

## Myanmar/Burma: Council extends sanctions for another year



Today the Council prolonged the restrictive measures in view of the situation in Myanmar/Burma for one year, **until 30 April 2022**.

The prolongation covers targeted restrictive measures against individuals directly involved in the **military coup in February 2021** and the subsequent violence against peaceful protesters, as well as those responsible for the serious **human rights violations** committed against the Rohingya population and other ethnic minorities. The sanctions target **high-ranking officials** from the Myanmar Armed Forces (Tatmadaw) and the border guard police, as well as civilian members of the State Administrative Council and the Chairman of the Election Commission. The restrictive measures also cover **two entities** owned and controlled by the Myanmar Armed Forces (Tatmadaw).

The sanctions regime also includes an embargo on arms and equipment that can be used for internal repression, an export ban on dual-use goods for use by the military and border guard police, and export restrictions on equipment for monitoring communications that could be used for internal repression. It also prohibits the provision of military training to, and military cooperation with, the Myanmar Armed Forces (Tatmadaw). It does not adversely affect the vulnerable Burmese population.

The Council last adopted conclusions on Myanmar/Burma in February 2021 **condemning in the strongest possible terms the military coup of 1 February 2021**. The EU continues to stand with the **Burmese people** and will continue to provide **humanitarian assistance**. Since the beginning of 2021, **€20.5 million** have already been allocated.

The legal acts were adopted by the Council by written procedure. They will be published in the Official Journal of 30 April 2021.

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## 1 600 offences detected in a global operation against marine pollution

67 countries across the globe took part in this year's 30 Days at Sea operation

Between 1 and 30 March 2021, 300 agencies across 67 countries joined forces against marine pollution during the third global operation 30 Days at Sea.

Europol and Frontex coordinated the European leg of the operation, as part of the EMPACT action plan on environmental crime, while INTERPOL coordinated the global activities. The actions led to the identification of numerous crimes ranging from illegal discharge to waste trafficking and the investigation of thousands of suspects worldwide.

Frontline action followed five months of intelligence collection and analysis, enabling participating countries to identify hotspots and targets.

## **The simultaneous actions in March led to:**

- **34 000** inspections at sea and inland waterways, coastal areas and ports;
- **1 600** marine pollution offences detected in total;
- **500** illegal acts of pollution committed at sea, including oil discharges, illegal shipbreaking and sulphur emissions from vessels;
- **1 000** pollution offences in coastal areas and in rivers, including illegal discharges of contaminants;
- **130** cases of waste trafficking through ports.

By using INTERPOL's wide range of databases and analytical capabilities, countries were able to connect pollution crime with other serious crimes such as fraud, corruption, tax evasion, money laundering, piracy, and illegal fishing.

## **Criminals attempt to abuse the pandemic also at sea**

With many enforcement resources being reassigned to tackle the pandemic, criminals have been quick to exploit growing vulnerabilities in different crime areas including environmental crime. Inspections uncovered typical forms of marine pollution crime, from vessel discharges to waste trafficking by sea, but also criminal trends that have been growing amid the pandemic. Growing trends included COVID-19 disposable items such as masks and gloves, with 13 cases involving medical waste opened as a result of the operation.

A major criminal network trafficking plastic waste between Europe and Asia was exposed, triggering cooperation between authorities from both regions. So far, 22 suspects have been arrested and thousands of tonnes of waste have been prevented from being illegally shipped to Asia. It is highly likely that the waste would have likely been dumped there, contaminating soils and generating considerable marine litter.

Several countries from Europe, Asia and Africa reported illegal shipments of contaminated or mixed metal waste falsely declared as metal scraps. In one case, the Italian Coast Guard seized and prevented 11 000 tonnes of metal scraps mixed with plastic, rubber, mineral oil and other contaminants from being loaded onto bulk carriers headed for Turkey. Namibia, the Philippines and Croatia also reported cases of illegal waste shipments from Europe.

# Global coordination to counter the pollution of our seas

Europol and FRONTEX (European Border and Coast Guard Agency) coordinated the European leg of 30 Days at Sea 3.0, while INTERPOL's Environmental Security Programme coordinating the operation globally.

**Europol's Executive Director Catherine De Bolle said:** "Marine pollution is a serious threat, which endangers not only the environment but our health and in the long run our global economy. Criminals do not care about the environment; they do not think of tomorrow, but only of increasing their profits on the back of our society. Consolidated law enforcement efforts such as the operation 30 Days at Sea are critical to tackle these borderless crimes and protect our environmental heritage for generations to come."

**INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock said:** "The threat of pollution crime is constantly evolving, endangering the air we breathe, our water and soil. Although this is the third edition of 30 Days at Sea, it is never the same exercise."

It is thanks to a global yet agile network that we have seen the number of inspections more than double since the first edition: a clear sign that the international community will not stand for criminal attacks on our environment."

"Environmental crime is one of many criminal activities Frontex targets as part of our mission as the European Border and Coast Guard Agency. This is our contribution to the protection of the environment. I'm proud that, as part of 30 Days at Sea, Frontex aerial and maritime assets monitored nearly 1 000 vessels," **said Frontex Executive Director Fabrice Leggeri.**

All three editions of Operation 30 Days at Sea 3.0 have been carried out with funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad).

## **\*Participating countries:**

17 EU Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden

50 non-EU countries: Angola, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Dem Rep Congo, Ecuador Ethiopia, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana,

Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Honduras, India, Israel, Kenya, Kuwait, Liberia, Malaysia, Maldives, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Thailand, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Zimbabwe

Headquartered in The Hague, the Netherlands, we support the 27 EU Member States in their fight against terrorism, cybercrime and other serious and organised forms of crime. We also work with many non-EU partner states and international organisations. From its various threat assessments to its intelligence-gathering and operational activities, Europol has the tools and resources it needs to do its part in making Europe safer.



In 2010 the European Union set up a [four-year Policy Cycle](#) to ensure greater continuity in the fight against serious international and organised crime. In 2017 the Council of the EU decided to continue the EU Policy Cycle for the 2018 – 2021 period. It aims to tackle the most significant threats posed by organised and serious international crime to the EU. This is achieved by improving and strengthening cooperation between the relevant services of EU Member States, institutions and agencies, as well as non-EU countries and organisations, including the private sector where relevant. [Environmental crime](#) is one of the priorities for the Policy Cycle.

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**[ECDC organises first training modules in the framework of the EU Initiative on Health Security](#)**



The EU Initiative on Health Security, 2020-2024, financed by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations enables tailor-made support to EU candidate and potential candidate countries and European Neighbourhood Policy partner countries, on workforce-oriented capability building delivered through the Mediterranean and Black Sea Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (MediPIET). This includes capacity building in epidemic intelligence, risk assessment, preparedness and response and promotion of regional cooperation, knowledge sharing and networking.

The trainings are on epidemic intelligence and rapid risk assessment and will be provided in English (19-23 April 2021) and in Russian (4-10 May 2021) and have the following objectives:

- understand the need to rapidly assess threats from infectious disease or of unknown origin;
- build capacity to perform rapid risk assessments;
- understand the value of a reproducible methodology and rapid appraisal of the available evidence for rapid risk assessment;
- understand the principles of Epidemic Intelligence (EI);
- understand different steps of EI process;
- familiarise with the main EI tools used for EI.

A third training activity on the use of 'epitweetr' – an interactive tool to help with the automatised early detection of public health threats using Twitter data – will take place on 15 June 2021 with the following objectives:

- understand the aims and principles of epitweetr in the context of epidemic intelligence;
- analyse and interpret signals of public health threats detected by

epitweetr;

- acquire skills in using the features of epitweetr, especially dashboard, alerts and configuration;
- understand the signal detection settings that are available in epitweetr;
- understand how to change other epitweetr settings for adapting it to specific users' needs.

### **Information on the EU candidate and potential candidate, and the European Neighbourhood Policy countries**

Current EU candidate countries are Albania, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey. Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo\* are potential candidates.

\*This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) is mainly a bilateral policy between the EU and each partner country and governs the EU's relations with its eastern and southern neighbours: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Palestine\*, Tunisia, Ukraine.

\* This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

### **More information**

[Work Programme 2021 of the EU Initiative on Health Security in English](#)

[Work Programme 2021 of the EU Initiative on Health Security in French](#)

[Work Programme 2021 of the EU Initiative on Health Security in Russian](#)

[Work Programme 2021 of the EU Initiative on Health Security in Arabic](#)

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## **Publication of the CPVO centralised Register of Data Protection Records**

As from 15 April 2021, the CPVO counts on a publicly accessible centralised Register of Records of processing activities being carried out within the remit of the Office where personal data are processed. Making available the centralised Register of Records to the public at large is a legal obligation for European Union Institutions, Bodies, and agencies, based on Article 31(5) of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 ("EUDPR").

The Register of Records can be found in the [Data Protection section of the CPVO website](#) and is available for download below. The Register has been conceived as a user-friendly living document, where the information therein provided is accurate and up-to-date. Accordingly, all records are first internally validated by the respective competent CPVO Data Controllers, and the content of the Register will be regularly reviewed.

The Register contains an Index including hyperlinks which, upon a single click, can take the user directly to the desired record. Any data subject interested in learning how his/her data are being treated, can then easily find the information sought. More precisely, the information reflected in the records is that listed in Article 31(1) of the EUDPR, for instance: description of the processing operation in question, name and contact details of the Controller of the data and of the Data Protection Officer, name of the processors (and sub-processors, if any) of the data, and period of retention of the data, amongst other.

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## [Remarks by President Charles Michel at the signing ceremony of the Georgia agreement with President of Georgia Salome Zourabichvili](#)



Six weeks ago, on 1 March, I met with you all in Tbilisi. I called on you to relaunch political dialogue to set aside the political stalemate in your country and we met at the President's Palace where you are meeting tonight.

I put on the table five substantive points that needed to be addressed to overcome the challenges. I promised to you I would remain engaged. I appointed my Personal Envoy, Mr Danielsson, who visited Georgia twice and I asked my team to accompany the process.

Six weeks later, the crisis is over. I want to thank you all for your commitment and courage to put the differences aside in the interest of Georgia.

I would like to thank the diplomatic team that has worked so tirelessly with you – Christian Danielsson as well as Ambassador Hartzell and Ambassador Degnan. I am thankful for all their efforts. I am thankful to the Prime Minister for his vision. And I am thankful to you, political leaders and elected members of opposition parties for your courageous political choices. I would also like to thank you, President Zourabichvili: we were in close contact throughout this period and would like to thank you for sharing your advice with me.

This agreement is not the finish line. This agreement is the starting point for your work towards consolidating Georgia's democracy and taking Georgia forward on its Euro-Atlantic future.

More than ever, I am convinced Georgian citizens count on you to focus on the pressing challenges Georgia is facing – the economy, the Covid-19 pandemic and its fall out, reforms in the rule of law sphere and the judiciary, as well as the regional challenges.

Lastly, I also believe that the new chapter you have opened today is particularly important in the difficult regional context. The region is facing many challenges, as the Nagorno-Karabakh war painfully reminded us last year. Today, the military build-up along Ukraine's borders and in the illegally-annexed Crimea is of a deep concern.

The way you have addressed the stalemate today is particularly important in this regional context. It is a truly European way of resolving the crisis.

I have the pleasure to announce that I will come to Georgia tomorrow to meet you all to strengthen the ties between Georgia and Europe. This is a clear sign of confidence in you.