

NDICI-Global Europe: final green light for the new financial instrument to support the EU's external action



The European Parliament and the Council of the European Union, represented by the Portuguese Presidency, today signed the regulation establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI-Global Europe). The regulation will enter into force on 14 June 2021.

NDICI-Global Europe is the main financial instrument for the EU's external action, and is of ever greater importance in the light of the heavy economic and social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide.

With an overall allocation of €79.5 billion at current prices, for 2021-2027, representing an increase of over 10% compared to the previous budgetary cycle, the new instrument will cover cooperation with all third countries.

NDICI-Global Europe will be organised around three key pillars:

– Geographical

The geographical component will promote partnerships through cooperation with partner countries in the following regions: the European Neighbourhood, sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and the Americas and the Caribbean.

It will focus on good governance, inclusive growth, climate and environment objectives, poverty eradication, the fight against inequalities, resilience, conflict prevention and human development, among other cross-cutting issues. In addition, European Neighbourhood countries will benefit from enhanced political cooperation and support for the purposes of improving regional cooperation and promoting integration into the EU's internal market.

The financial envelope of the geographic cooperation will amount to €60 388 million, with sub-Saharan Africa at the top of the priorities with close to €30 000 million earmarked, an increase of around 12% compared to the previous financial framework. For the European Neighbourhood, at least €19 323 million will be earmarked.

– Thematic

The thematic programmes – for which €6 358 million is allocated – will fund actions linked to the Sustainable Development Goals at global level, including support for civil society organisations. Thematic programmes will therefore focus on human rights and democracy, civil society, stability and peace, as well as on global challenges such as health, education and training, women and children, work, social protection, culture, migration and climate change.

– Rapid response

The rapid response component, amounting to €3 182 million, will be dedicated to financing the quick response capacity for crisis management, conflict prevention and peace building. Actions financed within this component aim to strengthen the resilience of crisis-affected countries, link humanitarian and development actions and address foreign policy needs and priorities.

At the same time, as NDICI-Global Europe was designed to be a more flexible instrument, able to address new emerging priorities and challenges in a fast-changing world, €9 534 million will be earmarked for unexpected events, such as crisis and post-crisis situations or migratory pressure.

[Report by President Charles Michel to the European Parliament plenary session](#)



Monsieur le président du Parlement européen, Madame la présidente de la Commission, chers collègues membres du Parlement européen.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Hijacking a plane is piracy. With 171 passengers on board, it is kidnapping. When these acts are carried out by the state, it's hostage-taking and state piracy. For what? To get hold of a young journalist and his partner, whose free speech is intolerable for Mr Lukashenko. We had to react quickly. And strongly. And we did. We quickly agreed to adopt sanctions against the Belarusian regime commensurate with the gravity of the event. These include additional individual sanctions, targeted economic measures and a ban on Belarusian airlines. We also called on European airlines to avoid Belarusian airspace, a recommendation that was immediately followed. In the wake of this decision, the UK and the US took similar measures.

I would like to emphasise three clear messages.

The first is for Roman Protasevich and all political prisoners – the EU will not rest until you are released.

The second is for Mr Lukashenko – Mr Protasevich must be released immediately. We hold you responsible for his physical and mental health.

And our third message is to the Belarusian people and especially to those fighting for democracy, freedom of expression and media freedom – the EU stands by you and will continue our direct support for your struggle to

choose your destiny.

Dear colleagues, as we did last year on China, we had a strategic debate on our relationship with Russia and we were unanimous in condemning Russia's illegal, provocative and disruptive activities. But above all, we have given ourselves time for a high-quality debate. And I would like to explain the method, the objectives and the first resolutions.

First, the method. The relationship between the EU and Russia is complex, and every complex and strategic choice must begin with building our collective intelligence. This takes time, but in the long run, it saves time. Once we share a common analysis, it's easier to take a collective decision. We are then stronger because we are more united. During our strategic discussion, the leaders shared their views and experience with Russia without reservation. Russia has created a string of conflicts in its neighbourhood and beyond, and faced with that, we have often reacted rather than acted proactively. Rather than reacting to what we do not want, we must first decide what we do want from Russia. We need to better define our strategic objectives and how best to achieve them. And this must be done in line with the five guiding principles that we have already agreed on. They remain as valid as ever:

- implementation of the Minsk agreements,
- strengthen relations with the Eastern partners,
- strengthening the union's resilience,
- selective cooperation with Russia on issues of interest to the union, and
- the need for people to people contacts and support for Russian civil society.

We will continue this work at our next meeting based on the report we have requested from the Commission and High Representative. And this report will contain concrete options or scenarios.

Monsieur le président du Parlement européen, Madame la présidente de la Commission, chers collègues membres du Parlement européen, nous avons aussi eu l'occasion d'aborder à nouveau la crise sanitaire. Je résumerai le sentiment autour de la table du Conseil européen de la manière suivante: c'est un optimisme prudent qui nous habite. D'une part, nous voyons bien que nous avons réussi à augmenter la capacité de production et la livraison de vaccins. C'est un pas dans la bonne direction. Mais d'autre part, nous comprenons qu'il faut rester vigilant et suivre la situation, notamment en lien avec le risque de mutations et de variants.

Des progrès ont également été réalisés en ce qui concerne le certificat Covid. Nous avons salué les accords qui ont été enregistrés notamment avec le Parlement européen sur le sujet. Nous allons continuer à travailler, à faire en sorte que l'on puisse progressivement restaurer la libre circulation des personnes, avec une attention particulière pour les impacts économiques qui y sont liés. Notamment dans certains pays directement concernés par le secteur

touristique. Un optimisme prudent, c'est évidemment le sentiment largement partagé autour de la table.

Il y a un autre point qui a été longuement abordé durant ce Conseil européen, c'est l'engagement international de l'Union européenne. C'est du bon sens. Nous savons que nous ne serons pas en sécurité tant que le monde entier ne sera pas en sécurité face à cette crise. C'est la raison pour laquelle nous sommes totalement convaincus que l'Union européenne ne doit pas rougir des choix qui ont été opérés depuis le début. C'est l'Union européenne sur le plan international qui, en premier lieu, a décidé de mobiliser des moyens pour la recherche de façon massive et sans précédent pour réussir en moins d'un an à produire des vaccins. C'est l'Union européenne qui a fait le choix de maintenir des exportations de vaccins, et en moyenne c'est 50 % des vaccins produits sur le sol européen qui ont été exportés. Vous vous souvenez que nous avons parfois été critiqués par certains observateurs et parfois par les citoyens qui ont eu le sentiment que nous ne progressions pas suffisamment vite sur le terrain de l'administration des vaccins... C'est l'Union européenne qui a initié l'initiative COVAX afin que ce dispositif ait une capacité de solidarité financière pour commander des vaccins.

Mais il y a maintenant un enjeu central sur lequel nous voulons travailler, avec un engagement très fort de la part de la Commission européenne, qui consiste à augmenter les capacités de production, augmenter les capacités de résilience, y compris dans le cadre de partenariats concrets. Spécialement avec le continent africain et particulièrement avec certains pays qui sont engagés sur cette voie. Et je n'oublie pas l'importance de prendre en compte aussi l'Amérique latine, région pour laquelle il est également important de travailler sur des capacités pharmaceutiques plus fortes à moyen et à long terme. Cela implique bien sûr des débats en lien avec la propriété intellectuelle, mais aussi des débats concernant les transferts de "know-how" et les transferts de technologie. Nous allons continuer à être engagés sur ce sujet important.

Nous avons aussi eu l'occasion d'aborder la question du climat. Vous vous souviendrez que, après cette décision forte qui a été prise il y a 18 mois – la neutralité climatique en 2050 – et la diplomatie climatique que nous activons au quotidien pour convaincre d'autres partenaires d'avoir une ambition forte en matière climatique, nous avons pris la décision il y a quelques mois de renforcer aussi nos objectifs à l'horizon 2030. Nous mesurons bien qu'un enjeu important, au-delà de l'objectif qui est partagé, est de savoir comment atteindre cet objectif ambitieux. Et c'est la raison pour laquelle le Conseil européen a souhaité avoir un débat intense afin de sensibiliser la Commission européenne aux différentes préoccupations, aux différents points de vue, aux différents points de départ aussi au sein de l'Union européenne en lien avec cet objectif. Nous faisons confiance à la Commission pour déposer prochainement des propositions qui seront traitées dans le cadre législatif. Et nous avons considéré que, à un moment approprié, le Conseil européen reviendra sur le débat politique relatif à notre ambition de refaire reculer la menace climatique.

Nous avons aussi eu l'occasion d'aborder brièvement, pour la première fois depuis le Brexit, la relation entre l'Union européenne et le Royaume-Uni. Je

voudrais résumer en quelques mots le sentiment et la position exprimée par le Conseil européen. Nous croyons profondément à l'état de droit et au principe "pacta sunt servanda", qui veut que lorsque des accords ont été conclus, ils doivent être mis en œuvre de bonne foi. Le message, c'est l'expression d'une force tranquille européenne. Nous souhaitons être un partenaire loyal, engagé pour une relation positive, fructueuse et constructive avec le Royaume-Uni. C'est le souhait qui nous a toujours habité tout au long de cette négociation, au cours de laquelle nous avons été capables de démontrer notre ferme unité. Mais nous sommes aussi prêts à utiliser les différents moyens à notre disposition pour protéger nos intérêts, pour garantir l'intégrité du marché intérieur, pour faire en sorte que les accords soient respectés et pour protéger aussi, bien sûr, le Good Friday Agreement. Et nous avons réaffirmé notre solidarité à l'égard de l'Irlande.

Enfin, si vous m'accordez encore quelques instants – et je ne veux pas abuser du temps de parole, Monsieur le président – je sais que vous aurez tout à l'heure un débat sur le G7 et les sommets internationaux. Je voudrais en quelques mots tracer les perspectives pour ces réunions des prochains jours.

Il y a, à mon avis, un paradoxe auquel nous avons été confrontés les derniers mois. D'une part, le monde a été pratiquement mis à l'arrêt sur le plan économique, sur le plan de nos capacités de mobilité. Mais dans le même temps, cette pandémie a montré avec une force rarement atteinte l'importance de la coopération internationale. Et nous avons observé ces derniers mois un renforcement des dynamiques de coopération internationale. Cette coopération, cet engagement multilatéral, est en fait l'ADN de ce projet européen, et ce sera encore le cas dans les prochains jours et les prochaines semaines avec cette activité intense.

Trois points me semblent importants en ce qui concerne la réunion du G7, le sommet avec le Canada, ou encore avec les États-Unis la semaine prochaine. Le premier point: nos valeurs fondamentales. Nous le voyons bien, on en débat aujourd'hui, vous en débattiez régulièrement dans cette assemblée, nos modèles de sociétés libérales sont mis sous pression. Il y a des tentatives permanentes et décuplées ces dernières années de démontrer la fragilité, la faiblesse, l'inefficacité de ce modèle de démocratie libérale, qui pourtant a prouvé dans l'histoire sa capacité de donner de la liberté, de donner de l'innovation, de donner de la capacité de prospérité. Et, comme je le disais pour la Russie, nous ne devons pas simplement subir les chocs, les attaques et les coups portés par ceux qui n'aiment pas ce modèle fondé sur la liberté, l'émancipation, la non-discrimination. Nous devons porter avec plus d'engagement, de manière plus stratégique, plus proactive, cette promotion de nos valeurs de liberté et de démocratie. Ces points seront évidemment au cœur de ces réunions internationales.

Un deuxième point qui me paraît important, c'est la prospérité. Comment peut-on améliorer les conditions de vie? C'est le débat sur les transitions climatique et digitale. C'est le débat sur la fiscalité internationale, et l'Union européenne a été à l'avant-garde sur ces sujets-là. C'est l'Union européenne, souvent le Parlement européen d'ailleurs, qui a mis à l'agenda international, d'abord européen, puis international, cette question de l'équité dans les échanges économiques, dans les échanges commerciaux, dans

la question de la fiscalité internationale. Ce thème progresse, on le voit, avec un premier pas au travers de cette réunion ministérielle du G7 sur la fiscalité des entreprises sur le plan international.

Et le troisième point, c'est bien sûr la sécurité, la stabilité. Comment peut-on travailler pour prévenir les conflits? Réduire les risques de conflit? Anticiper les risques d'escalade? Comment peut-on, tant qu'il y a un conflit, coopérer pour tenter de résoudre les difficultés et tenter de dégager des solutions durables? Nous connaissons les différents foyers dans le monde pour lesquels nous, Union européenne, avons intérêt à ramener la stabilité et à coopérer avec nos partenaires afin de pouvoir engranger des résultats.

Voilà, Monsieur le président, Mesdames et Messieurs les parlementaires, les quelques messages que je souhaitais partager avec vous, et je suis bien sûr dans l'attente de vos réactions, remarques, observations et prêt à réagir.

Merci de votre attention.

[Media advisory – Informal video conference of fisheries ministers, 9 June 2021](#)



Indicative programme

Chair:

Ricardo Serrão Santos, Portuguese Minister for Maritime Affairs

All times are approximate and subject to change

+/- 15.00

Beginning of the video conference of the fisheries ministers

- Bilateral EU-UK consultations on fishing opportunities for 2021 and, for deep-sea stocks, for 2021 and 2022

At the end of the meeting (+/- 16.40) press conference in [live streaming](#).

Arrangements for the press conference

Please note that there will be no physical press conference. EU accredited journalists will be able to ask questions remotely using [this link](#).

Journalists who already registered for previous Agriculture and Fisheries

Council press conferences do not need to register again.

Deadline: Wednesday, 9 June 2021, 15.40

Further instructions will be sent to all registered participants approximately half an hour after the deadline.

[Visit the meeting page](#)

ESMA issues an opinion on Product Intervention Measures on Turbos

These measures concern turbos which are high-risk leveraged products with which investors speculate that the prices of the underlying asset, such as a share, an index or a currency, will rise or fall. ESMA's opinion concludes that the proposed measures are justified and proportionate.

Furthermore, ESMA's opinion encourages all National Competent Authorities (NCAs) to monitor turbos in their respective markets to assess whether similar risks for retail investors as those identified by the AFM could arise there.

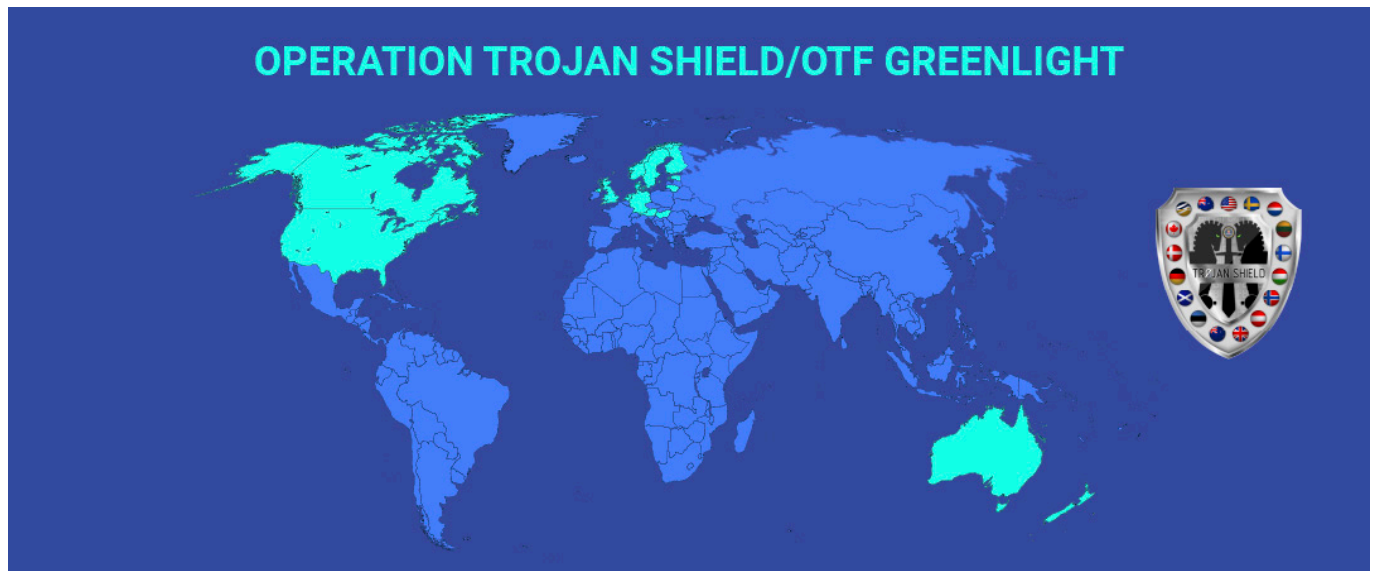
Background

NCAs may take product intervention measures in accordance with Article 42 of Regulation (EU) No 600/2014. At least one month before a measure is intended to take effect, an NCA must notify all other NCAs and ESMA of the details of its proposed measure and the related evidence, unless there is an exceptional case where it is necessary to take urgent action.

In accordance with Article 43 of Regulation (EU) No 600/2014, ESMA performs a facilitation and coordination role in relation to such product intervention measures taken by NCAs. After receiving notification from an NCA of its proposed measure, ESMA must adopt an opinion on whether the proposed measure is justified and proportionate. If ESMA considers that the taking of a measure by other NCAs is necessary, it must state this in its opinion.

The opinions that ESMA previously issued on proposed national product intervention measures are published on its [website](#).

800 criminals arrested in biggest ever law enforcement operation against encrypted communication



The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Dutch National Police (Politie), and the Swedish Police Authority (Polisen), in cooperation with the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and 16 other countries have carried out with the support of Europol one of the largest and most sophisticated law enforcement operations to date in the fight against encrypted criminal activities.

Since 2019, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, in close coordination with the Australian Federal Police, strategically developed and covertly operated an encrypted device company, called ANOM, which grew to service more than 12 000 encrypted devices to over 300 criminal syndicates operating in more than 100 countries, including Italian organised crime, outlaw motorcycle gangs, and international drug trafficking organisations.

The goal of the new platform was to target global organised crime, drug trafficking, and money laundering organisations, regardless of where they operated, and offer an encrypted device with features sought by the organised crime networks, such as remote wipe and duress passwords, to persuade criminal networks to pivot to the device.

The FBI and the 16 other countries of the international coalition, supported by Europol and in coordination with the US Drug Enforcement Administration, then exploited the intelligence from the 27 million messages obtained and reviewed them over 18 months while ANOM's criminal users discussed their criminal activities.

This operation, known as OTF Greenlight/Trojan Shield, is one of the largest and most sophisticated law enforcement operations to date in the fight against encrypted criminal activities. A series of large-scale law

enforcement actions were executed over the past days across 16 countries resulting in more than 700 house searches, more than 800 arrests and the seizure of over 8 tons of cocaine, 22 tons of cannabis and cannabis resin, 2 tons of synthetic drugs (amphetamine and methamphetamine), 6 tons of synthetic drugs precursors, 250 firearms, 55 luxury vehicles and over \$48 million in various worldwide currencies and cryptocurrencies. Countless spin-off operations will be carried out in the weeks to come. Operation Trojan Shield/Greenlight will enable Europol to further enhance the intelligence picture on organised crime affecting the EU due to the quality of the information gathered. This enhanced intelligence picture will support the continued effort in identifying operating high-value criminal targets on a global scale.

Criminal demand for encrypted platforms and past takedowns

Criminal networks have a huge demand for encrypted communication platforms to facilitate their criminal activities. However, the market for encrypted platforms is considered to be volatile. In July 2020, the EncroChat encrypted platform was dismantled by the Operational Taskforce EMMA (France, the Netherlands). This international operation sent shockwaves in the criminal underworld across Europe and was followed in 2021 with another takedown of a similar nature: an international group of judicial and law enforcement authorities (Belgium, France, the Netherlands) successfully blocked the further use of encrypted communications by organised crime networks via the Sky ECC communication service tool (Operational Task Force Limit).

Both operations provided invaluable insights into an unprecedented amount of information exchanged between criminals. After the takedown of Sky ECC in March 2021, many organised crime networks sought a quick encrypted replacement for a communication platform that would allow them to evade law enforcement detection. This was a deliberate and strategic aspect of OTF Greenlight / Operation Trojan Shield resulting in the migration of some of the criminal Sky ECC customer base to the FBI-managed platform Anom.

Europol's Deputy Executive Director Jean-Philippe Lecouffe: "This operation is an exceptional success by the authorities in the United States, Sweden, the Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand and the other European members of the Operational Task Force. Europol coordinated the international law enforcement community, enriched the information picture and brought criminal intelligence into ongoing operations to target organised crime and drug trafficking organisations, wherever they are and however they choose to communicate. I am very satisfied to see Europol supporting this operation and strengthen law enforcement partnerships by emphasizing the multi-agency aspect of the case."

Calvin Shivers, Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative

Division, US Federal Bureau of Investigation: "Encrypted criminal communications platforms have traditionally been a tool to evade law enforcement and facilitate transnational organized crime. The FBI and our international partners continue to push the envelope and develop innovative ways to overcome these challenges and bring criminals to justice," said the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division Assistant Director Calvin A. Shivers. "We are grateful to Europol for their commitment to fighting transnational organized crime and their partnership with the FBI. "

Linda H Staaf, Police Commissioner, Head of Intelligence of the Swedish Police (Polisen): "This operation, with an extensive strike yesterday, is one of the largest intelligence-led police operations against violent crime and drug networks ever in Sweden. From the Swedish police's point of view there were no doubt to be the leading part in Europe together with the Netherlands and Europol. We highly appreciate this type of cooperation between law enforcement agencies. The criminality spreads across borders and international cooperation is crucial to fight serious crime. "

Jannine van den Berg, Chief Constable of the Netherlands Police's Central Unit: "Operation Trojan Shield is a fine example of innovative and daring police work that is unparalleled. Each partner provided its own unique expertise and together we delivered a fantastic international performance. Thanks to the excellent technical skills of the Dutch police, the millions of messages could be analyzed and interpreted. Just like the investigations into EncroChat and Sky, Operation Trojan Shield also shows that serious criminals wrongly believe that they can operate anonymously and out of sight of the police and that they cannot be caught. Nothing turns out to be less true. My compliments and thanks go to all participants of Operation Trojan Shield."

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Reece Kershaw APM: "The AFP and FBI have been working together on a world-first operation to bring to justice the organised crime gangs flooding our communities with drugs, guns and violence. Europol has been a trusted and committed partner during this time. Very few matters unite law enforcement like bringing to justice those who seek to do our citizens harm. The FBI provided an encrypted communications platform while the AFP deployed the technical capability that helped unmask some of the biggest criminals in the world. The intelligence shared by Europol has helped to ensure this is one of the most significant global taskforces for law enforcement. This week the AFP will execute hundreds of warrants and is expected to arrest hundreds of offenders who were linked to the platform. This

is the culmination of hard work, perseverance and an invaluable, trusted relationship with Europol. We thank Europol for their long and integral partnership with the AFP. Crime is local but when we work together our reach is global.”

Drug Enforcement Administration Deputy Chief of Operations Matthew Donahue said: “Operation Trojan Shield and Europol Operation Greenlight not only reveal how transnational criminal organizations continue to exploit encrypted communication services for their own illicit gain, but also show the commitment of the law enforcement community to develop innovative strategies to counter this activity. These operations underscore the seriousness of the international drug threat and provide a strong foundation from which future investigations can be built. As clearly shown in this operation, transnational organized crime is a global problem that requires a global solution, strong international partnerships and timely information sharing which are critical tools in this fight.”

Europol’s role and contribution

Europol set up an Operational Task Force (OTF) for Operation Trojan Shield / Greenlight and provided operational support for the participating countries by acting as a criminal intelligence hub, facilitating the exchange of information and coordinating with other investigations supported by Europol. Overall, 16 countries took part in this OTF and sent representatives to Europol in The Hague, the Netherlands, to coordinate their activities at the national and international levels. The large system of international liaison officers at Europol ensures that the interests of law enforcement agencies in the EU Member States and non-EU partners are represented at Europol’s headquarters. Europol supported OTF Greenlight / Operation Trojan Shield, which was led by the US FBI, Sweden, the Netherlands and Australia.

The following countries participated in the international coalition: Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom incl. Scotland, and the United States.