

**8 March 2023**

#### **UPDATED GUIDANCE ON THE UK MARITIME SERVICES PROHIBITION AND PRICE CAP**

On 8 March, the EU Sanctions blog reported that OFSI had released updated guidance which included an amended section concerning whether oil products have been substantially processed and co-mingling.

<https://www.europeansanctions.com/2023/03/ofsi-updates-guidance-on-maritime-services-ban-and-price-cap/>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1140563/OFSI\\_Industry\\_Guidance\\_-\\_Maritime\\_Services\\_Prohibition\\_and\\_Oil\\_Price\\_Cap\\_-\\_March\\_2023\\_1\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1140563/OFSI_Industry_Guidance_-_Maritime_Services_Prohibition_and_Oil_Price_Cap_-_March_2023_1_.pdf)

#### **GIBRALTAR: TOBACCO RETAILER APPEARS IN COURT ON £22 MILLION TAX EVASION AND MONEY LAUNDERING CHARGES**

On 7 March, GBC reported that a local shop owner has been charged with concealing a turnover of more than £22 million in undeclared tobacco sales from the tax office. The alleged offences date back to between 2015 and 2020.

<https://www.gbc.gi/news/tobacco-retailer-appears-court-22-million-tax-evasion-and-money-laundering-charges>

#### **INDIA: CRYPTO TRANSACTIONS, VIRTUAL ASSETS TO COME UNDER MONEY LAUNDERING ACT**

On 8 March, NDTV and others reported that the finance ministry had announced that cryptocurrency transactions would now come under the ambit of money laundering provisions. It was said that participation in transactions involving virtual digital assets would be under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), and that the move is the latest step taken by the government to tighten oversight of digital assets.

<https://www.ndtv.com/business/crypto-transactions-virtual-assets-to-come-under-money-laundering-act-3843830>

<https://english.jagran.com/business/cryptocurrency-trade-virtual-assets-to-now-come-under-prevention-of-money-laundering-act-centre-10068153>

## **EU INCREASES FOCUS ON NFT IN LEAKED DRAFT OF AML LEGISLATION**

On 7 March, Coingeek reported that the European Parliament is proposing changes to the upcoming EU AML legislation to emphasize that NFT platforms and companies providing NFT-related services are within the scope of the relevant EU Regulations.

<https://coingeek.com/eu-increases-focus-on-nfts-in-leaked-draft-of-anti-money-laundering-bill/>

## **2 MONTREAL COMPANIES SANCTIONED BY US FOR ALLEGED TIES TO RUSSIA**

On 7 March, CTV News reported that CPUNTO Inc and Electronic Network Inc had been added to a list of entities that face strict export controls because of their "significant" contribution to Russia's "military and/or defense industrial base". Both companies describe themselves online as sellers of electronic components. A professor at the Royal Military College and Queen's University is quoted as saying that the case should be seen as sort of the canary in the coal mine, and that Canada needs to do a lot better and work a lot harder at making sure that this country isn't used to evade international sanctions if the federal government pretends to be serious about its support for Ukraine.

<https://montreal.ctvnews.ca/ukraine-war-2-montreal-companies-sanctioned-by-u-s-for-alleged-ties-to-russia-1.6302688>

## **EU COURT HALTS SANCTIONS AGAINST WAGNER CHIEF'S MOTHER**

On 8 March, Barron's reported that the EU General Court EU court had annulled EU sanctions imposed on Violetta Prigozhina, the mother of Yevgeny Prigozhin, ruling that the EU had not proved she was linked to her son's actions in Ukraine.

<https://www.barrons.com/news/eu-court-halts-sanctions-against-wagner-chief-s-mother-37c78f37>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-08/wagner-group-founder-s-mother-wins-challenge-to-eu-sanctions>

## **MULTILATERAL EXPORT CONTROL REGIMES AND THE ZANGGER COMMITTEE**

The Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation has issued 2 factsheets. One lists the multilateral arms controls bodies – the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), Zangger Committee, and the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) – with a potted history of each, objectives etc.

<https://armscontrolcenter.org/multilateral-export-control-regimes/>

## **US: PREVENTING AND COUNTERING THE USE OF CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY NON-STATE ACTORS**

On 7 March, a news release from the State Department said that the Department's Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation (ISN) is bolstering its diplomacy and programs in support of the National Security Memorandum (NSM) 19 to Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction Terrorism and Advance Nuclear and Radioactive Material Security worldwide. It is said to be collaborating with partners to counter the threat posed by non-state actor and terrorist groups acquiring, trafficking, and using WMD and related materials, equipment, and expertise and to strengthen partners' nuclear and radioactive material security regimes. The news release lists the relevant initiatives.

<https://www.state.gov/the-bureau-of-international-security-and-nonproliferation-advances-the-national-security-memorandum-to-counter-wmd-terrorism-and-advance-nuclear-and-radioactive-material-security/>

## **UK: MODERN SLAVERY CASES IN THE IMMIGRATION SYSTEM**

On 8 March, a briefing from the House of Commons Library says that British citizens were the most common nationality affected between 2019 and 2021, followed by Albanian and Vietnamese citizens respectively.

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9744/CBP-9744.pdf>

## **UK: CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCIES (CBDC) - THE DIGITAL POUND**

On 8 March, the House of Commons Library published a briefing saying that the Government and the Bank of England have been exploring the idea of introducing a CBDC – a “digital pound”. In February, they announced that although they hadn't decided to launch a digital pound, but that they believed it was “likely” to be needed in the future, and the parties were consulting on principles and plans.

<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9191/CBP-9191.pdf>

## **UK: 1 NAME ADDED TO SYRIA SANCTIONS LIST**

On 8 March, HM Treasury issued a Notice advising that Amjad YOUSSEF, a member of the Syrian security and intelligence services, had been added to its sanctions lists.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1140976/Notice\\_Syria\\_080323.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1140976/Notice_Syria_080323.pdf)

### **UK: 1 NAME ADDED TO SOUTH SUDAN SANCTIONS LIST**

On 8 March, HM Treasury issued a Notice advising that James NANDO, had been added to sanctions lists for human rights abuses.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1140973/Notice\\_South\\_Sudan\\_080323.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1140973/Notice_South_Sudan_080323.pdf)

### **UK: 1 NAME ADDED TO CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SANCTIONS LIST**

On 8 March, HM Treasury issued a Notice advising that Mahamat Salleh Adoum KETTE, a local armed group leader with the Front Populaire pour la Renaissance de la Centrafrique (FPRC), has been added to sanctions lists.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1140969/Notice\\_Central\\_African\\_Republic\\_080323.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1140969/Notice_Central_African_Republic_080323.pdf)

### **UNDERSTANDING THE ART MARKET AND AML REGULATIONS**

On 8 March, an article from RUSI says that the world's largest art markets lack robust AML supervision. This exacerbates their appeal as a destination for illicit finance. The article argues that stronger national and international responses are needed.

<https://rusi.org/publication/understanding-art-market-and-anti-money-laundering-regulations>

### **EXPLORING MECHANISMS TO RECOVER THE PROCEEDS OF KLEPTOCRACY**

On 7 March, a paper published by RUSI explores alternative asset recovery mechanisms that could help respond to the immediate policy goal surrounding Russian-linked sanctioned assets and contribute to strengthening the broader asset recovery framework in the UK for the longer term.

The paper research looks at examples of three alternative mechanisms across 4 jurisdictions – Australia, Switzerland, Ireland and Italy – weighing their potential and limitations in relation to issues such as a lower standard of proof or reversed burden of proof, as well as reframing around 'societal danger', and their legal applicability in UK legislation.

<https://ik.imagekit.io/po8th4g4eqj/prod/soc-ace-rp16-how-to-seize-a-illion-mar23.pdf>

## **UK GDPR PROPOSALS**

On 7 March, an article from Pillsbury says that Data Protection & Digital Information Bill (DPDI) changes will be announced shortly in a further shake-up of UK data laws. The stated goal is to “cut red tape” and position the UK as a more attractive location for digital economy businesses post-Brexit. It warns that it runs counter to the trend of more GDPR-like laws being passed and risk the UK’s data laws adequacy status with the EU.

<https://www.pillsburylaw.com/en/news-and-insights/new-uk-gdpr-proposals.html>

## **JERSEY: COURT ORDERS FORFEITURE OF CORRUPT FUNDS FROM MOZAMBIQUE**

On 7 March, a news release from the Jersey Government advised that, on 3 March, Jersey’s Royal Court ordered the forfeiture of £777,581 from a Jersey trust which had been placed there by a Mozambican national who received corrupt payments in the course of his employment.

<https://www.gov.je/News/2023/Pages/CourtOrdersForfeitureOfCorruptFunds.aspx>

## **LATIN AMERICA: 5 TAKEAWAYS FROM US STATE DEPARTMENT NARCOTICS REPORT**

On 7 March, Insight Crime published an article about the 2023 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report from the US State Department. The article highlights cocaine production trends, with production spreading slowly; synthetic drug labs in Mexico; the latest cocaine routes; and US exporting marijuana.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/5-takeaways-us-state-department-narcotics-report/>

<https://insightcrime.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/629180578-Informe-del-Departamento-de-Estado-revela-que-el-97-de-la-cocaina-que-ingresa-a-EE-UU-proviene-de-Colombia.pdf>

## **FAKE BITCOIN PLATFORM DEFRAUDS HALF-A-MILLION EGYPTIANS**

On 5 March, the Middle East Eye reported that thousands of Egyptians were the victims of fraud by a fictitious online platform that promoted itself as a Bitcoin investment vehicle, according to a new report. It is said that "Hogpool" collected millions of Egyptian pounds from users over a 7-month period, before those responsible for the company shut down the website and disappeared.

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/egypt-fake-bitcoin-platform-defrauds-press-review>

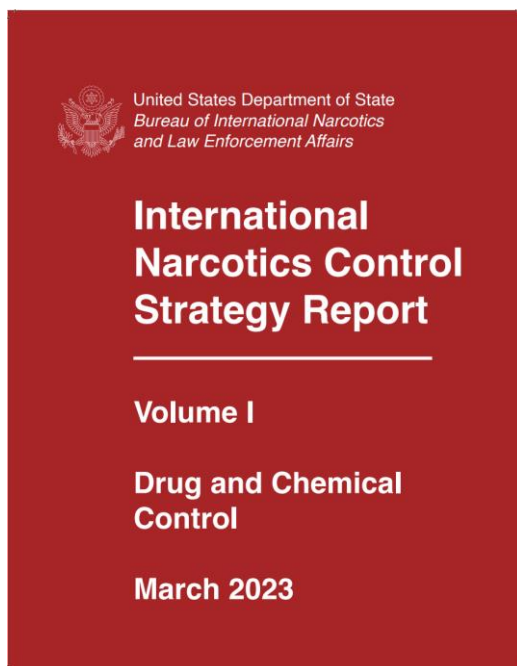
## **COLOMBIA'S COMPTROLLER WANTS TO RECOVER \$209 MILLION OF STATE RESOURCES STOLEN THROUGH ORGANISED CORRUPTION**

On 6 March, NASDAQ reported that the new comptroller general's office has recovered 350 billion pesos in Rodriguez's first 6 months leading the agency, greater than the 200 billion pesos it recovered in the 4 years prior to his taking office in September.

<https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/colombias-comptroller-eyes-recovery-of-%24209-mIn-in-stolen-funds>

## **US STATE DEPARTMENT INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL STRATEGY REPORT 2023**

The State Department has published the latest edition of this annual publication.



<https://insightcrime.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/629180578-Informe-del-Departamento-de-Estado-revela-que-el-97-de-la-cocaina-que-ingresa-a-EE-UU-proviene-de-Colombia.pdf>

## **US: 2 ARRESTED FOR PROVIDING AVIONICS EQUIPMENT AND REPAIR SERVICES TO ENTITIES THAT OPERATED RUSSIAN-BUILT AIRCRAFT IN RUSSIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES**

On 8 March, the EU Sanctions blog reported that the 2 men are alleged to have owned and operated KanRus Trading Company Inc, and that, since October 2020, they repeatedly concealed and misstated the true end-users, value and end destinations of the exported products by, among other things, submitting false export documents, exporting items to intermediary companies and transshipping items through third countries, such as Germany, the UAE, Cyprus and Armenia.

<https://www.europeansanctions.com/2023/03/us-charges-2-for-unlawful-exporting-of-avionics-to-russia/>

## **US NAVY'S TOP INTELLIGENCE OFFICER SAID CHINA MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THREATENING WORLD FOOD SECURITY AS ITS GLOBALLY OPERATING FISHING FLEET HAULS IN ILLEGAL CATCH**

On 6 March, USNI News reported that the official made the statement at a regional maritime conference in Panama.

<https://news.usni.org/2023/03/06/secnav-navy-maritime-intel-director-give-warnings-about-illegal-chinese-fishing>

## **LEGISLATIVE TRACKER - A FREE PUBLIC DATABASE TRACKING LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO US ARMS SALES AND SECURITY ASSISTANCE**

The Center for International Policy has released this database which tracks new legislation generally pertaining to US security assistance, defence cooperation, and arms sales. This list is updated weekly, and all information is publicly available and searchable on the federal Library of Congress website.

[https://www.internationalpolicy.org/legislativetracker?blm\\_aid=199689140](https://www.internationalpolicy.org/legislativetracker?blm_aid=199689140)

## **WESTERN COMPANIES CERTIFIED SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE TRADE IN MYANMAR TEAK LINKED TO MILITARY REGIME**

On 2 March, ICIJ said that Myanmar teak is prized by luxury yacht and high-end furniture makers worldwide. The wood is so dense and weather-resistant that some call it the “king of woods”. It’s also a vital revenue source for Myanmar’s regime. It reports on an investigation which exposes broader flaws in the global system meant to prevent deforestation and combat climate change. Conducted with 39 media partners, the probe shows how environmental auditors and so-called certification firms have given their seal of approval to products linked to deforestation, logging activities in conflict zones and other abuses to enter markets all over the world.

<https://www.icij.org/investigations/deforestation-inc/myanmar-teak-trade-sanctions-military-regime>

## **ISLE OF MAN CONFIRMS AMENDMENT FOR ONE ENTRY ON DRC SANCTIONS LIST**

On 8 March, the Isle of Man advised that the entry for Bosco TAGANDA on the DR Congo sanctions list had been amended.

<https://www.gov.im/news/2023/mar/08/financial-sanctions-democratic-republic-of-the-congo/>

## **OFAC: ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, OFAC SANCTIONS IRANIAN OFFICIALS AND ENTITIES FOR SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES**

On 8 March, OFAC announced that it was sanctioning several Iranian regime officials and entities, including 2 senior officials in Iran's prison system who have been responsible for serious human rights abuses against women and girls. OFAC is also taking action against the top commander of the Iranian army and a high-ranking leader in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), as well as an Iranian official who was central to the regime's efforts to block internet access. Finally, OFAC is sanctioning 3 Iranian companies and their leadership for enabling the violent repression by the Iranian Law Enforcement Forces (LEF) of peaceful protestors, including many women and girls.

<https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-sanctions/recent-actions/20230308>

<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy1327>

## **4 BANKERS IN SWITZERLAND ACCUSED OF HELPING TO HIDE PUTIN'S MILLIONS**

On 8 March, the Guardian reported that the men, who had senior roles at the Swiss branch of Russia's Gazprombank, are accused of helping Sergei Roldugin – a close friend of the Russian President – to move millions through Swiss bank accounts without the proper due diligence checks.

[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/mar/08/four-bankers-in-switzerland-accused-of-](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/mar/08/four-bankers-in-switzerland-accused-of-helping-to-hide-vladimir-putin-millions)

[helping-to-hide-vladimir-putin-millions](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/mar/08/four-bankers-in-switzerland-accused-of-helping-to-hide-vladimir-putin-millions)

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/KoLvM842y>

