

14 May 2024

US REQUIRES CLOSURE OF CRYPTOCURRENCY MINING FACILITY LOCATED WITHIN 1 MILE OF FRANCIS E WARREN AIR FORCE BASE

On 13 May, the US Treasury advised of CFIUS order prohibiting the purchase and requiring divestment of certain assets of Chinese-owned company which acquired the property in June 2022 and then made improvements to allow for use of the property for specialised cryptocurrency mining operations within 1 mile of the base in Cheyenne, Wyoming, a strategic missile base.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2024/05/13/order-regarding-the-acquisition-of-certain-real-property-of-cheyenne-leads-by-mineone-cloud-computing-investment-i-l-p/>

WARNING OF CHINESE CRIME SYNDICATES HAVE SET UP SOPHISTICATED ONLINE SCAMMING OPERATIONS IN “SCAM COMPOUNDS” THROUGHOUT SE ASIA

On 13 May, a commentary from the US Institute for Peace says that the compounds rake in an estimated \$64 billion a year, rely on forced labour, and look “look almost like penal colonies”.

<https://www.usip.org/publications/2024/05/jason-tower-dangerous-proliferation-scam-compounds-southeast-asia>

INDIA: US WARNS OF SANCTIONS OVER CHABAHAR PORT PACT WITH IRAN

On 14 May, The Week and others reported that India had signed a long-term bilateral contract with Iran on the Chabahar Port operations. The latest development can also be seen as India’s answer to the strategically-located port of Gwadar in Pakistan that has been built with Chinese help providing the latter with an important sphere of influence in the region.

<https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2024/05/14/us-holds-up-spectre-of-sanctions-as-india-eyes-strategic-leap-on-chabahar-pact.html>

UK TO LEGISLATE OVER ACYL PIPERAZINE OPIOIDS AND NOVEL BENZODIAZEPINES AND RELATED COMPOUNDS

On 14 May, the Home Office advised that it had accepted the recommendations of the ACMD advisory body on drugs use and abuse and would take steps to legislate to ban the substances involved.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-the-acmds-report-on-novel-benzodiazepines/the-government-response-to-the-acmds-advice-on-recently-encountered-novel-benzodiazepines-accessible>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-acmd-report-on-acyl-piperazine-opioids>

IRAN: EU COUNCIL BROADENS RESTRICTIVE MEASURES IN VIEW OF IRAN MILITARY SUPPORT OF RUSSIA

On 14 May, a news release advised that the EU Council had decided to broaden the scope of the EU framework for restrictive measures in view of Iran's military support of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The EU will now be able to target persons and entities supplying, selling or otherwise being involved in transferring Iran's missiles and UAV.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/05/14/iran-council-broadens-eu-restrictive-measures-in-view-of-iran-military-support-of-russia-s-war-of-aggression-against-ukraine-and-armed-groups-in-the-middle-east-and-red-sea-region/>

UK LAW COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

On 14 May, the Law Commission published its latest annual report. Its role is to review and recommend new and amended legislation.



https://cloud-platform-e218f50a4812967ba1215eaecede923f.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/sites/30/2015/05/25.11_LC_AnnualReport_23-24_WEB.pdf

Targets for 2023–24 and 2024–25

2023–24

Target	Outcome
To publish reports on:	
To publish consultations on:	
Review of the Arbitration Act 1996	Two consultation papers published: September 2022 and March 2023
Evidence in Sexual Offences	Consultation paper published May 2023
Making a Will – Supplementary consultation paper	Supplementary consultation paper published 5 October 2023

2024–25

Target	
To publish reports on:	To publish consultations on:
Digital assets	Contempt of Court
Review of the Arbitration Act 199	Wills – Supplementary Consultation Paper
Evidence in Sexual Offences	Criminal Appeals
Financial Remedies on Divorce (scoping report)	Autonomy in Aviation (2nd consultation)
Making a Will	Compulsory Purchase
	Disabled Children’s Social Care
	Burial and Cremation
	Business Tenancies: the right to renew
	New Funerary Methods

UK: “REASONABLE CAUSE TO SUSPECT” THAT THE FUNDER OF THE CLAIMANT IN A \$1.3 BILLION COURT CASE WAS CONTROLLED BY SANCTIONED RUSSIANS

On 14 May, Legal Futures reported that the High Court ruling was the latest in long-running litigation brought by Vneshprombank LLC (VPB) over an alleged massive fraud carried out by Georgy Bedzhamov.

<https://www.legalfutures.co.uk/latest-news/high-court-sanctioned-russians-probably-owned-litigation-funder>

HEIR TO CARTIER JEWELLERY INDICTED IN COCAINE AND CRYPTO SCANDAL

On 6 May, Crypto Daily reported that Maximilien de Hoop Cartier had been arrested by US authorities for allegedly laundering millions of dollars for a Colombian drug cartel. Cartier lives in France, but has Argentinian citizenship, faces a slew of charges.

<https://cryptodaily.co.uk/news-in-crypto/bitcoinist:cartier-heir-indicted-in-cocaine-and-crypto-scandal>

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/purported-member-cartier-family-and-five-colombian-nationals-charged-their-roles>

AUSTRALIA TO BAN LIVE SHEEP EXPORTS BY SEA FROM MAY 2028

On 14 May, Insurance Marine News reported that the prohibition will not apply to other livestock export industries or to the export of live sheep by air.

<https://insurancemarinenews.com/insurance-marine-news/australia-to-ban-live-sheep-exports-by-sea-from-may-2028/>

NEW EU SANCTIONS PACKAGE LIKELY TO HIT LNG SECTOR

On 14 May, Insurance Marine News warned that the latest round of Russia sanctions is likely to target the LNG sector, and may be approved as soon as 15 May.

<https://insurancemarinenews.com/insurance-marine-news/new-eu-sanctions-package-likely-to-hit-lng-sector/>

OFAC SANCTIONS FOLLOW ATTEMPTED SANCTIONS EVASION SCHEME CONNECTED TO RUSSIAN OLIGARCH

On 14 May, OFAC advised that it had designated 1 Russian individual and 3 Russia-based companies involved in an attempted sanctions evasion scheme in which an opaque and complex supposed divestment could have unfrozen more than \$1.5 billion worth of shares belonging to US-designated Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska.

<https://ofac.treasury.gov/recent-actions/20240514>

<https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2337>

RUSSIAN OLIGARCH'S ASSOCIATE CASE ON GOING TO UK SUPREME COURT

On 14 May, the Global Sanctions blog reported that the Supreme Court has allowed Eugene Shvidler to appeal against the Court of Appeal judgment upholding sanctions against him. He was designated for being associated with another designated person, Roman Abramovich.

<https://globalsanctions.co.uk/2024/05/eugene-shvidlers-case-on-going-to-uk-supreme-court/>

SEC AND FINCEN PROPOSE CUSTOMER IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RIA AND ERA

On 13 May, Norton Rose Fulbright reported on the SEC and FinCEN have proposed that registered investment advisers (RIA) and exempt reporting advisers (ERA) to establish, document and maintain written customer identification programs (CIP).

<https://www.findknowdo.com/news/05/13/2024/sec-and-fincen-propose-cip-requirements-rias-and-eras>

EU AND NON-EU STATES RENEW MYANMAR SANCTIONS

On 14 May, the Global Sanctions blog reported that the EU had renewed its Myanmar sanctions regime for another year, and that North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Albania, Ukraine, Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein & Norway & Armenia have also agreed to follow suit.

<https://globalsanctions.co.uk/2024/05/eu-council-renews-myanmar-sanctions/>

LITHUANIA: CUSTOMS FINES COMPANY FOR BUYING FROM SANCTIONED RUSSIAN COMPANIES

On 14 May, Global Sanctions blog reported that an unnamed company had been fined €329,944 for purchasing goods from EU-designated Russian companies.

<https://globalsanctions.co.uk/2024/05/lithuanian-customs-fines-company-for-buying-from-sanctioned-russian-companies/>

THE C4ADS DUBAI PROPERTY DATABASE

On 14 May, C4ADS said that, as it continues to expand its dataset on assets hiding in Dubai, C4ADS is collaborating with a coalition of scholars and journalists to expose the illicit networks exploiting the UAE property market. It says that the Dubai property market is a key haven for international kleptocrats, transnational organised crime, and a vast array of other illicit actors — from narcotics traffickers to Russian oligarchs. The database was begun in 2018. It says that it has identified at least 76 Dubai properties held by Russian and Belarusian illicit actors.

<https://c4ads.org/multimedia/the-c4ads-dubai-property-database-2024/>

NEARLY 40% OF DIRTY MONEY IS LAUNDERED IN LONDON AND UK CROWN DEPENDENCIES

On 14 May, the Guardian reported that the UK Deputy Foreign Secretary made the announcement and added the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories will face fresh demands from the Foreign Office to comply with UK laws setting up public registers of beneficial share ownership.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/may/14/nearly-40-of-dirty-money-is-laundered-in-london-and-uk-crown-dependencies>

US: FRAUDULENT CATTLE SCHEME

On 14 May, a release on Mondo Visione advised that the Commodity Futures Trading Commission had filed a civil enforcement action in the Northern District of Texas against Agridime LLC, a Texas corporation, and its co-founders. The complaint alleges the defendants engaged in a scheme to defraud thousands of customers in at least 14 states by soliciting, accepting, and using customers' funds to pay undisclosed commissions and used later customers' funds to pay profits to earlier customers, in the manner of a Ponzi scheme. Agridime's cattle purchase program afforded customers the opportunity to buy and sell cattle without the actual day-to-day care of the cattle.

<https://mondovisione.com/media-and-resources/news/cftc-charges-agridime-and-its-co-founders-with-a-fraudulent-cattle-scheme/>

US: MULTIPLE INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES TO PAY OVER \$225 MILLION FOR FOREIGN CURRENCY FRAUD AND MISAPPROPRIATION SCHEME, CPA FINED

On 14 May, a release on Mondo Visione advised that the Commodity Futures Trading Commission had announced that a court in Florida had issued an order of default judgment against 4 individuals and 5 companies. In addition, a certified public accountant and resident of Atlanta, Georgia is required to pay a \$314,000 civil monetary penalty and \$153,000 in restitution.

<https://mondovisione.com/media-and-resources/news/miami-federal-court-orders-multiple-individuals-and-entities-to-pay-over-225-mi/>

TORNADO CASH CO-FOUNDER CONVICTED OF LAUNDERING \$1.2 BILLION BY DUTCH COURT

On 14 May, The Record reported that a Dutch court had found the cofounder of the anonymising cryptocurrency service Tornado Cash guilty of money laundering, sentencing him to 5 years and 4 months in prison.

<https://therecord.media/tornado-cash-money-laundering-verdict-netherlands-alexey-pertsev>

US STATE MARIJUANA “LEGALIZATION” AND FEDERAL DRUG LAW: A BRIEF OVERVIEW FOR CONGRESS

On 14 Mar, the US Congressional Research Service published this updated briefing, starting by saying that state marijuana laws have changed significantly in recent years, and federal law appears poised to change in the coming months.

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/LSB/LSB10482>

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