

# European Migrant Smuggling Centre



JHA Counsellors meeting  
11 January 2021



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## The main trends in migrant smuggling

# Migrant smuggling

The main trends

03

The Western Balkan Routes  
OA Risk type of smuggling

02

The English Channel  
Small boats

01

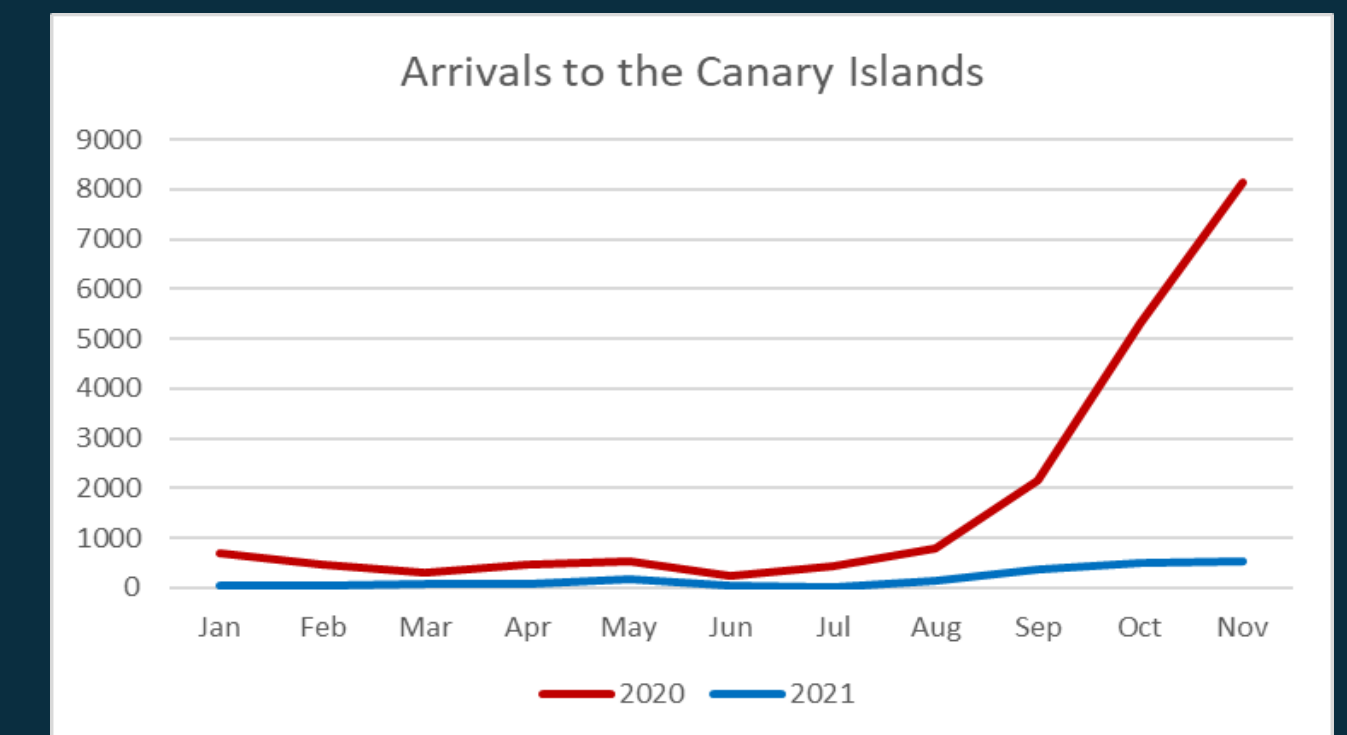
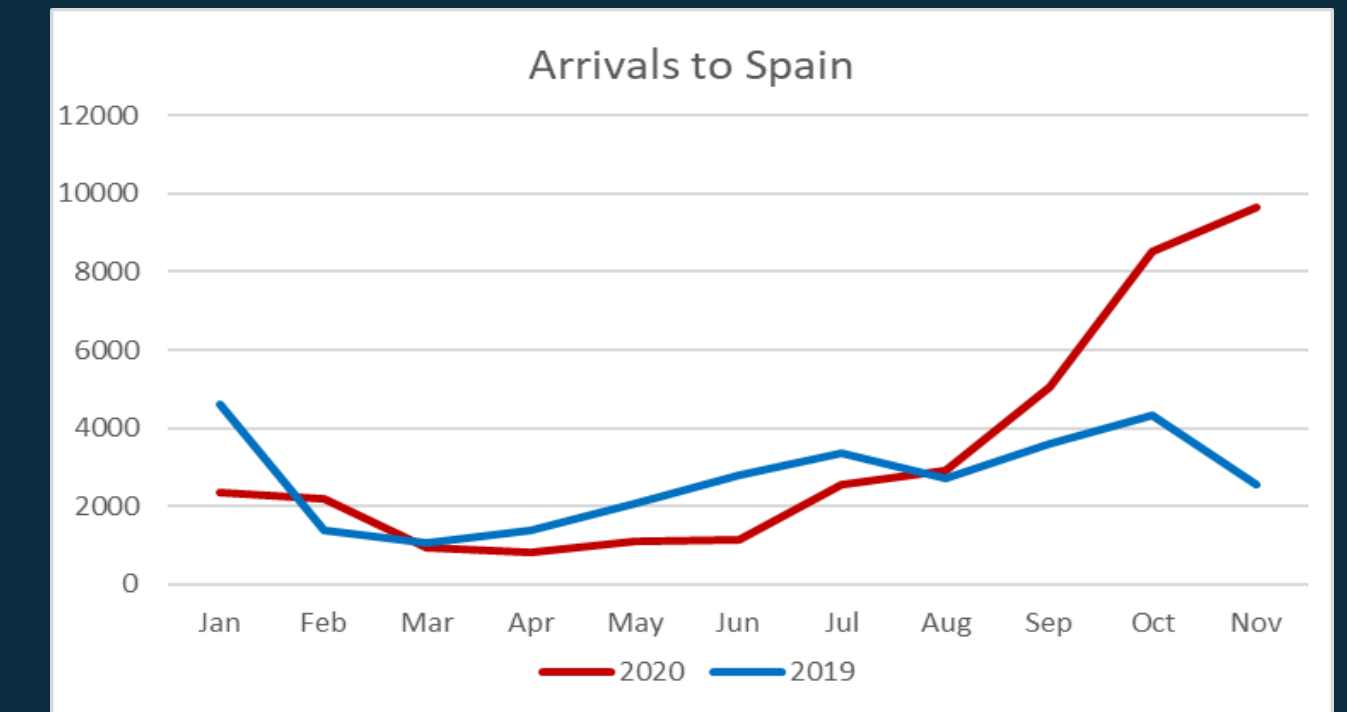
To Spain, the Canary Islands  
An increase in second half of 2020



# Migrant smuggling towards the Canary Islands

October - December 2020

- **The main departure points:**
  - Morocco - South Coast
  - Mauritania - areas around Nouadhibou and Nouackchott
  - Senegal or Gambia
- **Modi operandi**
  - fishing boats “Cayucos”
  - “mother boats”
- **Main actors**
  - OCGs operating from origin or a transit country in Africa
  - opportunistic smugglers
- **Price** around EUR 2 300
- **Links with trafficking of human beings**



# Operational Action Hydra

3 – 5 December 2020

## Where?

Morocco  
the Canary Islands  
Finland/France/Italy

## Services

Sea facilitation  
Accommodation  
Plane or ferry tickets  
Hawala or bank accounts  
transfers

## Who?

Well organized OCG  
settled in Lanzarote and  
Morocco

## Outcome

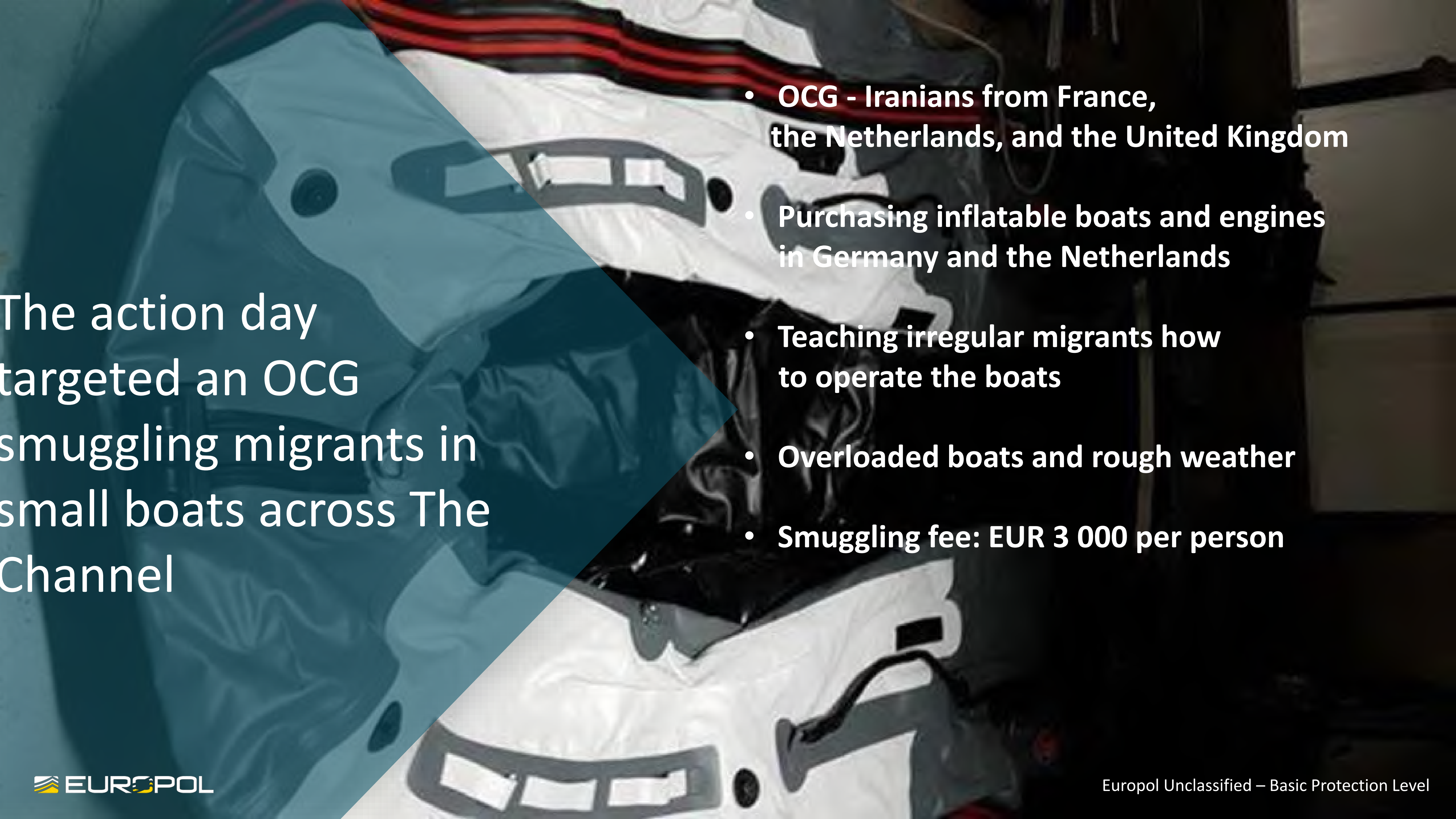
17 arrests  
3 house searches  
Use of drones  
Investigation continues

# Small boats across the English Chanel

- Increasing trend since the beginning of November 2019
- 2020: more than 1200 facilitation cases with more than 15 000 irregular migrants
- Departure points: Dunkirk and Bray-Dunes
- Time of departure: between 00 and 08 o'clock
- Boats: RIBs or RHIBs / Zodiac type of boats
- Main nationalities of irregular migrants: Iraqi and Iranian
- OCGs activity spans across several countries – DE, NL, BE, FR.







The action day  
targeted an OCG  
smuggling migrants in  
small boats across The  
Channel

- **OCG - Iranians from France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom**
- **Purchasing inflatable boats and engines in Germany and the Netherlands**
- **Teaching irregular migrants how to operate the boats**
- **Overloaded boats and rough weather**
- **Smuggling fee: EUR 3 000 per person**

# The Western Balkan Routes

3 Q 2020

Increase compared to 3 Q 2019

364%

Lorries

67%

Outlook

4 Q 2020 more than double

**OA RISK**

Smuggling in  
concealments and  
compartments

Drivers RS, MK, RO

Migrants: AF, SY, BD, PK





# A forerunner car

## Modi Operandi

- Check the road ahead;
- Owned by suspects;
- New models with a strong engine;
- Between 1.5 – 5 km ahead;
- Mobile phones for communication, sometimes radio - sets





Thank you for your attention  
Any questions?

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