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**International & European  
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ON CULTURAL ISSUES, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY

## MONTHLY WRAP JULY 2025

### UN SECURITY COUNCIL

**[S/RES/2785](#) Resolution 2785 (2025) on the need for strengthened democratic institutions, judicial reform, and accountability in response to Haiti’s escalating gang violence, institutional breakdown, and widespread insecurity.**

The resolution reaffirms the Council’s support for a Haitian-led, comprehensive political solution, grounded in national ownership and sovereignty. It underscores the need for strengthened democratic institutions, judicial reform, and accountability in response to Haiti’s escalating gang violence, institutional breakdown, and widespread insecurity. Council members stressed the importance of coordinated regional and international efforts to support the rule of law and public order.

The resolution mandates continued UN assistance in areas including electoral readiness, human rights monitoring, and police training—though without authorizing a peacekeeping force. It welcomes steps toward the deployment of the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission authorized under resolution 2699 (2023), reaffirming that the primary responsibility for security remains with Haitian authorities. The Council further requests the Secretary-General to provide monthly updates on the implementation of BINUH’s mandate and its coordination with the MSS. The text reflects growing frustration over delays in political transition, while emphasizing the need for a sustained legal and institutional framework to underpin long-term stability.

**[S/RES/2786](#) Resolution 2786 (2025) on the Council’s support for Yemen’s sovereignty and the 2018 Stockholm Agreement, which governs the ceasefire and redeployment of forces in and around Hodeidah and its ports.**

Resolution 2786 (2025), adopted in July, reaffirms the Council’s support for Yemen’s sovereignty and the 2018 Stockholm Agreement, which governs the ceasefire and redeployment of forces in and around Hodeidah and its ports. The resolution highlights the Mission’s critical role in maintaining relative calm in this strategic area, which serves as a key conduit for humanitarian aid.

The Council expressed concern over ongoing Houthi-imposed restrictions that continue to hinder UNMHA patrols, and called for full cooperation from all parties to ensure the Mission’s freedom of



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

**IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO**  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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movement and security. It requests monthly reporting from the Secretary-General on progress and obstacles, while mandating a strategic review by November 2025. This review is intended to assess mission effectiveness, improve coordination with other UN entities, and determine whether conditions allow for a downsizing or withdrawal of the Mission—especially in the context of any emerging nationwide ceasefire or political settlement.

Council members also emphasized the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Yemen and stressed the need for all parties to respect their commitments under the Stockholm Agreement. The review process is expected to clarify benchmarks for success and ensure UNMHA's role remains aligned with broader peace and stabilization efforts.

### **[S/RES/2787](#) Resolution 2787 (2025) on heightened concerns over maritime security and freedom of navigation in a geopolitically sensitive corridor central to global trade**

The resolution reflects heightened concerns over maritime security and freedom of navigation in a geopolitically sensitive corridor central to global trade. It calls on all relevant actors to respect international law, particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and to refrain from hostile acts that jeopardize civilian shipping.

The resolution reiterates that attacks on merchant vessels may constitute violations of international humanitarian law and the laws of armed conflict. Council members expressed alarm over the destabilizing impact of these attacks on international energy and supply chains. The resolution also encourages Member States to enhance information-sharing and coordination with the UN to facilitate early warning and de-escalation. It signals the Council's intent to remain seized of the matter, should further threats to regional or international peace emerge from the maritime domain.

### **[S/RES/2788](#) Resolution 2786 (2025) on promoting a preventive diplomacy framework in the face of rising geopolitical fragmentation**

Unanimously adopted under Chapter VI of the UN Charter, this resolution reaffirms the Council's role in the peaceful settlement of disputes and urges Member States to prioritize conflict prevention. It specifically highlights the use of Article 33 mechanisms—negotiation, mediation, conciliation, and



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**IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO**  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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arbitration—as primary tools to defuse tensions before they escalate. It also affirms the Council’s readiness to utilize Article 34 investigative powers to examine any dispute or situation that may endanger international peace and security.

While general in scope, the resolution is notable for promoting a preventive diplomacy framework in the face of rising geopolitical fragmentation. It reflects growing concern among Council members about the diminishing use of dialogue-based mechanisms and the increasing reliance on unilateral measures. The text encourages the Secretary-General to strengthen the UN’s early warning and conflict analysis capabilities and calls on Member States to cooperate more fully with UN envoys and special representatives. It represents a consensus effort to restore the Council’s capacity to engage proactively, rather than reactively, in emerging crises.

## **[S/RES/2789](#) Resolution 2789 (2025) on the extension of the sanctions regime imposed on the Central African Republic (CAR)**

This resolution extends the sanctions regime imposed on the Central African Republic (CAR). It upholds existing measures including asset freezes, travel bans, and arms embargoes targeting individuals and entities responsible for undermining peace, violating human rights, or impeding the implementation of the peace process. The resolution underscores the legal basis for these measures under Article 41 of the UN Charter and reiterates the Council’s intention to review them based on measurable progress.

Council members reaffirmed their support for a comprehensive, regionally led peace process, emphasizing the need for inclusive dialogue, transitional justice, and constitutional order. The resolution calls for the Government of CAR to strengthen oversight of arms flows and ensure that national security forces operate in compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law. It also urges neighboring states to cooperate in preventing cross-border movements of weapons and armed groups. The text reflects ongoing concern over the fragility of state institutions and the risk of relapse into widespread violence without sustained international pressure and monitoring.

## **UNITED NATIONS**

### **[Final Report of the Study Group on Sea-Level Rise in Relation to International Law](#)**



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(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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As part of the UN's legal codification work, the International Law Commission (ILC) finalized its report on sea-level rise and international law during its seventy-sixth session, with updates noted as of 15 July 2025. The report reflects the UN's evolving legal response to climate change, addressing critical questions around maritime boundaries, statehood, and displacement. It affirms that coastal regression should not undermine states' existing maritime entitlements under UNCLOS and emphasizes the need for legal continuity and international protection of affected populations. The UN also advanced work on jus cogens norms, reinforcing the primacy of peremptory legal obligations in international law. These developments form part of the Organization's broader effort to adapt international legal frameworks to global environmental and sovereignty challenges.

## [In hard-hitting human rights address, Guterres calls for urgent action on Gaza, authoritarianism and climate](#)

In a major policy address, Secretary-General António Guterres warned that the world is facing a profound "moral crisis," marked by the erosion of fundamental norms in armed conflicts, disregard for civilian protection, and widespread impunity. He cited the UN Charter as the essential foundation for restoring global stability and called on Member States to recommit to its principles amid rising authoritarianism and political inertia. Guterres emphasized that the United Nations itself must demonstrate moral clarity and institutional coherence to retain credibility in a fragmented international order. His remarks were framed as both a diagnosis of systemic dysfunction and a call to reassert the UN's role as the primary multilateral platform for preventing war, upholding international law, and responding to human suffering. The speech underscored the stakes for the Organization as it approaches its 80th anniversary, facing deep skepticism over its effectiveness.

## [UN peacekeeping can work in a fractured world if there is political will](#)

Widening geopolitical divisions among major powers have made consensus on mandates increasingly difficult to achieve, while mission effectiveness on the ground is eroding due to limited resources, political pushback, and escalating risks to personnel. The debate reflected institutional concern over whether current peacekeeping frameworks—designed for a different era—are fit for purpose in today's multipolar and contested environment.

Officials stressed the importance of grounding future missions in political realities, including stronger host-country ownership, regional partnerships, and clear, achievable mandates. The UN also reiterated its commitment to upholding core principles such as consent, impartiality, and the non-use of force, while recognizing the need for operational flexibility in volatile contexts. This internal



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Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
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reckoning underscored broader anxieties about the UN's ability to respond credibly and coherently to protracted crises where peacekeeping has become a substitute for political solutions. As the Organization reflects on its role approaching its 80th anniversary, peace operations remain a litmus test for its continued relevance and legitimacy.

## **INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE**

### **[Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings](#)**

On 4 July 2025, the International Court of Justice issued an order on the request for the indication of provisional measures in the case concerning the Land and Maritime Boundary Dispute between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire (*Ghana v. Côte d'Ivoire*). The Court noted that both parties must refrain from any action that might aggravate or extend the dispute or make it more difficult to resolve. It further required both States to cooperate in good faith and avoid any unilateral exploration or exploitation activities in the contested maritime area. In accordance with the Court's order, Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire must submit written reports within four months detailing the measures taken to comply with the decision. These steps are intended to preserve the rights of both parties pending the final judgment on the merits.

### **[Swearing-in of HE Judge Mahmoud Daifallah Hmoud and holding of public hearings in the case concerning Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings \(Equatorial Guinea v. France\)](#)**

On 15 July 2025, the International Court of Justice held a formal sitting for the swearing-in of H.E. Judge Mahmoud Daifallah Hmoud of Jordan and the opening of public hearings in the case concerning the *Request relating to the Return of Property Confiscated in Criminal Proceedings (Equatorial Guinea v. France)*. Judge Hmoud, a seasoned diplomat and international lawyer, officially took his seat on the bench following his election in June 2025 to fill a vacancy created earlier that year. The public hearings that followed marked an important procedural step in a high-profile case centering on allegations that France had violated the immunities of Equatorial Guinea's Vice-President by confiscating assets—including a Paris mansion—during domestic criminal proceedings. The case raises complex legal questions concerning the intersection of national anti-



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[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
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corruption efforts and the international legal principles governing state sovereignty and diplomatic protection. Both parties delivered oral arguments before the full Court, reaffirming the ICJ's central role in adjudicating legal disputes between states involving sensitive issues of jurisdiction, immunity, and the integrity of international law.

### **[Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide \(The Gambia v. Myanmar: 7 States intervening\)](#)**

On 29 July 2025, the International Court of Justice issued an Order in the case *Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar)*, declaring admissible the Declarations of Intervention submitted by Slovenia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Belgium, and Ireland. The Court found that each of these States met the conditions under Article 63 of the Statute, which allows third-party States to intervene in a case to provide their interpretation of a convention to which they are parties. The interventions are limited to legal interpretation and do not imply support for either party in the dispute. This procedural development confirms the growing international attention surrounding the legal consequences of the Genocide Convention and the role of the Court in promoting accountability for mass atrocity crimes. The case, brought by The Gambia against Myanmar in 2019, concerns allegations of genocide against the Rohingya people. With these interventions now admitted, the Court will proceed with the next phase of the written procedure, and other intervention requests remain under examination.

## **UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)**

### **[Withdrawal of the United States of America from UNESCO: statement by Audrey Azoulay, Director-General](#)**

On 22 July 2025, the United States formally notified UNESCO of its decision to withdraw from the organization, effective 31 December 2026. This marks the third time the United States has exited UNESCO, citing concerns over what it describes as politically divisive agendas, including the organization's recognition of Palestine and its focus on global development initiatives perceived to be misaligned with U.S. priorities. In response, Director-General Audrey Azoulay expressed regret over the announcement and reaffirmed UNESCO's commitment to its international mission. She



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Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
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emphasized that the organization is now less financially dependent on any single state and highlighted its achievements in recent years, including the adoption of ethical frameworks for artificial intelligence, heritage reconstruction in conflict zones such as Mosul, and the promotion of Holocaust education. Azoulay noted that UNESCO remains financially stable and resilient, and that international cooperation in science, culture, and education will continue. Despite the withdrawal, sites in the United States designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites will retain their status, though U.S. influence in cultural diplomacy and international standard-setting may diminish.

## **UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)**

### **[UNHCR: Bangladesh has welcomed 150,000 Rohingya refugees in last 18 months](#)**

On 11 July 2025 UNHCR reported that Bangladesh has welcomed 150,000 Rohingya refugees in the last 18 months, representing the largest influx since 2017. Most of the new arrivals are women and children, and by the end of June nearly 121,000 individuals had undergone biometric registration. These refugees fled ongoing persecution and violence in Myanmar's Rakhine State and are now living in the already overcrowded camps of Cox's Bazar, where pressure on shelter, sanitation, health care, and education is severe. UNHCR and its partner organizations are increasing emergency assistance, including shelter repairs, community support, and legal protection. The agency stressed the urgent need for long-term solutions, particularly education programs and livelihood opportunities, while calling on the international community to ensure sustained funding and burden-sharing with Bangladesh.

## **EUROPEAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE (EPPO)**

### **[Midas investigation: arrests, searches and seizures in Belgium, the Czech Republic and Poland as part of a €10 million VAT fraud investigation](#)**

On 2 July 2025, at the request of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in Munich (Germany), a suspect was arrested in the Czech Republic and several searches and seizures were carried out in Belgium, the Czech Republic and Poland. The criminal organization under investigation is suspected of operating a €10 million cross-border VAT carousel fraud, a complex criminal scheme that exploits EU rules on cross-border transactions between its member states, as these are exempt from value added tax, including AirPods sales. The suspect arrested in the Czech Republic is believed



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(School of Law)  
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to have provided loans to several companies involved in VAT fraud and played an active role in the supply chain through his own companies. With the support of a number of national authorities in Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany and Poland, 18 searches were carried out at the premises of the companies under investigation and assets were frozen in bank accounts in Belgium and Poland. The investigation is under way to ascertain the extent of criminal activities. It is part of the EPPO's Midas investigation, which targets a transnational criminal organization responsible for a €195 million VAT fraud, which involved the sale of smartphones, small electronic devices and protective masks.

### [Italy: The EPPO carries out searches and obtains the seizure of 3.3 million euros as part of an investigation into fraud with RRF funds](#)

At the request of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) of Turin (Italy), the Italian Guardia di Finanza (Guardia di Finanza) of Biella carried out searches on 17 July 2025 as part of an investigation into a suspected fraud involving funds from the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) of the EU for Italy. The investigation concerns an alleged organized criminal group that defrauded public budgets by fraudulently obtaining RRF funds and claiming tax credits for fictitious energy efficiency interventions. According to the investigation, the suspects, tax consultants and accounting service centers operating throughout Italy, set up companies in the name of frontmen and falsified the companies' financial statements to access public financing and tax incentives. Thirty-five individuals and sixteen companies are under investigation for suspected participation in a criminal organization, aggravated fraud against the Italian State, budget fraud and tax fraud. The Judge for preliminary investigations of the Court of Bologna ordered the seizure of 3.3 million euros, corresponding to the alleged proceeds of the crimes. During the searches, 18 arrest warrants were carried out in locations in the provinces of Arezzo, Empoli, Fermo, Florence, Bologna, Pesaro, Perugia, Prato, Rome, Turin, Verona and Vicenza to acquire evidence, including tax documents and contracts. Funds held by four suspects in their Italian bank current accounts were seized for a total of 3,385,986 €.

### [Italy: EPPO dismantles one of Europe's largest illegal cigarette factories](#)

At the request of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) of Palermo (Italy), the Guardia di Finanza of Palermo carried out extensive searches on 22 July 2025, discovering one of the largest illegal cigarette production plants in Europe. The plant, located in Stornara (province of Foggia), has



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Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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been equipped for large-scale production, with a production capacity of up to 2 million cigarettes per day. The estimated value of the site is over 1.3 million euros. The research was conducted in Puglia and Sicily, with the aim of identifying the illicit logistics network behind the structure. Inside the 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> industrial site, agents found 45 pallets of cigarettes weighing approximately 13 tons, 165 bags of shredded tobacco and 134 pallets of precursors. These also include packaging materials with counterfeit logos of well-known tobacco brands. If the seized products had arrived on the market, the estimated loss of evaded VAT and excise duties would have caused losses of more than 3.2 million euros to national and EU budgets. The illegal factory was capable of generating illicit profits of around 350,000 euros per day. Over the course of a year, this would have resulted in profits of over €120 million, with an estimated damage to public finances of around €80 million.

## EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE COOPERATION (EUROJUST)

### Hactivist group responsible for cyber attacks on critical infrastructure in Europe dissolved

Twelve countries, together with Eurojust and Europol, have dismantled the hacktivist group NoName057(16), which is responsible for multiple distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks against critical infrastructure such as energy suppliers and public transport across Europe. Nel corso di una giornata di mobilitazione, il 15 luglio, la botnet che utilizzava centinaia di sistemi informatici in tutto il mondo è stata smantellata e sono stati emessi sette mandati di arresto, anche nei confronti dei principali istigatori residenti nella Federazione Russa. NoName057(16) has declared its support for the Russian Federation since the beginning of the war of aggression against Ukraine. Since the beginning of the war, it has performed multiple DDoS attacks against critical infrastructure during high-level (political) events. The hacktivist group carried out 14 attacks in Germany, some of which lasted several days and affected around 230 organizations, including arms factories, energy suppliers and government organizations. Attacks were also carried out across Europe during the European elections. To execute their attacks, the group recruited supporters via a messaging service. It is



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IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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estimated that the hackers managed to mobilize around 4000 users who supported their operations by downloading malware that allowed them to participate in DDoS attacks. The group also created its own botnet using hundreds of servers around the world, increasing the attack load and causing further damage. The coordination of the many international partners was crucial to the success of the operation. Thanks to Eurojust, the authorities were able to coordinate their investigations and plan a day of action to target the group of hackers. The Agency has ensured the execution of numerous European investigation orders and mutual legal assistance procedures. During the day of action on 15 July, Eurojust coordinated all last-minute judicial requests that were necessary during the operation.

## Operation against human trafficking and money laundering: 13 arrests in Romania and the Netherlands

An organized criminal group that took vulnerable women from Romania to the Netherlands to sexually exploit them was stopped thanks to a coordinated operation between the Romanian and Dutch authorities, in collaboration with Eurojust. During a day of action in early July 2025, 13 suspects were arrested in both countries. Four of the suspects were handed over from Romania to the Netherlands. As of 2020, the group, led by two family members, used "loverboy" techniques to target vulnerable Romanian women, who were forced into prostitution in the Netherlands under the direct supervision of the criminal group. Sexual exploitation generated large illicit profits for the criminal group, which were laundered through relatives and close friends. These individuals transported large sums of money or transferred it through financial institutions. Eurojust coordinated the international investigation. After the Romanian authorities approached Eurojust for support in early 2024, several meetings were organised with the Dutch authorities. During these meetings, information about the criminal group was exchanged. To enable authorities to collaborate effectively and to exchange information and evidence in real time, Eurojust established a joint investigation team in January 2025. In the Netherlands, six suspects were arrested and four homes were searched. During the actions in Romania, four suspects were arrested on the basis of European arrest warrants issued by the Netherlands and three suspects were subjected to judicial review. In addition, 18 homes were searched and a car, weapons and cash were seized.

## EUROPEAN ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE (OLAF)



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IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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## [OLAF supports the coordinated crackdown on the cross-border counterfeit cigarette network in Italy and Romania](#)

The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) played an important coordination role in a large-scale joint operation that dismantled a cross-border criminal network involved in the illicit production and smuggling of counterfeit cigarettes, with evaded duties estimated at a total of approximately 9.8 million euros. The network, coordinated by Romanian, Moldovan and Italian citizens, operated illegal production facilities in both Romania and Italy, with large quantities of counterfeit tobacco products destined for distribution throughout the European Union. The operation was the result of extensive sharing of intelligence information between OLAF, the Romanian authorities, including the Directorate for Economic Crime Investigation of the General Inspectorate of Police (IGPR), the Caraş-Severin County Police (IPJ Caraş-Severin) and the Directorate for the Investigation of Organized Crime and Terrorism (DIICOT), as well as the Italian Guardia di Finanza and the Economic Police Unit of Bologna. The scale of the illicit operation highlights the financial threat to the EU budget and legitimate trade. OLAF's role has been instrumental in ensuring rapid cross-border cooperation, highlighting its mandate to protect the EU's financial interests and tackle organised fraud.

## **EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT (FRA)**

### [Combatting violence against children: The need for effective measures](#)

During an informal Justice and Home Affairs Council meeting in Copenhagen, held under the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the topic of combatting violence against children was addressed. FRA Director, Sirpa Rautio, underlined the importance of building robust and integrated child protection systems, stressing that such systems must be grounded in children's rights and must safeguard their rights to equal participation, protection, and development.

### [Little progress in investigating rights violations at EU borders](#)

In July 2024, FRA issued guidance to improve investigations into alleged rights violations, recommending stronger monitoring and accountability measures. Between 2020 and 2024, at least 135 criminal investigations were launched in 12 EU countries, with charges filed in Greece and Italy after the 2023 Pylos and Cutro shipwrecks.



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Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
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Despite ongoing allegations of excessive force and other abuses at EU borders, accountability remains scarce: only four convictions have occurred since 2020, and just 13 of 131 disciplinary investigations have resulted in sanctions. Frontex has increased its review of complaints and serious incidents, issuing recommendations to prevent and address rights violations.

The European Court of Human Rights has found several national investigations into migrant rights violations to be ineffective, with around 30 related cases still pending as of 1 July 2025.

### [FRA presents its fundamental rights monitoring work to the European Parliament](#)

FRA presented its guidance on monitoring fundamental rights during screening and the asylum border procedure to a European Parliament Asylum Working Group. The Group is part of the Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs.

During the meeting, FRA also described its work in developing methodological guidance for future monitors, which it is undertaking following requests by national human rights institutions.

## **COURT OF JUSTICE OF EUROPEAN UNION**

### [International protection: Greek legislation obliging an applicant for international protection to appear in person at the hearing to examine his or her appeal and providing for a presumption that an appeal has been improperly brought in the event of non-compliance with that obligation is contrary to EU law](#)

An Iraqi national applied for international protection in Greece, claiming his life was at risk due to a tribal death order after a romantic relationship. His application was rejected for lack of evidence, and his appeal was dismissed as manifestly unfounded because he failed to appear before the Independent Appeals Committee. Greek law presumes that if an applicant does not appear in person, the appeal is improperly lodged. The Thessaloniki Administrative Court referred the matter to the Court of Justice of the EU to assess whether this obligation is compatible with EU asylum law. The Court ruled that such legislation breaches the right to an effective remedy under the EU Charter when the sole purpose of appearing is to confirm presence in the country, not to be heard. While intended to improve judicial efficiency, the rule is disproportionate. Less restrictive alternatives could allow representation by a lawyer or appearance before a local authority. The in-person requirement imposes an excessive burden, especially on those outside Athens, and the irrefutable presumption of an improperly lodged appeal leads to automatic dismissal without examining the merits.



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Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
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## **EUROPEAN COUNCIL**

### [Sanctions against terrorism: Council renews the EU Terrorist List](#)

The Council renewed the EU Terrorist List, removing one deceased person while keeping all other listings unchanged. The list currently includes 13 individuals and 22 groups or entities subject to asset freezes and a ban on making funds or resources available to them.

This sanctions regime, established under Common Position 2001/931/CFSP, is distinct from the EU's implementation of UN Security Council measures against Al-Qaida and ISIL/Da'esh, as well as from the EU's autonomous sanctions targeting those groups and their affiliates. It is also separate from the sanctions framework aimed at supporters of Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

### [Niger: Statement by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union](#)

The EU welcomes the release of several political prisoners but regrets the continued detention of Mohamed Bazoum, other political figures, and civil society representatives, urging their release. It reaffirms that democracy, human rights, and the rule of law are priorities in its external action and remains open to constructive dialogue with Niger's authorities.

Some cooperation projects have been resumed at Niger's request, while humanitarian aid continues to address the needs of vulnerable populations affected by violence and natural disasters. The EU expresses its commitment to Niger's prosperity, stability, and peace, strongly condemns terrorism, and reaffirms solidarity with the Nigerien people. Several partner countries align with this statement.

### [Sudan: Council sanctions individuals and entities over serious human rights violations and threats to the peace, stability and security of the country](#)

The Council adopted a fourth package of restrictive measures against two individuals and two entities in response to the ongoing conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The listed entities are Alkhaleej Bank, linked to RSF financing, and Red Rock Mining Company, involved in supporting SAF operations and linked to the conflict-fuelling mining sector.

The measures also target SAF commander Abu Aqla Mohamed Kaikal, deemed responsible for attacks against the Kanabi community, and RSF commander Hussein Barsham, implicated in mass atrocities, ethnic violence, forced displacement, and other abuses, particularly in Darfur.



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

**IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO**  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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Those listed face asset freezes, prohibitions on providing funds or resources, and EU travel bans. These measures reaffirm the EU's commitment to peace, accountability, humanitarian relief, and an inclusive political process reflecting the aspirations of the Sudanese people.

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

### [Human rights violations in Dubai, Central African Republic and Syria](#)

The European Parliament adopted three emergency resolutions on Dubai, the Central African Republic, and Syria. On Dubai, MEPs demand the immediate and unconditional release of British citizen Ryan Cornelius, detained since 2008 in inhumane conditions, and urge the UAE to end debt-related imprisonment. They denounce the retroactive extension of his sentence, call for compensation, and highlight the UN's finding that his detention is arbitrary.

On the Central African Republic, MEPs condemn the arbitrary detention and ill-treatment of Belgian-Portuguese researcher Joseph Figueira Martin, demanding his release, medical evacuation, and access to legal and consular support. They decry attacks on humanitarian workers, foreign interference, and the role of Russian paramilitary forces, urging the designation of the Wagner Group as a terrorist organisation.

On Syria, MEPs condemn attacks on religious and ethnic communities, including the bombing of the Mar Elias church in Damascus. They stress the need for independent investigations, accountability, and protection of all communities, particularly Christians. They call for a human rights-based political transition, transitional justice, inclusive governance, targeted sanctions for religious freedom violations, and the creation of an EU reconstruction fund tied to progress on these priorities.

### [Managing the influx of substandard goods from non-EU web shops](#)

The European Parliament adopted proposals to address the surge of substandard and potentially dangerous low-cost goods from non-EU online platforms, which send around 12 million small packages to the EU daily.

Measures include encouraging non-EU traders to set up warehouses within the EU to enable bulk checks, removing the customs duty exemption for goods under €150 to tackle deliberate undervaluation, and considering a €2 handling fee for individual packages, provided it is proportionate, WTO-compliant, and not passed on to EU consumers.

MEPs call for greater use of AI and blockchain to improve customs efficiency, more funding for customs authorities, stricter enforcement of existing rules, and restrictions on high-risk vendors in



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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critical infrastructure. Some proposals will feed into ongoing negotiations on the reform of the EU Customs Code. Lead MEP Salvatore De Meo stressed the need for stronger customs controls, seller traceability, and fair competition in the digital market.

### [Parliament condemns Russia's brutal attacks on Ukrainian civilians](#)

The European Parliament strongly condemns Russia's war crimes in Ukraine, holding it solely responsible for the war of aggression and recognising it as the most direct threat to European security. MEPs denounce the deliberate targeting of civilians, including the deportation of Ukrainian children, which may amount to a genocidal strategy, and express outrage at ongoing attacks on civilian infrastructure.

According to Ukrainian authorities, around 16 000 civilians are detained in Russia or occupied territories, with more than 70 000 Ukrainians, including children and military personnel, officially listed as missing. MEPs condemn the execution of prisoners of war as grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and express full support for International Criminal Court investigations, as well as the creation of a Special Tribunal for the Crime of Aggression.

They call for an immediate "all-for-all" POW exchange, stronger military, economic, political, and diplomatic pressure on Russia, and the confiscation of frozen Russian state assets to support Ukraine, criticising European governments for inaction.

## EUROPEAN COMMISSION

### [Remarks by Commissioner Šuica at the high-level conference on the two-state solution for Palestine](#)

The European Union, together with the Arab League, is leading the "Peace Day Effort" initiative to pave the way for lasting peace in the Middle East based on a two-state solution. The plan includes a phased package of political, economic, and security support to be implemented following an agreement, with a strong focus on supporting the Palestinian Authority, which already receives significant EU aid linked to structural reforms.

A donors' group is being established to coordinate assistance and support the recovery and reconstruction of Gaza. Additionally, there is an emphasis on developing a regional security architecture that addresses Israel's legitimate security concerns while fully respecting international law. To ensure effective follow-up, the existing Global Alliance for the Implementation of the Two-State Solution will be used as a monitoring mechanism, with all relevant countries encouraged to



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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participate. The EU reaffirms its commitment to peace, sustaining the Palestinian Authority, and managing the humanitarian situation in Gaza, calling for Israel's cooperation. The ultimate goal is peaceful and secure coexistence between Israel and Palestine within internationally recognized borders.

### [UNODC and the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator urge global action to dismantle organised criminal networks behind human trafficking](#)

Human trafficking remains a highly profitable global crime, driven mainly by organised criminal groups responsible for 74% of detected cases. These networks exploit vulnerable people through forced labor, which accounts for the largest share of trafficking cases, and increasingly involve victims in forced criminality. They operate within legitimate industries by exploiting regulatory gaps and fostering impunity. Despite widespread legislation criminalizing trafficking, implementation challenges persist, with low detection rates, limited victim access to justice, and few prosecutions. Cooperation between countries, especially within the EU and with non-EU partners, is essential to dismantle these networks and protect victims.

Europol reports that trafficking is often linked with other crimes such as drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, money laundering, and document fraud. Recent joint operations have led to numerous arrests and the safeguarding of potential victims.

The EU is committed to strengthening its legal frameworks and strategies against trafficking, collaborating closely with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to train investigators and prosecutors worldwide. Initiatives like global forums and survivor-led platforms aim to improve support for victims and enhance global anti-trafficking efforts.

Despite identifying tens of thousands of victims, the true scale is much larger due to underreporting and systemic barriers that silence victims and deny them justice.

### [Commission approves €36 million Danish State aid scheme to boost use of sustainable aviation fuel](#)

The European Commission approved a €36 million Danish measure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in domestic aviation by promoting the use of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). This is the first EU State aid scheme supporting SAF and aims to decarbonize the aviation sector in line with EU and national climate goals.

The scheme targets airlines operating domestic routes in Denmark, encouraging the use of SAF up to 40%, exceeding minimum EU requirements. Aid is provided as monthly direct grants covering the



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

**IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO**  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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extra costs of SAF compared to conventional fuel, determined through a competitive bidding process to ensure efficiency. The support covers at least 20 sustainable one-way flights weekly on one or more domestic routes.

To avoid overcompensation, the scheme excludes SAF already subsidized by other EU measures or countries. The Commission assessed the measure as necessary, proportionate, and with a positive incentive effect, having limited impact on competition and trade. Denmark committed to ensuring real CO2 reductions rather than emission displacement. The scheme was approved under EU State aid rules.

## COUNCIL OF EUROPE (COE)

### [Anti-trafficking must be central to crime-fighting strategies, say Council of Europe Experts](#)

On the occasion of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, GRETA and ICAT call on States to integrate anti-trafficking efforts into broader strategies against organized crime. GRETA President Conny Rijken highlights the need to address vulnerabilities that expose individuals to trafficking, focusing on prevention, victim support, and prosecution of traffickers. GRETA also emphasizes the growing role of technology and AI, particularly in the exploitation of minors. Recommendations include strengthening financial investigations, using confiscated assets to support victims, protecting victims from punishment for acts committed as a result of trafficking, enhancing international cooperation, engaging tech companies, and addressing structural inequalities.

### [Portugal should step up reforms to improve the prevention of corruption among parliamentarians, judges and prosecutors](#)

GRECO has called on Portugal to step up the implementation of its recommendations to prevent corruption among parliamentarians, judges, and prosecutors. Of the 15 recommendations issued in 2015, only 5 have been fully implemented, while the remaining 10 are only partially addressed. Progress includes guidelines for parliamentarians on gifts and transparency, the operational Transparency Entity, and online access to court rulings. However, issues remain, such as the lack of lobbying regulation, insufficient measures on conflicts of interest, the composition of judicial councils, and the selection process for Supreme Court judges. GRECO considers the overall compliance level "globally unsatisfactory" and requests an updated report by March 2026.



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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## [North Macedonia: GRECO welcomes progress in anti-corruption reforms in central government and the police and ends compliance procedure](#)

In a new report, GRECO has closed the compliance procedure for North Macedonia, acknowledging progress in preventing corruption among senior officials in the central government and police. Since 2019, the country has fully implemented 17 of the 23 recommendations from the fifth evaluation cycle, while 6 remain partially implemented. Improvements include increased transparency in government working groups, new guidelines on donations, and the creation of an electronic database for asset declarations. Legislative amendments to strengthen the sanctions regime are expected to be adopted by the end of 2025.

## [GRECO: Netherlands makes progress in government anti-corruption measures but more reforms still needed](#)

GRECO notes that the Netherlands has made some progress in preventing corruption and promoting integrity within the central government and law enforcement, fully implementing 7 of the 16 recommendations from the 2018 Fifth Evaluation Cycle, with 8 partially implemented and 1 not yet implemented. Advances include post-employment rules for former ministers, but there is still a lack of specific integrity policies to prevent conflicts of interest and a system for monitoring and sanctioning violations of the Code of Conduct. In law enforcement, further measures are needed to register donations and financial interests. GRECO considers compliance insufficient and requests an updated report by March 2026.

## **EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION (EUROPOL)**

### [Key figure behind major Russian-speaking cybercrime forum targeted in Ukraine](#)

A joint investigation by the French police, Paris prosecutor's office, Ukrainian authorities, and Europol led to the arrest in Kyiv of the alleged administrator of xss.is, one of the largest Russian-language cybercrime forums with over 50,000 users. The platform was a key marketplace for stolen data, hacking tools, and illicit services, used to coordinate criminal activities. The administrator, active for nearly 20 years, earned over €7 million by facilitating transactions and also managing a private messaging service. The operation, which began in 2021, involved strong international



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

**IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO**  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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coordination with operational and analytical support from Europol, helping to map the criminal infrastructure and link the suspect to other key threat actors. The investigation aligns with Europol's 2025 IOCTA report, highlighting the importance of stolen data markets in fueling cybercrime.

### [Global operation targets NoName057\(16\) pro-Russian cybercrime network](#)

Between July 14 and 17, the international operation Eastwood, coordinated by Europol and Eurojust, targeted the pro-Russian cybercrime network NoName057(16). Law enforcement from 13 countries disrupted over 100 servers worldwide and took down much of the group's central infrastructure. Seven arrest warrants were issued, including six by Germany for the main perpetrators. Hundreds of supporters were warned via messaging apps about legal risks. The group mainly carried out DDoS attacks against Ukraine and its allied countries, with incidents reported across several European states. Europol coordinated information exchange, cryptocurrency tracking, and operational support, while Eurojust managed judicial cooperation. NoName057(16) recruited volunteers through a gamified strategy, offering cryptocurrency rewards and using ideological narratives supporting Russia.

### [158 human traffickers arrested and 1 194 victims safeguarded in global operation](#)

The international operation "Global Chain" (June 1–6, 2025), led by Austria and Romania with the support of Europol, Frontex, and INTERPOL, resulted in the rescue of 1,194 potential trafficking victims and the arrest of 158 suspects, with another 205 identified. The operation involved 15,000 officers across 43 countries, focusing on trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced labor, and forced begging, especially of minors. Weapons, drugs, cash, and properties were seized, and numerous raids were carried out in Europe, Latin America, and Asia. Family-based Romanian criminal groups, organizations in Brazil, Malta, Albania, and other countries were targeted. Victims were often recruited through deception and forced into prostitution or illegal activities. International coordination enabled 182 new investigations and extensive checks of individuals, documents, vehicles, and transport. The operation highlighted the importance of global law enforcement cooperation to combat human trafficking.

### [Two-way migrant smuggling network busted in France and Spain](#)

Europol supported the national police forces of France and Spain in dismantling a criminal network trafficking Algerian and Moroccan migrants between Spain, France, and the United Kingdom. The investigation, which began in August 2024, uncovered over 38 cases linked to the network and connected another 100 incidents since 2021, facilitating the illegal entry of around 1,000 migrants into the EU. The organization primarily operated along two routes: from Spain to France and from



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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the UK to France via the Channel, using vans to transport migrants in dangerous conditions. From June 13 to 16, 2025, seven suspects were arrested, and four searches were conducted, with vehicles, cash, and electronic devices seized. Europol coordinated information sharing and provided operational support with experts and investigators between France and Spain, facilitating joint actions against this highly organized and transnational network.

### **THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION (INTERPOL)**

#### [Global human trafficking operation detects 1,194 potential victims, arrests 158 suspects](#)

The Global Chain operation (June 1-6, 2025) involved nearly 15,000 officers from 43 countries, coordinated by INTERPOL, Europol, and Frontex, aiming to dismantle human trafficking networks, primarily for sexual exploitation, forced labor, and forced begging, with special focus on minor victims. A total of 1,194 potential victims were identified and 158 suspects arrested, with another 205 suspects identified. Victims came from 64 countries, many trafficked across borders and continents. Among the outcomes, Brazilian police dismantled a network trafficking victims to Myanmar, while actions were carried out across Europe in Italy, Romania, Ukraine, Austria, and others. Weapons, drugs, cash, and fake documents were seized during the operation. The initiative launched 182 new investigations and highlighted the importance of international cooperation against human trafficking.

### **ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)**

#### [Expert missions to Central Asia assess countries' needs for handling cross-border electronic evidence requests for investigating online crimes, including terrorism](#)

Four needs assessment missions organized by the OSCE in June-July 2025 examined the requirements of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan to align their legal frameworks for managing cross-border electronic evidence requests while respecting human rights.



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

**IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO**  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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These missions, part of the PROJECT E-VIDENCE initiative, involved meetings with parliamentarians, law enforcement, judiciary, and the tech sector, along with training sessions to strengthen law enforcement's practical skills. The focus was on integrating tools like the Budapest Convention and developing clear operational procedures to ensure efficiency and legality in digital investigations. The missions emphasized the importance of inter-institutional coordination and technical capabilities, aiming to adopt new legal frameworks by the end of 2025. The findings will inform further regional expert meetings and a final workshop scheduled for November 2025.

### [OSCE Launches Cybersecurity Training Programme for Government Institutions of Uzbekistan](#)

From July 14 to August 21, the OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan, together with the Ministry of Digital Technologies and Noventiq Training Center, conducted cybersecurity training for 70 government specialists. This initiative supports the implementation of a presidential decree aimed at strengthening the fight against IT-related crimes. The training focused on three key areas: ethical hacking, Linux security, and Windows Server security—essential for protecting modern digital services. Emphasizing practical experience, the program aims to enhance national capacity to counter cyber threats and align practices with international standards. This effort is part of a broader OSCE project to build digital security skills and resilience in Uzbekistan's public sector.

### [Asset recovery key to countering illicit financial flows, OSCE event highlights](#)

On July 15, 2025, the OSCE organized an event in Vienna focused on asset recovery to combat illicit financial flows in the region, promoted by the Transnational Threats Department and the Office of Economic and Environmental Activities. The meeting highlighted how illicit flows fuel organized crime and corruption, undermining stability and institutions. Experts from Albania, Kazakhstan, BAMIN, and civil society shared tools and practices to identify and confiscate criminal assets, emphasizing cross-border cooperation. Ambassador Bakyt Dzhusupov called asset recovery “the spearhead in the fight against corruption.” Finland's Deputy Representative Mari Neuvonen stressed the importance of adequate resources and multilateral cooperation. Ambassador Neil Holland noted that illicit flows also facilitate terrorism and that asset recovery ensures justice. The event, supported by the Finnish Chairmanship and the United Kingdom, presented the joint TNTD-OCEEA project funded by Italy, Austria, Germany, and the USA.



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

**IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO**  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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## **EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY (FRONTEX)**

### [Massive cocaine seizure: Frontex supports crackdown on sea smuggling](#)

On 8 July 2025, Frontex reported the successful completion of *Operation White Sea V*, a month-long international initiative aimed at combating maritime drug trafficking. Conducted in June 2025, the operation targeted smuggling routes in the Atlantic Ocean, North Sea, and English Channel, involving 12 European countries, Frontex, Europol, and MAOC-N. The operation led to the seizure of 3.3 tons of cocaine, the monitoring of 951 vessels, the inspection of 119 ships, and the arrest of 13 individuals. A significant seizure occurred on 23 June in Zeebrugge, Belgium, where authorities discovered 647 kg of cocaine aboard a Brazilian tanker. Five crew members were detained and remain in custody. Frontex played a central operational role by providing real-time maritime surveillance, deploying six cross-border crime experts to support inspections, and coordinating 12 aerial surveillance flights (totaling 25 flight hours) across high-risk sea routes.

This operation demonstrates the increasing reliance of transnational criminal organizations on maritime channels for large-scale cocaine smuggling. It also underscores the necessity of coordinated EU-level responses and intelligence-sharing frameworks.

Frontex reiterated its commitment to enhancing Member States' capabilities in border security and the fight against organized crime through joint operations, technological support, and inter-agency collaboration.

### [EU external borders: Irregular crossings drop by 20% in first half of 2025](#)

In the first half of 2025, irregular migration flows into the EU presented diverging trends across the main Mediterranean routes. The Eastern Mediterranean route experienced a 25% decrease, registering 19,600 crossings. However, the emergence of the Libya–Crete corridor has notably shifted the dynamics, now representing the main pathway within this route.

Conversely, the Central Mediterranean route recorded over 29,300 irregular crossings, marking a 12% increase compared to the same period in 2024. Libya remains the primary country of departure, with approximately 20,800 migrants arriving in Italy, reflecting an 80% surge year-on-year.



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

**IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO**  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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The Western Mediterranean route also witnessed growth, with a 19% rise in arrivals compared to 2024 and a doubling of detections in June alone. Algeria accounted for nearly 80% of departures, signaling a shift in smuggling tactics and routes from North Africa.

In stark contrast, the Western African route saw a sharp decline, with detections falling by over 40% to 11,300 in the first half of 2025. Only 300 crossings were reported in June. This reduction is attributed to enhanced preventive cooperation between EU Member States and countries of origin.

Despite statistical fluctuations, the human cost remains severe. According to the International Organization for Migration, 760 individuals perished in the Mediterranean during the first six months of 2025, underscoring the enduring risks of irregular sea crossings.

### [Frontex helps 1 200 victims in global crackdown on human trafficking](#)

Warsaw, 10 July 2025 – *Operation Global Chain 2025*, a large-scale international law enforcement action coordinated from Frontex headquarters in Warsaw, resulted in the identification of nearly 1,200 victims of human trafficking. The operation mobilized approximately 15,000 officers across 43 countries and focused on combating sexual exploitation, forced criminal activity, and forced begging. Victims originated from 64 different countries and included women, men, and children subjected to severe exploitation. Many were trafficked across borders, forcibly separated from their families, and deprived of their fundamental rights and freedoms. Frontex contributed by deploying border officers, facilitating real-time intelligence sharing, and enhancing detection capabilities at external EU borders. The operation led to 158 arrests and the identification of 205 additional suspects. Authorities initiated 182 new investigations, 15 of which were cross-border in nature, resulting in key rescues and advances in ongoing cases. Notable outcomes included the uncovering of 75 victims in Italian massage parlours, the rescue of eight trafficked children in Romania, and the dismantling of a child exploitation network in Thailand. Indicators of labour trafficking involving Paraguayan nationals were also detected in Portugal, and a Ukrainian recruitment network targeting women for exploitation in Germany was exposed.

Conducted under the framework of EMPACT, and supported by Frontex, INTERPOL's I-FORCE Project, and the German Federal Foreign Office, the operation demonstrated the critical role of multilateral cooperation in disrupting trafficking networks. INTERPOL contributed by granting access to criminal databases and deploying intelligence officers on site. Frontex reaffirmed its commitment to protecting vulnerable individuals and defending human dignity against transnational exploitation.

### [United front: Frontex leads international crackdown on human smuggling](#)



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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Between 13 and 23 June 2025, Frontex coordinated *Joint Action Day (JAD) Danube* under the EMPACT framework, targeting migrant smuggling, human trafficking, and document fraud across Central and South-Eastern Europe. The operation brought together Austria and 12 other EU Member States, in close collaboration with Europol, Eurojust, and INTERPOL.

Throughout the operation, Frontex Standing Corps officers operated jointly with national border, police, and customs authorities, conducting border checks and dismantling organized criminal networks. The results underscored the effectiveness of inter-agency cooperation, with 70 individuals arrested for migrant smuggling, three cases of human trafficking identified, and 97 false documents along with 39 stolen vehicles seized. Nearly \$2 million in cash was also confiscated.

INTERPOL confirmed the apprehension of approximately 15 individuals listed in its alerts, and database checks on stolen vehicles produced five positive matches. To enhance operational efficiency, a central coordination hub was established in Vienna, supported by Europol's Virtual Command Post, which facilitated real-time information sharing and the coordination of ongoing investigations.

JAD Danube demonstrated the strategic value of multilateral operational frameworks in addressing transnational organized crime. The initiative reaffirmed the EU's commitment to reinforcing external border security and combating criminal networks that exploit human vulnerability and undermine legal migration systems.

## EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGION

### [Regions and cities need more structured support to protect unaccompanied migrant minors](#)

In July, the CIVEX Commission of the European Committee of the Regions met in Santa Cruz de Tenerife to address the growing migratory pressure on the Canary Islands, which have become one of the busiest migration routes to the EU. Members examined the regional government's best practices, visited two reception centres for unaccompanied migrant minors, and held discussions on internal security, return policies, and EU-Switzerland relations. The Canary Islands' care model for unaccompanied minors was highlighted for its individualised approach, providing psychological support, cultural mediation, and language training aimed at social integration. A CIVEX-commissioned study confirmed the relevance of such practices but emphasised the persistent lack of financial and technical resources. Emergency reception expenditures in the Canary Islands rose from EUR 54.8 million in 2022 to EUR 143.6 million in 2024, placing strain on essential services such as healthcare and education and fuelling xenophobic sentiment. The follow-up conference focused on decentralised cooperation as a tool to create sustainable opportunities in countries of origin, reduce



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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migration drivers and facilitate returns. Local and regional leaders called for increased structural funding, simplified access to EU funds, and greater national support. They stressed that these challenges must be addressed in the next EU multiannual financial framework.

## [Ukraine Recovery Conference: A milestone for local governments](#)

Local and regional leaders have welcomed the results of the Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025 as an important milestone on the path to the reconstruction and reform of Ukraine and of its cities and regions, pointing to commitments to increase support for local-government capacity in Ukraine and for the development of international partnerships for Ukrainian regions and cities.

The Ukraine Recovery Conference, which brought together international institutions, all levels of government, and representatives of business and civil society, ended on 11 July in Rome with the announcement by the European Union of the creation of a European Partnership Hub, to support international cooperation at municipal level, and of a programme – EU4Reconstruction – to strengthen management of regional-development projects in Ukraine. The weeks running up to the conference also saw an update by the Ukrainian government, with the support of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, of its decentralisation concept, which has, since 2014, guided significant reforms of local government in the country.

## [Europe's health systems need immediate strengthening to counter cyber-attacks, say local and regional authorities](#)

On 3 July 2025, the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) adopted an opinion highlighting the urgent need to enhance cybersecurity in the healthcare sector. Drafted by Daniela Cîmpean, President of Sibiu County Council, the document stresses that cybersecurity is not merely a technical issue but a core security challenge, especially in a context of geopolitical instability.

The CoR urges EU Member States to fully involve regional and local authorities in designing and implementing cybersecurity strategies, particularly to protect healthcare infrastructure. The opinion emphasizes that cyber-attacks on hospitals can seriously disrupt emergency services, delay treatments, and erode public trust.

Local leaders called on the European Commission to clarify funding options available to regional and local bodies and demanded stronger inclusion of regional cybersecurity experts in European networks.

The CoR also denounced delays in the transposition of the 2023 EU Directive on Critical Resilience, calling on the Commission to initiate infringement procedures against Member States that failed to meet the 17 October 2024 deadline.



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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## EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR CYBERSECURITY (ENISA)

### [Joint Statement on SharePoint vulnerabilities - Assessment and advice on recovery and mitigating actions](#)

The European Commission, ENISA, CERT-EU, and the EU CSIRTs network are closely monitoring the exploitation of vulnerabilities affecting on-premises Microsoft SharePoint Servers. SharePoint is a widely used platform for secure document management and collaboration, making it essential for organisations—especially those under the NIS Directive—to assess and mitigate potential risks urgently. On July 8, Microsoft released patches addressing two vulnerabilities, CVE-2025-49704 and CVE-2025-49706, known together as ToolShell. However, by July 18, threat actors began exploiting a variation of ToolShell, using two previously unknown zero-day vulnerabilities, later identified as CVE-2025-53770 and CVE-2025-53771, which circumvented the earlier updates. These new vulnerabilities also impact SharePoint Subscription Edition, SharePoint 2019, and SharePoint 2016. Microsoft issued emergency patches, but organisations using on-premise SharePoint are strongly encouraged to consult the latest guidance from CERT-EU and their national CSIRT. Affected systems should be isolated immediately to prevent further compromise. Before applying any patches, systems must be checked for breaches, as updating compromised environments could eliminate critical forensic evidence. Further details and ongoing updates are available through the official channels of the CSIRTs Network and CERT-EU.

## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (IOM)

### [IOM and Bolt Join Forces – Official Release](#)

On 1 July 2025, IOM and Bolt announced a collaborative initiative to support migrant workers in the ride-hailing and delivery sectors across Europe. The program provides financial support packages, legal rights awareness, and digital literacy training to enhance safety and integration. This partnership aims to address the unique challenges faced by migrant workers in the gig economy, ensuring they receive fair treatment and access to essential services. Financial support packages help alleviate economic hardships and provide stability during uncertain times. Legal rights awareness campaigns educate workers on their entitlements and protections under European labor laws. Digital literacy training enhances their ability to navigate online platforms and access vital resources. The initiative also fosters collaboration with local authorities and labor organizations to strengthen support networks. By empowering migrant workers, the program promotes safer working conditions and



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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social inclusion. Ultimately, this joint effort contributes to more equitable and sustainable employment opportunities across the region.

### [IOM and CICESCT Campaign Details](#)

On 2 July 2025, IOM and CICESCT launched a national anti-human trafficking campaign in Honduras. It focuses on recognizing trafficking signs and improving protection mechanisms for victims through local outreach and public service announcements. The campaign aims to raise awareness among vulnerable communities and frontline responders about the risks and indicators of human trafficking. Training sessions are being conducted to equip law enforcement and social workers with tools to identify and assist victims effectively. Collaboration with local NGOs and government agencies ensures a coordinated response across sectors. Educational materials are distributed widely to maximize reach and impact. The initiative also promotes survivor empowerment and access to rehabilitation services. Public service announcements in multiple languages help engage diverse populations. Through these combined efforts, the campaign seeks to strengthen prevention, protection, and prosecution frameworks nationwide.

### [Launch of the Global Alliance for Ukraine's Reconstruction](#)

On 17 July 2025, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) announced the establishment of a new initiative aimed at leveraging the Ukrainian diaspora to support the country's reconstruction efforts. This initiative, known as the Global Alliance for Ukraine's Reconstruction, seeks to mobilize the skills, knowledge, and resources of Ukrainians abroad to contribute to rebuilding efforts in Ukraine. The alliance is designed to facilitate collaboration between the Ukrainian government, international organizations, and the diaspora community. It aims to create a platform for knowledge exchange, investment, and the development of sustainable projects that can aid in the country's recovery. The initiative underscores the importance of diaspora communities in post-conflict reconstruction and highlights IOM's role in facilitating such collaborations. This development reflects a growing recognition of the potential of diaspora networks in contributing to the development of their countries of origin. It also illustrates IOM's commitment to innovative approaches in migration and development, emphasizing the strategic role of migration in achieving sustainable development goals.

## **INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL FOR THE LAW OF THE SEA (ITLOS)**

### [The M/T "Heroic Idun" \(No. 2\) Case – Hearing Schedule Announcement](#)

On 8 July 2025, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) issued an official press release announcing the hearing schedule in the ongoing case of the M/T "Heroic Idun" (No. 2),



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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brought by the Marshall Islands against Equatorial Guinea. This legal dispute arises from the detention of a Marshall Islands-registered oil tanker and its crew in the territorial waters of Equatorial Guinea. Invoking Article 292 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), the Marshall Islands requested the prompt release of both the vessel and its crew. The Tribunal, having constituted a Special Chamber for the matter, confirmed that public oral proceedings would begin on 6 October 2025 and run through 14 October. Both parties—Marshall Islands and Equatorial Guinea—are scheduled to present arguments in two rounds, reflecting ITLOS's commitment to a transparent and procedurally balanced adjudication process. This announcement illustrates the Tribunal's core function in ensuring timely legal remedies in maritime disputes, especially those involving deprivation of liberty and state responsibility. By adhering to clear procedural steps and ensuring a platform for both parties, ITLOS reinforces the importance of the rule of law in ocean governance and affirms its authority as a neutral forum for resolving sensitive state-to-state maritime conflicts.

## ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)

### [OPCW EC-109 Overview](#)

Between 8–11 July 2025, OPCW held its 109th Executive Council in The Hague, addressing the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and reviewing national declarations and chemical safety cooperation efforts. During the session, member states discussed progress in chemical disarmament and measures to strengthen global non-proliferation. Particular focus was placed on enhancing verification mechanisms and improving transparency among parties. Delegates also exchanged views on emerging chemical threats and the need for increased international cooperation. Updates on ongoing investigations into alleged chemical weapon use were presented, reinforcing OPCW's commitment to accountability. The council further emphasized capacity-building initiatives to assist countries in fulfilling their Convention obligations. Recommendations were made to support scientific advancements and promote peaceful applications of chemistry. The meeting concluded with a consensus on prioritizing collaborative efforts for a safer world free of chemical weapons.

## PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE CTBTO

### [Technical Advancements in Global Monitoring – CTBTO's July 2025 Meeting](#)

*Treaty Organization (CTBTO) announced the organization of a technical meeting focused on the Validation and Acceptance Test Plan (VATP) Revision 6.0. This event is an important milestone in the ongoing effort to enhance the capabilities of the International Data Centre (IDC), a core element of*



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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*the CTBTO's verification regime. The meeting aims to gather international experts—engineers, scientists, and technical specialists—with experience in monitoring technologies such as seismic, hydroacoustic, infrasound, and radionuclide. These professionals are expected to review and provide feedback on the updated version of the VATP, which outlines the processes and tests required to validate the functionality and performance of the IDC. One of the primary goals of the event is to review chapters 1–4 of the VATP Rev 6.0, along with the Test Implementation Plans (TIPs). These documents define the strategy by which IDC systems are tested, including how data is collected, processed, and analyzed to ensure accurate monitoring of potential nuclear explosions worldwide. Participants will also discuss the current status of progressive commissioning, a phased approach used to bring different. On 1 July 2025, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban components of the IDC online in a controlled and validated manner. Beyond the technical discussions, the meeting serves as a collaborative platform for setting the next steps in advancing the CTBTO's global monitoring mission. By involving a broad group of technical stakeholders, the CTBTO ensures that its systems are rigorously tested and aligned with international standards. This initiative reflects the CTBTO's dedication to transparency, scientific excellence, and global security through the continuous enhancement of its verification technologies. The event marks another step forward in preparing the world for the full implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty.*

### [Preparatory Commission for the CTBTO – Sixty-Fourth Session](#)

From 23 to 25 June 2025, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) held its Sixty-Fourth Session at the Vienna International Centre. This session played a critical role in advancing the implementation of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), a key international legal instrument aimed at banning all nuclear explosions worldwide. During the session, member States focused on strengthening the verification regime established by the Treaty, particularly through the operational readiness of the International Monitoring System (IMS) and the development of the On-Site Inspection (OSI) regime. The IMS, consisting of a global network of monitoring stations, is fundamental for detecting any nuclear tests, while the OSI provides for physical inspections to verify compliance on the ground. The discussions also addressed technical and logistical challenges to ensure that the verification system meets the legal requirements for the Treaty's entry into force. Furthermore, deliberations on the On-Site Inspection Manual aimed to enhance the procedural framework, increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of inspections in detecting prohibited nuclear explosions. This session underscored the importance of sustained international cooperation and legal commitment among States Parties to uphold the rule of law in disarmament. The progress achieved supports the global effort to establish



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

**IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO**  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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a reliable verification system, reinforcing the international community's dedication to nuclear non-proliferation and the promotion of peace and security.

## **UNITED NATIONS INTERREGIONAL CRIME AND JUSTICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE (UNICRI)**

### [ICJ Issues Historic Advisory Opinion on Climate Change Obligations](#)

On 23 July 2025, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued a landmark advisory opinion concerning the obligations of States in respect of climate change. Requested by the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution 77/276), the opinion addresses whether and to what extent international law requires States to prevent environmental harm caused by climate-altering activities. In a decisive move, the Court concluded that States have binding legal obligations under both customary international law and international human rights law to prevent significant transboundary environmental harm. These obligations include acting with due diligence, implementing preventive measures, and ensuring environmental protection consistent with the principles of intergenerational equity and sustainable development. Moreover, the ICJ clarified that where environmental damage has occurred as a result of a State's failure to act, the offending State may bear international responsibility. This may entail an obligation to cease wrongful conduct, provide assurances of non-repetition, and offer full reparation, including compensation or restitution to affected States or peoples. Particularly noteworthy is the Court's emphasis on the link between climate damage and human rights violations, affirming that environmental degradation can infringe upon the right to life, health, food, and water. This advisory opinion does not have binding force, but it carries considerable legal and moral authority, offering interpretive guidance to international and domestic courts, treaty bodies, and policymakers. It is expected to play a transformative role in climate litigation worldwide, reinforcing the idea that failure to act on climate change may constitute a breach of international law.

### [ITLOS Sets Hearing Dates in M/T "Heroic Idun"](#)

On 8 July 2025, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) issued a press release announcing the official hearing schedule for the high-profile case concerning the detention of the oil tanker *M/T Heroic Idun* and its crew by Equatorial Guinea. The case, initiated by the Marshall Islands, invokes Article 292 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which allows a State to seek prompt release of vessels and personnel detained by another State in alleged contravention of international maritime law. The hearings are scheduled to take place from 6 to 14 October 2025, during which both parties will present their arguments in two rounds of oral proceedings before a Special Chamber formed specifically to adjudicate the case. The dispute centers



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

**IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO**  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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on the legality of the tanker's arrest in Equatorial Guinea's territorial waters and raises broader issues of flag State rights, freedom of navigation, and state responsibility under UNCLOS. By accepting this case and setting a firm procedural timeline, ITLOS reaffirms its vital role as a neutral judicial body for resolving inter-State maritime disputes, especially those involving deprivation of liberty. The Tribunal's focus on procedural transparency and timely adjudication also underscores the broader commitment of the international community to rule-based ocean governance. This case is particularly significant as it involves not only the interpretation of UNCLOS provisions but also touches upon potential misuse of maritime enforcement powers, arbitrary detention, and the scope of due process at sea. The outcome could have important ramifications for the treatment of commercial vessels globally and the rights of seafarers under international law.

### [Coordinated Withdrawals from the Ottawa Treaty Spark Legal Concern](#)

In a striking and unprecedented development, five European Union and NATO member states — Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Finland — formally notified the United Nations of their intention to withdraw from the 1997 Ottawa Treaty on the prohibition of anti-personnel mines. While the initial notifications by the Baltic States and Poland were submitted around 27 June 2025, Finland's formal notice followed on 11 July 2025, making it the last of the five to act. The Ottawa Treaty, also known as the Mine Ban Convention, is a key pillar of international humanitarian law, prohibiting the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel mines. It also imposes strict obligations on states parties to destroy existing stockpiles, clear mined areas, and provide assistance to victims. The collective withdrawal of these five states — all of which share geographic proximity to Russia — suggests a geostrategic motivation, likely in response to evolving regional security dynamics. Under Article 20 of the Convention, a withdrawal becomes effective six months after formal notification. Accordingly, these states will no longer be bound by the treaty's provisions between late December 2025 and mid-January 2026, depending on the date of each individual submission. This coordinated move has raised serious legal and normative concerns within the international legal community. Critics argue that such withdrawals may violate the “object and purpose” clause under Article 18 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, especially if intended to facilitate the future use of banned weapons. The precedent is troubling for the broader disarmament regime, as it could open the door to further withdrawals from other arms control treaties under the justification of “security necessity.” Legal experts also warn that these exits could erode hard-won international norms and undermine the humanitarian rationale that led to the creation of the Ottawa Treaty. In conflict-affected areas, such a shift could have devastating consequences for civilian populations, particularly children, who are disproportionately harmed by anti-personnel mines. In sum, while legally permissible under the treaty framework, the withdrawals mark a regression in international humanitarian protection. They highlight the fragility of treaty-based norms when confronted with



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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shifting geopolitics and underscore the need for renewed commitment to legal mechanisms that prioritize civilian protection and the principle of proportionality in armed conflict.

## IAEA

### [Oman's National Referral Centre Completes IAEA Audit of Nuclear Medicine Practices](#)

Oman's Royal Hospital has completed its first-ever **IAEA QUANUM audit**, a key step in advancing the country's nuclear medicine standards. The assessment, carried out by international experts, examined clinical procedures, radiation safety, equipment management, and overall quality systems. It confirmed the hospital's strong practices while offering valuable recommendations for continuous improvement. As the national referral center for over 4.6 million people, the hospital plays a vital role in Oman's healthcare system. This milestone also supports the country's broader efforts to improve diagnostics and treatment under its national IAEA health project.

### [From the Lab to Your Dining Table: How Nuclear Science Enhances Food Safety](#)

Oman's Royal Hospital recently completed its first-ever **IAEA QUANUM audit**, marking a significant step forward in strengthening nuclear medicine practices in the country. Led by international experts, the review assessed key areas including clinical procedures, radiation safety, equipment use, and overall quality systems. The audit confirmed the hospital's high standards while providing constructive recommendations for further improvement. As the national referral center serving more than 4.6 million people, the hospital is central to Oman's healthcare infrastructure. This achievement also contributes to the country's wider efforts to enhance diagnostic and treatment services through its national IAEA-supported health programme.

### [Dominica Signs Second Country Programme Framework \(CPF\) for 2025-2030](#)

Dominica has signed its second **Country Programme Framework (CPF)** with the IAEA, covering 2025–2030, to guide technical cooperation and nuclear-technology integration. The CPF aligns with national development priorities—such as health, agriculture, environment, and energy—and supports Sustainable Development Goals through practical IAEA projects. It reinforces a national vision built through close partnership, ensuring local ownership, sustainability, and capacity building. The framework paves the way for targeted assistance in areas like radiation safety, water management, and food security. With this renewed agreement, Dominica aims to strengthen its institutional capabilities and leverage nuclear sciences for socioeconomic growth, while contributing to broader UN and international development efforts.



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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## [IAEA Mission Reviews China's Regulatory Framework for Nuclear Safety](#)

An IAEA Integrated Regulatory Review Service (IRRS) mission recently evaluated China's regulatory framework for nuclear safety, covering everything from emergency preparedness to radioactive waste management and the transport of nuclear materials. The mission team engaged with China's National Nuclear Safety Administration (NNSA), the China Atomic Energy Authority, and other key regulators to assess oversight systems, authorization processes, and inspection protocols. They also explored China's use of AI tools in decision-making and safety oversight, and noted emerging challenges, including human resource shortages amid rapid reactor expansion. While commending China's openness in inviting the peer review, the mission recommended enhancing emergency response strategies, formalizing inspection planning, strengthening safety culture monitoring, and aligning national guides with the latest IAEA safety standards. China praised the review, reaffirming its commitment to modernizing its regulatory system and supporting continuous improvements in nuclear safety governance.

## [IAEA Reviews Progress of Sri Lanka's Nuclear Infrastructure Development](#)

An IAEA follow-up **Integrated Nuclear Infrastructure Review (INIR)** mission has found that Sri Lanka is making **notable progress** in preparing for its first nuclear power programme, effectively addressing key recommendations from a 2022 evaluation. The country has already identified **five potential sites**, established a procurement-focused management structure, drafted a comprehensive **nuclear energy law**, and included nuclear power in its **2025–2044 energy plan**. The mission also reviewed the outcomes of prior SEED missions and national legal workshops, affirming Sri Lanka's structured energy transition approach. However, challenges remain in areas like grid integration, workforce development, radioactive waste management, and public engagement. Overall, the mission commended Sri Lanka's commitment while recommending further consolidation of its nuclear readiness roadmap.

## [Update 306 – IAEA Director General Statement on Situation in Ukraine](#)

The nuclear safety situation at the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) remains extremely fragile, as the facility continues to rely on a **single external power line** a precarious setup vulnerable to any technical failure or military escalation. Despite recent claims on social media, **independent radiation measurements by the IAEA confirmed no abnormal levels** in or around the plant. Military activity in the surrounding area remains frequent, with regular air-raid alarms and restricted



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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access to parts of the turbine hall. Three reactor units are currently shut down for refuelling, and ongoing maintenance is also affecting power line connectivity. As part of its continuing support, the IAEA recently delivered critical radiographic and laboratory equipment to Ukrainian health services, with funding from Australia, the European Union, and Norway. These developments underline the urgent need for sustained international attention and reaffirm the IAEA's vital role in monitoring and safeguarding nuclear facilities in conflict zones.

## IMO

### [Secretary-General urges “constructive dialogue” amid renewed Red Sea attacks](#)

IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez has called for renewed constructive dialogue in response to the recent rise in attacks on merchant vessels, stressing that civilian shipping must never be used as a pawn in geopolitical conflicts. He warned that such incidents place seafarers at risk, disrupt global trade, and undermine maritime safety and security. Dominguez urged all states to uphold international maritime conventions and protect the free flow of commerce. He also emphasized the need for diplomatic engagement to reduce tensions and ensure civilian ships are not targeted. The IMO reaffirmed its readiness to support practical measures and negotiations to safeguard maritime operations and uphold international law.

### [Seychelles advances national maritime security coordination with IMO support](#)

Seychelles has launched a national initiative to enhance maritime security through the formation of a fully operational **National Maritime Security Committee (NMSC)**. A three-day workshop and tabletop exercise took place at the Coast Guard Base in Victoria, bringing together 34 representatives from key agencies—police, coast guard, customs, fisheries, environment, and immigration—to identify gaps and draft a roadmap for coordination. Discussions centered on improving interoperability, information sharing, and preparedness for threats like illicit trafficking, environmental incidents, and cyber risks. Opened by the Minister of Transport, the exercise emphasized whole-of-government cooperation as essential for safeguarding Seychelles' maritime domain. Supported by IMO and EU funding, this effort aligns with regional strategies to strengthen maritime security across Eastern and Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean. The event lays a strong foundation for the NMSC, positioning Seychelles to better protect its Blue Economy and maritime interests.



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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## ICAO

### [ICAO leads progress among Asia-Pacific States on major air transport modernization plan](#)

ICAO recently led a two-day **Facilitation Regional Forum in Ulaanbaatar**, bringing together 126 Asia-Pacific aviation leaders to advance the region's air transport modernization roadmap. With air traffic expected to reach **12.4 billion passengers by 2050**, participants agreed on the urgent need for standardized digital systems to manage the future surge efficiently and securely. ICAO Secretary General Juan Carlos Salazar emphasized transforming border procedures to keep pace with growth, backed by consensus from governments and industry. Mongolia received praise for its leadership role in hosting the event, aligning with its legacy as a regional hub and marking 100 years of civil aviation. The forum concluded with a shared commitment to regional collaboration in streamlining processes, enhancing connectivity, and ensuring safe, sustainable air transport for the Asia-Pacific region.

## AD HOC TRIBUNALS

### [2024 Annual report now available](#)

The 2024 Annual Report of the Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC) and the Specialist Prosecutor's Office (SPO) is now available on the KSC website in Albanian, Serbian, and English. The report outlines key milestones achieved in 2024 and includes details about the work of the independent Ombudsperson. During the year, one war crimes case was concluded, a judgment was issued in a second case, and another case concerning offences against the administration of justice was transferred to trial. Five individuals were indicted for such offences, leading to arrests and the start of pre-trial proceedings. The *Thaci et al.* war crimes case progressed efficiently, and two individuals convicted of justice-related offences completed their sentences. In October, KSC President Ekaterina Trendafilova visited Kosovo to meet stakeholders and update the Ministry of Justice on the court's work. In November, she held virtual meetings with civil society and media to address questions about the court's public role. Further details are available in the 2024 Report.

### [Appeal judgment in pjetër shala case to be pronounced on 14 july 2025](#)

The Kosovo Specialist Chambers (KSC) has scheduled the pronouncement of the appeal judgment in the case *Specialist Prosecutor v. Pjetër Shala* for **14 July 2025 at 11:30 CET**. The hearing will be public and available in Albanian, Serbian, and English via the KSC streaming page (with a 10-minute



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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delay) or from the public gallery at the court premises. Pre-registration is recommended for both public and media attendance.

In this case, Pjetër Shala was accused of war crimes—including **arbitrary detention, torture, and murder**—committed between 17 May and 5 June 1999 at the **Kukës Metal Factory** in Albania, where detainees were allegedly abused for being perceived as collaborators with Serbia or not supporting the KLA. Eight victims participated in the proceedings.

Shala was arrested in Belgium in March 2021 and transferred to The Hague in April 2021. The trial began in February 2023, and the judgment was delivered on **16 July 2024**, where Shala was **convicted of arbitrary detention, torture, and murder**, and sentenced to **18 years in prison**. He was **acquitted of cruel treatment**.

On **29 November 2024**, the court ordered Shala to pay **€208,000 in compensation** to the eight victims. Shala filed **two appeals**: one against the conviction (September 2024) and one against the reparation order (January 2025). Only the conviction appeal will be decided on 14 July 2025.

The appeal hearing took place in May 2025, and the judgment will be delivered by Judges Michèle Picard, Kai Ambos, and Nina Jørgensen. The audiovisual recording of the pronouncement will be made available later the same day.

### [Appeals panel pronounces judgment in pjetër shala case](#)

On 14 July 2025, the Court of Appeals Panel in the case of *Specialist Prosecutor v. Pjetër Shala* issued its judgment. The Panel, composed of Judges Michèle Picard, Kai Ambos, and Nina Jørgensen, upheld Shala's convictions for the war crimes of arbitrary detention, torture, and murder but reduced his prison sentence from 18 to 13 years, granting him credit for time already served.

The Appeals Panel partially granted three of Shala's fourteen appeal grounds, dismissing the rest. It found that in several instances, the Trial Panel had relied too heavily on witness statements that Shala's Defence could not cross-examine, which violated fair trial standards under the KSC Rules. Specifically:

- For five individuals, the torture conviction was overturned due to lack of in-court testimony.
- For two individuals, the arbitrary detention conviction was reversed on the same grounds.
- Convictions for the torture of at least 13 and arbitrary detention of at least 16 individuals were upheld.

In another appeal ground, the Panel accepted that the Trial Panel failed to properly consider that Shala did not have a commanding role in the murder, and that the original 18-year sentence was disproportionate compared to similar cases—leading to the reduction to 13 years.

Despite these adjustments, the Appeals Panel reaffirmed the seriousness of the crimes and stated clearly that the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) and the Kosovo people were not on trial—only individuals like Shala.



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI SALERNO

IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)



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## Background:

- Crimes took place between 17 May and 5 June 1999 at the Kukës Metal Factory in northern Albania, which was used by the KLA to detain and abuse perceived collaborators or opponents.
- Shala was personally involved in the interrogation and mistreatment of detainees, including one who later died from gunshot wounds and lack of medical care.
- Shala was arrested in Belgium in March 2021 and transferred to the KSC in April 2021.
- The trial judgment was delivered on 16 July 2024, and reparations of €208,000 were ordered for eight victims in November 2024.
- Shala has also appealed the Reparation Order, which will be decided separately.

## [Specialist prosecutor welcomes shala appeal verdict as “reinforcing the rule of law”](#)

Specialist Prosecutor Kimberly West welcomed the Appeals Panel judgment in the case of Pjetër Shala, stating it reinforces the rule of law and advances accountability and justice for victims.

The Appeals Panel upheld Mr. Shala’s convictions on all three counts of war crimes—arbitrary detention, torture, and murder—but reduced his sentence from 18 to 13 years. Ms. West noted the sentence modification and said her office would review the full judgment in the coming days.

Shala’s crimes were committed between 17 May and 5 June 1999 against mainly Kosovar Albanian detainees at the Kukës Metal Factory in Albania. Victims were held in inhuman and degrading conditions, subjected to psychological and physical abuse, and one was murdered.

Shala was arrested in Belgium on 16 March 2021 and transferred to the KSC on 15 April 2021. His appeal hearing took place on 15 and 16 May 2025, following his conviction in the first-instance judgment delivered on 16 July 2024.



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IECLO DIRECTOR: Prof. Anna ORIOLO  
Department of Legal Sciences  
(School of Law)  
University of Salerno  
Via Giovanni Paolo II, 132  
84084 Fisciano (SA) - Italy  
[www.ieclo.org](http://www.ieclo.org)  
[info@ieclo.org](mailto:info@ieclo.org)