

MONTHLY WRAP NOVEMBER 2025

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

[Briefing Security Council, UN, Civil Society Leaders Sound Alarm on Illicit Small Arms Trade, as Speakers Call for Stronger International Controls, Cooperation](#)

In a recent UN Security Council debate, officials warned that illicit small arms and light weapons continue to threaten international peace and security, fueling conflicts, terrorism, and organized crime. They stressed that States are legally obliged under international law to regulate, trace, and secure conventional weapons, prevent their diversion to non-state actors, and cooperate multilaterally to control their spread. While these weapons might not directly start wars, they can intensify them. Experts highlighted weak storage management, porous borders, and emerging threats such as 3D-printed “ghost guns” that evade tracking as major challenges to arms control. Illicit arms flows also worsen human rights violations, particularly sexual and gender-based violence. Delegates called for integrating arms control into peacekeeping operations, sanctions regimes, and legal accountability frameworks.

[Stop Using Starvation as a War Weapon, Hold Perpetrators to Account, Speakers Urge Security Council, as Famine Grips Sudan, Gaza, Acute Hunger Surges Worldwide](#)

The Security Council sounded an alarm: starvation is being used as a weapon of war in both Sudan and Gaza, and the international legal framework is at risk of unraveling. Speakers condemned parties to conflict for actively blocking food access, attacking humanitarian operations, and exposing civilians to starvation — clear violations of international humanitarian law. They emphasized that such tactics violate obligations under the Geneva Conventions and the Rome Statute, which prohibit starvation of civilians as a method of warfare. Council members called for full accountability, urging Member States to investigate and prosecute those responsible under existing war-crimes jurisdiction. They underscored that delivering food, safeguarding relief access, and ensuring civilians aren’t punished through deprivation of sustenance are not just humanitarian imperatives — they are legal obligations.

[Ukrainian Civilians Under Siege amid Strikes, Winter Bite, Security Council Told](#)

Amid the fourth year of war, Ukrainian civilians are facing an increasingly alarming situation as strikes intensify and winter sets in. Most casualties remain along the frontline regions, such as Kherson, Kharkiv, and Donetsk, but the growing use of long-range weapons means civilians far from the front are also at risk. The recent deadly strike on Ternopil — killing at least 26 people, including three children — was highlighted as one of the war’s worst attacks on civilians to date. During the Council discussion, many Member States strongly condemned Moscow’s attacks on civilians, calling them violations of international humanitarian law.

Russia insisted it targets only military sites and blamed Ukraine for aggressive lobbying, while Ukraine reaffirmed its willingness for meaningful negotiations — but made clear that it will not accept any recognition of occupied territories or limits on its authority. Several neighbouring

countries (Romania, Lithuania, Poland, and others) reported cross-border spillover effects — including drone attacks and sabotage — underscoring the broader regional risks. Many delegations renewed calls for intensified diplomatic engagement, a return to negotiations, and an immediate ceasefire to end the suffering. Germany, Slovenia, Sierra Leone and others emphasized that every day without a ceasefire costs more civilian lives and risks further destabilization.

[Arrest of Khaled el Hishri Signals Brighter Future for Justice in Libya, Delegates Stress, as International Criminal Court Official Briefs Security Council](#)

The Security Council welcomed Germany's arrest of alleged Libyan war criminal Khaled el-Hishri and his expected transfer to the ICC, calling it a major step toward long-stalled accountability. ICC Deputy Prosecutor Nazhat Shameem Khan said the case breaks a decade-long "no-go area" around crimes in detention facilities and signals new momentum, despite ongoing intimidation targeting the Court. She emphasized that Libya's acceptance of ICC jurisdiction under Article 12(3) marks a turning point, though challenges remain. Member States broadly welcomed the progress, praising the ICC's role in delivering justice and protecting victims' rights, while also warning against jurisdictional overreach and stressing that complementarity and Libyan judicial sovereignty must guide future action. Several delegations called for full cooperation with outstanding arrest warrants, highlighting that accountability in Libya requires both international mechanisms and Libyan-led processes. Libya noted that it has already pursued hundreds of domestic investigations and urged the ICC to avoid politicization while working in partnership with national authorities.

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[General Assembly Adopts Political Declaration Reaffirming Global Resolve to End Human Trafficking, 'One of Humanity's Gravest Crimes'](#)

The UN General Assembly adopted the 2025 Political Declaration on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, reaffirming that human trafficking remains one of the most serious crimes under international law and a deep violation of human dignity. Member States renewed their commitment to prevent trafficking, protect survivors, and strengthen accountability tools.

UN officials stressed that convictions remain extremely low, and that victims are still punished for crimes committed under pressure, contrary to the international principle of non-punishment. They also warned that rapidly evolving methods — including the use of AI, encrypted platforms, and deepfakes — require updated legislation. As this crime evolves, our responses must keep pace.

Speakers emphasized that trafficking disproportionately affects women and children. Experts urged States to expand safe migration pathways to ensure humanitarian protection, noting that migrant workers are "three times more likely to be exploited."

Survivors and UN commissioners stressed the need for survivor-centred approaches. They warned that focusing only on criminal justice can retraumatize victims and ignore the deeper social and economic factors that create vulnerability in the first place. Organized criminal groups now account for the majority of cases, requiring States to treat trafficking unequivocally as transnational organized crime and to modernize tools for prevention, detection, and prosecution.

Overall, the Declaration represents a renewed political commitment, but speakers repeatedly reminded States that real change will depend on stronger international cooperation. Otherwise, the gaps that allow trafficking to thrive will remain.

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

[Human Rights Council Calls for Urgent Inquiry into Recent Alleged Violations of International Law Committed in and Around El Fasher, Sudan](#)

The UN Human Rights Council has called for an urgent inquiry into alleged human rights violations in Sudan, focusing on the Darfur and Kordofan regions. While no single new incident triggered the session, the Council expressed deep concern over ongoing violence, displacement, and violations, urging all parties to uphold international humanitarian and human rights law and ensure unrestricted access for humanitarian actors.

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

[Serbian authorities need to speed up steps to ensure accountability](#)

One year after the deadly canopy collapse at Novi Sad station that killed 16 people, UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk criticized Serbia for failing to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law. Despite mass protests demanding accountability and action against corruption, investigations have stalled, while allegations of police violence and arbitrary arrests of peaceful demonstrators remain unaddressed. Authorities have also faced criticism for portraying the protests as influenced by foreign actors. Türk called for transparent and independent investigations into both the tragedy and the alleged police abuses, urging Serbia to safeguard freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. He stressed that only an impartial judiciary and genuine respect for human rights can restore public trust in state institutions.

[UN experts alarmed by Indian counter-terrorism operations violating human rights in Jammu and Kashmir](#)

UN experts today expressed alarm about serious human rights violations committed by Indian authorities following the 22 April 2025 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, in Indian-Administered Kashmir, which killed 26 people. After the attack, Indian authorities carried out operations and arrested and detained 2,800 civilians with no charge or trial. The detentions reportedly involved torture and communication shutdowns, including blocking internet and media access. The UN experts condemned both the attack and the arbitrary arrests and ill-treatment. However, they stressed that India's excessive counter-terrorism measures violate human dignity, the Constitution, and international law. The UN experts noted that such actions defy the 2024 ruling of India's Supreme Court, which held that such demolitions are unconstitutional and violate the rights to life and human dignity. They urged the Governments of India and Pakistan to peacefully resolve the long-running

conflict over Jammu and Kashmir, which has led to human rights violations and the cycle of cross-border violence.

[Experts of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Commend the Maldives on its Health Services for Migrants, Raise Questions on the Provision Requiring Human Rights Commission Members to be Muslim and Migrant “Quota Trading”](#)

The Committee raised concerns over a law that restricts membership of the national Human Rights Commission only to Muslims — a requirement that is a clear violation of the principles of equality and non-discrimination exalted in the Convention. They also noted that the “quota trading” system is problematic for migrant workers. Experts warned that this system — whereby labour quotas are traded or subcontracted — increases migrants’ vulnerability to exploitation, forced labour, and other abuses under ratified human rights standards. The conditions of migrant workers in the Maldives had been pointed out as unsafe, cruel, and inhuman. In response, CERD urged the Maldives to reform labour-migration laws and quota mechanisms so they respect the rights and dignity of all individuals regardless of origin, to ensure access to justice, guarantee nondiscrimination, and legal protections, in line with its international obligations.

UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR)

[Displaced civilians fleeing Sudan’s Darfur and Kordofan regions navigate serious violations, deadly routes](#)

A protection tragedy in Sudan’s Darfur and Kordofan regions is accelerating at an alarming pace, forcing thousands of families to flee their homes. Routes to safety are growing longer and more dangerous as civilians attempt to avoid armed checkpoints; those who make it through report systematic looting of personal belongings — including phones, jewellery, clothing, and cash. Transport providers are also reportedly extorting desperate civilians with outrageous fees, turning their escape into yet another layer of abuse and exploitation. UNHCR calls on all parties to the conflict to fully comply with their obligations under international humanitarian and human rights law — including the duty to protect civilians, refrain from targeting or mistreating those fleeing hostilities, and ensure freedom of movement. It further urges all actors to grant humanitarian workers full, unconditional, and sustained access so they can deliver life-saving assistance to populations in need.

UNITED NATIONS INTERREGIONAL CRIME AND JUSTICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

[European Union CBRN Centres of Excellence: United Arab Emirates Advances National Preparedness Against CBRN Crimes Through Table-Top Exercise](#)

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the European Union launched a crucial operational phase of the EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) initiative in Abu Dhabi. The program, under the implementation of UNICRI, aims to strengthen national capacities for the investigation, prosecution, and adjudication of crimes involving chemical, biological, and nuclear

materials. A simulation exercise, known as Table-Top, involved high-level officials, prosecutors and law experts. The initiative emphasized the harmonization of criminal procedures with human rights safeguards, protecting vulnerable populations. The UAE are positioning themselves as a potential regional training hub for Arab-speaking countries in the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf. This geographical expansion reflect the Arab willingness to replace Europe's strategic role with a Gulf-led programme. Nevertheless, the action plan is supported by the European Commission's Foreign Policy Instruments and the European External Action Service as part of a joint effort to build a broader security strategy. The Emirates may consolidate as a key partner of the European Union to guarantee stability of the region and the improvement of the multilateral cooperation.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

[UNESCO Accra trains Ghana Police Service on freedom of expression and safety of journalists](#)

UNESCO launched a three-day capacity-building workshop in Accra to strengthen the Ghana Police Service's understanding of freedom of expression and journalists' safety. The training, supported by the Multi-Donor Fund, brought together senior police officials, PR officers, commanders, and detectives, and focused on international standards, journalistic ethics, and the role of the press in democratic governance

Officials noted rising threats and unresolved attacks against journalists in Ghana and across Africa. UNESCO stressed that improving police-media cooperation is essential to safeguarding freedom of expression and ensuring accountability. Participants expressed that the training will help enhance police responses when interacting with journalists, and the workshop will conclude with practical guidelines to support ongoing collaboration between the Police Service and media stakeholders.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

[Sustainable trade and investment for climate action](#)

At the COP30 event, the UN Assistant Secretary General and Director of UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support has stressed the importance of sustainable commerce for climate action. The UNDP views climate initiatives as key to both environmental protection and economic growth, supporting nearly 150 developing countries with their Nationally Determined Contributions. Climate action, when paired with smart trade and investment, boosts competitiveness and inclusive growth. Aligning climate and trade strategies helps nations shift to low-emissions sectors, encourage innovation, and create sustainable jobs and value chains. Policy, Finance, Solutions, Engagement: these are the main areas on which the next phase of UNDP support to New Development Countries will focus. Recent efforts have shown clear results: Uzbekistan's green value-chain support boosted processed fruit and nut exports to \$45 million in 2022, a 50% increase over ten years. The Western Balkans invested €16.5 million in green transition, enhancing local competitiveness in low-carbon markets. Across Africa, renewable-energy partnerships supplied clean power to 30 million people and cut CO₂ emissions by over 40 million tonnes.

Partnership with Ukraine for Underwater remotely operated demining vehicles

As the first 15 specialists graduate from the Training course for Instructor, the UNDP keeps funding and support remotely operated vehicles operations for underwater demining. Approximately 13,500 square kilometres of Ukraine's aquatic environments—including the Dnipro River, various lakes, and Black Sea coastlines—are believed to be contaminated with explosive remnants of war. Since the onset of the full-scale invasion, Ukrainian divers have cleared 190 square kilometres and removed more than 2,800 explosive devices, which accounts for only 1.41% of the estimated affected area. The Deep Trekker ROV System, funded by UNDP, enable safe location of ordnance, up to 300 metres of depth, overcoming severe operational challenges and ensuring a much safer environment for divers.

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Investments to boost digitalization of energy and agriculture systems

Presented at COP30, supported by the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Energy, the UNEP has announced a second phase of the 3DEN – Digital Demand-Driven Electricity Network Initiative – to advance 14 new projects in Africa and South America. The Second Phase focuses on the agri-food system, where digital tools can reduce energy use, improve water efficiency and strengthen climate resilience. 3DEN helps countries develop smarter, low-carbon energy and agri-food systems by integrating more renewable power, increasing efficiency, and reducing costs. Phase II, funded by Italy with €23 million, will advance digital innovation to modernize these sectors, continuing the work started in 2021.

Enhanced protection for Caspian Sea with new environmental rules

Major infrastructure projects around the Caspian Sea must now comply with transboundary environmental standards following the entry into force of a new Protocol under the Tehran Convention, overseen by UNEP. At the request of any Caspian littoral state, the Protocol on Environmental Impact Assessment requires that significant infrastructure initiatives—including those related to transport, oil and gas, tourism, and urban development—undergo impact assessments before proceeding. Projects such as motorways, refineries, pipelines, large dams, and major water transfers are included. If an affected state requests it, an impact study will be conducted at the national level, its results made public, and approval from the concerned country is necessary before construction moves forward. These rules aim to address marine impacts, such as water changes and pollution. The Caspian region's role as a trade corridor between Europe and Asia highlights the need for these safeguards; for instance, EU imports from China more than doubled and exports increased by 47% between 2014 and 2024.

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

IAEA at COP30: Nuclear Energy, Technology and Science Shaping a Sustainable Future

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), led by DG Rafael Mariano Grossi, takes the stage to illustrate its nuclear programs in the 30th UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) in Belém, Brazil. The Agency's objective is to advocate for nuclear science as an essential tool in addressing global energy and environmental challenges. Through the "Atoms4Climate" Pavilion, the Agency integrates nuclear solutions into the broader international climate agenda.

Firstly, the scope is to promote Energy Transition for reaching net-zero targets. The Agency takes into consideration innovative financing strategies and the acceleration of Small Modular Reactors, which offer scalable energy solutions for emerging and critical sectors. Secondly, the Agency highlights Climate Adaptation and Monitoring in light of environmental preservation. From tracking glacier retreat to safeguard water resources, utilizing "blue carbon" data to support climate mitigation and biodiversity conservation. Lastly, IEAE points out Sustainable Development and Food Security, starting from an eco-friendly nuclear method for pest control successfully employed in Latin America to enhance agricultural exports and sustainable farming practices. Through the initiative *Atoms4NetZero*, the IAEA highlights the necessity for public-private partnerships to promote the implementation of nuclear technology in developing economies.

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANISATION

Transboundary cooperation on the use of dispersants in West Africa

During the last week of October in Dakas (Senegal), thirty-one participants from governments authorities in Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, The Gambia, Mauritania, Senegal and other stakeholders held a discussion on transboundary cooperation on the use at sea following oil pollution incidents. The aim was to improve their mutual assistance and to harmonize their respective national policies on the use of dispersants following oil spills. This element is particularly relevant to mitigate shoreline contamination and ecological damaging, ensuring regionally consistent and scientifically sound interventions. Each stakeholder involved in the process, emphasized the relevance of multilateral cooperation and regional assistance among countries, having in mind previous legislative actions such as the Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC 90) and the Abidjan Convention.

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Malta: Council of Europe anti-corruption group report calls for stepped-up reforms to prevent corruption in central government and the police

The Council of Europe's GRECO notes that Malta has fully or satisfactorily implemented only eight of the twenty-three recommendations from the Fifth Evaluation Round on preventing corruption. Seven recommendations have been only partially implemented, and eight remain unimplemented. While acknowledging some progress in the criminal justice system and within the police, GRECO points to significant shortcomings and limited progress in key areas related to executive integrity. Malta is therefore considered not yet sufficiently compliant and is required to report on outstanding

recommendations by 30 June 2026. GRECO calls for more decisive action and requests the Secretary General to send a letter to Malta's Minister for Foreign Affairs highlighting the country's non-compliance and the need for prompt, tangible progress.

Progress in anti-corruption reforms in central government and police in the United Kingdom

GRECO has closed its compliance procedure on the United Kingdom, noting progress in implementing anti-corruption measures for senior executive officials and law-enforcement bodies. Eight of twelve recommendations have been satisfactorily implemented, three only partly, and one remains unimplemented. Key developments include amendments to the Ministerial Code enabling easier investigations into breaches and updated transparency and interests-disclosure guidelines for public officials. All recommendations relating to law enforcement have been satisfactorily implemented, with strengthened ethical standards, new disciplinary policies, enhanced reporting channels, and improved whistleblower protection, including through the establishment of the Independent Office for Police Conduct. GRECO requests further updates, particularly on follow-up to the 2024 review of the lobbying law, the planned introduction of disclosure obligations for special advisers' contacts with lobbyists, and reforms to the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments, including enforceable sanctions for post-employment breaches.

Strengthening Africa's response to emerging cyber threats

The rise of AI-driven crime, cyberviolence, illicit financial flows and online child protection challenges affects Africa as much as other regions. These threats are central to the third African Forum on cybercrime and electronic evidence, held in Nairobi with over 350 representatives from more than 35 countries. Organised by the Council of Europe, the EU and Kenya, the forum examines emerging cybercrime trends and strengthens operational tools for African cooperation. The event promotes international cooperation aligned with the Budapest Convention, encouraging knowledge-sharing and safeguarding human rights online. Africa's fast-growing digital economy brings opportunities but also rising risks, costing the continent over USD 4 billion annually. Since 2018, the Forum has supported legal reforms, capacity-building and cross-border cooperation on cybercrime. It forms part of a broader partnership between the African Union, the EU and the Council of Europe to build strong cybercrime responses and protect rights in the digital age.

Congress joins forces with GRECO to fight corruption at local level

The Congress and GRECO are co-organising, on the margins of GRECO's 101st plenary meeting on 20 November 2025 in Strasbourg, the event "Strengthening Good Governance: Consolidating Integrity and Accountability at the Sub-National Level", as a contribution to the Council of Europe's New Democratic Pact for Europe. The Congress delegation will be led by Vice-President Bernd Vöhringer, joined by Danela Arsovska, Jimmy Moloney, Maltese Mayor Jorge Grech, Youth Delegate Maria Lertxundi Vaquero, and expert Christina Binder. Participants will explore ways to reinforce anti-corruption mechanisms, ethical frameworks, transparency and accountability at the local level, drawing on lessons from GRECO's Sixth Evaluation Round. The aim is to strengthen democratic governance by enhancing integrity within sub-national institutions.

[Human trafficking in Romania: improved legislation and policies, prevention and support needed for vulnerable groups and victims](#)

The Romanian authorities have made significant progress in combating human trafficking, but further action is needed to protect vulnerable groups, improve victim identification and assistance, and effectively prosecute offenders. According to GRETA, between 2020 and 2024, 2,662 victims were identified, nearly half of them minors. The main forms of exploitation are sexual exploitation, forced labour and begging; most victims are Romanian nationals trafficked within the country or abroad. Particularly at risk are Roma children, institutionalised minors and children living on the streets, as well as persons with disabilities in residential centres. GRETA also highlights the growing vulnerability of migrant workers, especially from South Asia, and calls for stronger labour protections and regulation of recruitment agencies. Persistent barriers remain in proactive victim detection, including insufficient training and a shortage of labour inspectors. The increasing use of digital technologies by traffickers requires further investment in forensic tools and specialised training. Finally, GRETA stresses the need for faster criminal proceedings, greater specialisation of authorities, and a more effective system for compensating victims.

[MONEYVAL: Progress in measures to combat money laundering, but shortcomings remain in key areas](#)

In its 2024 annual report, MONEYVAL, the Council of Europe body on anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing, notes progress by its 33 member states and territories in implementing international standards, but highlights persistent shortcomings in key areas. The 5th round evaluation shows good practices in international cooperation, beneficial ownership transparency, and financial supervision, while gaps remain in investigations and prosecutions, asset confiscation, targeted financial sanctions, financial intelligence use, and supervision of non-financial professionals. Follow-up processes yielded 193 technical improvements and only nine downgrades. MONEYVAL launched its 6th evaluation round, adopting Latvia's report first, with Serbia, Slovenia, and Armenia to follow. The report stresses the ongoing need to strengthen legal and institutional frameworks to address emerging risks and technologies.

EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION (EUROPOL)

[End of the game for cybercrime infrastructure: 1025 servers taken down](#)

Between 10 and 13 November 2025, Europol coordinated the latest phase of Operation Endgame targeting three major cybercrime infrastructures: the infostealer Rhadamanthys, the Remote Access Trojan VenomRAT, and the Elysium botnet. These networks, responsible for infecting hundreds of thousands of computers worldwide and stealing millions of credentials, including over 100,000 crypto wallets, were dismantled. One suspect was arrested in Greece, 11 locations were searched, and 20 domains seized. The operation involved law enforcement from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Lithuania, the Netherlands, the UK, and the USA, supported by over 30 public and private partners. Europol coordinated intelligence exchange, crypto-tracing, and

forensic support. Criminal users were contacted for information, and failing cyber services were publicly exposed. The operation strengthens international efforts against ransomware and cybercrime.

6 arrested for smuggling migrants from Türkiye to France and Germany

On 13 November 2025, the German Federal Police, together with French border police and with support from Europol and Eurojust, dismantled a criminal network suspected of smuggling nearly 900 people into Europe between 2021 and 2023. The operation resulted in 6 arrests, 11 property searches, seizures of firearms, electronic devices, cash, and frozen bank accounts. The network facilitated travel from Türkiye through Serbia, Austria, Germany, and France, endangering migrants' lives using dangerous concealment and reckless driving, generating over EUR 4 million. The hierarchical network employed over 20 drivers and is suspected of involvement in a fatal smuggling incident on 13 July 2023 in Germany. The operation followed months of intelligence-sharing and coordination, with Europol supporting international cooperation and operational analysis. The case highlights migrant smuggling as a highly profitable and violent criminal activity, posing significant risks to migrants and law enforcement.

35 arrests in Bulgaria in a large art trafficking investigation

On 19 November 2025, Bulgarian authorities, supported by Europol, dismantled a criminal network involved in large-scale trafficking of cultural goods across Europe and beyond. The operation involved Albania, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, and the UK, coordinated from Sofia and Eurojust. The investigation began in 2020 with the seizure of about 7,000 high-value cultural artifacts, mainly Greco-Roman and Thracian antiquities. During the action day, 35 arrests were made, 131 searches conducted, and over 3,000 artifacts, artworks, weapons, documents, electronic devices, cash, and gold were seized, valued at over EUR 100 million. The network financed illegal excavations via intermediaries and exploited weaknesses in the art market. Europol provided cross-border coordination and analytical support. International cooperation is essential to combat art trafficking and preserve cultural heritage for future generations.

29 suspects arrested in two blows against human trafficking networks

In November 2025, Europol supported two joint operations in France and Spain, and Italy and Romania, targeting organised crime groups involved in human trafficking and sexual exploitation. In France and Spain, a Chinese criminal network exploited women through "sex tours"; 10 suspects were arrested, 37 victims rescued, and cash, phones, cars, and luxury items seized. In Italy and Romania, a Romanian family clan exploited young girls using violence and coercion; 19 suspects arrested, 25 house searches conducted, and weapons, real estate, bank accounts, and luxury cars seized. Europol facilitated information exchange, analytical support, and cross-border coordination, while Eurojust coordinated the international investigation through a joint investigation team. These operations highlight the seriousness of human trafficking, a modern form of slavery, and the importance of international cooperation to protect victims and dismantle transnational criminal networks.

Europol and partners shut down 'Cryptomixer'

From 24 to 28 November 2025, Europol supported a joint law enforcement operation in Switzerland and Germany in Zurich to dismantle the illegal cryptocurrency mixing service “Cryptomixer,” suspected of facilitating cybercrime and money laundering. Three servers and the domain cryptomixer.io were seized, along with over 12 terabytes of data and more than EUR 25 million in Bitcoin. Active since 2016, Cryptomixer enabled the obfuscation of criminal funds, making them difficult to trace and facilitating laundering for ransomware, drug and weapons trafficking, and payment card fraud. Europol coordinated information exchange, provided on-the-spot operational and analytical support, and facilitated international cooperation among involved authorities. This operation follows the March 2023 takedown of the “Chipmixer” service. International collaboration and knowledge sharing remain key to tackling cryptocurrency-related crimes.

THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION

[Together Against Crime - INTERPOL General Assembly approves blueprint for future](#)

In Marrakech, the INTERPOL General Assembly approved new resolutions to strengthen international cooperation against transnational organized crime. The 2026-2030 Strategic Framework was unanimously adopted, serving as a five-year roadmap built on three pillars: being the trusted global information hub for law enforcement, providing world-class investigative and operational support, and serving as the leading voice of police worldwide. Regional presence was enhanced to improve coordination in responding to criminal trends. Delegates discussed emerging threats, including cyber fraud, human trafficking, and illicit finance, emphasizing the effective use of INTERPOL Notices and global databases. The Silver Notice pilot has enabled the tracing and recovery of criminal assets valued at over EUR 30 billion. The event also promoted women’s leadership in policing.

[Growing threat of transnational scam centres highlighted at INTERPOL General Assembly](#)

INTERPOL addressed the growing threat of “scam centres,” transnational criminal hubs linked to large-scale fraud, human trafficking, and abuse. Victims, often lured by fake job offers, are forced to commit scams such as voice phishing, romance scams, investment fraud, and cryptocurrency fraud. Many endure physical violence, sexual exploitation, torture, and rape. The resolution, proposed by South Korea, highlighted criminals’ increasing use of advanced technologies and the need for a coordinated global response. Recommendations include real-time intelligence sharing, multinational joint operations, targeting illicit financing, standardized protocols for victim rescue and support, and global awareness campaigns. In 2024, a global operation arrested over 2,500 individuals across 116 countries. INTERPOL will continue supporting the resolution’s implementation to protect those most at risk.

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

[Judgment *Vainik and Others v. Estonia* - total ban on smoking in Estonian prisons in breach of the Convention, applications nos. 17982/21](#)

The case of *Vainik and Others v. Estonia* concerned the total ban on smoking in Estonian prisons as of October 2017. The four plaintiffs in the case, who were detained at the time, complained both about the ban itself and about the withdrawal symptoms they had experienced. In the Chamber's ruling in the case, the European Court ruled, by 4 votes to 3, that there had been a violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the Convention in respect of three of the applicants. The Court found that the notion of personal autonomy and the ability to make choices about one's life and health were at the heart of this case. Indeed, in a context of already limited personal autonomy, prisoners' freedom to decide was even more precious to them, such as continuing to smoke. In deciding to introduce the ban, however, no assessment was made of the impact on the personal autonomy of prisoners who smoked. Such a broad and absolute ban was not justified and exceeded Estonia's considerable room for manoeuvre to regulate smoking in prisons. The Court pointed out that it had already ruled on cases concerning smoking in prisons from an opposing point of view, that is passive smoking, but that this was the first time it had to assess the impact of a total ban on smoking in prisons from the point of view of prisoners who were long-time smokers.

[Judgment *Sanchez i Picanyol and Others v. Spain* - Political rights of three Catalan elected officials not infringed during their pre-trial detention, applications nos. 25608/20, 27250/20 and 46481/20](#)

The case of *Sanchez i Picanyol and Others v. Spain* concerned the applicants' pre-trial detention and alleged restrictions on their political rights under the Convention. Their pre-trial detention had been ordered by Spanish courts following demonstrations organized in Barcelona in September 2017 and the unconstitutional referendum of 1^o October 2017. In today's ruling by the House in this case, the European Court unanimously ruled that there was: no violation of Article 3 of Protocol No 1 (right to free elections) to the Convention in respect of all three applicants. The Court held, in particular, that the national authorities had weighed the various interests at stake in a way which could not be qualified as arbitrary and without interfering with the free expression of citizens' opinion. It found, moreover, that there was no violation of article 18 (limitation of the use of restrictions of rights) of the Convention, in conjunction with articles 5 and/or 3 of Protocol No. 1 in respect of all three claimants. The Court held that the various considerations raised by the applicants did not constitute a sufficiently coherent whole to consider that their pre-trial detention had pursued an aim not prescribed by the Convention. In addition, it declared no violation of article 5 §§ 1 and 4 (right to liberty and security) of the Convention in respect of the second complainant. The Court found that the evidence before it did not support the conclusion that the order of 23 March 2018, it also found that the time taken to consider his amparo appeal had not resulted in a violation of his right to a prompt decision on the lawfulness of his detention.

[Judgment *B.M. v. Spain* - Spanish court's failure to protect patient's rights during hearing to approve compulsory psychiatric detention breached the Convention, application no. 25893/23](#)

In today's judgment of the Chamber in *BM v Spain* the Court held, unanimously, that there was a violation of Article 5 § 1 (legal detention of mentally ill persons) of the Convention. In May 2021, the complainant was detained in a psychiatric hospital under the Civil Procedure Act. His detention was approved by the Madrid Court of First Instance. The appellant attended the online hearing from

the hospital and was not assisted by an attorney. The Court found that the way in which the authorities had dealt with the approval of the complainant's compulsory detention fell short of the effective procedural safeguards against arbitrary detention. In particular, it considered that the applicant's rights would be better protected if the court of first instance actively sought to verify whether he wished to have a legal right of assistance or not. Indeed, this was particularly significant in a case such as that of the complainant, involving a person in a vulnerable situation who had repeatedly expressed a desire to speak to a lawyer and complained about his treatment.

[Judgments *Ribarev and Ilievska and Zdraveva v. North Macedonia* - Restriction on judges' access to court in dismissal proceedings breached the Convention, application nos. 19689/21 and 42794/22, no. 39987/22](#)

In the Chamber's judgments in *Ilievska and Zdraveva v. North Macedonia* and *Ribarev v. North Macedonia*, the Court ruled, unanimously, that there had been a violation of Article 6 § 1 (access to a court) of the Convention. The applicants are former judges. In 2020, 2021, and 2022, they were dismissed from office with final effect by the State Judicial Council after appeals boards established at the Supreme Court specifically to hear their appeals overturned the SJC's initial decisions for their dismissal and remanded the cases for reconsideration. Under section 72 of the State Judicial Council Act, an appeal may not be lodged against a decision of the SJC taken after a case has been referred. The applicants' subsequent appeals were not assessed on the merits. The Court noted, in particular, that, since there was no possibility of a subsequent review of the SJC's decisions taken after the referral, neither the Board of Appeal nor any other judicial body could assess whether the SJC had, in fact, responded adequately to the findings of the Appeals Panel in each of the appellants' cases' and therefore the failure of the Appeals Panels' to ascertain whether the SJC had complied with the instructions it gave when referring the appellants' cases' had limited the appellants' right' of access to a court to such an extent that the very essence of that right had been undermined.

[Judgment *A.R. v. Poland* - Delayed publication of judgment restricting right to abortion undermined legal certainty, application no. 6030/21](#)

The *A.R. v. Poland* case concerned restrictions on abortion rights in Poland. In the Chamber's ruling on the case, the Court unanimously held that there had been a violation of Article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) of the European Convention on Human Rights. In a ruling dated October 22, 2020, the Constitutional Court declared unconstitutional the provisions of the Law on Family Planning, the Protection of the Human Fetus, and the Conditions Allowing Termination of Pregnancy, which had allowed legal abortion in the event of fetal anomalies. The ruling sparked widespread protests, including demonstrations involving thousands of participants across the country. At the time of delivery of the Constitutional Court's judgement, the complainant was 15 weeks pregnant. The results of medical tests confirmed that the fetus suffered from a genetic disease. She went to the Netherlands, where the pregnancy was terminated in a private clinic. The Court held, in particular, that the interference with the applicant's rights had been the result of a situation of considerable uncertainty in the period between the delivery of the Constitutional Court's ruling in 2020 and its publication in 2021. It was unclear at the time whether restrictions on abortion based on fetal abnormalities had already gone into effect or whether abortion could still be performed legally. The interference with the petitioner's rights had not been "in accordance with the law", either because of

the composition of the Constitutional Court panel that issued the judgement of 22 October 2020 or because the predictability required by article 8 was lacking, owing to the general uncertainty about the applicable legal framework caused by the delay in the publication of the Constitutional Court's judgement. It follows that there has been a breach of that provision.

[Judgment *Europa Way S.r.l. v. Italy* - inadequate legal safeguards for the allocation of frequencies for digital television broadcasting, application no. 64356/19](#)

In the Chamber's judgment in *Europa Way S.r.l. v. Italy*, the Court unanimously held that there had been a violation of Article 10 (freedom of expression) of the Convention. The case concerned the allocation of frequencies for digital television broadcasting. In 2011, the applicant company had participated in a tender aimed at awarding digital terrestrial frequencies free of charge. The rules of the process had been established by AGCOM, the communications regulator. This process, however, was subsequently suspended by ministerial decree, annulled by a new law in 2012 and replaced with a paid selection procedure in 2013. The applicant company appealed these measures to the courts, without success. The Court underlined the important role played by regulators in supporting and promoting media freedom and pluralism and the need to ensure their independence. It noted, in particular, that the national courts themselves had refused to apply the 2012 law, finding it incompatible with EU law and that its application would unlawfully undermine the regulatory powers of AGCOM. It was therefore clear that domestic law did not permit the suspension by ministerial decree and the annulment by the legislator of the original tender procedure. It also found that the applicant company could reasonably have expected that its frequency application would be assessed under the regulatory framework in force at the time. The amendment of the rules and criteria that AGCOM had legitimately decided upon in the exercise of its regulatory powers in that process had clearly undermined its independence. The Court therefore concluded that the legislative and administrative framework on the allocation of terrestrial digital frequencies had not provided adequate safeguards against arbitrariness, in violation of the applicant company's freedom to disseminate information and ideas.

[Judgment *Vujović and Lipa D.O.O. v. Montenegro* \(no. 2\) - Court of Appeal's persistent failure to comply with decisions of the Constitutional Court resulted in breach of the Convention, application no. 43050/22](#)

In the Chamber's judgment in *Vujović and Lipa D.O.O. v. Montenegro* (No. 2), the European Court unanimously held that there is a violation of Article 6 (right to a fair trial within a reasonable time) of the Convention and a violation of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property). The case concerned repeated referrals by the Constitutional Court to the Court of Appeal in insolvency proceedings. The Court found no reason to depart from the Constitutional Court's findings that the Court of Appeal's decisions had been insufficiently reasoned and arbitrary. Moreover, the overall length of the proceedings had been caused mainly by the cumulative effect of the Court of Appeal's failure to comply with the decisions of the Constitutional Court on four occasions, contrary to the provisions of the law, and had been entirely attributable to the national authorities. It was not until the fifth review of the case that the Court of Appeal had finally complied with the decisions of the Constitutional Court, and most of the assets of the applicant company had now been sold.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

[Child sexual abuse: Council reaches position on law protecting children from online abuse](#)

EU Member States have agreed on the Council's position on a regulation to strengthen the prevention and combatting of child sexual abuse. The proposed law would impose obligations on online service providers to assess and mitigate the risks of their services being misused for the dissemination of child sexual abuse material and the solicitation of children, with national authorities empowered to enforce compliance and impose penalties.

The regulation also establishes a new EU Centre on Child Sexual Abuse to support Member States and digital providers, assist victims, coordinate information sharing with law enforcement, and manage databases related to child sexual abuse material. Following this agreement, the Council will begin negotiations with the European Parliament to reach a final regulation.

[European Peace Facility: Council adopts assistance measures in support of the armed forces of Jordan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chad](#)

The Council adopted a set of decisions establishing three assistance measures under the European Peace Facility (EPF) in support of Jordan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Chad.

In Jordan, EPF support aims to strengthen the defence capacities of the Jordanian Armed Forces, particularly in the area of air defence, contributing to national stability and regional security. The assistance enhances security and defence cooperation and reflects the EU's commitment to supporting Jordan's resilience.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, EPF assistance supports the Armed Forces in carrying out their core tasks of protecting civilians and restoring state authority. The measure provides non-lethal military equipment to improve command and control, deployment conditions, medical support, and surveillance capabilities, as part of the EU's broader engagement in security sector reform.

In Chad, EPF support focuses on strengthening the capacities and professionalisation of the Chadian National Army to protect territorial integrity and the civilian population. The assistance includes infrastructure renovation, educational equipment, and curriculum development, with particular emphasis on compliance with international humanitarian and human rights law.

[One Sea, one Pact, one Future: Council approves conclusions on the Pact for the Mediterranean](#)

The Council approved conclusions welcoming the Pact for the Mediterranean, reaffirming the region as a strategic priority for the EU and supporting the creation of a Common Mediterranean Space. The Pact aims to strengthen cooperation with southern Mediterranean partners through three pillars: people and innovation, sustainable and integrated economies, and security, preparedness, and migration management.

The Council highlighted the importance of economic integration, sustainable growth, job creation, climate action, environmental protection, and cooperation on energy, connectivity, and the blue economy. It also stressed the need to address social inequalities, support education and youth employment, protect cultural heritage, and respond to demographic challenges.

The conclusions further emphasise enhanced cooperation on peace, security, defence, and migration, based on a comprehensive and rights-based approach. Upholding human rights, democracy, good

governance, and the rule of law remains central, alongside the need for strong outreach and strategic communication to support the Pact's objectives.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

[Human rights violations in Tanzania, Iran and Tunisia](#)

The European Parliament adopted a set of resolutions addressing serious and persistent human rights concerns in Tanzania, Iran and Tunisia. In Tanzania, Parliament strongly condemned the post-election violence and the deteriorating human rights situation, including reports of killings, enforced disappearances and mass repression of protesters. MEPs denounced the arbitrary detention of opposition leader Tundu Lissu, called for his immediate and unconditional release, urged the abolition of the death penalty and stressed the need for independent investigations into serious human rights violations. They also called on the EU to reconsider its support to Tanzanian authorities, prioritise assistance to civil society and human rights defenders, and consider targeted sanctions against those responsible.

Parliament also expressed grave concern over the escalating repression of the Baha'i community in Iran, condemning systematic persecution, arbitrary detentions, property confiscations and the use of the death penalty as a tool of political and religious repression. MEPs urged the Iranian authorities to end the violence, release all those detained for their beliefs, compensate victims and restore confiscated assets. They called on the EU and Member States to intensify diplomatic pressure and impose sanctions on officials responsible for serious human rights violations.

In addition, Parliament highlighted the worsening rule of law and shrinking civic space in Tunisia, with particular concern over the arbitrary detention and judicial harassment of lawyer and journalist Sonia Dahmani. MEPs called for her immediate release, the dropping of charges against her and other detainees, and the repeal of legislation undermining freedom of expression. They stressed the need for Tunisia to uphold judicial independence and fundamental freedoms and urged the EU to continue raising human rights concerns and supporting civil society through coordinated diplomatic engagement.

[MEPs push for “military Schengen” to withstand potential Russian aggression](#)

MEPs from the Transport and Defence Committees called for urgent measures to facilitate the rapid cross-border movement of troops and military equipment across the EU, highlighting its importance for European security and the defence of the eastern flank. While progress has been made, administrative, financial, and infrastructure barriers still cause significant delays.

The committees propose creating a “military Schengen area,” supported by a military mobility task force, a European coordinator, and a digital one-stop shop for cross-border movement authorisations. They urge increased investment in transport infrastructure along key military corridors and stress the need for adequate funding, warning that fully upgrading infrastructure could cost at least €100 billion. MEPs also emphasised EU-NATO cooperation, calling for joint exercises, stress tests, and rapid troop movement capabilities within three days in peacetime and 24 hours in crises. They stressed that

overcoming administrative and infrastructure obstacles is essential to maintain Europe's readiness and deterrence capacity.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

[Sweden sees the launch of two new AMIF-funded projects, integration barometer development, and research on ethnic discrimination](#)

Sweden has launched two new migrant integration projects funded under the AMIF programme for three years. The first, based at the Stockholm School of Economics, will create a Centre for Migration and Integration to generate and share research on how migration policies, business models, and working conditions affect integration and social sustainability, aiming to support the long-term integration of third-country national migrants. The second project, led by NGO Kompis Sverige, will develop a national model for initiatives promoting the social integration of newly arrived migrants, focusing on language, civic education, and social participation, and will involve activities across numerous municipalities, drawing on UNHCR experiences with community sponsorship.

Research continues to highlight challenges, including ethnic discrimination in recruitment processes affecting migrants and their descendants. A recent article recommends that employers address biases, implement measurable diversity plans, conduct discrimination risk assessments, and standardise recruitment practices.

Efforts to share best practices are supported by the Nordic Welfare Centre, which collects and disseminates promising integration initiatives from across the Nordic region. Studies on the effects of temporary versus permanent residence permits indicate that precarious status can negatively impact refugees' mental health. To strengthen policy evaluation, Statistics Sweden is developing an integration barometer to assess democratic, social, and cultural integration, complementing a Nordic Council of Ministers report reviewing how migrant participation is measured across the region.

[The EU is supporting capacity building against cybercrime](#)

The recent adoption of the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime, signed by 72 countries, underscores the need for capacity building and technical assistance to prevent and combat cybercrime while safeguarding human rights, including privacy and data protection. The Convention sets common standards for domestic laws and international cooperation, with capacity building crucial for effective implementation.

The EU currently funds 12 projects on cybercrime with a total budget of €78 million. Key initiatives include GLACY-e, which trains police officers and strengthens cross-border police cooperation, and ESIWA+, which supports security and cyber legislation in Asia and the Indo-Pacific, including Malaysia's adoption of the Cyber Security Act. Projects such as CyberEAST and CyberSEE focus on legislative reforms, training, public-private partnerships, and international cooperation in Eastern Partnership countries and the Western Balkans.

Other projects, including CT INFLOW II and CT JUST, enhance international cooperation against terrorism and build capacity for exchanging electronic evidence. EL PAcCTO 2.0, targeting organised crime in South America and the Caribbean, also supports capacity building against online crime and

the sharing of digital evidence, reinforcing justice and security partnerships between the EU and LAC countries.

EPPO

[Italy: EPPO uncovers criminal scheme to defraud €3.7 million intended to support Italian companies](#)

At the request of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in Rome (Italy), the *Guardia di Finanza* in Pescara carried out searches and seized assets as part of an investigation into a €3.7 million fraud to obtain funds to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including those affected by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. Pursuant to a court order freezing up to €3.7 million, obtained by the EPPO, the *Guardia di Finanza* conducted searches in the cities of Pescara, Chieti, and Agrigento, seizing a property, eight luxury watches, a gold necklace, and cash. A total of 50 bank accounts in the names of the suspects were also frozen. The EPPO is targeting ten suspects, believed to be responsible for a criminal organization dedicated to fraud aimed at illicitly obtaining public funds (both national and European) and loans for Italian companies. The funding was intended to support SMEs, promote the digital transition, or assist companies affected by Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The requests for funding were then submitted to SIMEST, the Italian financial institution for the development and promotion of the activities of Italian companies abroad. It is believed that the scam was also used to obtain loans guaranteed by *Medio Credito Centrale - Banca del Mezzogiorno*, which manages public guarantee systems. Evidence indicates that profits were subsequently laundered.

[Nebula Investigation: EPPO Uncovers Multimillion-Dollar VAT Fraud in Croatia and Italy with Ties to Italian Organized Criminal Group](#)

The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in Venice (Italy) and Zagreb (Croatia) jointly carried out arrests and searches in Croatia and Italy, as part of an investigation into a large-scale VAT fraud scheme linked to an organised criminal group trading in electronic goods and hygiene products, causing an estimated damage of more than €78 million in unpaid VAT. This is the first multi-million dollar VAT fraud discovered by the EPPO in Croatia. In Croatia, six suspects have been arrested and the Zagreb EPPO will request pre-trial detention for five of them. The Zagreb District Court also issued precautionary seizure orders for two properties and eight vehicles with a total value of €650,000. In Italy, the Judge for Preliminary Investigations at the Court of Naples issued a precautionary seizure order worth €33 million against seven suspects, believed to be the leaders of the organized criminal group and 23 companies they controlled. So far, properties, luxury cars, valuable jewellery and cash worth more than €1 million have been seized and seizures are still ongoing. The Venice EPPO also requested the judge to issue a pre-trial detention order for the seven suspects and to prohibit 27 other suspects from engaging in certain commercial activities.

EUROJUST

Swedish final sentence of 12 years' imprisonment in first ever case against genocide through transfer of children

The Court of Appeal in Svea, Sweden, has upheld a previous sentence of 12 years in prison against a Swedish citizen, the first-ever case of genocide through the forced transfer of minors to Syria and Iraq. This ruling is of great importance for potential future criminal proceedings concerning the forcible transfer of children from one group to another during war conflicts. The convicted Swedish citizen joined ISIL (Da'esh) and moved her family to Syria in 2013. In February 2025, she was sentenced to twelve years in prison for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes-so-called core international crimes-committed against nine Yazidi victims. Six of these victims were children under the age of seven at the time. The success of this case was the result of extensive cooperation between Sweden, France, the Netherlands and Belgium within a Joint Investigation Team (JIT) that examined alleged core international crimes committed against Yazidi victims. The JIT was established in 2022 with the support of Eurojust and the Genocide Prosecution Network. The Swedish author was identified through the work of the JIT. The final ruling is groundbreaking, as it is the first ever to be issued for genocide through the transfer of children, with minors as the primary victims. It also upholds a conviction for genocide through severe suffering. This last part includes acts of slavery and the systematic suppression of the Yazidi entity through linguistic, religious restrictions and forced conversions.

Authorities continue to protect citizens from cybercriminals during major malware operations

Operation Endgame, the result of international cooperation between law enforcement and judicial authorities in ten countries, succeeded in dismantling another infostealer, a Remote Access Trojan (RAT) and a botnet that played a key role in international cybercrime. International cooperation in the operation was coordinated from the outset by Eurojust and Europol. The dismantled infrastructure was responsible for infecting hundreds of thousands of computers worldwide with malware. Infostealers and botnets are used to steal sensitive personal data, such as passwords and banking details, from devices around the world. Cybercriminals purchase botnets, large networks of infected computers, to take control of them and transfer the data to their servers. A RAT is software that allows criminals to remotely control registered computers, thus gaining full control of the digital system. By targeting the infostealer and botnet, authorities, along with several private cybersecurity organizations, have dismantled a criminal infrastructure critical to the activities of several cybercriminals. Rhadamanthys, an infostealer who surfaced on cybercrime forums in 2022, has since morphed into a commercial "malware-as-a-service" offering. It steals data from browsers, emails, messaging apps, and cryptocurrency wallets, among others. VenomRAT, the RAT that was dismantled this week, was spreading its malware via phishing emails containing malicious attachments or links. He also used fake antivirus pages to deceive his victims. The actions taken led to the closure of 1025 servers worldwide and the seizure of 20 domain names used by cybercriminals. The main suspect linked to the RAT has been arrested in Greece. Eleven searches were conducted to gather information and evidence. During the actions, authorities found login data from over 100,000 cryptocurrency wallets. They were stolen from the victims, but not yet used to steal goods.

OLAF

[OLAF and Europol join forces to strengthen the fight against sanctions evasion](#)

The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and Europol have stepped up their cooperation to address the growing threat of sanctions evasion against Russia and Belarus. To this end, the two organizations held a dedicated meeting on November 17 and 18, 2025, marking a significant step toward analyzing new trends and strengthening coordinated action. Since the introduction of EU sanctions, Member States have reported a substantial increase in exports of vehicles, particularly those that could be used to strengthen military capabilities, to third countries. These exports are accompanied by strong signs of organized and commercially motivated attempts to circumvent the restrictive measures. A number of investigations in Member States have also revealed an increase in related criminal activities, including money laundering and document forgery, highlighting the complexity and scale of the challenge. A key outcome of the meeting was the exploration of closer operational cooperation between Europol's Target Group Sanctions (EFECC) and OLAF. The aim of this new initiative, called "Project Transporter", is to jointly support Member States currently investigating potential breaches of EU sanctions, as well as bring together experienced investigators from law enforcement agencies, in particular by customs, police and financial crime investigation services, to enforce EU sanctions in relation to vehicle exports to Russia and Belarus.

EUROPEAN JUDICIAL NETWORK IN CRIMINAL MATTERS (EJN)

[Launch of the 2023-2024 biennial EJM report](#)

The EJM Secretariat presented the eighth biennial report on the activities and management of the EJM for the years 2023-2024. The report provides an overview of the support provided by the European Judicial Network (EJM) Contact Points to national judicial authorities in cross-border requests for judicial cooperation, as well as examples of cases relating to the period indicated. Furthermore, the report provides an overview of the added value of the Network to judicial cooperation in the EU and beyond. During these two years, the focus has been on cooperation between EU Member States and operators supported by the EJM regarding the application of the various EU legal instruments. During this period, the Contact Points of the European Judicial Network (EJM) facilitated cooperation in many types of cases. Highlights highlighted by the report include:

- A total of 15,376 EJM cases were reported by the EJM Contact Points;
- 1513 European Arrest Warrants (EAWs) were facilitated by the EJM contact points;
- 4612 European Investigation Orders (EIOs) were facilitated by the EJM contact points;
- the EJM was involved in 425 freezing and confiscation orders.

In parallel, the EJM has intensified its cooperation outside the EU, in particular with the Western Balkans, Latin America, the Caribbean and South-East Asia, as well as its cooperation with EU institutions and agencies.

The report also addresses the added value of the EJM website in light of the digitalisation of justice. Over the past two years, the EJM has continued to improve the website and its online tools to effectively support judicial authorities in their daily work.

EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (FRA)

[Independent monitoring under the EU Migration and Asylum Pact](#)

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA), in cooperation with the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) and the Fundamental Rights Officer of Frontex, co-organised a high-level stocktaking meeting on the monitoring of compliance with fundamental rights under the EU Asylum and Border Management Regulation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum. The meeting provided an important forum for discussion on the implementation of effective, independent, and rights-based monitoring mechanisms at national level. In this context, the FRA is currently developing a practical monitoring tool to support the future national fundamental rights monitoring bodies in the Member States. This initiative builds on and complements the FRA's existing guidelines on independent border monitoring mechanisms, further strengthening the EU framework for safeguarding fundamental rights at external borders. The meeting took place in Warsaw from 24 to 25 November and brought together key stakeholders, experts, and institutional representatives to exchange experiences, identify challenges, and promote best practices in the monitoring of fundamental rights in border and asylum management.

[Navigating human rights protection in Europe](#)

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) has launched the **Human Rights Structures Navigator**, a new comprehensive tool that provides a centralised overview of the key human rights institutions and structures across the European Union and candidate countries. This resource is designed to support practitioners, EU institutions, Member States, and other stakeholders in effectively navigating the complex landscape of human rights protection mechanisms.

The Navigator offers detailed information on the main human rights protection structures in Europe, including their mandates, legal bases, institutional roles, and geographical locations. It facilitates access to reliable and up-to-date information for those engaged in human rights work across the region. The Human Rights Structures Navigator serves multiple purposes. It helps to identify existing gaps within national human rights protection systems, highlight synergies and complementarities among different national bodies, detect risks of fragmentation within human rights frameworks. These features are particularly valuable for legislators and policymakers when establishing new human rights bodies or expanding the mandates of existing ones. By providing access to reliable, comprehensive information, the Navigator supports a more coherent and resilient system of fundamental rights protection across Europe. It enhances coordination among diverse actors and contributes to strengthening human rights safeguards throughout the EU and candidate countries.

[FRA joins the European Parliament LGBTIQ Equality Strategy workshop](#)

The European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) participated in a workshop on the *LGBTIQ Equality Strategy (2026–2030)* held in Brussels and organised by the European Parliament's Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE).

During the workshop, the FRA presented key findings from the LGBTIQ EU Survey, providing evidence-based insights into the lived experiences of LGBTI people across the European Union. The

Agency also outlined priority areas for future EU and Member State policies aimed at strengthening the protection of fundamental rights and advancing equality for LGBTI individuals. These contributions focused on addressing discrimination, combating hate crime and hate speech, ensuring equal access to services, and promoting inclusion across all areas of public life.

The workshop, which took place on 10 November in Brussels, brought together policymakers, experts, and civil society representatives to support informed discussions on shaping the next EU LGBTIQ Equality Strategy and reinforcing a rights-based approach at both EU and national levels.

[Council discussions on combating racism in the EU](#)

FRA contributed to an exchange of views at a meeting of the Working Party on Fundamental Rights, Citizens' Rights and Free Movement of Persons (FREMP) focusing on combating racism, antisemitism, and anti-Muslim hatred.

The meeting was convened at the invitation of the Danish Presidency of the Council of the European Union and brought together representatives from Member States, the European Commission, and EU agencies. In addition to FRA, the European Commission's Coordinators on combating racism, combating antisemitism and fostering Jewish life, and on combating anti-Muslim hatred also took part in the discussions.

Participants shared updates on recent legal and policy developments at both national and EU levels. The exchange further explored opportunities for enhanced cooperation, additional support measures, and stronger synergies among Member States, the European Commission, and the FRA in addressing and preventing all forms of racism and religious hatred.

EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY (FRONTEX)

[EU external borders: irregular crossings fall 22% in the first 10 months of 2025](#)

Frontex reported a 22% drop in irregular EU border crossings in the first ten months of 2025, with around 152,000 detections. While most routes saw declines, crossings via the Western Mediterranean — mainly from Algeria — rose 27%. Libya remained the main departure point for the Central Mediterranean, with a spike on the Libya–Crete corridor. Despite lower overall numbers, over 1,500 people have died attempting the Mediterranean crossing in 2025. Humanitarian organizations stressed that States must still protect lives at sea, ensure access to asylum, and respect the principle of non-refoulement.

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGION

[Local and regional authorities demand concrete steps to strengthen EU border regions at European Cross Border Platform annual meeting](#)

The European Cross-Border Platform (ECBP) met to discuss how EU border regions can adapt to current political developments and strengthen cross-border cooperation. Despite progress in recent

years, participants emphasized that many legal and administrative barriers continue to complicate cross-border work, access to services, and daily mobility.

The meeting also explored how border regions can maintain stability amid broader geopolitical pressures, including the war in Ukraine, renewed border controls, and the UK's withdrawal from Interreg — all of which have significantly impacted cross-border cooperation. Speakers highlighted the need for stronger multi-level governance and closer cooperation with neighboring countries. There was broad consensus on keeping Interreg “strong, simple, and predictable” in the next programming period. Participants also stressed the value of small cross-border projects and called for continued support for people-to-people initiatives, simplified procedures, and flexible funding tools, including the BRIDGEforEU regulation and EGTCs.

EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY (EDA)

[Europe must move faster in defence robotics, EDA conference hears](#)

The European Defence Agency's recent conference highlighted the need for Europe to advance in defence robotics and autonomous military systems. While discussions focused on capability gaps and industrial cooperation, the developments have direct implications for international law, as countries must collaborate during research, testing, and deployment. As the agency pushes for faster battlefield integration of autonomous platforms—including unmanned ground vehicles and AI-enabled reconnaissance and targeting systems—the legal landscape becomes increasingly complex. Experts stressed that “defence innovation will save lives,” urging European partners to strengthen cooperation between the military, research institutions, and industry.

EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR CYBERSECURITY (ENISA)

[Public administration increasingly targeted by DDoS attacks](#)

A recent report by ENISA reveals that public administrations across the EU are increasingly targeted by distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks and other cyber threats such as data breaches and ransomware. With 38 % of all recorded cyber incidents in 2024 affecting public bodies, the public administration sector appeared as the most targeted in the EU. Hacktivists, state-linked intrusion sets, and cybercriminal gangs are flooding government portals with traffic, disrupting essential services ranging from law enforcement and e-ID systems to courts and health or social care platforms. Even short-lived outages risk undermining public trust in digital governance. ENISA warns that, as public administrations remain in the “risk zone” under the NIS2 Directive, their limited cybersecurity resilience and slow adaptation to regulatory requirements make them vulnerable. The surge in cyber incidents calls for urgent legal and policy action to safeguard citizens' rights, ensure the stability of digital public services, and uphold the rule of law.

EUROPEAN UNION INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY STUDIES (EUISS)

[Warm waters: The Caribbean between counter-narcotics operations](#)

A recent EUISS report reveals how the Caribbean has become one of the most militarised regions globally, as the US-led counter-narcotics build-up escalates. Since September 2025, the US Navy has deployed warships, aircraft carriers, and submarines, while naval strikes against suspected drug-trafficking vessels have reportedly killed dozens — raising serious concerns over the blurring of lines between law enforcement and military intervention. The analysis warns that this shift risks undermining international maritime law and human rights protections. Weak oversight, lack of transparency, and risks of extrajudicial killings could erode legal norms. Meanwhile, criminal networks continue to exploit porous borders, corruption, and jurisdictional gaps, trafficking drugs, weapons, and people — highlighting the need for stronger multilateral cooperation and legal accountability. The EU, according to the report, must avoid complicity in these militarised operations — instead offering a complementary approach rooted in the rule of law, intelligence-led policing, and socio-economic support to address root causes of transnational crime.

COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION (CJEU)

[Advocate General Spielmann considers that the Spanish amnesty law does not contravene the directive on combating terrorism](#)

On 10 June 2024, the Spanish Parliament adopted an amnesty law aimed at institutional, political, and social normalisation in Catalonia, which entered into force the following day. The law grants amnesty for criminal, administrative, and public finance-related liabilities arising from acts linked to the unlawful Catalan independence referendum of 1 October 2017 and the broader independence process. In this context, criminal proceedings are pending before Spain's National High Court against twelve individuals accused of terrorist offences connected to the Catalan independence movement. Given doubts regarding the applicability of the amnesty law—particularly concerning acts that could fall under EU legislation on combating terrorism—the National High Court referred questions to the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU). In his Opinion, Advocate General Dean Spielmann examined the compatibility of the amnesty law with the EU directive on combating terrorism. He concluded that amnesty remains a non-harmonised matter within the exclusive competence of Member States and that the directive does not explicitly prohibit mechanisms extinguishing criminal liability, such as amnesty. The key criterion, he noted, is compliance with minimum requirements under international law and with standards developed by the European Court of Human Rights. The Advocate General found that the directive does not preclude the Spanish amnesty law, as it only partially and temporarily limits the directive's effects without undermining its overall applicability. He further observed that the law was adopted in a genuine context of political and social reconciliation, does not constitute a self-amnesty, and excludes serious human rights violations, particularly violations of the rights to life and physical integrity. The Opinion also assessed the amnesty law in light of general principles of EU law, including legal certainty, legitimate expectations, equality before the law, non-discrimination, primacy of EU law, and sincere cooperation. The Advocate General concluded that the law provides sufficient legal clarity, is limited

to a specific period and clearly defined acts related to the Catalan independence process and does not result in impunity for serious human rights violations. Accordingly, none of these principles were found to preclude the amnesty law.