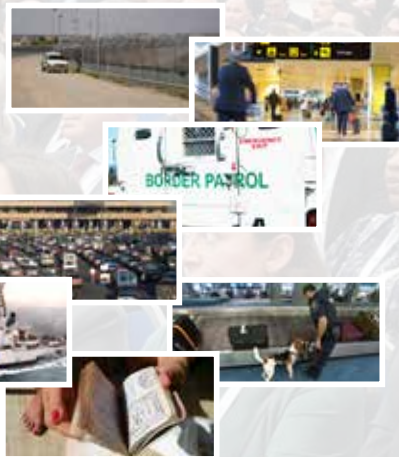




14th-16th April 2026

Vienna, Austria

www.world-border-congress.com



Developing Border Strategies Through Co-operation and Technology

Hosted in:



CONGRESS GUIDE AND INVITATION TO ATTEND

Your guide to the Preliminary Congress Programme and event information

The 2026 World Border Security Congress will be held on 14th-16th April 2026.

The World Border Security Congress is the premier multi-jurisdictional global platform where the border protection policy-makers, management and practitioners together with security industry professionals, convene annually to discuss the international challenges faced in protecting borders.

On behalf of the Organising Committee, you are invited to join us in the beautiful historic city of Vienna, Austria on 14th-16th April 2026 for a stimulating and essential gathering of international border and migration management professionals.

www.world-border-congress.com



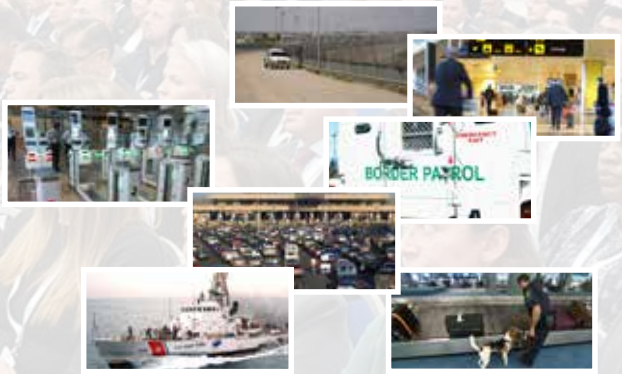
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Dear Colleague,

Developing Border Strategies Through Co-operation and Technology

On behalf of the Organising Committee you are cordially invited to attend and participate in the 2026 World Border Security Congress in the beautiful city of Vienna, Austria on 14th-16th April 2026.

The persistent challenges posed by cross-border organised crime, ongoing conflicts in regions such as the Middle East and Ukraine, and an expanding range of transnational threats continue to underscore the need for stronger border management, improved intelligence sharing, and deeper international cooperation. From global health emergencies to cyber-enabled smuggling networks, human trafficking, and terrorist activity, the border management community now carries an even broader and more complex set of responsibilities.

We need to continue the discussion, collaboration and intelligence sharing.

We are delighted to be supported by **the Organisation for Security & Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Association of Airport and Seaport Police (EAASP), African Young People Support Center (AYPSC), African Smart Cities Innovation Foundation (ASCIF), De La Colina Charity Foundation, World Border Security Network and International Association of CIP Professionals**. This is the premier multi-jurisdictional global platform where the border protection policy-makers, management and practitioners convene together with security industry professionals, to discuss the international challenges faced in protecting borders.

The Congress programme (correct at the time of printing) will deliver high level discussions and a series of Closed Agency Only Workshops for promoting greater collaboration on the international challenges.

The congress offers the opportunity to confront issues, challenges and solutions in the face of the current global migration crisis, enhancing human mobility, facilitating universally smart and secure border systems, as well as global pandemics, crucial in the global community for achieving a safer more secure world.

It must be the aim of every border management agency to continuously improve and evolve to meet the challenges of future by fully embracing technology and taking every opportunity to meet, share and co-operate!

On behalf of the Organizing Committee you are cordially invited to Vienna, Austria on 14th-16th April 2026 for World Border Security Congress, the premier gathering of border and migration management professionals.

We look forward to welcoming you.

Neil Walker
Event Director
World Border Security Congress





Austria's border security faces a complex set of challenges, largely stemming from its geographical location and its participation in the Schengen Area. A primary concern is managing irregular migration flows, which fluctuate significantly due to geopolitical instability in various regions. This puts pressure on Austria's capacity to effectively screen and process asylum seekers.

The inherent nature of the Schengen Area, while facilitating free movement, also presents vulnerabilities. The potential for secondary migration, where individuals move from one Schengen state to another, necessitates close cooperation with neighbouring countries. However, differing national policies and capacities can complicate these efforts. Furthermore, the rise of transnational crime, including human trafficking and smuggling, adds another layer of complexity to border security. Austrian authorities must balance the need for stringent controls with the imperative to uphold human rights and international obligations.

The evolving security landscape, with threats such as terrorism and hybrid warfare, also requires constant adaptation of border security measures. This necessitates investment in advanced surveillance technologies and enhanced intelligence sharing. The need to maintain public confidence in border security, while respecting the principles of open borders within the EU, creates a delicate balancing act for Austrian policymakers.

The World Border Security Congress is a high level 3 day event that will discuss and debate current and future policies, implementation issues and challenges as well as new and developing technologies that contribute towards safe and secure border and migration management.

You are cordially invited to attend the World Border Security Congress in Vienna, Austria on 14th-16th April 2026 for the next gathering of international border security, protection and migration management professionals.

Why Attend

The 2026 World Border Security Congress will gather senior policymakers, operational leaders, and industry experts in Vienna, Austria, this April to examine the evolving challenges shaping border security and migration management.

By attending, you will stay informed on the latest policies, emerging threats, and operational priorities impacting border protection worldwide, while contributing to essential discussions on strengthening global collaboration and cooperation.

The event will also provide valuable insights into the future of migration and refugee management, along with the technologies and systems being developed to combat illicit activities such as drug smuggling and human trafficking.

With high-level officials and expert speakers leading forward-looking panels and debates, the Congress will offer a comprehensive understanding of the most pressing issues facing the border management community today.

- High level conference with leading industry speakers and professionals
- Learn from experiences and challenges from the world's border agencies
- Gain insight into national, regional and global policy and border agency developments
- Constructive debate, educational opportunities and cooperation advocacy
- Share ideas and facilitate in valuable inter-agency cooperation
- Exhibition showcasing leading technologies and products
- Networking events and opportunities

CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION SCHEDULE

TUESDAY 14TH APRIL

9:00am - 12:30pm	Site Visit
9:30am - 12:30pm	AYPSC Africa Workshop
10:30am - 12:30pm	EAASP Workshop
1:30pm - 3:30pm	OPENING, WELCOME AND OPENING KEYNOTE SESSION
3:30pm - 4:00pm	Networking Coffee Break
4:00pm - 5:30pm	PLENARY - Combatting Transnational Crime
7:00pm	Welcome Reception (Invitation Only)

WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL

9:00am - 10:30am	PLENARY - Maritime & Big Rivers
9:00am-10:30am	TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP
9:30am - 7:30pm	Exhibition Open
10:30am - 11:15am	Networking Coffee Break in the Exhibition Hall
11:15am - 12:30pm	BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - Use of AI at the Border
	CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - Interagency Cooperation and Collaboration
12:30pm - 2:00pm	Delegate Lunch
2:00pm - 3:30pm	PLENARY - Developing Cooperation And Understanding Between Customs Officers And Border Agencies
	TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP
2:00pm-3:30pm	Networking Coffee Break in the Exhibition Hall
3:30pm - 4:15pm	BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - Capacity Building
4:15pm - 5:30pm	CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - Modus Operandi (Drugs and contraband)
5:30pm - 7:00pm	Networking Reception in the Exhibition Hall

THURSDAY 16TH APRIL

9:00am - 10:30am	PLENARY - Trends and Challenges in Irregular and Mass Migration
9:00am - 10:30am	‘How Can Law Enforcement Agencies And Border Administrations Better Share Information And Data Under Increasing Pressure From Privacy Laws’ Workshop
9.30am - 4.30pm	Exhibition Open
10:30am - 11:15am	Networking Coffee Break in the Exhibition Hall
11:15am - 12:30pm	BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - Digital Travel & Digital Borders
	CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - Modus Operandi (Human Trafficking)
12:30pm - 2:00pm	Delegate Lunch
2:00pm - 3:30pm	PLENARY - Countering Terrorism
4:00pm	World Border Security Congress Round Up and Close

EXHIBITION OPENING HOURS

Tues 14th April	1.00pm to 5.30pm
Weds 15th April	9.30am to 7.30pm
Thurs 16th April	9.30am to 4.30pm

ON-SITE REGISTRATION HOURS

Tues 14th April	12.00pm to 5.00pm
Weds 15th April	8.30am to 6.30pm
Thurs 16th April	8.30am to 4.00pm

REGISTRATION



Government Agency / Public Sector

The World Border Security Congress is open for members of federal government, border management agencies, law enforcement or inter-governmental agencies, the European Union, INTERPOL, EUROPOL, AFRIPOL, ASEANAPOL, AMERIPOL, OSCE, IOM, EAASP, UN and associated Agencies and members (public and official) involved in border security, management and protection. Applications will be reviewed and considered on an individual basis. Delegates are requested to register sufficiently early to ensure participation. For all above mentioned communities the World Border Security Congress **early registration (prior to 1st April 2026) is “Free of Charge”**.

Register online at www.world-border-congress.com/agency-reg

Commercial, Industry and Other Organizations

Industry companies and other organizations sending staff members to the World Border Security Congress are required to purchase a conference pass.

Registration Fees can be found on the Registration Form at the back of this booklet, or alternately online at www.world-border-congress.com/conference/registration-fees. Early Bird registration deadline is **14th March 2026**.

Register online at www.world-border-congress.com/onlinereg

HOW TO REGISTER

1. Online at www.world-border-congress.com
2. Complete the Registration Form enclosed with this booklet and email to: registration@world-border-congress.com.
3. Complete the Registration Form enclosed with this booklet and mail to:
World Border Security Congress, Torch Marketing, 200 Ware Road, Hoddesdon,
Herts EN11 9EY, United Kingdom.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT - deadline 14th March 2026

For Commercial, Industry and Other Organizations, register yourself and your colleagues as conference delegates by 14th March 2026 and save with the Early Bird Discount.

Discounts for Members of Supporting Associations

If you are a member of one of the following trade associations, supporters of the World Border Security Congress, then you can benefit from a special discount rate:

- National Security & Resilience Consortium (NS&RC)
- International Association of CIP Professionals (IACIPP)
- International Security Industry Organization (ISIO)

Check the Registration Form enclosed with this booklet for full details.

CLOSED AGENCY ONLY WORKSHOPS

FOR BORDER AGENCIES AND AGENCIES AT THE BORDER ONLY – If you are interested in participating in the Closed Agency Only Workshops, in order to obtain clearance to attend the Closed Workshops, please register via the Online Agency Registration complete the Agency Registration Form and return, to begin the approval process. If you have any queries please contact Neil Walker, Event Director, World Border Security Congress at neilw@world-border-congress.com.

The World Border Security Congress aims to promote collaboration, inter-agency cooperation and information/intelligence sharing amongst border agencies and agencies at the border to better engage and tackle the increasing threats and cross border security challenges that pertain to today's global environment.

Border agencies and agencies at the border can benefit from the 'Closed Agency Only Workshops', hosted by key organisations and experts, with a series of behind closed door discussion and working group opportunities.

This years Closed Agency Only Workshop topics are:

Wednesday 15th April 2026 - 11.15am - 12.30pm

Inter-Agency Cooperation and Collaboration

Moderator: UNOCT

It is widely acknowledged that interagency cooperation is the key to the effective border management, facilitating the movement of goods and people whilst simultaneously preventing bad actors from travelling and interdicting the movement of illicit goods. But what can be in practical terms on the ground to increase communication, share actionable intelligence and best practise.

Wednesday 15th April 2026 - 4.15pm - 5.30pm

Modus Operandi (Drugs and contraband)

Moderator: EAASP

In the spirit of interagency cooperation this workshop will facilitate the sharing of on the ground experience, real life case studies and share actionable intelligence on the movement of drugs, illicit goods, illegal waste, heritage goods, wildlife trafficking and modus operandi used to enable these trades.

Thursday 16th April 2026 - 11.15am - 12.30pm

Modus Operandi (Human Trafficking)

Moderator: International Organization for Migration (IOM)

In the spirit of interagency cooperation this workshop will facilitate the sharing of on the ground experience, real life case studies and share actionable intelligence on the movement of trafficked human beings via planes, boats and vehicles and the various methods by which the traffickers enable this movement.

TUESDAY 14TH APRIL

1:30pm - 3:30pm **OPENING KEYNOTE AND WELCOME**

Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu, Secretary General, Organization for Security & Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Gerald Tatzgern, Head of Department, Fight against Human Trafficking and Smuggling, Criminal Intelligence Service, Austria

Seweryn Stopa, Head of the European Migrant Smuggling Centre, EUROPOL

Marian Benbow-Pfisterer, Head of Mission, IOM Austria

Bob Van den Bergh, Deputy Head, Passenger and Cargo Control Programme, Border Management Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Willem Mudde, Vice President - Aviation, European Association of Airport & Seaport Police (EAASP)

Malin Frankenhaeuser, PRS Director, ICMPD

4:00pm - 5:30pm **PLENARY SESSION - COMBATTING TRANSNATIONAL CRIME**

Combating transnational crime demands a comprehensive strategy built on international cooperation, strong legal frameworks, and advanced technology. As crimes such as drug trafficking, small arms smuggling, trafficking of illicit goods, organised crime, and trafficking for organ harvesting cross national borders, countries must work closely together. Effective collaboration between law enforcement agencies—including intelligence sharing and joint operations—strengthens the ability to disrupt and dismantle criminal networks. Equally important is the development of harmonised legal frameworks that address the specific complexities of transnational crime, supported by adequate resources and training for all jurisdictions involved. Technology further enhances these efforts: data analytics, artificial intelligence, and digital forensics enable authorities to detect patterns, track illicit activities, and apprehend offenders with greater precision. By combining global cooperation, robust legislation, and modern technological tools, the international community can more effectively counter transnational crime and promote a safer, more secure world.

Brigadier General Goncalo Carvalho, Deputy Secretary-General, Sistema de Seguranca Internal, Portugal

Implemented Measures by General Directorate Border Police in Order to Tackle Irregular Migration and Cross-border Crime - Anton Zlatanov, Director, General Commissioner, General Directorate Border Police, Bulgaria

General Francisco Rodriguez Lorenzo, Border & Customs Police Commander, Guardia Civil

Illicit Trade and Its Impact on Nigeria's Economy: The Hidden Threat - Babatunde Olomu, Assistant Comptroller-General of Customs (ACG) & Murtala Misbau Sadiq, Chief Superintendent of Customs, Nigeria Customs Service

The Sahel Region and the Emerging Threats of Border Security in West Africa - Francisco Chidi George-Okoli, Director of Programs, West Africa Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA) Nigeria

Project Turnstone: Enhancing Online Investigations with Traffic Jam and the Sexual Identification Matrix - Helen Gordos, Training & Development Specialist, Modern Slavery & Organised Crime Unit, UK & Colin Ward, Head of Global Engagement, Marinus Analytics

7:00pm - 9:00pm **WELCOME RECEPTION (INVITATION ONLY)**

*invited

WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL

9:00am - 10:30am

PLENARY SESSION - MARITIME & BIG RIVERS

Maritime borders present some of the most difficult and challenging environments facing agencies at the border worldwide. Archipelago nations like Indonesia and the Philippines have vast maritime territories with thousands of islands to surveil and patrol with limited resources and changing weather conditions. And maritime borders don't stop at the coast. Multi-national river systems like those of the Danube, Nile, Mekong, Niger and Rhine take the maritime environment deep into the hinterland with overlapping jurisdictions that can lead to confusion, often making it difficult to establish a consistent security presence. These geographic and political complexities necessitate enhanced cooperation and communication among nations to develop integrated security strategies that respect sovereignty while effectively addressing transnational threats.

Maritime Security and AI Integration: Enhancing Border Protection in the Arabian Gulf - Hasan Al-Sulaiti, Director Of Operations - Qatar Coasts and Borders Guard, Ministry Of Interior

RADM Allen Dalangin, Commander Maritime Security Law Enforcement Command, Philippines Coast Guard

Rear Admiral Md. Ziaul Haque, OSP, NDC, AFWC, PSC, Director General, Bangladesh Coast Guard

Senior Representative, USCBP Air & Marine Operations (AMO)*

Maritime Safety And Security – India's Regional Perspective - Additional Director General AP Badola, Indian Coast Guard

Maritime, port and coastal border security: How can we best guard the coast and major ports from international organised criminal activities, including human trafficking and drug smuggling? - Dan Blanchford, Director Defence and National Security, Prevail Partners

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

See some of the latest border tech solutions demonstrated and discussed during the Technology Workshop.

Transforming Customs Enforcement with Modern Spectroscopy - Jeremy Van Auker, Field Forensic Application Scientist, 908 Devices

From Where's Waldo to Who's Waldo: Completing the Identity Picture with Biographic Intelligence - Rich Williams, Senior Account Executive, Babel Street

Strengthening the Eastern Shield: Baltic Drone Wall against hostile drones - Kirill Amelin, Research Engineer, DefSecIntel

Countering border threats, new technical synergy - Dmitrii Egorov, Business Development Director, Sens-Or

Connecting the Dots: Building a Collaborative, Data-Driven Border Ecosystem - Manu Niinioja, Law Enforcement Expert, Amadeus

Austria's journey to EES: Deploying a large scale border control project – lessons learned and future developments - Johanna Sperling, Consultant for biometrics systems and applications, Secunet

BorderForce: Innovation in Border Surveillance with Advanced Technologies - Andreas Kriechbaum-Zabini, M.Sc, Lead of Visual Sensing, Thematic Coordinator, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology / JUDr. Jozef Kubinec, M.Sc, Innovation project advisor and procurement specialist, Ministry of Interior, Slovak Republic/ Rocco Messina, Head of Border Security and Management Unit, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, UNOCT

11:15AM - 12:30PM WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT WORKSHOP - USE OF AI AT THE BORDER

AI is increasingly playing a pivotal role in enhancing border security systems, utilizing advanced technologies to improve surveillance, threat detection, and data analysis. Currently, AI-driven solutions such as facial recognition, predictive analytics, and autonomous drones are employed to monitor borders efficiently and accurately. These systems can analyse vast amounts of data in real-time, enabling authorities to identify potential risks and respond swiftly to security threats. In the future, we can expect even more sophisticated applications of AI, including the integration of machine learning algorithms that continuously adapt and improve based on evolving threats. Innovations such as biometric sensors and AI-enabled surveillance systems will likely create a more secure environment while balancing the need for privacy and ethical considerations. As technology continues to evolve, AI will remain a cornerstone in shaping the landscape of border security, ensuring safer and more effective management of national boundaries.

INTERPOL AI Toolkit - Cyril Gout, Executive Director Police Services, INTERPOL

Artificial Intelligence in the Context of Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism: Challenges, Risks and Opportunities - Otabek Rashidov, Programme Manager, OSCE

Integrating Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) with sensor-based border security frameworks and artificial intelligence - Andrey Seleznev, Head of UNODC Programme Office in the Kyrgyz Republic, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

AI and frontier technologies in the context of counter terrorism: threats, opportunities, and human rights considerations - Arianna Lepore (TPB) and Wendy O'Brien (CPCJS), UNODC

The Realism of AI in Border Management - The Question Is Not How to Use AI, but Why - Michael Barrie, CEO, BIM eSolutions

CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - INTERAGENCY COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION

Moderator: UNOCT

It is widely acknowledged that interagency cooperation is the key to the effective border management, facilitating the movement of goods and people whilst simultaneously preventing bad actors from travelling and interdicting the movement of illicit goods. But what can be in practical terms on the ground to increase communication, share actionable intelligence and best practise.

Enhancing information-sharing mechanisms to secure borders, counter terrorism and prevent crime through the application of privacy and data protection safeguards following a rule-of-law based approach - Suzanne Vatov, Legal Officer, Terrorism Prevention Branch, UNODC

Jorge Comas, Director, Counter Network Division, National Targeting Center, USCBP

Cameron Walter, Head of Heritage Crime Task Force & Customs Adviser, OSCE

Pawel Sliwinski, Head of International Cooperation Unit, Frontex

WEDNESDAY 15TH APRIL

2:00pm - 3:30pm

PLENARY SESSION - DEVELOPING COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CUSTOMS OFFICERS AND BORDER AGENCIES

Developing cooperation and understanding between customs officers and border agencies is vital for effective border management and security. Agencies need to exchange intelligence regarding potential threats, smuggling activities, and other suspicious behaviours. This includes sharing data on cargo, travellers, and vehicles. Joint training, operations and inspections will improve effectiveness and working together on risk assessments, to identify high-risk shipments and travellers, will allow for targeted inspections and resource allocation. Identifying key dual-purpose technologies for tracking and monitoring goods and people will enhance efficiency and save money. Collaborating on policy development will also lead to more effective border management strategies, considering both security needs and trade facilitation.

Martin Reuter, Head, EUCAB

Jeroen Engelberts, Project Director International Maritime Cooperation, Customs Administration, Netherlands

Ambassador Alena Kupchyna, Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats, OSCE

Cooperation and coordination between Border Management stakeholders: Joint operations in West Africa - Tony Mihaitoia, Senior Adviser, Border Management and Security, International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)

International Trade, Customs Operations, and Border Security: Strategies for Blind Spot Mitigation - Sanusi Tasiu Saulawa, Assistant Comptroller of Customs, Nigeria Customs Service

Effective and Efficient way to fight against Counterfeit and Piracy at Borders - Mohamed Ashrafu Samsudeen, Senior Deputy Director of Customs, Sri Lanka Customs

TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOP

See some of the latest border tech solutions demonstrated and discussed during the Technology Workshop.

Digital Travel Credentials and the Biometric Border Corridor: From Vision to Scalable Reality - Frank Schmalz, Business Development and Portfolio Director, Veridos

Land, Waterway and Coastal Border Surveillance Using Fiber-Optic Distributed Acoustic Sensing (DAS) - David Hill, Chief Technology Officer, Sintela

Supporting SIDs - Smart Solutions to Strengthen Seas and Borders - Ian Clarke, Director, Business Development, Sirius Insight

Integrated Solutions for Mobile Surveillance, Unmanned Aerial Systems and Counter-UAS - David Simpson, Senior Director, International Business Development & Eddy Butler, Senior Director, Technology Strategy, Teledyne Flir

Threats from the third demension - Christoph Suess, Sales & Partner Manager Special Security Solutions, Securiton

The Importance of Rapid Mobile Biometric and Biometric Binding for Modern Border Security - Jesús Aragón, CEO, Identity

Every Traveler Has a Risk Score: How Dynamic Risk Intelligence Is Transforming Border Security - Anthony Nwachukwu, Executive Director, Newworks Solutions

4:15PM - 5:30PM WORKSHOPS

BREAKOUT SESSION - CAPACITY BUILDING

Any organisation, whatever its field of operation, is only as good as its staff. And investment in that human capital is one of the most valuable activities that any organisation can participate in. Training promotes the ethics and ideals of the organisation as well as improving the skills and knowledge to develop sound border and security management skills based on best practice. As border agencies invest in increasingly sophisticated technology, agency staff will increasingly have to master new skills and ever-changing technical and operational skills. So, how do you develop goals for your training program and the success metrics to measure how effective that training program is?

Inter agency collaboration: bringing end users, policy makers and scientists together in the European Commission Border Security Lab - Bartel Meersman, Head of Unit Transport & Border Security, European Commission Directorate General Joint Research Centre

Development of Frontex own Canine Capability - Katalin Mausolf-Pokorny, Senior Capability Officer, Frontex

Passenger and Cargo Control Programme (PCCP) - Bob van den Berge, Deputy Head, Passenger and Cargo Control Programme, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Dynamic, interoperable borders – the need for more flexible borders to respond to evolving and dynamic threats - Andy Smith, Director, Industry & Innovation, SITA, UK

CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - MODUS OPERANDI (DRUGS AND CONTRABAND)

Moderator: Willem Mudde, Vice President - Aviation, EAASP

In the spirit of interagency cooperation this workshop will facilitate the sharing of on the ground experience, real life case studies and share actionable intelligence on the movement of drugs, illicit goods, illegal waste, heritage goods, wildlife trafficking and modus operandi used to enable these trades.

Siri Bjune, Chief of the UNODC Border Management Branch, UNODC

Brigadier General Daniel Lichtenegger, Head of the Sub-Department for Combating Drug-Related Crime, Criminal Intelligence Service, Ministry of Interior, Austria

Cameron Walter, Head of Heritage Crime Task Force & Customs Adviser, OSCE

Senior Representative, US Customs & Border Protection

5:30PM - 7:30PM NETWORKING RECEPTION IN EXHIBITION HALL SPONSORED BY SITA



THURSDAY 16TH APRIL

9:00am - 10:30am

PLENARY SESSION - BORDER MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES: IRREGULAR MIGRATION AND FLUID BORDER ENVIRONMENTS

Border management challenges are increasingly influenced by irregular migration trends driven by economic instability, armed conflict, environmental changes, and social unrest. Conflicts in regions such as the Middle East, Africa, and parts of Central America have led to persistent refugee crises, prompting many individuals to seek asylum in neighbouring countries or distant nations. Additionally, the rise in irregular migration has exacerbated vulnerabilities, making individuals more susceptible to human trafficking and exploitation. Climate change further complicates these dynamics, as extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and resource scarcity displace communities and disrupt livelihoods. Considering these complex and fluid border environments, governments worldwide must urgently enhance their understanding of the multifaceted issues associated with irregular migration and trafficking. This includes the development of comprehensive policies that effectively balance humanitarian needs with national security concerns.

Managing Fluid Borders - Senior Representative, GABC

Cyber-Enabled Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking in the CARICOM Region - Ariel De Freitas, Statistical Analyst, CARICOM IMPACS

Advancing Secure and Inclusive Border Management through Biometric Border Passes: Field Insights from Mozambique-Malawi - Chiara Pettinelli, Program Manager for Immigration Border Governance and Community Engage Policing, IOM Mozambique

Migration Flows Across Central America - Threats and Challenges - Alejandro Solano Ortiz, Deputy Minister of Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of External Relations, Costa Rica

Col Khulan Gerelt, Deputy Director in Charge of Cooperation, Border Protection Service of Mongolia

Balancing Border Security and Protection: A Route-Based Approach to Mixed Movements - Valerie Svobodova, Chief of Asylum and Migration Section, Division of International Protection and Solutions, UNHCR

9.00AM - 10.30AM

'HOW CAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND BORDER ADMINISTRATIONS BETTER SHARE INFORMATION AND DATA UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE FROM PRIVACY LAWS' WORKSHOP

Moderated by: Simon Deignan, Programme Management Officer / UNOCT – Countering Terrorist Travel Programme - CTPP

- **Complementarity of international obligations on passenger data and International Human Rights Law** - Dr Arturo Laurent, Legal Officer, Terrorism Prevention Branch / UNODC

- **Supporting Member State with development of compliant structures, procedures and information handling – roles of UNOCT and UNODC/AIRCOP** - UNOCT/Pilar 4 - Technology and UNODC/AIRCOP)

- **EECA IWG as a model for regional cooperation and sharing of best practices** - Oksana Kuryshcheva, Associate Project Management Officer, Border Security and Management Unit, Transnational Threats Department, OSCE

- **Case study by IOM and INTERPOL addressing interagency cooperation and systems interoperability** - Pier M. Rossi-Longhi, Senior Regional Immigration & Border Governance Specialist, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, IOM and Fayssal Ouadda, Coordinator for UNOCT-CTTP, Customer Services Sub Directorate, Information Systems and Technology Directorate, INTERPOL General Secretariat

- **Sustainability via continuous training and networking** - Goran Stojkovski, Programme Management Officer / UNOCT – Countering Terrorist Travel Programme - CTPP)

- Discussions and Q&A - where we go from here?

11:15AM - 12:30PM **WORKSHOPS**

BREAKOUT SESSION - DIGITAL TRAVEL & DIGITAL BORDERS

Digital travel and the implementation of digital borders are revolutionizing the travel experience by streamlining processes and enhancing security for both travellers and border agencies. Initiatives such as trusted traveller programs allow pre-approved individuals to pass through border controls with minimal delays, thereby improving efficiency and convenience. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) is advancing reciprocity measures to align its trusted traveller programs with those of other countries, ensuring a smoother experience for international travellers. Meanwhile, the European Union is enhancing its border management through systems like the European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) and the Entry/Exit System (EES), which aim to strengthen security while facilitating mobility across member states.

The Paradox of Progress: Why Smart Borders Aren't Easing Travel for the Bona Fide Traveller - Paul Igbinere, Executive Director, African Young People Support Centre

US Entry/Exit System Update - Nael Samha, Executive Director - Targeting and Analysis Systems Program Directorate, US Customs & Border Protection

EES / ETIAS Update - Marc Sulon, Head of Unit Digital Schengen, European Commission
Colleen Ryan, Border Adviser, OSCE

In-vehicle, automated border control for land and sea - Nicholas Phan, Marketing Director, Idemia

CLOSED AGENCY WORKSHOP - MODUS OPERANDI (HUMAN TRAFFICKING)

In the spirit of interagency cooperation this workshop will facilitate the sharing of on the ground experience, real life case studies and share actionable intelligence on the movement of trafficked human beings via planes, boats and vehicles and the various methods by which the traffickers enable this movement.

Moderator: Heather Komenda, Sr. Reg. Technical Specialist for Migrant Protection for Europe & Central Asia, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

Movement, Methods and Networks: Human Smuggling Operations in Austria and the EU - Danijel Petkovic, Senior Investigator Human Smuggling, Criminal Intelligence Service Department, Human Smuggling, THB and special Investigations, Austria

Trafficking at the Border: Operational Trends and Emerging Challenges for Border Management in the Asia-Pacific - Eun Jung Yi, Programme Manager- Border and Migration Management, The Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime



2:00pm - 3:30pm

PLENARY SESSION - COUNTERING TERRORISM

Addressing cross-border terrorism and the dangers posed by foreign terrorist fighters necessitates a comprehensive strategy that prioritizes international collaboration, intelligence sharing, and robust policy frameworks. Countries must join together to improve border security, fortify legal measures, and disrupt funding channels for terrorism. Through the exchange of intelligence and resources, nations can more effectively identify and monitor individuals engaged in cross-border activities linked to terrorism. Ultimately, only through a coordinated global effort will we be able to dismantle terrorist networks and build sustainable security.

Cyril Gout, Executive Director Police Services, INTERPOL

Transforming Landscapes: How UK Counter Terrorism Policing is Supporting Aviation Security - William Hunt, National Aviation Lead, National Counter Terrorism Security Office

Terrorism in the Sahel and the Risk of Spill over - Superintendent Ibrahim Imam Haafiz, National Imam/Dept Head Religious Affairs Unit, Ghana Immigration Service

Jorge Comas, Director, Counter Network Division, National Targeting Center, USCBP

Sh Praveen Kumar, Director General, India Border Police Force

Countering Terrorism at Ports and Airports using a holistic, risk based approach - Sarah Prew, Senior Aviation Security Consultant, Arup UK

Best practice Austria - smart contactless biometric application - Dr. Bernhard Kohn, Biometrics Expert, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology / Dr. Reinhard Schmid, Head of Central Identification Service from the Federal Criminal Police Office / Margherita Natali, Programme Management Officer, Global Programme on Border Security and Management, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, UNOCT

3:30pm - 4:00PM

CONGRESS ROUND UP AND CLOSE

*invited



SITE VISIT TO UNODC AND UNITED NATIONS BUILDINGS IN VIENNA

TUESDAY 14TH APRIL – 9.00AM-12.30PM

UNODC / UNITED NATIONS IN VIENNA



Supported by the UNODC, the World Border Security Congress is delighted to offer the opportunity for a limited number of delegates to gain an insight and introduction to the United Nations Organization and learn how the Vienna-based offices are working for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Following a guided tour of the United Nations building, the UNODC will provide an overview of some of their key border security and management programmes run from their offices in Vienna, including the new Passenger and Cargo Control Programme (PCCP) and Narcotics Lab Programme.

The tour takes in the history and architecture of the Vienna International Centre, and uses show & tell to explain the work that goes on. Visitors will usually have a chance to see one of the conference rooms where international negotiations take place, and can enjoy some of the fine artworks on display, such as an original Hundertwasser tapestry. A highlight for many visitors is a real moonrock on loan to the UN in Vienna from NASA.



The United Nations in Vienna is home to members of the UN family working on many aspects of peace and security, human rights and development. They seek to use atoms for peace and development, to reduce poverty through inclusive and sustainable industrial development, to ban nuclear testing, to bring the benefits of the peaceful uses of outer space to every part of the world and to make the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism.

You will have to pass a security check. Please do not forget to bring a valid official identification document (national ID card, passport or driving license; a copy or digital version of the ID is not acceptable).

(Site Visits open to conference delegates only)

For further details and book your place visit www.world-border-congress.com/site-visit

Spaces are limited so ensure you book your place on the site tour early.



World Border Security Congress



NETWORKING RECEPTION

Wednesday 15th April
5.30pm - 7:30pm
Exhibition Floor

Networking Reception
Sponsored by:

SITA

We invite you to join us at the end of the Wednesday 15th April for the World Border Security Congress Networking Reception in the exhibition area at the Trend Savoyen Hotel Vienna, which will see the border security industry management professionals gather for a more informal reception.

With the opportunity to meet colleagues and peers you can build relationships with senior border agency and security officials in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

The Networking Reception is free to attend and open to industry professionals.

We look forward to welcoming you.



BORDER SECURITY
REPORT

AFRICAN YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORT CENTRE / AFRICAN SMART CITIES INNOVATION FOUNDATION WORKSHOP



DIGITIZING MOVEMENT, HUMANIZING TRAVEL: YOUNG PEOPLE SOLUTIONS FOR AFRICAN AND WORLD BORDER CHALLENGES

TUESDAY 14TH APRIL - 9.30AM-12.30PM

Organized by the African Young People Support Centre (AYPSC), De La Colina Charity and African Smart Cities Innovation Foundation, this session at the 2026 World Border Security Congress in Vienna will focus on a multi-faceted approach to border security in Africa.

In a rapidly digitizing world, borders are no longer just physical checkpoints—they are digital gateways. Yet, as governments and institutions invest in biometrics, e-visas, surveillance, and smart border systems, a critical question arises: Are we building border systems that serve people, or systems that simply process them?

This young people-led congress will explore how technology can be harnessed not only for control but for dignified, safe, and accessible mobility—particularly for African youth and other vulnerable populations. It will highlight African innovation, cross-border collaboration, and youth-led advocacy as key drivers for creating border policies and technologies that prioritize both security and humanity.

From digitized refugee identification to mobile border apps for safe migration, from ethical use of AI to regional harmonization of travel documents, this congress will present actionable solutions, fresh ideas, and youth-driven strategies that can shape the future of border security—locally and globally.

Workshop Objectives:

- Showcase young people-led innovations that solve border and mobility challenges in Africa and beyond.
- Facilitate dialogue between young people,

polymakers, tech developers, and border authorities.

- Promote ethical, inclusive, and gender-sensitive border technologies.
- Advocate for cross-regional co-operation in border modernization efforts.
- Develop a Youth Mobility & Border Innovation Charter 2026 to present at the main Congress.

Modules & Activities:

1. Opening Plenary: The Future of Borders is Young and Digital
2. Panel: Biometrics, Big Data, and Borders – Who Gets Left Out?
3. Innovation Showcase: Young People-Led Tech Solutions for Border Management
4. Workshop: Designing Ethical AI for Border Control
5. Case Study Roundtable: Safe Passage – Young People's Stories from African Borders
6. Hackathon or Policy Lab: Build a Better Border: Digital Tools for Dignified Mobility
7. High-Level Dialogue: Young People, Governments, and Border Agencies – Building Trust and Technology Together
8. Closing Session: Presentation of the Youth Mobility & Border Innovation Charter 2026

Workshop Time

Tuesday 14th April 2026 : 9.30am – 12:30pm

Delegates of the World Border Security Congress are entitled to participate in this African Young People Support Centre (AYPSC), De La Colina Charity and African Smart Cities Innovation Foundation (ASCIF) Workshop.

Register online at www.world-border-congress.com/registration

14th-16th April 2026, Vienna, Austria | 17

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF AIRPORT & SEAPORT POLICE (EAASP) WORKSHOP



European Association
of Airport and Seaport Police

SHAPING GROUND-BREAKING TECHNOLOGIES TO SUPPORT END-USERS COUNTERING IDENTITY-FRAUD AT BORDERS

TUESDAY 14TH APRIL - 10.30AM-12.30PM

Why attend?

This special workshop, coordinated by the SafeTravellers' project and project's pilot leaders The European Association of Airport & Seaport Police (EAASP), represents a unique opportunity to discover and help shape the testing of emerging border technologies and processes before solutions are finalised and eventually deployed or integrated in real environments.

A workshop delivering:

- Live demonstrations of new and improved technologies and processes
- Results from Phase 1 of SafeTravellers pilots testing conducted in:
 - o Airports
 - o Land borders
 - o Rail environments
- Discussions to directly shape the Phase 2 pilot demonstrations at mentioned environments + Maritime borders
- Q&As and discussions with the pilot leaders, technology providers, research and ethics/legal teams

This workshop is the third of a successful series of workshops designed and focused on ensuring SafeTravellers solutions are supported, from their start and throughout their development and testing, with the input of border guards and operational stakeholders:

- 2024 Workshop: Practitioners defined operational needs and user requirements
- 2025 Workshop: Participants reviewed system development and progress
- 2026 workshop: Focus on real-world testing and operational readiness

By joining the 2026 workshop, you will:

- Help identify operational priorities and risks
- Ensure future systems meet real border control needs
- Maximise long-term security, efficiency and

traveller experience and rights

- Ask questions, express advice, and gain opportunity to visit the next demo activities

Who are we? What is SafeTravellers?

SafeTravellers is a three year Horizon Europe funded project aiming to deliver a near-operational border control solution (TRL 7+) that:

- Enables frictionless border crossing without stopping at checkpoints
- Strengthens border security through advanced identity and fraud detection tools
- Places travellers in control of their personal data through self-sovereign identity
- Fully complies with GDPR, ethics, and privacy-by-design principles

For more information about the project, go to **www.safetravellers-project.eu**.

The project explores the use of Digital Travel Credentials (DTCs) combined with multi-biometric identification, sensor technologies and privacy-preserving mechanisms to address current limitations of identity documents and border processes.

This special workshop, coordinated by the SafeTravellers' project and project's pilot leaders The European Association of Airport & Seaport Police (EAASP), represents a unique opportunity to discover and help shape the testing of emerging border technologies and processes before solutions are finalised and eventually deployed or integrated in real environments.

The SafeTravellers project is a Research & Innovation project co-funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe programme. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the granting authority. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

THE VENUE / ACCOMMODATION

TREND SAVOYEN VIENNA HOTEL

Rennweg 16,
Landstrasse,
1030 Vienna
www.austria-trend.at/de/hotels/savoyen
T: +43 1 206 33-0

Accommodation online booking: www.world-border-congress.com/accommodation



Austria Trend Savoyen Vienna Hotel is a stylish 4-star superior hotel located in Vienna's Landstraße (3rd district), nestled in the elegant embassy district and immediately adjacent to the Belvedere Palace and Botanical Garden. Housed in the former k.u.k. Imperial state printing works, the architectural mash-up of a heritage-protected Vienna façade and a bright, modern interior with a six-storey atrium creates a welcoming and light-filled atmosphere.

Designed to serve both business and leisure travellers, the hotel offers 309 rooms and suites, including eight themed suites, junior suites, and more compact superior and premium rooms, all equipped with air conditioning, free Wi-Fi, flat-screen TVs, laptop safes and luxurious bathrooms with bidets. Suites offer separate living spaces and extra perks such as tea/coffee makers, minibars, and balconies.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION RATES FOR ATTENDEES TO THE WORLD BORDER SECURITY CONGRESS

The World Border Security Congress has negotiated special discounted rates for delegates to stay at the hotel.

SPECIAL CONGRESS RATES (Book early to guarantee your room and special rate):
Double Standard room: €220 pppn, incl B&B

Book your special rate accommodation via
[**www.world-border-congress.com/accommodation**](http://www.world-border-congress.com/accommodation)

***PLEASE NOTE:** This offer is only available through the World Border Security Congress and www.world-border-congress.com. The World Border Security Congress or Trend Savoyen Vienna will NOT phone you to chase your room reservation. Any phone calls you receive from housing management companies are not endorsed or contracted by the World Border Security Congress or the event organisers.*

The Organisers of the 2026 World Border Security Congress wish to thank the Sponsors and Supporters of this years event, without whom it would not be possible.



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14th-16th April 2026

Vienna, Austria

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**BORDER SECURITY
REPORT**

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We look forward to welcoming you to Vienna, Austria for the next gathering of the international border security, protection and management community.

Register online at www.world-border-congress.com



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Vienna, Austria

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