

**13 March 2024**

#### **WHY WOULD A TRADITIONAL FINANCIAL PLAYER BE INTERESTED IN ISSUING A STABLECOIN?**

On 7 March, this paper from the Centre for European Policy Studies says that, hitherto, the number of traditional players interested in a piece of the cake by developing their own crypto-assets or by allowing for the trading of crypto-assets on their platforms have remained limited. It examines the rationale behind traditional financial players expanding their activities into the field of crypto-assets, and discusses the case of PayPal, Société Générale and DWS who are developing their own stablecoin which they will make available to their customers.

<https://www.ceps.eu/ceps-publications/why-would-a-traditional-financial-player-be-interested-in-issuing-a-stablecoin>

#### **BERMUDA: COURT MAKES THE ENFORCEMENT OF A JUDGMENT CONDITIONAL ON THE PROVISION OF SECURITY BECAUSE CLAIMANT MIGHT BE SUBJECTED TO EU SANCTIONS**

On 13 March, the Global Sanctions blog reported that Court of Appeal has made the enforcement of a judgment conditional on the provision of security because Mr Ivanishvili, the former Prime Minister of Georgia, might be subjected to EU sanctions (something the European Parliament has called for), and, as a result there would be significant difficulty in enforcing a judgment against him.

<https://globalsanctions.co.uk/2024/03/bermuda-court-makes-receipt-of-judgment-debt-conditional-on-provision-of-security-because-of-potential-sanctions-on-ivanishvili/>

#### **CHINA RECLAIMS NUMBER 2 SPOT IN GLOBAL ART MARKET**

On 13 March, Nikkei Asia said that a new report said that China had reclaimed its position as the world's second-largest art market in 2023, after the US, as pent-up demand supported sales of inventory left over from auctions cancelled due to its strict zero-COVID policy.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Life-Arts/Arts/China-reclaims-No.-2-spot-in-global-art-market-report-says>

#### **UK INTRODUCES NEW EXPORT CONTROLS ON EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES**

On 13 March, the Global Sanctions blog reported on new regulations amending UK export control law, noting new controls on emerging technologies in the UK, including quantum, cryogenic, semiconductor, additive manufacturing, and advanced materials.

<https://globalsanctions.co.uk/2024/03/uk-introduces-new-export-controls-on-emerging-technologies-amends-existing-export-controls/>

## **GIBRALTAR: NEW RESTRICTIONS INTRODUCED AS CORRUPTION INQUIRY PREPARES TO TAKE EVIDENCE**

On 13 March, in his blog, BBC Legal Correspondent Joshua Rosenberg reported concerns about emergency legislation that lawyers believe could prevent a current corruption inquiry operating effectively. The inquiry is into the reasons and circumstances leading to the early retirement of the territory's police commissioner in June 2020, who claims he was forced out of office because he had executed a search warrant against a friend of the chief minister. The substantive inquiry is scheduled to open on 8 April. It seems that the lawyers are worried over new, emergency legislation based on 2005 UK law which gives very wide powers to ministers. The government can limit public attendance at an inquiry, restrict the disclosure of documents, block publication of findings and even close an inquiry down. In response to criticism, the government has said that it has no intention to use the power to stop or delay the current inquiry, is clear that there has been no "corruption at the highest levels of the government of Gibraltar" and has itself called the inquiry to investigate such allegations.

<https://rozenberg.substack.com/>

<https://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/press-releases/transparency-international-has-no-cause-to-warn-of-any-threat-to-independence-of-the-mcgrail-inquiry-1702024-9715>

## **UK: BUSINESSMAN AT THE HEART OF THE SECRETIVE DEALS THAT BANKRUPTED A LOCAL COUNCIL IS BEING SUED FOR FRAUD BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY**

On 8 March, the TBIJ reported that Thurrock Council has instructed a law firm to bring a commercial fraud claim against Liam Kavanagh and his company, Rockfire Capital. This follows a 4-year investigation by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (TBIJ) into losses by the Essex council of as much as £130 million.

<https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/stories/2024-03-08/thurrock-launches-fraud-claim-against-businessman-behind-councils-disastrous-deals>

## **WHICH OFFENCES CANNOT TRIGGER AN INTERPOL RED NOTICE?**

On 22 January, Nyman Gibson Miralis in Australia published an article about the Red Notice - an electronic alert published by INTERPOL which alerts police worldwide that a person is wanted for arrest in another county. It details the types of offences for which a Red Notice cannot be issued – Category 1 - offences that in various countries raise controversial issues relating to behavioural or cultural norms;

Category 2 - offences relating to family/private matters; and

Category 3 - offences originating from a violation of laws or regulations of an administrative nature or deriving from private disputes, unless the criminal activity is aimed at facilitating a serious crime or is suspected of being connected to organised crime.

<https://ngm.com.au/offences-that-cannot-trigger-an-interpol-red-notice/>

### **SNAPSHOT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REGISTRIES IN G7 COUNTRIES**

On 11 March, Athenian noted that, as of March 2024, there are 149 countries worldwide that have committed to beneficial ownership registries, and there are also global standards for beneficial ownership collection and disclosure set by FATF to which countries must adhere.

<https://www.athennian.com/post/snapshot-of-beneficial-ownership-registries-in-g7-countries>

### **THE PROPOSED EU REGISTER OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP FOR OVERSEAS ENTITIES**

On 11 March, this article from Herbert Smith Freehills said that the Council of the European Union and the EU Parliament had announced their intention to create a register of the beneficial ownership of all foreign entities that own real estate in the EU. The proposed register forms part of a new package of protections against money laundering and terrorist financing which were announced by the Council on 18 January.

<https://hsfnotes.com/realestatedevelopment/2024/03/11/unveiling-beneficial-real-estate-ownership-across-europe-examining-the-proposed-eu-register-of-beneficial-ownership-for-overseas-entities/#page=1>

### **EU LIFTS SANCTIONS ON ARKADY VOLOZH**

On 13 March, Cybernews reported that the EU has removed the restrictive measures that it had placed on Arkady Volozh, a Russian tech billionaire and co-founder of Russian internet giant Yandex.

<https://cybernews.com/news/eu-lifts-sanctions-on-arkady-volozh/>

See also -

### **SQUATTERS NOT YET LEAVING RUSSIAN BILLIONAIRE'S AMSTERDAM HOME AFTER EU SANCTIONS CHANGE**

On 13 March, NL Times reported that the EU has removed Russian oligarch Arkady Volozh from its sanctions list, but squatters continue to currently occupying the multi-million mansion next to the Vondelpark.

<https://nltimes.nl/2024/03/13/squatters-yet-leaving-russian-billionaires-amsterdam-home-eu-sanctions-change>

## **CYPRUS: AML SWOOPS SEIZE MILLIONS IN ASSETS**

On 13 March, Cyprus Mail reported that the AML unit (Mokas) has seized approximately €10 million, as well as 9 luxury vehicles, 4 properties and cryptocurrencies assets over the past 2 years as part of investigations into money laundering.

<https://cyprus-mail.com/2024/03/13/anti-money-laundering-swoops-seize-millions-in-assets/>

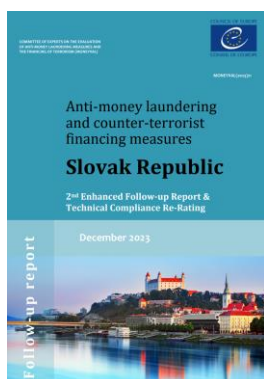
## **INSIDE THE SECRET GLOBAL TRADE OF ASIAN ART**

On 13 March, a report from Politico says that, at a time when museums around the world are wrestling with the sometimes questionable provenances of their collections, the story of a gold Buddha — and that of the man who bought and sold it — offers a window into the private antiquities trade, a multi-billion dollar industry in which tens of thousands of pieces of cultural heritage change hands in plain sight with little or no regulatory oversight of how they ended up on the market in the first place.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/istvan-zelnik-cambodia-antiquities-secret-trade/>

## **SLOVAKIA: AML/CFT EVALUATION FOLLOW-UP REPORT**

On 13 March, MONEYVAL released this follow-up report. MONEYVAL concludes that it has taken positive steps towards improving its AML/CFT regime, in particular concerning compliance with FATF Recommendation 26 on the regulation and supervision of financial institutions. Consequently, MONEYVAL has re-rated the country on this recommendation from Partially Compliant to Largely Compliant. Overall, the Slovak Republic has made progress in addressing most of the technical compliance shortcomings identified in its 2020 Mutual Evaluation Report. Out of the 40 Recommendations, the country currently has 5 Recommendations rated Compliant, 23 Recommendations rated Largely Compliant, and 12 Recommendations rated Partially Compliant. It will remain in enhanced follow-up and will report back to MONEYVAL on progress to strengthen its implementation of AML/CFT measures in December 2024.



<https://rm.coe.int/moneyval-2023-21-sk-5thround-2ndenhfur/1680ae98c8>

**Table 1. Technical compliance with re-ratings, December 2023**

R.1 LC (FUR 2022) PC	R.2 C	R.3 LC	R.4 LC	R.5 LC
R.6 LC	R.7 LC	R.8 PC (FUR2 2023) PC	R.9 LC	R.10 PC (FUR1 2022) PC
R.11 LC	R.12 PC (FUR1 2022) PC	R.13 PC (FUR 2022) PC	R.14 LC	R.15 PC (FUR1 2022) LC
R.16 LC	R.17 LC	R.18 PC (FUR 2022) PC	R.19 PC (FUR 2022) PC	R.20 C (FUR1 2022) PC
R.21 LC	R.22 LC	R.23 PC (FUR 2022) PC	R.24 LC	R.25 LC
R.26 LC (FUR2 2023) PC (FUR 2022) PC	R.27 LC	R.28 PC (FUR2 2023) PC (FUR1 2022) PC	R.29 PC (FUR 2022) PC	R.30 C (FUR1 2022) PC
R.31 LC	R.32 PC (FUR 2022) PC	R.33 C (FUR 2022) PC	R.34 LC	R.35 PC
R.36 LC	R.37 C	R.38 LC	R.39 LC	R.40 LC

Note: There are four possible levels of technical compliance: compliant (C), largely compliant (LC), partially compliant (PC), and non-compliant (NC).

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/moneyval/-/slovakia-strengthened-its-regulations-for-financial-institutions>

## IAEA PROJECT CONSIDERS IMPLICATIONS OF COUNTERFEIT AND FRAUDULENT ITEMS IN THE NUCLEAR SECTOR

On 13 March, World Nuclear News reported that the trade in counterfeit and fraudulent items accounts for an estimated 2.5% of world trade, according to a 2021 study by the OECD. A major research project aims to assess the implications for the nuclear sector. The trade in counterfeit, fraudulent and suspect items (CFSI) is believed to have been exacerbated by supply chain interruptions such as those caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/IAEA-project-considers-implications-of-counterfeit?feed=feed>

## EU: UPDATE OF RUSSIA SANCTIONS LISTS – AMENDMENTS AND REPLACEMENTS

EU Regulation 2024/849/EU amended the existing entries for 97 individuals and 9 entities. Additionally, the entries for 9 deceased persons, as well as those for 3 other persons are deleted.

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L\\_202400849](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202400849)

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L\\_202400847](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202400847)

## BANGLADESH-FLAGGED BULKER HIJACKED OFF SOMALIA AS RESURGENT PIRACY THREAT ESCALATES

On 12 March, Lloyds List reported that pirates have taken control of a Bangladesh bulker, the *Abdullah*, with 23 crew on board as it sailed from Mozambique to UAE carrying coal. This is the latest

in a recent surge in piracy incidents being carried out by several groups of pirates now stalking the Indian Ocean in hijacked ‘motherships’.

<https://www.lloydslist.com/LL1148523/Bangladesh-flagged-bulker-hijacked-off-Somalia-as-resurgent-piracy-threat-escalates>

#### **EU: CLASSIFICATION, LABELLING AND PACKAGING OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES AND MIXTURES**

On 13 March, the EU Parliament Research Service published a briefing about a proposed a revision of the relevant EU Regulation on the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, one of the two cornerstones of the EU's framework regulating chemicals.

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2023/751425/EPRS\\_BRI\(2023\)751425\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2023/751425/EPRS_BRI(2023)751425_EN.pdf)

#### **ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION CONFRONTS GUATEMALA’S ‘CONTINUUM OF IMPUNITY’**

On 12 March, Insight Crime reported on the National Commission Against Corruption (*Comisión Nacional contra la Corrupción – CNC*). In an interview, InSight Crime met with the new head of CNC at its offices in Guatemala City to discuss what challenges lie ahead. The new man takes charge following years of backsliding on corruption. Prosecutors linked to corruption networks have transformed the Attorney General’s Office into a weapon for persecuting political rivals. That includes President Arévalo, who faced legal attacks by Attorney General Consuelo Porras before taking office in early January.

<https://insightcrime.org/news/anti-corruption-commission-confronts-guatemala-continuum-impunity/>

#### **INDIA: CRYPTO MINING “APP” SCAM – 299 ENTITIES AND CHINESE NATIONALS CHARGED**

On 6 March, ABP reported that among the accused are 76 entities controlled by Chinese nationals, with 10 directors being of Chinese origin, along with 2 entities controlled by other foreign nationals.

<https://news.abplive.com/business/crypto-mining-app-scam-ed-files-charge-sheet-against-299-entities-including-chinese-nationals-1669968>

#### **GUERNSEY: CHANGE TO SANCTIONS LEGISLATION**

On 8 March, the FSC reported on amendments have been made to the Terrorist Asset-Freezing (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law 2011 (the Terrorist Asset Freezing Law) and the Sanctions (Bailiwick of Guernsey) Law, 2018 (the Sanctions Law). The changes bring the wording of these measures in line with corresponding wording and effect of UK sanctions regimes that are applicable in the island.

<https://www.gfsc.gg/news/sanctions-notice-change-sanctions-legislation>

#### **GERMANY: 5 INDICTED FOR €53 MILLION VAT FRAUD**

On 6 March, a news release from the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) in Cologne reported charges against 5 members of an organised crime group, suspected of a large-scale VAT fraud scheme concerning the international trade of more than 10,000 cars.

<https://www.eppo.europa.eu/en/news/investigation-huracan-five-indicted-eu53-million-vat-fraud>

#### **US SUPREME COURT DECISION RECOGNISES ENFORCEABILITY OF CHOICE-OF-LAW CLAUSES IN MARITIME CONTRACTS, SUBJECT TO NARROW EXCEPTIONS**

On 12 March, Reed Smith reported that the Court has held that *"choice-of-law provisions in maritime contracts are presumptively enforceable as a matter of federal maritime law, with certain narrow exceptions"*. It recognised 2 exceptions.

<https://www.shiplawlog.com/2024/03/12/choice-of-law-clauses-maritime-contracts/>

#### **OFAC TARGETS REPUBLIKA SRPSKA OFFICIALS FOR ACTIVITY UNDERMINING THE DAYTON PEACE AGREEMENT**

On 13 March, OFAC advised that it was designating 3 individuals who have contributed to Specially Designated National (SDN) and Republika Srpska President Milorad Dodik's efforts to undermine the peace and stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) by organising and executing the commemoration of "Republika Srpska Day" on 9 January 2024, an activity determined to be unconstitutional in BiH. These individuals facilitated Dodik's efforts to undermine the Dayton Peace Agreement (DPA) and the authority of the BiH Constitutional Court and the High Representative.

<https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20240313>

<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2175>

#### **US: CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC COMPANY REMOVED FROM RUSSIA SANCTIONS LIST**

On 13 March, OFAC advised that FIRST INDUSTRIAL COMPANY SAU had been removed from sanctions lists.

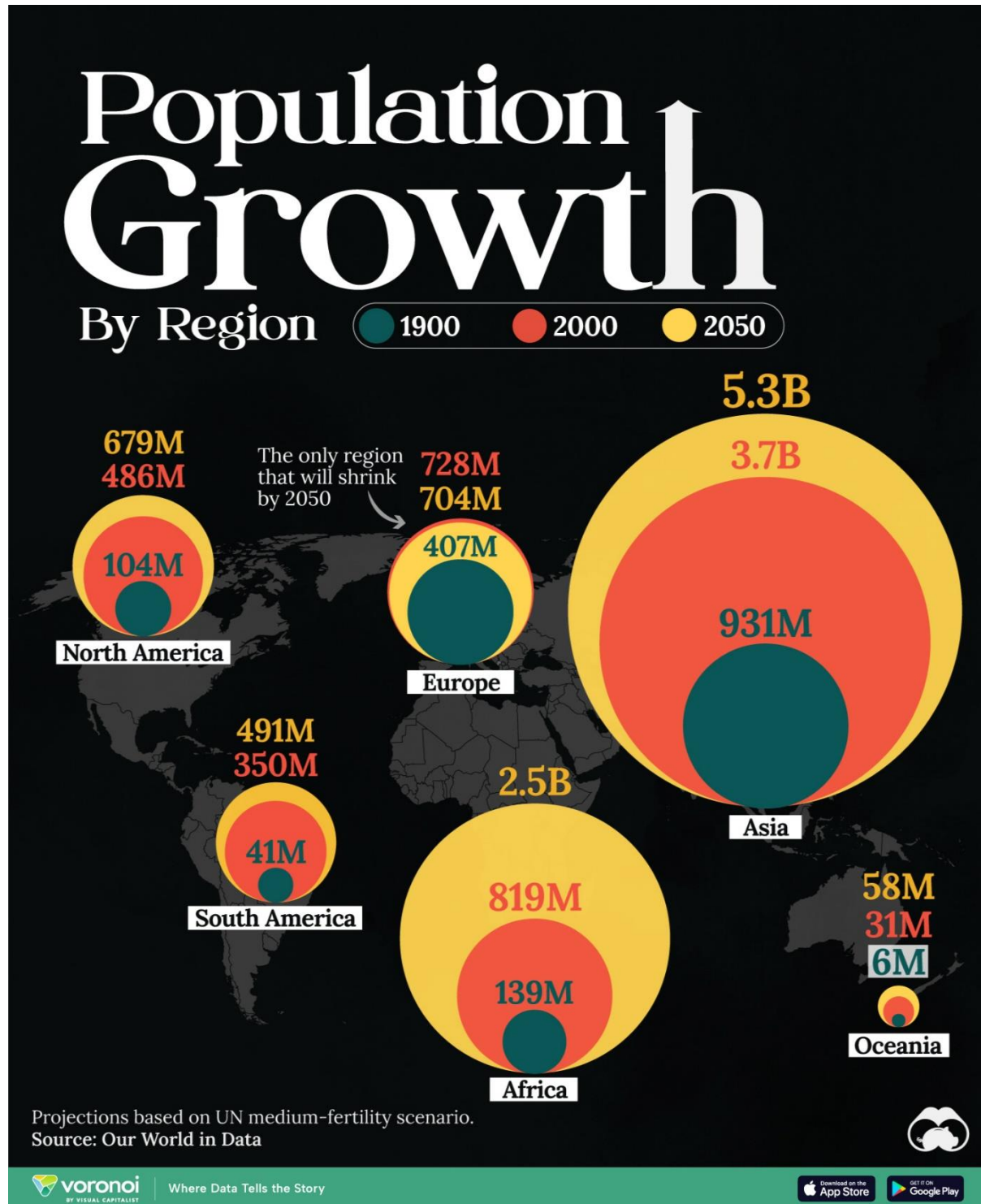
<https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20240313>

#### **UN TOOLKIT ON SYNTHETIC DRUGS: SAFE HANDLING AND DISPOSAL MODULE**

On 13 March, the UN announced that the UN Toolkit on Synthetic Drugs has developed this module, being released on 21 March, to showcase practical resources on the secure handling and disposal of

hazardous substances commonly associated with the production of synthetic drugs. Additionally, the module provides insights on how to bolster national disposal initiatives.

<https://syntheticdrugs.unodc.org/syntheticdrugs/en/safe-handling-and-disposal/index.html>

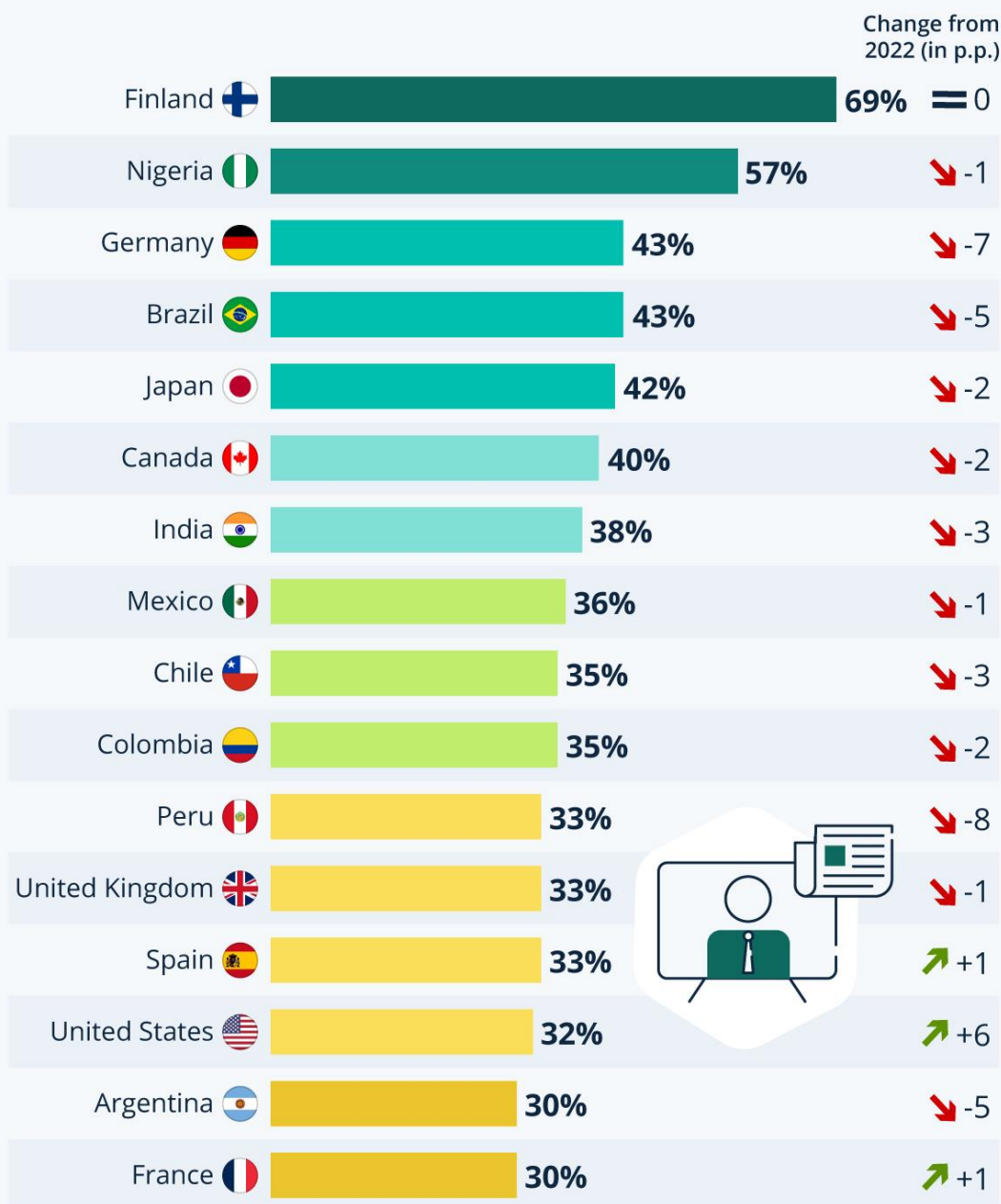


<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/mapped-population-growth-by-region-1900-2050f/>



# Where Trust In The News Is Highest & Lowest

Share of respondents in selected countries who agree that "you can trust news most of the time" (2023)



2,000 respondents per country surveyed online Jan.-Feb. 2023

Source: Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2023



## **UK: DISGRACED TYCOON DOMINIC CHAPPELL IS RECALLED TO PRISON AFTER SERVING 3 YEARS FOR TAX FRAUD**

On 13 March, the Daily Mail reported that Dominic Chappell who purchased BHS for £1 has been recalled to prison after serving 3 years for tax fraud. The former BHS boss was released from Guys Marsh Prison in Dorset in November, but was recalled this week for breaching his licence conditions.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-13193515/Disgraced-tycoon-Dominic-Chappell-purchased-BHS-1-recalled-prison-serving-three-years-tax-fraud-following-breach-licence-conditions.html>

## **NEGLIGENCE, PHYSICAL AND VERBAL ABUSE ARE COMMON IN UNREGULATED FISHING INDUSTRY**

On 13 March, the Guardian carried an often harrowing report on conditions aboard fishing vessels such as those operated by Taiwan. It says that labour groups and government officials are pushing to rein in rampant abuses of workers in the fishing industry, where migrant labourers are frequently subjected to slavery and violence from employers. 1 out of every 5 fish is caught through illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in conditions where abuses of workers are common, according to a UN estimate. Child labour or forced labour has been documented in the production of fish, dried fish, shellfish and shrimp in 20 countries, according to the US Department of Labor.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2024/mar/13/fishing-industry-worker-abuse>

## **US: END FENTANYL ACT HEADED FOR PRESIDENT'S SIGNATURE**

On 11 March, Homeland Preparedness News reported that the Eradicating Narcotic Drugs and Formulating Effective New Tools to Address National Yearly Losses of Life (END FENTANYL) Act is headed for review by President Biden. If passed, it would require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to update the agency's policies at least once every 3 years. The aim of this would be to make sure CBP's policies are updated at least once every 3 years to ensure up to date operational field manuals.

<https://homelandprepnews.com/stories/81800-end-fentanyl-act-headed-for-presidents-signature-with-policy-updates-promised-for-cbp/>

## **EXPLAINER: WHAT IS THE UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS?**

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime has published this article to explain the purposes of the Commission, as it met to take stock of progress made in the implementation of international drug policy commitments. The CND is where UN member states set policy on all issues related to drugs. 53 Member States from all regions of the world are elected to serve 4-year terms.

[https://www.unodc.org/unodc/news/2024/March/explainer\\_what-is-the-commission-on-narcotic-drugs.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/news/2024/March/explainer_what-is-the-commission-on-narcotic-drugs.html)

### **US: FRAUD IS THE NUMBER ONE CRIME IN MONEY LAUNDERING**

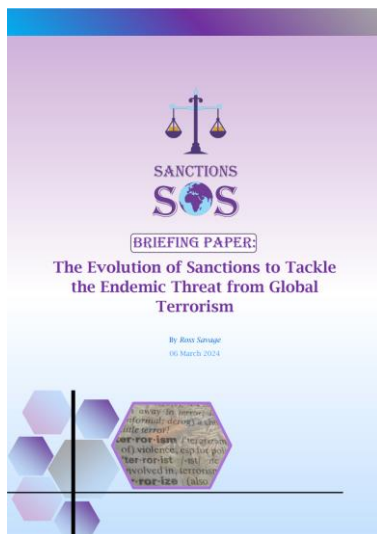
On 13 March, an article from Foodman CPAs & Associates commented on the US Treasury national money laundering risk assessment, noting that “*fraud remains the largest and most significant proceed-generating crime for which funds are laundered in or through the United States. Fraud, both in the private sector and in government benefits and payments, continues to be the largest driver of money laundering activity in terms of the scope of activity and volume of illicit proceeds, generating billions of dollars annually*”.

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/fraud-is-the-number-one-crime-in-money-8342371/>

<http://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/2024-National-Money-Laundering-Risk-Assessment.pdf>

### **THE EVOLUTION OF SANCTIONS TO TACKLE THE ENDEMIC THREAT FROM GLOBAL TERRORISM**

This report from Sanctions SOS in the UK sets out to examine the evolution of sanctions, as used to tackle the endemic threat from global terrorism.



<https://www.sanctionssos.com>

### **HONDURAS: ARREST WARRANTS ISSUED FOR GENERALS WHO TRAVELLED TO THE US TO TESTIFY IN THE TRIAL AGAINST FORMER PRESIDENT HERNÁNDEZ**

On 13 March, La Prensa de Panama reported that a military court had ordered the arrest of 2 generals for traveling without permission to New York to testify in the trial against former President Juan Orlando Hernández for drug trafficking. Hernández, extradited in April 2022, was found guilty earlier this month.

<https://www.prensa.com/mundo/ordenan-captura-de-generales-que-viajaron-a-estados-unidos-para-declarar-en-el-juicio-contr-a-el-expresidente-hernandez/>

### **REMOTE ID PROOFING - GOOD PRACTICES**

On 12 March, the EU Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA) published this guide, through this report, ENISA aims to enhance stakeholder awareness, facilitate risk analysis in evolving threat landscapes, and bolster trustworthiness in remote identity proofing methods.



<https://www.enisa.europa.eu/publications/remote-id-proofing-good-practices>

### **TRUST IN LATIN AMERICAN GOVERNMENTS IS VERY LOW**

On 13 March, La Estrella de Panama reported on an OECD and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) study, saying that, in 2022, only 36.3% of people had confidence in their governments in Latin America and the Caribbean, a figure in global terms that is clearly below the OECD average. One of the elements that weighs on this trust is the perception that corruption is widespread in government (in Panama, 86% agreed with this view).

<https://www.laestrella.com.pa/mundo/estudio-de-la-ocde-y-el-bid-confianza-en-los-gobiernos-latinoamericanos-es-muy-baja-XY6405365>

### **US HAS ASKED PANAMA TO REMOVE THE FLAG FROM IRANIAN SHIPS**

On 13 March, la Estrella reported that a US had envoy explained that he was visiting Panama to ask the authorities to remove the Panamanian flag from vessels that violate the sanctions imposed against Iran.

<https://www.laestrella.com.pa/economia/ee-uu-pide-a-panama-retirar-bandera-de-buques-usados-por-iran-para-evadir-sanciones-NA6406179>

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A (VERY) MODEST CONTRIBUTION FOR MY TIME AND COSTS, YOU**

**CAN "BUY ME A COFFEE"**

**CONTRIBUTIONS START FROM JUST \$3 AT**

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/KolvM842y>