



EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

CURRENT AND FUTURE ENGAGEMENT OF FRONTEx IN FIGHTING ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES

JHAAN Seminar on Environmental Crime - 01 June 2021

Coast Guard and Law Enforcement Unit
Operational Response Division

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FRONTEX engagement in EMPACT EnviCrime

- ❑ EU Policy Cycle 2018-2021: first time EnviCrime as a crime priority
- ❑ FRONTEX engaged in EMPACT EnviCrime since the outset
- ❑ LES responsible of overall management of EnviCrime in FRONTEX - CGS lead the two OAs related to maritime domain (pollution at sea & illegal fishing)
- ❑ Other internal entities involved (IFC/FSC, MPR, RAU, CED etc.)

Cooperation with partners & participation in other activities

- ❑ Supported by EMSA and EFCA in maritime domain
- ❑ FRONTEX is member of the EnviCrimeNet
- ❑ Interaction with other networks (IMPEL, ENPE, EUFJE ect.)
- ❑ Strict cooperation and regular consultation with Europol AP EnviCrime
- ❑ FRONTEX participates in operations/projects/initiatives re Envicrime:
 - Operation Retrovirus
 - AMBITUS
 - LIFE-SATEC
 - OPFA-Waste
 - Others

Operation Retrovirus



Leader: Europol under the framework of EnviCrimeNet (2020) - Frontex has become a participant of the Operation.

Aim: tool for participating States to contribute in combating pandemic and criminal activities, which benefited from this situation in terms of negligent gathering, transporting, management and eventual disposal of sanitary waste.

Frontex cooperation with external partners



OPFA WASTE is a EU flagship operational project targeting Illicit Waste - in particular hazardous -Trafficking aiming at Reinforce cooperation between specialized LEAs and Europol in the implementation of illicit waste trafficking investigations.



The AMBITUS project aims at boosting the operational activities of LE authorities in EnviCrime domain by deepening analysis, supporting operational actions and developing cooperation and networking mechanisms among MS and non-EU partners.



Frontex takes an active part and is available to **share available expertise, materials, training and analysis products within the scope of its mandate.**

Climate Change and its impact on OCGs

Climate change acts as a **threat multiplier** as it interacts and converges with other existing risks and pressures in a given context, which exacerbates already existing security risks.

Thus, Organized Crime Groups (OCGs) use the situation of fragility and conflict in climate-change impacted areas to control and make profit from illegal organised activities.

- *Examples include situations in Lake Chad and Boko Haram, droughts and the ISIS control in Syria, illicit livelihoods in Afghanistan or OCGs and urban violence in Guatemala.*



By recognizing the emerging threat, Frontex held an online seminar on “**Understanding the influence of climate change on Justice and Home Affairs**” on 16th February 2021 as an opening event of Frontex JHAAN Presidency.



Nexus of EnviCrimes with other CBCs

There is a rising attractiveness of EnviCrime to organized crime structures and networks as it offers extremely high profits and a negligible detection risk accompanied by low or no sanctions at all.

Criminal networks correlated with EnviCrimes are engaged in drug trafficking, financing of terrorism or corruption as well as smuggling of counterfeit goods that pose dangers to both consumers and the environment.

Due to the limited information available, more attention should be given by the EU MSs in both intelligence and operation activities as well as analysis of collected data to the interlinkages of envicrimes and other crimes committed in conjunction with them.

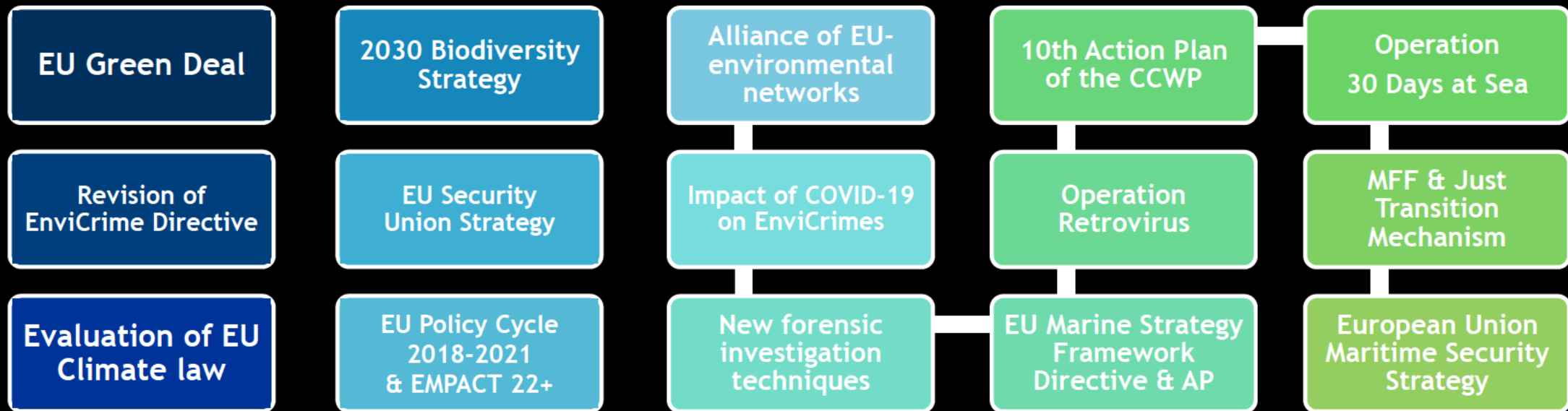


The interlinkages between EnviCrimes with other serious cross-border crimes in Europe

Prognosis: envisaged prioritisation of EnviCrime

The emerging trend of prioritising environmental-related matters is visible and will continue to have an important impact on future policy actions for the EU. Thus, the fight against cross-border EnviCrimes will become a priority also for FRONTEX.

Indicators of policy actions proving prioritisation of environmental policy in the EU include e.g.:



Maritime domain



POLLUTION AT SEA

ILLEGAL FISHING



Conclusions

Key success factors



- ❑ EnviCrime as a key targeted area
- ❑ Frontex committed to devote resources and contribute to combating the phenomenon (land, sea and air domains) - cross-border dimension
- ❑ Cooperation with key players essential (joint planning, active participation, strong cooperation and timely information exchange)
- ❑ Expertise required (training, capacity building, R&I projects etc.)
- ❑ Analysis (risk and threats), monitoring and assessment
- ❑ Multipurpose and multi-agencies approach (cost-effectiveness, efficiency)
- ❑ Operational planning and response

FRONT^{EX}



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Thank you for your attention!

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