

9 May 2024

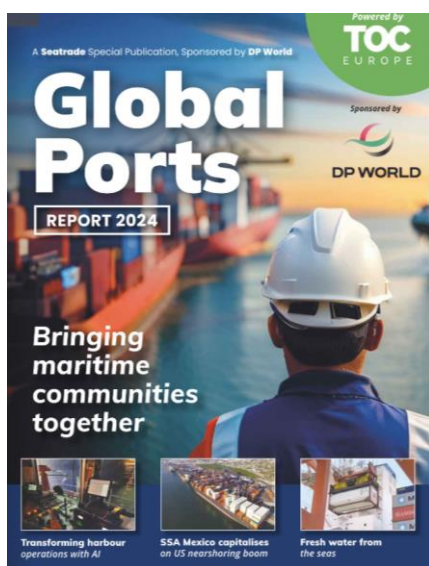
NETHERLANDS: REGULATOR TO FINE GAMBLING OPERATOR €280,000 A WEEK UNTIL IT STOPS UNLICENSED OFFERING

On 9 May, iGB reported that the KSA had issued Sarah Eternal with a weekly fine of €280,000 for operating without a licence.

<https://igamingbusiness.com/legal-compliance/regulation/ksa-sarah-eternal-weekly-fine-unlicensed-offering>

GLOBAL PORTS REPORT

Seatrade Maritime has published this report



<https://report.seatrade-maritime.com/41645/111074/index.html>

MEXICAN BANK ACCUSED OF BRIBING A TEXAS DEMOCRAT

On 9 May, the Wall Street Journal reported on the case in which Banco Azteca, controlled by Ricardo Salinas Pliego, one of Mexico's richest men, is alleged to have bribed Rep. Henry Cuellar to further the bank's interests in Washington by influencing US AML legislation.

<https://www.wsj.com/world/americas/the-mexican-bank-behind-alleged-bribes-to-a-texas-democrat-4cf4cc17>

US: 4 FLIGHT ATTENDANTS ACCUSED OF SMUGGLING MONEY TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FROM NEW YORK'S JFK AIRPORT

On 9 May, Newser.com reported that federal prosecutors say the flight attendants had access which allowed them to "bypass airport security with large quantities of cash without that cash being seized.

Authorities say the flight attendants smuggled a total of around \$8 million between 2014 and last year.

<https://www.newser.com/story/350095/4-flight-attendants-accused-of-smuggling-drug-money.html>

CAMBODIAN AND CHINESE DEPORTED FROM SINGAPORE IN MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

On 8 May, VN Express reported that 2 Cambodian and Chinese nationals were deported from Singapore after being convicted of laundering over S\$3 billion in Singapore's largest-ever money laundering case.

<https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/crime/cambodian-chinese-deported-from-singapore-in-historic-money-laundering-4743671.html>

GERMANY: ICE CREAM SELLERS PROBED OVER MAFIA MONEY

On 8 May, Deutsche Welle reported that prosecutors have charged 3 alleged Mafia associates on suspicion of money laundering. The men are accused of using an ice cream parlour in a sleepy German town to launder cash for Italy's 'Ndrangheta.

<https://www.dw.com/en/germany-ice-cream-sellers-probed-over-mafia-money/a-69026174>

EU COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THE eIDAS REGULATION TO HARMONISE DIGITAL IDENTITY AND TRUST SERVICES ACROSS THE EU

On 7 May, an article from Bird & Bird reported that the most notable change is the introduction of the so-called European Digital Identity Wallet (EUDI Wallet). This new means of electronic identification allows users to identify and authenticate themselves electronically, across borders, to access a wide range of public and private services. Additionally, individuals will be able to use it to sign documents with qualified electronic signatures and as part of strong customer authentication (SCA) systems.

<https://www.twobirds.com/en/insights/2024/global/the-european-council-has-approved-the-eidas-regulation>

UK: SEIZURE OF PROPERTY CODES OF PRACTICE

On 9 May, the Home Office advised that codes had been issued under section 475 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002: search, seizure and detention of property (England and Wales); and Schedule 1 to the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001; and recovery of cryptoassets (search powers) under section 303Z25 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/search-seizure-and-detention-of-property-england-and-wales>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/seizure-detention-and-forfeiture-of-terrorist-property-code-of-practice>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovery-of-cryptoassets-code-of-practice-issued-under-section-303z25>

UK: INVESTIGATIONS AND INFORMATION ORDERS CODES OF PRACTICE

On 9 May, the Home Office advised that a code of practice had been issued under section 339ZL of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (POCA) and section 22F of the Terrorism Act 2000 (TACT) about certain information orders; and an investigations code of practice under section 377 under section 377 of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/certain-information-orders-code-of-practice>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/investigations-code-of-practice-issued-under-section-377>

TAKEDOWN OF AUSTRIAN-BASED FRAUD SCHEME OFFERING NEW TYPE OF CRYPTO COIN

On 8 May, a news release from Eurojust advised that authorities in Austria, Cyprus and the Czech Republic have taken decisive action against an online scam pretending to sell rights or tokens to an alleged new crypto currency.

<https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/take-down-austrian-based-fraud-scheme-offering-new-type-crypto-coin>

HOW MEXICO LOSES THE PRECURSOR CHEMICAL MONEY TRAIL

On 8 May, an article from Insight Crime says that Mexican authorities have never identified any money laundering cases related to synthetic drugs or precursors in Mexico, according to public records requests and interviews with officials. Nor were there any cases that had led to asset seizures or forfeitures.

<https://insightcrime.org/investigations/mexico-loses-precursor-chemical-money-trade/>

MALAYSIA : MAN, WHO EVADED THE LAW FOR 15 YEARS, CHARGED WITH ABETTING FORMER MD IN SECURITIES FRAUD

On 9 May, a release on Mondo Visione advised that the Securities Commission Malaysia (SC) had charged Wong Jit Kiang (Daniel Wong) with abetting the late Toh Chun Toh Gordon in defrauding

Multi-Code Electronics Industries in 2007. Daniel Wong had been at-large for 15 years despite numerous efforts made to locate him and two separate warrants of arrest issued against him in 2009 and 2019. He was arrested at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport on his return from Singapore <https://mondovisione.com/media-and-resources/news/securities-commission-malaysia-securities-commission-malaysia-man-who-evaded/>

VIETNAM: FORMER SENIOR HO CHI MINH CITY OFFICIAL ONE OF 3 CITY BOSSES DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST FRAUD CASE

On 8 May, RFA reported that Vietnam's communist party had ordered the arrest of Le Thanh Hai, the former secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee and a former Politburo member, in relation to the Van Thinh Phat corruption scandal.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/vietnam/hcmc-official-arrested-05082024230628.html>

FIJI: FORMER PM JAILED FOR 1 YEAR FOR OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE OVER ALLEGED FINANCIAL MISMANAGEMENT

On 9 May, RFA reported that former strongman prime minister, Frank Bainimarama had been sentenced to 1 year in prison for obstructing justice over halting a 2020 police investigation into alleged financial mismanagement at the University of the South Pacific. Suspended Police Commissioner Sitiveni Qiliho was also sentenced to 2 years prison for abuse of office.

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/pacific/bainimarama-jailed-05092024033252.html>

RUSSIAN CIGARETTE BILLIONAIRE FUNNELLED MILLIONS VIA NETHERLANDS JUST BEFORE SANCTIONS

On 30 April, NL Times reported that Russian billionaire Igor Kesaev funnelled €8 million through the Netherlands over a month after Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

<https://nltimes.nl/2024/04/30/russian-cigarette-billionaire-funneled-millions-via-netherlands-just-sanctions>

MONEY LAUNDERING RISKS IN COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE: AN ANALYSIS OF 25 CASE STUDIES

On 1 May, Global Financial Integrity announced a report which identifies 25 cases in which illegal, allegedly illicit or suspicious funds were funnelled into commercial property in the US over approximately the last 20 years, with a total value of property exceeding \$2.6 billion. 14 involved either PEP or oligarchs who typically have especially close relationships with foreign government

officials. It said that weak or non-existent reporting requirements by professions involved in the purchase of commercial real estate contributed to the ease with which illicit funds were laundered.



<https://gfintegrity.org/report/money-laundering-risks-in-commercial-real-estate-an-analysis-of-25-case-studies/>

TANTALUM CAPACITORS FOR MISSILES AND DRONES MAKE THEIR WAY INTO RUSSIA VIA LITHUANIA AND CHINA

On 30 April, an article from The Insider said that the capacitors are irreplaceable electronic elements that can be found in all sorts of devices. Russia's domestic production of these components is negligible, yet none of Russia's industries, not even those from the military-industrial complex, is facing a shortage — this despite international sanctions.

<https://theins.ru/en/economics/271217>

KENYA BACK IN FATF CROSSHAIRS OVER MONEY LAUNDERING, TERRORISM FINANCING

On 9 May, Daily Maverick reported that FATF has placed Kenya on its grey list for the second time. The listing is specifically tied to weaknesses in regulation and oversight of the real estate sector and financial transactions made through legal firms. In addition, OFAC has designated 16 entities in Kenya for their links to terror financing - these included several Kenyan and Somali citizens.

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2024-05-09-kenya-back-in-financial-action-task-force-crosshairs-over-money-laundering-terrorism-financing/>

TAIWAN PROPOSES TOUGHER AML MEASURES FOR CRYPTO SERVICE PROVIDERS

On 9 May, Coin Telegraph reported that the Ministry of Justice proposed 4 amendments to the country's AML regulations focused on cryptocurrency firms that plan to impose hefty penalties for noncompliance.

<https://cointelegraph.com/news/taiwan-aml-regulations-crypto-fraud>

INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF P&I CLUBS HAS RELEASED AN UPDATE REGARDING TEMPORARY AUTHORISATION OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING OIL, GAS AND GOLD IN VENEZUELA

On 9 May, Insurance Marine News reported that this followed the expiry and replacement of a US Treasury General License.

<https://insurancemarinenews.com/insurance-marine-news/ig-updates-on-venezuelan-sanctions/>

THIRD COUNTRIES ALIGN WITH EU SANCTIONS ON IRAN AND ENTITIES ALLEGEDLY CONNECTED TO THE OCTOBER 2023 TERRORIST ATTACKS IN ISRAEL

On 9 May, the Global Sanctions blog reported on how several non-EU states had aligned with the EU having delisted from its Iran sanctions list and amended of 17 other Iran listings. The third countries also aligned with the EU designation of 3 entities allegedly connected to the 7 October 2023 terrorist attacks in Israel.

<https://globalsanctions.co.uk/2024/05/eu-amends-isil-listing-non-eu-countries-align-with-eu-iran-amas-sanctions/>

US ADDS 37 ENTITIES FROM CHINA TO EXPORT ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS (EAR) ENTITY LIST

On 9 May, KPMG reported that the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) of the Department of Commerce had added the 37 entities to the list of those subject to export control and licensing restrictions, including some for allegedly supporting the spy balloon that flew over the US last year

<https://kpmg.com/us/en/home/insights/2024/05/tnf-us-bis-adds-entities-china-ear-entity-list.html>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/us/biden-administration-adds-37-chinese-entities-trade-restriction-list-2024-05-09>

IRAN SMUGGLES \$1 BILLION WORTH OF FUEL INTO PAKISTAN ANNUALLY

On 7 May, Nikkei Asia reported that Iranian traders smuggle more than \$1 billion worth of fuel into neighbouring Pakistan annually, according to a new report concerned with an investigation was conducted by a pair of Pakistani intelligence agencies and leaked to local media.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Iran-smuggles-1bn-worth-of-fuel-into-Pakistan-annually-report>

IMPACTS AND IMPLICATIONS OF CAMBODIA'S FUNAN TECO CANAL

On 9 May, a report from the Stimson Center looks at how a new Belt and Road project in Cambodia could increase water and flood risks in Vietnam and weaken the 1995 Mekong Agreement. It would give Cambodia water access the Gulf of Thailand for commercial and other uses. The report examines environmental impacts and gaps where more information is needed. It suggests actions concerned parties can take to prevent a deterioration of Mekong cooperation.

<https://www.stimson.org/2024/impacts-of-cambodias-funan-techo-canal-and-implications-for-mekong-cooperation>

ASSESSING THE ROLE OF FAST PAYMENT SYSTEMS IN PROMOTING FINANCIAL INCLUSION

On 9 May, an article from CSIS says that the development of FPS, in particular, has the potential to boost financial inclusion in emerging markets by reducing the importance of formal banking, lowering transaction costs, and simplifying cash transfers. It says that new research uses survey data from Brazil, Costa Rica, India, and Thailand to unearth the impact of FPS on developing market economies. It also says that both public and private entities have pursued the development of FPS architecture, starting with Kenya's M-Pesa, which was launched in 2007. The M-Pesa system permitted unbanked users to exchange hard cash for digital currency and transact with that currency using a mobile phone-enabled digital wallet.

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/assessing-role-fast-payment-systems-promoting-financial-inclusion>

PARALLEL IMPORTS, A GLOBAL PHENOMENON, AND A VERY GREY AREA REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRADE

On 8 May, an article from IR Global says that a parallel import is a non-counterfeit product imported from another country without the permission of the intellectual property owner. They are also goods that are not authorised for importation into the US. It's a global phenomenon, a very grey area, and their presence varies across different parts of the globe.

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/documents.lexology.com/7309882a-81b2-443d-8648-9eb08d9f6f3c.pdf>

IS A PREVIOUSLY UNHEARD-OF FIRST NATION JUST CANADA'S LATEST PRETENDIAN CASE?

On 9 May, the Guardian carried an article about a situation which is part of a wave of cases in which people falsely claim Indigenous identity. It speaks of concerns over how groups might use

Indigenous identity to lay claim to land or demand concessions from local and provincial governments, for tax and other advantages.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/may/09/canada-first-nation-kawartha-lakes-validity>

PANAMA PAPERS LAW FIRM CO-FOUNDER RAMÓN FONSECA MORA DIES IN HOSPITAL

On 9 May, ICIJ reported that Fonseca had been hospitalised since early April, shortly before the start of a trial involving him and 26 others (including Fonseca’s partner in the law firm Mossack Fonseca, Jürgen Mossack) and stemming from the Panama Papers disclosures in 2016.

<https://www.icij.org/investigations/panama-papers/panama-papers-law-firm-co-founder-ramon-fonseca-mora-dies-in-hospital/>

BINANCE FACES \$4.4 MILLION FINE IN CANADA FOR BREACHING AML RULES

On 9 May, Bein Crypto reported that FINTRAC recently imposed a nearly \$4.4 million fine on the global crypto exchange Binance. It is said that FINTRAC found that Binance flouted rules mandating registration as a foreign money services business, despite warnings and extended deadlines.

<https://beincrypto.com/binance-faces-million-penalty-canada/>

<https://www.laestrella.com.pa/panama/muere-el-escritor-y-abogado-ramon-fonseca-mora-LL7278195>

EU AI ACT: DETAILS AND BACKGROUND ON THE IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Deloitte in Germany has produced a 13-slide explanation summarising the points you must absolutely know.

<https://www2.deloitte.com/de/de/pages/innovation/contents/eu-artificial-intelligence-act.html>

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