

All Aboard: The Role of Shipping in Combating Crimes that Affect the Environment

29SEPTEMBER
2026

10.00-11.00 (GMT+4)

Room 2A**HYBRID EVENT**

Background

Global maritime supply chains are essential to international trade, but their scale and complexity also create opportunities for transnational criminal organizations to move illicit goods, conceal criminal activity and generate substantial profits. High-volume container traffic, multi-country routes, port vulnerabilities, corruption and collusion can all be exploited to hide illicit commodities within legitimate cargo flows.

Crimes that affect the environment — such as trafficking in wildlife, timber, fish and fisheries products, as well as the illegal movement of minerals, hazardous waste — increasingly intersect with corruption, money laundering, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, and smuggling of migrants, cargo theft and other forms of organized crime. With hundreds of millions of container movements each year, their comprehensive physical inspection is neither feasible nor practical, prevention and enforcement therefore depend increasingly on intelligence-led targeting, risk-based screening, technology and trusted public-private cooperation.

This ancillary meeting will bring together the shipping industry, public authorities and international organizations to examine how criminal activity can be identified and disrupted across maritime supply chains, with a focus on cooperation, information sharing and the roles and responsibilities of private and public actors.

Objectives

1.

Examine how organized criminal groups exploit maritime transport and containerized supply chains, including for crimes that affect the environment and other serious offences.

2.

Explore how shipping companies, public authorities and international organizations can identify and respond to risks through red-flag indicators, intelligence sharing, technology and risk-based cargo screening.

3.

Identify practical opportunities for stronger public-private cooperation, information sharing and capacity-building.

Agenda

10:00	OPENING REMARKS ➤ Leif Villadsen, Acting Director, UNICRI
10:05	MODERATED PANEL DISCUSSION: STRENGTHENING THE INTEGRITY OF MARITIME SUPPLY CHAINS Moderator: Ms Jennifer Jane Croes, Director, Conservation Scientist and Illegal Wildlife Trafficking and Biodiversity Consultant to the World Shipping Council. ➤ Col. Dana Humaid Al Marzooqi, Director General, International Affairs Bureau Ministry of Interior, United Arab Emirates ➤ Mr Rafael Benitez, Director of Social Rights, Health and Environment of the Council of Europe ➤ Mr Lars Kjaer, Senior Advisor, World Shipping Council ➤ Mr Tao Zhiqiang, Programme Officer, Environment Team, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Discussion themes: criminal exploitation of maritime supply chains; the role of shipping companies; information and intelligence sharing; and technology and risk-based cargo targeting.
10:45	DISCUSSION WITH THE FLOOR – Q&A
10:55	CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS ➤ The moderator will summarize the principal conclusions and possible areas for further-up cooperation, research and capacity-building

Follow-up actions may include a short outcome note, mapping existing public–private information sharing mechanisms, and regional capacity-building or dialogue.

For any questions regarding this event, kindly contact

Mr Matthew Burnett Stuart, UNICRI (matthew.burnettstuart@un.org).

THE EVENT CAN ALSO BE ATTENDED ONLINE AT



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DIRECT LINK