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The G7 Research Group presents the

2022 G7 Elmau Summit Interim Compliance Report

28 June 2022 to 6 January 2023

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“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*



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16. Crime and Corruption: Transnational Crime

“To further ensure the security of our citizens, we will intensify our fight against transnational organised crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, in close cooperation with civil society and international actors such as Interpol and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.”

Elmau G7 Summit Communiqué

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
Italy		0	
Japan			+1
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union		0	
Average	+0.625 (83%)		

Background

Criminal groups are not always limited to one country; they often form transnational groups that require international cooperation to stop them. One treaty that focuses on how this cooperation can be achieved is the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.²³⁶⁸ This Convention has been discussed at past G7 Summits, but the specific type of transnational organized crime that is considered at a specific summit, including human trafficking, drug crime, environmental crime, and cybercrime, varies from year to year. Cybercrime was a focus of the 2000, 2001, 2008 and 2010 G8 summits. At the 2021 Cornwall and 2022 Elmau Summits, environmental crimes received attention. Not only do criminal organizations often transcend national boundaries, but so do the impacts of their crimes. For example, environmental crime harms the finances of developing countries and the environment.²³⁶⁹

At the 1998 Birmingham Summit, G8 leaders announced that they “fully support efforts to negotiate within the next two years an effective United Nations convention against transnational organised crime.”²³⁷⁰ By ratifying this Convention, law enforcement would gain more of the tools that are required to combat transnational organised crime.

At the 2000 Okinawa Summit, G8 leaders raised the issue of drug trafficking and illegal drug use.²³⁷¹ To combat both problems, the leaders committed to working with “other countries, the UN system and other groups.” They also pledged to improve international cooperation in the fight against precursor chemicals being used to make illegal drugs, as well as amphetamine and synthetic drug use. The topic of cybercrime also gained prominence. G8 leaders decided to study the “global economy of illegal drugs” and acknowledged that “a concerted approach to high-tech crime, such as cyber-crime” is needed.

²³⁶⁸ United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto, United Nations (Vienna) 2004. Access Date: 24 September 2022. https://www.unodc.org/documents/middleeastandnorthafrica/organised-crime/UNITED_NATIONS_CONVENTION_AGAINST_TRANSNATIONAL_ORGANIZED_CRIME_AND_THE_PROTOCOLS_THERETO.pdf

²³⁶⁹ Frequently Asked Questions on Illegal Logging, European Commission (Brussels) 21 October 2010. Access Date: 24 September 2022. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/es/MEMO_10_511

²³⁷⁰ Drugs and International Crime, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 May 1998. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/1998birmingham/drugs.htm>

²³⁷¹ G8 Communiqué Okinawa 2000, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 23 July 2000. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2000okinawa/finalcom.htm>

At the 2001 Genoa Summit, G8 leaders reiterated their “commitment to combat transnational organised crime” and to tackle cybercrime.²³⁷² Leaders also agreed to intensify their efforts against drug trafficking and illegal drug use.

At the 2002 Kananaskis Summit, G8 leaders urged other countries to ratify the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime to combat corruption, bribery and embezzlement.²³⁷³ Leaders also planned to establish a UN Convention on Corruption.

At the 2003 Évian-les-Bains Summit, G8 leaders urged “wider accession to and ratification of the UN Convention on Transnational Organised Crime.”²³⁷⁴ Leaders emphasized that the Convention would ensure that criminal assets can be identified and frozen. G8 leaders also said that ratifying the Convention would make “money laundering, corruption and other relevant crimes” universally criminalized.

At the 2005 Gleneagles Summit, G8 leaders focused on transnational crimes as they relate to pirated and counterfeited goods.²³⁷⁵ Leaders discussed how to better coordinate actions against these two crimes and agreed to examine online counterfeiting and theft to detect and deter the distribution of counterfeit goods.

At the 2006 St. Petersburg Summit, G8 leaders agreed to work with several international organizations on creating “technical assistance pilot plans” for any interested developing country that would like to have the necessary capacity to fight counterfeiting and piracy.²³⁷⁶ Some of the international organizations mentioned include INTERPOL, the World Trade Organization, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

At the 2007 Heiligendamm Summit, G8 leaders pledged to assist the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, INTERPOL and the OECD in their efforts to “coordinate the implementation” of the UN Convention against Corruption to combat corruption worldwide.²³⁷⁷

At the 2008 Hokkaido Summit, G8 leaders reiterated their commitment to stopping transnational organized crime through all possible means.²³⁷⁸ Leaders agreed to strengthen their partnership against transnational organized crime, including through “experience-sharing.” Specific crimes targeted through this partnership include cybercrime and trafficking. Leaders also focused on combatting problems posed by the “abuse of information and communication technology.”

At the 2009 L’Aquila Summit, G8 leaders reiterated their pledge to form “capacity-building initiatives” in any country that needs help in combating transnational organized crime.²³⁷⁹ G8 leaders also pledged to work with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, other UN organizations, and INTERPOL to fight against transnational organized crime.

²³⁷² Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 22 July 2001. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2001genoa/finalcommuniqué.html>

²³⁷³ G8 Africa Action Plan, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 June 2002. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2002kananaskis/afraction-e.pdf>

²³⁷⁴ Fighting Corruption and Improving Transparency: A G8 Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 2 June 2003. Access Date: 24 September 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2003evian/corruption_en.html

²³⁷⁵ Reducing IPR Piracy and Counterfeiting Through More Effective Enforcement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2005. Access Date: 24 September 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2005gleneagles/ipr_piracy.pdf

²³⁷⁶ Combating IPR Piracy and Counterfeiting, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 16 July 2006. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2006stpetersburg/ipr.html>

²³⁷⁷ Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 7 June 2007. Access Date: 5 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2007heiligendamm/g8-2007-economy.html>

²³⁷⁸ G8 Hokkaido Toyako Summit Leaders’ Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 8 July 2008. Access Date: 5 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2008hokkaido/2008-declaration.html>

²³⁷⁹ Political Issues, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 9 July 2009. Access Date: 5 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2009laquila/2009-political.html>

At the 2010 Muskoka Summit, G8 leaders focused on “security vulnerabilities,” including the threat posed by transnational organized crime.²³⁸⁰ One of the planned strategies to reduce these vulnerabilities was increasing the number of civilian experts available internationally. Leaders also recognized cybercrime as a “growing threat” and committed to collaboratively working to weaken criminal networks.

At the 2012 Camp David Summit, G8 leaders agreed to strengthen their cooperation against transnational organized crime and other threats.²³⁸¹ Leaders also reiterated the importance of enhancing the “integrity and implementation of the UN conventions on drug control and transnational organised crime” to eliminate support for criminal networks.

At the 2013 Lough Erne Summit, G8 leaders pledged to provide “political and practical support to those regional and international organisations” that are helping other countries better oversee their borders by targeting the contributing factors, including transnational organized crime.²³⁸² Leaders pointed to the major contributions of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and committed to fighting against the trafficking of protected or endangered wildlife.

At the 2014 Brussels Summit, G7 leaders agreed to “prevent the misuse of companies and other legal arrangements such as trusts to hide financial flows stemming from corruption, tax evasion, money laundering, and other crimes.”²³⁸³ Additionally, the Brussels Summit Declaration confirmed leaders’ aim to ensure that “beneficial ownership information is available in a timely fashion to financial intelligence units, tax collection and law enforcement agencies” to prevent crimes stemming from the misuse of legal arrangements.

At the 2017 Taormina Summit, G7 leaders focused on human trafficking and exploitation.²³⁸⁴ Leaders agreed to find ways of improving their efforts to prosecute those who act violently against women and decided to improve domestic and international cooperation around combatting human trafficking. Leaders also pledged to examine the financing of human trafficking.

At the 2021 Cornwall Summit, G7 leaders recognized the “illegal wildlife trade (IWT) as serious organised crimes” and committed to combatting money laundering of the proceeds stemming from IWT.²³⁸⁵ Leaders also agreed to cooperate with civil society and the private sector to address IWT, among other threats to nature.

Commitment Features

At the 2022 Elmau Summit, leaders committed to “further ensure the security of our citizens, we will intensify our fight against transnational organised crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, in close cooperation with civil society and international actors such as Interpol and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.”²³⁸⁶ This commitment can be interpreted as having one main welfare target, which is to ensure the security of citizens. This target includes two dimensions: to fight against transnational organized crime and to cooperate with civil society and international actors in the process. The

²³⁸⁰ Muskoka Declaration: Recovery and New Beginnings, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 26 June 2010. Access Date: 5 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2010muskoka/communique.html>

²³⁸¹ Camp David Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 19 May 2012. Access Date: 5 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2012campdavid/g8-declaration.html>

²³⁸² G8 Lough Erne Leaders Communiqué, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 18 June 2013. Access Date: 5 October 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2013lougherne/lough-erne-communique.html>

²³⁸³ G7 Brussels Summit Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 5 June 2014. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2014brussels/declaration.html>

²³⁸⁴ G7 Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 27 May 2017. Access Date: 24 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2017taormina/gender.html>

²³⁸⁵ G7 2030 Nature Compact, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-nature-compact.html>

²³⁸⁶ G7 Leaders’ Communiqué – Executive Summary, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2022elmau/220628-communique-summary.html>

first dimension of fighting transnational organized crime includes three subsequent dimensions: fighting “cybercrime” and “environmental crime” and focusing efforts particularly in “fragile contexts.”

“To ensure” is understood to mean to make something certain to happen.²³⁸⁷

“Security” is understood to mean the quality of being secure, such as freedom from danger, fear, or anxiety.²³⁸⁸

“To intensify” is understood to mean to increase existing actors.²³⁸⁹ In the context of this commitment, members can “intensify” their fight against transnational organized crime through escalating current efforts.

“Transnational organised crime” is understood to be profit-motivated, serious criminal activities with international implications.²³⁹⁰

“Cybercrime” is understood to be criminal activity committed using a computer especially to illegally access, transmit or manipulate data.²³⁹¹

“Environmental crime” is understood to mean activities that breach environmental legislation and cause significant harm or risk to the environment, human health or both.²³⁹² It can include, but is not limited to: improper collection, transport recovery or disposal of waste, illegal operation of a plant in which a dangerous activity is carried out or in which dangerous substances or preparations are stored, killing, destruction, possession or trade of protected wild animal or plant species or the production, importation, exportation, marketing or use of ozone-depleting substances.

“Fragile contexts” refers to situations which are particularly susceptible to or weak against transnational organized crime.²³⁹³ In the context of this commitment, this can include but is not limited to: countries in conflict zones, significant social, political and economic upheaval or severely suffering from natural disasters.

“Cooperation” is understood to mean the action or process of working together to the same end.²³⁹⁴ In the context of the commitment, members look to cooperate with civil society and international actors, specifically INTERPOL and UNODC.

“Civil society” is understood to mean any non-profit, voluntary citizen’s group which is organized on a local, national or international level.²³⁹⁵

²³⁸⁷ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 1 December 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²³⁸⁸ Security, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 2 October 2022. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/security>

²³⁸⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 1 December 2022. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²³⁹⁰ Organized Crime, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Vienna) n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <https://www.unodc.org/ropan/en/organized-crime.html>

²³⁹¹ Cybercrime, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/cybercrime>

²³⁹² Environmental Crime, Europol (The Hague), n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-statistics/crime-areas/environmental-crime>

²³⁹³ Fragile, Merriam-Webster (Springfield), n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/fragile>

²³⁹⁴ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

²³⁹⁵ Civil Society, United Nations (Geneva) n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/get-involved/un-and-civil-society>

“International actors” are understood to mean those who act upon or take part in any international affair.²³⁹⁶ In the context of this commitment, “international actors” are international stakeholders including, but not limited to INTERPOL and UNODC.

Full compliance, or a score of +1, will be assigned to G7 members who take strong action to ensure citizens’ security through both dimensions of the commitment. The first dimension is to fight against transnational organized crime by taking strong action against cybercrime and environmental crime. The second dimension consists of four additional criteria of equal weight, but lesser weight than the core two objectives. In fighting the two types of transnational crime, G7 members must focus on fragile contexts, cooperate with civil society, cooperate with INTERPOL and cooperate with UNODC in order to reach the aforementioned ends. Full compliance requires strong action against cybercrime and environmental crime, as well as strong action in three of the four criteria in the second dimension of the commitment. This can include both domestic and international actions that work towards fighting transnational organized crime and cooperation with civil society and international actors. Strong domestic actions may include, but are not limited to: enforcement against transnational organized crime through policy action, expanding current or creating new programs which further cooperation with civil society and international actors, or allocating money to support the fight against transnational organized crime. Strong international actions may include, but are not limited to: providing financial support for civil societies or international actors who will contribute to the fight against transnational organized crime or joining, participating or financing international organizations pertaining to the commitment features.

Partial compliance, or a score of 0, will be assigned to G7 members who take strong action in at least three of the six mentioned criteria across the two dimensions of the commitment. Alternatively, a score of 0 will be assigned to those members who take a combination of strong and less than strong actions in four to five of the six criteria across the two dimensions of the commitment. Weak domestic actions may include, but are not limited to: verbal reaffirmation of their commitment or attending meetings pertaining to the commitment. Weak international actions may include, but are not limited to: information sharing with civil society and international actors or sponsoring, signing or ratifying relevant international treaties.

Non-compliance, or a score of -1, will be assigned if one of the following scenarios occurs: the G7 member demonstrates weak actions in both dimensions of the commitment and no strong actions, the G7 member takes action in less than three of the six mentioned criteria across the two dimensions, or the G7 member actively threatens citizens’ security as related to transnational organized crime.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member only took weak action to fight against transnational organized crime, focus on fragile contexts, cooperate with civil society, INTERPOL and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) OR took strong action in less than three of the six objectives OR actively threatened citizens’ security across the six objectives.
0	The G7 member took strong action in at least three of the six objectives OR has taken a mix of strong and less than strong actions in four to five of the six objectives.
+1	The G7 member took strong action to fight against transnational organized crime through fighting “cybercrime” and “environmental crime” AND has taken strong action in at least three of the following: focusing on “fragile contexts,” cooperating with “civil society,” INTERPOL and UNODC.

*Compliance Director: Arad Farbadi-Niaki
Lead Analyst: Mark Edwards*

²³⁹⁶ Actor, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) n.d. Access Date: 25 September 2022. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/actor>

Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors such as INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

On 14 October 2022, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Steven Guilbeault reaffirmed Canada's cooperation with the Pacific Alliance under the "Americas for the Protection of the Ocean" coalition.²³⁹⁷ The coalition, which was formed in June 2022, acknowledges the threat of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and pledges to promote the cooperation and exchange of best practices in the management of protected marine areas. The coalition also agrees to work with civil society and non-governmental actors to promote the preservation of the oceans.²³⁹⁸

On 1 November 2022, the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission hosted a meeting with regulators from Canada, Ireland, Hong Kong, Australia, and the United States.²³⁹⁹ The participants discussed ways to disrupt cross-border online scams and shared ideas to address the challenges of cross-border enforcement.

On 2 November 2022, Canadian fishery and air crew officers completed Operation North Pacific Guard, an international law enforcement operation based in the North Pacific.²⁴⁰⁰ The operation was conducted in cooperation with the United States, South Korea, and Japan and focused on detecting and deterring IUU fishing activity. Fishery officers launched patrols in northern Japan, a region which suffers from high fishing activity.

On 9 November 2022, Canadian authorities arrested Mikhail Vasiliev on the grounds of participating in the LockBit global ransomware campaign.²⁴⁰¹ Canada has cooperated with the United States Department of Justice in fighting the ransomware campaign, which has cost victims upwards of USD100 million.

On 14 November 2022, Canadian representatives began their participation in the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).²⁴⁰² The delegation included representatives from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Global Affairs Canada, as well as domestic stakeholders and Indigenous partners. At the Commission, Canada co-sponsored a successful proposal by the European Union to strengthen the existing rules and regulations against IUU fishing.

²³⁹⁷ Joint public declaration on the Council of the Canada-Chile Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Environment and Climate Change Canada (Santiago) 14 October 2022. Access Date: 27 October 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2022/10/joint-public-declaration-on-the-council-of-the-canada-chile-commission-for-environmental-cooperation.html>

²³⁹⁸ Joint declaration on the "Americas for the Protection of the Ocean" during the ninth Summit of the Americas, Government of Canada (Ottawa) 9 June 2022. Access Date: 27 October 2022. <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/oceans/collaboration/declaration-eng.html>

²³⁹⁹ CRTC hosts first meeting between five countries to combat scam communications, Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (Ottawa) 1 November 2022. Access Date: 9 January 2023. <https://www.canada.ca/en/radio-television-telecommunications/news/2022/11/crtc-hosts-first-meeting-between-five-countries-to-combat-scam-communications.html>

²⁴⁰⁰ Canada fights illegal fishing with *Operation North Pacific Guard*, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 2 November 2022. Access Date: 2 November 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2022/11/canada-fights-illegal-fishing-with-operation-north-pacific-guard.html>

²⁴⁰¹ Man Charged for Participation in LockBit Global Ransomware Campaign, Department of Justice (Washington D.C.) 10 November 2022. Access Date: 8 January 2023. <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/man-charged-participation-lockbit-global-ransomware-campaign>

²⁴⁰² Government of Canada celebrates successful outcomes at the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas meeting, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 16 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2022/12/government-of-canada-celebrates-successful-outcomes-at-the-international-commission-for-the-conservation-of-atlantic-tunas-meeting.html>

On 27 November 2022, Minister of Foreign Affairs Mélanie Joly launched Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy.²⁴⁰³ Part of the strategy will allocate CAD84.3 million to support measures against IUU fishing in the Indo-Pacific region.

On 12 December 2022, Minister of Natural Resources Jonathan Wilkinson announced that Canada, alongside Australia, France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, would be launching the Sustainable Critical Minerals Alliance.²⁴⁰⁴ Each member of the Alliance has pledged to hold responsible any group that causes environmental damage.

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society, the UNODC and INTERPOL. Canada has taken strong action to combat environmental crime by completing Operation North Atlantic Guard and dedicating CAD84.3 million towards fighting IUU fishing under the Indo-Pacific Strategy. Canada has also taken strong action to fight cybercrime by arresting individuals spreading ransomware and continuing to cooperate with international partners in the fight against the LockBit ransomware campaign. Canada also cooperated with civil society by including domestic stakeholders and Indigenous peoples in the Canadian delegation to the ICCAT.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Claire Birch

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors such as INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

On 21 August 2022, Minister of the Interior Gérald Darmanin announced the planned launch of 3,000 “green police stations.”²⁴⁰⁵ Each ‘green brigade’ will be tasked with assisting in the judicial investigation process against ecological attacks and bioterrorism.

On 18 October 2022, the Senate adopted a bill granting a EUR15 billion increase to the Ministry of Interior budget, which is intended for digital technology and the prevention of cybercrime and crises.²⁴⁰⁶ The bill acknowledges the need for a digital security force to address the potential for cyber-delinquency and threats. The bill also directs the allocation of funds to domestic organizations for crisis management and fighting cyber-attacks.

²⁴⁰³ Canada launches Indo-Pacific Strategy to support long-term growth, prosperity, and security for Canadians, Global Affairs Canada (Vancouver) 27 November 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2022/11/canada-launches-indo-pacific-strategy-to-support-long-term-growth-prosperity-and-security-for-canadians.html>

²⁴⁰⁴ Countries Commit to the Sustainable Development and Sourcing of Critical Minerals, Natural Resources Canada (Montreal) 12 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2022/12/countries-commit-to-the-sustainable-development-and-sourcing-of-critical-minerals.html>

²⁴⁰⁵ Environmental damage: Gérald Darmanin Promises “3000 green police stations,” Le Parisien (Paris) 21 August 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 18 November 2022. <https://www.leparisien.fr/environnement/atteintes-a-lenvironnement-darmanin-promet-3000-postes-de-gendarmes-verts-21-08-2022-QISYJRPTZRDJDB3MV66FK2EWOU.php>

²⁴⁰⁶ Orientation and programming bill of the Ministry of the Interior, Department of Legal and Administrative Information (Paris) n.d. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 24 October 2022. <https://www.vie-publique.fr/loi/284424-projet-loi-securite-lopmi-2023-27-programmation-ministere-interieur>

On 14 November 2022, France, as a member state of Europol and alongside INTERPOL, completed the 13th edition of Operation In Our Sites, which investigates and seizes websites deemed to have hosted “illicit content.”²⁴⁰⁷ Seized content primarily included intellectual property and trademark infringements.

On 23 November 2022, INTERPOL fraud investigators, in cooperation with France and other partner states, completed Operation HAECHI III – a five-month operation to combat a variety of financial cyber crimes.²⁴⁰⁸ The operation saw the arrest of almost 1000 suspects and the seizure of nearly USD130 million.

On 12 December 2022, France, Canada, Australia, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States joined together to launch the Sustainable Critical Minerals Alliance.²⁴⁰⁹ Each member of the Alliance has pledged to hold responsible any group that causes environmental damage.

France has partially complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society, UNODC and INTERPOL. France has cooperated with INTERPOL to combat financial cyber crimes through operation HAECHI III. France has also agreed to hold accountable any group that harms the environment and has fought against environmental crime by creating green police stations. However, France has not taken strong action against cyber and environmental crime in cooperation with civil society and UNODC, nor has it focused on fragile contexts.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Olivia Xu

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors such as INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

On 10 August 2022, the Federal Cabinet announced that a 2021 report regarding measures taken to delete telemedia with child pornographic content fell within the meaning of Section 184(b) of the country’s Criminal Code.²⁴¹⁰ The report also contains other measures and initiatives prioritising the protection of children and young people on the internet. Federal Minister of the Interior and Homeland Nancy Faeser also welcomed the European Commission’s proposal for Europe-wide regulations regarding sexual violence against children.

On 1 November 2022, the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection stated that Germany would not support deep-sea mining until further notice.²⁴¹¹ The

²⁴⁰⁷ International operation shuts down websites offering counterfeit goods and pirated content, Europol (The Hague) 28 November 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/international-operation-shuts-down-websites-offering-counterfeit-goods-and-pirated-content>

²⁴⁰⁸ Cyber-enabled financial crime: USD 130 million intercepted in global INTERPOL police operation, International Criminal Police Organization (Lyon) 24 November 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2022/Cyber-enabled-financial-crime-USD-130-million-intercepted-in-global-INTERPOL-police-operation>

²⁴⁰⁹ Countries Commit to the Sustainable Development and Sourcing of Critical Minerals, Natural Resources Canada (Montreal) 12 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2022/12/countries-commit-to-the-sustainable-development-and-sourcing-of-critical-minerals.html>

²⁴¹⁰ Report 2021 on measures to delete telemedia offerings with child pornographic content within the meaning of Section 184b of the Criminal Code, Federal Ministry of Justice (Berlin) 10 August 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 27 October 2022. https://www.bmj.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/2022/0810_Loeschbericht_2022.html

²⁴¹¹ Protection of the seas: Germany will not support deep-sea mining until further notice, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action and Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 1 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 25 December 2022. <https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/DE/Pressemitteilungen/2022/11/20221101-schutz-der-meere-deutschland-unterstuetzt-bis-auf-weiteres-keinen-tiefseebergbau.html>

Ministry believes that the current level of knowledge and research on deep-sea mining is insufficient to rule out the possibility of serious environmental damage. This is a significant step in fighting wildlife destruction, with Federal Environment Minister Steffi Lemke stating that “deep-sea mining would further pollute the oceans and irretrievably destroy ecosystems.”

On 14 November 2022, Germany expressed support for an ambitious species protection plan and strict sustainability checks when dealing with endangered animals and plants.²⁴¹² The plan prioritizes placing numerous tree species used in wood supply and medicinal plants under protection, as well as woods that are heavily traded. The species protection plan and sustainability checks are also important because Germany is a key target and transit market for trade in exotic pets.

On 16 November 2022, Minister Faeser appeared at the Federal Criminal Police Office’s autumn conference and presented her strategy for combating organized crime.²⁴¹³ She supported the introduction of a general upper cash limit of well under EUR10,000, saying it would reduce the risk of criminal assets being concealed. Minister Faeser also plans to form an alliance against clan crime using the combined forces of federal and state investigative authorities.

On 7 December 2022, Germany, in partnership with other countries and UNODC, funded a project that brought Ukrainian legislators and experts together to discuss virtual assets legislation.²⁴¹⁴ Participants discussed challenges and solutions pertaining to money laundering risks of cryptocurrencies and legal frameworks to combat laundering.

On 12 December 2022, Germany, alongside the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, France, Japan and the United States, launched the Sustainable Critical Minerals Alliance.²⁴¹⁵ Each member of the Alliance has pledged to hold responsible any group that causes environmental damage.

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors. Germany has worked alongside UNODC to develop legal frameworks against cyber crime, and Germany also rescinded support for deep sea mining in light of the potential fragile context which has emerged as a result of a lack of knowledge on the matter and potential associated consequences.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Nejat Ahmed

Italy: 0

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with

²⁴¹² World Wildlife Conference in Panama adopts improved protection for sharks, reptiles and tropical timber, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (Berlin) 25 November 2022. Access Date: 25 December 2022. <https://www.bmu.de/en/pressrelease/world-wildlife-conference-in-panama-adopts-improved-protection-for-sharks-reptiles-and-tropical-timber>

²⁴¹³ Breaking up criminal structures, consistently withdrawing income, Federal Ministry of the Interior and Community (Berlin) 16 November 2022. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 January 2023. <https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/pressemitteilungen/DE/2022/11/ok-strategie.html>

²⁴¹⁴ Experts from Ukraine discuss virtual assets regulation at OSCE-UNODC joint workshop, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Vienna) 7 December 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.osce.org/ocea/533732>

²⁴¹⁵ Countries Commit to the Sustainable Development and Sourcing of Critical Minerals, Natural Resources Canada (Montreal) 12 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2022/12/countries-commit-to-the-sustainable-development-and-sourcing-of-critical-minerals.html>

civil society and international actors such as INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

On 30 September 2022, Italian law enforcement, working in collaboration with INTERPOL, arrested members linked to the Black Axe transnational cybercrime syndicate as part of a week-long operation codenamed “Jackal.”²⁴¹⁶ Italian police allege that three of those arrested acted as criminal operators and money mules.

On 14 November 2022, Italy, as a member state of Europol, completed the 13th edition of Operation In Our Sites alongside INTERPOL.²⁴¹⁷ The operation investigates and seizes websites deemed to have hosted “illicit content,” with seized content primarily included intellectual property and trademark infringement.

On 29 November 2022, Italian law enforcement authorities participated in an exchange visit with Mozambican officials, which was organized by UNODC.²⁴¹⁸ During the visit, Mozambican authorities worked with their Italian counterparts to foster “formal and informal cooperation on tackling transnational crime among States.” The exchange looked to further assist Mozambique in countering its vulnerability to transnational organized crime.

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society, UNODC and INTERPOL. Italy has taken strong action to fight transnational organized cybercrime through collaboration with INTERPOL in the arrest of Black Axe members. Through cooperation with UNODC, Italy also sought to assist Mozambique in improving its preparedness for future combat against transnational organized crime, given the susceptibility of that country to such activities. However, Italy has failed to address transnational environmental crime.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Donell Rodrigues

Japan: +1

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors such as INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

On 25 July 2022, Minister of Foreign Affairs Yoshimasa Hayashi met with UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly.²⁴¹⁹ Minister Hayashi reaffirmed Japan’s commitment to support UNODC in strengthening measures against international human trafficking in Ukraine and drug trafficking in Afghanistan.

²⁴¹⁶ International crackdown on West-African financial crime rings, International Criminal Police Organization (Lyon) 14 October 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2022/International-crackdown-on-West-African-financial-crime-rings>

²⁴¹⁷ International operation shuts down websites offering counterfeit goods and pirated content, Europol (The Hague) 28 November 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/international-operation-shuts-down-websites-offering-counterfeit-goods-and-pirated-content>

²⁴¹⁸ Officers Of Mozambique’s National Criminal Investigation Service (SERNIC) Participate In Exchange Visit With Italian Counterparts, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Southern Africa (Rome) 9 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.unodc.org/southernafrica/en/aml/italy.html>

²⁴¹⁹ Courtesy Call on Foreign Minister HAYASHI Yoshimasa by Ms. Ghada Waly, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (Tokyo) 25 July 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. https://www.mofa.go.jp/press/release/press3e_000426.html

On 5 August 2022, Minister Hayashi attended the 12th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' meeting and committed to attending upcoming conferences on combating wildlife trafficking.²⁴²⁰ He also pledged to develop meaningful policies and actions to stop international trafficking.

On 23 September 2022, Minister Hayashi attended the Quadrilateral Foreign Ministers meeting, which included Japan, Australia, India, and the United States.²⁴²¹ The Ministers discussed their ongoing commitment to ensuring the security of cyberspace and renewed their collective intention to fight ransomware threats as a part of the United States-led counter ransomware initiative.

On 29 October 2022, the Ministry of Defence announced its plan to increase the number of cybersecurity personnel to 5,000 by 2027, as well as revise its defence guidelines by the end of 2022.²⁴²² The announcement is aimed at combating growing cyber threats to Japanese infrastructure.

On 2 November 2022, Japan, in cooperation with the United States, Korea and Canada, completed Operation North Pacific Guard.²⁴²³ The operation focused on detecting and deterring illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activity.

On 23 November 2022, INTERPOL fraud investigators, in cooperation with Japan and other partner states, completed Operation HAECHI III – a five-month operation to combat a variety of financial cyber crimes.²⁴²⁴ The operation saw the arrest of almost 1000 suspects and the seizure of nearly USD130 million.

On 12 December 2022, Japan, alongside the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, France, Germany and the United States, launched the Sustainable Critical Minerals Alliance.²⁴²⁵ Each member of the Alliance has pledged to hold responsible any group that causes environmental damage.

Japan has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors. Japan has committed resources and participated in operations to combat cyber and environmental crime. Japan has also done so in cooperation with INTERPOL and UNODC while focusing on fragile contexts such as over-fished northern Japanese fisheries.

Thus, Japan receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Olivia Xu

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close

²⁴²⁰ Chairman's Statement of the 12th East Asia Summit (EAS) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Southeast Asian Nations Cambodia 2022 (Phnom Penh) 5 August 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100380513.pdf>

²⁴²¹ Quad Foreign Ministers' Statement on Ransomware, Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting (New York City) 23 September 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/100396822.pdf>

²⁴²² Japan plans to boost cyberdefense personnel to 5,000 by fiscal 2027, The Japan Times (Tokyo) 30 October 2022. Access Date: 18 November 2022. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2022/10/30/national/japan-cyber-defense/>

²⁴²³ Canada fights illegal fishing with Operation North Pacific Guard, Fisheries and Oceans Canada (Ottawa) 2 November 2022. Access Date: 2 November 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/fisheries-oceans/news/2022/11/canada-fights-illegal-fishing-with-operation-north-pacific-guard.html>

²⁴²⁴ Cyber-enabled financial crime: USD 130 million intercepted in global INTERPOL police operation, International Criminal Police Organization (Lyon) 24 November 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2022/Cyber-enabled-financial-crime-USD-130-million-intercepted-in-global-INTERPOL-police-operation>

²⁴²⁵ Countries Commit to the Sustainable Development and Sourcing of Critical Minerals, Natural Resources Canada (Montreal) 12 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2022/12/countries-commit-to-the-sustainable-development-and-sourcing-of-critical-minerals.html>

cooperation with civil society and international actors such as INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

On 25 July 2022, Home Secretary Priti Patel reaffirmed the UK's commitment alongside Ghana to address Ghana's national cyber security and organized crime concerns.²⁴²⁶ To promote regional and international stability, the UK promised to enhance its defence cooperation with Ghana. Regional and international stability refers to international security relations with Ghana's neighbouring states.

On 3 October 2022, Environment Secretary Ranil Jayawardena announced a proposal to raise the civil penalty for water companies polluting the environment from GBP25,000 to GBP250 million.²⁴²⁷ The 1000-fold civil penalty increase will speed up the process of enforcing laws against environmental harm by sanctioning companies faster than lengthy criminal prosecutions.

On 23 November 2022, INTERPOL fraud investigators, in cooperation with the UK and other partner states, completed Operation HAECHI III – a five-month operation to combat a variety of financial cyber crimes.²⁴²⁸ The operation saw the arrest of almost 1000 suspects and the seizure of nearly USD130 million.

On 7 December 2022, the UK, in partnership with other countries and UNODC, funded a project that brought Ukrainian legislators and experts together to discuss virtual assets legislation.²⁴²⁹ Participants discussed challenges and solutions pertaining to money laundering risks of cryptocurrencies and legal frameworks to combat laundering.

On 12 December 2022, the UK, alongside Germany, Canada, Australia, France, Japan and the United States, launched the Sustainable Critical Minerals Alliance.²⁴³⁰ Each member of the Alliance has pledged to hold responsible any group that causes environmental damage.

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society, UNODC and INTERPOL. The UK has focused on fighting cybercrime in fragile contexts within Ghana and Ukraine with cooperation from the UNODC. The UK has also worked alongside INTERPOL to combat financial cybercrime and has pledged to hold accountable groups causing environmental damage.

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

Analyst: Sammy Kogan

United States: +1

The United States has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation

²⁴²⁶ UK and Ghana reaffirm commitment to tackle global threats, Home Office (London) 28 July 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-ghana-reaffirm-commitment-to-tackle-global-threats>

²⁴²⁷ Water companies face new penalties up to £250million, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (London) 3 October 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/water-companies-face-new-penalties-up-to-250million>

²⁴²⁸ Cyber-enabled financial crime: USD 130 million intercepted in global INTERPOL police operation, International Criminal Police Organization (Lyon) 24 November 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2022/Cyber-enabled-financial-crime-USD-130-million-intercepted-in-global-INTERPOL-police-operation>

²⁴²⁹ Experts from Ukraine discuss virtual assets regulation at OSCE-UNODC joint workshop, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Vienna) 7 December 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.osce.org/oceea/533732>

²⁴³⁰ Countries Commit to the Sustainable Development and Sourcing of Critical Minerals, Natural Resources Canada (Montreal) 12 December 2022. Access Date: 26 December 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/natural-resources-canada/news/2022/12/countries-commit-to-the-sustainable-development-and-sourcing-of-critical-minerals.html>

with civil society and international actors such as INTERPOL and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

On 30 June 2022, US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced the launch of the Green Trade Strategy, which aims to combat climate change by enhancing current enforcement actions against environmental trade crimes including wildlife trafficking and illegal logging, mining and fishing.²⁴³¹ The CBP will work to combat environmental trade crimes through collaboration with stakeholders in the international trade environment.

On 14 September 2022, officials from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), US Border Patrol, and Homeland Security Investigations participated in a conference on border security hosted by INTERPOL.²⁴³² The parties discussed their ongoing collaborations, including a “campaign to crack down on transnational criminal organizations.” The DHS has also committed over USD50 million to strengthen efforts to combat transnational organized crime.

On 14 November 2022, the US, alongside Europol and INTERPOL, completed the 13th edition of Operation In Our Sites, which investigates and seizes websites deemed to have hosted “illicit content.”²⁴³³ Seized content primarily included intellectual property and trademark infringements.

On 23 November 2022, INTERPOL fraud investigators, in cooperation with the US and other partner states, completed Operation HAECHI III – a five-month operation to combat a variety of financial cyber crimes.²⁴³⁴ The operation saw the arrest of almost 1000 suspects and the seizure of nearly USD130 million.

On 30 November 2022, the US Attorney’s Office East District of Texas announced a multi-year investigation into transnational cryptocurrency money laundering networks.²⁴³⁵ The US Attorney’s Office has charged 21 individuals with allegedly laundering millions from American fraud victims.

On 7 December 2022, the US, in partnership with other countries and UNODC, funded a project that brought Ukrainian legislators and experts together to discuss virtual assets legislation.²⁴³⁶ Participants discussed challenges and solutions pertaining to money laundering risks of cryptocurrencies and legal frameworks to combat laundering.

The US has fully complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society, UNODC and INTERPOL. The US has taken strong action to fight cybercrime through collaboration with INTERPOL and UNODC and has taken strong action against environmental crime to prevent groups from committing acts in fragile contexts.

²⁴³¹ CBP Announces Launch of Green Trade Strategy, United States Customs and Border Protection (Washington D.C.) 30 June 2022. Access Date: 23 October 2022. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-announces-launch-green-trade-strategy>

²⁴³² Readout of DHS Participation at Interpol Conference on Border Security in the Americas, United States Department of Homeland Security (Washington D.C.) 14 September 2022. Access Date: 19 December 2022. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/09/14/readout-dhs-participation-interpol-conference-border-security-americas>

²⁴³³ International operation shuts down websites offering counterfeit goods and pirated content, Europol (The Hague) 28 November 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/international-operation-shuts-down-websites-offering-counterfeit-goods-and-pirated-content>

²⁴³⁴ Cyber-enabled financial crime: USD 130 million intercepted in global INTERPOL police operation, International Criminal Police Organization (Lyon) 24 November 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2022/Cyber-enabled-financial-crime-USD-130-million-intercepted-in-global-INTERPOL-police-operation>

²⁴³⁵ Eastern District of Texas Announces Multi-Year Investigation into Transnational Cryptocurrency Money Laundering Networks, United States Attorney’s Office East District of Texas (Tyler) 30 November 2022. Access Date: 20 December 2022. <https://www.justice.gov/usao-edtx/pr/eastern-district-texas-announces-multi-year-investigation-transnational-cryptocurrency>

²⁴³⁶ Experts from Ukraine discuss virtual assets regulation at OSCE-UNODC joint workshop, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (Vienna) 7 December 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.osce.org/occea/533732>

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

Analyst: Donell Rodrigues

European Union: 0

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors such as INTERPOL and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

On 28 June 2022, the Council of the EU reached a political agreement to strengthen the resilience of critical entities in key sectors such as drinking water and energy.²⁴³⁷ The agreement will fortify each member state's ability to provide essential services for citizens, by ensuring that these entities are prepared in case of significant disruptions resulting from terrorist threats or hybrid attacks. The Council also reached an agreement to address terrorist threats or hybrid attacks as they relate to cybersecurity and cybercrime.

On 29 June 2022, the Council of the EU reached a provisional agreement to enhance financial transparency by requiring specific information whenever there is a domestic or international transfer of cryptocurrency assets.²⁴³⁸ This agreement is meant to make the use of cryptocurrency for money laundering and terrorist financing harder while fortifying the EU's ability to manage the risks of cryptocurrency.

On 6 October 2022, the European Commission Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs co-organized the first-ever EU-UNODC Anti-Corruption Dialogue with UNODC to discuss future cooperation between the two organizations to address corruption and money laundering.²⁴³⁹ Participants also discussed asset recovery and effects on civil society.

On 14 November 2022, Europol, alongside INTERPOL, completed the 13th edition of Operation In Our Sites, which investigates and seizes websites deemed to have hosted "illicit content."²⁴⁴⁰ Seized content primarily included intellectual property and trademark infringements.

On 9 December 2022, the Council of the EU proposed negotiating mandates for improving the EU's ability to fight environmental crime.²⁴⁴¹ The mandates include expanding encompassed crimes, defining set penalties, sentences and fines and recommending training for those investigating and prosecuting environmental crimes.

The European Union has partially complied with its commitment to intensify efforts against transnational organized crime, including cybercrime and environmental crime, particularly in fragile contexts, and in close cooperation with civil society and international actors. The EU expanded and reaffirmed its commitment to

²⁴³⁷ EU resilience: Council presidency and European Parliament reach political agreement to strengthen the resilience of critical entities, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 28 June 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022.

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/06/28/eu-resilience-council-presidency-and-european-parliament-reach-political-agreement-to-strengthen-the-resilience-of-critical-entities/>

²⁴³⁸ Anti-money laundering: Provisional agreement reached on transparency of crypto asset transfers, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 29 June 2022. Access Date: 28 October 2022. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/06/29/anti-money-laundering-provisional-agreement-reached-on-transparency-of-crypto-asset-transfers/>

²⁴³⁹ UNODC and European Union hold first-ever anti-corruption dialogue, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (Brussels) 7 October 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2023. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2022/October/unodc-and-european-union-hold-first-ever-anti-corruption-dialogue.html>

²⁴⁴⁰ International operation shuts down websites offering counterfeit goods and pirated content, Europol (The Hague) 28 November 2022. Access Date: 7 January 2023. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/international-operation-shuts-down-websites-offering-counterfeit-goods-and-pirated-content>

²⁴⁴¹ Council agrees its negotiating mandate on the environmental crime directive, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 9 December 2022. Access Date: 27 December 2022. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/12/09/council-agrees-its-negotiating-mandate-on-the-environmental-crime-directive/>

fighting international cybercrime through the monitoring of criminal transfers of cryptocurrency funds and fortifying entities crucial to preventing cyber crime. The EU has also cooperated with INTERPOL through Europol to combat cybercrime by taking down websites publishing “illicit content.” Further, the EU has worked to expand encompassed crimes and penalties pertaining to environmental crime. However, the EU has failed to take strong action to cooperate with civil society and UNODC.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Sammy Kogan