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ON CULTURAL ISSUES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY

MONTHLY WRAP MAY 2025

SECURITY COUNCIL

[Security Council Resolution 2779\(2025\): Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan](#)

The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) until 30 April 2026 with resolution 2779 (2025). By its terms, the Council said the Mission's mandate, designed to advance a multiyear strategic vision to prevent a return to civil war and address the critical gaps towards building durable peace, shall include protection of civilians; creating the conditions conducive to the delivery of humanitarian assistance; supporting the Implementation of the Revitalized Agreement and Peace Process; and monitoring and investigating humanitarian law and human rights violations. The 15-member organ also demanded that all parties to the conflict and other armed actors immediately end the fighting throughout South Sudan and reminded relevant South Sudanese authorities of their primary responsibility to protect civilians. It also expressed deep concern about the delays in implementing the Revitalized Agreement and stressed that the organization and funding of free and fair elections is the responsibility of the South Sudanese authorities. Further terms reiterated the call upon the transitional government to comply with the obligations set out in its Status of Forces Agreement with the United Nations and immediately cease obstructing UNMISS in the performance of its mandate. The Council also called upon the transitional government to respect UNMISS' ability to use all of its bases without restrictions, including, but not limited to, its base in Tomping, adjacent to Juba International Airport.

[Security Council Resolution 2780 \(2025\): The situation in Libya](#)

The Security Council today extended its previous authorizations concerning the arms embargo against Libya for six more months. Adopting resolution 2780 (2025), the Council renewed its authorization, as set out in resolution 2733 (2024), of Member States — acting nationally or through regional organizations — to inspect vessels on the high seas off Libya's coast believed to be in violation of the arms embargo imposed on that country. The 15-member Council first adopted the measures in support of the full implementation of the arms embargo on Libya in resolution 2292 (2016). The



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interception of vessels bound to or from Libya was intended to curb the flow of arms to Libya and to support the two-way arms embargo imposed on the country in resolution 1970 (2011). The terms referenced in the current resolution also authorize Member States, acting nationally or through regional organizations, to seize and dispose of arms or related materiel to or from Libya, that violate the embargo. The Member State, acting nationally or through regional organizations, who seizes and disposes of such items shall notify the 197 Committee — established to oversee the sanctions measures in accordance with the 2011 resolution — of such disposal within 30 days, providing details of all items and the precise manner in which they were disposed of.

[Security Council Resolution 2781 \(2025\): Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan \(South Sudan sanctions\)](#)

The Security Council on 30 May extended for one year the sanctions regime it has imposed on South Sudan, which includes asset freezes, travel bans and an arms embargo — even as some speakers expressed concern that the African position on this issue is being ignored and sanctions are getting misused as a tool for coercion. By its terms, the Council underscored that arms embargo violations, particularly amid increasing political violence in South Sudan, risk fuelling conflict, and strongly urged all Member States to take urgent action to identify and prevent such violations emanating from their territory. It also reiterated its call upon all Member States, in particular States neighbouring South Sudan, to inspect, in accordance with national legislation and international law, all cargo to South Sudan, in their territory, if the State concerned has reasonable grounds to believe the cargo contains prohibited items. Also renewing previously imposed travel and financial until 31 May 2026, the Council reiterated its readiness to review arms embargo measures, through inter alia modification, suspension, or progressive lifting of these measures, informed by progress achieved on the key benchmarks as set out in resolution 2577 (2021). Also by the text, the 15-member organ decided to extend until 1 July 2026 the mandate of the Panel of Experts as set out in paragraph 19 of resolution 2428 (2018) and decided that the Panel should provide to the Council regular updates as well as an interim report by 1 December 2025 and a final report by 1 May 2026.

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME

[Organized crime groups increasingly embedded in gold supply chain](#)

The global drive for renewable energy technologies has sharply increased demand for so-called critical minerals, heightening the risk of crime, corruption, and instability across supply chains as



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organised crime groups infiltrate the mining industry. Criminal networks are increasingly seeking to gain control over extraction sites, trade routes, and refining infrastructure. According to a new report from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), these groups have become deeply embedded in gold supply chains, drawn by the sector's high profitability and rising gold prices.

Organized crime has become so involved in the gold supply that it now constitutes a "serious global threat", with illegal networks constantly adapting in order to enable and hide their operations.

Exploiting advances in transportation, finance, and communications, many of these groups have a foothold in regular businesses, enabling them to both launder proceeds and move illegal gold with relative ease.

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

[Gaza: Starvation looms for one in five people, say food security experts](#)

All 25 bakeries supported by the UN World Food Programme have been closed for weeks as stocks of wheat flour and cooking fuel ran out. Programme have been closed for weeks as stocks of wheat flour and cooking fuel ran out. Gazans remain at "critical risk of famine," UN-backed food security experts warned on 12 May, a full 19 months since war began with Israel and 70 days since deliveries stopped of all aid and commercial supplies. WFP chief Cindy McCain said families are starving while the food they need is sitting at the border. Aid partners on the ground in Gaza report that the number of hot meals served by those community kitchens that are still operating is declining very quickly. The development comes amid continuing reports of Israeli bombardment across Gaza on Monday. All 2.1 million people in Gaza are expected to suffer high levels of acute food insecurity between now and September.

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

[UNEP for improving wastewater management in Africa](#)



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Less than 5% of wastewater in many African developing countries is treated before reaching the sea, according to a UNEP report. Efforts to improve wastewater treatment continue, and better data can help fill knowledge gaps in public health and environmental monitoring, aiding quicker and more targeted responses. UNEP's Wastewater Surveillance for Africa Initiative is uniting regional countries to develop affordable and scalable systems for wastewater monitoring and analysis. These systems can detect pathogens and other markers, provide early disease warnings, and identify rising risks to human and ecosystem health.

[New investments for sustainable development of Congo Basin](#)

A partnership between the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), and the Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI) is going to invest an initial amount of 15 million dollars for the development of Congo Basin, one of the World's largest carbon sinks. The programme aims to draw more private funds, with the objective of reaching the sum of 30 million dollars of investment in the region. The sustainability of the development is crucial, as the rainforest has a vital role in preserving biodiversity and lowering atmosphere's carbon level.

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND (UNFPA)

[Life-threatening risks for pregnant women and child in Gaza](#)

Attacks on hospitals and medical staff have devastated Gaza's healthcare system. Nasser Hospital, one of eight partially functioning hospitals, was hit by an Israeli airstrike on 13 May, the fourth attack since October 2023. Less than 24 hours later, the European Hospital in Khan Younis was bombed. Essential services are severely limited, with supplies for deliveries and newborn care stuck at the border. Nearly 11,000 pregnant women face famine risk, and around 17,000 will need urgent malnutrition treatment. The impact is severe—one doctor recounted treating a woman who lost her baby due to siege-induced malnutrition and trauma. UNFPA reports that one in three pregnancies are now high-risk, and one in five newborns are preterm or underweight, requiring specialist care that is increasingly unavailable. Only five hospitals provide maternity care across Gaza. UNFPA has over



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190 trucks loaded with supplies that are urgently needed in Gaza, but which have been denied entry at the border during the blockade.

UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH (UNIDIR)

[Harmonizing the minimum nuclear non-proliferation commitments of States in the Middle East](#)

Last November, the fifth session of the Conference on the Establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction (ME WMDFZ) aligned with Saudi Arabia's decision to rescind its Small Quantities Protocol (SQP) with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), driven by plans to expand nuclear energy. The conference discussed safeguarding a future ME WMDFZ and regional interest in peaceful nuclear applications, prompting a reevaluation of SQP's applicability in the Middle East. A future treaty will need assurances from Middle Eastern States regarding compliance with their commitments. To build this trust, States could consider adopting a measure that aligns all non-proliferation commitments based on the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA), with no exceptions allowed by an SQP. Initially, States without safeguards agreements will adopt a CSA with the IAEA, and those with an SQP will rescind it. This approach allows the IAEA to implement comprehensive safeguards, including inspections and monitoring, ensuring all nuclear materials and activities are scrutinized. However, implementing a CSA incurs financial costs for States with an SQP, requiring new institutions and personnel. Wealthier regional countries could establish a fund to help those without significant nuclear programs afford the necessary infrastructure.

EUROPEAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE (EPPO)

[Admiral investigation: first convictions in Portugal for 23 defendants guilty of massive international VAT fraud](#)

On 12 May 2025, the Central Criminal Court in Lisbon (Portugal) sentenced 10 individuals and 13 companies for their role in organizing and operating a fraudulent system dedicated to selling



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electronic products in the EU market by evading VAT. The investigation, codenamed Admiral, was first announced in November 2022 and is considered to be the largest VAT fraud ever investigated in the EU, with a total estimated damage of €2.9 billion. The convictions in Portugal represent only the first judicial outcome of this broader cross-border investigation.

[Moby Dick': the alleged leader of the VAT fraud investigation for 520 million euros is handed over](#)

An alleged head of cross-border investigation into a €520 million VAT fraud, codenamed "Moby Dick", surrendered and was arrested in Milan (Italy) at the request of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in Milan and Palermo. The individual had managed to escape arrest in Prague (Czech Republic) in November 2024, before an action against the international criminal network led by EPPO, and had been on the run for six months. The suspect landed at Milan Malpensa airport from Tirana (Albania) and surrendered to the police departments dedicated to EPPO (Guardia di Finanza e Polizia di Stato). Suspected of criminal association aggravated by mafia methods and personal aiding to mafia clans, Money laundering and the commission of a number of tax offences relating to intra-Community VAT fraud.

EUROPEAN ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE (OLAF)

[OLAF and Romanian authorities pave the way for digital tools to safeguard the EU budget](#)

The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the Romanian Police and the Romanian Anti-Fraud Department (DLAF) are hosting European anti-fraud experts in Bucharest to discuss the use of digital tools to combat fraud against the EU budget. The meeting aims to strengthen cross-border cooperation and improve fraud detection and investigation through advanced digital tools. From 20 to 23 May 2025, the Technical Workshop on Anti-Fraud Digital Tools brought together almost 100 anti-fraud experts from EU Member States, the European Court of Auditors (CEC), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO), Eurojust, Europol and OLAF. The event focused on creating a community of anti-fraud specialists with digital skills and identifying best practices in detecting and



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investigating fraud in digital environments. It also aims to promote synergies in the development of data-driven tools, including artificial intelligence, to protect European taxpayers' money.

EUROJUST

[Global partnerships drive justice outcomes, says Eurojust's 2024 annual report](#)

With criminal networks increasingly operating across all continents and in all currencies, international judicial cooperation is more vital than ever. In 2024, Eurojust expanded its global partnerships and will continue to do so to ensure justice and protect communities, says the Agency's Annual Report. In the last five years, the workload of Eurojust has increased by more than 60%. In 2024 alone, the Agency handled almost 13,000 cases of cross-border crime. This reflects the unprecedented pace at which organised crime is evolving in Europe, as well as the use of Eurojust by national authorities to support complex international investigations. To further strengthen the fight against organised crime, Eurojust launched the European Judicial Network against Organised Crime (EJOCN) in September 2024. This pool of experts goes beyond investigation-based collaboration and combats organised crime in a strategic way. Even closer cooperation and direct dialogue between judicial authorities will help to resolve legal disputes and align judicial strategies in the investigation and prosecution of organised crime. The main priority of EJOCN is the fight against organised drug-related crime, linked to European ports, key transit points for cocaine and other drugs destined for the EU.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

[Cyber: statement by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union on illegal behaviour in cyberspace against the Czech Republic](#)

The European Union and its Member States, together with international partners, express their solidarity with the Czech Republic regarding the damaging IT campaign that has targeted its Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Czech Republic has determined that the cyber attack was carried out by Advanced Persistent Threat 31 (APT31), an organization associated with the Chinese Ministry of State Security. In recent years, illegal IT activities linked to this country and targeting the EU and its Member States have increased. In 2021, we urged the Chinese authorities to take action against illegal cyber activities undertaken from their territory. Since then, several Member States have attributed



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similar activities at national level. We have repeatedly expressed our concerns during bilateral commitments and we will continue to do so in the future. We strongly condemn malicious computer activities, which are contrary to the framework of responsible behavior of states in UN cyberspace, approved by all UN member states. We call upon all States, including China, to refrain from such conduct, to respect international law and to adhere to UN norms and principles, including those relating to critical infrastructure. In this context, we reiterate that states should not allow their territory to be used for malicious computer activities. The European Union reaffirms its firm commitment to preventing, deterring and responding to illegal behaviour in cyberspace and is ready to take further measures where necessary. We will continue to work with our international partners to promote due diligence and responsible behaviour by states in cyberspace, with the aim of ensuring a global, open, free, stable and secure cyberspace.

[SAFE: Council adopts €150 billion increase for joint European security and defence procurement](#)

The Council adopted on 27 May 2025 a regulation establishing the "Action for Security in Europe" (SAFE) instrument. SAFE is a new EU financial instrument that will support Member States wishing to invest in defence industrial production through joint procurement focusing on priority capabilities. SAFE will finance urgent and large-scale investments in the European defence technology and industrial base (EDTIB). The aim is to increase production capacity, ensure the availability of defence equipment when needed and close existing capability gaps, ultimately strengthening the EU's overall defence readiness. In addition, SAFE will enable the EU to further support Ukraine by involving its defence industry in the instrument from the outset.

[Council calls for an inclusive, ethical, sustainable and human-centred strategy for the adoption of artificial intelligence in science](#)

Il 23 maggio 2025, il Consiglio ha approvato una serie di conclusioni intitolate "Verso una strategia del l'UE in materia di IA nella scienza". In this document, the Council calls for a comprehensive strategy to promote the adoption of AI in science, with an ethical, sustainable, inclusive and people-centred approach. Council conclusions recognise that the rapid development of AI and its applications in scientific research has led to breakthrough results, transforming the way science is practised. AI is widely used in large-scale data analysis, simulations and language models, enabling new discoveries



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and improving research efficiency. The conclusions underline the importance of AI in supporting both basic and applied research and its crucial role in addressing global challenges and societal needs, as well as improving competitiveness and digital transition in Europe. Collaboration in the field of AI, in particular mutual and non-discriminatory partnerships at international level, is essential to improve scientific exchange, ensure interoperability and promote a responsible development of IA. The conclusions underline the importance of an ethical, sustainable and inclusive use of AI in science, which will help strengthen research, innovation (R&D) and global competitiveness.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Border security: agreement on gradual implementation of entry-exit system

Parliament and the Council have reached an agreement on the gradual introduction of the entry/exit system (EES) at the EU's external borders. The negotiating teams of the European Parliament and the Polish Presidency of the Council have reached an agreement on how to introduce the entry/exit system (EES) at the EU's external borders. Once operational, the system will record data, including biometric data such as facial images and fingerprints, of third country nationals entering and leaving the Schengen area on short-stay visas. The aim is to improve security, speed up border controls and reduce queues. The idea behind the 180-day phased implementation is to prevent a simultaneous launch in all countries from compromising the system.

Sexual abuse of children: updated rules to address new technological risks

The Civil Liberties Commission has approved legislative changes to improve EU countries' ability to combat child sexual abuse effectively. By updating the EU-wide definitions of child sexual abuse offences (CSA), the proposal adopted by MEPs also adapts them to new technologies. The aim is to improve cooperation between national authorities in criminal investigations and proceedings, as well as support for victims. In their amendments, MEPs propose to increase the maximum penalties for a range of child sexual abuse offences (CSA), including sexual activity with children who have reached the age of consent and do not consent. Other examples include the recruitment of children for the exploitation of prostitution, possession or distribution of CSA material and offering compensation for certain child sexual abuse offences. In order to adapt EU legislation to technological developments, MEPs want to explicitly criminalise the use of artificial intelligence systems "primarily designed or



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adapted" for child sexual abuse offences (CSAs). They also approved provisions on the live streaming of child sexual abuse (CSA) and online dissemination of related material. The MEPs are calling for a new definition of consent specifically for children who have passed the age of sexual consent. No Member State should criminalise consensual peer interactions unless they involve abuse of trust or dependence, they argue. Pretending to be an equal should, however, be a punishable aggravating circumstance. Support for victims of juvenile crime should be free of charge and include medical and forensic visits, assistance in documenting evidence, gender-sensitive medical care and access to sexual and reproductive health care.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EU closing in on the 2030 climate and energy targets, according to national plans

EU Member States have significantly closed the gap to achieving the 2030 energy and climate targets, according to the European Commission's assessment of the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs). EU countries have substantially improved their plans following Commission recommendations in December 2023. As a result, the EU is closing in collectively on a 55% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, as committed in the European Climate Law, and reaching a share of at least 42.5% of renewable energy. The Commission's assessment shows that the EU is currently on course to reduce net GHG emissions by around 54% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels, if Member States implement fully existing and planned national measures and EU policies. In the current geopolitical context, this demonstrates that the EU is staying the course on its climate commitments, investing with determination in the clean energy transition and prioritising the EU's industrial competitiveness and the social dimension. Strategic initiatives such as the Clean Industrial Deal and the Affordable Energy Action Plan will complement NECPs in mobilising investments in industrial decarbonisation and clean technology, making the best use of Europe's homegrown renewable potential and energy efficient solutions, helping to deliver lower and more stable energy prices over time.

The EU's fight against torture and other ill-treatment: towards a "trade without torture"



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The European Commission proposes to update the EU's anti-torture regulation in order to step up efforts to eradicate torture and other ill-treatment globally through trade export control measures. Adopted twenty years ago, the EU Anti-Torture Regulation is the world's first legally binding instrument to regulate trade in torture-related goods. The Regulation prohibits trade in goods that are inherently abusive and have no practical use other than the death penalty, torture and other ill-treatment. It also requires that goods which have a legitimate purpose but carry the risk of being misused for capital punishment, torture and other ill-treatment are subject to export controls by the authorities of EU Member States. Where risks of misuse are identified, Member State authorities should refuse export to third countries. The Commission proposes to update the categories of goods listed in the Regulation, originally adopted in 2005. The proposal is based on the recommendations of the UN special rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

EUROPOL

[270 arrested in global dark web crackdown targeting online drug and criminal networks](#)

On May 22, 2025, Operation RapTor was announced as a major international crackdown coordinated by Europol, resulting in 270 arrests linked to dark web drug, weapon, and counterfeit goods trafficking. The operation targeted criminal networks across ten countries, based on intelligence from the shutdown of dark web marketplaces Nemesis, Tor2Door, Bohemia, and Kingdom Markets. The highest number of arrests occurred in the U.S. (130), followed by Germany, the U.K., France, and South Korea. Authorities seized over €184 million in cash and cryptocurrency, 2 tons of drugs, 180 firearms, thousands of counterfeit products, and 4 tons of illegal tobacco. Europol led the coordination through its Joint Cybercrime Action Taskforce (J-CAT), demonstrating that shutting down a dark web platform is just the beginning of broader investigations. Criminals may change tactics, but the message is clear: no network is beyond the reach of international law enforcement.

[80 arrests and more than 37,700 cultural goods seized in major art trafficking bust](#)

On May 22, 2025, Operation Pandora IX was announced, an international crackdown on the trafficking of cultural goods, resulting in 80 arrests and the seizure of 37,727 items including artworks, archaeological artifacts, musical instruments, and coins. Conducted throughout 2024 and



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involving 23 countries, the operation was coordinated by Spain's Guardia Civil with support from Europol, INTERPOL, and the World Customs Organization (WCO). Authorities also seized 69 metal detectors and 23 illegal excavation tools, highlighting ongoing threats to cultural heritage. Key outcomes included Italy confiscating over 300 historical artifacts and a fake Kounellis painting; Spain dismantling a looting network and recovering Roman coins; Greece recovering five Byzantine icons via undercover operations; and Ukraine seizing 87 items en route to neighboring countries. Cyber patrols led to 4,298 more items being recovered, showing that traffickers are increasingly turning to online platforms. As part of the EMPACT framework, Pandora IX reinforces the power of international collaboration in defending humanity's cultural legacy from illicit trade.

[Europol and Microsoft disrupt world's largest infostealer Lumma](#)

On May 21, 2025, Europol and Microsoft announced the takedown of "Lumma Stealer," the world's most widespread infostealer malware. Coordinated by Europol in partnership with international law enforcement, the operation targeted the technical infrastructure that enabled large-scale theft and trade of sensitive data, including login credentials, financial records, and personal information. Between March 16 and May 16, 2025, Microsoft identified over 394,000 Windows computers infected with Lumma. In a joint effort, more than 1,300 domains were seized or transferred to Microsoft, with 300 of them actioned with Europol's support. These domains now redirect to sinkholes to sever links between attackers and victims. Lumma also operated as a marketplace, selling the malware and providing easy access to advanced data-theft tools. The U.S. Department of Justice seized the Lumma control panel, while Japanese infrastructure was dismantled through cooperation with JC3 (Japan Cybercrime Control Center). This operation highlights the power of public-private partnerships in cybercrime prevention. By combining Europol's coordination with Microsoft's technical expertise, authorities were able to dismantle a major cybercriminal network. Europol emphasized that this collaboration model is essential to confront cyber threats in today's interconnected world.

[15 migrant smugglers arrested in multi-stage operation](#)

On May 14, 2025, a multi-stage international operation coordinated by Europol led to the arrest of 15 suspected migrant smugglers. The action involved authorities in Belgium, Germany, and Poland. On



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the designated action day, seven suspects were arrested (six in Belgium, one in Germany), following earlier operations in Poland that resulted in eight arrests. The German investigation began with a routine immigration check in September 2024, which raised suspicion about a driver who was later linked to the smuggling of three non-EU nationals that same day. This discovery unveiled an international network believed to have facilitated the illegal entry of up to 300 non-EU migrants into Germany and other EU countries between 2022 and 2024. Key suspects were based in Belgium, acting as intermediaries between German and Polish associates by recruiting drivers and handling the network's finances. In Poland, efforts focused on a connected group also engaged in drug trafficking (including amphetamines, cocaine, and marijuana) and tied to the football hooligan scene. This group used a legitimate Polish transport company to disguise their smuggling operations. Europol coordinated the overall investigation, facilitated operational meetings, deployed experts in the field, and supported real-time data checks. Eurojust enabled judicial cooperation and helped align investigative efforts across borders.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

[GRECO recommends anti-corruption reforms for Liechtenstein's government, police, and Head of State](#)

The Group of States against Corruption (GRECO) of the Council of Europe calls on Liechtenstein to enhance anti-corruption measures for persons holding top executive functions (PTEF), including government members, senior officials, the National Police, and the Reigning Prince, who is involved in executive decision-making. GRECO recommends a coordinated strategy to promote integrity based on a thorough risk assessment and increased transparency of the anti-corruption working group. Legislative reforms are needed to improve public access to information and consultation procedures on government bills. Concerns are raised about the Prince's powers to block or suspend criminal proceedings in corruption cases, viewed as a threat to judicial independence. GRECO advises revising these powers and increasing transparency by publishing meetings between the Prince and the Prime Minister. Implementation of the 20 recommendations will be reviewed in 2027.



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[Greece should prevent pushbacks and ensure accountability for border violations of human rights](#)

The Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights, Michael O'Flaherty, published a memorandum following his visit to Greece (3-7 February 2025), highlighting the complex situation at Greece's borders, heavily affected by irregular arrivals, especially asylum seekers. O'Flaherty expresses serious concern about ongoing pushbacks without individual identification, which may violate Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) and other binding international and EU laws. He recommends a zero-tolerance approach to such abuses, with timely, impartial, and thorough investigations, and ensuring affected individuals have access to tailored procedures and effective remedies. The Commissioner notes persistent difficulties in holding perpetrators accountable for human rights violations at the borders, urging Greece to review and strengthen accountability mechanisms to improve their effectiveness and independence. He also calls for empowering national human rights bodies to monitor and report abuses. Regarding the Adriana shipwreck on 14 June 2023, involving about 750 people, O'Flaherty urges Greek authorities to fully investigate responsibilities, in line with the European Court of Human Rights standards. Finally, the Commissioner stresses the importance of a free environment for civil society, media, and human rights defenders working to protect migrants and asylum seekers.

OSCE

[Navigating risks and harnessing potential: OSCE and Asian Partners discuss the impact of emerging technologies in the security sector](#)

On 26 May 2025, the Third Inter-Regional Conference on the Impact of Emerging Technologies on International Security and Democracy took place in Vienna, under the framework of the OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation Group. The event, co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, the OSCE Secretariat, and Malta's chairmanship of the Group, gathered over 140 participants from OSCE participating States, Asian Partners, international organizations, civil society, and academia. Discussions focused on the security risks and opportunities posed by emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, and digital innovation. Strategic foresight was highlighted as essential to ensure that technological advances contribute to peace and stability. Speakers including Korean Vice-Minister Cho Koo-Rae and OSCE Secretary General Feridun Sinirlioğlu emphasized the importance of inter-regional cooperation, mutual trust, and



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continuous dialogue to address shared threats. The dual-use nature of new technologies, the need for transparency, responsible innovation, and democratic resilience were central themes. The conference reaffirmed the shared commitment of the OSCE and its Asian Partners to strengthening global security, building on the outcomes of the previous inter-regional conferences in 2020 and 2023.

[OSCE strengthens Montenegro's border security with training on arms and human trafficking](#)

The OSCE conducted a specialized training course for 15 Montenegrin border and criminal police officers to enhance national capacity to combat human trafficking and illicit arms trade. Held from 13–16 May, the training supports efforts to strengthen border security while upholding human rights. Led by the OSCE Mobile Training Team, the course included contributions from INTERPOL, OSCE experts, and police forces from North Macedonia and Tunisia, alongside Montenegro's Interior Ministry and the U.S. Embassy. Participants engaged in scenario-based exercises, case studies, and theoretical sessions, with a strong focus on victim-centered responses and inter-agency cooperation. Siv-Katrine Leirtroe, Head of the OSCE Border Security and Management Unit, highlighted Montenegro's strategic position at the edge of the Schengen zone as critical for intercepting threats and fostering regional resilience. The training was delivered under the second phase of an OSCE extra-budgetary project aimed at improving identification of cross-border terrorist fighters and related crimes, with funding from Germany and the United States.

[OSCE Presence builds capacities of Albanian judges and prosecutors on investigative and adjudicating techniques on money laundering](#)

The OSCE and UNODC co-hosted a side event titled “Building Police-Public Partnerships: Community-Oriented Policing and Community Engagement”, held during the 34th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ). The event brought together criminal justice professionals, policymakers, and civil society to explore how community policing can improve public safety, police accountability, and trust between law enforcement and communities. Speakers shared practical experiences and lessons learned in:

- Engaging local communities



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- Building effective partnerships
- Encouraging multi-stakeholder involvement, including media and oversight bodies

The OSCE's 2022 Good Practices Guide on Police-Public Partnerships was highlighted as a key resource for implementing effective and locally adapted strategies. Participants emphasized that community-oriented policing is a long-term, sustainable approach to crime prevention and fosters more effective, inclusive, and trusted law enforcement. The event was co-sponsored by the 2025 Finnish OSCE Chairmanship and the UK Delegation to the OSCE.

EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY (FRONTEX)

[Frontex Leads International Effort to Tackle Child Trafficking in Europe](#)

Children are being trafficked across borders, exploited in silence, and too often remain invisible. Each number in the statistics represents a young life taken from safety, freedom, and dignity. In response, Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, hosted an international conference in Warsaw on 6 and 7 May to address child trafficking and exploitation. The event gathered over 60 experts from 24 countries, including EU institutions, national authorities, international organisations, and NGOs. Frontex's Executive Director, Hans Leijten, stressed that child trafficking is not only a legal issue but also a moral one, and highlighted the duty to act. He described how Frontex is training officers to detect exploitation, improving its on-ground response, and cooperating with partners to prevent crimes. The conference focused on practical solutions such as early victim identification at borders, protection during migration, and strengthening justice systems to punish traffickers. It emphasised the importance of better cooperation between national and international actors. Frontex's efforts go beyond concern, reflecting real action to protect children and hold criminals accountable.

[EU external borders: Irregular crossings down a quarter in first 4 months of 2025](#)



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In the first four months of 2025, irregular border crossings into the European Union fell by 27%, with nearly 47,000 cases reported, according to Frontex's preliminary data. All major migratory routes saw declines, from 58% on the Western Balkans route to 3% on the Central Mediterranean route. Frontex has 3,200 officers deployed at external borders, supporting national authorities in protecting borders and saving lives at sea. The Central Mediterranean remains the busiest route, accounting for a third of all arrivals, with 15,718 crossings registered so far this year. Bangladeshi nationals are the most common on this route, often assisted by organised smuggling networks that arrange their journeys for costs between EUR 9,500 and 13,000. The Eastern Mediterranean saw over 12,200 crossings, a drop of nearly a third from last year. On the Western African route, arrivals fell by over a third to 10,400, with most migrants from Mali, Senegal, and Guinea. Despite fewer crossings, many risk their lives in dangerous sea journeys; 555 people died at sea in the first four months of 2025 alone. Meanwhile, attempts to cross the Channel into the UK rose by 5% compared to the previous year, reaching 18,100 cases.

[Frontex Supports Over 1000 Voluntary Returns to Syria](#)

Since March, Frontex has helped over 1,000 Syrian nationals return voluntarily to their home country from 14 EU Member States. This milestone demonstrates the Agency's ongoing commitment to ensuring safe and dignified returns. The support for voluntary returns comes after the political transition in Syria following the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024, which has encouraged many Syrians to go back after years of conflict and displacement. Frontex guarantees that all returnees are fully informed about their rights and that their choice to return is entirely voluntary. Every return is conducted in line with EU law and international protection standards.

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency continues to expand its role as a return partner for Member States, with voluntary returns constantly growing in number and geographical scope, and now accounting for more than half of all returns supported by the Agency.

EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY (EDA)

[EDA Innovation Days break silos, as military and innovators seek rapid change](#)



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The newly appointed EDA Chief Executive, André Denk, opened the European Defence Innovation Days by emphasising that the event is more than a conference; it is a platform to turn bold ideas into action. He highlighted the urgency of accelerating defence innovation to maintain strategic advantage in a time of rapid technological change and great power competition. Delegates stressed the need to break down barriers between the military and innovators, connect public and private sectors, and encourage collaboration across generations. Marcin Gorka noted that defence capability development must move from static requirements to addressing real operational challenges. Ukraine was showcased as an example of rapid innovation under pressure, with its Deputy Minister of Defence, Valerii Churkin, attending. Kaja Kallas, in a video message, praised Ukraine's ability to outpace Russia through collaboration and agility. The event highlighted EDA's role in supporting innovation through HEDI, its defence innovation hub. The exhibition featured nearly 90 stands, with mock-ups of new satellites, Ukrainian combat robotics, a makethon for Unmanned Ground Vehicles, and a start-up competition offering prizes up to €15,000.

[Innovators from France win EDA defence robotics competition](#)

The competition, organised by the European Defence Agency with support from the Polish Ministry of Defence, set clear limits on spending (€25,000) and robot weight (75 kg) to encourage innovation within constraints. The aim was to promote cooperation, cross-border knowledge sharing, and a culture of continuous innovation. The Makeathon challenged teams with tasks involving logistics, object recognition, and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) sample collection. The robots were tested on their technical skills and autonomy through a field course near the European Defence Innovation Days venue in Krakow, with points awarded for task completion. These tasks included monitoring simulated gas leaks, testing water quality, and identifying military targets. Nathalie Guichard, EDA's Director of Research, Technology and Innovation, praised participants for building both machines and connections between military and civilian sectors. The winning team, French Touch, created a lightweight robot with a robotic arm, sensors, and AI recognition, built entirely in-house using CNC-machined aluminium. Poland's Impuls team placed second with a 38 kg semi-autonomous rover, designed by students and made from polyamide composites.



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EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR CYBERSECURITY (ENISA)

[Consult the European Vulnerability Database to enhance your digital security!](#)

The objective of the EUVD is to ensure a high level of interconnection of publicly available information coming from multiple sources such as CSIRTs, vendors, as well as existing databases. In order to meet this objective, the platform is building on a holistic approach. As an interconnected database the EUVD allows for better analysis and facilitates the correlation of vulnerabilities by facilitating the open-source software [Vulnerability-Lookup](#), thereby enabling enhanced cybersecurity risk management.

The EUVD offers therefore a trusted, more transparent and broader source of information and further improves situational awareness while limiting exposure to threats.

[Putting EU resilience to the test: ENISA handbook on cyber stress testing](#)

In recent years, the EU has intensified efforts to strengthen the resilience of critical infrastructure and ensure a high level of cybersecurity across the Union. The Cyber Solidarity Act plays a key role in this by setting out measures to enhance the EU's ability to detect, prepare for, and respond to cybersecurity threats and incidents. Among the tools available, stress tests are highlighted as a lightweight and targeted way to assess cybersecurity and resilience, though they are not yet widely used. To address this, the EU Agency for Cybersecurity created a handbook to guide national and sectorial authorities responsible for overseeing cybersecurity and resilience under the NIS 2 Directive. The handbook may also support other authorities working under sector-specific rules, like DORA or the Critical Entities Resilience Directive. It defines a cyber stress test as a targeted assessment of an organisation's resilience and ability to withstand and recover from major cybersecurity incidents, ensuring the continuity of critical services in various risk scenarios.



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AD HOC TRIBUNALS

[Specialist chambers president visited kosovo](#)

On 2 May, Judge Kenneth Roberts informed KSC President Ekaterina Trendafilova of his decision to step down from the roster of international judges due to time constraints and other commitments. President Trendafilova thanked him for his significant contributions, particularly to the development of the Rules of Procedure and Evidence, and praised him as a highly experienced and valued colleague.



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