

5 May 2024

US: UKRAINE, ISRAEL, AND TAIWAN EXPANDS SANCTIONS AND EXPORT CONTROL AUTHORITIES

Crowell Moring has published a briefing on 3 May about legislation signed into law by President Biden in April.

<https://www.crowell.com/en/insights/client-alerts/aid-and-sanctions-ukraine-israel-and-taiwan-aid-bill-expands-us-sanctions-and-export-control-authorities>

MALTA: NATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT ON FINANCIAL CRIMES

On 5 May, the Times of Malta reported that, in 2023, Malta conducted its latest National Risk Assessment (NRA) on money laundering, terrorism financing, proliferation financing and targeted financial sanctions. It introduces first-time assessments of proliferation financing and sanctions risks.

<https://timesofmalta.com/article/national-risk-assessment-financial-crimes-summary.1091913>

INDIA: FIU ARMS ITSELF WITH AI AND ML TOOLS TO FIGHT MONEY LAUNDERING

On 5 May, the Times of India reported on developments at the country's FIU, saying that has operationalised an advanced 2.0 version of its information technology system, armed with AI and machine learning tools – FINnet 2.0.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/financial-intelligence-unit-arms-itself-with-ai-ml-tools-to-check-money-laundering/articleshow/109858736.cms>

EU PITCH TO TACKLE TEXTILE POLLUTION RILES SECOND-HAND SELLERS

On 3 May, Politico reported that EU countries want to stop their discarded clothes from clogging landfills outside the bloc — but a number of countries, including Kenya, warn that doing so will harm the local trade in second-hand fabrics. Under the proposal, companies in the EU looking to export textile waste — clothes deemed too degraded or stained to be resold — would have to give more information about the content of shipments, while importing countries would have to prove the waste is being disposed of correctly.

<https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-countries-pitch-to-tackle-textile-pollution-some-countries-warn-harm-second-hand-sellers/>

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON UKRAINE'S GRAIN EXPORTS

On 2 May, CSIS published a report saying that, in February 2024, Ukraine shipped a wartime record of 5.2 million metric tons of grains, oilseeds, and other farm products from its Greater Odesa ports under the Ukrainian corridor, a route passing through the territorial waters of NATO member states.

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/setting-record-straight-ukraines-grain-exports>

USE OF DRONES BY CRIMINAL GANGS: THE ORIGIN IN MEXICO

On 9 April, Pucará Defense in Argentina published this article, saying that, in Latin America, organised crime pioneered the use of drones or UAV to transport drugs across borders for more than a decade. The article tells of the origins of drones, what they are used for by Mexican cartels and Colombian gangs, and gives some examples of what has happened in recent times.

<https://www.pucara.org/post/empleo-de-drones-por-bandas-criminales-el-origen-en-m%C3%A9xico>

AFGHANISTAN'S ONLY FEMALE DIPLOMAT RESIGNS IN INDIA AFTER GOLD-SMUGGLING ALLEGATIONS

On 4 May, Rferl reported that an Afghan diplomat in India, who was appointed before the Taliban seized power in 2021 and said she was the only woman in the country's diplomatic service, has resigned after being detained for allegedly smuggling gold.

<https://www.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-female-diplomat-wardak-india-smuggling/32933329.html>

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