



www.g7.utoronto.ca

2024 G7 Apulia Summit Interim Compliance Report

15 June 2024 to 20 December 2024

Prepared by

Jacob Rudolph and Angus MacKellar
and the G7 Research Group

15 March 2025

www.g7.utoronto.ca • g7@utoronto.ca • [@g7_rg](https://twitter.com/g7_rg)

“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit

Contents

Introduction.....	3
Research Team	4
Compliance Analysts	4
Summary	6
The Interim Compliance Score	6
Compliance by Member	6
Compliance by Commitment.....	6
The Compliance Gap between Members	6
Future Research and Reports.....	7
Table A: 2024 Priority Commitments Selected for Assessment*	8
Table B: 2024 G7 Apulia Interim Compliance Scores.....	10
Table C: 2024 G7 Apulia Interim Compliance Scores by Member	11
Table D: 2024 G7 Apulia Interim Compliance Scores by Commitment	12
1. Regional Security: Military Assistance for Ukraine	13
2. Regional Security: Extraordinary Revenue Acceleration Loans for Ukraine	28
3. Regional Security: Two-State Solution for Israel and Palestine	44
4. Non-Proliferation: Export Controls.....	98
5. Climate Change: Climate Adaptation	121
6. Energy: Clean Energy in Developing Countries	167
7. Energy: Decarbonizing the Power Sector	193
8. Environment: Forest Protection.....	223
9. Food and Agriculture: Global Food Security.....	251
10. Health: Sustainable Development Goal 3	286
11. Gender: Health Services for Women	318
12. Labour and Employment: Gender and Other Forms of Equality	338
13. Digital Economy: Closing Digital Divides	373
14. Digital Economy: Artificial Intelligence for Work.....	396
15. Macroeconomics: Price and Financial Stability	423
16. Trade: Resilient Supply Chains.....	446
17. Infrastructure: Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment	469
18. Migration and Refugees: Border Management	497
19. Migration and Refugees: Preventing Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking	535
20. Cybersecurity: Countering Malicious Behaviour	563

19. Migration and Refugees: Preventing Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking

“In line with the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocols, we will also strengthen our actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models.”

G7 Apulia Leaders’ Communiqué

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada		0	
France		0	
Germany		0	
Italy		0	
Japan		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average	+0.38 (69%)		

Background

Both human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants have been consistently addressed in the G7 agenda. However, while both terms are related to migratory flows, they refer to two distinct phenomena. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees defines “smuggling of migrants” as the facilitation of a person’s illegal entry into a state³⁰²⁸ and distinguishes that “trafficking in persons” is the intention to exploit the individual concerned.³⁰²⁹ At the 2024 Apulia Summit, the G7 acknowledged the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and committed to strengthening actions to tackle the organized criminal networks that derive profit from migrant smuggling and human trafficking.³⁰³⁰ To this end, the G7 has closely worked with the United Nations since the 2000 Okinawa Summit, where leaders promoted the UNTOC to counter migrant smuggling. At the 2013 Lough Erne Summit, the G7 partnered with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to combat transnational organized crime, including human trafficking. Thus, cooperation has been central to discussions surrounding this issue. Highlights on G7 action relating to this commitment follow.

At the 1998 Birmingham Summit, G8 leaders committed to act against the trafficking and smuggling of migrants, particularly of women and children.³⁰³¹ Leaders also committed to joining efforts to deter trafficking, protect victims, and take legal action against criminal facilitating enterprises.

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, G8 leaders supported the implementation of the United Nations Transnational Organized Crime Convention and other associated protocols on weapons trafficking and people smuggling.³⁰³² This was an effort to develop effective legislation against transnational organized crime. Leaders also stated the importance of acting against individuals who profit from facilitating irregular migration and human trafficking.

³⁰²⁸ People Smuggling, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 16 September 2024.

<https://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/asylum-and-migration/people-smuggling>

³⁰²⁹ What is Human Trafficking, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 16 September 2024.

<https://help.unhcr.org/iran/en/more-information/what-is-human-trafficking/>

³⁰³⁰ Apulia G7 Leaders’ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Apulia) 14 June 2024. Access Date: 7 September 2024.

<https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2024apulia/240614-apulia-communiqué.html>

³⁰³¹ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 17 May 1998. Access Date: 4 September 2024.

<https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/finalcom.htm>

³⁰³² G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 4 September 2024.

<https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>

At the 2001 Genoa Summit, G8 leaders committed to fight against transnational organized crime, supporting the efforts towards tackling human trafficking.³⁰³³

At the 2008 Hokkaido Summit, G8 leaders committed to enhancing cooperation to counter human trafficking and smuggling of migrants.³⁰³⁴

At the 2009 L'Aquila Summit, G8 leaders affirmed their commitment to endorse measures of technical support in countries that face destabilizing threats such as human trafficking.³⁰³⁵

At the 2011 Deauville Summit, G8 leaders recognized the importance of cooperating to address international challenges such as human trafficking and organized crime.³⁰³⁶

At the 2012 Camp David Summit, G8 leaders committed to putting an end to the trafficking of women and girls.³⁰³⁷

At the 2013 Lough Erne Summit, G8 leaders committed to assisting regional and international organizations working with countries to strengthen the security of their borders and counter transnational organized crime and human trafficking.³⁰³⁸ Leaders also acknowledged the efforts of the UNODC on this issue.

At the 2015 Elmau Summit, G7 leaders committed to fighting against the trafficking of migrants, and to identifying and hindering human trafficking.³⁰³⁹

At the 2016 Ise-Shima Summit, G7 leaders reaffirmed their intention to cooperate with countries of origin, transit, and destination to combat the smuggling of migrants, modern slavery, and ensure the safety of victims of human trafficking.³⁰⁴⁰ Leaders also expressed their concern about the increase in human trafficking in Libya. Leaders remained supportive of regional organizations in Africa and their actions to tackle human trafficking.

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 leaders recognized the importance of nations protecting migrants and implementing mechanisms such as increasing law enforcement collaboration and border controls, which are crucial to counter human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants.³⁰⁴¹

At the 2018 Charlevoix Summit, G7 leaders stressed the importance of taking action to eliminate human trafficking and urged the international community to fight against this abuse of human rights.³⁰⁴²

³⁰³³ Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 5 September 2024.

<https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommuniqué.html>

³⁰³⁴ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 5 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

³⁰³⁵ G8 Declaration on Counter Terrorism, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2009. Access Date: 5 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-counterterrorism.html>

³⁰³⁶ G8/Africa Joint Declaration: Shared Values, Shared Responsibilities, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2011. Access Date: 5 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2011deauville/2011-africa-en.html>

³⁰³⁷ Camp David Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 May 2012. Access Date: 5 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2012campdavid/g8-declaration.html>

³⁰³⁸ G8 Lough Erne Leaders Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 18 June 2013. Access Date: 5 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/lough-erne-communiqué.html>

³⁰³⁹ Leaders' Declaration: G7 Summit, G7 Information Summit (Toronto) 8 June 2015. Access Date: 5 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2015elmau/2015-G7-declaration-en.html>

³⁰⁴⁰ G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2016. Access Date: 5 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2016shima/ise-shima-declaration-en.html>

³⁰⁴¹ G7 Taormina Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 6 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/communiqué.html>

³⁰⁴² The Charlevoix G7 Summit Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 June 2018. Access Date: 6 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2018charlevoix/communiqué.html>

At the 2022 Elmau Summit, G7 leaders recognized the need to fight against human trafficking and smuggling of migrants and committed to increasing their efforts to combat this issue.³⁰⁴³

At the 2023 Hiroshima Summit, G7 leaders committed to strengthening their actions to hinder the operating schemes of organized criminal networks by upsetting the supply chains of human traffickers and migrant smugglers.³⁰⁴⁴ Leaders also reaffirmed their commitment to fight against transnational organized crime and human trafficking.

At the 2022 Apulia Summit, leaders committed that “in line with the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Protocols, we will also strengthen our actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models.”³⁰⁴⁵

Commitment Features

This commitment can be understood as having four components. G7 members have committed to take action to 1) prevent, 2) counter and 3) dismantle organized criminal networks engaged in the smuggling of migrants and trafficking of persons. As well, members have committed to 4) disrupting the business models of these criminal organizations.

Definitions and Concepts

“Actions” is understood to mean an “accomplishment of a thing usually over a period of time, in stages, or with the possibility of repetition.”³⁰⁴⁶

“Business model of transnational criminal networks” is understood to mean a structured method, which incorporates strategies used by these organizations to facilitate, and enhance their illicit activities across borders. Those models tend to mirror legitimate business operations, focusing on supply and demand, market expansion, and profit maximization, but within the realm of illegal goods and services.³⁰⁴⁷

“Counter” is understood to mean “to meet attacks or arguments with defensive or retaliatory steps.”³⁰⁴⁸

“Disrupt” is understood to mean “to interrupt the normal course or unity of.”³⁰⁴⁹

“Dismantle” is understood to mean to “destroy the integrity or functioning of.”³⁰⁵⁰ In the context of this commitment, this relates to “destroying the integrity and functioning of” smuggling and trafficking infrastructure.

³⁰⁴³ G7 Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 6 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2022elmau/220628-communication.html>

³⁰⁴⁴ G7 Hiroshima Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 May 2023. Access Date: 6 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2023hiroshima/230520-communication.html>

³⁰⁴⁵ Apulia G7 Leaders' Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Apulia) 14 June 2024. Access Date: 7 September 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2024apulia/240614-apulia-communication.html>

³⁰⁴⁶ Action, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 12 September 2024. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/action>

³⁰⁴⁷ Adapted from United Nations on Drugs and Crime, E4J University Module Series: Organized Crime, n.d. Access Date: 15 October 2024. <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/organized-crime/module-7/key-issues/enterprise-or-business-model.html>

³⁰⁴⁸ Counter, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 12 September 2024. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/counter>

³⁰⁴⁹ Disrupt, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 12 September 2024. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/disrupt>

³⁰⁵⁰ Dismantle, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 12 September 2024. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/dismantle>

“Organised Crime” is understood to mean “a group of professional criminals who work together as part of a powerful and secret organization.”³⁰⁵¹

“Prevent” is understood to mean “to deprive of power or hope of acting or succeeding.”³⁰⁵²

“Smuggling” is understood to mean “to move individuals from one country to another secretly and illegally.”³⁰⁵³

“Strengthen” is understood to mean “to make stronger.”³⁰⁵⁴

“Trafficking in persons” is understood to mean “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”³⁰⁵⁵

“UNTOC and its protocols” are understood to refer to the convention adopted by General Assembly of United Nations resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, it represents one of the main international instruments in the fight against transnational organized crime. The convention has been enhanced by multiple Protocols focusing on dedicated challenges.³⁰⁵⁶

General Interpretive Guidelines

Full compliance, or a score of +1, will be assigned to G7 members that take strong action in all four commitment dimensions specified in the UNTOC and its protocols, with actions towards organized criminal networks that:

1. **Prevent:** Such measures may involve regulatory policies, awareness programs, and community initiatives to reduce the appeal or feasibility of joining or forming such networks.
2. **Counter:** Such measures can include law enforcement actions, legal prosecutions, intelligence gathering, and resource allocation to mitigate the activities of existing criminal organizations.
3. **Dismantle Networks:** Such action may involve specific operations to arrest leaders, seize assets, and disrupt internal communication channels, effectively rendering the network non-functional.
4. **Disrupt Business Models:** Such actions can involve asset seizures, preventing money laundering, and making it more difficult for these networks to sustain profitable illegal enterprises.

Examples of strong actions to strengthen data exchange include entering intelligence sharing agreements, signing mutual legal assistance agreements, and strengthening cooperation with international organizations, such as Interpol, to this end. Examples of strong actions to strengthen financial investigation include improving anti-money laundering laws to the end of dismantling organized crime, strengthening domestic anti-corruption

³⁰⁵¹ Organised Crime, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 12 September 2024. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/organized%20crime>

³⁰⁵² Prevent, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 12 September 2024. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prevent>

³⁰⁵³ Adapted from Smuggle, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 12 September 2024. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/smuggle>

³⁰⁵⁴ Strengthen, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 12 September 2024. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/strengthen>

³⁰⁵⁵ What is Trafficking in Persons?, International Organization for Migration (Grand-Saconnex) n.d. Access Date: 17 September 2024. <https://indonesia.iom.int/what-trafficking-persons>

³⁰⁵⁶ Adapted from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. n.d. Access Date: 10 October 2024. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html>

mechanisms through funding or training, pursuing parallel financial investigations, and enhancing cooperation on asset confiscation. Examples of strong actions to strengthen awareness raising include undertaking robust public awareness campaigns. In order to assess compliance with this commitment separately from Commitment 18 (Migration and Refugees: Border Management), law enforcement actions and arrests made at the border are excluded from this commitment.

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G7 members that take strong action in between one and three commitment dimensions, or weak action in at least two dimensions. Examples of weak action include discussions on tackling smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, statements of support, and general restatements of the commitment.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be assigned to G7 members that fail to take any action, take only weak action in just one dimension, or take action that is contradictory to the commitment.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has not taken any action to prevent, counter, dismantle networks or disrupt business models, the G7 member has taken only weak action in one dimension or the G7 member has taken action contradictory to the commitment.
0	The G7 member has taken strong action in between one and three of the four commitment dimensions: to prevent, to counter, to dismantle networks, or to disrupt business models, as they relate to migrant smuggling and trafficking, or the G7 member has taken weak action in at least three of these dimensions.
+1	The G7 member has strong action in all four commitment dimensions: to prevent, to counter, to dismantle networks, and to disrupt business models, as they relate to migrant smuggling and trafficking.

*Compliance Director: Michal Gromek
Lead Analyst: Anali Arambula Galindo*

Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models.

On 12 July 2024, Canadian Ministers met with US officials at the 2024 US-Canada Cross Border Crime Forum to discuss their commitment to bolster partnerships in law enforcement, national security and trafficking.³⁰⁵⁷ The US and Canada reiterated their commitment to optimizing information sharing regarding law enforcement and intelligence to combat transnational organized crime.

On 18 September 2024, the Government amended its Criminal Code on the Offences Against the Person and Reputation focusing on Kidnapping, Trafficking in Persons, Hostage Taking and Abduction section C-15 to counter trafficking with a focus to counter sexual exploitation of children involving the internet.³⁰⁵⁸

On 4 October 2024, G7 Interior and Security Ministers announced the G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants.³⁰⁵⁹ The priorities of the plan are to improve collaboration and communication

³⁰⁵⁷ The 2024 U.S.–Canada Cross Border Crime Forum (CBCF), Public Safety Canada (Ottawa) 12 July 2024. Access Date: 20 September 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2024/07/the-2024-uscanada-cross-border-crime-forum-cbcf.html>

³⁰⁵⁸ Offences Against the Person and Reputation (continued): Kidnapping, Trafficking in Persons, Hostage Taking and Abduction (continued), Justice Laws Website (n/a) 18 September 2024. Access Date: 15 November 2024. <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/c-46/page-43.html>

³⁰⁵⁹ Annex A: G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants, G7 Information Centre (Mirabella Eclano) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/justice/2024-interior-action-plan.html>

between partner countries, strengthen border management, and discourage migrants by informing them of the risks.

On 4 October 2024, the Government of Canada and the European Union announced their signing of the Agreement on the Transfer and Processing of Passenger Name Record (PNR) Data.³⁰⁶⁰ This agreement provides a legal basis for PNR data exchange for flights incoming to Canada from countries in the EU to increase the countering and preventing measures against human trafficking.

On 17 October 2024, the RCMP announced a successful operation alongside the US Federal Bureau of Investigation that targeted a Mexican drug cartel network which trafficked drugs to North America.³⁰⁶¹ The operation resulted in many arrests in the US and Canada, along with drug seizures, indicating their strong commitment to stopping trafficking across borders.

On 26 November 2024, G7 Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment made at the Apulia Summit to address irregular migration and its causes, including poverty, instability, and climate change.³⁰⁶²

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models. Canada has taken strong action to both prevent and counter migrant smuggling but has not adequately addressed the dismantling of criminal networks or the disruption of these networks' business models.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analyst: TianTian Dong

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models.

On 5 July 2024, the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) announced the seizure of a human trafficking network operating in France and Romania.³⁰⁶³ The French authorities, aided by Eurojust and Europol, collaborated with the Romanian authorities to successfully track down and arrest the suspected members of the trafficking group that had been smuggling Romanian women into France for sexual exploitation.

On 30 September 2024, Political Coordinator for France at the United Nations Isis Jaraud Darnault reaffirmed France's commitment to fight against human trafficking in the Mediterranean, closely collaborating with the African Union (AU) and the United Nations through the EU/AU/UN task force.³⁰⁶⁴ France aims to assist

³⁰⁶⁰ Canada and the European Union sign agreement to enhance border security, Canada Border Services Agency (Ottawa) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 1 November 2024. <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2024/10/canada-and-the-european-union-sign-agreement-to-enhance-border-security.html>

³⁰⁶¹ Significant transnational organized crime group disrupted by RCMP, FBI and police across Canada and the Americas, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Ottawa) 17 October 2024. Access Date: 29 December 2024. <https://rcmp.ca/en/news/2024/10/significant-transnational-organized-crime-group-disrupted-rcmp-fbi-and-police-across-canada-and>

³⁰⁶² G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting Statement G7 Information Centre (Fiuggi – Anagni) 26 November 2024. Access Date: 11 December 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/241126-statement.html>

³⁰⁶³ Coordinated actions from Romanian and French authorities to stop a human trafficking network, Eurojust (The Hague) 5 July 2024. Access Date: 21 September 2024. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/actions-taken-stop-romanian-human-trafficking-network>

³⁰⁶⁴ Libya: France continues to take action to prevent tragedies in the Mediterranean, Mission Permanente de la France Auprès des Nations Unies à New York (New York) 1 October 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 14 November 2024. <https://onu.delegfrance.org/libya-france-continues-to-take-action-to-prevent-tragedies-in-the-mediterranean>

Libya to tackle trafficking organisms by enhancing coordination between EU member states and endorsing the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration.

On 1 October 2024, Prime Minister Michel Barnier outlined the French government's stance on immigration moving forward.³⁰⁶⁵ He affirmed that France will impose stricter measures to control immigration, such as lengthening the maximum holding time of irregular immigrants to facilitate their exit from the country, improving border security through collaboration with countries of origin and transit, imposing harsher sentences for individuals involved in smuggling and trafficking, and re-establishing border checks. This initiative shows France's commitment to countering migrant smuggling and trafficking.

On 4 October 2024, the Minister of the Interior Bruno Retailleau and Italian Minister of the Interior Matteo Piantedosi signed a document indicating their determination to share information about migrant trafficking.³⁰⁶⁶ The governments intend to investigate and take down criminal migrant trafficking networks.

On 4 October 2024, G7 Interior and Security Ministers announced the G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants.³⁰⁶⁷ The priorities of the plan are to improve collaboration and communication between partner countries, strengthen border management, and discourage migrants by informing them of the risks.

On 4 October 2024, Minister Retailleau signed a declaration of intent aiming to establish an 'Italian-French Operational Research Unit' to combat illegal immigration.³⁰⁶⁸ The purpose of the initiative is to counter illegal migration but also to identify possible criminal networks dedicated to aiding and abetting illegal immigration by land across the Ventimiglia border and neighbouring areas.

On 18 October 2024, the French authorities tried alleged trafficking mastermind Mirkhan Rasoul, who is accused of organizing and controlling one of the biggest smuggling gangs that facilitated migrant crossings in the English Channel from 2020-2022.³⁰⁶⁹ His trial is part of an overarching European smuggling trial concerning the gang's members, who were arrested during a previous joint operation against smugglers led by France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany.

On 30 October 2024, President Emmanuel Macron announced that France and Morocco signed a bilateral agreement to fight against clandestine immigration and trafficking.³⁰⁷⁰ The countries will also collaborate on

³⁰⁶⁵ Déclaration de politique générale de M. Michel Barnier, Premier ministre, sur la feuille de route gouvernementale en matière de niveau de vie, de logement, de sécurité et d'immigration, ainsi que sur la réduction des dettes budgétaire et écologique, à l'Assemblée nationale le 1er octobre 2024, Direction de l'information légale et administrative (Paris) 3 October 2024. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 2 November 2024. <https://www.vie-publique.fr/discours/295574-michel-barnier-01102024-declare-politique-generale-assemblee-nationale>

³⁰⁶⁶ France, Italy launch project to exchange migrant trafficking information, Reuters (Toronto) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/france-italy-launch-project-exchange-migrant-trafficking-information-2024-10-04/>

³⁰⁶⁷ Annex A: G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants, G7 Information Centre (Mirabella Eclano) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/justice/2024-interior-action-plan.html>

³⁰⁶⁸ G7 of Interior Ministers in Mirabella Eclano, bilateral between Piantedosi and his French counterpart Retailleau, Ministero dell'Interno (Rome) 4 October 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 March 2025.

<https://www.interno.gov.it/it/stampa-e-comunicazione/comunicati-stampa/g7-dei-ministri-dellinterno-mirabella-eclano-bilaterale-piantedosi-e-suo-omologo-francese-retailleau>

³⁰⁶⁹ 'Merchants of death' trial steps up fight against Channel smugglers, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 18 October 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cden09n621wo>

³⁰⁷⁰ Paris et Rabat ont noué "un partenariat renforcé" contre "l'immigration clandestine", France 24 (Paris) 30 October 2024. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://www.france24.com/fr/afrique/20241030-paris-et-rabat-ont-nou%C3%A9-un-partenariat-renforc%C3%A9-contre-l-immigration-clandestine>

fighting transnational organized crime and providing a more effective framework for returning irregular migrants from France to Morocco.

On 5 November 2024, a French court convicted members of an English Channel smuggling group.³⁰⁷¹ The individuals were sentenced to multiple years of jail time, with up to 15 years for the group mastermind Mirkhan Rasoul.

On 26 November 2024, G7 Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment made at the Apulia Summit to address irregular migration and its causes, including poverty, instability, and climate change.³⁰⁷²

On 28 November 2024, the French National Police, supported by EU members, dismantled a transnational criminal group engaged in migrant smuggling.³⁰⁷³ The group, active in France since 2022, allegedly profited hundreds of millions of euros from smuggling thousands of migrants.

On 29 November 2024, On 29 November 2024, Director of Immigration of the Ministry of the Interior Simon Fetet, Diplomatic Advisor Mathilde Grammont, Deputy Ambassador in charge of Migration at the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs Frédéric Rimoux and Chief of the removal centre at the Directorate of Immigration Delphine Montuelle with Moroccan Migration, Border and Foreign Affairs Ministers to discuss migration between the two states.³⁰⁷⁴ Building upon their previous meeting, the representatives conversed about facilitating legal immigration to France, fighting against irregular immigration, and cooperating on the return of irregular Moroccan migrants.

France has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models. France has taken strong action to both prevent and counter migrant smuggling. It has also dismantled criminal networks involved in human trafficking and migrant smuggling but has not taken sufficient action to disrupt these organizations' business models.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: TianTian Dong

Germany: 0

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models.

On 27 June 2024, the Federal Minister of the Interior and Community Nancy Faeser welcomed the Minister of Interior of Türkiye Ali Yerlikaya for a discussion on German and Turkish cooperation.³⁰⁷⁵ The Ministers focused on enhancing their collaboration on issues regarding organized crime, migrant smuggling and terrorism.

³⁰⁷¹ 18 convicted in France for small boat people smuggling following joint operation involving NCA, National Crime Agency (London) 5 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/18-convicted-in-france-for-small-boat-people-smuggling-following-joint-operation-involving-nca>

³⁰⁷² G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting Statement G7 Information Centre (Fiuggi – Anagni) 26 November 2024. Access Date: 11 December 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/241126-statement.html>

³⁰⁷³ France arrests 26 for smuggling migrants from Indian sub-continent, Europol (The Hague) 28 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/france-arrests-26-for-smuggling-migrants-indian-sub-continent>

³⁰⁷⁴ Maroc-France : une réunion inédite pour améliorer les procédures migratoires, Ministère de l'Intérieur (Paris) 30 November 2024. Translation provided by Analyst. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.interieur.gouv.fr/actualites/communiqués-de-presse/maroc-france-reunion-inedite-pour-ameliorer-procedures-migratoires>

³⁰⁷⁵ Promoting German–Turkish cooperation, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 27 June 2024. Access Date: 24 September 2024. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2024/06/tuerk-innenminister.html>

On 28 June 2024, Minister for Foreign Affairs Annalena Baerbock met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Cooperation and Moroccan Expatriates of the Kingdom of Morocco, Nasser Bourita, to discuss the partnerships between Germany and Morocco.³⁰⁷⁶ The Ministers voiced their support for the bilateral Mixed Migration Working Group and concurred on efforts to address irregular migration through facilitating legal migration and returns with support from the EU Talent Partnerships, the Rabat Process, and the Global Compact for Migration.

On 2 July 2024, the Government of Germany and the Government of Poland came together to discuss partnerships and cooperation between Germany and Poland in areas regarding organized crime and illegal immigration.³⁰⁷⁷ Minister Faeser spoke with Poland's Interior Minister Tomasz Siemoniak and Sport Minister Sławomir Nitras on ways to bolster border police coordination, tackle migrant smuggling and improve collaboration in cross-border disaster management efforts.

On 11 July 2024, the German government signed the German-Polish Action Plan underscoring the robust relationship between Poland and Germany.³⁰⁷⁸ The recently established joint task force against smuggling and the collaborative patrols on Polish territory will help Germany and Poland more effectively combat the illegal smuggling of migrants and irregular migration, in line with their international obligations.

On 9 September 2024, the Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community announced the temporary expansion of border controls to all of Germany's land borders to counter irregular migration and strengthen homeland security.³⁰⁷⁹ The expansion of border control measures includes joint cross-border cooperation with neighboring authorities to combat cross-border crimes, migrant smuggling and terrorism.

On 12 September 2024, the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) published a study on Vietnamese migrant smuggling and exploitation in Germany.³⁰⁸⁰ The BKA's report analyzes migrant trafficking networks, forms of exploitation and the practices of human traffickers facilitating these migrant smuggling networks. Law enforcement authorities and European partners will be presented with the results of the report to assist them in developing plans to counter migrant trafficking and exploitation.

On 17 September 2024, Minister Faeser met with her counterparts from the governments of Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, and the UK to discuss increased cooperation in combating irregular migration and organised crime.³⁰⁸¹ Increased cooperation could include joint police patrols, data exchange, and the incorporation of financial and social authorities to stop the flow of funds to criminal organizations.

³⁰⁷⁶ Joint statement on the Moroccan-German Strategic Dialogue, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 28 June 2024. Access Date: 23 September 2024. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/-/2665270>

³⁰⁷⁷ German-Polish cooperation, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 2 July 2024. Access Date: 25 September 2024. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2024/07/dt-pol-regierungskonsultationen.html>

³⁰⁷⁸ Deutsch-Polnischer Aktionsplan, Bundesregierung (Berlin) July 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 October 2024. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/resource/blob/992814/2295276/b5e9e128f9d0909349fd9a57f04cb/e69/2024-07-02-deu-pol-aktionsplan-de-data.pdf>

³⁰⁷⁹ Limiting irregular migration and protecting internal security: Border checks at all German land borders to start 16 September 2024, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 9 September 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2024/09/binnengrenzkontrollen_en.html

³⁰⁸⁰ BKA-Forschungsbericht zeigt Strukturen des Menschenhandels und der Ausbeutung vietnamesischer Staatsangehöriger in Deutschland, Bundeskriminalamt (Berlin) 12 September 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 November 2024. https://www.bka.de/DE/Presse/Listenseite_Pressemitteilungen/2024/Presse2024/240912_IZ_SO_Menschenhandel.html

³⁰⁸¹ Federal Minister of the Interior Nancy Faeser continues talks on the Western Balkans, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 17 September 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2024/09/berliner-prozess.html>

On 24 September 2024, German police arrested at least four individuals associated with migrant smuggling and smuggling people from the Middle East and the Caucasus into Germany.³⁰⁸² Around 400 law enforcement officers took part in the operation involving the federal police, prosecutors and customs authorities. This demonstrates Germany's commitment to combatting irregular migration and dismantling organized crime.

On 4 October 2024, Minister Faeser travelled to Mirabella Eclano for the meeting of G7 interior ministers to discuss migration policy and ongoing efforts to combat human smuggling.³⁰⁸³ The ministers stressed the importance of tackling these issues and engaging with third countries to fight against trafficking and irregular migration.

On 13 October 2024, the Federal Government of Germany announced its first comprehensive national action plan to fight human trafficking, incorporating prevention, prosecution, and victim support measures that are expected to be adopted in spring 2025.³⁰⁸⁴ This plan aims to improve "structural conditions" to effectively combat human and cross-border trafficking in the country with greater success.

On 30 October 2024, Minister Faeser and Polish Minister of the Interior and Administration Tomasz Siemoniak traveled to the Polish-Belarusian border and discussed ongoing issues with European migration.³⁰⁸⁵ In her discussion with Minister Siemoniak, Minister Faeser reaffirmed German-Polish law enforcement collaboration in their common goals of countering migrant smuggling, criminals and Islamic extremists as well as curtailing irregular migration.

On 12 November 2024, Germany participated in the two-day 7th Ministerial Conference of the Budapest Process, working with EU members and partner countries to promote the Budapest Process Ministerial Declaration and the accompanying Call for Action 2025-2030, which focuses on improving areas of migration and asylum.³⁰⁸⁶ This action will improve Germany's regional dialogues and collaboration with international partners to address migration challenges and foster solutions.

On 26 November 2024, G7 Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment made at the Apulia Summit to address irregular migration and its causes, including poverty, instability, and climate change.³⁰⁸⁷

Germany has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models. Germany has taken strong action to both prevent and counter migrant smuggling and human trafficking. It has also taken strong action to dismantle criminal networks involved in migrant smuggling and human trafficking but has not taken sufficient action to disrupt these organizations' business models.

Thus, Germany receives a score of 0.

³⁰⁸² German police arrest four over alleged people smuggling, Euronews (Lyon) 24 September 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2024/09/24/german-police-arrest-four-suspects-for-alleged-human-smuggling>

³⁰⁸³ "We are potentially direct targets for terrorist organisations", Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2024/10/g7.html>

³⁰⁸⁴ Federal Government develops national action plan to fight human trafficking, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 17 October 2024. Access Date: 25 November 2024.

https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/EN/2024/10/aktionsplan_menschenhandel.html

³⁰⁸⁵ Federal Minister of the Interior Nancy Faeser visits Poland's border with Belarus, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 30 October 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2024/10/polen.html>

³⁰⁸⁶ 7th Budapest process Ministerial conference: Adoption of the new Ministerial Declaration and Call for Action charts the course for five years of cooperation, ICMPD Budapest process (Budapest) 20 November 2024. Access Date: 24 November 2024. <https://www.budapestprocess.org/7th-budapest-process-ministerial-conference-adoption-of-the-new-ministerial-declaration-and-call-for-action-charts-the-course-for-five-years-of-cooperation/>

³⁰⁸⁷ G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting Statement G7 Information Centre (Fiuggi – Anagni) 26 November 2024. Access Date: 11 December 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/241126-statement.html>

Analyst: Ryan Do

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen its actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models.

On 24 June 2024, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni welcomed the Prime Minister of Hungary, Viktor Orbán. They discussed the shared values between the two countries on strategies to enhance the management of migration flows.³⁰⁸⁸ Prime Minister Meloni focused on targeting transnational trafficking groups. Both members also advocated for partnerships with the countries of origin to address the source of migration and new approaches to managing migration.

On 26 June 2024, Prime Minister Meloni addressed the Chamber of Deputies where she emphasized her priority to partner with countries of origin and transit in addressing mass irregular immigration.³⁰⁸⁹ She highlighted the success of Italy's initiative of signing memoranda of understanding with Egypt and Tunisia to address migration and called on other countries to follow this model to address the root cause of migration.

On 26 June 2024, the Italian national police force, Polizia di Stato, announced the success of the operation, "Chinese Shuttles" in apprehending members of a Chinese criminal organization that facilitated human smuggling.³⁰⁹⁰ There were 77 illegal migrants found and nine individuals were arrested. The illegal migrants were subject to forced labour to pay off their debt to the smugglers who facilitated their trip. The successful operation demonstrated dedication to tackling transnational organized crime and reinforced the importance of dismantling smuggling networks that exploit vulnerable people.

On 4 July 2024, Prime Minister Meloni met with President Alexander Stubb of the Republic of Finland.³⁰⁹¹ The pair discussed matters of importance to both countries, where managing irregular migration was on the agenda.

On 11 July 2024, Prime Minister Meloni met with Prime Minister Kier Starmer of the United Kingdom.³⁰⁹² The pair exchanged their views and intentions to boost collaboration on addressing irregular migration.

On 6 August 2024, State Police investigators executed an order of custody under house arrest against two individuals in Terni investigated for association criminal conspiracy, aiding and abetting the illegal stay of foreigners on the national territory and false.³⁰⁹³

³⁰⁸⁸ President Meloni's press statement with Prime Minister Orbán of Hungary, Italian Government (Rome) 24 June 2024. Access Date: 29 September 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-s-press-statement-prime-minister-orb-n-hungary/26118>

³⁰⁸⁹ President Meloni's address to the Chamber of Deputies ahead of the European Council meeting on 27-28 June, Italian Government (Rome) 26 June 2024. Access Date: 29 September 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-s-address-chamber-deputies-ahead-european-council-meeting-27-28-june/26151>

³⁰⁹⁰ Trieste: operazione "Chinese Shuttles" contro immigrazione clandestina, Polizia di Stato (Rome) 26 June 2024. Translation Provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 29 September 2024. <https://www.poliziadistato.it/articolo/15667c305d427c2069197247>

³⁰⁹¹ Meeting with the President of the Republic of Finland, Italian Government (Rome) 4 July 2024. Access Date: 29 September 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/meeting-president-republic-finland/26175>

³⁰⁹² President Meloni meets with Prime Minister Starmer at NATO Summit, Italian Government (Rome) 11 July 2024. Access Date: 29 September 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-meets-prime-minister-starmer-nato-summit/26209>

³⁰⁹³ Illegal immigration: 2 arrests in Terni, Polizia di Stato (Rome) 6 August 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 March 2025. <https://www.poliziadistato.it/articolo/153066b20b91632b1253071797>

On 16 September 2024, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni met with Prime Minister Starmer. The two leaders declared their intention to strengthen cooperation in the fight against human trafficking.³⁰⁹⁴ In this field, the leaders placed an emphasis on judicial proceedings.

On 24 September 2024, the Council of Ministers approved a draft law which ratifies a cooperation agreement between Italy and Côte d'Ivoire.³⁰⁹⁵ In the agreement, a key priority is cooperation in addressing trafficking of persons and illicit trafficking of migrants.

On 26 September 2024, Prime Minister Meloni spoke with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz over the phone concerning migration issues in Europe.³⁰⁹⁶ Prime Minister Meloni and Chancellor Scholz agreed to bolster partnerships with countries of origin and transit and tackle human trafficking.

On 4 October 2024, G7 Interior and Security Ministers met in Mirabella Eclano where they formulated an action plan to resolve border management issues.³⁰⁹⁷ The G7 Action Plan included commitments to improve law enforcement capabilities, cooperation with both G7 member countries and countries of origin and transit and enhance general border management processes to prevent migrant smuggling and other transborder criminal activities.

On 4 October 2024, Minister of the Interior Matteo Piantedosi signed a declaration of intent aiming to establish an 'Italian-French Operational Research Unit' to combat illegal immigration.³⁰⁹⁸ The purpose of the initiative is to counter illegal migration but also to identify possible criminal networks dedicated to aiding and abetting illegal immigration by land across the Ventimiglia border and neighbouring areas.

On 11 October 2024, Minister Piantedosi met with the Brazilian Minister of Justice and Public Security Ricardo Lewandowski.³⁰⁹⁹ Minister Piantedosi confirmed future cooperation between Italy and Brazil in addressing transnational organized crime such as human and migrant trafficking.

On 16 October 2024, State Police investigators carried out a detention of a subject in Milan under investigation for association aimed at aiding and abetting illegal immigration.³¹⁰⁰ The investigation was a part of a broader joint investigation initiative including Italian, Dutch, British and Spanish authorities.

³⁰⁹⁴ Incontro del Presidente Meloni con il Primo Ministro del Regno Unito Starmer, Italian Government Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 16 September 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 October 2024.

<https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/incontro-del-presidente-meloni-con-il-primo-ministro-del-regno-unito-starmer/26554>

³⁰⁹⁵ Press release of the Council of Ministers no. 97, Italian Government Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 27 September 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 30 October 2024.

<https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/comunicato-stampa-del-consiglio-dei-ministri-n-97/26672>

³⁰⁹⁶ President Meloni's telephone conversation with Chancellor Scholz, Italian Government (Rome) 26 September 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-s-telephone-conversation-chancellor-scholz/26665>

³⁰⁹⁷ Annex A: G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants, G7 Information Centre (Mirabella Eclano) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 12 November 2024. <https://g7.utoronto.ca/justice/2024-interior-action-plan.html>

³⁰⁹⁸ G7 of Interior Ministers in Mirabella Eclano, bilateral between Piantedosi and his French counterpart Retailleau, Ministero dell'Interno (Rome) 4 October 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 March 2025.

<https://www.interno.gov.it/it/stampa-e-comunicazione/comunicati-stampa/g7-dei-ministri-dellinterno-mirabella-eclano-bilaterale-piantedosi-e-suo-omologo-francese-retailleau>

³⁰⁹⁹ Piantedosi incontra il Ministro della Giustizia e della Sicurezza Pubblica del Brasile Ricardo Lewandowski, Ministero dell'Interno (Rome) 11 October 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 26 November 2024.

<https://www.interno.gov.it/it/notizie/piantedosi-incontra-ministro-giustizia-e-sicurezza-pubblica-brasile-ricardo-lewandowski>

³¹⁰⁰ Aiding and abetting illegal immigration, 11 arrests, Polizia di Stato (Rome) 16 October 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 March 2025. <https://www.poliziadistato.it/articolo/1996670f7a1e535af196996647>

On 18 October 2024, the Department for Equal Opportunities (DEO) carried out a communication campaign which aimed to raise public awareness of human trafficking.³¹⁰¹ The DEO also offered a toll-free number that victims of trafficking can call.

On 29 October 2024, Prime Minister Meloni participated in the Italy-Libya Business forum held in Tripoli, where she met with the Prime Minister of Libya, Abdul Hamid Dabaiba.³¹⁰² The two leaders discussed strengthening the bilateral cooperation between Italy and Libya and touched on migration management and the prevention of human trafficking.

On 19 November 2024, the Department of Public Security of the Minister of the Interior co-organized with the United Nations Office for Drug and Crime Control in Central and West Africa the 'Fourth Regional Conference on the Fight Against Migrant Trafficking and Human Trafficking' hosted in Rome.³¹⁰³

On 26 November 2024, G7 Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment made at the Apulia Summit to address irregular migration and its causes, including poverty, instability, and climate change.³¹⁰⁴

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models. Italy has taken strong action to both prevent and counter migrant smuggling and human trafficking, such as through diplomatic meetings. It has also taken strong action to dismantle criminal networks involved in migrant smuggling and human trafficking but has not taken sufficient action to disrupt these organizations' business models.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Samantha de Verteuil

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models.

On 30 September 2024, Minister of the Political Section of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations Takayuki Iriya called for further efforts by international and regional organizations and UN members to prevent combat human trafficking and smuggling, and assist Libya in building capacity, according to relevant and applicable international law.³¹⁰⁵ Japan emphasized the importance of working to protect migrants from these human rights abuses, particularly in Libya.

³¹⁰¹ Campagna di comunicazione "Giornata contro la tratta degli esseri umani," Italian Government Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 18 October 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 October 2024.

<https://www.governo.it/it/media/campagna-di-comunicazione-giornata-contro-la-tratta-degli-esseri-umani/26850>

³¹⁰² President Meloni attends Italy-Libya Business Forum in Tripoli, Italian Government (Rome) 29 October 2024. Access Date: 12 November 2024. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/president-meloni-attends-italy-libya-business-forum-tripoli/2694>

³¹⁰³ Roma ospita la Quarta Conferenza sulla lotta al traffico di migranti, Ministero dell'Interno (Rome) 19 November 2024.

Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 26 November 2024. <https://www.interno.gov.it/it/notizie/roma-ospita-quarta-conferenza-sulla-lotta-traffico-migranti>

³¹⁰⁴ G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting Statement G7 Information Centre (Fiuggi – Anagni) 26 November 2024. Access Date: 11 December 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/241126-statement.html>

³¹⁰⁵ Statement by Minister IRIYA Takayuki, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, at the United Nations Security Council Briefing on the Maintenance of International Peace and Security (Smuggling of Migrants and Trafficking in Persons in the High Sea off the Coast of Libya), Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations (New York) 30 September 2024. Access Date: 16 November 2024. https://www.un.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/iriya093024.html

On 4 October 2024, G7 Interior and Security Ministers announced the G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants.³¹⁰⁶ The priorities of the plan are to improve collaboration and communication between partner countries, strengthen border management, and discourage migrants by informing them of the risks.

On 26 November 2024, G7 Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment made at the Apulia Summit to address irregular migration and its causes, including poverty, instability, and climate change.³¹⁰⁷

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to strengthen actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models. Japan has taken action to support initiatives against human trafficking and recognizes the importance of collaborating with other countries and international organizations. However, Japan has taken mostly weak action and has not addressed the dismantling of criminal organizations or the disruption of their business models.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Anali Arambula Galindo

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to strengthen actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models.

On 7 July 2024, Home Secretary Yvette Cooper announced the launch of the Border Security Command, a new agency dedicated to strengthening Britain's border management.³¹⁰⁸ Border Security Command will cooperate with other law enforcement and intelligence agencies to secure borders and apprehend smuggling gangs. Additionally, the United Kingdom Home Office announced the preparation of new legislation that will provide more powers and stronger measures for law agencies to stop immigration crime.

On 12 July 2024, the National Crime Agency (NCA) announced the success of an investigation which convicted key members of the Teesside crime group for trafficking migrants into the UK.³¹⁰⁹ This demonstrates the law enforcement agencies' continued commitment to dismantling criminal networks and securing UK borders.

On 17 July 2024, Prime Minister Keir Starmer committed to assist the fight against criminal organizations engaging in smuggling and trafficking people.³¹¹⁰ This effort is a collaboration between the UK, Europol, Frontex, and other partners.

On 18 July 2024, the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO) announced a funding package worth GBP84 million over three years to support projects in Africa and the Middle East to address

³¹⁰⁶ Annex A: G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants, G7 Information Centre (Mirabella Eclano) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/justice/2024-interior-action-plan.html>

³¹⁰⁷ G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting Statement G7 Information Centre (Fiuggi – Anagni) 26 November 2024. Access Date: 11 December 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/241126-statement.html>

³¹⁰⁸ Home Secretary launches new Border Security Command, Home Office (London) 7 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-launches-new-border-security-command>

³¹⁰⁹ Teesside crime group convicted of trafficking migrants into the UK, National Crime Agency (London) 12 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/teesside-crime-group-convicted-of-trafficking-migrants-into-the-uk>

³¹¹⁰ 'Security at the heart of UK's reset with Europe': PM to tell world leaders as he pledges closer cooperation to dismantle European smuggling rings and bring order to British borders, Prime Minister's Office (London) 17 July 2024. Access Date: 15 November 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/security-at-the-heart-of-uks-reset-with-europe-pm-to-tell-world-leaders-as-he-pledges-closer-cooperation-to-dismantle-european-smuggling-rings-and>

the source of illegal migration.³¹¹¹ This funding will support projects that address the reasons motivating individuals to flee their homes. Furthermore, the Prime Minister Starmer committed to working with Global South and European countries to tackle illegal migration.

On 18 July 2024, Prime Minister Starmer announced new measures in collaboration with Slovenia and Slovakia to combat organized crime and smuggling of people during the UK-lead fourth European Political Community Summit in Woodstock, UK. Furthermore, the UK is to provide up to GBP 85 million over the next three years for projects focusing on Africa as well as the Middle East to address challenges that lead for individuals to cross the Mediterranean Sea with small

On 24 July 2024, the NCA announced the jailing of Eglantin Doksani, a migrant smuggler who arranged crossings to the UK in small boats.³¹¹² Stopping organized immigration crime is a key priority for the NCA and this arrest illustrates the ongoing efforts made to apprehend criminals.

On 25 July 2024, Home Office announced the removal of 46 foreign criminals and immigration offenders on charter flights to Vietnam and Timor-Leste.³¹¹³ This marks a shift in immigration policy to end irregular migration, with the removal of flight planning for Rwanda and instead partnering with nations to return individuals to their home countries.

On 26 July 2024, the FCDO announced commitments to tackle migrant smuggling and organized crime at the fourth European Political Community summit.³¹¹⁴ This was the first summit where leaders held discussions on migration producing deals between the UK, Slovakia, and Slovenia to tackle organized crime.

On 21 August 2024, Home Secretary Yvette Cooper announced plans to hire at least 100 new law enforcement agents for the NCA.³¹¹⁵ These agents will focus solely on limiting the impact of organised crime networks and benefit from the illicit migration while exploiting individuals that are to seek asylum.

On 23 August 2024, Home Office Criminal and Financial inspectors detained a group of migrant smugglers as part of the UK's efforts towards strengthening its borders and combating people smuggling activities.³¹¹⁶ The smugglers had been transporting migrants in unsafe conditions.

On 27 August 2024, the UK government pledged GBP10.5 million to provide new technologies to three border checkpoints needed for the European Union's new biometric border identification system.³¹¹⁷ The ports, which have already heavily invested in preparation for the change, will be upgraded with photo and fingerprinting capabilities.

³¹¹¹ UK steps up work to reduce illegal migration, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 18 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-steps-up-work-to-reduce-illegal-migration>

³¹¹² People smuggler who arranged spaces on Channel boat crossings jailed following NCA investigation, National Crime Agency (London) 24 July 2024. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/people-smuggler-who-arranged-spaces-on-channel-boat-crossings-jailed-following-nca-investigation>

³¹¹³ Criminals and immigration offenders removed on charter flight, Home Office (London) 25 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/criminals-and-immigration-offenders-removed-on-charter-flight>

³¹¹⁴ The fourth European Political Community summit held at Blenheim in the United Kingdom: UK statement to the OSCE, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (London) 26 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/the-fourth-european-political-community-summit-held-at-blenheim-in-the-united-kingdom-uk-statement-to-the-osce>

³¹¹⁵ Home Secretary to recruit 100 specialist to target people smuggling gangs, The Guardian (London) August 23 2024. Access Date: 10 December 2024 <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/aug/21/home-secretary-to-recruit-100-specialists-to-target-people-smuggling-gangs>

³¹¹⁶ People smuggling ring jailed for cramming migrants in boot of car, Home Office (London) 23 August 2024. Access Date: 15 November 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/people-smuggling-ring-jailed-for-cramming-migrants-in-boot-of-car>

³¹¹⁷ UK to spend £10.5m on new EU border checks, British Broadcasting Corporation (London) 27 August 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4gz9n06rxdo>

On 6 September 2024, Home Secretary Cooper stated the importance of eliminating and holding accountable people smuggling networks, reporting 100 new expert inspectors to track and dismantle these organizations internationally.³¹¹⁸ Additionally, NCA Director General Graeme Biggar presented the results of collaborative efforts with Libyan forces to fight against migrant trafficking groups.

On 16 September 2024, Prime Minister Starmer met with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. The two leaders declared their intention to strengthen cooperation in the fight against human trafficking, with an emphasis on judicial proceedings.³¹¹⁹

On 17 September 2024, Home Secretary Cooper announced that the new Border Security Command (BSC) agency would receive GBP75 million from the UK government, taken from the Rwanda deportation project.³¹²⁰ The BSC, which aims to take down migrant smuggling gangs and trafficking networks in the UK and across Europe, will receive surveillance technologies and intelligence resources.

On 9 October 2024, the UK government pledged GBP4 million to the United Nations Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MMPTF) to tackle irregular migration, smuggling and trafficking.³¹²¹ The MMPTF fights transnational crime related to migrant smuggling, by providing humanitarian and logistical aid in countries of origin.

On 4 November 2024, Prime Minister Starmer reiterated his commitment to eliminate criminal organizations involved in people smuggling.³¹²² To do so, the Prime Minister allocated an additional GBP75 million to a total of GBP150 million to increase resources towards the investigation and dismantling of people smuggling criminal organizations. Moreover, the Home Office will spend an additional GBP24 million to counter serious organised crime which include but are not limited to trafficking and exploitation.

On 13 November 2024, as part of a joint operation with Dutch and Belgian agencies, the NCA arrested a man accused of supplying boats and engines to smugglers.³¹²³ The supposedly “highly dangerous” boats were intended for use in Belgium and France.

On 15 November 2024, the United Kingdom established new guidelines to its immigration policy.³¹²⁴ Among other things, this provides people who were subject to human trafficking with temporary refuge.

³¹¹⁸ Home Secretary sets out 'moral imperative' to stop smuggling gangs, Home Office (London) 6 September 2024. Access Date: 15 November 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/home-secretary-sets-out-moral-imperative-to-stop-smuggling-gangs>

³¹¹⁹ Incontro del Presidente Meloni con il Primo Ministro del Regno Unito Starmer, Italian Government Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 16 September 2024. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 19 October 2024. <https://www.governo.it/it/articolo/incontro-del-presidente-meloni-con-il-primo-ministro-del-regno-unito-starmer/26554>

³¹²⁰ UK uses funds from scrapped Rwanda deportation plan to boost border security, Radio France Internationale (Paris) 17 September 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/international/20240917-uk-uses-funds-from-scrapped-rwanda-deportation-asylum-plan-to-boost-border-security>

³¹²¹ New UK money to combat human trafficking, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 9 October 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-money-to-combat-human-trafficking>

³¹²² Prime Minister unveils game changing investment to tackle national security threat from people smuggling gangs, Prime Minister's Office (London) 4 November 2024. Access Date: 15 November 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-unveils-game-changing-investment-to-tackle-national-security-threat-from-people-smuggling-gangs>

³¹²³ Joint investigation sees suspected small boat supplier arrested in the Netherlands, National Crime Agency (London) 14 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/joint-investigation-sees-suspected-small-boat-supplier-arrested-in-the-netherlands>

³¹²⁴ New UK Immigration Rules for Illegal Immigrants in 2024, Gulbenkian Adonian (London) 30 July 2024. Access Date: 15 November 2024. <https://www.gulbenkian.co.uk/new-immigration-rules-uk-2021-for-illegal-immigrants>

On 20 November 2024, Foreign Secretary David Lammy signed an agreement with Moldova that aims to tackle irregular migration and create a strategic defense partnership between the two countries.³¹²⁵ The agreement will promote stronger border security and help facilitate the voluntary and enforced return of Moldovan migrants.

On 26 November 2024, G7 Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment made at the Apulia Summit to address irregular migration and its causes, including poverty, instability, and climate change.³¹²⁶

On 28 November 2024, Minister for Development Anneliese Dodds pledged a total of GBP1.98 billion to the International Development Association.³¹²⁷ The association aims to combat the causes of irregular migration by providing financial assistance to countries with low income.

On 28 November 2024, the United Kingdom signed a security agreement with Iraq focusing on gangs and organised crime which are engaged in smuggling to bolster border security.³¹²⁸ The agreement includes a commitment of GBP300,000 dedicated to training of local border guards focussing on organisation migration. Furthermore, the agreement seeks to counter the misinformation about smuggling and inform about the reality of this organised crime.

On 10 December 2024, the Home Office published a policy paper outlining a new approach to tackling Organized Immigration Crime (OIC) and enhancing border security through the BSC.³¹²⁹ Recognizing the growing threat of OIC, the BSC is investing GBP150 million for new technology, law enforcement capabilities, and specialist officers to combat OIC. Additionally, they note that the BSC's scope will expand beyond irregular migration to address broader threats such as illicit commodity trafficking and technological advancements used by criminals to exploit borders

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to strengthen actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models. The UK has taken strong action to dismantle criminal organizations through arrests, disrupt their business models by targeting their supply chains, and to counter and prevent the smuggling of migrants and human trafficking through international cooperation.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Anali Arambula Galindo

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to strengthen actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models.

³¹²⁵ UK signs new agreements on migration, defence & security with Moldova, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 20 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-signs-new-agreements-on-migration-defence-security-with-moldova>

³¹²⁶ New UK investment to unlock billions to tackle root causes of irregular migration, climate change and growth crises, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 28 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-investment-to-unlock-billions-to-tackle-root-causes-of-irregular-migration-climate-change-and-growth-crises--2>

³¹²⁷ New UK investment to unlock billions to tackle root causes of irregular migration, climate change and growth crises, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (London) 28 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-uk-investment-to-unlock-billions-to-tackle-root-causes-of-irregular-migration-climate-change-and-growth-crises--2>

³¹²⁸ UK/Iraq border security pact to target smuggling gangs, Home Office (London) 28 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-iraq-border-security-pact-to-target-smuggling-gangs>

³¹²⁹ Delivering Border Security, Home Office (London) 10 December 2024. Access Date: 21 December 2024. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/delivering-border-security-statement/delivering-border-security>

On 28 June 2024, the US and European Union reaffirmed their cooperation on home affairs such as migration, transnational organized crime, drug trafficking and more.³¹³⁰ The meeting highlighted the ongoing efforts and methods being used to combat these issues such as information sharing. Moreover, the representatives increased the discussion of irregular migration to further build on the Global Alliance to Counter Migrant Smuggling initiative.

On 11 July 2024, the Department of State announced a total of USD12 million in reward offers for information that will successfully lead to the arrests of leaders of the Tren de Aragu organization.³¹³¹ The Tren de Aragu is a transnational criminal organization, and its criminal network is involved in activities in Central and South America as well as the US. This initiative aims to disrupt transnational crime by offering rewards and coordinating with the Government of Columbia to apprehend fugitives.

On 18 July 2024, the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) sanctioned the Abdul Karim Conteh Human Smuggling Organization (Karim HSO).³¹³² In cooperation with federal agency partners in the United States and Mexico, OFAC's sanctions aim to dismantle the Karim HSO's operations by targeting financial assets, blocking its properties in the US and restricting its access to financial institutions.

On 22 July 2024, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced the expansion of operations to stop the criminal activities of Transnational Crime Organizations.³¹³³ The expansion of Operation Plaza Spike will stop and prevent illegal drug trafficking, exploitation of vulnerable migrants, and violence in communities at the US-Mexico border. This increase in law enforcement coverage will help better secure the southwest border and allow the CBP to target plaza bosses and cartels to reduce criminal activity.

On 25 July 2024, OFAC sanctioned the Lopez Human Smuggling Operation (Lopez HSO).³¹³⁴ In close partnership with US and Mexican federal partners, OFAC's sanctions seek to dismantle the Lopez HSO's operations by blocking its properties in the US and restricting its access to financial institutions.

On 22 August 2024, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Justice Department in collaboration with Guatemalan law enforcement under the Joint Task Force Alpha, executed multiple search and arrest warrants throughout Guatemala, leading to the arrest of a Guatemalan national indicted in Texas for alleged involvement in a human smuggling network.³¹³⁵ This involvement is tied to the 2022 San Antonio incident that resulted in the deaths of 53 migrants. This extensive bilateral cooperation disrupted such transnational smuggling networks that aimed to exploit migrants and undermine the security of US borders, also enhancing international cooperation.

³¹³⁰ Joint Press Release Following the EU-U.S Ministerial on Justice and Home Affairs, 21 June 2024, U.S Department of Homeland Security (Washington) 28 June 2024. Access Date: 21 September 2024. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2024/06/28/joint-press-release-following-eu-us-ministerial-justice-and-home-affairs-21-june>

³¹³¹ Up to \$12 Million in Reward Offers for Information Leading to Arrests and/or Convictions of Three Leaders of the Tren de Aragua Transnational Criminal Organization, U.S Department of State (Washington) 11 July 2024. Access Date: 21 September 2024. <https://www.state.gov/up-to-12-million-in-reward-offers-for-information-leading-to-arrests-and-or-convictions-of-three-leaders-of-the-tren-de-aragua-transnational-criminal-organization/>

³¹³² Treasury Targets Transnational Criminal Organization Smuggling Migrants into the United States, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington, D.C.) 18 July 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2470>

³¹³³ ICYMI: CBP Announces Expanded Operations Targeting Transnational Criminal Organizations, U.S Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 22 July 2024. Access Date: 23 September 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/icymi-cbp-announces-expanded-operations-targeting-transnational>

³¹³⁴ Treasury Targets Guatemalan Human Smuggling Organization for Illegal Transport of Migrants to the United States, U.S. Department of the Treasury (Washington, D.C.) 25 July 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2490>

³¹³⁵ Major Enforcement Operation in Guatemala Secures Arrest of Human Smuggler Indicted by Joint Task Force Alpha for Links to 2022 Mass Casualty Event in Texas, Homeland Security (Washington) 22 August 2024. Access Date: 28 October 2024. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2024/08/22/major-enforcement-operation-guatemala-secures-arrest-human-smuggler-indicted-jtfa>

On 26 August 2024, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas, Colombian Minister of Foreign Affairs Luis Gilberto Murillo and Panamanian Minister of Foreign Affairs Javier Eduardo Martinez-Acha released a joint statement addressing irregular migration.³¹³⁶ In the statement, the United States reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening cooperation in dismantling migrant trafficking and smuggling networks.

On 28 August 2024, the DHS, along with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and CBP, announced over USD380 million for Shelter and Service Programs.³¹³⁷ This supports migrant-hosting communities by reducing burdens on short-term holding facilities, and humanely addressing and stabilizing migration while also effectively managing border facilities.

On 29 August 2024, the CBP and the Government of Mexico announced the continuation of their law enforcement partnership to arrest criminals wanted by both countries and to stop transnational crime.³¹³⁸ Five new criminal targets were announced who are involved in human smuggling, drug trafficking, and other crimes.

On 5 September 2024, the Department of State announced the Aumoana Regional Law Enforcement Initiative, which will train and provide support to Pacific allies to improve law enforcement capabilities.³¹³⁹ This initiative will help stop illegal maritime activities such as drug and migrant trafficking, and other crimes.

On 11 September 2024, Spokesperson for the Department of State Matthew Miller announced the imposition of visa restrictions on executives of a European charter flight company for offering services assisting irregular migrants seeking to enter the United States through Nicaragua under Section 212(a)(3)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.³¹⁴⁰ In the statement, Mr. Miller further reaffirmed U.S. commitment against the exploitation of migrants by smugglers, private enterprises and government officials.

On 13 September 2024, the CBP announced the signing of a Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement with Uzbekistan aimed at improving cooperation on law enforcement and customs support between the two countries.³¹⁴¹ This new agreement allows both countries to exchange information, combat drug trafficking, and halt the operations of transnational criminal organizations together.

On 24 September 2024, Mr. Miller announced the imposition of visa restrictions on executives of designated travel agencies based in Europe, Africa and the Middle East known to offer travel services assisting irregular migrants seeking to enter the United States.³¹⁴² These restrictions are in accordance with Section 212(a)(3)(C)

³¹³⁶ Joint Statement: Trilateral on Irregular Migration, U.S. Department of Homeland Security (Washington, D.C.) 26 August 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2024/08/26/joint-statement-trilateral-irregular-migration>

³¹³⁷ Department of Homeland Security Announces \$380 Million in Additional Funding to Communities Receiving Migrants, Homeland Security (Washington) 28 August 2024. Access Date: 01 November 2024. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2024/08/28/department-homeland-security-announces-380-million-additional-funding-communities>

³¹³⁸ U.S. Custom and Border Protection, Government of Mexico counterparts in Chihuahua continue law enforcement partnership on Se Busca Informacion initiative to find wanted criminals, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 29 August 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/us-customs-and-border-protection-government-mexico-counterparts>

³¹³⁹ Aumoana Regional Law Enforcement Initiative Announced in Nuku'alofa, Tonga, U.S Department of State (Washington) 5 September 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.state.gov/aumoana-regional-law-enforcement-initiative-announced-in-nukualofa-tonga/>

³¹⁴⁰ Visa Restrictions on Senior Officials of a Charter Flight Company Facilitating Irregular Migration to the United States, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 11 September 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://www.state.gov/visa-restrictions-on-senior-officials-of-a-charter-flight-company-facilitating-irregular-migration-to-the-united-states/>

³¹⁴¹ US, Uzbekistan sign Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (Washington) 13 September 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/us-uzbekistan-sign-customs-mutual-assistance-agreement>

³¹⁴² Actions Against Travel Agency Executives Who Knowingly Facilitate Irregular Migration, U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.) 24 September 2024. Access Date: 3 November 2024. <https://www.state.gov/actions-against-travel-agency-executives-who-knowingly-facilitate-irregular-migration/>

of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which aims to reduce irregular migration by targeting individuals facilitating exploitative travel services to migrants.

On 25 September 2024, Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced over USD686 million in “new humanitarian, development, economic and security assistance to support partner countries.”³¹⁴³ This allows for resource mobilization to increase the prosecutions of human smuggling and trafficking networks, impose greater restrictions on irregular migration and expand lawful pathways for migration and border protection.

On 4 October 2024, G7 Interior and Security Ministers announced the G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants.³¹⁴⁴ The priorities of the plan are to improve collaboration and communication between partner countries, strengthen border management, and discourage migrants by informing them of the risks.

On 22 October 2024, the DHS, with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), deported Indian nationals who lacked legal grounds to stay in the US through a charter flight.³¹⁴⁵ In collaboration with the Indian government, this action combats irregular migration.

On 18 November 2024, the DHS, along with ICE, deported Chinese nationals who were not permitted to lawfully remain in the US on a charter flight.³¹⁴⁶ This will decrease and prevent irregular migration, thereby countering the smuggling and exploitation of individuals.

On 19 November 2024, OFAC announced the sanctioning of a network of nine Mexican nationals linked to drug and human smuggling operations of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel.³¹⁴⁷ OFAC’s sanctions seek to combat transnational crimes by targeting financial assets and properties sanctioned individuals own.

On 26 November 2024, OFAC announced the sanctioning of five Mexican nationals linked to the Gulf Cartel.³¹⁴⁸ OFAC’s sanctions aim to tackle illegal fishing as well as drug and human smuggling operations of the Gulf Cartel by restricting transactions of properties owned by sanctioned individuals.

On 26 November 2024, G7 Foreign Ministers reaffirmed their commitment made at the Apulia Summit to address irregular migration and its causes, including poverty, instability, and climate change.³¹⁴⁹

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to strengthen its actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models. The United States has taken strong action in dismantling transnational criminal organizations, including enhancing foreign cooperation, and has disrupted their business models by imposing sanction measures such as asset confiscation. The United States has also acted cooperatively to prevent and counter migrant smuggling and human trafficking more broadly.

³¹⁴³ Fact sheet: Fourth Ministerial Meeting on the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, The White House (Washington) 26 September 2024. Access Date: 29 October 2024. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/09/26/fact-sheet-fourth-ministerial-meeting-on-the-los-angeles-declaration-on-migration-and-protection/>

³¹⁴⁴ Annex A: G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants, G7 Information Centre (Mirabella Eclano) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/justice/2024-interior-action-plan.html>

³¹⁴⁵ DHS Conducts Removal Flight to the Republic of India, Department of Homeland Security (Washington) 25 October 2024. Access Date: 20 November 2024. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2024/10/25/dhs-conducts-removal-flight-republic-india>

³¹⁴⁶ DHS Conducts Removal Flight to the People’s Republic of China, Homeland Security (Washington) 18 November 2024. Access Date: 28 November 2024. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2024/11/18/dhs-conducts-removal-flight-peoples-republic-china>

³¹⁴⁷ Treasury Targets Fentanyl Traffickers and Other Key Contributors to U.S. Opioid Crisis, US Department of the Treasury (Washington, D.C.) 19 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2719>

³¹⁴⁸ Treasury Targets Cartel-Enabled Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Operations, US Department of the Treasury (Washington, D.C.) 24 November 2024. Access Date: 1 December 2024. <https://home.treasury.gov/news/press-releases/jy2729>

³¹⁴⁹ G7 Foreign Ministers’ Meeting Statement G7 Information Centre (Fiuggi – Anagni) 26 November 2024. Access Date: 11 December 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/foreign/241126-statement.html>

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ryan Do

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to strengthen its actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models.

On 13 June 2024, the European Union adopted the revised EU Anti-Trafficking Directive, giving EU member states two years to transpose these new rules into their national law.³¹⁵⁰ Actions under this new directive include expanding training and technological capabilities to identify trafficking, improving coordination between formal referral mechanisms and asylum authorities, and formalizing EU wide data collection on trafficking in human beings.

On 19 June 2024, the European Council announced the expanded role of Europol in fighting migrant smuggling in member states.³¹⁵¹ Changes to the Europol regulations will increase information sharing, use of biometric data, and assist national law enforcement bodies to reduce transnational crime and terrorism. This will strengthen European border security as well, with closer collaboration between Europol and EU's border agency Frontex.

On 20 June 2024, the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs announced the success of the meeting of the EU Network of National Coordinators and Rapporteurs on trafficking in human beings.³¹⁵² The meeting highlighted the importance of cross-border and EU agency collaboration to combat human trafficking.

On 21 June 2024, the European Council announced the success of the EU-US Ministerial meetings where both sides confirmed their support and need to address irregular migration.³¹⁵³ The parties focused on addressing migrant smuggling and trafficking.

On 24 June 2024, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency Frontex announced the success of the coordinated operations with Romania, Austria, Europol and INTERPOL in cracking down on criminal networks engaged in human trafficking.³¹⁵⁴ These successful operations are fundamental in securing EU borders and disrupting cross-border crime. In a period of 7 days, authorities arrested 219 smugglers and rescued 1374 victims.

³¹⁵⁰ Legal and Policy Framework, European Commission (Brussels) 10 July 2024. Access Date: 3 October 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/internal-security/organised-crime-and-human-trafficking/together-against-trafficking-human-beings/legal-and-policy-framework_en

³¹⁵¹ Migrant smuggling: Enhanced role of Europol in fighting migrant smuggling, Council of the EU (Brussels) 19 June 2024. Access Date: 25 September 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/06/19/migrant-smuggling-enhanced-role-of-europol-in-fighting-migrant-smuggling/>

³¹⁵² National Coordinators and Rapporteurs discussed trafficking for labour exploitation and forced criminality, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 20 June 2024. Access Date: 25 September 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/national-coordinators-and-rapporteurs-discussed-trafficking-labour-exploitation-and-forced-2024-06-20_en

³¹⁵³ Joint press release following the EU-U.S Ministerial on Justice and Home Affairs 21 June 2024 (Brussels), Council of the EU (Brussels) 21 June 2024. Access Date: 25 September 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/06/21/joint-press-release-following-the-eu-us-ministerial-meeting-on-justice-and-home-affairs-21-june-2024-brussels/>

³¹⁵⁴ Frontex teams up to combat human trafficking, Frontex European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Warsaw) 24 June 2024. Access Date: 25 September 2024. <https://www.frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/frontex-teams-up-to-combat-human-trafficking-Y4Mt2H>

On 25 June 2024, the EU Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs announced the discussion for the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum at the European Migration Conference.³¹⁵⁵ The implementation of the Pact will set a common approach to managing immigration for the EU. It serves as a roadmap which will push EU countries to create their own implementation plans and provides stakeholders with a to-do list of top priorities.

On 26 June 2024, the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs announced key details of the “Priorities of the Home affairs funds” conference where representatives outlined the European Commission’s funding and policy plans for coming years.³¹⁵⁶ With the home affairs funds being nearly doubled recently, the conference provided an opportunity to signal successful techniques and proper fund management for projects supporting migration, border management, and organized crime.

On 27 June 2024, President of the European Council Charles Michel highlighted the serious challenge of migration during his remarks following the European Council meeting.³¹⁵⁷ He highlighted the immense progress undertaken with the migration pact but drew attention to the need for more cooperation with third countries to address migration.

On 1 July 2024, the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs announced the details of the meeting of the Focus Group of specialized prosecutors combating trafficking in human beings.³¹⁵⁸ The meeting convened EU and non-EU prosecutors to share experiences on the challenges and best practices for the prosecution of human trafficking cases.

On 5 July 2024, Eurojust announced coordinated efforts from Romanian and French law enforcement agencies to dismantle a human trafficking network.³¹⁵⁹ This transnational crime group operated in both France and Romania where authorities were able to apprehend the criminals with the support of Eurojust and Europol.

On 10 July 2024, the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation announced the signing of a new agreement with the prosecution services of Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Peru to fight against organized crime.³¹⁶⁰ This increased collaboration between countries will work to disrupt transnational criminal activities, stop drug trafficking, and terrorism.

³¹⁵⁵ European Migration Conference on the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 25 June 2024. Access Date: 25 September 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/european-migration-conference-implementation-pact-migration-and-asylum-2024-06-25_en

³¹⁵⁶ European Commission helps EU-funded projects in migration, security, and borders strive for excellence, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 26 June 2024. Access Date: 26 September 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/european-commission-helps-eu-funded-projects-migration-security-and-borders-strive-excellence-2024-06-26_en

³¹⁵⁷ Remarks by President Charles Michel following the European Council meeting of 27 June 2024, Council of the EU (Brussels) 28 June 2024. Access Date: 26 September 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/06/28/remarks-by-president-charles-michel-following-the-european-council-meeting-of-27-june-2024/>

³¹⁵⁸ Specialised anti-trafficking prosecutors meet for the third time to reinforce judicial cooperation, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 1 July 2024. Access Date: 26 September 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/specialised-anti-trafficking-prosecutors-meet-third-time-reinforce-judicial-cooperation-2024-07-01_en

³¹⁵⁹ Coordinated actions from Romanian and French authorities to stop a human trafficking network, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 5 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/actions-taken-stop-romanian-human-trafficking-network>

³¹⁶⁰ An important step against organised crime: Eurojust signs Working Arrangements with five Latin American countries, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 10 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/important-step-against-organised-crime-eurojust-signs-working-arrangements-five-latin-american>

On 12 July 2024, the Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs announced the implementation of stronger EU rules to combat human trafficking with the revision of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive.³¹⁶¹ These new changes make it easier for authorities to investigate and prosecute criminals and add a wider array of items that count as trafficking. Also, the changes will provide better assistance and support to victims of human trafficking.

On 17 July 2024, Europol's European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC) released a new report that investigates the latest developments and main threats in migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings based on the most recent operations supported by Europol.³¹⁶² The results of the report will inform EU attempts to better counter migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings going forward.

On 30 July 2024, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation announced the arrest of eight individuals involved in migrant smuggling in an operation with the Romanian Police and Border Police.³¹⁶³ The operation benefited from cross-border cooperation between agencies that led to the successful dismantling of the organized criminal network that was smuggling Syria and Romanian nationals.

On 31 July 2024, the EU Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs announced the acceptance of Ireland's opt-in to participate in seven legislative instruments within the Pact on Migration and Asylum.³¹⁶⁴ This makes Ireland a participant in a joint European approach to managing migration in the EU through cooperation on policies on migration, asylum and integration. Ireland will receive operational and technical support from the European Commission and EU Agencies to support contributions to the common implementation plan.

On 1 August 2024, the EU Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs announced key details on the EU Technical Support Instrument that will provide tailored guidance on asylum procedures, internal and external migration management, resettlement, and the use of EU funds for nine EU Member States to support the implementation of the Pact on Migration and Asylum.³¹⁶⁵ The support instrument will assist in the operationalization of a common implementation plan for managing migration in the EU.

On 2 August 2024, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation announced the arrest of 21 individuals suspected of smuggling Algerian and Syrian nationals into the EU in an operation by the Spanish National Police with support from Europol.³¹⁶⁶ The operation dismantled a transnational organized crime network spanning the EU through collaboration between agencies, disrupting the migrant smuggling route from Algeria to Spain.

³¹⁶¹ Stronger EU rules to fight trafficking in human beings enter into force, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 12 July 2024. Access Date: 27 September 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/stronger-eu-rules-fight-trafficking-human-beings-enter-force-2024-07-12_en

³¹⁶² Tackling Threats, Addressing Challenges - Europol's Response to Migrant Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings In 2023 and Onwards, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Luxembourg) July 2024. Access Date: 3 October 2024. https://www.europol.europa.eu/cms/sites/default/files/documents/Tackling_threats__addressing_challenges_-_Europol's_response_to_migrant_smuggling_and_trafficking_in_human_beings_in_2023_and_onwards.pdf

³¹⁶³ 8 arrested in Romania for smuggling migrants along Balkan route, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (The Hague) 30 July 2024. Access Date: 28 September 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/8-arrested-in-romania-for-smuggling-migrants-along-balkan-route>

³¹⁶⁴ Ireland will participate in the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 31 July 2024. Access Date: 13 October 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/ireland-will-participate-eu-pact-migration-and-asylum-2024-07-31_en

³¹⁶⁵ Nine EU countries receive technical support for the implementation of the Pact, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (Brussels) 1 August 2024. Access Date: 10 October 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/nine-eu-countries-receive-technical-support-implementation-pact-2024-08-01_en

³¹⁶⁶ 21 arrested in Spain for smuggling Algerian and Syrian migrants into the EU, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Madrid) 2 August 2024. Access Date: 17 October 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/21-arrested-in-spain-for-smuggling-algerian-and-syrian-migrants-eu>

On 6 August 2024, the EU Border Assistance Mission in Libya (EUBAM) announced details on the second meeting of the Joint Committee with Libyan counterparts.³¹⁶⁷ Parties focused on the reinforcement of commitments with the EUBAM partnership to improve border management and expand the capabilities of Libyan authorities to counter cross-border crime.

On 21 August 2024, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation announced the arrest of eight suspected gang members involved in migrant smuggling by Bulgarian authorities supported by Europol.³¹⁶⁸ Four of the suspects were High Value Targets. The operation benefitted from the transnational collaboration between Bulgaria, Moldova, and Romania to raid suspected locations and dismantle a part of the organized criminal network smuggling migrants from Turkey into Bulgaria through the Western Balkan route.

On 3 September 2024, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation announced the detainment of 19 migrant smugglers in an operation with by law enforcement, supported by Europol.³¹⁶⁹ The operation was the result of cooperation on the investigation by Hungarian, Italian, Romanian, and Slovenian law enforcement authorities.

On 9 September 2024, the EuroMed Justice Project, in cooperation with INTERPOL and the Malta General Police, held a five-day capacity training on human trafficking and migrant smuggling investigations.³¹⁷⁰ The training included lessons on identifying new criminal patterns, leading investigations in the absence of victim cooperation, and successful prosecution of traffickers and smugglers within a human rights framework.

On 10 September 2024, the European Commissioner for Home Affairs and the Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs announced details of a meeting discussing the cooperation between the EU and Egypt on migration.³¹⁷¹ The meeting highlighted the success of Egypt in managing irregular migration and the importance of cooperation to establish a holistic and bilateral approach to border management and the return of migrants.

On 20 September 2024, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation announced the arrest of eight migrant smugglers in an operation with Bulgarian, Greek, and Romanian authorities within the framework of the regional Operational Task Force.³¹⁷² The dismantling of the criminal network smuggling Turkish nationals through Bulgaria and Serbia into south-western Europe benefitted from the joint cross-border actions of agencies facilitated by Europol.

On 25 September 2024, the EU's Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation announced the launch of the European Judicial Organised Crime Network to enhance transnational judicial cooperation, involving special

³¹⁶⁷ 2nd MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE REINFORCES EUBAM PARTNERSHIP WITH LIBYAN COUNTERPARTS, EU Border Assistance Mission in Libya (Tripoli) 6 August 2024. Access Date: 10 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eubam-libya/2nd-meeting-joint-committee-reinforces-eubam-partnership-libyan-counterparts-tripoli-6-august-2024_en

³¹⁶⁸ Four High Value Targets leading migrant smuggling ring arrested in Bulgaria, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Sofia) 21 August 2024. Access Date: 17 October 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/four-high-value-targets-leading-migrant-smuggling-ring-arrested-in-bulgaria>

³¹⁶⁹ 19 migrant smugglers detained in Romania, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Rome) 3 September 2024. Access Date: 17 October 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/19-migrant-smugglers-detained-in-romania>

³¹⁷⁰ EuroMed Justice Project joins partners to strengthen regional efforts to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 13 September 2024. Access Date: 31 October 2024. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/euromed-justice-project-joins-partners-strengthen-regional-efforts-combat-human-trafficking>

³¹⁷¹ Joint Press Statement on the occasion of the official visit of Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson to Egypt, Delegation of the European Union to Egypt (Cairo) 10 September 2024. Access Date: 13 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/egypt/joint-press-statement-occasion-official-visit-commissioner-home-affairs-ylva-johansson-egypt_en

³¹⁷² 8 arrested for smuggling migrants across the Turkish-Bulgarian border, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Sofia) 20 September 2024. Access Date: 17 October 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/8-arrested-for-smuggling-migrants-across-turkish-bulgarian-border>

prosecutors from all EU Member States.³¹⁷³ This will address multifaceted criminal operations and uncover weaknesses in the system, improving the ability of EU Member States to prosecute criminal groups involved in migrants smuggling and human trafficking.

On 30 September 2024, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency Frontex published a long-term strategic risk assessment that addresses the evolving criminal networks affecting border security such as migrant smuggling and the trafficking of persons.³¹⁷⁴ The assessment raises awareness of future problem areas in the process of deterring migrant smuggling.

On 3 October 2024, the Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh announced details of a EUR12 million regional project to build human and institutional capacity for border management in the region, in partnership with the ICMPD, by providing training and supporting detection services that prevent irregular migration.³¹⁷⁵ This will improve efforts to counter transnational organized crime in the region, such as human trafficking, and prevent irregular departures.

On 4 October 2024, the G7 Interior and Security Ministers' Meeting committed to an action plan comprised of five dimensions, which aim at bolstering law enforcement and cooperation largely.³¹⁷⁶

On 14 October 2024, the Delegation of the European Union to the International Organisations in Vienna announced key information on the discussion at the 12th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.³¹⁷⁷ Discussion included topics on smuggling of migrants and human trafficking, reiterating the EU's commitment to continuing to work with partners to improve cross-border law enforcement, particularly with third countries.

On 17 October 2024, President Michel announced the success of the meeting of the European Council, reaffirming the determination of EU members to improve the control of EU borders and combat organized crime and human trafficking.³¹⁷⁸ President Michel noted convergent interests on border management and security amongst EU members.

On 18 October 2024, the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Eurojust) released a publication that aims to raise awareness on the relation between international surrogacy arrangements and

³¹⁷³ European prosecutors join forces to systematically fight organised criminal groups in new network, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 25 September 2024. Access Date: 17 October 2024. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/european-prosecutors-join-forces-systemically-fight-organised-criminal-groups-new-network>

³¹⁷⁴ Frontex Releases Strategic Risk Analysis 2024, Frontex (Warsaw) 30 September 2024. Access Date: 30 October 2024. <https://www.frontex.europa.eu/media-centre/news/news-release/frontex-releases-strategic-risk-analysis-2024-Zjqtoj>

³¹⁷⁵ The European Union supports Bangladesh Integrated Border Management with Equipment to Strengthen Border Security, Delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh (Dhaka) 3 October 2024. Access Date: 31 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/bangladesh/european-union-supports-bangladesh-integrated-border-management-equipment-strengthen-border-security_en

³¹⁷⁶ ANNEX A: G7 Action Plan to Prevent and Counter the Smuggling of Migrants, G7 Information Centre (Mirabella Eclano) 4 October 2024. Access Date: 10 November 2024. <https://www.g7.utoronto.ca/justice/2024-interior-action-plan.html>

³¹⁷⁷ EU Statement delivered at the opening of the Twelfth Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), Delegation of the European Union to the International Organisations in Vienna (Vienna) 14 October 2024. Access Date: 31 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/vienna-international-organisations/eu-statement-delivered-opening-twelfth-session-conference-parties-united-nations-convention-against_en

³¹⁷⁸ Remarks by President Charles Michel at the press conference following the European Council meeting of 17 October 2024, European Council (Brussels) 17 October 2024. Access Date: 30 October 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/10/17/remarks-by-president-charles-michel-at-the-press-conference-following-the-european-council-meeting-of-17-october-2024/>

human trafficking.³¹⁷⁹ The document outlines possible solutions to the main legal challenges faced by national authorities.

On 19 October 2024, Ambassador Vesna Kos attended the European Parliamentary Association Event on EU-Council of Europe Cooperation.³¹⁸⁰ She called for greater collaboration between the Council of Europe and the EU on various issues, including migrant smuggling.

On 21 October 2024, the Diplomatic Service of the European Union announced the details of the fourth annual Strategic Consultation meeting between the EU and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.³¹⁸¹ The meeting highlighted the intent for continued discussions on human rights and migration issues.

On 24 October 2024, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation announced the arrest of 16 migrant smugglers in an operation with law enforcement authorities in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.³¹⁸² The operation benefited from transnational analytical, operational, and financial support between agencies to take down parts of a criminal network smuggling Bosnian nationals to Croatia across the Sava River.

On 28 October 2024, the European Commission and the Ministry of Interior of North Macedonia signed an Administrative Arrangement to make North Macedonia an Observer Country in the European Migration Network and commit to collaborating in the network by exchanging current information on asylum and migration in North Macedonia.³¹⁸³ This will reinforce regional cooperation and allow for informed policymaking within EU institutions on migration, asylum, and border management.

On 28 October 2024, the European Commissioner for Justice and the Minister of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina signed a cooperation agreement with the EU's agency for criminal justice cooperation, Eurojust, to increase coordination with EU judicial bodies.³¹⁸⁴ This will increase the efficiency of cross-border investigations and prosecutions on transnational organized crime and human trafficking, as well as the capacity for Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate in investigations. It signals the integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the EU's framework of standards for judicial cooperation.

On 29 October 2024, the European Council announced the success of the meeting of the EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs where commitments on joint efforts to counter transnational

³¹⁷⁹ Surrogacy and Human Trafficking, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 18 October 2024. Access Date: 21 October 2024. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/publication/surrogacy-and-human-trafficking>

³¹⁸⁰ EU Ambassador Participates in the European Parliamentary Association Event on EU-Council of Europe Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to the Council of Europe (Strasbourg) 26 September 2024. Access Date: 14 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/council-europe/eu-ambassador-participates-european-parliamentary-association-event-eu-council-europe-cooperation_en

³¹⁸¹ Human Rights: EU and OHCHR held fourth annual Strategic Consultations, The Diplomatic Service of the European Union (Geneva) 21 October 2024. Access Date: 31 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/human-rights-eu-and-ohchr-held-fourth-annual-strategic-consultations_en

³¹⁸² 16 arrests as police target migrant smuggling across the Sava River, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Zagreb) 24 October 2024. Access Date: 31 October 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/16-arrests-police-target-migrant-smuggling-across-sava-river>

³¹⁸³ North Macedonia becomes observer country to the European Migration Network, European Commission (Budva) 28 October 2024. Access Date: 30 October 2024. https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/news/north-macedonia-becomes-observer-country-european-migration-network-2024-10-28_en

³¹⁸⁴ BiH signs Eurojust agreement on judicial cooperation with the EU, Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina & European Union Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Budva) 28 October 2024. Access Date: 31 October 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/bosnia-and-herzegovina/bih-signs-eurojust-agreement-judicial-cooperation-eu_en

organized crime, illicit trafficking of migrants, and improving border management were reaffirmed.³¹⁸⁵ The meeting highlighted the importance of cross-border criminal justice cooperation to combat human trafficking and regional cooperation on border security.

On 4 November 2024, Eurojust published a Multi-Annual Strategy report listing the objectives of active implementation of the revised Action Plan Against Migrant Smuggling and the revised Strategy in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings.³¹⁸⁶ The report informs future efforts to counter migrant smuggling and trafficking of human beings.

On 5 November 2024, the Council of the European Union announced the adoption of an EU law that will regulate the conditions for criminal case proceedings to be transferred between member states.³¹⁸⁷ This will improve the ability of EU member states to combat cross-border crime, such as migrant smuggling and human trafficking.

On 6 November 2024, Eurojust released the outcome report from the focus group of specialized prosecutors against human trafficking.³¹⁸⁸ The EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator implemented this focus group as part of the EU strategy against the trafficking of human beings and works to strengthen judicial cooperation in transnational human trafficking.

On 14 November 2024, the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Kazakhstan announced key information on the discussion at the roundtable on transnational threats affecting the EU and Kazakhstan, exchanging strategies to strengthen border security and combat human trafficking.³¹⁸⁹ This was a major step in enhancing EU-Kazakhstan cooperation and collaboration to manage illegal migration and transnational organized crime.

On 14 November 2024, the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation announced the arrest of a major supplier of small boats to migrant smugglers in a joint investigation facilitated by Eurojust and Europol between Belgian, UK, and Dutch authorities.³¹⁹⁰ The investigation benefited from the cross-border cooperation between agencies, as part of an effort to combat migrant smuggling in the English Channel.

On 21 November 2024, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation announced the arrest of 25 migrant smugglers in a joint investigation by Germany, Austria, Bosnia, Herzegovina, the Netherlands, Poland, Serbia, the UK, and other European states, within the framework of a Europol Operational Task

³¹⁸⁵ Joint press statement EU-Western Balkans Ministerial Forum on Justice and Home Affairs, Council of the European Union (Budva) 29 October 2024. Access Date: 30 October 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/10/29/joint-press-statement-eu-western-balkans-ministerial-forum-on-justice-and-home-affairs-budva-montenegro-28-29-october-2024/>

³¹⁸⁶ Multi-Annual Strategy 2025-2027, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 4 November 2024. Access Date: 26 November 2024. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/publication/multi-annual-strategy-2025-2027>

³¹⁸⁷ Fighting cross-border crime: Council adopts EU law about transfer proceedings, Council of the EU (Brussels) 5 November 2024. Access Date: 24 November 2024. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/11/05/fighting-cross-border-crime-council-adopts-eu-law-about-transfer-of-proceedings/>

³¹⁸⁸ Focus Group of specialized prosecutors against human trafficking: Outcome Report of the 3rd meeting, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (The Hague) 6 November 2024. Access Date: 26 November 2024.

<https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/publication/focus-group-specialised-prosecutors-against-human-trafficking-outcome-report-3rd>

³¹⁸⁹ Astana Hosted a Roundtable on Transnational Threats Affecting the EU and Kazakhstan, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Kazakhstan (Astana) 15 November 2024. Access Date: 24 November 2024. https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kazakhstan/astana-hosted-roundtable-transnational-threats-affecting-eu-and-kazakhstan_en

³¹⁹⁰ Supplier of small boats to human smugglers arrested, European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (Amsterdam) 14 November 2024. Access Date: 24 November 2024. <https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/supplier-small-boats-human-smugglers-arrested>

Force.³¹⁹¹ The dismantling of the criminal network spanning 20 countries into the EU benefitted from the cross-border collaboration between countries and the Joint Investigation Team facilitated by Europol to organize judicial cooperation.

On 28 November 2024, the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation announced the arrest of 26 migrant smugglers and the seizure of EUR11 million in assets in an investigation by France supported by Luxembourg, Portugal, the UK, and other EU and non-EU states, in the Indian subcontinent.³¹⁹² E The dismantling of the migrant smuggling criminal network spanning the Indian subcontinent, the UK, and North America benefitted from the cross-border cooperation facilitated by Europol.

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to strengthen its actions to prevent, counter, and dismantle organized criminal networks that profit from the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons and disrupt their business models. The European Union has taken strong action to address threats of migrant smuggling and human trafficking, as well as making progress in the implementation of anti-trafficking legislation.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Samantha de Verteuil

³¹⁹¹ 25 arrests in EU-wide operation against Syrian migrant smuggling network, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Berlin) 21 November 2024. Access Date: 29 November 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/25-arrests-in-eu-wide-operation-against-syrian-migrant-smuggling-network>

³¹⁹² France arrests 26 for smuggling migrants from Indian sub-continent, European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Paris) 28 November 2024. Access Date: 29 November 2024. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/france-arrests-26-for-smuggling-migrants-indian-sub-continent>