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20 YEARS

FRONTEX



EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD AGENCY

Madrid, April 2026

Global Airline
Fraud Prevention Group
Convention

Operational Insights on Border and Travel-Related Fraud

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MS + Frontex constitutes
European Border and Coast Guard





FRONTEX STANDING CORPS

For the first time, the European Union
has its own uniformed service
the European Border and Coast Guard





OPERATION GLOBAL CHAIN

OPERATION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS



Recent developments

Entry Exit System fully operational 10 April 2026

EES replaces passport stamping with a digital, automated system for scanning fingerprints and facial images of non-EU nationals crossing the external borders of 29 European countries



European Travel and Information System (ETIAS) 2026-27

ETIAS serves as pre-travel authorization for visa-exempt travelers.

If a traveler attempts to enter without an ETIAS or stays beyond the 90-day limit in a 180-day period, the EES will alert border officials

Refusals of entry

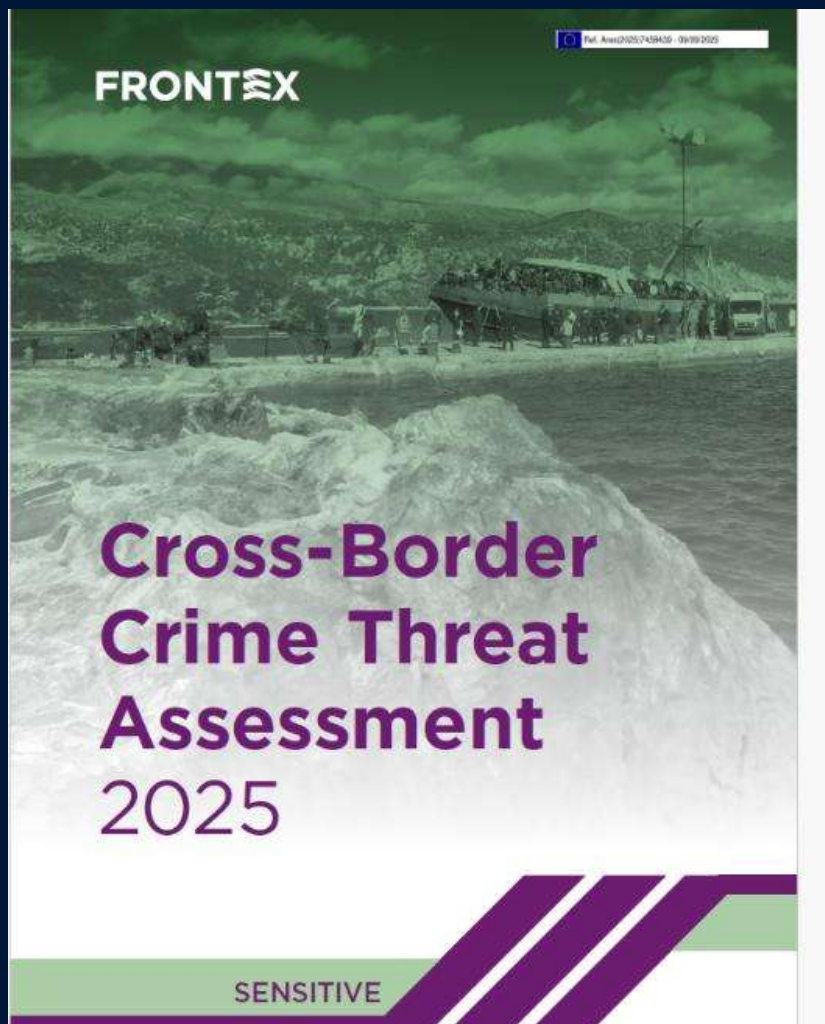
- Most of the refusals were issued at Madrid (MAD) and Paris (CDG), followed by Barcelona (BCN), Amsterdam (AMS) and Frankfurt (FRA)
- Madrid (MAD) and Paris (CDG) reported similar numbers, mainly due to a 25.3% quarterly decrease in refusals at Madrid (MAD) coupled with a 6.1% increase at Paris (CDG)
- Most migrants arrived from Bogota (BOG), Istanbul (IST), Tirana (TIA), Istanbul (SAW) and Sao Paolo (GRU)





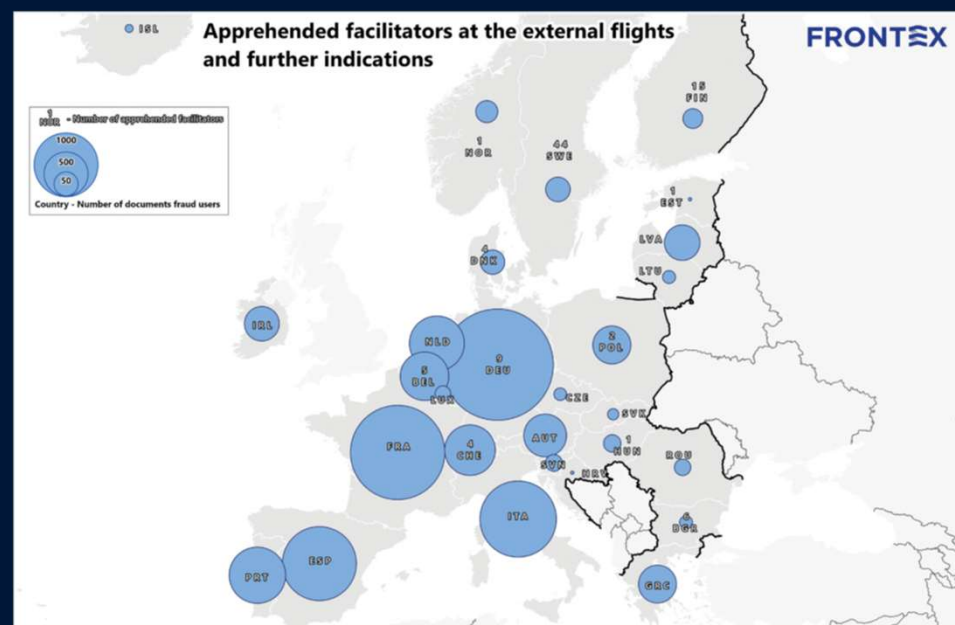
Identity fraud

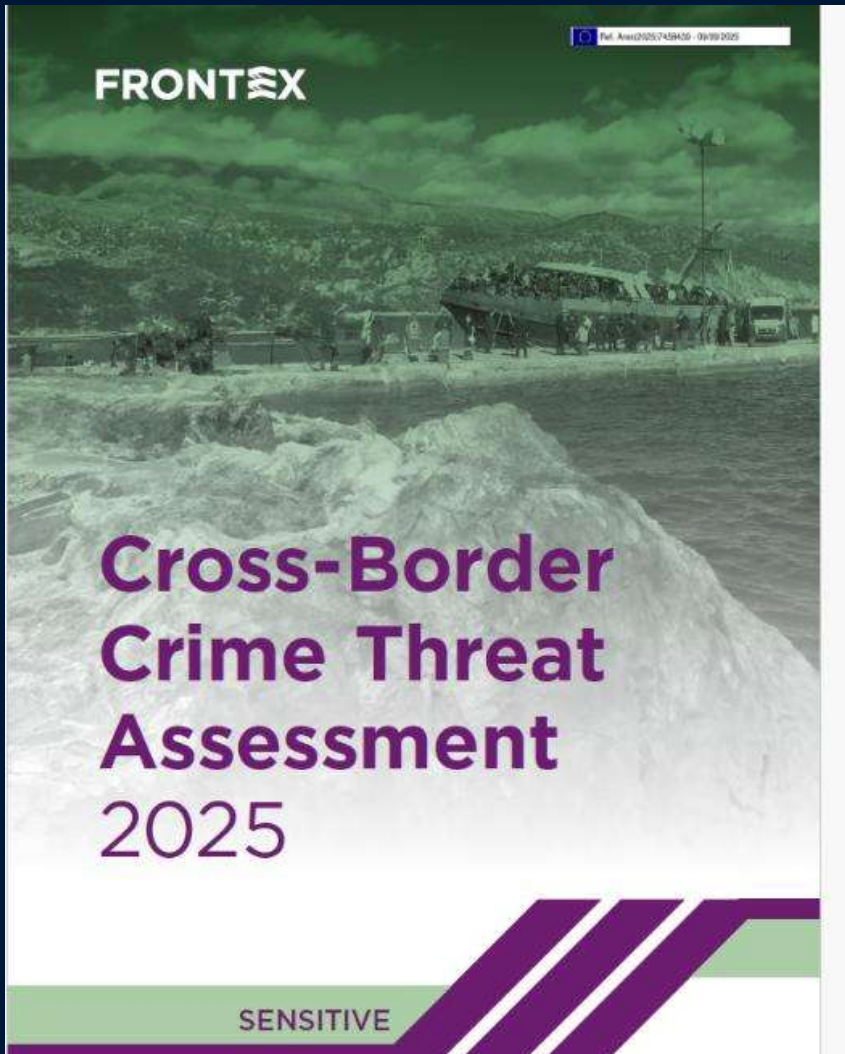
- Boarding card swapping
- Last minute boarding
- Passport - chip counterfeiting
- Transfer in the EU (Asia-UK/Canada)



Frontex CBC Threat Assessment 2025

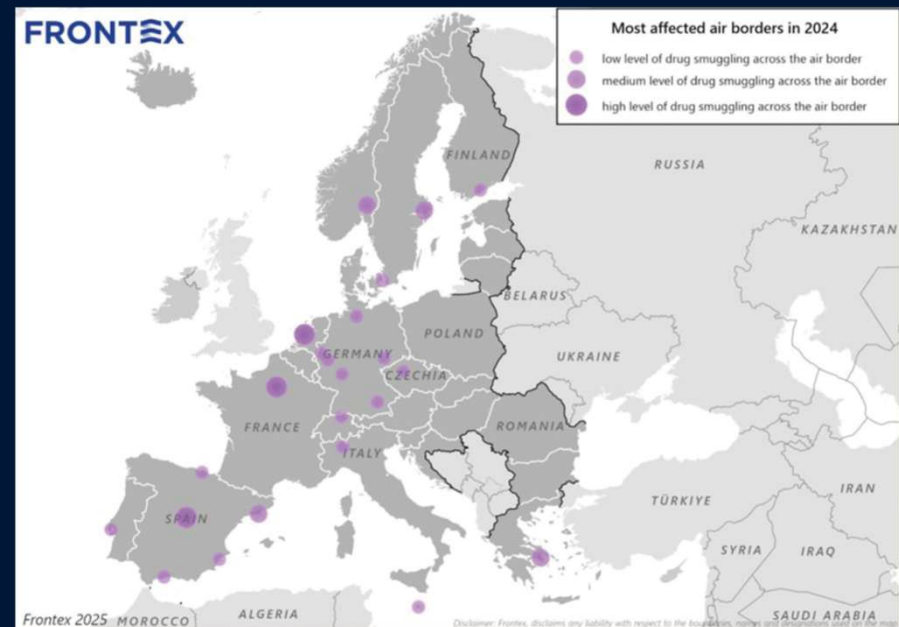
- 3% of all facilitators were apprehended at airports
- 75% of all imposters or users of fraudulent documents
- The number of smugglers arrested at air borders is very low because they rarely need to accompany smuggled migrants on flights





Frontex CBC Threat Assessment 2025

- Smuggling of drugs at air borders significantly increasing
- Seizures reached 40 tonnes in 2024.
- This represents a rise of 186% comparing to 2023 - highlighting the growing threat of drug smuggling on air routes



Smuggling - disruption of air traffic





THANK YOU !

COORDINATION CENTRES

Europol
Ameripol/CLACIP
Canada
Interpol
USA
UNODC



84
airlines



8 online travel agencies



64
countries



230
airports



153 detained/arrested at the airports



312 suspicious transactions reported



Global airport action

Asia Pacific



Interpol

Europe



Europol

Latin America



Ameripol

Global airport action



Notification template



Airline and Law Enforcement Day of Action

Background

Europol and Credit Card Schemes Fraud Management have instigated a European day of action in order to counter losses observed within the Airline sector.

Once fraudulent bookings have been identified, Airline Fraud and Security teams can refer suspicious transactions to Law Enforcement stationed at Airports in order that further investigation may be undertaken.

Based on collected information there is a justified suspicion that the following incident is fraud:

Passenger Surname	
Passenger First Name	

Ticket/Travel No	
Status of the ticket	

Flight No	
Date	
Time	
Departing Airport	
Terminal (if known)	
Destination	
Terminal (if known)	

Payment Card Number used for booking	
Issuing Bank of the Card Number	
Issuing Bank (contact) Name: Email:	

Confirmed transaction not undertaken or authorised by Cardholder	
Cardholder Name	

Justification and other relevant info related to fraud and individuals (home address, e-mail, phone, IP)

Details of the reporting entity (airline, contact person, contact details)

153 detained for ticket fraud following worldwide law enforcement operation

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13 JUN 2017



153 individuals have been detained following the sixth Global Airport Action Days (GAAD) major international law enforcement operation targeting airline fraudsters. The individuals are suspected of flying using airline tickets purchased with stolen, compromised or fake credit card details.

Between 6 and 8 June 2017, 64 countries, 84 airlines and eight online travel agencies worked jointly with law enforcement officers to carry out operational actions in 230 airports across the world.

During the operation, 312 suspicious transactions were reported. As a result, 153 people were detained, denied boarding, questioned by police and criminally charged; several investigations are ongoing.

Some individuals were caught trying to traffic heroin from Latin America to Africa and Europe, frequently flying back and forth using fraudulently purchased tickets.

During the actions, new modi operandi were identified as being used by organised crime networks to gain access to transit areas in airports in order to facilitate illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

Since many individuals use credit cards and fake identification documents to facilitate illegal immigration, Europol's European Migrant Smuggling Centre (EMSC) joined this year's GAAD to provide better support to EU Member States and partners for fighting human smuggling networks. Europol specialists and analysts equipped with special technical equipment were deployed to several European airports.

Representatives from airlines, online travel agencies, payment card companies, Perseuss, and the International Air Transport Association (IATA), worked together with experts from Europol's European Cybercrime Centre (EC3) to identify suspicious transactions and provide confirmation to law enforcement officers deployed in the airports.

The European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) deployed 47 officers to 18 airports to support this operation.

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