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**International & European
Criminal Law Observatory**

ON CULTURAL ISSUES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY

MONTHLY WRAP MARCH 2025

SECURITY COUNCIL

[S/RES/2776](#)

The Security Council on 3 March extended its authorization for Member States to intercept vessels transporting banned items to and from Somalia, including illegal arms imports and charcoal exports, until 13 December 2025, also renewing the mandate of the Panel of Experts assisting the Al-Shabaab sanctions regime until 13 January 2026. Unanimously adopting resolution 2776 (2025), the 15-member Council — acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations — decided that “all States shall, for the purposes of preventing Al-Shabaab and other actors intent on undermining peace and security in Somalia and the region from obtaining weapons and ammunition, take the necessary measures to prevent all deliveries of weapons, ammunition and military equipment to Somalia.”

[S/RES/2777](#)

The Security Council on 17 March decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) until 17 March 2026, also welcoming its ongoing efforts in the implementation of its mandated tasks and priorities. Unanimously adopting resolution 2777 (2025), the Council stressed the importance of the Mission’s continued presence and called on all relevant stakeholders to coordinate with it to ensure the safety, security and freedom of movement of UN and associated personnel throughout the country. The 15-member organ also requested that the Secretary-General report every three months on the situation in Afghanistan and the implementation of UNAMA’s mandate.

UNODC

[Drug traffickers running routes through war zones, top UN official warns](#)

A “new black market” for synthetics and drug trafficking through war zones are fuelling instability around the world, the chief of the UN drugs and crime office said on 10 March. For its part, UNODC supports more than 180 border control units in 87 countries to intercept drug flows. In 2024, UN-facilitated seizures included 300 tonnes of cocaine, 240 tonnes of synthetic drugs and 100 tonnes of precursors. Technology is radically transforming and accelerating how drugs are sold and distributed,



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with the dark web having created a “new black market” for synthetic drugs and precursors, Ms. Whaly said. Cryptocurrencies allow traffickers to move illicit profits undetected, and social media platforms have become major channels for promoting and advertising drugs online, particularly targeting young people and vulnerable users. One of the biggest threats is synthetic drugs. Synthetic manufacturing labs are being uncovered in new countries and regions. Indeed, more than 1,300 distinct psychoactive substances have been reported to UNODC to date.

UNHCR

[Human Rights Council: Significant increase in child victims of trafficking](#)

Children make up almost four in 10 victims of trafficking worldwide, but the true number of youngsters caught up in the illegal practice is likely much higher, a senior UN official warned on Wednesday. In a new report, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on violence against children, said that traffickers are quick to exploit technological advancements – and people in emergencies. As a result, trafficking in children remains a low cost and low risk, yet high profits crime, generating billions of dollars annually.” The senior UN official also noted that the demand for exploitative services involving children is increasing, from sexual exploitation, domestic slavery, child marriage, recruitment into armed groups, forced begging and criminal activities.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

[ICC Office of the Prosecutor launches public consultation on policy on cyber-enabled crimes under the Rome Statute](#)

The Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court has invited public comments on its draft policy on cyber-enabled crimes under the Rome Statute welcoming the engagement of all stakeholders in this new initiative to advance accountability for crimes under the Rome Statute enabled by conduct in cyberspace, encouraging comments from all partners, especially from States Parties, civil society, interested private sector corporations, and other organisations with particular expertise in this area.

[Rodrigo Roa Duterte makes first appearance before the ICC: confirmation of charges hearing scheduled for 23 September 2025](#)

On 14 March 2025, Rodrigo Roa Duterte appeared before Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court. Mr Duterte is suspected of the crime against humanity of murder, allegedly



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committed in the Philippines between 1 November 2011 and 16 March 2019. The Chamber verified the identity of the suspect and ensured that he was clearly informed of the crimes he is alleged to have committed and of his rights under the Rome Statute of the ICC in a language he fully understands and speaks. Mr Duterte participated in the hearing via video link from the ICC Detention Centre at the hearing, which was held in the presence of the ICC Prosecutor and the Defence. Mr Duterte was represented during the hearing by Mr Salvador C. Medialdea and assisted by the Office of Public Counsel for the Defence. The Chamber provisionally scheduled the confirmation of charges hearing to begin on 23 September 2025.

[Ongwen Case: ICC Appeals Chamber to issue its judgment on reparations on 7 April 2025](#)

On 25 March 2025, the Appeals Chamber of the ICC issued an order scheduling the hearing to deliver its judgment on the appeal of Dominic Ongwen against the decision of Trial Chamber IX entitled “Reparations Order”. On 28 February 2024, the ICC Trial Chamber IX had set the financial liability of Mr Ongwen to €52’429’000 and ordered collective community-based reparations focused on rehabilitation and symbolic/satisfaction measures, consisting of collective rehabilitation programmes, as well as a symbolic award of €750 for all eligible victims, and other community symbolic measures.

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

[Călin Georgescu v. Romania](#) (application no. 37327/24)

The applicant, Călin Georgescu, is a Romanian national. On 24 November 2024 the first round of the presidential elections took place in Romania, with the second round due to have been on 8 December 2024. Mr Georgescu was a candidate and reached the runoff. On 6 December 2024 the Constitutional Court of Romania annulled the entire election process, it found that the electoral process had been vitiated from the outset holding that the irregularities discovered had distorted the free character of the citizens’ vote, had affected the fair and transparent electoral campaign, and had violated the rules concerning its financing. The Constitutional Court ordered that the elections should be reorganised from the beginning by the Government on a future date. The application was lodged with the ECtHR on 16 December 2024. Relying on Article 3 of Protocol No. 1 to the Convention (right to free elections), Mr Georgescu complained that the Constitutional Court’s annulment of the entire presidential election process had been based on unsubstantiated accusations and had been unlawful and disproportionate, relying on Articles 6 (right to a fair trial) and 13 (right to an effective remedy), Mr Georgescu also complained that the decision had been adopted in a non-transparent manner and that he had no remedy to challenge it and, relying on Articles 10 (freedom of expression) and 11 (freedom of assembly and association), Mr Georgescu alleged that this decision had been the result



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of political interference by “the ruling party” in charge of the electoral process and that it had undermined the freedom to participate in democratic process. On 21 January 2025 the Court, sitting in a Chamber formation, decided not to issue interim measures in the case as had been requested by Mr Georgescu. Given that it could find no indication that the presidency was part of the “legislature” of Romania, within the meaning of Article 3 of Protocol No. 1 to the Convention, the Court rejected this part of the application as incompatible *ratione materiae* with the provisions of the Convention. In the part regarding articles 6 and 13, the right in this case – to stand for election – was a political right, and not concerned with “civil rights and obligations”, or the determination of any “criminal charge” as set out in Article 6. That article was thus not applicable in this case. As Mr Georgescu did not therefore have an “arguable claim” under Article 13, the Court rejected this part of the application for the same reason. The Court found that Mr Georgescu did not raise any factual or legal arguments in support of his claim of “political interference” in the electoral process. It therefore rejected this part, regarding articles 10 and 11, of the application as manifestly ill-founded.

EUROPEAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE (EPPO)

[Annual Report 2024: EPPO leads the fight against fraud in the EU](#)

The latest annual report of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO) shows a continuous increase in its activities. Its growth will continue in the coming years, with the continuous improvement of fraud detection and reporting in the EU and the opening of offices in Poland and Sweden. This year’s figures show that the EPPO has become a focal point of any serious reflection on the future of the so-called anti-fraud architecture of the EU. At the end of 2024, EPPO had a total of 2,666 active investigations (an increase of 38% compared to the previous year), with an estimated damage to the EU budget of €24.8 billion (22.5% more than in 2023). More than half of the estimated damage (€13.15 billion) is related to cross-border VAT fraud, with the almost systematic involvement of criminal organisations, which pose a serious risk to internal security. More than 1,500 new investigations were launched in 2024 (almost 10% more than the previous year), with an estimated damage of €13.07 billion. This increase is mainly due to better cooperation between the EPPO and national competent authorities and the determination of the EPPO in combating criminal organisations, which are particularly active in VAT fraud, but also those involving EU funds. At the end of 2024, EPPO handled 311 active NextGenerationEU cases, most of which (307) came from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). The estimated damage to the EU’s financial interests amounts to €2.8 billion, equivalent to 30% of the total estimated damage from subsidy fraud. This number is expected to increase, in the context of accelerated implementation of NextGenerationEU funding. The increase in criminal investigations has been a constant since the EPPO started



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operations in June 2021, demonstrating that the prevalence of crimes against the financial interests of the EU has long been underestimated. In 2024, the EPPO processed 6,547 criminal reports (56% more than the previous year). Over 70% came from private sources and almost 27% from national authorities. Only 1.7% came from EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies, which demonstrates the need to step up the detection and reporting of suspected fraud cases to the EPPO. In 2024, with 205 referrals (47% more than in 2023), the EPPO continued to bring an increasing number of perpetrators of fraud against the EU before national courts. During the year, EPPO frozen assets worth €849 million. This figure corresponds to the assets currently frozen, with a view to potential confiscation after a final judgment, and represents almost 11 times the EPPO's budget for 2024.

[Germany: first conviction in EPPO's Midas cluster of investigations](#)

The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in Munich (Germany) has obtained its first convictions in the EPPO investigation group Midas, a large-scale case of VAT fraud involving 17 countries and resulting in an estimated loss of €195 million. On 18 March, the Landshut Regional Court (Landgericht Landshut) convicted two persons for organised VAT fraud after they had claimed VAT back on the basis of false invoices. Convicted individuals were involved in the fraudulent sale of protective masks, using VAT rules to evade tax payments. Their actions resulted in an estimated VAT loss of around €5 million. The court sentenced one defendant to five years' imprisonment and the other to three years and six months, ordering the confiscation of 5 million euros. The EPPO's Midas investigative cluster targets a transnational criminal organization responsible for a VAT fraud scheme involving the sale of smartphones, small electronic devices and protective masks. Led by the EPPO offices in Munich and Cologne, the investigation uncovered a complex network suspected of orchestrating VAT carousel fraud through a system of shell companies and shell transactions.

INTERPOL

[More than 300 arrests as African countries clamp down on cyber threats](#)

Operation Red Card, coordinated by INTERPOL, took place between November 2024 and February 2025, involving seven African countries: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Togo and Zambia. The main objective of the operation was to counter cross-border cyber fraud, focusing on mobile banking fraud, investment and messaging app attacks. During the operation, authorities arrested 306 suspects and seized 1,842 devices. The operations had a significant impact, with over 5,000 victims involved. Nigeria recorded the highest number of arrests (130 people), including 113 foreigners, accused of being involved in online scams such as casino and investment scams. Some of the suspects may also be victims of human trafficking. Authorities seized vehicles, property and



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devices, while in South Africa, 40 individuals were arrested and over 1,000 SIM cards linked to a SIM box fraud system, used for SMS phishing attacks, were seized. In Zambia, 14 members of a criminal organisation accused of hacking phones through malware were arrested, while in Rwanda, 45 members were arrested involved in social engineering scams, which defrauded victims of over USD 305,000 in 2024. In addition, approximately USD 103,000 was recovered and numerous devices were seized. The operation was carried out with the support of INTERPOL's AFJOC (African Joint Operation against Cybercrime) and with the collaboration of private partners such as Group-IB, Kaspersky and Trend Micro, who provided strategic intelligence on how the criminals operate. The success of the operation demonstrates the importance of international cooperation in the fight against cybercrime, sent as a strong message to cybercriminals that their activities will not go unpunished.

EUROPOL

[Network smuggling migrants between Spain and France busted in Marseille](#)

Europol supported the French and Spanish National Police in dismantling an organised criminal network trafficking migrants between Spain and France. The investigation, which started in November 2022, focused on suspected gang members operating in Marseille, who were transporting illegal migrants. By analysing operational data, Europol helped to identify additional members of the network and facilitated the progress of the case. On 16 March 2025, during one day of action, 19 individuals were arrested, 17 house searches were carried out and assets were seized, including a dinghy, four vehicles and approximately EUR 20,000 in cash. The criminal network smuggled more than 1,700 migrants in about 500 operations. The migrants were picked up near railway stations in Catalonia and transported to Marseille. The members of the network had specific tasks, which included recruiting migrants, organising transport and managing temporary accommodation. In addition, they used precursor vehicles to evade police checkpoints. Traffickers charged between EUR 150 and EUR 250 per migrant, with a total turnover of between EUR 250,000 and EUR 427,000 between May 2023 and August 2024. Europol played a crucial role in the exchange of information, offering analytical and operational support. During the operation, it sent an expert to France to enable real-time information exchange and cross-checking of data with its databases, thus providing field investigators with vital clues.

[International law enforcement strike against multimillion-euro healthcare fraud network](#)

On 21 March 2025, Europol announced the success of an international operation that dismantled a criminal network responsible for a multimillion-dollar healthcare fraud in France and for laundering illicit funds in Germany. The fraudsters had created fictitious companies for hearing aids, using



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forged diplomas to obtain accreditation from the French health system and authorisation for reimbursement of the devices. Between July 2024 and the beginning of 2025, they issued false invoices for EUR 6.7 million. The fraudulent funds were subsequently laundered through numerous fictitious companies in Europe. On 10 March, French authorities arrested eight suspects and seized EUR 195,000 in illicit assets, including sums from bank accounts and electronic devices. Subsequently, on 17 March, German law enforcement agencies, with the support of French investigators and Europol, conducted operations in Germany, searching eight locations and seizing real estate, 73 luxury vehicles and EUR 260,000 in cash. Europol provided crucial operational and analytical support, enabling the tracking of illicit funds and facilitating cooperation between the French and German authorities. Its contribution included the deployment of field specialists, the use of a mobile office for real-time checks and logistical support for the execution of operations.

[The DNA of organised crime is changing – and so is the threat to Europe](#)

Europol's EU-SOCTA 2025 report highlights a radical change in the DNA of organised crime, which is becoming increasingly destabilising, digitised and fuelled by emerging technologies. Criminal networks no longer just threaten public safety, but also undermine EU institutions and society, acting as proxies for hybrid threat actors. Digitisation has expanded the criminal infrastructure, enabling faster and more difficult-to-detect illicit operations, while artificial intelligence has made criminal operations more efficient and scalable. The main threats identified include cyber attacks, online fraud, child sexual exploitation, trafficking of migrants, drugs and weapons, and waste crime. Criminal networks are increasingly sophisticated, exploit advanced technologies such as blockchain and AI, and move easily across borders. Corruption, violence and the use of youth in crime are among the mechanisms that allow organisations to expand and prosper. To counter these threats, law enforcement agencies must adapt their strategies, targeting not only criminal markets, but also supporting mechanisms such as money laundering and the use of digital platforms. The fight against organised crime requires a comprehensive and integrated approach, with a focus on emerging technologies and international cooperation.

[EU and Brazil sign international agreement to fight organised crime and terrorism](#)

The European Union and Brazil signed an agreement that strengthens cooperation between Europol and Brazilian law enforcement agencies, improving the exchange of operational information to combat organised crime and terrorism. The agreement, signed by EU Commissioner Magnus Brunner and Brazilian Minister of Justice Ricardo Lewandowski, represents an important milestone in the partnership between the two. Brazil becomes the first Latin American country to sign such an agreement with the EU. This collaboration, which has already existed since 2017, will focus on crimes such as drug trafficking, cybercrime and human trafficking, with the aim of dismantling transnational



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criminal networks. The agreement must now be approved by the European Parliament before implementation. Europol has already worked with Brazil in several successful operations, such as the collapse of a cocaine cartel in Spain and numerous arrests of drug traffickers in Brazil. This agreement strengthens operational cooperation, increasing the capacity to deal with cross-border threats more effectively.

[Strategic partnerships: Europol boosts cooperation with Latin America](#)

On 7 March 2025, Europol welcomed a delegation from the Latin American Committee for Internal Security (CLASI) to strengthen cooperation in the fight against organised crime and terrorism. This meeting, facilitated by the EU-funded EL PACCTO 2.0 project, aimed to enhance strategic dialogue and collaboration between Latin American law enforcement authorities and Europol. CLASI, established in 2022, coordinates efforts to combat serious cross-border crime in Latin America. Several CLASI member countries, such as Colombia, Chile, Ecuador and Mexico, already cooperate with Europol. The visit highlighted the importance of aligning Latin American security operations with the EU's EMPACT programme, addressing common threats such as drug trafficking, arms, cybercrime and financial crime. Europol Executive Director Catherine De Bolle underlined the importance of enhanced cooperation, highlighting that organised crime is a global phenomenon that requires shared responses between Europe and Latin America. This meeting marks CLASI's second official meeting with Europol since 2022, testifying to the growing commitment in the fight against transnational crime.

OSCE

[OSCE launches guide on virtual assets for law enforcement at INTERPOL Summit](#)

The OSCE introduced a new resource, *Decoding Crypto Crime: A Guide for Law Enforcement*, at the INTERPOL Virtual Assets Summit in Lyon, France, on March 27. This guide is designed to help law enforcement officers, prosecutors, tax and forensic specialists, and other key stakeholders navigate the complex world of virtual assets. Developed with expert input and reviewed by INTERPOL's Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption Centre (IFCACC) and the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), the guide offers actionable insights on topics like virtual assets, common crypto-related crimes, blockchain analysis techniques, victim support practices, and the role of international cooperation in tackling crypto crimes. Vera Strobachova-Budway, Senior Economic Officer at the OSCE, emphasized that the guide is written in simple, accessible language to bridge the knowledge gap between law enforcement and the rapidly evolving virtual asset world. It's a valuable resource for anyone involved in investigating, prosecuting, or preventing crypto-related crimes. Part of the



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OSCE's extra-budgetary project on mitigating the money-laundering risks of virtual assets, the guide simplifies complex concepts like blockchain technology and virtual assets, offering best practices for investigating common crypto crimes like investment scams, extortion, and phishing. It provides actionable steps for collecting critical evidence, interacting with Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs), and using blockchain analysis tools. It also highlights the importance of cross-jurisdictional collaboration. While not exhaustive, the guide is a crucial tool for improving law enforcement's ability to combat crypto crime and ensure a safer digital landscape.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

[Crimea: Russia must release Ukrainian political prisoners and respect human rights, says Committee of Ministers – 11/03/2025](#)

The Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers has urged the Russian authorities to immediately restore application of the Ukrainian law in Crimea, to cease all administrative practices found by the ECHR to be in breach of the ECHR and to release all Ukrainian political prisoners whose human rights were restricted by these practices in Crimea, as well as to free all illegally detained Ukrainian soldiers, ethnic Ukrainians, Crimean Tatars and journalists.

[Slovakia: progress in combating human trafficking but more needed](#)

In its latest report on Slovakia, the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings (GRETA) acknowledges the country's progress in the fight against human trafficking, but stresses that further efforts are needed. In particular, GRETA urges the authorities to prevent the trafficking of vulnerable children, including Roma and community children, to improve the identification of victims of labour exploitation and to punish perpetrators more effectively. The report, which covers the period 2020-2024, assesses the measures taken by Slovakia to address these issues, with a focus on the use of information and communication technologies to commit trafficking crimes.

[Denmark: two new reports show lack of progress in combatting corruption](#)

The Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) published two reports on Denmark, highlighting the lack of progress in the fight against corruption. In its 2014 report on preventing corruption in parliamentarians, judges and prosecutors, GRECO notes that only two of the six recommendations have been satisfactorily implemented. The other recommendations, in particular those for parliamentarians, remain unresolved. Furthermore, the country has not adopted a Code of Conduct for parliamentarians and has not adequately developed the system for registering financial interests.



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In the 2019 Report on the Prevention of Corruption in Senior Government Offices and the Police Force, only two of the fourteen recommendations have been successfully implemented. One is partially implemented and eleven have not yet been implemented. In response to these findings, GRECO invited the Secretary General of the Council of Europe to urge Denmark to comply with the recommendations, with a progress report due on 30 November 2025.

[GRETA publishes its fourth report on Austria](#)

GRETA's report on Austria, covering the period 2020-2024, highlights positive developments in the fight against human trafficking, but also highlights some areas of concern. Overall, the country's measures to prevent trafficking, identify vulnerable victims and punish perpetrators were assessed, with a particular focus on the use of digital technologies in facilitating crime. Despite a stable number of victims identified by the police (around 120 per year), the report indicates an increase in male victims and labour exploitation, as well as the persistent prevalence of sexual exploitation of women and girls. The victims come mainly from countries such as Nigeria, Romania and the Philippines. GRETA commended positive developments, such as the broad consultation for the creation of the 7th National Action Plan on Trafficking (2024-2027) and the increased funding for two NGOs specialising in victim assistance. However, there was growing concern about the phenomenon of trafficking facilitated by digital technologies, such as the internet and social media, which enable traffickers to recruit victims from a distance and exchange the proceeds of crime. In response, Austria has increased funding for the Federal Office of Police against Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings and also established cybercrime competence centres, which have been appreciated, although GRETA suggests further investment in proactive investigative capacities. Another critical issue concerns unaccompanied children, who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and often disappear from reception centres. GRETA recommended ensuring their safe accommodation and appointing their legal guardians in a timely manner. The situation of migrant workers in precarious sectors, such as catering, construction and domestic work, is another area of concern, with an increase in cases of illegal employment and exploitation. Although measures have been taken to protect these workers, GRETA emphasised the need to increase resources and personnel for inspections in at-risk sectors. The recommendations made in the past, however, have not been fully implemented. In particular, GRETA reiterated the importance of establishing a national reporting mechanism for the identification of victims, involving a wide network of actors, including labour inspections and NGOs. Furthermore, it called for the introduction of a recovery and reflection period for victims, enshrined in law, and for greater efforts to ensure victims' access to compensation, with prosecutors playing a more active role in systematically seeking it. Overall, despite some progress, Austria needs to do more to ensure the protection of victims and prevent human trafficking.



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EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (FRA)

[The Danish Institute for Human Rights Signs Memorandum of Understanding with Ukrainian Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights](#)

The Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights have signed a two-year Memorandum of Understanding to safeguard Ukrainians' human rights and support war victims. The agreement, formalized on 11 March 2025 at the UN Palace in Geneva, was signed by Dmytro Lubinets and Louise Holck.

It was noted that the Danish Institute for Human Rights had maintained ongoing contact with the Ukrainian Commissioner's Office since Russia's attack on Ukraine. The new agreement aims to strengthen cooperation through a joint human rights programme focused on conflict-related issues and Ukraine's EU integration process.

Louise Holck emphasized that the agreement demonstrated Denmark's commitment to supporting Ukraine's National Human Rights Institution, acknowledging the significant efforts made by the Ukrainian Commissioner in protecting human rights and assisting war victims. She reaffirmed Denmark's full support in these initiatives.

Additionally, it was mentioned that the Danish Institute for Human Rights would contribute to the human rights center in Mykolaiv, which Denmark has a special responsibility for under a bilateral agreement. The center's activities would prioritize protecting vulnerable groups and individuals in isolated communities.

Dmytro Lubinets expressed his gratitude to Denmark for its support, and it was highlighted that the agreement also includes measures to protect the human rights of Ukrainians residing in Denmark.

The cooperation is part of Denmark's broader partnerships with Eastern Neighbourhood Countries, funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[Child protection gaps put children at risk](#)

The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) report "Towards Integrated Child Protection Systems" highlights both progress and gaps in child protection across the EU. Key challenges include fragmented laws, split responsibilities, and limited resources, which hinder the development of fully integrated child protection systems.

Key Recommendations:

Dedicated laws and policies: While all Member States have child protection laws, only 10 have a single comprehensive legal framework, and only 7 have national digital strategies for online child safety. An integrated legal approach is needed; Effective governance and coordination: 20 Member States have a central institution coordinating child protection efforts. Those without should establish



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one with clear responsibilities and sufficient resources; Sufficient resources: Funding is often spread across sectors, creating inefficiencies. Staff shortages due to high workloads and low pay also affect the system. Sustained and targeted funding is crucial; Evidence-based decision-making: A lack of detailed data hampers effective policy-making. Systematic data collection should be improved; Rights awareness and child participation: Many parents and children are unaware of their rights. Involving children in policy decisions should be strengthened, for example, through the EU Children's Participation Platform; Higher quality care: Prevention and early intervention services, such as family support and mental health care, are insufficient. Foster care, especially for children with additional needs, is lacking. More investment is needed in these areas. The report provides guidance and best practices to help EU Member States create stronger, more integrated child protection systems.

CJEU

[Harassment complaint against a former Member of the European Parliament: the General Court annuls the finding of harassment and the penalty imposed by the President of the Parliament, on the ground of failure to observe the rights of the defence](#)

The General Court of the European Union annulled the decisions of the President of the European Parliament regarding Ms Monica Semedo, citing violations of her rights of defence.

In March 2022, an advisory committee of the European Parliament launched an investigation into Ms Semedo following a complaint from a former parliamentary assistant alleging psychological harassment. In November 2022, the committee concluded that harassment had occurred and recommended a 20-day forfeiture of the subsistence allowance. In April 2023, after Ms Semedo's challenge, the Parliament reduced the penalty to 10 days. General Court's Findings: incomplete witness statement summaries – The version of the report provided to Ms Semedo contained summaries that did not accurately reflect the witnesses' testimony. Lack of full access to evidence – Ms Semedo was not given access to the complete file, which was the basis for the allegations against her. Violation of defence rights – The failure to disclose all relevant documents compromised the lawfulness of the decisions made against her. As a result, the General Court annulled the decisions, emphasizing that procedural fairness and the right to defence must be upheld in such cases.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

[The EU must support the political transition and reconstruction of Syria](#)



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The European Parliament urges the EU and member states to support Syria's transitional forces and calls on Damascus to end alliances with Tehran and Moscow. MEPs stress the need for a Syrian-led political transition that includes all religious and ethnic groups, women, and peaceful opposition forces. MEPs condemn Russia's military presence in Syria and urge Syria's new authorities to cut ties with Moscow and Tehran. They also call on neighboring countries to respect Syria's sovereignty and cease military actions on its territory. With 7 million internally displaced people and 90% of Syrians in poverty, Parliament welcomes €235 million in new humanitarian aid and asks the EU to support reconstruction efforts in key sectors. MEPs propose using frozen Assad regime assets to fund Syria's rebuilding and compensate victims. The EU remains committed to a Syrian-led political process, having suspended some restrictive measures against the Assad regime in February 2025.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

[The project RPAK helps to secure Pakistan's borders](#)

In 2024, Pakistan's Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) prevented approximately 27,000 irregular migrants from leaving the country. This contributed to a significant drop in asylum seekers and irregular arrivals from Pakistan to the EU compared to 2023.

A key factor in this success was the EU-funded RPAK project, which enhanced Pakistan's border management by establishing the first-ever Risk Analysis Unit within the FIA. This unit collects and analyses border-related data, providing guidance to policymakers and operational officers to tackle migration risks effectively.

The project introduced advanced IT tools and specialized training to improve risk assessment, enabling field units to profile suspicious passengers. A Training of Trainers programme was also implemented, creating a pool of master trainers to educate future FIA staff on risk analysis.

Additionally, Risk Analysis focal points and workstations were set up across 15 Border Crossing Points, ensuring quick and efficient information sharing.

Funded through the EU's Migration Partnership Facility, projects like RPAK prevent dangerous migration, improve migrant safety, and strengthen migration management in partner countries.

[EU Preparedness Union Strategy to prevent and react to emerging threats and crises](#)

The Commission and High Representative have launched the Preparedness Union Strategy to support Member States and enhance Europe's ability to prevent and respond to emerging threats. This initiative comes in response to increasingly complex crises, including geopolitical tensions, cybersecurity threats, climate change, and natural disasters.



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The strategy introduces 30 key actions and a detailed Action Plan, aiming to integrate preparedness into all EU policies. Key Objectives and Actions: establish minimum preparedness criteria for hospitals, schools, transport, and telecommunications, and enhance stockpiling of critical materials; encourage citizens to store essential supplies and integrate preparedness into school curricula with an EU Preparedness Day; establish an EU Crisis Hub for better integration of EU crisis structures; conduct EU-wide preparedness exercises and facilitate dual-use investments; develop a comprehensive EU risk assessment to prevent crises; establish a Preparedness Taskforce and formulate emergency protocols with business; collaborate with NATO on military mobility, cybersecurity, climate security, and emerging technologies

[Tackling racial discrimination in the EU](#)

The European Union is founded on values of human dignity, freedom, democracy, and equality, ensuring no discrimination based on racial or ethnic origin. In 2020, the European Commission launched the first EU Anti-Racism Action Plan, implementing measures to address racism more effectively. However, challenges remain. A 2023 EU survey found that over half of respondents perceive widespread discrimination based on Roma identity (65%), skin colour (61%), and ethnic origin (60%). Additionally, the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights reported that harassment and violence against people of African descent and Muslims have not improved since 2016. Discrimination is most common in housing, employment, and education. Recognizing the need for further action, the Commission is developing a new EU Anti-Racism Strategy to ensure that racism has no place in the EU.

UNEP

[European Commission, UNEP boost cooperation on environment and climate as a key enabler for competitiveness, security and resilience](#)

On 28 March 2025, EU Environment Commissioner Jessika Roswall met with UNEP Executive Director Inger Andersen in Brussels to strengthen global environmental cooperation amid growing geopolitical challenges. The dialogue focused on aligning priorities between the European Commission and UNEP, emphasizing a circular economy, water resilience, digital innovation, and climate and environmental security. Key topics included finalizing UNEA processes, such as a global plastics treaty and a Science-Policy Panel on chemicals and pollution. Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to high-ambition outcomes ahead of UNEA-7 and accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda through integrated, multilateral actions. The EU committed €21.5 million under a new Programme Cooperation Agreement to support global environmental goals. A new MoU between



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UNEP and the European Environment Agency was also signed to deepen collaboration. Roswall and Andersen highlighted the need for stronger multilateral partnerships to address the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and pollution, with the EU and UNEP continuing to lead efforts toward global sustainability and resilience.

“Time to Close the Energy Access Gap and Halve Emissions”

The Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed, highlighted the urgency and opportunity of this pivotal moment — marking 10 years since the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. Despite progress, the world is still off track: emissions are rising, renewable investment in developing nations is inadequate, and millions lack access to clean energy. She emphasized the critical importance of SDG 7 (sustainable energy access for all) and the need to reform financial systems, enhance policies, and scale up innovative funding mechanisms. The 2025 Forum is especially significant, being hosted in the Caribbean for the first time, where nations like Barbados are setting examples with ambitious clean energy goals — aiming for 100% renewable energy by 2030. She identified 2025 as a turning point, stressing we have just five years to halve emissions and close the energy access gap to meet the 1.5°C target. The call to action focused on three principles:

1. Collaboration across governments, sectors, and institutions.
2. Creativity to tailor solutions to diverse national needs.
3. Coherence between energy, development, and climate strategies — especially aligning national energy plans with updated NDCs ahead of COP30.

She concluded with a strong message: the technology exists, the economics are viable, and global cooperation is essential to deliver a cleaner, fairer, and more resilient energy future.

AD HOC TRIBUNALS

Statement

Following the death of Hashim Thaçi’s father, the Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC) received questions about whether Thaçi would be allowed to visit Kosovo again, as he has done previously for humanitarian reasons. The KSC’s legal framework, grounded in international human rights law, allows detainees to request visits to Kosovo on compelling humanitarian grounds, such as illness or death of a close relative. Judges assess each request based on urgency and compassion, considering privacy and security. While thirteen such visits have been approved so far, the KSC cannot currently confirm any specific request or decision regarding Thaçi, as these matters remain confidential until the visit concludes.

Judges of the ksc conclude their tenth plenary



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Today, the Judges of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers convened for their tenth plenary. During the plenary, the Judges visited the Netherlands Forensic Institute, were updated by the President on ongoing institutional matters and were provided with an update from the Registrar.



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