



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Illicit trade in the MENA Region : cigarettes and tobacco products

March 28, 2018

Beirut, Lebanon



UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNODC: a global mandate on TOC

- International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism Financing (1999)
- United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Protocols Thereto (2000)
- Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products (2012)





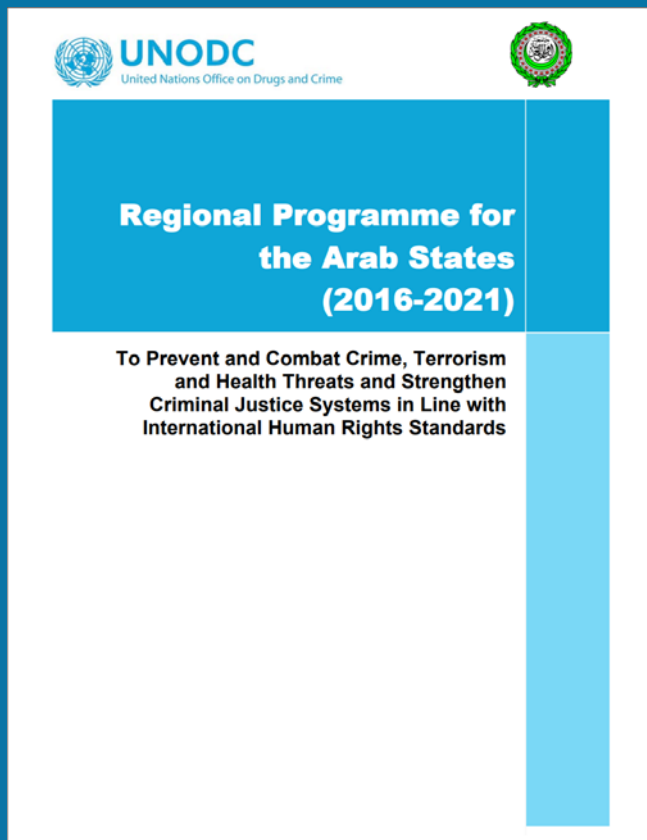
UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNODC: Regional counter-illicit trafficking activities

Operational Framework: Regional Programme for the Arab States (2016-2021)

- Crime Analysis Capacity-Building Programme
- Container Control Programme (Beirut, Tunis, etc.)
- Border Control Programme
- AIRCOP





UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Illicit trade of cigarettes and tobacco products

MENA region one of the rare growing markets (+4.5% in 2016) / in particular Iraq + 41% in 2016

What is included in the term « illicit trade »

- Counterfeits/illicit manufacture of properly established brands (fake cigarettes)
- Contraband/ bootlegging/smuggling of actual products from these brands (real cigarettes, tax-free)

An estimate of **43 billion sticks per year in MENA region** (10.6% of the legitimate market), 354 million seized according to WCO in 2012

Dangers of illicit trade:

- Creates corruption opportunities
- No health, sanitary, quality controls
- No restriction for consumers (minors)
- Tax avoidance
- Financing of criminal activities, including terrorism

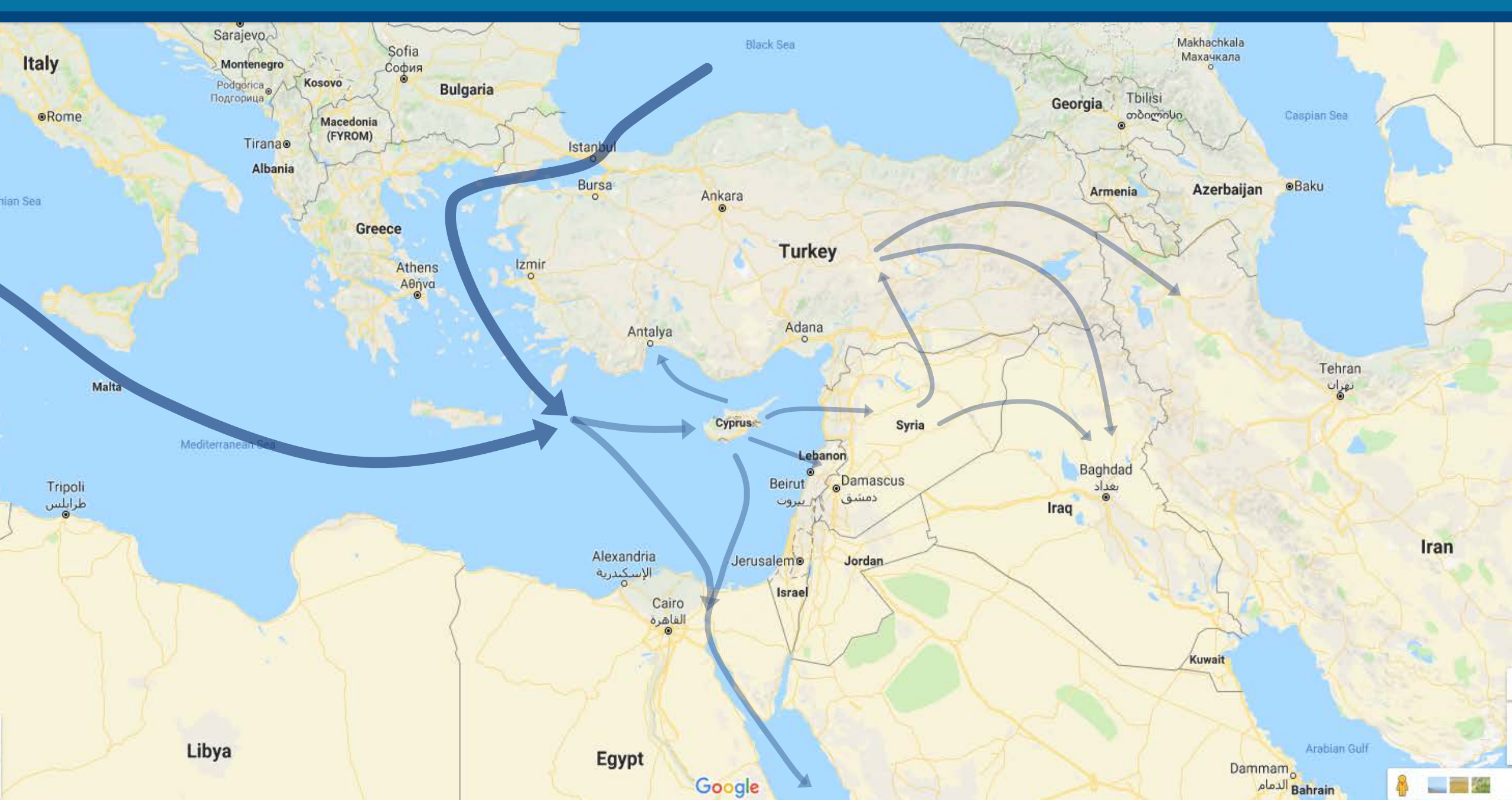
North America

Eastern Europe

Eastern Med.

South East Asia







UNODC

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Thank you for your attention

David Izadifar

david.izadifar@un.org

UNODC Regional Criminal Information Advisor

Middle East and North Africa