing rapid growth in the coming years.

As the above chart shows, the number of international tourist arrivals is set to boom over the next decade.

Growth is set to be strongest in the emerging economies of Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East, accounting for 57% of all international arrivals in 2030.

The KTDI programme could help the aviation industry cope with this increase in passenger numbers. But adopting paperless travel on a global scale will not be without its challenges.

Success will rest upon cooperation between world governments, technology providers, the aviation industry, border authorities and others, to establish global security and data protection standards for all stakeholders to comply with.

The pilot scheme represents a unique collaborative effort between stakeholders in Canada and the Netherlands, which could become a model for others to follow and change the way air travel operates.



WHO GETS TO GO HOME? THE POLICIES FACING IS WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Report by BBC Monitoring

BBC Monitoring tracks, translates and analyses media across the world for governments, corporates and academia.

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The fate of foreign Islamic State (IS) women and their children stranded in Syria and Iraq is an unpredictable lottery skewed by inconsistent international approaches.

Few countries have responded to appeals from local authorities, human rights groups and aid organisations to repatriate women and minors, many of whom have struggled in camps since the defeat of IS.

The problem is also an issue to a lesser extent in Libya, which expelled IS in 2016.

In recent weeks, some countries have relented in a small number of cases, mostly involving young children: Australia, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, the US and UK among them.

The size of the problem

When IS's last stand in Syria fell

earlier this year, Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) officials estimated that there were some 12,000 foreign women and children from 54 countries in the three camps for displaced people in Syria's north-east.

At the end of June, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said there were an estimated 29,000 foreign children of IS fighters in Syria - 20,000 of whom are from Iraq.

In Iraq, where IS's last stronghold Mosul fell in January 2018, an estimated 1,400-2,000 foreign women and children have been detained in prisons by Iraqi or Kurdistan authorities.

About 700 foreign women are awaiting trial or have been charged for illegally entering the country, joining IS or assisting its fighters. Many have already been sentenced, in expedited trials that Human Rights Watch (HRW) has questioned. The organisation has also accused authorities in Iraq of extracting confessions using torture - a charge the Iraqi authorities have denied.

Hundreds of children are in prisons in Iraq - some because they are with mothers who have been sentenced; some because they have sentenced themselves - again, in judicial processes that have been questioned. Children above the age of nine have been punished for illegal entry into the country, despite testifying that their parents brought them there, HRW says.

In Libya, over 100, mostly non-Libyan women and children, are being held in prisons in Tripoli and Misrata.



After the group's last stronghold, Sirte, was retaken in 2016, dozens of women and children were detained in nearby Misrata and some 155 orphans were found. Some of the orphans have been repatriated but 24 still remain in a makeshift orphanage guarded by a local militia and run by the Red Crescent in Misrata.

What different governments are doing

Most countries have ignored the appeal to repatriate their nationals though there has been some softening of this stance in relation to young children in recent weeks.

Of those that are repatriating nationals, many also focus on returning children. Some have allowed women to return.

A study by the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR) at King's College London in 2018 published the recorded numbers of women and children who had joined IS and the countries they were from. The following are

the top five:

Russia

Russia has had probably been the most active country in repatriating detainees from Iraq and Syria, HRW says.

In 2017, Chechnya's powerful leader Ramzan Kadyrov championed bringing women and children back and was supported in this by President Vladimir Putin. The country has brought back some some 21 women and 137 children since, according to Kheda Saratova, a Chechen activist who works on the repatriation process.

But in mid-2018 there were reports that Russia was halting this due to security concerns even though, according to Saratova, some 1,000 women and 2,000 children remain in Iraq and Syria.

Russia's State security agency FSB chief Alexander Bortnikov has complained about the increasing numbers of people returning via humanitarian channels. "It is no

Women affiliated with Islamic StateRussia **512 - ~1,000**Tunisia **700**France **300 - 382**China **~350**Morocco **293**

ICSR, King's College London



secret that these women and even children are used by terrorist leaders as recruiters, suicide bombers, perpetrators of terrorist acts or messengers," he said.

Since repatriations resumed in December, it has been only children who have been brought back.

Ziyad Sabsabi, a Russian politician and official envoy to the Middle East of the president of Chechnya, has been instrumental in arranging these repatriations.

Tunisia

The Tunisian Ministry of Women and Children has said there are some 200 children and 100 women claiming Tunisian nationality being held abroad without charge as IS

family members - most in Syria and Libya, and some in Iraq. So far it has brought home three children.

The head of the country's National Counterterrorism Commission, Mokhtar Ben Nasr has said that the ministries of justice, interior and foreign affairs are looking into different aspects of the issue and conditions for repatriation, including thorough DNA tests to help establish that the children are Tunisian nationals.

He has also said that various ministries have drawn up a number of programmes for prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration. But the programmes are believed to be largely in the planning stage as Tunisia grapples with overcrowded

prisons and an economic crisis.

HRW in February accused the Tunisian government of "stalling" in helping to bring home its stranded women and children.

It said it had interviewed family members who sought the government's help and "Nearly all family members interviewed said they had received no replies to letters and documents they had sent to the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the president, and other officials beseeching them to help bring the women and children home."

France

The French government initially categorically refused to take back fighters and their wives, but has said it would take back their children on a case-by-case basis.

Then in February the government confirmed that French jihadists detained in Syrian camps might be returned to France.

It wouldn't say how many people would be repatriated, but French media reports, citing government sources, placed the figure between 120 and 130. As many as 75 per cent of those coming back would likely be younger than age 7. It repatriated five children in mid-March and another 12 in June.

Jean-Yves Le Drian, France's foreign minister, has previously branded IS fighters and their wives as "enemies" of France who should stay and face justice in Syria or Iraq.

Repatriation is a sensitive topic given the country has suffered a series of deadly IS-claimed attacks since 2015.

Number of children affiliated with Islamic StateRussia **350 - ~1,000**France **460-700**Morocco **391**Kazakhstan **390**China **~350**

China

China has released very little information about nationals who have joined Islamic State. Asked about the issue of returning fighters in March, the Foreign Ministry said only that it would need to discuss the issue with relevant countries.

“Terrorism is a common challenge for the international community at present. Resolving this question requires concerted effort by the international community,” a spokesman said. “We hope every party will continue to strengthen coordination against all terrorist forces, including the residual IS forces.”

Morocco

Morocco has also said little about its policy towards returnees. However, it repatriated eight citizens in a “humanitarian” operation in March - not specifying if they were men, women or children - and its internal intelligence agency said in December that 52 women and 15 children had returned to the country.

In August the government also sent investigators to look into the cases of dozens of women and children claiming nationality in Syria.

The head of the country’s Central Bureau of Judicial Investigation said in February that there were still 289 Moroccan women and 370 children in Iraq and Syria.

Four of these countries - Russia, France, Morocco and China - also have the highest numbers of children affiliated with the group. Another is Kazakhstan:

Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan has recently scaled up

its repatriation of men, women and children in what it calls Operation Wormwood – a plant that is associated with homesickness in the country.

Authorities said in March that they had brought back 125 people in the last few years – 47 in the first phase of the operation in January.

In May, they announced they had repatriated another 231 people - 156 of whom were children, most of pre-school age.

Four women in this group have been detained on suspicion of involvement in terrorism and the others are being rehabilitated in special centres.

The state has been testing the DNA of the orphans among the children, to help establish their identities. The relatives of the latest group of 18 have been contacted and will be accepting them into their families, the Kazakh intelligence agency, the National Security Committee (NSC), said.

The NSC has said some 300 nationals – including 150-170 children – are still in Syria.

Other Central Asian countries have also been more open to bringing back women and children. Tajikistan has said it repatriated 84 children from Iraq, and Uzbekistan 156, mostly women and children.

Underestimating the issue

These recorded numbers do not provide the full picture though. The King’s College ICSR study’s authors, Dr Joana Cook and Gina Vale, have cautioned that the actual numbers of people affiliated with the group are likely to be higher.

They said there were data gaps

for Iraqis and Syrians, which the study did not cover, but also for Saudi Arabia, which acknowledged only 46 cases of women out of 3,244 IS affiliates, and Jordan, which had up to 3,950 IS affiliates “but not a single woman or minor publicly accounted for”. Lebanon, Libya and Turkmenistan also had a significant number of affiliates but have not accounted for any women or children.

Dr Cook told BBC Monitoring: “We know this is a significant underestimation because there were such gaps in the data and when look at all of the thousands of foreign women and minors that have come out of Baghuz, the final stronghold of IS we see that this problem is still significantly underestimated and it’s being significantly neglected.”

The current approach to managing the population of women and children is problematic, Dr Cook said, and “has a real potential to really feed into future security concerns in the region”.

As an example she cited the way significant radicalisation took place in prisons for Al-Qaeda in Iraq in the early 2000s, and how some widows became specific targets for insurgent groups to recruit from because they were vulnerable.

“This is a concern that now extends to both women and minors that are currently being detained by Iraqi forces or by SDF forces, in prisons or IDP camps, at the moment,” she said.

She called on governments to repatriate the detainees and to address the two groups distinctly.



"It is an additional burden that the international community is putting on these local forces by leaving their citizens in region," she said, adding it was not clear what would happen to women and children left

where they were.

"Whether they get picked up by [Syrian President Bashar al-] Assad's forces or transferred to Assad's forces. Whether they

simply disappear into the local communities and further aggravate the local situation there. It's not clear but none of these are positive responses or ways to manage these populations."

"For women I believe they should be detained and investigated and prosecuted as appropriate but we also have to consider things like deradicalisation programmes and potential reintegration over time," she said.

"For children we have to recognise that these children are largely victims of the organisation and of their parent's choices. These children have not in many cases willingly become affiliated with this organisation."

United States Signs Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement with Tunisia

The United States signed a Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement (CMAA) with Tunisia Thursday marking a significant milestone in collaboration on security and facilitation of lawful trade between the two countries.

On June 27, Robert E. Perez, Deputy Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) signed on behalf of the United States, and Youssef Zouaghi, Director General of Tunisian Customs signed on behalf of Tunisia, in Brussels, Belgium.

"Customs Mutual Assistance Agreements allow for the exchange of information that is vital to our national and economic security," said Deputy Commissioner Robert E. Perez. "We value our partnership with Tunisia in pursuing our mutual goals of stronger law enforcement and a more resilient and secure supply chain. These agreements form sound legal frameworks on a wide range of issues, including securing our borders against terrorists and combatting drug traffickers. This collaboration and cooperation will enable us – and generations after us – to work more effectively to

prevent, detect, and investigate customs offenses."

The United States has now signed 81 CMAAs with other customs administrations across the world. CMAAs are bilateral agreements between countries, enforced by their respective customs administrations. They provide the legal framework for the exchange of information and evidence to assist countries in the enforcement of customs laws, including duty evasion, trafficking, proliferation, money laundering, and terrorism-related activities. CMAAs also serve as foundational documents for subsequent information sharing arrangements.

CBP and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are the implementing agencies for the United States.

CBP is one of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's largest and most complex agencies, with a priority mission of keeping terrorists and their weapons out of the United States. It also has a responsibility for securing the border and facilitating lawful international trade and travel while enforcing hundreds of U.S. laws and regulations, including immigration and drug laws.

BORDER SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY OVER TUMULT

By Leo McCloskey
VP Marketing, Echodyne



The twenty-teens were a tumultuous period for border security. How borders are drawn, who is crossing or transgressing, and how to adjudicate such actions are challenging issues for society and government, are questions for which resolutions are neither obvious nor swift. As troublesome as the fading period may have been, the coming decade can and will be different. Border authorities

must remember the past, wrestle with the present, and plan for the future.

The task of border management is not as distinct from other technology areas as it once was, though. Technology has proven to be a harbinger of tremendous and unforeseen changes. Technology has enabled new businesses to not only appear and scale to dominant market positions but to also lower

barriers for moving vertically and/or horizontally within and across markets. A rigorous discipline of supply chain management, for example, goes a long way (just ask Amazon) and, importantly, benefits from the larger commercial investments in supply chain technologies.

The task of border management can learn from past and present change dynamics in organizations and industries to create the best possible outcome for the application of technology for border management in the twenty-twenty's.

Border Management Technology Framework

David Aguilar, former Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), has identified three mainstays of agency execution as Personnel, Technology, and Infrastructure. Technology directly impacts

national borders. Properly scoped and implemented, technology is a force multiplier that continuously collects and distributes data to create actionable intelligence while boosting productivity and augmenting safety.

According to Metcalfe's Law, the effect of connecting personnel, devices, and data across a common infrastructure is the square of the number of connected devices and people. If the axiom holds, as it surely will, the men and women charged with inspecting and processing the movement of people and goods and surveilling and interdicting transgression along national borders are about to become much more productive, because smart devices are arriving in volume.

Let's consider the table in Figure 1 (Fig. 1) as a framework for a change with which we are most

and invest in systems that collect, process, and present data. This framework for prudently investing in performance improvement is tried and true, if complex and a more than a tad harrowing. In years past, we might stay with this high-level framework with perhaps the odd cross-domain combinations.

But the future is not the past and the present indicates technology's impact is beginning to make a difference. "I see the future of technology, based upon what we are seeing in Tucson, is greater integration," [CBP Division Chief Raleigh] Leonard said. "You wouldn't have stand-alone technology solutions, they would all be beamed into a command and control center where one agent or a small team of agents could monitor a large geographic area of the border."

Source: <https://www.cbp.gov/frontline/frontline-june-az-technology>

The New (Border Management) Technology Framework

The context for change in border management technologies is heavily influenced by current technology trends. Figure 2 (Fig. 2) includes these new technologies, borrowing and benefit from larger industry investments. The framework in Figure 1, done well, brings linear change, however vertical it may seem. This framework in Figure 2, over time, enables exponential change. It radically alters the definition of devices for data collection, eschews the idea of technology silos, and takes advantage of academic and commercial investments in secure

<i>Technology Areas</i>		Devices	Networks	Data Centers	Systems
<i>Border Focus</i>					
Ports of Entry	Land ports				
Inspection & Processing	Sea ports				
	Airports				
Perimeter	Land				
Surveillance & Interdiction	Coastal				
	Airspace				

Fig. 1

agent and support Personnel performance, however, and is also the essential backbone of Infrastructure. Technology is essential for all aspects of border management, from authorized ports of entry to the endless miles of forest, desert, and sea that define

comfortable. Each column is a silo focused on delivery of the best research or, better yet, commercial technology available to meet the defined need - evaluate devices for scale, increase the resilience and throughput of networks, expand the data centers for scale and speed,

Border Focus	Technology Areas	Artificial Intelligence						3rd Party Data
		Sensors	UxV	Devices	Meshed Wireless	Clouds	Big Data	
Ports of Entry	Land ports							
Inspection & Processing	Sea ports							
	Airports							
Perimeter	Land							
Surveillance & Interdiction	Coastal							
	Airspace							

Fig. 2

meshed terrestrial and satellite network capabilities, the Internet of Things (IOT), unmanned vehicles, and artificial intelligence.

Framework Components

Much ink and many bits have been, and will be expended on describing the components of this framework. An article on ATAK, the Android Tactical Assault Kit, appeared in this journal in the May/June 2018 issue. It is an excellent description of commercial technology empowering agents that directly correlates to performance improvements and agent safety. It also demonstrates the velocity of change and the challenge of acronyms, as there will soon be an ITAK (iPhone Tactical Assault Kit), which might one day be replaced by MTAK, for Mobile Tactical Assault Kit.

For purposes of length and readability, this framework will be revisited over time in this journal and elsewhere, both directly and

through expert guests. This balance of this article will focus on the areas identified in Figure 3 (Fig. 3) which, when combined, are force multipliers for border authorities.

Situational Awareness

The reason for technology investment is not just to work smarter and faster but to make agents more productive and safer. As noted in a Frontline publication from US CBP, “We usually had to do our jobs without a lot of information,” said Operations Officer Joseph A. Korchmaros, who has long patrolled this area where he was born and raised. “There was no sure way of knowing when, where or who we would encounter next, and no awareness of the degree of threat. The environment we worked in was a lot like operating in a dark room.”

With new tools like Unmanned Vehicles and upgraded Sensor deployments there should be far

fewer dark areas to transgress national borders or threaten agent safety.

Unmanned Vehicles (UVs)

The border area between nation states has always been the space to avoid legal restrictions on the movement of unauthorized people and illicit goods. With trade and migration controlled by authorities at identified border crossings, the vast majority of the border remains untended. The challenge of surveilling remote borders against transgression from small planes, tunnels, walkers, vehicles, and boats will become even more difficult with small unmanned vehicles (UVs).

Remotely piloted, steering by GPS, or flying only by optical waypoints, small unmanned vehicles are a game changer for both border agencies and those challenging border authorities. While much attention has been given to unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), also known as drones, similar progress is being made on specialized unmanned vehicles for all modalities – marine, submarine, or ground. The machines are relatively inexpensive, able to travel good distance with cargo, and tend to be smaller in size, making detection more difficult.

For border authorities, UVs carry out mission assignments without complaint and, when equipped themselves with a range of sensors, are high-performance eyes and ears for border agents, augmenting safety while advancing mission objectives. In remote locations with sufficient solar power, small aerostats or tethered drones can

Border Focus	Technology Areas	Artificial Intelligence						3rd Party Data
		Sensors	UxV	Devices	Meshed Wireless	Clouds	Big Data	
Ports of Entry	Land ports							
Inspection & Processing	Sea ports							
	Airports							
Perimeter	Land							
Surveillance & Interdiction	Coastal							
	Airspace							

Fig. 3

hover at height indefinitely, using onboard sensors to constantly surveil territory and stream the data back to manned operations centers and field agents.

RF Works Both Ways

The challenge in utilizing UVs is directly linked to the sensors that can detect and track the movement of these small vehicles. Radio frequency (RF) sensors are used by authorities to search for known and sometimes hidden UV communication frequencies to detect small drones in the sky and either interfere with the communications sending the drone back to the operator or take control of the drone itself.

While the drone market is predominantly in the hands of one vendor, DJI, it is conceivable to maintain an accurate drone RF library, but it's not practical. More drone manufacturers are entering the market, which will quickly scale the number of libraries required to scan the sky and become a maintenance burden. More pertinently, the barriers to building homemade drones without RF signal are low and shrinking with each new technology advancement.

The only sensor capable of detecting and tracking drones of all sizes and capabilities is radar. While electronically scanning array (ESA) radars, with true beam-steering capabilities, are the choice of defense organizations across the globe, their large size, high cost, and mechanical nature make them ill-suited for border agency needs. As with UVs and other sensors, technology is stepping forward to solve this problem, too.

Sensors are Smart Devices



More effective as eyes and ears and even more challenging to defeat are new sensors for fixed and mobile use cases. Sensors have become smaller and lighter, consume less power, offer much higher performance for lower cost, are well-suited for data fusion, and will greatly benefit from developments in artificial intelligence (AI). Of particular interest to border authorities is the cost reduction of many sensors and sensor components, because affordability leads to ubiquity.

One of the more ubiquitous sensors is the camera, or optical sensor. Camera technology has progressed rapidly throughout the twenty-teens. With pressure from consumer and commercial markets and

multiple manufacturers generating good price competition, prices are dropping while performance continues to improve. A good example is Bosch Security and Safety Systems, which technology comes from larger corporate investments across multiple industries to produce affordable, high-performance optical sensors. The market also benefits from the number of Asian manufacturers, further increasing quality while driving down cost.

Optical sensors provide clarity leading to firm identification, but the object must first be detected. The best detection and tracking sensor is radar, which operates in all weather conditions and environments. Radar technology developments are finally bringing ESA capabilities to a format with the right performance, cost, and operational characteristics for border agencies. This broad availability of ESA radar is being led by Echodyne, whose MESA technology makes radar affordable and operational (full disclosure: the author presently works for Echodyne).



Sensor Fusion is the Key

By themselves, these technology developments are great steps forward. When fused by software into a larger situational awareness system, they have the ability to revolutionize border surveillance. Companies like Anduril, a startup focusing on defense and security technologies, are creating fixed autonomous surveillance towers at significant discount to previous investments.

Because sensor technology has reduced power consumption, these towers require no external power and use radar to scan, detect, track, and cue optical sensors to rapidly identify the target object at great distance (e.g., >2km for human and >3km for vehicles). The towers fuse

the sensor data with their own AI to stream highly accurate, actionable intelligence to operations centers and field agent handheld devices, triggering the proper response protocol with more response time.

As described by US CBP, "These new fixed towers, powered by solar panels and providing instantaneous integration of images and alerts to the control center, help close the final gaps for those trying a challenging end-around over and through the roughest terrain."

"The true innovation with this technology effort was to access aviation surveillance technologies that combined radar and long-distance cameras and adapt them for border security use," said Supervisory Border Patrol Agent

Dustin Roll. "That's been the solution for us that has added the most flexibility and effectiveness."

Technology will continue to influence the architecture of border surveillance systems. As sensors become smaller, lower power, and more affordable, their impact will be felt more broadly. Dark zones along the border and areas where field agents are operating with little/no situational awareness should become fewer and fewer. Knowledge is power, and along the border, the knowledge produced by smart sensors integrated with powerful software across meshed networks will protect agents while further mission objectives.

ABF nabs over 5,000kg of illicit tobacco



Australian Border Force (ABF) officers at the Container Examination Facility in Melbourne inspected a shipping container resulting in the detection and seizure of illicit rough-cut tobacco equating to over \$5.69 million in evaded duty.

Originating from Indonesia, the shipping container was labelled to contain items such as green tea, coffee, water, taro tea and coconut chips, however upon examination ABF officers located more than 300 boxes containing illicit tobacco, totalling 5,219kgs.

Acting Regional Commander Vic/Tas Ranjeev Maharaj said ABF Officers have once again been able to detect the concealment method through effective examination capabilities.

"We will continue to do everything we can to stop these illegal importations, which are defrauding the Commonwealth of legitimate revenue, and often funnel profits into organised crime," Acting Commander Maharaj said.

The illicit tobacco market in Australia is worth about \$600 million a year in evaded revenue. Targeting and dismantling this criminal activity is an operational priority for the ABF.

The ABF is leading the multi-agency Illicit Tobacco Taskforce that combines the operational, investigative and intelligence capabilities of the ABF, Australian Taxation Office, Department of Home Affairs, Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission, Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre and Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions.

AGENCY NEWS AND UPDATES

Reinforcing Jordan's Capabilities at the Eastern Border



The Delegation of the European Union to Jordan and Expertise France have announced the launch of a new project entitled "Reinforcing Jordan's Capabilities at the Eastern Borders".

This project, funded by the EU for a total amount of 6 million euros, aims at improving the coordination and sustainability of civil-military operations in the Eastern part of Jordan, with the provision of a multi-agency logistical hub in Ruwaishid (Mafraq Governorate) and capacity building activities.

This hub will be a forward base providing critical logistical support to the Jordan Armed Forces, as well as the Jordanian law enforcement and security agencies present in the Eastern part of the

country. Its strategic location, in the city of Ruwaishid, will enhance the national authorities' capability to respond to any threats at the Northern and Eastern borders likely to hamper Jordan's security (terrorist infiltration, weapon and drug smuggling). It will also contribute to the sustainable resumption of normal cross-border traffic with Iraq and to improve the humanitarian and civil protection response.

The project will be implemented by Expertise France, which is the French public agency for international technical assistance.

EUBAM Rafah Mandate Extended



The Council of the European Union has extended the Mandate of the EU Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing

Point (EUBAM Rafah), as well as the Mandate of the EU Coordinating Office for Palestinian Police Support (EUPOL COPPS), until 30 June 2020.

The Council also extended the mandate of EUPOL COPPS. The Mission will continue to assist the Palestinian Authority in building the institutions of a future state of Palestine in the areas of policing and criminal justice based on its experience and cooperation with the Palestinian Authority since January 2006. Through its contribution to security and justice sector reform, the Mission supports efforts to increase the security of the Palestinian population and to reinforce the Rule of Law. € 12.43 million have been allocated for the Mission's activities between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020.

3 Al-Shabaab terrorists killed in foiled IED attack on border patrol police

Police have killed three suspected terrorists following an Improvised Explosives Device (IED) attack on a road along the Kiunga-Somalia border within Lamu.



Two police officers on patrol in the area were injured after the explosive device planted by the terrorists in the area detonated on Monday.

Witnesses said the militants hid in the bushes around the area where the explosive had been planted and ambushed the security officers once the explosive detonated.

According to officers, the killed militants were dressed in jungle green military gear resembling that of Al-Shabaab...

Police find dozens of exotic reptiles in raid on Tel Aviv apartment



Authorities said they uncovered a warren of dozens of reptiles and amphibians crammed into a small central Tel Aviv apartment, as part of a worldwide crackdown on animals being sold on the exotic pet black market.

Among the reptiles found were some that posed a serious danger to the local ecology and even to people, the Israel Nature and Parks Authority said in a statement Wednesday.

Police detained a Tel Aviv resident on suspicion of holding and trading without a permit in species that are illegal for private collection. The animals were estimated to be worth hundreds of thousands of shekels.

The reptiles, which were apparently smuggled into the country, were recovered in June by INPA officials in cooperation with the Border Police as part of a worldwide Interpol operation dubbed "Thunderball" carried out last month.

Suspected drug smuggler killed in shootout with IDF on Egypt border



One suspected drug smuggler was killed and two others were injured in a shootout with IDF troops along the Egyptian border, the Israeli army said.

Upon being spotted, the group of suspects opened fire at the IDF and Border Police troops, who shot back in accordance with live-fire regulations, the army said.

None of the Israeli security forces were injured in the exchange of fire. There was no comment from Egyptian authorities.

The rugged desert border between Israel and Egypt is notorious as a drug smuggling route..

UK Border Force detain 'up to 38' migrants including children off Dover coast



Children were among dozens of migrants who have been detained by the UK Border Force off the coast of Dover.

A witness said a group of up to 38 migrants were caught attempting to travel across the Channel to Kent recently.

A lone man was also picked up separately by French authorities near Calais while reportedly swimming with a rubber ring and flippers.

Speaking about the man who was detained near Calais, a former coastguard said: "I've seen every kind of attempted unorthodox crossing of the Dover Strait. This one is absolutely incredible. Anyone who thinks with a rubber ring and some flippers they can swim 21 miles as the crow flies... is really asking for serious trouble."

Moldova seeks to wipe out cigarette smuggling on eastern border

Moldova wants to increase the effectiveness of measures to prevent smuggling across the Moldova-Ukraine border, including in sections where Ukraine borders the Moldovan separatist republic of Transnistria, Prime Minister Maia Sandu said at



a joint press conference with her Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky.

According to the EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM), tobacco smuggling is one of the most serious risks to border security at the Moldova-Ukraine border, and results in the loss of millions of euros to the state budgets of both countries as well as those of EU member states, the ultimate recipients of many of the smuggled cigarettes. According to EUBAM, between December 2015 and November 2016, over 45.7mn cigarettes were seized at the Moldova-Ukraine border..

Frontex operation along Albania-Greece border deemed a success



Two months after the launch of the new Frontex operation at the Albanian-Greek border, the German government has called the mission a success.

In response to an inquiry by Germany's left-wing fraction Die Linke, the federal government said the operation of Europe's Border and Coast Guard

Agency contributes to "support the Albanian authorities with their border police duties and return operations."

The operation has also contributed to bringing Albanian authorities closer to the "qualitative standards of the European Union in this purview," according to the government.

At present, 66 border guards from 12 EU member states are on active duty at the Albanian-Greek border. Among them are 11 police officers from Germany's federal police force.

Frontex forces are to help Albania monitor its "green border" with Greece and to prevent cross-border crime, the government said further. To that end, Frontex border guards were also present at five border crossings.

Vancouver Police Department discloses its dealings with Canadian Border Services Agency

Vancouver police made 183 queries to federal immigration authorities during an eight-month period ending May 23, 2019. That's an average of almost 23 per month, based on a report to the police board chaired by city mayor Kennedy Stewart.

According to the police report, queries directed to the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) involved undocumented migrants as well as those with legal immigration status. Of the 183 requests for information, 87 percent—or 159 of them—were regarding people who were the subjects of complaints or suspects in police investigations.

Thirty-six people were detained under the federal Immigration and Refugee

Protection Act (IRPA) as a result of the queries..

Border Patrol charges 2 in Uber with human smuggling

The U.S. Border Patrol says two men in a New York City-based Uber are facing human smuggling charges after they were arrested near the Vermont-Quebec border where they intended to pick up two other men who had just entered the United States illegally.

Court documents say the two men in the vehicle were arrested shortly after agents had arrested a man from Mexico and Cuba who admitted they had just crossed illegally from Canada.

Agents found the two men walking about a half mile south of the border after a remote sensor was activated. The two were charged with being in the country illegally.

Agents later determined the two men in the car had been communicating by phone with the two who crossed the border.

Rwanda dismisses WHO report about possible Ebola border breach



Authorities in Rwanda refuted reports that the fishmonger responsible for Uganda's renewed Ebola surveillance,

had crossed into the border town of Gisenyi.

"There is no Ebola in Rwanda as far as we are concerned. We have a strong surveillance system in place that helps us to prevent its entry," Malic Kayumba, Head of Communications at Rwanda Biomedical Centre told The EastAfrican. We investigate every day and have a system that informs us of all we need to know, and such news would be coming from us. If there was entry of a suspected Ebola victim we would have known."

There had been reports by the World Health Organisation (WHO) that the fishmonger who vomited at a popular market in Uganda's border Mpondwe town, might also have done business in Rwanda before returning to DRC where she died.

WHO has since withdrawn the reports which were reportedly published without the knowledge of WHO headquarters in Geneva.

Border Patrol Has Seized, And Stored, Enough Fentanyl To Kill 794 Million People, Agents At Risk

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has seized so much fentanyl coming over the border that there is now enough of the powerful narcotic in storage to kill 794 million people. The agency's own agents are at risk of fatal exposure to the drug.

In 2015, according to a report released by the Homeland Security Department's Inspector General, the agency seized 70 pounds of the deadly narcotic. So far this year, the agency has seized 3,500 pounds of it.

A dose as small as two milligrams is lethal for most adults, meaning that the agency has seized enough fentanyl that, according to the maths, the amount it's seized can kill 794 million people. That's enough to kill every American twice over, with enough left over to kill every last person in Russia. So deadly is the drug that accidentally inhaling it could be fatal..

\$5M worth of gold seized by UK police on trail of drugs cartel



About £4 million (\$5 million) worth of gold was seized at London's Heathrow Airport by Border Force officers as part of an international investigation into a suspected South American drugs cartel.

The gold, which weighed 104 kilograms (229 pounds), was on its way to Switzerland from the Cayman Islands when it was seized on June 1. No arrests were made, police said.

The UK's National Crime Agency (NCA) -- a governmental law enforcement organization -- reported that the gold was believed to have originated in Venezuela, from where it was transported to the Cayman Islands on a private jet.

Border Force agents at Heathrow Airport subsequently moved in to detain the shipment when it arrived in the UK, based on intelligence provided by the NCA..

OAS to meet US military leadership in Pentagon



Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) Director General Major General Asif Ghafoor has stated that army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa will visit Pentagon. Major General Asif Ghafoor said internal security situation of Pakistan has been improved as sacrifices of Pakistani nation and security forces have started yielding results. The DG ISPR said border control was much better after the erection of the security fence along Pak-Afghan border. He said border fence would help reduce terrorism-related incidents.

He said now the main focus of the security forces was the development in Balochistan and restructuring of terrorism affected areas in coordination with the civil administration.

Sinister souvenirs: ABF detects 7.5L liquid methamphetamine in snow globes

Australian Border Force (ABF) officers in Sydney have discovered liquid methamphetamine worth more than \$1 million concealed in a consignment of snow globes. The consignment was targeted by ABF Aviation Goods officers after arriving from Canada. The 15 snow globes were X-rayed and subject to further examination, with substance identification testing of the liquid inside returning a presumptive positive result for methamphetamine.

More than 9 Thousand Pads of Apparent Fentanyl Seized with Canine Support



The Ministry of Security and Citizen Protection recognizes the collaborative work carried out by elements of the Regional Security and Federal Forces divisions of the Federal Police, who, with the support of police dogs, in two actions secured approximately 9,670 tablets of apparent fentanyl, in a parcel company from the Culiacán

International Airport, Sinaloa and inside a bus station in Hermosillo, Sonora.

It was in a first action in the area of airport courier and parcel service, where the specimens detected in a box of typical sweets, two packages with 870 doses with the characteristics of fentanyl. They were destined for an address in Florida, United States.

In a second operation, when carrying out inspection and inspection tasks inside the bus terminal, a canine binomial trained in the detection of narcotics located inside a bathroom, a transparent bag with 8,800 pills with similar characteristics.

In the presence of a probable crime, the evidence was collected and made available to the Public Prosecutor of the Federation of each state to continue the corresponding investigations.

Police Foil Cocaine Smuggling in Tyres of Truck



National Gendarmerie, in the framework of the fight against drug trafficking carried out by the Ministry of Security of the Nation, kidnapped 285 kilos 53 grams of cocaine hidden in the tires of a cargo transport and arrested two members of a criminal organization. The procedure took place in the province of Salta.

As a result of investigative tasks, the members of the Fixed Patrol "El Naranjo" under the "Salta" Core Squadron, together with members of the Drug Investigation Section

of the province, stopped on National Route No. 34 a semi-trailer truck that was heading towards Buenos Aires.

At the time of the inspection of the vehicle, officials observed an evident state of nervousness in the driver. This led to a more thorough control, detecting that the wheels had an excessive weight.

The gendarmes through the use of cutting elements, made the opening in the tires, where they found 276 rectangular packages, which submitted to the Narcotest field test showed positive results for cocaine, with a total weight of 285 kilos 53 grams

Immediately, the Federal Court No. 2 and the Federal Prosecutor's Office No. 1 of Salta were informed, who arranged for the registration of five properties in the town of Salvador Mazza and one in that of Coronel Cornejo. As a result of the raids, 800 US dollars, 105,500 Argentine pesos, a firearm with loader and ammunition and documentation of interest for the cause were apprehended.

Smuggling network creating look-alikes busted in Greece

The migrants were paying between €6000 and €8000 to reach Western Europe

On 15 and 16 July 2019, the Hellenic Police, supported by Europol, dismantled an organised criminal group (OCG) smuggling migrants from Turkey to Greece and facilitating their secondary movements to other EU Member States.

The network was using commercial flights in regional airports for the transportation of migrants from Greece to Western Europe. The network was providing the migrants with genuine documents which resembled the holder (look-alike method), and/or forged documents. The OCG was even using a specific hair salon in Athens to enhance the resemblance of the migrants to the legal owner of the travel documents. The criminals were earning €2000 per migrant for the smuggling from Turkey to Greece and from €4000 to €6000 per person to facilitate the secondary movement from Greece to other EU Member States.

During the action days, the Greek authorities carried out nine searches and arrested eight people suspected

of being members of the network, two of which have been identified as its leaders. The Hellenic Police arrested another suspect for migrant smuggling to Germany with a European arrest warrant. Among the seizures made are identities cards from various EU countries, equipment for document forgery, cash and various electronic devices.

Experts from Europol's European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC), deployed to Greece, supported this high priority case on the spot by providing expertise, continuous operational assistance, and tailored analytical support and cross-checking of operational information against Europol's databases.

The operation was carried out under the umbrella of the Greek National Operational Plan signed by Europol and the Hellenic Police in June 2016. The purpose of the plan is to disrupt organised criminal networks involved in migrant smuggling and to reinforce secondary security controls in migration hotspots.



WorldBorderSecurity.net

World Border Security Network (**WorldBorderSecurity.net**), a global network for agency officials at the borders.

The purpose of the network is to encourage and facilitate inter-agency co-operation and communication. Members of the network will be able to:

- communicate securely
- share information
- share documents
- share best practise
- view past presentations
- keep up-to-date with the latest technology developments
- share training opportunities
- and more...

WorldBorderSecurity.net is open to all World Border Security Congress government agency delegates past and present.

Access is restricted to government and intergovernmental personnel; border, customs, immigration agency officials and specialist law enforcement officers.

Non-delegate agency officials will also be welcome but by member invitation only.



BORDER MANAGEMENTS ANNUAL GATHERING

EVENT PREVIEW



The annual gathering of the international border management and protection community will take place in the historic city of Athens, Greece on March 31st to 2nd April 2020.

Supported by the Ministry of Citizen Protection & KEMEA (Center for Security Studies under the Ministry of Citizen Protection), the World Border Security Congress is delighted to be positioned in the heart of some of the most recent migration challenges.

Greece has been in the forefront of the global migration crisis since it started in 2015. 2015/16 saw the escalation of the global migration crisis, with mass movements of people fleeing the war zones of the Middle East as well as illegal economic immigration from Africa and elsewhere.

The 2020 World Border Security Congress will see the largest international gathering of border security professionals.

The World Border Security Congress is a high level 3 day event that will

KEMEA Confirm Support of the 2020 World Border Security Congress

The Organisers of World Border Security Congress are delighted to announce that The Center for Security Studies (KEMEA) of the Hellenic Ministries of Citizen Protection have confirmed their official support of the World Border Security Congress in Athens, Greece – 31st March to 2nd April 2020.

KEMEA is supervised by the Minister of Citizen Protection and is a scientific, consulting and research agency, whose purpose is to conduct theoretical and applied research and to perform studies, particularly at the strategic level, on security policies and related technologies.

KEMEA also implements research projects and studies on homeland security relating to the Ministry of Citizen Protection and its associated agencies as well as other foreign organisations, as well as monitors and studies the technological advancements of security systems and evaluates breakthroughs achieved.

discuss and debate current and future policies, implementation issues and challenges as well as new and developing technologies that contribute towards safe and secure border and migration management.

International organised criminal gangs and human and drug trafficking groups exploit opportunities and increasingly use the internet and technology to enhance their activities.

Controlling and managing international borders in the 21st Century continues to challenge the border control and immigration agencies around the world. It is generally agreed that in a globalised world borders should be as open as possible, but threats continue to remain in ever evolving circumstances and situations.

Supported by the Organization for Security & Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Association of Airport and Seaport Police (EAASP), the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU-ECOSOC), National Security & Resilience Consortium, International Security Industry Organisation and International Association of CIP Professionals, demonstrating the World Border Security Congress remains the premier multi-jurisdictional global platform where new ways through new challenges and treating those challenges as opportunities to do things better in the future.

Register your interest to attend the event at www.world-border-congress.com/registration. We look forward to welcoming you to Athens, Greece on March 31st-2nd April 2020.

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Leonardo's Falco EVO drone is used to monitor irregular migration during Frontex operation

Leonardo's Falco EVO tactical remotely-piloted aerial system played a key role in monitoring a case involving irregular migrants in the Mediterranean sea as part of monitoring activities of Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency.



In an operation launched from the Italian island of Lampedusa, the Falco EVO worked with other Frontex assets to identify a "mothership" trawler as 81 illegal migrants were transferred to smaller boats, a technique increasingly used by criminal organisations. Following the transfer, the Falco EVO's surveillance payloads kept a close eye on the trawler until an enforcement operation was launched by Italian authorities to seize the boat.

The Falco EVO system deployed at Lampedusa Airport has already flown for more than 280 hours on behalf of Frontex, with one mission on the 26th

June clocking in at 17 hours and 21 minutes. This extra-long mission came about when Frontex received a request from the Italian Authorities to help monitor two boats in the Lampedusa area. Close collaboration between ENAV, ENAC, AST Lampedusa, the Italian Guardia di Finanza (customs police) and Leonardo allowed the mission finish time to be extended by two hours to 24:00 so that the Falco EVO could support the interception.

The Falco EVO has been deployed at Lampedusa Airport since December 2018 as part of multipurpose aerial surveillance provided by Frontex. Flights are

planned in coordination with the Guardia di Finanza and the Italian Ministry of the Interior and carried out by Leonardo, which owns and operates the Falco EVO under a service arrangement. ENAC, Italy's national agency for civil aviation, ENAV, the company managing Italy's civil air traffic, and Lampedusa Airport operator AST Aeroservizi also support the

operations.

In its configuration for the Frontex mission, the Falco EVO is equipped with an advanced suite of sensors including the Company's Gabbiano TS Ultra-Light radar, which is suitable for long range missions during the day and at night. The Falco EVO is operated and maintained by Leonardo crews.

Schiebel Camcopter® S-100 to Perform Coast Guard Services for European Maritime Safety Agency in The Republic of Croatia

The Maritime Safety Directorate of the Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia issued the first mobilization request to the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) for CAMCOPTER® S-100 maritime surveillance services.



Starting in the summer of 2019, the service provision for Croatia will assist in

maritime Coast Guard functions such as search and rescue, monitoring

and surveillance, ship and port security, vessel traffic, environmental protection and response, ship casualty assistance, as well as accident and disaster response. For these purposes, the CAMCOPTER® S-100 Unmanned Air System (UAS) will be based on the island of Brač and will carry out regular patrolling flights, on-demand incident monitoring missions and specific inspection operations. The S-100 will execute these tasks equipped with an L3 Wescam Electro-Optical / Infra-Red (EO/IR) camera gimbal, an Overwatch Imaging PT-8 Oceanwatch payload and an Automatic Identification System (AIS) receiver.

EMSA awarded the multi-year maritime surveillance

contract for a Vertical Takeoff and Landing (VTOL) Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) to Schiebel in November 2018. In execution of this contract, Schiebel will provide simultaneous maritime surveillance services to several European Union (EU) member states and EU bodies.

"The CAMCOPTER® S-100 is the perfect Vertical Takeoff and Landing UAS to perform these Coast Guard functions," notes Hans Georg Schiebel, Chairman of the Schiebel Group. "Backed by an impressive service record in the maritime domain, the S-100 has established itself as the best choice whenever sophisticated maritime surveillance is required."

IDEMIA supports airport development in Singapore with its secure automated border control solution: the system is now running at the country's brand new Seletar Airport

After IDEMIA successfully installed the automated immigration system at Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 4 as well as Terminal 3 Departure, the system is now running at the country's brand new Seletar Airport.



In November 2018, the new Seletar Airport began hosting regional turboprop flights to and from Malaysia as well as charter planes and executive and VIP jets. Since April this year, IDEMIA has successfully launched a new automated immigration system in Seletar airport for scheduled commercial flights.

The system provides for automated immigration e-gates, flexi counters (manual counters that can be switched to automated lanes) and system

oversight features. IDEMIA Asia-Pacific President Tim Ferris said: "Singapore is at the forefront of air travel innovation and IDEMIA is very proud to play a part in the country's innovation demonstration. Our systems have been very successful at Changi Airport and now we plan to do likewise at Seletar Airport." The new e-gates meet the needs of air passengers by cutting queues and making travel departure smooth, comfortable and highly secure.

YVR's Innovative Travel Solutions becomes first to pilot kiosk-based border control solution in the Schengen Area

Innovative Travel Solutions (ITS) by Vancouver International Airport announced the implementation of four BorderXpress kiosks at Keflavik International Airport (KEF) in Iceland.

Innovative Travel Solutions (ITS) by Vancouver International Airport announced the implementation of four BorderXpress kiosks at Keflavik International Airport (KEF) in Iceland. The kiosks are part of a six-month pilot to simulate the impending requirements of the Entry/Exit System (EES) of the Schengen Area, which comprises 26 European states that have officially abolished all passport and all other types of border control at their mutual borders. This is a landmark day for both the industry and ITS as they bring their proven expertise in kiosk design and experience as an airport operator to Europe with their end-to-end border control solution, BorderXpress. This is the first automated kiosk-based border control solution in a Schengen member state.

The EES is a part of the Smart Border package introduced by the European Commission. It will be fully operational in all the Schengen countries by the end of 2021. The main purpose of the EES is to register data on entry, exit and refusal of entry of third country nationals crossing the external borders of all Schengen member states through a central system.

Isavia operates all airports in Iceland, including KEF, which is the largest border crossing point in the country with more than 95 per cent of the passengers entering the Schengen area through Iceland coming through this airport. The BorderXpress kiosks are available for Third Country Nationals (TCN) and EU citizens to use when entering Iceland.

HGH recently launched SPYNEL-M's new "Mobile Deployment Kit"

The kit includes a military battery enabling autonomy for 6 hours in operation, a rugged tablet and a WiFi connection.



With this innovative kit, the operators directly receive alerts on their rugged tablet via a wireless link. It allows them to be mobile and to be assigned to other

functions in parallel. Another strong point is the low bandwidth, which allows access to the camera from one or several remote control centres.

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**World Border
Security Congress**
March 31st-2nd April 2020
ATHENS, GREECE
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Building Trust and Co-operation through Discussion and Dialogue

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

REGISTER FOR YOUR DELEGATE PASS ONLINE TODAY

Greece lies at the crossroads of East and West, Europe and the Middle East. It lies directly opposite Libya so along with Italy is the primary destination for migrants coming from that conflict zone and is a short boat trip from Turkey, the other principal migrant route for Syrians fleeing there conflict there.

Greece has over sixteen thousand kilometres of coastline and six thousand islands, only two hundred and twenty-seven of which are inhabited. The islands alone have 7,500 km of coastline and are spread mainly through the Aegean and the Ionian Seas, making maritime security incredibly challenging.

The sheer scale of the migrant crisis in late 2015 early 2016 had a devastating impact on Greek finances and its principle industry, tourism. All this in the aftermath of the financial crisis in 2009. Despite this, both Greece and Italy, largely left to handle the crisis on their own, managed the crisis with commendable determination and humanity.

With their experience of being in the frontline of the migration crisis, Greece is the perfect place to convene for the next meeting of the World Border Security Congress.

The World Border Security Congress is a high level 3 day event that will discuss and debate current and future policies, implementation issues and challenges as well as new and developing technologies that contribute towards safe and secure border and migration management.

The World Border Security Congress Committee invite you to join the international border security and management community and Apply for your Delegate Pass at www.world-border-congress.com.

We look forward to welcoming you to Athens, Greece on March 31st-2nd April 2020 for the next gathering of border and migration management professionals.

www.world-border-congress.com

for the international border management and security industry

To discuss exhibiting and sponsorship opportunities and your involvement please contact:

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