



## ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

### ALONG REMOTE ROUTES: COUNTERING ILLICIT TRAFFICS IN THE BROADER MEDITERRANEAN REGION

**5 DECEMBER 2019**

#### FRAMEWORK

MED is intended to be a dialogue ensuring a high interaction and exchange of views among participants. In this context, this **by-invitation-only Forum**, hosted by PMI Impact and ISPI, aims to bring together **about 30 leading experts from institutions, international organizations and academia** in order to analyze and discuss specific themes.

The event has been conceived as an **open debate among all the participants**, sitting at the same table, under Chatham House Rule. There will be an engaging Q&A discussion at the end of each panel.

The Forum will be held at the same venue of MED2019 on 5 December in the afternoon (Parco dei Principi Grand Hotel & Spa, Via Frescobaldi, 5, Rome) and the working language will be English.

#### CONCEPT

The threats to security and stability in the Mediterranean region are increasingly multi-faceted and interconnected. The failure of certain states close to its periphery and the consequential lack of effective territorial control have all provided new and profitable opportunities for criminal organizations to thrive, while opening new networks for transnational illicit traffics. In other cases, criminality and politics even appear intertwined, thus further expanding the influence and reach of illegal actors from a geopolitical perspective. At the same time, terrorist groups have sometimes exploited criminal activities to finance and sustain their operations, while illicit traffics have provided terrorists with crucial equipment and logistics.

#### **Questions for debate:**

- *To what extent does terrorism, especially the jihadi motivated one, rely on criminality and illegal traffics?*
- *How do transnational criminal organizations impact on security in the region?*
- *What are the legal implications and the jurisdictional challenges in these threats?*

## **AGENDA**

### **1.30 – 2.00 pm REGISTRATION**

### **2.00 – 2.15 pm WELCOMING REMARKS**

- Franco BRUNI, Vice-President, Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI), Italy
- Alvisе GIUSTINIANI, Vice President Illicit Trade Prevention, Philip Morris International

### **2.15 – 3.45 pm**

#### **PANEL 1**

#### **INTO ILLICIT TRAFFICKING: CAUSES AND ROUTES**

The recent instability that affects several countries of the Middle East and North Africa has favoured the spread of a variety of illegal cross-border activities. Benefitting from the porousness of regional frontiers, multiple and heterogeneous actors are carrying out their illicit trades to ensure the constant flow of humans and goods, arms and drugs. This panel seeks to investigate both the founding elements characterizing these dynamics and how they spread throughout the region and beyond.

- // What are the main causes and drivers of illicit trades?
- // Which are the most relevant illicit traffics in the Enlarged Mediterranean Region?
- // How are illicit traffics evolving?
- // How can we identify key smuggling routes? How do they function?

**Chair:** Mark MICALLEF, Senior Fellow, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime

#### **Kick-off speeches**

- Christine GRAU, Head of Division, Migration and Human Security in the Human Rights, Global and Multilateral Issues Department, European External Action Service
- Dominique LAPPRAND, Association de Lutte Contre le Commerce Illicite (ALCCI), France
- Alexandria REID, Research Analyst, Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), UK
- Piotr STRYSZOWSKI, Senior Economist, (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD))

#### **Comments and debate**

### **3.45 – 5.00 pm**

#### **PANEL 2**

#### **THE RISK OF TERRORISM/CRIME NEXUS**

The illicit trades' high rate of profit had occasionally provided the stimulus for a mutual relationship between criminal and terrorist organizations. In ideal locations for irregular trafficking such as the Sahel, Southern Maghreb or the Syraqi desert, these cross-border activities had become a fundamental source of income for transboundary terrorist groups, just as Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) or the Islamic State (IS), usually with the involvement of the local population. This panel analyzes these interconnections, assessing the level of mutuality between these activities and trying to understand to what extent organized crime and terrorist groups exploit illicit trade for financing and supporting their actions. In this regard, also, does a reverse relationship exist?

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### Questions for debate:

- // What are the most prominent organizations or groups involved in these illicit activities? What are the main risks for the Mediterranean countries?
- // Which products are more easily smuggled?
- // Is there a correlation between illicit traffics and the terrorist attacks carried out in Europe in recent years?

**Chair:** Rebecca MURRAY, Independent journalist and Researcher

### Kick-off speeches

- Tarek, BEN YAHIA, Manager Illicit Trade Prevention Maghreb, Philip Morris International
- Al-Sharif Nasser BIN NASSER, Managing director, Middle East Scientific Institute for Security, Jordan
- Leif VILLADSEN, Senior Programme Officer - Deputy Director, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

### Comments and Debate

**5.00 – 5.15 pm**  
**COFFEE BREAK**

**5.15 – 6.45 pm**  
**PANEL 3**

### THE LEGAL CHALLENGE: HOW TO COUNTER-TRAFFICKING

Lacking the necessary stability, means, and technical expertise, authorities across the region have struggled to effectively counter this widespread and lucrative criminal activity in the area. However, recent initiatives show that governments and other actors across the region are developing new and innovative strategies to combat the illicit trades, offering some hope for the future. The purpose of this panel is to explore and discuss these policies, in an attempt to set out new approaches and to shed light on the players that are empowering them.

- // Which are the main strategies to combat and counter illicit traffics? At which level, if on a local, regional or global scale, are they pursued?
- // What are the leading institutions involved in these counter-trafficking activities?

**Chair:** Fiona MANGAN, Research Director, Justice + Security in Transitions, USA

### Kick-off speeches

- Alvisе GIUSTINIANI, Vice President Illicit Trade Prevention, Philip Morris International
- Antonio MAZZITELLI, Regional Director (West and Central Africa), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- Luis Moreno OCAMPO, PMI IMPACT Expert Council Member
- Ruth Freedom POJMAN, Member of Supervisory Board, Your Public Value; Consultant, Winrock International, Austria

### Comments and debate

**6.45. – 7.00 pm**  
**CONCLUDING REMARKS**

OFFICIAL KNOWLEDGE PARTNER

