

EUROPEAN ANTI-FRAUD OFFICE – OLAF

OLAF coordinates international investigation into suspected evasion of EU sanctions involving over 760 transport vehicles

The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) coordinated a complex cross-border investigation into suspected circumvention of European Union sanctions against Russia, which involved the export of more than 760 transport vehicles from the EU, with the assistance of national authorities. OLAF plays a central role in identifying, investigating and suppressing attempts to circumvent EU restrictive measures, working in close cooperation with Member States and international partners. The effective application of EU sanctions is essential to safeguard the Union's defence and security interests. The investigation was launched following information provided by the Polish authorities, which identified suspicious exports of used vehicles from several EU Member States. Although the vehicles were declared destined for Turkey, evidence gathered by Polish customs suggested that their actual destination was Russia. Through in-depth data analysis and cross-checking of customs, trade and transport information, OLAF discovered a broader system involving several exporters in the EU and importers declared in third countries, including Armenia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova. Cooperation with the authorities of these countries enabled OLAF to establish that a total of 766 vehicles had never been imported into the declared destinations. By tracking each individual vehicle, OLAF reconstructed the logistics chain and eventually located the vehicles in Russia, confirming the suspected evasion of EU sanctions. OLAF's findings led to criminal investigations in three different Member States. Furthermore, the information shared by OLAF has prompted the EU competent authorities to strengthen the monitoring and risk profiling of future shipments.

OLAF Anti-Fraud Communicators Network meeting: Strengthening cooperation and countering disinformation

The European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) brought together members of the OLAF Anti-Fraud Communicators Network (OAFCN) in Brussels, with participants from 22 Member States and representatives of EU bodies and institutions, including the European Public Prosecutor's Office, Europol, Eurojust and the European Commission.

The meeting focused on strengthening communication in the fight against fraud, with particular attention to social media, disinformation, and cross-border and cross-service cooperation. Participants exchanged experiences and best practices on how to communicate anti-fraud actions effectively and credibly to the public. Established by OLAF, the OAFCN serves as a key platform for cooperation among communicators from national authorities responsible for protecting the EU's financial interests. By sharing tools, approaches and lessons learned, the network supports clear, timely and reliable communication across the European Union. Discussions addressed strategic coordination, practical case studies, and current communication challenges, including crisis communication, storytelling, video content, employer branding and long-term awareness campaigns. Countering disinformation was a central theme, with exchanges on building resilience through strategic communication, youth engagement and enhanced cooperation at both national and EU levels.

The meeting reaffirmed the OAFCN's role as an essential forum for collaboration, innovation and mutual support, enabling communicators across the EU to deliver coherent, trustworthy and impactful messages on the fight against fraud.

EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY (FRONTEX)

Frontex: Irregular border crossings down 26% in 2025, Europe must stay prepared

In 2025, Frontex reported a significant 26% drop in irregular EU border crossings, totaling almost 178,000. This marks the lowest level since 2021 and represents less than half of the 2023 figures. Despite this positive downward trend, Frontex Executive Director Hans Leijtens stressed that Europe must remain vigilant. Migration pressures can rapidly shift due to geopolitical instability, hostile actors, and criminal smuggling networks.

Regarding the key migration routes, the Central Mediterranean remained the most active, heavily driven by departures from Libya. Conversely, the Western Africa and Eastern Mediterranean routes both experienced steep declines. However, localized surges still occurred within these areas, such as a notable increase in crossings from eastern Libya to the island of Crete. The Western Balkans saw detections fall significantly, supported by enhanced security measures and a new Frontex joint operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Meanwhile, the Western Mediterranean recorded an increase in crossings, primarily originating from Algeria.

Looking ahead, 2026 will be a pivotal moment for European border management due to the full implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, alongside the launch of new digital border systems like EES and ETIAS.

Frontex and EU Agency for Asylum strengthen cooperation on migration and asylum

On January 22, 2026, Frontex and the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) signed a new working arrangement to enhance their cooperation in assisting EU Member States with migration and asylum procedures at external borders. This agreement, which replaces a previous 2012 arrangement, was signed by Frontex Executive Director Hans Leijtens and EUAA Executive Director Nina Gregori in Nicosia, Cyprus. It aims to align the agencies' operations with their updated mandates and prepare for the implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, scheduled to apply from June 12, 2026.

The strengthened partnership focuses on providing joined-up operational support to national authorities, covering critical steps from initial screening and registration to asylum processing, reception, and return procedures. By coordinating their deployments, the agencies intend to avoid duplication and ensure a more coherent response when national border and asylum systems are under pressure. Furthermore, Frontex and the EUAA will systematically share border-related information, utilizing platforms like EUROSUR to build a common situational picture and respond more rapidly to emerging challenges.

To support consistent approaches across Member States, the two agencies will jointly develop practical tools, risk analyses, and country profiles. They will also exchange assessments to improve contingency planning and assist countries in utilizing key EU systems, such as Eurodac, for proper registration. Crucially, all joint activities and operations under this new arrangement will be conducted in strict compliance with fundamental rights, data protection requirements, and the principle of non-refoulement.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EU allocates €63 million in response to the crisis in Myanmar and its impact on neighbouring countries

The European Commission has allocated €63 million in humanitarian aid to support populations affected by the conflict in Myanmar and Rohingya refugees in neighbouring countries, particularly Bangladesh. In

Myanmar, funding will provide food and nutrition assistance, shelter for displaced people, healthcare, clean water and sanitation, mine risk education, and emergency education. In Bangladesh, aid will support nearly 1.2 million Rohingya refugees and host communities with food, shelter maintenance, healthcare, education, and access to water and sanitation. An additional allocation will assist refugees and host communities in other countries in the region. All EU humanitarian funding is delivered through partner organisations, including international NGOs and UN agencies.

EU deploys emergency generators as Russian strikes leave 1 million Ukrainians without power in -20°C

Over 1 million Ukrainians are without electricity, water, and heating due to Russian attacks on energy infrastructure. The European Commission is deploying 447 emergency generators from EU strategic reserves to restore power to hospitals, shelters, and essential services. These generators, coordinated with the Ukrainian authorities and Red Cross, address urgent needs and complement ongoing EU support to Ukraine's energy resilience. Since the invasion, the EU has provided nearly 10,000 generators and relocated a full thermal power plant to reinforce Ukraine's grid. The Commission condemns attacks on critical infrastructure and remains committed to supporting Ukrainians through the crisis.

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Ukrainian cities call for donations of energy equipment

On January 19, Kata Tüttö, President of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), and Antje Grotheer, chair of the CoR Working Group on Ukraine, issued an urgent call for in-kind support from European cities and regions. Addressed to all CoR members and the European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine, the appeal responds to a critical request from the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC). Following sustained Russian strikes on energy facilities, many Ukrainian communities have been left without heating, electricity, or water during an exceptionally harsh winter, prompting President Volodymyr Zelensky to declare a state of emergency in the energy sector on January 16.

The AUC emphasized that these attacks threaten the livelihoods of millions and their basic human rights, making it vital to maintain critical infrastructure for hospitals, schools, and utility companies. To address this crisis, Ukraine urgently needs specific equipment, including generators ranging from 10 to 700 kW, cogeneration plants for local heat and electricity, energy storage systems to stabilize power supply, as well as transformers, mobile boiler rooms, and solar panels.

European entities can contribute to this effort in three main ways. First, municipalities with existing Ukrainian twins can coordinate deliveries directly. Second, donation proposals can be arranged via the AUC by contacting their dedicated support emails to verify needs and identify priority locations. Finally, public and private entities can utilize national procedures or the EU Emergency Response Coordination Centre to ensure safe delivery. Beyond immediate relief, the letter highlights that city-to-city partnerships remain one of the most effective methods for delivering assistance and are crucial for reinforcing democratic resilience at the local level.

EUROPEAN COUNCIL

Russian hybrid threats: Council sanctions six individuals over information manipulation activities

The Council has adopted additional restrictive measures against six individuals in response to Russia's ongoing hybrid activities, notably Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference targeting the EU, its Member States and partners.

Those listed include prominent television presenters and media figures involved in spreading disinformation about the war in Ukraine and promoting pro-Kremlin narratives, as well as cultural figures who have supported propaganda and conspiracy theories linked to Russia's aggression. The designated individuals are considered to be actively contributing to Russia's war against Ukraine, including through fundraising activities for the Russian armed forces.

As a result of these listings, EU restrictive measures now apply to 65 individuals and 17 entities. Sanctions include asset freezes, a ban on making funds or economic resources available to those listed, and travel restrictions within the European Union.

Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad: Council prolongs restrictive measures for another year

The Council has decided to extend the existing restrictive measures targeting individuals and entities that support, facilitate or enable violent actions by Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Those listed are subject to asset freezes, and EU citizens and companies are prohibited from making funds or economic resources available to them. Individuals are also subject to travel bans preventing entry into or transit through EU Member States.

Following a review, one deceased individual was removed from the list. As a result, the restrictive measures currently apply to 11 individuals and three entities

Iran: Council adopts new sanctions over serious human rights violations and Iran's continued support to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine

The Council has adopted additional restrictive measures against individuals and entities responsible for serious human rights violations in Iran, linked to the violent repression of peaceful protests, arbitrary detentions and intimidation by security forces. Those listed include senior government officials, members of the judiciary, commanders of the Revolutionary Guard and law-enforcement authorities, as well as entities involved in censorship, online repression, disinformation campaigns and the development of surveillance tools. These measures form part of a broader EU sanctions framework that includes asset freezes, travel bans, funding prohibitions and restrictions on exports of equipment that could be used for internal repression.

In parallel, the Council has imposed further sanctions in response to Iran's support for Russia's war against Ukraine, targeting individuals and entities involved in the development and production of ballistic missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles. The listings cover state-linked and private companies supplying critical components, as well as business figures connected to Iran's missile and drone programmes. The measures also expand restrictions on the export of sensitive components and technologies that could be used for missile and UAV development.

Through these decisions, the EU reiterates its solidarity with the Iranian people and its commitment to defending human rights, countering destabilising activities and protecting European security.

EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Judgment Finanziaria D'Investimento Fininvest S.P.A. and Berlusconi v. Italy - Reconsideration, in civil compensation proceedings, of corrupt judge's decision, applications nos. 23538/14 and 23554/14 – 08/01/2026

The Finanziaria D'Investimento Fininvest S.P.A. and Berlusconi v. Italia case concerned civil proceedings brought before the Italian courts by CIR S.p.A. against the applicant company, which was chaired at the time of the events by Silvio Berlusconi. The civil action sought compensation for the damage suffered by CIR as a result of the corruption of a judge who had taken part in the delivery of a judicial decision (“the 1991 judgment”) in a previous dispute between the two companies. In the Chamber's judgment in this case the European Court held, unanimously, that there had been: no violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair hearing / right of access to a court); no violation of Article of Article 1 of Protocol No. 1 (protection of property); a violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial) concerning the failure of the Court of Cassation to state reasons for the order for costs. The Court held that the judgment of the Court of Cassation was not sufficiently reasoned on this point; and furthermore, it held that there had been no violation of Article 6 § 2 (presumption of innocence) against Berlusconi. It noted that, while examining the same facts at issue in the criminal proceedings that had led to the decision to dismiss the charges as time-barred, national courts had taken care to emphasize on several occasions that their analysis was aimed solely at establishing civil liability. It was concluded that the national decisions had not attributed criminal responsibility to Berlusconi.

Judgment Magherini and Others v. Italy - death following law-enforcement officers using prone position immobilisation technique, application no. 32707/19 – 15/01/2026

In the Chamber's judgment in Magherini and Others v. Italy, the Court ruled, unanimously, that there had been two violations of Article 2 (right to life/investigation) of the Convention. The plaintiffs in the case alleged that law enforcement officers (Carabinieri) had used excessive force in 2014 when they were sent to care for their relative, RM, who was visibly agitated and distraught on a street in Florence. He died after the Carabinieri immobilized and handcuffed him and held him in a prone position for about 20 minutes. The Court held that the Carabinieri who were holding RM on the ground, there had been no need to hold him further. It also found shortcomings in the subsequent investigation, in the training of law enforcement officers in immobilization techniques, and in the guidelines then in force in Italy for placing people in a prone position with minimal risk to health and life. The Court did not, however, rule on any criminal liability of the persons involved in the accident. Nor did he question the decisions of the Italian courts, which had ultimately acquitted the four Carabinieri involved in the accident.

Judgment Bilinski v. Poland - Transfer of judge between divisions of same court against his will, application no. 13278/20 – 15/01/2026

In the Chamber's judgment in Biliński v. Poland, the European Court unanimously held that there had been a violation of Article 6 § 1 (access to justice) of the Convention. The case concerned the decision to transfer Mr. Biliński, a judge, between two sections of the same court, against his will, and his subsequent appeal against that decision. The Court noted that a judge's right to protection against arbitrary transfers between different courts also applied to arbitrary transfers between sections of the same court dealing with different legal areas. Taking into account, among other things, the fact that Mr. Biliński had been criticized by politicians for his rulings in politically sensitive cases and that his transfer had been ordered by a judge who had previously served under the then Minister of Justice as second judge and had been appointed by him as president of the

appellant's court, it was legitimate for Mr. Biliński suspected that there had been an element of arbitrariness in his transfer. The decision to transfer Mr. Biliński had not been examined by a body exercising judicial functions or by an ordinary court and, as such, her right of access to a court had been compromised.

Judgment J.S. v. Slovakia - Failure to analyse a domestic violence case from a gender-based violence perspective breached the Convention, but discriminatory attitude not proven, application no. 35767/23 – 21/01/2026

In the Chamber's ruling in JS v. Slovakia, the European Court unanimously ruled that there had been a violation of Article 3 (prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment) of the European Convention. The case concerned the alleged failure of national authorities to effectively investigate and prosecute acts of domestic violence that JS allegedly suffered at the hands of her ex-husband. It also concerned the alleged discriminatory impact of gender-based violence on women in Slovakia. The Court noted in particular that the trial court had been overly formalistic in reaching its conclusions and had not analysed the circumstances of the case from a gender-based violence perspective or made a contextual assessment of the credibility of the various claims. He had not placed JS's statements in a relevant context. Elements such as the history, the continuous pattern, and the dynamics of the man's violence against his wife had been completely ignored. This, combined with the slow pace of criminal proceedings against the man, constituted a failure by the authorities to fulfill their duty under Article 3 of the European Convention. At the same time, as regards the complaint under Article 14 (prohibition of discrimination), the Court held that the shortcomings found in the case could not be considered in themselves to reveal a discriminatory attitude on the part of the authorities.

Judgment Kaya v. Belgium - Failure to comply with principles of impartiality and presumption of innocence in case concerning social-security fraud, application no. 10089/18 – 22/01/2026

The case of Kaya v. Belgium concerned criminal proceedings in which the complainant had been convicted of social security fraud. The applicant argued that the principles of impartiality and presumption of innocence had not been respected in those proceedings. In the Chamber's ruling, the European Court unanimously held that there had been a violation of Article 6 § 1 (right to a fair trial) of the European Convention on Human Rights. The Court held that the participation of Judge AB as judge of the judgment and then subsequently as judge in the proceedings before the Court of Cassation could have raised objectively justified doubts as to his impartiality and could therefore have called into question the impartiality of the Court of Cassation itself in examining the appellant's appeal on points of law. Violation of Article 6 § 2 (presumption of innocence) of the Convention. The Court held that the statements made in the press by DM, the prosecutor responsible for the proceedings against the applicant before the criminal court, had led the public to believe that the applicant was guilty in the proceedings then pending on appeal and had violated his right to the presumption of innocence.

Decision Vovk v. Ukraine - complaints brought by judge about alleged smear campaign inadmissible, application no. 54353/20 – 29/01/2026

In its decision in Vovk v. Ukraine, the European Court unanimously declared the appeal inadmissible. The decision is final. The case concerned an allegation by the former President of the Administrative Court of the Kiev Circuit that a public smear campaign had been conducted against him by the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine (“NABU”). The Court held that Mr. Vovk could, but had not, used civil law remedies for his complaints under article 6 § 2 (presumption of innocence) and article 8 (right to respect for private and family life) on NABU's online publications, which he claimed had given the impression of being guilty of alleged criminal offences and had damaged his reputation. The Court therefore dismissed those complaints since Mr. Vovk had not used all the legal avenues available to it at the national level. In the light of that finding, his application under Article 13 (right to an effective remedy) was dismissed as manifestly unfounded. The

Court also dismissed as manifestly unfounded Mr. Vovk under article 18 (restriction of the use of restrictions of rights), considering that there was insufficient evidence to support his claim that there was an ulterior motive behind NABU publications.

EUROPEAN DEFENCE AGENCY

Portugal to host EDA's 2026 Operational Experimentation Campaign OPEX

Portugal will host the European Defence Agency's (EDA) flagship operational experimentation campaign OPEX in 2026. The campaign will focus on several technological domains including autonomous systems, logistics support and loitering munitions. OPEX 2026 will accelerate the uptake of defence innovations in field operations.

OPEX 2026 will be held in October at the Santa Margarida Military Training Area, soon to become a national regulatory sandbox — a controlled environment where emerging technologies can be tested in realistic conditions.

This edition will link the international scope of the OPEX campaign with Portuguese Army's national experimentation initiative, ARTEX26. By easing peacetime rules and providing a setting for system validation, this will accelerate the development of emerging technologies.

Portugal's defence innovation-friendly regulatory framework, along with its approach to experimental testing and the safe integration of emerging technologies, stands out as a best practice - one that could inspire similar initiatives across Europe.

Bringing the OPEX 2026 campaign into ARTEX26 offers a chance to create a joined-up, realistic, and operational testing environment. The Campo Militar de Santa Margarida will provide excellent conditions for experimentation, supported by rigorous safety measures and smooth coordination.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

European Parliament commemorates the International Holocaust Remembrance Day

Holocaust survivor Tatiana Bucci addressed Members of the European Parliament during a plenary session marking International Holocaust Remembrance Day. The ceremony was opened by European Parliament President Roberta Metsola, who stressed the urgency of confronting rising antisemitism and reaffirmed that remembering the Holocaust must guide present-day choices and values in Europe.

The commemoration included a musical performance and was followed by Tatiana Bucci's testimony, in which she recounted her deportation to Auschwitz-Birkenau together with her sister Andra and their cousin Sergio. She described how the sisters survived the camp, the harsh reality of daily life, and the loss of their cousin, who was later murdered after being transferred to another camp. Bucci also spoke of her life after liberation, including time spent in an orphanage before reuniting with her family, and reflected on the importance of protecting children's lives and dignity.

The session concluded with a minute of silence, honouring the victims of the Holocaust and reaffirming the commitment to remembrance, human dignity and the fight against hatred.

EUROPEAN PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE (EPPO)

Italy: EPPO investigates large international consultancy firm suspected of procurement fraud in Lombardy

The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in Milan (Italy) has asked the judge of the Court of Milan for a precautionary measure prohibiting a large international consultancy firm from entering into contracts with the Lombardy Region. The evidence suggests that the consultancy firm unlawfully won at least 15 tenders from the Lombardy Region - with a total value of around €15 million - for services relating to the management of funds financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The tenders were awarded and paid for from 2018 to 2025. So far, eight people, including company executives and employees, are under investigation for bid-rigging and procurement fraud. The investigation uncovered a suspected fraud scheme related to the award and performance of contracts, which required the bidder to deploy work teams composed of staff with specific skills and seniority levels. To meet these requirements, the company would have deliberately included senior and senior professionals in the declared teams, despite evidence showing that these individuals had never performed the services or had worked only a negligible number of hours. To ensure payment, the company then submitted periodic reports to the Lombardy Region containing only generic information, which falsely stated that all members of the listed teams had fully performed their assigned tasks. The EPPO has now requested a precautionary measure from the Milan judge preventing the consultancy firm from entering into contracts with the Lombardy Region. The company under investigation paid €3 million to the Lombardy Region from a neutral escrow account for a total amount of €6.8 million, equal to the sum of money already received for these contracts.

Croatia: Five arrested on suspicion of subsidy fraud and document forgery

The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in Zagreb (Croatia) has launched an investigation against five individuals and three legal entities for suspected subsidy fraud and document forgery in relation to two projects funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF). The five suspects were arrested at the request of the EPPO, following investigations carried out by the Dubrovnik-Neretvanska Police Department. According to the survey, between 2019 and 2024, the founder and current director of one company agreed with a member of the board of directors of another company to submit an application for the project "Adaptation and commercialization of the city management application My Dubrovnik, as part of a call for proposals from the Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, co-financed with an 85% share by the ERDF. In the application submitted, contrary to the terms of the call, they are considered to have provided false data to the Croatian Agency for Small Enterprises, Innovation and Investment (HAMAG-BICRO), which had a direct impact on the positive evaluation of the project. Allegedly, they falsely stated that the city management application had been developed and tested and that one of the companies had provided a project team with adequate experience in implementing the project. They are also believed to have attached four false letters of intent to the application. The evidence revealed that, in doing so, they falsely demonstrated that they met the technical eligibility requirements of the call. As a result, the suspect company was awarded €185,543.73 in grants, equivalent to 85% of the project costs, while the beneficiary had to provide the remaining 15%. As

regards the ESF-funded project, there is a reasonable suspicion that the suspected association, represented by the first suspect, was unlawfully allocated funding totalling €132,298.09, 85% of which came from the ESF and 15% from the Budgetso dello Stato della Repubblica di Croazia, di which, after the administrative financial correction, a total of 108,647.52 euros were disbursed. Funding was earmarked for the implementation of the "Liquid Democracy" project, including the hiring of full-time staff. In total, the alleged crimes described caused damages to the EU's financial interests and the State budget of the Republic of Croatia amounting to a total of 294 191.25 €.

Italy: VAT fraud investigation: four convictions and seven plea bargains, including four public officials

The European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in Naples (Italy) obtained convictions for four defendants and plea agreements for seven other suspects, including four public officials, for their participation in a criminal organization that sold electronic products at low prices by systematically evading VAT. The investigation, conducted with the support of the Naples Financial Police, uncovered a criminal conspiracy aimed at committing VAT carousel fraud, a complex criminal scheme that exploits EU rules on cross-border transactions between member states, as they are exempt from value added tax. On January 8, 2026, the Court of Naples sentenced four defendants—an accountant and three businessmen—to prison terms ranging from six to ten years, ordering the confiscation of approximately €3 million previously seized as part of the investigation to recover evaded taxes. A member of the Guardia di Finanza was acquitted. Additionally, seven other suspects pleaded guilty and signed plea agreements, which were approved by the judge and became final. Those who pleaded guilty included three members of the Guardia di Finanza, who accepted sentences ranging from four and a half years to two years in prison; and a manager of the Revenue Agency (Agenzia delle Entrate - Raccolsione), who accepted four years in prison. They were accused of accepting bribes in order to slow down criminal proceedings and tax audits, evade forced payment of tax debts, and illegally obtain information from police and judicial databases. An accountant and a personal assistant, who performed duties for the group, also pleaded guilty and accepted prison sentences of between four and five years and four months. Finally, an intermediary in the criminal organization accepted a two-year prison sentence.

Poland: EPPO orders additional arrest in probe into members of religious group suspected of fraudulently selling food destined for refugees and deprived persons

At the request of the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in Katowice, Polish authorities arrested an additional suspect in an investigation into members of a religious association accused of misusing EU-funded food aid intended for refugees and other socially vulnerable persons.

The association received approximately 2 500 tonnes of food, valued at more than €3.7 million, under the European Funds for Food Aid Programme. The food, supplied by Poland's National Agricultural Support Centre and co-financed by the European Social Fund Plus, was meant to be distributed free of charge to people facing poverty and social exclusion. The organisation also received over €500 000 in EU-funded support for administrative, transport and storage costs.

According to the investigation, part of the food aid was instead fraudulently sold for profit to retail outlets in Poland and abroad, in breach of the programme's conditions. Several suspects have been arrested and charged in connection with the case.

The EPPO, the European Union's independent prosecution office, is responsible for investigating and prosecuting offences affecting the EU's financial interests. All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty by the competent Polish courts.

EUROJUST

Terrorist group responsible for arson attacks across Europe taken to court

A terrorist group suspected of carrying out several arson attacks in the European Union on behalf of a foreign intelligence service will stand trial. The group attempted to set fire to commercial, transport and industrial facilities in the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland and Romania. Una squadra investigativa congiunta istituita presso Eurojust e avviata dalla Romania ha identificato i presunti autori e li ha condotti in tribunale. Following trials in Romania and the Czech Republic, two people were convicted. In Lithuania, the trial of six suspects is expected to begin by the end of the year. The authorities of the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Poland and Romania found links between attempted arson and actual arson attacks in their respective countries. In Romania, a suspect was arrested in July 2024 after being caught taking photos of possible places to set on fire. In the Czech Republic, investigations revealed that a suspect had set fire to buses in Prague by spraying oil and pouring gasoline on them before setting them on fire. The man had also explored other locations for subsequent attacks. In Lithuania, suspects targeted a factory that produced materials for the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Although the suspects had brought all the necessary materials to commit the attack, they abandoned the plan when pedestrians passed by. The second attempt was successful, although no damage was caused as insufficient flammable material was used. The joint investigation team set up at Eurojust revealed that all these acts were carried out by the same terrorist group, suspected of having links with a foreign intelligence service. The suspects were all linked to the same organizers, used the same methods, and acted with the common goal of intimidating the population, fueling fear and mistrust, and hindering support for Ukraine in the war. Coordination through various meetings at Eurojust ensured the sharing of valuable information between the authorities for investigation and coordinated the prosecution of suspects to avoid the principle of ne bis in idem. Europol provided operational support to the countries involved. In Romania, one individual was sentenced to six years' imprisonment for sabotage. In the Czech Republic, one individual was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment, indefinite expulsion from the country and compensation for damage caused. In Lithuania, a criminal case against six individuals for participation in an organized terrorist group and attempted terrorist attack was referred to the Šiauliai Regional Court. The process is expected to begin by the end of the year. The investigation conducted in Poland revealed subversive activities conducted by a citizen of the Republic of Colombia, responsible for subsequent arson attacks in the Czech Republic. Before traveling to the Czech Republic, the suspect committed two arson attacks in Poland, targeting building materials depots in Warsaw and Radom. Recordings of these incidents were later released by Russian-language online media, falsely portrayed as acts of sabotage against NATO military infrastructure for disinformation and propaganda purposes. The proceedings against the suspect and his instigators are ongoing.

Romanian criminal network trafficking women to UK discovered

During a day of coordinated action in Romania and the United Kingdom, a criminal network suspected of trafficking vulnerable women for sexual exploitation was dismantled. Cooperation

between the authorities and Eurojust led to the arrest of 4 people and the seizure of several luxury cars and properties. The investigation into the network began in November 2022, when police officers noticed a group of Romanian prostitutes regularly operating in a London car park. Although the Romanian women initially made no mention of sexual exploitation, authorities discovered that the Romanian citizen himself had paid for their return flights from the UK. The women are suspected to have been recruited in Candesti, Romania, taken to various addresses in the UK, where they were forced into street prostitution in London. To expose the network, a joint investigation team was set up between the Romanian and British authorities, with the support of Eurojust. During meetings at Eurojust, the authorities exchanged information and evidence demonstrating the international reach of the criminal network. British authorities have identified network members responsible for transporting vulnerable women from Romania and within the UK. Romanian authorities have traced the proceeds of criminal activities flowing back into Romania. After a three-year investigation, a day of action was held in early 2026 to dismantle the network. In Romania, three accused were arrested and two others were placed under judicial review. Nine luxury cars and several properties were seized. In the UK, a defendant has been arrested and charged with offences under the Modern Slavery Act, including organising and aiding and abetting people for exploitation.

EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS (FRA)

European consultation meeting on integrated child protection

The EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) will convene a consultation meeting in Vienna bringing together Children's Ombudspersons and leading child rights experts from across Europe. The event will be opened by FRA Director Sirpa Rautio and will include contributions from key stakeholders such as the European Network of Ombudspersons for Children, the European Commission, Eurochild, the European Social Network, UNICEF and other partners.

Discussions will focus on strengthening integrated child protection systems, improving cross-border cooperation and sharing promising practices. Building on FRA's work on integrated child protection, participants will explore concrete ways to enhance cooperation, develop partnerships and promote effective safeguards to ensure children's rights to participation and protection from violence across Europe.

EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION (EUROPOL)

Joint report outlines practical approach to prioritising post-quantum cryptography migration in financial services

The joint report by Europol and its partners presents a practical, risk-based framework to help financial institutions prioritize migration to post-quantum cryptography (PQC) amid the security challenges posed by quantum computing to current cryptographic standards.

The framework supports prioritization of systems and business use cases by combining factors such as data sensitivity and longevity, exposure to attackers, business impact, implementation time and complexity, costs, and third-party dependencies.

It highlights immediate "no-regret" actions, including deploying post-quantum hybrid cryptography for public websites and eliminating weak or obsolete cryptographic practices, strengthening security today while enabling future transition.

The report emphasizes that PQC migration is a gradual, multi-year effort requiring early risk visibility, alignment with vendors and standards bodies, and integration into existing risk management and modernization programs. The work aligns with Europol's Quantum Safe Financial Forum (QSFF) and collaboration with FS-ISAC.

34 arrests in Spain during action against the 'Black Axe' criminal organisation

The Spanish National Police, supported by Europol and the Bavarian State Criminal Police Office (Bayerisches Landeskriminalamt), conducted an operation against the international criminal organization Black Axe, resulting in 34 arrests in Spain (28 in Seville, 3 in Madrid, 2 in Malaga, 1 in Barcelona). The Nigerian-origin group, present in dozens of countries, is involved in cyber fraud, drug trafficking, human trafficking, prostitution, kidnappings, armed robberies, and fraudulent spiritual practices, generating illicit profits estimated in billions of euros.

During the operation, €119,352 were frozen in bank accounts and €66,403 in cash seized, with further investigations ongoing. The network primarily exploits vulnerable money mules, many of Spanish nationality. Europol coordinated analysis, mapping of the group's structure, and information sharing across countries.

About Black Axe: affiliated with the Neo-Black Movement of Africa, the organization has around 30,000 registered members and numerous affiliates, organized into 60 zones in Nigeria and 35 abroad, with violent initiation practices, strict codes of conduct, and spiritual rituals.

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

IACHR takes to Inter-American Court case concerning Ecuador about false imprisonment, extrajudicial killing, and torture – 01/01/2026

In November 2025, the Commission filed an appeal with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights against Ecuador. The case concerns the killing, at the hands of police officers, of two citizens previously arrested without a warrant and without being caught red-handed. In the report on the matter, the Court noted irregularities and the lack of objective data that could have justified the victims' deprivation of liberty. A IACHR stated that the State had failed to provide a coherent and convincing explanation as to what might have happened while the victim was in State custody. The IACHR also reviewed the relevant investigations and concluded that the fact that the police had been tasked with investigating these events, that effective procedures had been omitted, and that all police officers allegedly involved in the case had been exonerated, prevented the establishment of what had happened and the determination of those responsible, which led to impunity in this case. Therefore, the IACHR concluded that the State of Ecuador was responsible for violations of the rights to life, personal integrity, personal freedom, judicial guarantees and judicial protection enshrined in articles 4.1, 5.1, 5.2, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 8.1 and 25.1 of the American Convention on Human Rights.

IACHR expresses concern over armed incursion in Venezuela, calls for respect for international law, and the end of repression – 13/01/2026

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has expressed concern about events related to the United States that led to an armed incursion into Venezuela and the subsequent detention of President Nicolas Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores. Although the same commission noted the decline of the rule of law in Venezuela, it reiterates that this process of restoring democracy must be carried out in full compliance with international law. It is for this reason that it will continue to monitor the situation in Venezuela, ensuring that human rights and the freedoms of citizens are respected and guaranteed.

INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Duterte case: Confirmation of Charges hearing to open on 23 February 2026 – Practical Information – 28/01/2026

The hearing in *The Prosecutor v. Rodrigo Roa Duterte* will take place on February 23, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., before Pre-Trial Chamber I of the International Criminal Court. The hearing will take place for four days, until February 27, and legal representatives of the prosecution and defense and the victims will present their arguments before the judges. The purpose of the confirmation hearing is to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to establish reasonable grounds to believe that the person committed each of the crimes charged against him. If one or more charges are confirmed, the case will be transferred to a Trial Chamber, which will conduct the next stage of the proceedings: the trial. The case concerns Mr. Duterte, former President of the Philippines, who is suspected of crimes against humanity, murder, and attempted murder committed on the territories of the Republic of the Philippines in a political campaign aimed at combating drug trafficking. The arrest warrant was issued by the Chamber in 2025, and in March of that same year, Mr. Duterte was arrested and handed over to the ICC.

INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION

IMO welcomes entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement

The Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) Agreement has officially been in force since 17 January 2026, providing a legally binding framework for the sustainable use of marine resources in the high seas. The BBNJ Agreement, which has been formally adopted at the UN in 2023 after decades of negotiations, deals with the following four issues: the fair sharing of marine genetic resources, the establishment of area-based management tools such as marine protected areas, the carrying out of environmental impact assessments, and facilitating capacity-building and marine technology transfer.

IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez described the achievement as "a shared vision of equitable ocean governance, confirming the IMO's willingness to facilitate implementation, as appropriate, within our areas of expertise." The BBNJ Agreement may establish new international regulations, but the IMO is still responsible for enforcing over 50 treaties, including the MARPOL Convention and the London Convention, that regulate the environmental footprint of the shipping industry through flag state and port state regulations. With over 80 countries ratifying the agreement, the world now moves on to the implementation of these regulations to preserve biodiversity in the high seas.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

One-Third of Sudan Displaced in 1,000 Days of Conflict, IOM Urges Urgent and Sustained Action

The recent conflict in Sudan has led to the world's largest displacement crisis, with one in three people being displaced in the last 1,000 days. Since April 2023, more than 15 million people have been compelled to flee their homes, with 11.58 million being internally displaced persons, while 4 million were forced to seek refuge outside their countries. The situation is unprecedented since this is the first time that a conflict has led to twice as many people being displaced in one year as were displaced in the last two decades.

The situation is unbearable, according to Amy Pope, Director General of IOM, as 55% of those displaced are children below 18 years, with their education being disrupted. While 3 million people have tried to return to their homes in their respective countries, this is not sustainable owing to damaged infrastructure and insecurity.

The recent escalation in North Darfur and Kordofan has led to instability, calling for international intervention to resolve this situation.

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

OSCE advances youth crime prevention through strengthened multi-stakeholder co-operation in South-Eastern Europe

On 27–28 January in Belgrade, Serbia, the OSCE’s Transnational Threats Department and the Office of the Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities, in cooperation with the OSCE Missions in Montenegro and Serbia, held a regional practical training for law enforcement and social service professionals.

The training aimed to enhance early prevention of youth involvement in crime by improving skills in case prioritization, risk factor identification, and intervention. Participants engaged in interactive sessions, group work, and practical exercises, focusing on evidence-based, multidisciplinary approaches and international best practices adapted to Montenegro and Serbia. Emphasis was placed on institutional cooperation and information sharing among police, social services, and other stakeholders.

Participants discussed follow-up activities, including piloting and expanding prevention practices inspired by international models. The program is part of the OSCE project “*Improving Youth Crime and Drug Prevention through Legal Education and Awareness Campaigns*”, funded by Italy with additional support from Andorra, Finland, Germany, Norway, Poland, and Thailand.

THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION. (INTERPOL)

Global operation safeguards 4,400 potential trafficking victims, detects 13,000 irregular migrants

Operation Liberterra III, coordinated by INTERPOL and conducted from 10 to 21 November 2025 across 119 countries, resulted in the protection of 4,414 potential trafficking victims and the identification of 12,992 irregular migrants. Authorities arrested 3,744 suspects, more than 1,800 for human trafficking and migrant smuggling, and launched over 720 new investigations.

The operation mobilized more than 14,000 officers, featuring strengthened border checks, targeted raids, and increased online monitoring. Findings highlight evolving criminal networks using new routes and digital platforms, a rise in forced labor and forced criminality, and strong links to document fraud, money laundering, and drug trafficking.

Numerous cases involved sexual exploitation, labor exploitation, fraud schemes, and high-risk maritime smuggling routes. International cooperation, including with NGOs, was central, supported by operational coordination units in Algeria, El Salvador, Laos, and the United Kingdom.

PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION

The longest nuclear test-free period since 1945: what it means

As of 14 January 2026, the world has observed over eight years without a detected nuclear test explosion. This is the quietest period since 1945. This is also significant as it coincides with the 30th anniversary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). This is a significant global norm against nuclear testing,

even though the treaty has not yet been ratified and implemented. This is supported and confirmed by the International Monitoring System (IMS), which has over 300 stations using different technologies such as seismic, hydroacoustic, infrasound, and radionuclide detection.

Although the detection capacity of the IMS has risen to 0.5 kilotons, the CTBTO asserts that the entry of the treaty into force is essential in accessing the complete verification potential of the treaty, which includes on-site inspections and consultation. As Executive Secretary Robert Floyd said, this is a significant achievement that is based on the power of international cooperation and science. However, it is essential in realizing that there is an unfinished job in ensuring that the world becomes completely nuclear-test-free.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT FUND (UNDP)

UNDP workforce relocated outside of United States

A substantial share of positions at UNDP will be relocated outside of the New York City headquarters, to Germany and Spain. This move is part of ongoing efforts to keep up with changes in finance and development, build stronger partnerships, and boost UNDP's ability to help vulnerable communities worldwide. Nearly 400 positions will be relocated, with about three-quarters moving to Bonn, Germany, and the rest to Madrid, Spain. UNDP's presence in Bonn will now surpass 400 posts, as the city already hosts the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme, a member of the UNDP family. More relocations will come later during this year.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (UNESCO)

United Nations World Water Development Report 2026

Although tangible progress in the provision of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services has been made, significant disparities persist. The poorest and most vulnerable of the world's population remain the most affected, where women and girls still bear most of the responsibility for securing water to households. This leads to physical and mental stress, limiting their time and opportunities for education, productive work and social activities.

Through the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) and the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP), UNESCO collects water data disaggregated by sex, age, and other dimensions as a critical step in better understanding how water is used, managed, and distributed. It conducts gender analyses to identify and understand gender issues, and how to adequately address them in planning, projects, and policies.

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Within the framework of UNESCO's Priority Gender Equality Action Plan, UNESCO WWAP is working on "Water and Gender Equality" along four axes, including indicators, methodology and tools on water and gender; capacity building; field projects and communication and advocacy.

The UN World Water Development Report 2026, Water for all people: Equal rights and opportunities, will emphasize available data and actionable solutions to promote gender equality throughout the water sector.

The Report will highlight that gender equality-through access to clean, safe, and affordable water and sanitation, along with the equitable and meaningful participation of women in water governance is essential to poverty reduction and to building healthier, fairer societies with broad social and economic benefits.

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME (UNEP)

Making AI data centres more sustainable

Artificial intelligence (AI) and the rapid growth of data centers are transforming numerous industries, offering the promise of advancements such as medical breakthroughs and innovative solutions to the triple planetary crisis: climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste. Despite these benefits, the expansion of AI and its supporting infrastructure is creating increasing impacts on the environment, human communities, and economies. In a recent discussion with Hongpeng Lei, Chief of the Mitigation Branch in UNEP's Climate Change Division, strategies were explored for maximizing AI's benefits while minimizing harm to the environment. It is well established that the increasing number of data centers is placing significant demands on electricity systems and can also affect water resources. These impacts depend on factors such as facility design, cooling technologies, and their specific locations. While the energy requirements of AI-driven data centers are rising globally, the impact on water resources can differ greatly. There are a variety of tools available to address these environmental challenges, with sustainable procurement emerging as one of the most effective levers. Sustainable procurement influences how data centers and their equipment are designed and operated, ensuring that they are sustainable, energy-efficient, and climate-friendly. By setting procurement specifications that clearly define expectations for energy efficiency, cooling performance, and operational best practices, it is possible to reduce both electricity demand and associated costs from the outset. Furthermore, these specifications can encourage transparency by promoting the use of common performance metrics. These efforts are supported by the UNEP-led United for Efficiency initiative, which assists governments in developing and applying sustainable procurement guidelines for data centers and computer servers. These guidelines are designed to help governments, companies, and data center operators consistently implement best practices on a large scale, ensuring that technological progress aligns with environmental responsibility.

UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH

Strengthening armed violence prevention in West Africa

In recent years, West Africa has seen a rise in armed conflict and violence, fueled by both increasing violent extremism and easy access to conventional weapons and ammunition. Extremist acts and the demand for arms often share deep-seated causes. Addressing these shared root causes alongside sources of illegal weapons may lead to more sustainable prevention of armed violence. A joint workshop between UNIDIR, UNREC (United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa), and FDFA (Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs) conducted an empirical study on best practices in West Africa for connecting Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) with Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM). Participants emphasized that lasting solutions require treating both symptoms and underlying issues, recognizing that no single party can resolve these challenges alone. Policy frameworks must evolve, and acknowledging PVE-WAM linkages is key for effective institutional cooperation and integrated action. Efforts to combine PVE and WAM should prioritize local communities: empowering religious and community leaders, women, and youth as catalysts for change and building networks among them. In summary, coordinated regional strategies and collaboration are crucial for unified responses, and updating institutional and policy frameworks can serve as an initial step toward integrating these approaches.

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Venezuela: Accountability and democracy cannot be built on violations of international law, warn UN experts

On 15 January UN experts said that the only way to restore democracy in Venezuela following the recent violation of its sovereignty and years of authoritarian rule, is to respect the will of the Venezuelan people, ensure accountability and self-determination, and guarantee the sovereign and sustainable use of their natural resources in line with international law.

The experts stressed the need for independent, impartial, thorough and prompt investigations and prosecution of human rights violations committed over the past twenty years to ensure justice, truth, accountability, and reparation for all victims, including those abroad.

Venezuela faces a severe humanitarian crisis, and urgent action is required to establish safe, dignified livelihoods for its people, the experts stated.

The experts unequivocally condemned the US military intervention as a deliberate violation of the UN Charter and international law.

They recalled that the International Court of Justice has reaffirmed the obligation of States to protect the climate system, warning that the continued extraction and use of fossil fuels may violate international law, and urged all parties with a legitimate interest to promote a just transition, while calling on companies to avoid contributing to the climate emergency and being complicit in human rights violations.

UN experts expressed concern about the human rights impact of Venezuela's declaration of a "state of external commotion" on January 3, 2026. During this critical period following the attack, it must be ensured that the state of emergency is implemented in accordance with the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality, and non-discrimination; that it respects non-derogable rights under international law; and that it is not used to intensify aggression and/or the criminalization of individuals perceived as opponents.

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Humanitarian crisis keeps going in Sudan

During the blockade of El Fasher – the capital of North Darfur – women and girls faced continuous bombings and rising sexual violence, all while being cut off from aid. Attacks on health facilities meant that medicines ran out, pregnant women had to give birth without trained help, and rape survivors were left with no medical support. The situation worsened in October 2025 when the Rapid Support Forces took control of El Fasher. Over 107,000 people, mostly women and children, fled however they could, often without transportation, food, or money. Rania and Zainab were just two of thousands who escaped to Al Affad, a crowded camp where healthcare and safety are still hard to find. Health workers also described their traumatic experiences during the long siege. Midwife Madina Bashir was trapped for nearly a year in a mosque with 65 women. “Sometimes we had nothing to eat or drink, so we survived on rainwater and courtyard plants,” she recalled. “When armed men stormed the mosque, they took away all the men and forced us women out barefoot. Some were pregnant—one even gave birth on the road because we couldn’t reach help.”

UNFPA remains active in Northern State, working to strengthen emergency maternity care at Al Dabbah Maternity Hospital and running a reproductive health clinic at the Al Affad camp. They are also sending out mobile midwife teams and training community health workers to manage cases of rape.

UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST

UNRWA situation report no. 206 on the situation in the Gaza Strip

In the Gaza Strip, despite the declared ceasefire, United Nations partners continue to report substantial military activities, including civilian casualties resulting from Israeli aerial attacks, shelling, and gunfire throughout all five governorates of Gaza. These incidents have occurred both near and distant from the “Yellow Line.” According to the Ministry of Health (MoH), as reported by OHCHR, 477 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli attacks in Gaza since the onset of the ceasefire in October 2025. The World Food Programme’s latest Market Monitor (December 2025) indicates some improvement in household consumption patterns in Gaza during December; however, one in four households reportedly consumes only a single meal per day. Between 7 October 2023 and 14 January 2026, the MoH in Gaza, as cited by OCHA, reports that 71,439 Palestinians were killed and 171,324 injured in the Gaza Strip. Since the ceasefire began in October 2025, 463 Palestinians have been killed, 1,269 injured, and 710 bodies recovered from beneath rubble. Additionally, as of 27 January 2026, UNRWA has recorded the deaths of 390 colleagues in Gaza since the start of the conflict (comprising 309 UNRWA staff and 81 individuals supporting UNRWA operations). UNRWA’s health teams, as part of ongoing infectious disease surveillance, have observed a marked increase in acute respiratory infections, with over 43,000 cases and 11 fatalities reported at MoH hospitals since 1 December 2025. Coordination efforts with the MoH and health partners remain ongoing. There has also been an uptick in acute jaundice syndrome (hepatitis A) cases linked to contaminated water; more than 480 cases have been identified since 1 November 2025. Recent wash interventions, such as targeted chlorination of contaminated sites by UNRWA teams, have helped reverse this trend over the past two weeks, though continued monitoring is planned. Approximately 11,500 Palestinian UNRWA personnel are actively delivering essential services and assistance to Gaza’s population in need. In the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem, UNRWA remains a central provider of education, healthcare, and other support through over 4,000 local personnel serving Palestine refugees. All international UNRWA staff continue to be denied entry into the Occupied Palestinian Territory—including the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, as well as East Jerusalem—following the enforcement of laws enacted by the Israeli parliament on 28 October 2024. These laws aim to prohibit UNRWA’s activities in territories claimed by Israel, including occupied East Jerusalem, and forbid contact between Israeli officials and UNRWA. Since the end of January 2025, the Israeli authorities have not granted visas or permits for the Agency’s international staff to enter the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Gaza.

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

Resolution 2812 (2026): Maintenance of international peace and security (Red Sea)

On 14 January the Security Council adopted a resolution extending the Secretary-General’s monthly reporting on Houthi attacks in the Red Sea for six additional months, citing its many previous condemnations of the group’s attacks on merchant and commercial vessels.

The 15-member Council adopted resolution 2812 (2026) by a vote of 13 in favour to none against, with 2 abstentions (China, Russian Federation).

By its terms, members recalled all relevant Council resolutions on the situation in Yemen and the Red Sea, including resolution 2722 (2024) and extending its reporting request to the Secretary-General to provide written monthly reports to the Council on any further Houthi attacks in the Red Sea, until 15 July 2026.

Resolution 2813 (2026): The situation in the Middle East (UNMHA)

On 27 January the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission to Support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA) for a final two-month period — until 31 March 2026 — during which the Mission will draw down and end the permanent United Nations presence in Hudaydah.

Adopting resolution 2813 (2026) by a vote of 13 in favour to none against, with 2 abstentions (China, Russian Federation), the Council decided that such drawdown will include the cessation of UNMHA's operations; the required preparation for the transition of any residual functions to the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen; and the withdrawal of UNMHA personnel and assets. Further, the organ decided that UNMHA will commence a liquidation process as of 1 April 2026.

Resolution 2814 (2026): The question concerning Haiti (BINUH)

On 29 January the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) for one year to 31 January 2027.

The Caribbean country faces a complex set of challenges, including gang violence, political instability and a humanitarian crisis. The UN's operational involvement in Haiti dates to the departure of then-President Jean-Claude Duvalier in 1986, which was followed by the holding of a democratic election in 1990 and then a military coup in 1991. The UN has since remained deeply engaged in Haiti through successive peacekeeping and political missions.

Established in 2019, BINUH supports the Haitian authorities in strengthening political stability, good governance and the rule of law, while promoting human rights and coordinating international assistance.

Unanimously adopting resolution 2814 (2026), the 15-member organ tasked the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Haiti with playing “a good-offices and coordinating role, including in promoting accountability, as well as respect for human rights, the political process and the rule of law”. The text also revised the mandate of BINUH to undertake six key tasks “in an integrated manner with all UN entities in Haiti”.

Resolution 2815 (2026): The situation in Cyprus (UNFICYP)

On 30 January the Security Council renewed the United Nations peacekeeping presence in Cyprus for another year, welcomed the intensification of dialogue in 2025 and called upon the sides and all parties to engage actively with the Secretary-General and his team.

By a recorded vote of 13 votes in favour to none against, with 2 abstentions (Pakistan and Somalia), the Council adopted resolution 2815 (2026), and decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) until 31 January 2027.

Deployed in 1964 to help prevent a recurrence of fighting between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities, UNFICYP is one of the United Nations' longest-running missions. It monitors the ceasefire lines, maintains the buffer zone and supports efforts towards a lasting political settlement.

By its terms, the Council recalled the importance of achieving an enduring, comprehensive and just settlement based on a bicomunal, bizonal federation with political equality, as set out in relevant resolutions.

By other terms, the Council condemned the continued violations of the military status quo along the ceasefire lines and regretted the lack of progress on an effective mechanism for direct military contacts between the sides and the relevant involved parties. It also called upon the sides to reduce existing barriers to

intercommunal contact and emphasized the importance of effective communication for risk-mitigation and trust-building between the communities.



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