Negative News Analysis

Entity: Danske Bank
March 26, 2019

1 Summary

1.1 Investigation Overview

Overall Recommendation	**Suspicious - Investigate Further**
Negative News Articles	2 of 20 (10%)
Search Terms	• caught • german • thought • allowed • prosecution • behalf • scene • decided • hiding • integrity • extremely • ongoing • scandal • liberty • friend • alleged involvement • mueller • investigated • announcement • violated • gang • investigating • money laundering • mitchell • high profile • something • seat • alex • letter • fines • deals • except • detail • corruption • actions • shortly • abuse • prominent • negotiated • maybe • killing • not come • immediately • ministers • weekly • helena • offered • relationship • situation • linked • resigned • committed • criminal charges • riot • entered • democracy • stealing • halt • destroyed • police • jung • international drug • speaks

- returned
- interview
- accumulated
- supported
- carlos
- salisbury
- state bank
- putting
- questions
- seven
- rules
- accounting
- individuals
- empty
- commissioned
- authority fsa
- hold
- wish
- task force
- leave
- legal
- club
- admitted
- crimes
- wrote
- count
- jail
- suspicious
- publicly
- strange
- offshore
- extends
- shell
- everywhere
- towns
- attorney general
- claims
- regulator
- not going
- western
- finances
- cleared
- involving
- venue
- law firm
- absence
- directors
- papers
- regulators
- remove
- anything
- damaging
- investment banks
- exposed
- lived
- lines
- euros
- hours
- ticket
- victory
- colour
- fallen
- uncovered
- allegations
- detailed
- publish
- comment
- avoid
- attempted
- magazine
- gentleman
- greg
- prime minister
- iranian
- placed
- congress
- investigators
- tried
- not satisfied
- revealed

- gangs
- catch
- trap
- attempts
- relating
- suspected
- financial crimes
- justice department
- investigative
- destroy
- elections
- somebody
- books
- bringing
- phone
- reached
- transparency
- failing
- jimmy
- reporters
- internal
- turned
- indicated
- stock price
- settle
- emerged
- confirmed
- eight
- panama
- inquiry
- transfers
- probes
- speak
- believed
- guardian
- urgent
- programme
- caused
- television
- bought
- viktor
- anonymously
- names
- date no
- organization
- movement
- questionable
- broadcaster
- commenced
- conspiracy
- pages
- answering
- fine
- sacked
- publication
- criminal
- blow
- described
- officers
- repeatedly
- kind
- accepted
- detectives
- daniel
- arrests
- fraud
- game
- acknowledged
- beleaguered
- steal
- rejected
- launder
- appears
- romania
- investigate
- contracts
- telegraph
- causing
- looms
- reckless

	• victim • david • privately • lawyer • investigating whether • breach • determine • raised • cross • serious questions • italian • heavily • played • probe • afternoon • declined • stolen • conduct • not comment • exonerated • denied
Sanctioned Country Relationships Found	• Russia
Politically Exposed Persons (PEP) Relationships Found	Not available in current version
Analyst(s)	Worker id: SBXR5RPL1F70LCE0PEO1H5808FDEJKXDJD
Full Data Audit	https://wfinst-307-92-ct1.workfusion.com/workfusion/secure/business-process/edit/59e24816-e72a-41e7-b664-145531c8d689

1.2 News Article Summary

Title	Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
After Mueller: The Ongoing Investigations Surrounding Trump	2019-03-22	1.00	• Russia	Not available in current version	• legal • denied • criminal charges • probe • lawyer • inquiry • investigators • reached • revealed • failing • conspiracy • investigating • reporters • money laundering • questions • scandal	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/ATLCOM0020190323ef3m00003&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-35cf59d0-57d5-456e-aea3-80a8eeb69732.html
Swedbank Cuts Ties With Customers Suspected of Money Laundering; Results of a third-party audit published Friday show the bank has taken steps to sever ties with suspicious clients, the lender says	2019-03-22	0.87		Not available in current version	• suspected • money laundering • allegations • heavily • internal • interview • maybe • probe • claims • investigating • comment • justice department • acknowledged • linked • attempts • financial crimes • launder	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/WSJO000020190322ef3m0076d&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-99d1ad53-8ea2-4ade-b3dc-76b7ed206979.html
Swedbank Cuts Ties With Customers Suspected of Money Laundering	2019-03-25	0.83	• Russia	Not available in current version	• suspected • money laundering • allegations • scandal	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/RTNW000020190325ef3p0003k&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5

					• internal • interview • maybe • probe • claims • investigating • comment • probes • acknowledged • linked • attempts • financial crimes • launder	DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-cf73f83a-5828-4c8e-97d6-b014301f54db.html
Opinion; Russia and money laundering in Europe	2019-03-25	0.72		Not available in current version	• money laundering • something • fallen • behalf • serious questions • strange • organization • legal • state bank • anything • revealed • offshore • friend • privately • regulator • sacked • repeatedly • accepted	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/EUSERCOM20190326ef3p00009&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-21e693d9-7a5b-489c-a5e8-4553a77b02f1.html
UPDATE 4-Swedbank backs CEO as some investors query money-laundering report	2019-03-22	0.46		Not available in current version	• money laundering • not satisfied • allegations • raised • scandal • euros • inquiry • transparency • answering • corruption • criminal • internal • probe • not comment • conduct	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/LBA0000020190322ef3m00rmi&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-f2d18596-3df3-4e35-a9a1-24645f453ef9.html
Shortlist European Press Prize 2019	2019-03-26	0.33		Not available in current version	• not come • viktor • reckless • david • guardian • democracy • elections • cleared • romania • carlos • helena • investigative • money laundering • jung • salisbury • scandal • gentleman • wish	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/TWOTEN0020190326ef3q000p1&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-276d038b-ebcc-46d7-9afd-37ea0f8795d7.html
Big banks are using AI to get rid of problems	2019-03-23	0.33	• Russia	Not available in current version	• extremely • settle • allegations • allowed • international drug • launder • blow • scandal	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/NFINCE0020190323ef3n000xn&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-74225796-75f2-4d50-9607-ae1677392b8d.html

					• avoid • claims • individuals • criminal • exposed • tried • linked • iranian • regulator • violated • declined	
ATM thieves use digger	2019-03-23	0.20		Not available in current version	• stolen • believed • linked • police • lines • thought • immediately • david • phone • described • criminal • gangs • caught • jail • extends • finances • remove • attempted • investigating	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/IRISHN0020190322ef3n0000b&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-f665fc9c-b1c7-4113-bf0e-92dbd37f134e.html
SWIFTS & DEADLY	2019-03-23	0.18		Not available in current version	• jimmy • riot • colour • victory • david • placed • afternoon • maybe • played • game • absence • alex • club • seven • cross • mitchell • empty • daniel	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/DMIRR00020190323ef3n000fh&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-5ea0f632-c2e4-43f6-992b-e54deef65731.html
Gang wreck filling station in latest cash machine theft	2019-03-25	0.16		Not available in current version	• gang • caused • victim • remove • hours • police • stolen • scene • investigating whether • linked • urgent • task force • appears • officers • shortly • believed • anonymously	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/IRISHN0020190324ef3p0000m&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-c4ba2b8b-e11c-42c3-aebf-51f87076b58b.html
Lip service to AML requirements: Are Sri Lankan designated institutions skating on thin ice?	2019-03-21	0.15		Not available in current version	• money laundering • panama • legal • integrity • papers • rules • conduct • regulator • fine • crimes • supported	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/DAFTSL0020190321ef3l00009&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-7491735b-d16a-4b9d-a5e1-c9c42c1d8d72.html

					• individuals • prosecution • lived • criminal • allegations • investigated • fallen • admitted	
ATM raiders will end up killing someone, warns DUP's Foster	2019-03-26	0.11		Not available in current version	• killing • steal • allowed • police • reckless • arrests • attempted • admitted • destroyed • hours • raised • remove • stealing • damaging • causing • towns • destroy • david • catch • detectives	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/WBEL000020190326ef3q00064&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-db20ef3f-1d0b-4598-a77b-7015f3a0f960.html
Press Release: SWEDBANK INVESTIGATION INITIATED BY FORMER LOUISIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL: Kahn Swick & Foti, LLC Investigates Swedbank AB for Possible Securities Fraud - SWDBY	2019-03-23	0.10		Not available in current version	• attorney general • fraud • law firm • commenced • television • investigative • uncovered • money laundering • scandal • involving • transfers • regulators • officers • directors • violated • actions • breach • publicly • behalf	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/DJDN000020190323ef3n0003p&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-c771256c-5fae-4bf4-9e9a-f6c07b40cd2d.html
Alm. Brand A/S – Weekly report on share buybacks	2019-03-25	0.06		Not available in current version	• weekly • announcement • bought • programme • date no • accumulated • abuse • relating • pages • detailed • questions • venue • publication	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/HUGNEN0020190325ef3p00795&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-520603ff-b79f-4f0c-9684-4f31bdcea8f2.html
ESTONIA: SWEDBANK'S SUSPICIOUS ACCOUNTS CLOSED	2019-03-25	0.06		Not available in current version	• suspicious • commissioned • broadcaster • names • accounting • determine • relationship • decided • investigate • detail • money laundering • scandal • claims • questionable • television	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/BUWMAE0020190325ef3p00003&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-c65545e3-a0d4-4243-b32c-d643e8455b02.html

					• authority fsa • investigating • magazine	
EXPORT FIRST EVENT n The Northern Ireland arm of Japanese manufacturing giant...	2019-03-26	0.02		Not available in current version	• bringing • turned • appears • books • guardian • publish • leave • questions • telegraph • television • speak • greg • prominent • liberty • ticket • game • western • seven • eight	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/IRISHN0020190325ef3q0001q&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-e091653a-8d1a-4ce0-b64d-261ae540a45b.html
EU offers Brexit delay; European banks need €39B more capital by 2027	2019-03-22	0.02	• Russia	Not available in current version	• offered • reached • confirmed • money laundering • italian • probe • fine • conduct • individuals • linked • revealed • alleged involvement • behalf • rejected • ongoing • scandal • criminal • played	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/SNLFE00020190323ef3m000jh&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-a9ae9c8b-6779-4871-b4d0-7ad8b84d1437.html
European Banks Face a Triple Whammy; Negative rates, a slowing economy and money laundering scandals are weighing on one of the world's most unloved sectors for investors: European banks	2019-03-26	0.01		Not available in current version	• money laundering • everywhere • beleaguered • situation • trap • maybe • stock price • returned • german • not going • except • entered • fines • hiding • investment banks • high profile • suspected • scandal • somebody	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/WSJO000020190326ef3q0028l&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-75566c04-73e8-494e-b86f-093523682781.html
Nordic Morning Briefing: Germany IFO Numbers in Focus	2019-03-25	0.01		Not available in current version	• speaks • looms • emerged • mueller • letter • attorney general • congress • committed • exonerated • wrote • actions • offered • allowed • count	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/DJDN000020190325ef3p000nk&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-ee7d6078-e163-4218-876d-c9d606c619c8.html

					• declined • prime minister • questions • movement	
Nordic Morning Briefing: Uncertainty Remains With Brexit in Focus Again	2019-03-26	0.00		Not available in current version	• prime minister • leave • negotiated • hold • ministers • resigned • halt • tried • kind • deals • shell • putting • contracts • declined • indicated • ongoing • seat	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/DJDN000020190326ef3q0008f&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-12bd6305-cc37-4f28-9e83-bef28420dee6.html

2 Explaining This Report

- **Recommendations** are an aggregated assessment based on a multi-step process incorporating automation and manual review.
- **Score** is a model-based assessment of the relevance of the entity towards some level of suspicious activity, given on a 0.00 to 1.00 scale,with 1.00 being the most relevant.
- **Suspicious Countries** include the existence and relevance of flagged countries within the articles and related to the entities, respectively.
- **PEPs** include the existence and relevance of flagged Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) within the articles and related to the entities, respectively.
- **Article Sourcing** is from Google News via an automated query.
- **Article Analysis** is first performed by a machine learning model to prioritize articles which are then all reviewed by the Analyst.All assessments performed by the Analyst are fed back into the model which retrains to bet better over time.

See the executed business process: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1.workfusion.com/workfusion/secure/business-process/edit/59e24816-e72a-41e7-b664-145531c8d689

3 Individual News Articles

3.1 After Mueller: The Ongoing Investigations Surrounding Trump

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-22	1.00	• Russia	Not available in current version	• legal • denied • criminal charges • probe • lawyer • inquiry • investigators • reached • revealed • failing • conspiracy • investigating • reporters • money laundering • questions • scandal	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/ATLCOM0020190323ef3m00003&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-35cf59d0-57d5-456e-aea3-80a8eeb69732.html

After Mueller: The Ongoing Investigations Surrounding Trump

After 675 days, Special Counsel Robert Mueller 's investigation is over. But President Donald Trump 's legal troubles are far from finished.

What has ended is the Department of Justice's investigation into Russia's role in the 2016 presidential election, which began after the United States assessed that Moscow had intervened in the vote to tip the election in Trump's favor. Both Trump and Russia have consistently denied this. But Mueller's investigation has led to 215 criminal charges, 38 indictments or pleas, and five prison sentences so far. His probe ensnared Trump's business associates, many of whom had become involved in his political career, including his former personal lawyer Michael Cohen and former campaign chairman Paul Manafort . The special counsel's office also unearthed a web of criminality, not always directly related to Russian interference.

[ ]

Mueller's probe pursued multiple lines of inquiry, spiraling out from Trump's immediate circle into investigations implicating foreign nationals and Washington lobbyists. As a direct result of Mueller and his team's work, at least eight people, including Manafort and Cohen, were convicted of crimes ranging from unregistered foreign lobbying to campaign-finance violations.

Mueller referred a number of cases to federal prosecutors in New York, Virginia, and Washington, D.C.—and their investigations are ongoing. At the same time, several congressional committees are also pursuing their own investigations.

Here's a list of all the ongoing government investigations that could spell legal trouble for Trump, regardless of whether he's president, and the people and entities associated with him.

Federal Jurisdictions

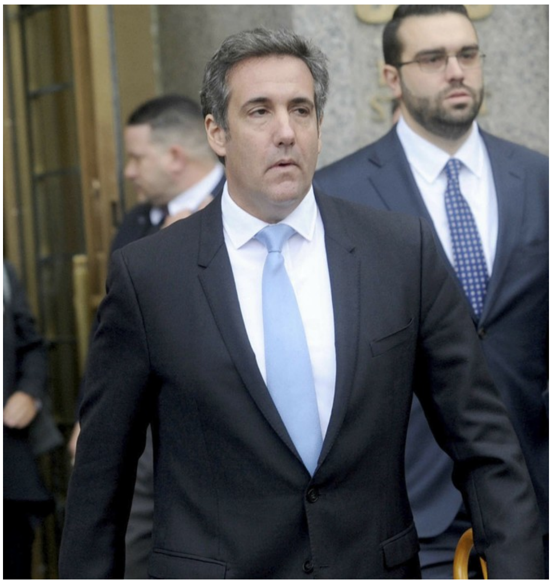
Many of the investigations that Mueller's team prosecuted or referred to other prosecutors ended up in federal attorneys' offices in the Washington, D.C., area. Even though the special counsel's probe is over, some of the investigations remain ongoing. Here's what's left, as far as we know:

The United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York

At least three investigations in this district have not yet concluded. Prosecutors are reportedly looking into the financial dealings of Trump's inauguration committee, which took in a record $107 million for the festivities surrounding his inauguration, in January 2017. In February, prosecutors subpoenaed a wide range of documents from the inauguration committee, and investigators seem in whether it took money from donors to Middle Eastern governments.

Prosecutors in the Southern District of New York are also reportedly looking into whether Manafort, as chairman of Trump's campaign, illegally coordinated with a pro-Trump super PAC, Rebuilding America Now, and whether that super PAC also received donations from people connected to Qatar and other Middle Eastern countries. These investigations have not yet led to any indictments or charges.

[ ]


Michael Cohen testified before Congress that SDNY prosecutors are looking into his communications with the president. (Dennis Van Tine / Star Max / AP)

Two lobbying firms indicted for their failure to register as foreign lobbyists, Mercury Public Affairs and the Podesta Group, have also not reached a conclusion in their cases. A third firm, Skadden Arps, its case in January.

During testimony before the House Oversight Committee in February, Trump's former personal lawyer Cohen revealed that prosecutors were also looking into his communications with Trump and Trump's representatives following the FBI raid of Cohen's office in April 2018. SDNY prosecutors have not publicly commented on this investigation, though recently released court documents that Mueller had a warrant to look into Cohen's emails as early as July 2017.

The United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia

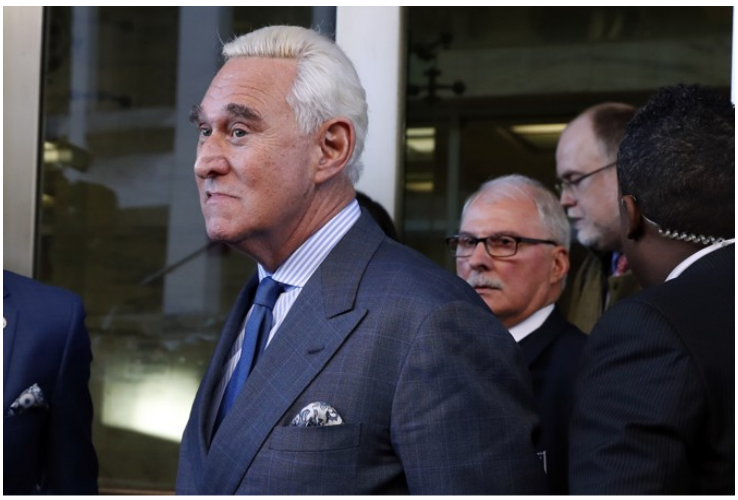
Three unresolved cases are in this district. Kamil Ekim Alptekin, an associate of former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn , was indicted and charged for acting as an agent of the Turkish government and lying to the FBI . He has not appeared in court and, as far as we know, hasn't been arrested; his case is unlikely to be resolved quickly for that reason. Another Flynn associate, Bijan Kian, is still awaiting trial for failing to register as a foreign agent after working on behalf of the Turkish government. Kian has pleaded not guilty.

[ ]

Prosecutors have also indicted Elena Alekseevna Khusyaynova , the accountant for the Internet Research Agency, the Russian troll farm that authorities believe created fake social-media accounts to influence United States elections. She has been charged with crimes relating to interfering in both the 2016 presidential election and the 2018 midterm election. Though a warrant has been out for her arrest since last October, she isn't in custody , either.

The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia

The ongoing cases in the D.C. District Court are almost all related to the WikiLeaks release of hacked emails from the Hillary Clinton campaign and the Democratic Party. A number of Trump associates charged as part of the Mueller probe are still awaiting sentencing in this district as well.



Roger Stone has known Trump since the 1980s. (Jacquelyn Martin / AP)

The Roger Stone was arrested in January 2019 and charged with making false statements, witness tampering, and obstructing an official proceeding. The FBI raided his home in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, when he was arrested. Stone has pleaded not guilty, and his trial is set for November 5. After a series of ill-advised social-media posts, one of which depicted Judge Amy Berman Jackson, who is presiding over his case, in crosshairs, Jackson placed Stone under a full gag order.

Flynn, the former national security adviser, pleaded guilty to making false statements to the FBI in December 2017. He has not been sentenced, because he has been with Mueller's investigation, leading to speculation that he could receive a greatly reduced sentence due to the extent of his cooperation.

Rick Gates, a business associate of Manafort, was charged with conspiracy and failure to register as a foreign agent, among other charges. Gates pleaded guilty and cooperated at length with Mueller's investigation, including testifying at Manafort's trial in the Eastern District of Virginia.

Konstantin Kilimnik, another Manafort associate charged with obstruction of justice and conspiracy to obstruct justice, has also been indicted, but has not yet appeared before the court.

[ ]

Prosecutors have also been busy charging Russians and Russian companies with attempting to interfere in the United States political system. Maria Butina , a Russian national attending graduate school in the United States, pleaded guilty to conspiring to act as an unregistered Russian agent. She worked to infiltrate a number of conservative organizations at the direction of a Russian government official. Butina as part of a plea deal, but has yet to be sentenced.

In February 2018, three Russian businesses, including the Internet Research Agency, and 13 Russian nationals were with federal crimes committed while they allegedly attempted to interfere in the United States political system, particularly the 2016 presidential election. The Trump administration financial sanctions on the individuals and businesses indicted.

In July 2018, a grand jury charged 12 Russian intelligence officers for their roles in "large-scale cyber operations" aimed at meddling in the 2016 presidential election. These officers are alleged to have been behind the email hacks, and they allegedly coordinated with WikiLeaks to release the hacked emails before the election. As far as we know, the Russian intelligence officers haven't been arrested, and no further public information is available on this case.

Department of Justice (Public Integrity Section)

In August 2018, The Washington Post that the Department of Justice was investigating Elliott Broidy , a prominent Republican fundraiser, for possibly attempting to cash in on his connections with the Trump administration by requesting millions of dollars from foreign governments in exchange for pushing the administration to take actions benefiting those countries. ProPublica in March that federal investigators had, at some point the previous year, raided Broidy's Los Angeles office. Their search warrant authorized them to seize a wide range of evidence related to Broidy's contacts with foreign governments, including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, and China, as well as people including Rick Gates .

Broidy has been to George Nader , a witness in Mueller's probe who also has close ties with the UAE.

Other State and Local Investigations

In addition to the investigations in New York, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., that are directly related to Mueller's probe, other jurisdictions are conducting numerous investigations into various people and organizations with connections to Trump.

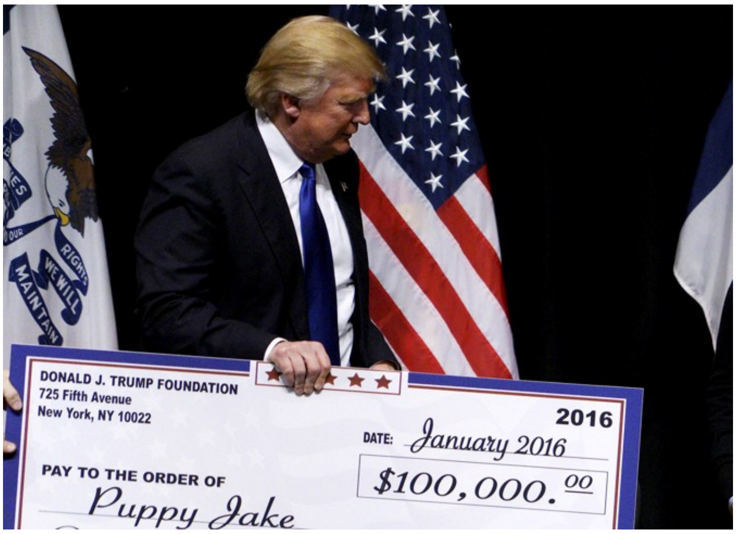
State Attorneys General Investigating Trump's Inauguration Committee

The attorneys general of Washington, D.C., and New Jersey, like investigators in the Southern District of New York, have each subpoenaed the records of Trump's inauguration committee, indicating a widening prosecutorial interest into that committee's practices.

New York State and New York City

At least four ongoing investigations are happening at the state and local level in New York. The tax departments for both New York State and New York City have opened investigations into Trump's taxes after a New York Times investigation found that Trump benefited from a $400 million tax scheme.

In March, the New York attorney general an investigation into Trump Organization projects, including four major Trump Hotel and Tower projects and the organization's failed attempt to purchase the Buffalo Bills football team. The office subpoenaed Deutsche Bank and Investors Bank for its financial records related to the Trump Organization . Even when other banks refused to lend to Trump, Deutsche Bank became his go-to lender, and the New York attorney general that it kept records of his financial practices that could be of use to the state in its investigations.



Then-candidate Donald Trump presents a mock check from the Trump Foundation to an organization in Iowa in January 2016. Three years later, the foundation is dissolving. (Rick Wilking / Reuters)

The New York attorney general is reportedly a criminal investigation into the activities of the Trump Foundation , even though the foundation is dissolving. After a two-year investigation, the New York attorney general's office filed a alleging that the Trump Foundation violated campaign-finance law and coordinated with Trump's presidential campaign.

State Attorneys General Suing Trump or His Organizations

Other states have moved to file lawsuits against Trump and his businesses after investigations: the attorneys general for Maryland and the District of Columbia sued Trump in 2017 for allegedly violating the emoluments clause of the Constitution.

Other State Court Probes

Trouble could also still be brewing in state courts for some Trump associates who have already been convicted as part of the Mueller probe. The Manhattan district attorney indicted Manafort, Trump's former campaign chairman, on 16 charges, including mortgage fraud. A key difference between these charges and the ones Manafort was convicted of in federal court is that Trump would not be able to pardon Manafort for these crimes, should he be convicted.

Congress

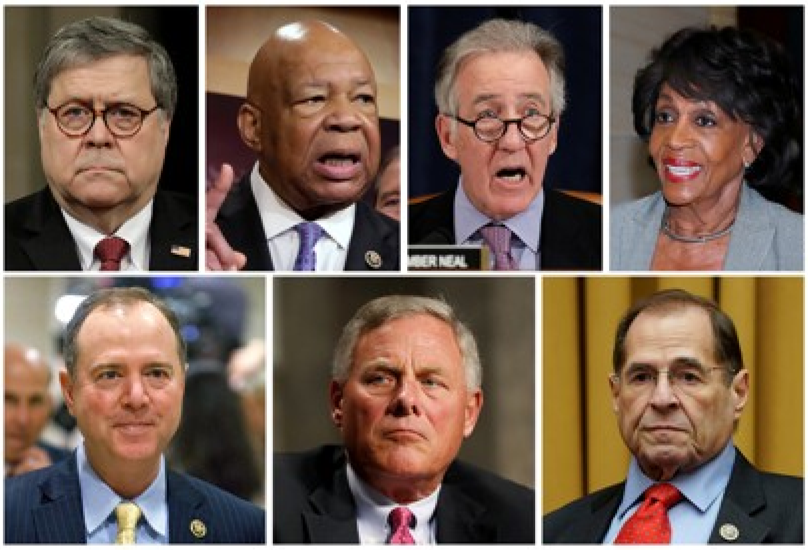
While Mueller's investigation may be over, congressional Democrats have made it clear that they intend to conduct a thorough investigation of their own. On March 14, the House of Representatives voted unanimously on a resolution demanding that Attorney General William Barr release the Mueller investigation's full findings. The resolution was sent to the Senate, where the Republican Lindsey Graham said he would only vote for it if it created a second special counsel that would investigate Hillary Clinton 's emails, effectively blocking the resolution's passage.

[ ]

Congress is launching the next wave of investigations into the Trump presidency. Here's a rundown of all the committees in play:

The House Intelligence Committee

In the spring of 2018, the Republican-controlled House Intelligence Committee's probe that, while Russia attempted to interfere in the 2016 presidential election, it did not do so to aid President Trump, contrary to the universal findings of the U.S. intelligence community. It also concluded that there was no collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign. The investigation was led by Republican Representative Devin Nunes , a member of the Trump transition team who has long denied contact between the Trump campaign and Russian operatives. Nunes's involvement contributed to the probe's heightened politicization, especially after reporting that Nunes had been sharing material with the White House behind the committee's back.



The U.S. attorney general (top left) and chairs of congressional committees pursuing investigations into Trump and his associates. Some chairs have launched joint investigations. (Reuters)

Now controlled by Democrats and chaired by Representative Adam Schiff, the Intelligence Committee has reopened its investigation into Russian interference and expanded the scope of the probe, hiring numerous investigators such as Daniel Goldman, a former federal prosecutor who in Russian organized crime. The committee is pursuing : the scope and scale of Russian interference in the U.S. political process; the extent to which the Russian government connected with the Trump campaign; whether any foreign actor has leverage over Trump; whether members of Trumpworld have been at risk of having a foreign actor hold leverage over them; and whether any actor, including the president, attempted to obstruct justice.

A key point of investigation is the June 2016 meeting in Trump Tower between Manafort, Donald Trump Jr ., Jared Kushner , and Russian officials, which was allegedly convened with the understanding that Trump associates could receive damning details about Clinton from the Russians. If this is true, it would constitute illegal campaign contribution to a political campaign. In early March, Cohen before the committee in a closed hearing, and Schiff pledged to release the transcript. However, on March 12, the committee was holding the transcript for now because investigators needed to follow up on multiple leads. Politico that Cohen also gave the committee numerous documents to support his claim that Jay Sekulow, one of the president's attorneys, edited Cohen's false testimony before Congress about the Trump Tower Moscow deal. Sekulow said it was "completely false" that Trump's attorneys had "edited or changed his statement to Congress to alter the duration of the Trump Tower Moscow negotiations."

Schiff also told reporters that he was interested in investigating Cohen's claim that the president knew about Stone's communications with WikiLeaks . Felix Sater, a Trump-allied real-estate developer who worked on the Trump Tower Moscow deal, will before the committee on March 27.

The House Financial Services Committee

The Intelligence Committee is also with the House Financial Services Committee that will look into Deutsche Bank 's lending practices. Chaired by the Democrat Maxine Waters , the Financial Services Committee plans to look into why Deutsche Bank was willing to lend money to the Trump Organization when other financial entities would not. According to Waters, Trump's family, including Ivanka Trump and Kushner, with Deutsche bank.

Deutsche Bank has been fined in the past for money laundering for Russian clients, and is under scrutiny for its involvement with Danske Bank of Denmark, which is also under scrutiny for money laundering. The committee is looking to see whether illicit money, from Russia or otherwise, ended up in any of the Trump Organization 's accounts, and whether there is any evidence of money laundering, Russian or otherwise. Deutsche Bank has said it plans to assist the lawmakers "in their official oversight functions."

The House Oversight Committee

Led by Chairman Elijah Cummings , the Oversight Committee is pursuing multiple investigations into Trump and his administration. When the Republicans controlled the committee, they blocked at least 64 subpoena requests filed by Democrats. Now that Democrats are in power, they can reissue those subpoenas.

Then–ranking member of the House Oversight Committee Elijah Cummings speaks while aides hold up posters of Trump associates who pleaded guilty in the Russia probe. The number has since increased. (Joshua Roberts / Reuters)

The committee heard testimony from Cohen on March 7, 2019. Cohen suggested that President Trump knew about Roger Stone 's connections to WikiLeaks , and testified that Trump's lawyers edited his initial testimony to Congress about Trump Tower Moscow. He also suggested that Trump has inflated his assets, and was also aware of Cohen's hush money payments to the adult-film star Stormy Daniels. According to CNN , the committee has also requested interviews with two attorneys—former White House Deputy Counsel Stefan Passantino and Trump's personal attorney Sheri Dillon—after evidence emerged suggesting they might have lied to federal ethics officials about payments made to Daniels.

The committee is also investigating the process for obtaining security clearance in the White House, following a from The New York Times that Trump intervened to give his son-in-law, Kushner, security clearance. The committee has the White House for documents and launched a broader investigation into the clearance process overall.

Additionally, the committee is Trump's activities in regards to the Trump Hotel in Washington, D.C., and whether Trump's business interests as a landlord have been aided by his position as president.

The House Judiciary Committee

In February 2019, the committee, chaired by Democratic Representative Jerry Nadler, Special Oversight Counsels Barry Berke and Norm Eisen to help consult on oversight of the Department of Justice, including matters of the Mueller investigation. In early March, the committee a wide-scale investigation into three questions: whether Trump's alleged interference with criminal investigations amounts to obstruction of justice; whether Trump or his associates broke campaign-finance laws; and whether Trump has committed abuses of power through his frequent attacks on the press, the courts, and certain law-enforcement agencies. It requested documents from more than 80 people and organizations in the Trump orbit or connected to alleged foreign interference in U.S. elections, including Donald Trump Jr ., and threatened to issue subpoenas for the documents if they were not provided to the committee.

In 2019, the committee has both public and private testimony from former Acting Attorney General Matt Whitaker , which covered conversations Whitaker had with the White House regarding the Mueller probe.

If Congress were to move to impeach the president, it would begin in this committee.

The House Ways and Means Committee

Ways and Means is one of Congress's most powerful committees, and Democratic Chairman Richard Neal has said he plans to build a case for subpoenaing a copy of Trump's personal and professional tax returns. The president has been under pressure to release his returns since the 2016 campaign, but has consistently refused, leading some to believe that they contain evidence of financial malfeasance. On February 7, the committee held a on "legislative proposals and tax law related to presidential and vice-presidential tax returns," which ways the committee could legally obtain the returns.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee

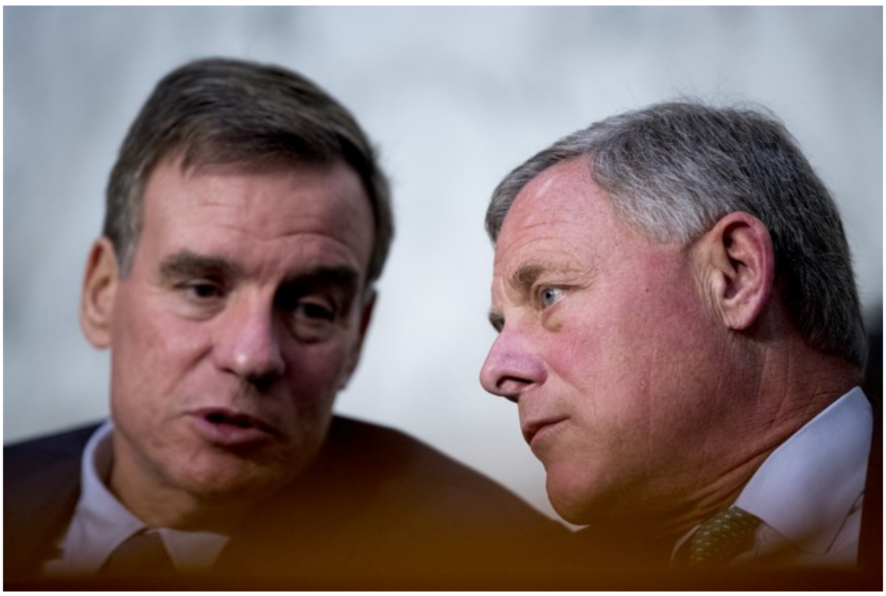
Democratic Chairman Eliot Engel has said he plans to investigate whether Trump's business ties abroad are affecting his foreign-policy decisions. Specifically, Engel he wanted to look into whether Trump violated the Constitution's emoluments clause. On February 27, 2019, the committee held a full on the Trump administration's foreign policy.

On March 4, Engel, in conjunction with the Intelligence Committee and the Oversight Committee, also a letter demanding documents and interviews about Trump's communications with Putin.

Senate Intelligence Committee

The Senate Intelligence Committee has been investigating Russian interference since 2017, and the committee's Republican chairman, Richard Burr , the investigation will continue into 2019. It has interviewed more than 200 witnesses and obtained hundreds of thousands of pages of documents. The investigation has examined links between the Russian government and the Trump campaign, as well as the larger interference in the 2016 election by Russian operatives. The committee has seen some of the congressional highlights of the Russia probe; former FBI Director James Comey to the president's possible obstruction of justice, and Attorney General Jeff Sessions about his deals with then–Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak , which led him to recuse himself from the Russia investigation. Kushner, Manafort, and Donald Trump Jr . have all testified for the Senate Intelligence Committee in closed-door hearings, as did Cohen, who was later revealed to have lied. On July 3, 2018, the committee issued a report concluding that Russia interfered in the 2016 election with the intention to help Trump. It has also issued a report detailing Russia's extensive disinformation campaign.

[ ]



Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr (right) and Committee Vice Chairman Mark Warner talk during an Intelligence Committee hearing on Russian interference in U.S. elections. Warner and Burr recently disagreed on the committee's findings. (Andrew Harnik / AP)

On February 7, Burr told CBS that the committee has yet to find evidence of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia. Democratic Vice Chairman Mark Warner disagreed with Burr's comments. Critics have pointed out that Burr has not held public hearings with key campaign officials and expand the committee's investigative staff when the investigation began. While the bipartisan committee has been largely scandal-free, our colleague Natasha Bertrand in February that the committee has "recently begun to disagree more publicly on what the facts they've collected add up to: Conspiracy? A series of coincidences and bad decisions? Or something in between?" On March 2, 2019, Bertrand also reported that the committee is now looking into at least three trips Trump took to Russia and the U.S.S.R. over the past 30 years.

Publication Date: 2019-03-22

3.2 Swedbank Cuts Ties With Customers Suspected of Money Laundering; Results of a third-party audit published Friday show the bank has taken steps to sever ties with suspicious clients, the lender says

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-22	0.87		Not available in current version	• suspected • money laundering • allegations • heavily • internal • interview • maybe • probe • claims • investigating • comment • justice department • acknowledged • linked • attempts • financial crimes • launder	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/WSJO000020190322ef3m0076d&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-99d1ad53-8ea2-4ade-b3dc-76b7ed206979.html

Swedbank Cuts Ties With Customers Suspected of Money Laundering; Results of a third-party audit published Friday show the bank has taken steps to sever ties with suspicious clients, the lender says

Swedbank AB has cut ties with an undisclosed number of customers who are at the center of money-laundering allegations against the Stockholm-based lender, according to a third-party audit published Friday.

The Swedish bank commissioned the audit last month following that said 50 customers with ties to a moved $5.8 billion through Swedbank between 2007 and 2015.

A subsequent SVT report this month put the total Swedbank figure at about $10 billion. Swedbank disputed the larger figure, saying it refers to all transactions between the Swedish bank and Danske over the seven-year period in question, not just suspicious transactions.

Forensic Risk Alliance conducted the heavily redacted report. According to the audit, the most recent transaction made by a customer on the list took place on May 31, 2017. The report did not specify how many names on the list were Swedbank customers or how much money those customers moved through the bank.

The report shows that the bank has taken the necessary steps to sever relationships with customers deemed suspicious by its internal monitoring systems, Swedbank executives said Friday in an interview with The Wall Street Journal.

But local bank secrecy laws have hindered the bank's ability to make its case to the public, Chief Executive Birgitte Bonnesen said.

"We could have resolved this in two and a half minutes, but there is no way we can do it," Ms. Bonnesen said. "We're standing there with all of this information floating around, and nobody is saying, 'Maybe we did the right thing [with the suspicious accounts].' But we can't say it, and that has been the most frustrating thing."

In a press release accompanying the report, Swedbank's board said it continued to support Ms. Bonnesen and her work in fighting money laundering.

Swedbank faces a number of regulatory investigations into the allegations of financial crime. Financial regulators in Sweden and Estonia last month launched a probe into the claims made by the Swedish broadcaster. Additionally, the Swedish Economic Crime Authority has been asked by at least one investor to investigate the money-laundering allegations.

Asked whether U.S. authorities have begun investigating Swedbank over the money-laundering allegations, Ms. Bonnesen declined to comment. The Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission , along with several European regulators, have , which acknowledged last year that about $230 billion Russia-linked dirty money flowed through a small branch in Estonia.

Ms. Bonnesen said she erred last fall in denying that her bank had ties to suspicious customers at Danske .

Ms. Bonnesen said she should have provided more context when she said in October that suspicious customers identified by Danske did not have accounts at Swedbank. Ms. Bonnesen said she was referring only to a small handful of names that had surfaced in media reports, rather than making a categorical denial. The mischaracterization has "come back to haunt" the bank, she said.

"We should have taken a step back and explained that attempts of money laundering were happening all the time in all markets, and how we work through this systematically," Ms. Bonnesen said.

A Danske spokesman declined to comment.

The next phase of the external audit will involve taking a closer look at the customers on the list from SVT—looking, for instance, at their corporate structures, subsidiaries and affiliates, Swedbank executives said.

The bank also said Friday that it has formed a special financial crimes unit that will be tasked with helping Swedbank understand emerging techniques used by criminals trying to launder money.

Ms. Bonnesen declined to comment on how much Swedbank is investing in the new division or how many employees it will involve.

"Crime has gotten much more sophisticated," she said, "and we need to be able to be proactive, not reactive."

Publication Date: 2019-03-22

3.3 Swedbank Cuts Ties With Customers Suspected of Money Laundering

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-25	0.83	• Russia	Not available in current version	• suspected • money laundering • allegations • scandal • internal • interview • maybe • probe • claims • investigating • comment • probes • acknowledged • linked • attempts • financial crimes • launder	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/RTNW000020190325ef3p0003k&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-cf73f83a-5828-4c8e-97d6-b014301f54db.html

Swedbank Cuts Ties With Customers Suspected of Money Laundering

Swedbank AB has cut ties with an undisclosed number of customers who are at the center of money-laundering allegations against the Stockholm-based lender, according to a third-party audit published Friday.

The Swedish bank commissioned the audit last month following a report by Swedish television station SVT that said 50 customers with ties to a $230 billion Danske Bank A/S money-laundering scandal moved $5.8 billion through Swedbank between 2007 and 2015.

A subsequent SVT report this month put the total Swedbank figure at about $10 billion. Swedbank disputed the larger figure, saying it refers to all transactions between the Swedish bank and Danske over the seven-year period in question, not just suspicious transactions.

Forensic Risk Alliance conducted the heavily redacted report. According to the audit, the most recent transaction made by a customer on the list took place on May 31, 2017. The report did not specify how many names on the list were Swedbank customers or how much money those customers moved through the bank.

The report shows that the bank has taken the necessary steps to sever relationships with customers deemed suspicious by its internal monitoring systems, Swedbank executives said Friday in an interview with The Wall Street Journal.

But local bank secrecy laws have hindered the bank's ability to make its case to the public, Chief Executive Birgitte Bonnesen said.

"We could have resolved this in two and a half minutes, but there is no way we can do it," Ms. Bonnesen said. "We're standing there with all of this information floating around, and nobody is saying, 'Maybe we did the right thing [with the suspicious accounts].' But we can't say it, and that has been the most frustrating thing."

In a press release accompanying the report, Swedbank's board said it continued to support Ms. Bonnesen and her work in fighting money laundering.

Swedbank faces a number of regulatory investigations into the allegations of financial crime. Financial regulators in Sweden and Estonia last month launched a probe into the claims made by the Swedish broadcaster. Additionally, the Swedish Economic Crime Authority has been asked by at least one investor to investigate the money-laundering allegations.

Asked whether U.S. authorities have begun investigating Swedbank over the money-laundering allegations, Ms. Bonnesen declined to comment. The Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission , along with several European regulators, have launched probes into Danske Bank , which acknowledged last year that about $230 billion Russia-linked dirty money flowed through a small branch in Estonia.

Ms. Bonnesen said she erred last fall in denying that her bank had ties to suspicious customers at Danske .

Ms. Bonnesen said she should have provided more context when she said in October that suspicious customers identified by Danske did not have accounts at Swedbank. Ms. Bonnesen said she was referring only to a small handful of names that had surfaced in media reports, rather than making a categorical denial. The mischaracterization has "come back to haunt" the bank, she said.

"We should have taken a step back and explained that attempts of money laundering were happening all the time in all markets, and how we work through this systematically," Ms. Bonnesen said.

A Danske spokesman declined to comment.

The next phase of the external audit will involve taking a closer look at the customers on the list from SVT -- looking, for instance, at their corporate structures, subsidiaries and affiliates, Swedbank executives said.

The bank also said Friday that it has formed a special financial crimes unit that will be tasked with helping Swedbank understand emerging techniques used by criminals trying to launder money.

Ms. Bonnesen declined to comment on how much Swedbank is investing in the new division or how many employees it will involve.

"Crime has gotten much more sophisticated," she said, "and we need to be able to be proactive, not reactive."

(END) Dow Jones Newswires

25-03-19 0342GMT

Publication Date: 2019-03-25

3.4 Opinion; Russia and money laundering in Europe

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-25	0.72		Not available in current version	• money laundering • something • fallen • behalf • serious questions • strange • organization • legal • state bank • anything • revealed • offshore • friend • privately • regulator • sacked • repeatedly • accepted	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/EUSERCOM20190326ef3p00009&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-21e693d9-7a5b-489c-a5e8-4553a77b02f1.html

Opinion; Russia and money laundering in Europe

Something is seriously wrong with international banking regulation.

In the recent had processed €200bn, which is deemed a serious crime.

But why are all these intermediaries punished and not the actual culprits, the big state banks in Moscow that drive the illicit flows of money?

Awaiting possible fines from the US Treasury , the stock prices of Danske Bank have fallen by half, and other Nordic banks involved, such as Nordea and Swedbank, have seen their stocks fall by one-fifth.

As a consequence of this money laundering that ended in 2015, both Estonian and Latvian banks have lost correspondent banking in US dollars, which is vital for a bank that wants to pursue international activities.

A year ago, the US Treasury named ABLV Bank of Latvia, the third biggest bank in Latvia, an 'institution of primary money laundering concern'.

It "the opening or maintaining of a correspondent account in the United States for, or on behalf of, ABLV Bank ."

Although it was perfectly solvent, within two weeks ABLV had to close down.

These radical developments raise serious questions.

Follow the money

First, where did the money come from?

While some money came from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine, overwhelmingly the laundered funds came from Russia.

Strange as it may sound, but since 2003 Russia is a member of the ruling global body for money laundering, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which is headquartered at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris.

It praises Russia for having rapidly implemented and enhanced its anti-money laundering system.

But how can that be the case, if Russia is the main money-laundering risk for small EU countries, such as , , Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania?

Estonia and Latvia have successfully fulfilled the rigorous legal standards of the OECD , while Russia has not.

This makes no sense.

Why are minor middlemen punished rather than the chief culprits, the big Russian state banks?

The absurdity becomes even greater when you check the details.

In 2015, Estonia and Latvia lost their last correspondent banking relation in dollars with Deutsche Bank .

Their national banks were left with no choice but to turn to Moscow for correspondent banking in dollars.

The prime beneficiary was VTB, a state bank that tends to be involved in all big scandalous bank operations. VTB is Russia's second largest bank after the also state-owned Sberbank .

This shows that the essence of the global anti-money-laundering regime is about size rather than legality. VTB has a couple of hundreds of billions of dollars on its balance sheet, so it can get away with anything, although few banks have been involved in more scandals than VTB.

In April 2016, the were published.

They revealed that VTB's subsidiary on Cyprus, RCB, had given an offshore company belonging to Putin's childhood friend, cellist Sergei Roldugin, a loan of [€572m], which was clearly not supposed to be paid back.

As if to cover the tracks, the biggest private bank in Russia, Bank Otkritie, bought this subsidiary from VTB.

Bank collapse

In the autumn of 2017, Bank Otkritie collapsed.

It was known that VTB owned 10 percent of Bank Otkritie, but Financial Times found out that Bank Otkritie had covertly bought up 20 percent of VTB on the market. These purchases aimed at boosting VTB's flagging stock price and were a major reason for the failure of Bank Otkritie.

In December 2014, Otkritie and VTB helped the state-owned oil company Rosneft refinance a foreign loan of $7.6bn.

As Max Seddon of Financial Times put it: "In 2014, Otkritie, already Russia's largest privately held bank, doubled its assets overnight in a repo deal organised by VTB to navigate western sanctions and refinance oil group Rosneft's debt."

As a consequence of this oversized financial operation, the ruble exchange rate plummeted and Russia ended up in a severe currency crisis.

On 3 October, 2016, a sudden change occurred in the Russian central bank management for the first time in several years, as two deputy governors in charge of bank regulation were removed.

The apparent reason was that they had closed down banks that were actually in good shape and participated in the raiding of their financial resources, though needless to say nobody was prosecuted.

One week after the chief regulator, deputy central bank governor Mikhail Sukhov had been sacked from the Central Bank, he was hired by VTB as vice president.

While Sberbank has a highly respectable market capitalisation on the London Stock Exchange of almost $70bn, VTB with half as large banking assets has fallen to a market value of merely $8bn.

In short, VTB is a financial disaster. Without state support, it would have gone bankrupt repeatedly.

Andrei Kostin has been CEO of VTB since 2002 and his tenure seems safe, but that indicates that VTB is not really a bank but a Kremlin slush fund that is supposed to provide financing for whatever aim the Kremlin might suggest.

The chairman of its supervisory board is finance minister Anton Siluanov , who naturally is obliged to obey Kremlin orders.

Since July 2014, VTB has been sanctioned by the US Treasury as part of its sanctions on Russia because of its military .

When a major problem arises, such as money laundering from Russia, the focus should be on the root problem, the big crooked state banks.

Western banking authorities should go after the real culprits of money laundering, such as VTB rather than mosquitoes such as ABLV.

Given the public record reported above, the US Treasury should deprive VTB of the rights of corporate banking in US dollars and EU banking institutions should do the same.

As long as Russia is too crooked to qualify for OECD membership, it should no longer be accepted as a member of FATF.

Both the US and the EU need to abandon the principle in bank regulation that it is all right to be a crook as long as you are big.

is a senior fellow at the and author of the forthcoming book, Russia's Crony Capitalism: The Path from Market Economy to Kleptocracy

Publication Date: 2019-03-25

3.5 UPDATE 4-Swedbank backs CEO as some investors query money-laundering report

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-22	0.46		Not available in current version	• money laundering • not satisfied • allegations • raised • scandal • euros • inquiry • transparency • answering • corruption • criminal • internal • probe • not comment • conduct	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/LBA0000020190322ef3m00rmi&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-f2d18596-3df3-4e35-a9a1-24645f453ef9.html

UPDATE 4-Swedbank backs CEO as some investors query money-laundering report

* CEO says report gives assurance over AML procedures

* Top two Swedbank shareholders back CEO, board

* But two top 5 Swedbank investors say not satisfied

* Swedbank shares down by more than 1 pct (Adds findings from Norwegian FSA 's annual report)

By Johan Ahlander and Esha Vaish

STOCKHOLM, March 22 (Reuters) - Swedbank's board backed chief executive Birgitte Bonnesen on Friday as some investors questioned a heavily redacted external report into allegations of money laundering through its Baltic branches.

Forensic Risk Alliance's (FRA) widely-anticipated report, which has large sections blacked out, said it had identified a number of previously named clients that a media report said should have raised red-flags at Swedbank over potential money-laundering risks.

Several banks have been dragged into a scandal at Danske Bank , whose Estonian branch was used for 200 billion euros ($227 billion) of suspicious payments between 2007 and 2015, knocking their shares and fuelling investor fears.

The Swedbank report came as Norway's Financial Supervisory Authority (FSA) said that several banks operating in the country, which it did not name, had made insufficient anti-money laundering risk assessments last year.

Swedbank's CEO Bonnesen said the FRA's report showed that bank's systems and processes had worked, but its shares, which have lost around 15 percent since the allegations were published in February, dropped by 1 percent.

"The important thing is that we feel secure in the way we have worked with this issue in the relation to the possible 50 clients," Bonnesen told Reuters.

Swedbank Chairman Lars Idermark said the board continued to back Bonnesen, who was chief audit executive at Swedbank between 2009 and 2011, a job which included overseeing the bank's anti-money laundering policy. Bonnesen then moved on to run the lender's Baltic operations until 2014.

But major shareholders in Swedbank, which is the subject of a joint inquiry by the Swedish, Latvian, Estonian and Lithuanian financial watchdogs, were not satisfied by the report.

AMF Pension, Swedbank's fifth largest shareholder with 4.8 percent of shares, said it had expected more and that more information was needed to restore confidence in the bank.

"We will therefore continue to work for more transparency and openness, thereby increasing confidence in the bank, and for answering remaining question," AMF said in a statement.

Alecta, Swedbank's third-largest investor with close to 5 percent of its shares, called for more clarity and said a more thorough evaluation is needed to restore trust in the bank.

"Neither the report presented ... nor the proposed continuation live up to our expectations," its said.

The report was also criticised by Bill Browder, an investor who campaigns to expose corruption and has filed a criminal complaint with Swedish authorities over Swedbank's alleged link to money laundering through the Baltics.

"This doesn't give us any clearer picture how big the money laundering problem was, who knew about it inside Swedbank, when they knew it and what they did about it," Browder said.

FRA said Swedbank had searched its own systems for its report and that it had not been provided with an internal report on anti-money laundering procedures.

DEEPER REVIEW

Swedish Television reported allegations last month that 50 clients transferred at least 40 billion Swedish crowns ($4.3 billion) between Baltics accounts at Swedbank and Danske Bank between 2007 and 2015.

Swedbank said on Friday it would continue to strengthen its anti money-laundering capabilities, adding that it had flagged some 3,800 suspicious transactions to local authorities in the Baltics in 2017 and 2018, while business dealings with 886 non-resident customers had been terminated in the region.

Sweden's financial watchdog said the FRA report would be included in its probe and that it could not comment further on the matter, while Swedbank's board said it would conduct a deeper review in cooperation with "relevant authorities", without giving details.

And the bank's two biggest shareholder, the Savings Banks' Owners Association which has a 10.5 percent stake, and Folksam , which has an about 7 percent stake, expressed confidence in the board and the CEO after seeing the report.

"The bank has assured us that they have complied with applicable regulations and reported suspicious transactions to authorities in all countries concerned," Lennart Haglund, chairman of association and head of Swedbank's nomination committee, said in a statement.

Investment bank Keefe, Bruyette & Woods said in a note to clients that it was positive that no "smoking gun" was found in the initial investigation but that "considerable further work will be required to clarify the situation comprehensively."

(Additional reporting by Johannes Hellstrom, Writing by Johan Ahlander and Simon Johnson; editing by Gwladys Fouche and Alexander Smith)

Publication Date: 2019-03-22

3.6 Shortlist European Press Prize 2019

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-26	0.33		Not available in current version	• not come • viktor • reckless • david • guardian • democracy • elections • cleared • romania • carlos • helena • investigative • money laundering • jung • salisbury • scandal • gentleman • wish	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/TWOTEN0020190326ef3q000p1&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-276d038b-ebcc-46d7-9afd-37ea0f8795d7.html

Shortlist European Press Prize 2019

AMSTERDAM, March 26, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- This is the shortlist for the European Press Prize 2019. The winners will be announced on May 23rd at Gazeta Wyborcza in Warsaw. Learn more about the prize .

Distinguished Reporting

*'56 days' - Katrin Kuntz, Marian Blasberg, Christoph Scheuermann, Der Spiegel (Germany)

*'Gaza. It's time for change' - Francesca Borri, Yedioth Ahronoth (Israel) & La Repubblica (Italy)

*'If We Were Roma, We Would Not Come Back from Britain' - Denisa Gdovinová & Filip Olsovsky, .týždeň (Slovakia)

*'I'm going for an HIV' - Ekaterina Fomina, Novaya Gazeta (Russia)

*'Prisoners of the 4th floor' - Ewa Wołkanowska-Kołodziej, Pismo. Magazyn Opinii (Poland)

*'Viktor Orbán's reckless football obsession' - Dan Nolan & David Goldblatt, The Guardian (UK)

Innovation

*'The Drums of Democracy' - Cătălina Dumbrăveanu, Ramin Mazur, John Donica, Victoria Colesnic & Edges of Europe team, Are We Europe (International) & 360 Magazine (Netherlands)

*'Elections clouds cleared: which party, which candidate says what?' - Efe Kerem Sözeri, P24 (Turkey)

*'Endgame' - Maximilian Popp in Der Spiegel, Germany & The Black Sea, Romania

*'Forbidden Stories' - Laurent Richard & Freedom of Voices Network, forbiddenstories.org (International)

*'Palmyra, the other side' - Guillermo Abril & Carlos Spottorno, Süddeutsche Zeitung Magazin (Germany) & El País Semanal (Spain)

*'Radmesser' - Michael Gegg, Fabian Altenried, Martin Baaske, Andreas Baum, Hans Hack, Jakob Kluge, Hendrik Lehmann, David Meidinger, Hannes Soltau, Helena Wittlich, Der Tagesspiegel (Germany)

Investigative Reporting

*'The Brotherhood of Killers and Cops' - Roman Anin, Novaya Gazeta (Russia)

*'Money laundering at Danske Bank ' - Eva Jung, Simon Bendtsen & Michael Lund, Berlingske (Denmark)

*'Myanmar Burning' - Wa Lone, Kyaw Soe Oo, Simon Lewis, Antoni Slodkowski, Reuters (International)

*'Propaganda War in Europe: The Far-Right Media' - Nina Horaczek, Falter (Austria)

*'Unmasking the Salisbury Poisoning Suspects' - Christo Grozev, Roman Dobrokhotov, Daniel Romein, Bellingcat (UK)

*'Windrush Scandal' - Amelia Gentleman, The Guardian (UK)

Opinion

*'The end of Atlanticism: has Trump killed the ideology that won the cold war?' - Madeleine Schwartz, The Guardian (UK)

*'Let's continue talking about murder, not Fico's media tyranny' - Beata Balogova, SME (Slovakia)

*'Someone I wish I hadn't known' - Vera Mulder, De Correspondent (Netherlands)

*'Trial runs for fascism are in full flow' - Fintan O'Toole, Irish Times (Ireland)

*'Use article 7 against my country' - Radu Dumitrescu, The New Federalist (Romania)

Contact:

Mrs Lily Schim van der Loeff

+31(0)627006043

Publication Date: 2019-03-26

3.7 Big banks are using AI to get rid of problems

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-23	0.33	• Russia	Not available in current version	• extremely • settle • allegations • allowed • international drug • launder • blow • scandal • avoid • claims • individuals • criminal • exposed • tried • linked • iranian • regulator • violated • declined	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/NFINCE0020190323ef3n000xn&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-74225796-75f2-4d50-9607-ae1677392b8d.html

Big banks are using AI to get rid of problems

Hong Kong (CNN Business) Doing business with the wrong type of customer can be extremely expensive for banks. HSBC had to pay $ 1.9 billion in 2012 to settle allegations of having allowed international drug cartels to launder billions of dollars across borders. ING received a blow for 900 million dollars in September after admitting that some criminals had moved money through their accounts. And Danske Bank has been at the center of a scandal in recent months involving suspicious Russian funds. A startup based in Singapore believes that artificial intelligence could help financial companies avoid such problems. Silent Eight claims that its technology uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to identify and stop illegal transactions before they take place. It may interest you: The company is the work of Martin Markiewicz. The training mathematician founded Silent Eight when he moved to Southeast Asia from Poland about five years ago.

Markiewicz says that artificial intelligence is better than the methods currently used by banks. They frequently rely on staff to manually review the lists of individuals and businesses that face sanctions or are involved in a criminal investigation. "The world banks review millions of suspicious transactions every year, so it's a very inefficient way to keep bad actors out of the financial system," he said. With Artificial Intelligence, "you can do it much faster and you are not exposed to human error". The Silent Eight software hunts the transactions as if a North Korean government official on the blacklist tried to open an account or if a company linked to the Iranian government tried to borrow. "No one wants to be the bank they attract by financing North Korea's nuclear program," Markiewicz said. The Silent Eight system works by collecting and analyzing information from thousands of documents and other sources, learning and becoming more effective with it, according to the company. The startup initially considered establishing its operations in London or Tokyo before deciding on Singapore. Markiewicz said the team chose the city-state because of its ease of doing business, the use of English and the good reputation of its financial regulator. Read also: Banks have shown interest in the company's offer. Standard Chartered announced last year that it would deploy Silent Eight technology to help filter potential customers against "watch lists" of high-risk individuals and companies. The international bank, which is based in London, but has a broad focus on Asia, paid more than 600 million dollars in fines in 2012 after US authorities found that one of its units violated the sanctions imposed on Iran. The bank recently allocated $ 900 million more for possible future fines. A spokesperson for Standard Chartered declined to provide details on how the bank uses Silent Eight technology. Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation , a large bank in Singapore also uses Silent Eight technology. Markiewicz said that several more financial institutions around the world are testing the technology or are talking about its deployment.

Publication Date: 2019-03-23

3.8 ATM thieves use digger

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-23	0.20		Not available in current version	• stolen • believed • linked • police • lines • thought • immediately • david • phone • described • criminal • gangs • caught • jail • extends • finances • remove • attempted • investigating	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/IRISHN0020190322ef3n0000b&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-f665fc9c-b1c7-4113-bf0e-92dbd37f134e.html

ATM thieves use digger

A STOLEN digger was used to rip a cash machine from the wall of a bank in Co Antrim yesterday in the latest in a spate of ATM thefts.

Substantial damage was caused to the Danske Bank building on Mallusk Road in Newtownabbey as a result of the theft at about 3.10am.

It is the fifth ATM theft in Northern Ireland so far this year.

Asked whether the latest incident is believed to be linked to the others, a police spokesman said: “Our investigation is in the early stages. We will follow all lines of enquiry.” Police said the digger in the latest theft is thought to have been stolen from a business a short distance away and was set on fire at the scene immediately after the raid.

“Substantial damage was caused to the building as a result of the incident,” detective chief inspector David Henderson said.

He urged anyone with information to phone police on 101 quoting reference 163 22/03/19, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Glyn Roberts, chief executive of Retail NI, described the theft as “disgraceful”.

“We would urge all businesses who have external ATMs to be vigilant, particularly if they are near building sites with diggers,” he said.

“Retail NI would also urge building contractors to review the security of their sites.

“The criminal gangs behind these attacks need to be caught and put in jail for a very long time.

“If the general public have any information about these attacks they should contact the PSNI.” SDLP councillor Thomas Burns condemned the ATM theft and urged anyone with information to contact the PSNI.

“This type of theft robs the entire community. Aside from the cash taken from the ATM, a local business has also had a digger stolen,” he said.

“The impact extends far beyond the damage of the bank. It depletes the finances of local services and deters new business from investing in the area.” Police have set up a task force aimed at tackling the cash machine crime spree.

Earlier this month a cash machine was ripped from a filling station wall at Ballygawley Road, Dungannon in Co Tyrone.

In February, a digger was used to remove a cash machine from Glendale filling station on Killyclogher Road outside Omagh.

In the same month, two ATMs were stolen in one incident at an Asda supermarket at Junction One shopping complex, Antrim, and another from a filling station on Glenavy Road, near Moira.

There was also an attempted cash machine theft in January at a Spar store at Mountfield Road, near Killyclogher in Co Tyrone.

Last month police said they were investigating a possible link between recent cash machine thefts.

Publication Date: 2019-03-23

3.9 SWIFTS & DEADLY

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-23	0.18		Not available in current version	• jimmy • riot • colour • victory • david • placed • afternoon • maybe • played • game • absence • alex • club • seven • cross • mitchell • empty • daniel	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/DMIRR00020190323ef3n000fh&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-5ea0f632-c2e4-43f6-992b-e54deef65731.html

SWIFTS & DEADLY

Four-goal Waterworth guns down Dungannon

ACE predator Andy Waterworth dined out on FOUR goals as Linfield marched nine points clear at the top of the Premiership last night.

Defender Jimmy Callacher was also on target with a trademark set-piece header as the Blues ran riot against off-colour Dungannon Swifts at Stangmore Park.

Victory eased David Healy's men nine clear although second-placed Ballymena United can cut the gap at home to Warrenpoint Town this afternoon.

Man of the match Waterworth said: "We've maybe been a bit off colour of late but we really clicked and it was an important win.

"That's probably the best we have played in the last month or two and we took the game by the scruff of the neck. When you're a striker you thrive off good delivery into the box and thankfully I was able to capitalise on that tonight."

In the absence of regular keeper Alex Moore, prohibited from playing against his parent club, Evan Moran was making only his third appearance for the Swifts.And the former Bray Wanderers shot stopper was picking the ball out of the net seven minutes in when Jordan Stewart wriggled free to cross for Waterworth to head home.

It was 2-0 four minutes later when the same double act combined to round off a slick move.

Andy Mitchell released Stewart with a perfectly weighted pass and with just Moran to beat, he unselfishly squared for Waterworth to roll the ball into the empty net.

It was one-way traffic and 3-0 in the 25th minute when Callacher (inset) rose at the back post to head a Mitchell free kick past Moran for his 10th goal of the season.

Waterworth got his hat-trick in the h f m fou seaso 56th minute when he forced home and made it 5-0 with his fourth - his 28th of the season - when Daniel Kearns whipped a ball across goal for the striker to net.

Waterworth, now with 152 goals in 262 games for Linfield, received a standing ovation when he was replaced 15 minutes from time.

PWDLF APts Linfield|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)3324 5 4 70 21 77 Ballymena |(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)..32 21 5 6 73 40 68 Crusaders|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)32 20 3 9 63 42 63 Glenavon|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)..32 16 9 7 59 40 57 Cliftonville|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)..3216 313 60 53 51 Coleraine|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)..32 14 9 9 51 45 51 Glentoran|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85).32 10 8 14 48 47 38 Dungannon|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)33 9 9 15 37 56 36 Institute|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85).32 10 5 17 44 65 35 Warrenpoint|(85)|(85)|(85).328 717 38 66 31 Ards|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85).32 4 6 22 25 56 18 NewryCity|(85)|(85)|(85)|(85)..32 4 523 23 60 17 DANSKE BANK PREMIER

Publication Date: 2019-03-23

3.10 Gang wreck filling station in latest cash machine theft

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-25	0.16		Not available in current version	• gang • caused • victim • remove • hours • police • stolen • scene • investigating whether • linked • urgent • task force • appears • officers • shortly • believed • anonymously	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/IRISHN0020190324ef3p0000m&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-c4ba2b8b-e11c-42c3-aebf-51f87076b58b.html

Gang wreck filling station in latest cash machine theft

EXTENSIVE damage has been caused to a filling station in Co Fermanagh which has become the latest victim of thieves targeting cash machines.

A gang used a digger to remove the ATM from Drumharvey Filling Station/McAleer's Spar on Dromore Road in Irvinestown just after 4am yesterday.

"Due to the theft of our ATM last night, the shop will remain closed until further notice," McAleer's Spar said in a Facebook post.

It is the 11th such theft on either side of the border in six months and comes just 48 hours after a Danske Bank branch in Newtownabbey, Co Antrim, was targeted.

In Friday's incident police believe the digger used was stolen from a nearby business.

Police believe that in yesterday's attack the digger, which was set alight at the scene, was also stolen from a building site close by.

Detective Sergeant Brian Reid said: "We believe the culprits used a trailer to remove the ATM from the scene.

"We also believe the digger was stolen from ground under development nearby. We are investigating whether this ATM theft is linked to any other recent thefts." Glyn Roberts, chief executive of Retail NI, said the "growing number of these attacks is now a major cause for concern" and that security at building sites must be "urgently reviewed".

"Retail NI will organise an urgent meeting of representatives from banks, the construction sector and the PSNI to discuss this crisis," he said.

A fortnight ago, also in the early hours of a Sunday, diggers were used to rip out cash machines from premises in counties Tyrone and Cavan.

Almost half of all the thefts have occurred in Co Tyrone, with shops and filling stations in Omagh, Cabragh, Killyclogher and Fintona targeted since December.

In February, Hughes Eurospar in Carrickmore announced it was withdrawing its ATM service due to the spate of attacks, while the PSNI said it was establishing a dedicated task force to tackle such thefts after concerns from retailers.

Police have appealed for information after a van containing "what appears to be the remnants" of an ATM were discovered in a field in Crumlin, Co Antrim, on Saturday morning. Although the field is just a few miles from the scene of Friday's attack, officers said they are working to "establish where the vehicle and machine were stolen from".

Detective Sergeant Lyttle said: "We received a report shortly before 11.30am that a burnt-out Transit-type van, containing what appears to be the remnants of an ATM machine, was discovered in a field in the Carnaghliss Road area.

"It's believed the fire occurred some time [on Friday] around 10.30pm. The fire service attended and have ruled this to be deliberate ignition." Police have appealed for anyone with information about either incident to contact officers on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Publication Date: 2019-03-25

3.11 Lip service to AML requirements: Are Sri Lankan designated institutions skating on thin ice?

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-21	0.15		Not available in current version	• money laundering • panama • legal • integrity • papers • rules • conduct • regulator • fine • crimes • supported • individuals • prosecution • lived • criminal • allegations • investigated • fallen • admitted	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/DAFTSL0020190321ef3l00009&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-7491735b-d16a-4b9d-a5e1-c9c42c1d8d72.html

Lip service to AML requirements: Are Sri Lankan designated institutions skating on thin ice?

The recent announcement by the European Union (EU) blacklisting 20 odd jurisdictions for their failure to adhere to anti money laundering requirements (AML) comes as no surprise as all these jurisdictions have been forewarned by the EU, Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and other agencies of lax AML compliance.

The 23 jurisdictions are: Afghanistan, American Samoa, The Bahamas, Botswana, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guam, Iran, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Puerto Rico, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, US Virgin Islands, and Yemen. Currently Sri Lanka has also been identified by FATF as a jurisdiction with strategic deficiencies.

In October 2018, FATF issued a strong statement on its assessment of Sri Lanka:'Since November 2017, when Sri Lanka made a high-level political commitment to work with the FATF and APG to strengthen the effectiveness of its AML/CFT regime and address any related technical deficiencies, Sri Lanka has taken steps towards improving its AML/CFT regime, including by providing case studies and statistics to demonstrate that competent authorities can obtain beneficial ownership information in relation to legal persons in a timely manner; issuing amendments to the directive in relation to CDD obligations; and establishing a targeted financial sanctions regime to implement relevant UNSCRs related to Iran and issuing a related directive. Sri Lanka should continue to work on implementing its action plan to address its strategic deficiencies, including by enhancing risk-based supervision high-risk Designated Non-Financial Banking institutions, including through prompt and dissuasive enforcement actions and sanctions, as appropriate; and demonstrating effective implementation of its targeted financial sanctions obligations related to proliferation financing.'

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an inter-governmental body established in 1989 by the Ministers of its Member jurisdictions.The objectives of the FATF are to set standards and promote effective implementation of legal, regulatory and operational measures for combating money laundering, terrorist financing and other related threats to the integrity of the international financial system.The FATF is therefore a 'policy-making body' which works to generate the necessary political will to bring about national legislative and regulatory reforms in these areas.

The FATF has developed a series of Recommendations that are recognised as the international standard for combating of money laundering and the financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.They form the basis for a co-ordinated response to these threats to the integrity of the financial system and help ensure a level playing field.First issued in 1990, the FATF Recommendations were revised in 1996, 2001 and 2003 and most recently in 2012 to ensure that they remain up to date and relevant, and they are intended to be of universal application.

The FATF monitors the progress of its members in implementing necessary measures, reviews money laundering and terrorist financing techniques and counter-measures, and promotes the adoption and implementation of appropriate measures globally.In collaboration with other international stakeholders, the FATF works to identify national-level vulnerabilities with the aim of protecting the international financial system from misuse.

Blacklisting by the EU is a controversial issue. USA has been particularly critical of the new EU methodology adopted which resulted in the inclusion of four overseas US territories.In February 2018 a motion to exclude the inclusion of Tunisia, Sri Lanka, and Trinidad and Tobago from the European Commission 's list of non-EU countries considered to have strategic deficiencies in their anti-money laundering and terrorism financing regimes was defeated

Sri Lanka was a late comer in terms of enacting legislation dealing with the regulation of money laundering and the combating of terrorist financing. In 2000 the current author was invited to deliver the annual oration of the Centre for Banking Studies of the Central Bank of Sri Lanka and he chose as the subject 'The Regulation of Money Laundering: A New Challenge to a Global Problem' (Central Bank Occasional Papers, No. 36). Preliminary drafts on controlling money laundering went through a long gestational period oscillating between harsh provisionsto watered-down versions. Due to pressure mounted by the US administration, the Convention on the Suppression of Financing of Terrorism Act was enacted in 2005 and this was followed by two pieces of legislation hurriedly adopted, namely the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and the Financial Transaction Reporting Act. Both became operational on 6 March 2006.

In terms of the Financial Transaction Reporting Act, there are two categories of institutions and personnel: Finance Business and Designated Non-Financial Business. Under the latter category there are at least 12 specified institutions and/or operators, including, for instance, underwriting and placement of insurance, as well as insurance intermediation by agents and brokers;trustee administration or investment management or a superannuation scheme; casinos, gambling houses or conducting of a lottery, including a person who carries on such a business through the internet when their customers engage in financial transactions equal to or above the prescribed threshold;real estate agents, when they are involved in transactions for their clients in relation to the buying and selling of real estate; (i) dealers in precious metals and dealers in precious and semi-precious stones, including but not limited to, metals and stones covered by the Gem and Jewellery Act, No. 50 of 1993 when they engage in cash transactions with a customer, equal to or above the prescribed threshold;lawyers, notaries, other independent legal professionals and accountants when they prepare for or carry out transactions for their clients in relation to any of the following activities:- (i) buying and selling of real estate; (ii) managing of client money, securities or other assets; (iii) management of bank, savings or securities accounts ; (iv) organisation of contributions for the creation, operation or management of companies ; and (v) creation, operation or management of legal person or arrangements and the buying and selling of business entities ; (k) a trust or company service provider not otherwise covered by this definition, which as a business provides and one or more of the following services to third parties :- (i) formation or management of legal persons; (ii) acting as or arranging for another person to act as, a director or secretary of a company, a partner or a partnership or a similar position in relation to other legal persons;(iii) providing a registered office, business address or accommodation, correspondence or administrative address for a company, a partnership or for any other legal person or arrangement;(iv) acting as or arranging for another person to act as, a trustee of an express trust; (v) acting as orarranging for another person to act as, a nominee shareholder for another person.

Whilst technically the listed finance businesses and designated finance business have been obliged since 2006 to comply with requirements including due diligence, in 2018the Designated Non-Finance Business (Customer Due Diligence) Rules were enacted covering the above categories. Implementation, however, leaves much to be desired.

Fenergo , the leading provider of Client Lifecycle Management solutions for financial institutions, has released data detailing the global fines activity of regional and in-country regulators over the past 10 years. A staggering $26 billion in fines has been imposed for non-compliance with Anti-Money Laundering (AML), Know Your Customer (KYC) and sanctions regulations in the last decade.

The top 10 key highlights of the research include:

The US accounts for nearly 44% of all global regulatory AML/KYC fines, yet almost 91% of the total value ($23.52 billion).

Europe has imposed 83 fines, totalling $1.7 billion, the majority being imposed by the UK's Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

Asia Pacific regulators have levied 79 fines worth almost $609 million, commencing in 2011.

The Middle East still lags behind other regions for financial enforcements (recording a total of $9.5 million in the last 10 years).

The US Department of Justice is the most punitive regulator in the world when it comes to imposing financial penalties for non-compliance, levying half of the global AML/sanctions fines amount, nearly $14 billion, followed by the New York Department of Financial Services at $3.6 billion.

US regulators have hit foreign banks hard, imposing fines on European banks nearly five times that imposed against US banks.

Globally, 2015 was the most punitive year for fines, with $11.52 billion levied against banks.

$8.9 billion was the highest single fine ever levied against a bank by one regulator.

Fines for sanctions violations account for 56% of all violations levied globally (by $). This differs from APAC and Europe where AML-related fines far outweigh fines for sanctions violations.

The Nordics is the only region that fines their own domestic banks more than international banks (majority of financial institutions get fined by international regulators rather than their own regulators).

Commenting on the findings, Laura Glynn, Director of Global Regulatory Compliance, Fenergo , has stated that 'Up until now, the focus of regulators had been on the US and European markets. However, we are now witnessing regulators in Asia Pacific and The Middle East markets becoming more proactive in their supervisory efforts.'

Closer to home, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia ('CBA'), the largest bank in Australia, agreed to a proposed civil settlement involving a fine of approximately $700 million Australian dollars regarding numerous alleged Anti-Money Laundering ('AML') and Counter Terrorism Financing ('CTF') violations.AUSTRAC filed on August 3, 2017 a claim seeking civil monetary penalties against CBA for over 53,000 alleged violations of Australia's AML/CTF law.Remedial steps taken include the following:

Spent over $400 million 'on systems, processes and people relating to AML/CTF compliance;'

Hired additional financial crime operations, compliance and risk professionals, so as to employ over 300 such professionals;

Strengthened its Know Your Customer policies by establishing 'a specialist hub providing consistent and high-quality on-boarding of customers;'

Enhanced the technology used to monitor accounts and transactions for suspicious activity, and to perform digital electronic customer verification to reduce the risk of document fraud;

Imposed an account-based daily limit of $10,000 for cash deposits using IDMs;

'[C]hanged senior leadership in the key roles overseeing financial crimes compliance supported by significant resources and clear accountabilities;'

'[S]tarted implementing our response to the recommendations provided to us by our prudential regulator;' and

Adopted a risk-management approach which recognises the importance of non-financial risks, including a process to escalate operational and compliance issues.

The CBA noted in a press release what it had done during the relevant time period: filed over 44,000 Suspicious Matter Reports, including 264 relating to the individuals or organisations at issue in the enforcement action; submitted a total of over 19 million reports to AUSTRAC ; and responded to approximately 20,000 law enforcement requests for assistance in 2017.

In the USA, HSBC Holdings Plc (' HSBC ') announced recently that its five-year Deferred Prosecution Agreement ('DPA') entered on 11 December 2012 with the US Department of Justice has expired. HSBC lived up to all of its commitments, and, therefore, under the DPA, the Department of Justice will file a motion with the US District Court for the Eastern District of New York seeking the dismissal of the charges deferred by the agreement.

In its statement HSBC stated that it is pleased that the Department of Justice has recognised HSBC 's progress in strengthening its anti-money laundering and sanctions compliance capabilities over the past five years. HSBC is working to ensure that the reforms it has put in place are both effective and sustainable over the long-term, and, given the increasing sophistication of criminal networks that seek to circumvent banks' controls, HSBC intends for its programme to evolve and improve further over time.

HSBC 's work in this area will continue to be consistent with its strategic objective of implementing the highest or most effective standards to combat financial crime across its operations globally. As a condition of the DPA, HSBC had to ensure that its AML staff would receive training and duly certified by the International Compliance Association.

The author of this article conducted workshops for the HSBC staff in Colombo, Mumbai, Kuala Lumpur and Ho Chin Min City and ensured that all participants passed the on-line test for certification. However, HSBC 's worries are far from over. It was estimated last year that HSBC has set aside $632 million to settle a number of investigations into allegations of tax evasion and other crimes such as money laundering, but expects the amount could go up to $1.5b, according to its interim results. The bank is currently being investigated and reviewed by various authorities around the world, including in the United States, Argentina and India.

At least 18 of the 20 biggest banks in Europe, including five UK institutions, have been fined for offences relating to money laundering. Europe's biggest banks, including HSBC , Barclays , BNP Paribas , SociétéGénérale and Santander have fallen foul of anti-money laundering authorities, while recent crises at the likes of ING, Danske Bank and Deutsche Bank 'only reinforce this impression, demonstrating how no bank is immune to money laundering sanctions, no matter how large', says Fortytwo Data. With a number of leading British banks also implicated in money laundering scandals,Donald Toon, Director at the National Crime Agency ,recenly admitted that money laundering in the UK was 'a very big problem' and estimated that the amount of money laundered here each year has now risen to a staggering £150 billion.

Optimism has been expressed by the Central Bank of Sri Lanka that FATF will favourably reviewSri Lanka's compliant record during an upcoming mission later this year. However, Sri Lanka needs to demonstrate more in terms of implementation to be delisted from the EU list. Both finance business as well as designated finance businesses have much to do to fall in line with mandatory requirements. Ernest Heminway's famous novel in 1940 was titled 'For Whom the Bell Tolls'; applied to the Sri Lankan context one would venture to say that it tolls for our finance businesses and designated finance businesses.

Publication Date: 2019-03-21

3.12 ATM raiders will end up killing someone, warns DUP's Foster

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-26	0.11		Not available in current version	• killing • steal • allowed • police • reckless • arrests • attempted • admitted • destroyed • hours • raised • remove • stealing • damaging • causing • towns • destroy • david • catch • detectives	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/WBEL000020190326ef3q00064&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-db20ef3f-1d0b-4598-a77b-7015f3a0f960.html

ATM raiders will end up killing someone, warns DUP's Foster

LIVES could be lost if ATM raiders who use diggers to steal cash machines before setting them on fire are allowed to continue, DUP leader Arlene Foster has said.

Police insist catching the criminals behind a series of "reckless and brazen" raids on cash machines across Northern Ireland is "a key priority".

The PSNI is under increasing pressure to make arrests after an ATM was ripped from the wall of a garage in Co Fermanagh early on Sunday. McAleer's Spar on the Dromore Road in Irvinestown was just the latest business to be targeted.

The on the in There have been six ATM thefts and one attempted theft since the start of this year, the PSNI admitted.

Similar attacks have occurred across different counties, with an Asda store in Antrim having two ATMs torn out by a digger last month.

Other locations that have been affected are Omagh, Moira, Dungannon and Newtownabbey. On Friday, a Danske Bank branch in Mallusk had its builtin machine destroyed. All of the raids bear striking similarities, with diggers used to tear machines from the walls, often in the early hours of the morning. Sometimes the diggers are set on fire nearby.

filling station Dromore Road in Irvinestown Concerns have been raised that rural communities could be ATM-free zones if retailers remove cash machines due to the rising number of thefts.

But Mrs Foster who is due to meet with Retail NI and the PSNI to discuss the growing problem said there was also a danger to life.

"Those stealing ATMs are not only damaging property but are robbing rural communities. It is only a matter of time before a petrol station is set ablaze and someone is seriously injured or killed," she warned.

"The spate of ATM thefts is causing real damage to businesses within our towns, villages and rural areas. It must stop.

"To have a service like this in our local areas and high streets brings more footfall and an increase in business.

"Without those services, people go elsewhere. Reckless criminals cannot continue to destroy the hard work of shopkeepers who retain these services within communities."

Yesterday, Detective Chief Inspector David Henderson said the PSNI is "doing everything we can to catch the criminals who are carrying out these reckless and brazen ATM thefts".

He added: "Catching these criminals is a key priority for us.

"We have a dedicated team of detectives working across Northern Ireland specifically focusing on this crime.

"We are working with the banking industry and retailers to put a stop to this crime."

The filling station on the Dromore Road in Irvinestown

Publication Date: 2019-03-26

3.13 Press Release: SWEDBANK INVESTIGATION INITIATED BY FORMER LOUISIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL: Kahn Swick & Foti, LLC Investigates Swedbank AB for Possible Securities Fraud - SWDBY

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-23	0.10		Not available in current version	• attorney general • fraud • law firm • commenced • television • investigative • uncovered • money laundering • scandal • involving • transfers • regulators • officers • directors • violated • actions • breach • publicly • behalf	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/DJDN000020190323ef3n0003p&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-c771256c-5fae-4bf4-9e9a-f6c07b40cd2d.html

Press Release: SWEDBANK INVESTIGATION INITIATED BY FORMER LOUISIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL: Kahn Swick & Foti, LLC Investigates Swedbank AB for Possible Securities Fraud - SWDBY

SWEDBANK INVESTIGATION INITIATED BY FORMER LOUISIANA ATTORNEY GENERAL: Kahn Swick & Foti, LLC Investigates Swedbank AB for Possible Securities Fraud - SWDBY

PR Newswire

NEW ORLEANS, La., March 22, 2019

NEW ORLEANS, La., March 22, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- Former Attorney General of Louisiana, Charles C. Foti, Jr ., Esq., a partner at the law firm of Kahn Swick & Foti, LLC ("KSF"), announces that KSF has commenced an investigation into Swedbank AB (OTC: SWDBY).

On February 20, 2019, a Swedish television investigative program reported that it had uncovered documents linking the Company to a money laundering scandal with Denmark's Danske Bank involving 40 billion kronor ($4.3 billion) in suspicious transfers between 2007 and 2015. The next day, financial regulators from Sweden and Estonia announced a joint investigation into the matter.

On this news, the price of Swedbank's shares plummeted.

KSF's investigation is focusing on whether Swedbank and/or its officers and directors violated state or federal securities laws.

If you are a Swedbank shareholder and have suffered losses, you may, without obligation or cost to you, contact KSF Managing Partner Lewis Kahn toll-free at 1-877-515-1850 or via email (lewis.kahn@ksfcounsel.com), or visit to learn more.

About Kahn Swick & Foti, LLC

KSF, whose partners include the former Louisiana Attorney General Charles C. Foti, Jr ., is a law firm focused on securities, antitrust and consumer class actions, along with merger & acquisition and breach of fiduciary litigation against publicly traded companies on behalf of shareholders. The firm has offices in New York, California and Louisiana.

To learn more about KSF, you may visit .

Contact:

Kahn Swick & Foti, LLC

Lewis Kahn , Managing Partner

lewis.kahn@ksfcounsel.com

1-877-515-1850

1100 Poydras St., Suite 3200

New Orleans, LA 70163

View original content to download multimedia:

SOURCE Kahn Swick & Foti, LLC

/Web site:

(END) Dow Jones Newswires

March 22, 2019 22:50 ET (02:50 GMT)

Publication Date: 2019-03-23

3.14 Alm. Brand A/S – Weekly report on share buybacks

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-25	0.06		Not available in current version	• weekly • announcement • bought • programme • date no • accumulated • abuse • relating • pages • detailed • questions • venue • publication	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/HUGNEN0020190325ef3p00795&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-520603ff-b79f-4f0c-9684-4f31bdcea8f2.html

Alm. Brand A/S – Weekly report on share buybacks

25 March 2019 Announcement no. 21/2019

Alm. Brand A/S – Weekly report on share buybacks

In the period 18 March 2019 to 22 March 2019, Alm. Brand A/S bought own shares for a total amount of DKK 1.0 million as part of the share buyback programme of up to DKK 200 million announced on 28 February 2018. The share buy-back programme is expected to run until the end of March 2019. In aggregate, shares of DKK 200.0 million were bought back, equivalent to 100% of the overall programme.

Under the share buyback programme, the following transactions were made during week 12:

Date No. of shares Average purchase price (DKK) Transaction value (DKK) 18 March 2019 2,439 59.00 143,901 19 March 2019 2,439 59.01 143,925 20 March 2019 2,439 58.76 143,316 21 March 2019 4,585 58.61 268,727 22 March 2019 6,341 58.09 368,349 Accumulated during the period 18,243 58.55 1,068,218 Accumulated under the share buyback programme 3,349,145 59.71 199,992,906

Danske Bank manages the share buyback programme, which is completed in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No. 596/2014 of 16 April 2014 (the “Market Abuse Regulation”).

Following the above transactions, Alm. Brand holds 4,467,755 own shares, equivalent to 2.8% of the share capital.

Transactional data relating to share buy-backs is provided on the following pages in detailed form and in aggregated form, in accordance with Commission’s Delegated Regulation (EU) 2016/1052 of 8 March 2016.

ContactPlease direct any questions regarding this announcement to: Susanne Biltoft, Head of Communication and Investor Relations, on tel. +45 35 47 76 61.

Detailed transaction data

18 March 2019 19 March 2019 20 March 2019 21 March 2019 22 March 2019 Number of shares VWAP DKK Number of shares VWAP DKK Number of shares VWAP DKK Number of shares VWAP DKK Number of shares VWAP DKK XCSE 2.439 59,00 2.439 59,01 2.439 58,76 4.585 58,61 6.341 58,09 TRQX 0 0 0 0 0 TRQM 0 0 0 0 0 BATE 0 0 0 0 0 BATD 0 0 0 0 0 CHIX 0 0 0 0 0 CHID 0 0 0 0 0 Total 2.439 46,86 2.439 17,59 2.439 58,76 4.585 58,61 6.341 58,09

18 March 2019 Volume Price Venue Time CET 2.439 46,86 48 59,1 XCSE 20190318 9:53:57.322000 235 58,9 XCSE 20190318 10:56:28.397000 203 59,00 XCSE 20190318 13:47:07.645000 219 59,1 XCSE 20190318 16:13:00.077000 140 59,00 XCSE 20190318 16:17:45.808000 155 59,00 XCSE 20190318 16:37:39.517719 1.439 59,00 XCSE 20190318 16:46:52.321144

19 March 2019 Volume Price Venue Time CET 2.439 17,59 48 59,00 XCSE 20190319 9:15:16.502000 202 59,1 XCSE 20190319 10:43:18.552000 201 59,00 XCSE 20190319 12:19:45.741000 205 59,00 XCSE 20190319 14:23:30.592000 48 59,00 XCSE 20190319 15:30:50.071000 86 59,00 XCSE 20190319 15:59:10.706000 71 58,9 XCSE 20190319 16:29:57.416000 139 59,00 XCSE 20190319 16:38:43.442771 1.439 59,01 XCSE 20190319 16:42:13.571624

20 March 2019 Volume Price Venue Time CET 2.439 58,76 21 59,00 XCSE 20190320 9:01:05.180000 203 58,70 XCSE 20190320 10:39:10.699000 65 58,70 XCSE 20190320 11:20:38.527000 200 58,80 XCSE 20190320 12:50:36.924000 202 58,70 XCSE 20190320 15:21:43.645000 309 58,80 XCSE 20190320 16:33:30.798755 1.439 58,76 XCSE 20190320 16:39:05.093251

21 March 2019 Volume Price Venue Time CET 4.585 0,00 14 58,7 XCSE 20190321 9:01:02.648000 34 58,7 XCSE 20190321 9:01:02.648000 395 58,6 XCSE 20190321 10:20:34.171000 406 58,4 XCSE 20190321 12:36:55.135000 445 58,6 XCSE 20190321 14:33:46.639000 400 58,8 XCSE 20190321 16:35:37.297000 186 58,7 XCSE 20190321 16:40:52.409000 2.705 58,61 XCSE 20190321 17:05:22.225594

22 March 2019 Volume Price Venue Time CET 6.341 58,09 47 58,80 XCSE 20190322 9:09:41.145000 426 58,30 XCSE 20190322 10:18:46.333000 423 58,50 XCSE 20190322 12:03:41.858000 420 58,20 XCSE 20190322 14:58:13.284000 423 57,90 XCSE 20190322 16:03:08.138000 361 57,80 XCSE 20190322 16:15:06.160472 500 57,80 XCSE 20190322 16:16:59.102360 3.741 58,09 XCSE 20190322 16:18:14.792390

Attachment

*

Publication Date: 2019-03-25

3.15 ESTONIA: SWEDBANK'S SUSPICIOUS ACCOUNTS CLOSED

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-25	0.06		Not available in current version	• suspicious • commissioned • broadcaster • names • accounting • determine • relationship • decided • investigate • detail • money laundering • scandal • claims • questionable • television • authority fsa • investigating • magazine	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/BUWMAE0020190325ef3p00003&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-c65545e3-a0d4-4243-b32c-d643e8455b02.html

ESTONIA: SWEDBANK'S SUSPICIOUS ACCOUNTS CLOSED

According to the initial results of a study commissioned by Swedbank and conducted by Forensic Risk Alliance (FRA), customer relationships between Swedbank and the owners of suspicious accounts highlighted by Swedish public broadcaster SVT were terminated by the end of May 2017 at the latest. A total of 50 names of account owners had been forwarded to the bank.

FSA had Swedbank extract the forwarded account owners within its systems and then analyzed the results. The company, an international consultancy, which specializes in forensic accounting, data analytics, and eDiscovery, noted that it was not possible to determine in all cases whether the customer relationship was terminated on the initiative of the bank or the client. It also highlighted that some data had been erased from the bank's databases.

Based on the initial report, which indicates that the suspicious clients highlighted by SVT are no longer clients of the bank, Swedbank's supervisory board has decided not to recall CEO Birgitte Bonnesen. Swedbank supervisory board chairman Lars Idemark nonetheless noted that the bank's supervisory board had decided to organize a more in-depth analysis in cooperation with related authorities.

FRA will likewise continue its analysis, which in its second stage is to investigate in further detail the relationship between Swedbank and its suspicious clients.

Late last month, Swedish public broadcaster Sveriges Television (SVT) program Uppdrag ganskning reported that Swedbank had been tied to the Danske Bank money laundering scandal. According to the claims, in 2007-2015, a total of 40 billion Swedish kronas, or EUR 3.8 billion, in questionable funds moved between Swedbank and Danske Bank 's Baltic branches.

Estonia's Financial Supevision Authority (FSA) and Sweden's Financial Supervisory Authority are both investigating the matters connected to Swedbank. (ERR/Business World Magazine)

Publication Date: 2019-03-25

3.16 EXPORT FIRST EVENT n The Northern Ireland arm of Japanese manufacturing giant...

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-26	0.02		Not available in current version	• bringing • turned • appears • books • guardian • publish • leave • questions • telegraph • television • speak • greg • prominent • liberty • ticket • game • western • seven • eight	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/IRISHN0020190325ef3q0001q&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-e091653a-8d1a-4ce0-b64d-261ae540a45b.html

EXPORT FIRST EVENT n The Northern Ireland arm of Japanese manufacturing giant...

EXPORT FIRST EVENT n The Northern Ireland arm of Japanese manufacturing giant Ryobi, which makes components for the automobile industry from a 32,000sq metres site in Carrickfergus, will host the next in the NI Chamber & Danske Bank Export First events tomorrow (9.30am-11.30am).

From establishing a local presence in 1990 with one customer and a small workforce, Ryobi is one of the north's leading exporters and employers, supplying car industry giants including Jaguar Land Rover , Peugeot Citroen , Ford , Volkswagen and Skoda and employing more than 500 people.

David Watson, managing director at the firm, will take delegates through the company's highly successful export story with sales forecasted at £100m by 2019. Delegates will also have the opportunity to take a tour and gain first-hand insight of Ryobi's production facility.

For further information and to register visit .

BETTER BUILD ROADSHOW n As part of its Technical Academy series of knowledge and awareness events, Saint-Gobain Construction Products Ireland is bringing its Build Better Roadshow to the Titanic Hotel Belfast on Wednesday April 3 (doors open at 8am, seminar starts 9.30am).

The Build Better Roadshow will host two seminars for construction professionals in the surrounding Belfast area wishing to upskill and earn CPD points on fire safety compliance and sustainable housing.

The roadshow will travel around the country over the coming weeks in an effort to meet the demand in construction upskilling – with Belfast being the first stop on the route. For more information go to BLOGGER TO HOST MASTERCLASS n Vicki Psarias, founder of honestmum.com, one of the UK's top parenting and lifestyle sites, and an award-winning TV director and filmmaker, is coming to Belfast for the first time to share her story of how she turned her blog into a successful business and how she turned her passion into pounds.

She has written for a range of publications, including Vogue and The Guardian , appears widely on TV as an expert commentator and creates content for global brands. Her debut book, Mumboss was listed by The Independent as one of the Top 10 books written by women.

Having become a leading digital influencer, Vicki has won several awards along the way, and has presented at Marie Claire's Future Shapers Live as well as the Advertising Internet Bureau.

Her workshop "Blogging, Vlogging and Building an Online Business" will offer top tips on how to blog, as well as how to work with brands as an influencer, build a personal brand and leverage online success.

As one of the original parenting bloggers, Vicki first hit publish in 2010 whilst on maternity leave and will discuss how she created her own digital space, what worked, what didn't and offer her top tips on how to become your own best publicist.

There will also be a Q&A session, so bring your questions about blogging, writing, working as a brand influencer and building your own lifestyle brand.

Vicki will appear at the Black Box on Thursday April 4 at 11am.

Tickets are available at .

TASTE OF TOURISM SUMMIT n The Northern Ireland Hotels Federation (NIHF) third annual Taste of Tourism summit on Tuesday April 9 in the Culloden Estate and Spa is an opportunity for businesses to hear first-hand from a line-up of specialist speakers, who have used food and drink to attract new customers, improve profits and enhance their reputations.

Attendees at the event (details at) will have the pleasure of meeting renowned Michelin star chef Galton Blackiston, who will give an insight into his 30-year career, his fascination with fish and his thoughts on industry issues.

Food futurologist Dr Morgaine Gaye will present her expert vision of food in the future, looking at trends, consumer behaviour and sustainability, while William Sitwell, the Telegraph's acclaimed food critic, will talk about the changing face of food, the role of television and the challenges of running his own culinary venue.

Food blogger and author Ciara Attwell will speak about her food journey, outlining the power of social media, her success and her mission to feed fussy eaters.

Greg Hughes will share his insights into one of the world's leading distillery tours at Jameson Distillery Bow Street.

Taste & Tour co-founder Phil Ervine will update delegates about the food tourism opportunity and the success of their highly acclaimed Whiskey Walk and Gin Jaunt. And David Matchett will give the inside track on how Borough market, London's oldest market, has evolved taking its place at the centre of the capital's food focus.

The full-day event includes breakfast, lunch and refreshments, and delegates will leave with a special takeaway bag.

BELTECH 2019 n The sixth annual BelTech, the premier technology event for local software practitioners, business leaders, entrepreneurs and young people aspiring to break into the technology industry, takes place on April 11 in Belfast.

Curated by digital solutions provider Kainos Software and with a list of sponsors including AWS, Allstate , Hays and Unosquare, it will feature influential international speakers from the worlds of software engineering, artificial intelligence, and design.

The conference is hosted by prominent members of Northern Ireland's tech community including Aislinn McBride (Kainos), David Anderson (Liberty IT) Joe McKavanagh (Kainos), Rachel Gawley (PwC) Austin Tanney (Kainos), Kathryn Harkin (Allstate) and Gemma Crothers (Kainos). Local speakers include Chris Johnston of Adoreboard and Oliver Lennon of Syndeo.

This year BelTech is also launching a new stream as part of the programme which is aimed at technologists with an interest in the application and growth of technology.

The new BelTech Business stream will focus on innovators looking to build technology that will enhance business in Northern Ireland.

Conference passes are available for £75 +VAT for a single ticket, with a Tech Tribe ticket for three delegates available at £200 +VAT. Early bird tickets are available until March 31. Visit or find BelTech on Twitter @Beltech2019 or #Beltech2019.

GAME OF THRONES TAPESTRY EXHIBITION n Following the final season of the award-winning HBO series Game Of Thrones, which will air next month, Tourism Ireland's Game Of Thrones Tapestry will travel to Bayeux in Normandy, north-western France, home of the 11th-century Bayeux Tapestry.

The tapestry will be exhibited there from September, near its historic counterpart, which was a key source of inspiration for its new neighbour.

Tourism Ireland commemorated the contribution of Game Of Thrones to Northern Ireland with its medieval-style, hand-woven tapestry in 2017, to coincide with season seven.

The 80-metre long tapestry – woven from linen supplied by Thomas Ferguson's in Banbridge and hand-embroidered by a team at the Ulster Museum – depicts some of the most memorable and iconic scenes from every episode of the series to date.

Following the long-awaited worldwide release of season eight next April, scenes from those final episodes will be added to the hand-crafted masterpiece.

As the Game Of Thrones saga comes to a close, the tapestry will then begin its own adventure – from the Ulster Museum in Belfast, where it's been on display since July 2017, to the Norman city of Bayeux.

The Game Of Thrones Tapestry will be exhibited in the historic Hôtel du Doyen, within walking distance of the Bayeux Tapestry, from September to December.

Publication Date: 2019-03-26

3.17 EU offers Brexit delay; European banks need €39B more capital by 2027

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-22	0.02	• Russia	Not available in current version	• offered • reached • confirmed • money laundering • italian • probe • fine • conduct • individuals • linked • revealed • alleged involvement • behalf • rejected • ongoing • scandal • criminal • played	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/SNLFE00020190323ef3m000jh&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-a9ae9c8b-6779-4871-b4d0-7ad8b84d1437.html

EU offers Brexit delay; European banks need €39B more capital by 2027

S&P Global Market Intelligence offers our top picks of banking news stories and more published throughout the week.

All things Brexit

* The European Union offered to postpone the U.K.'s departure from the bloc until May 22, if the U.K. Parliament hammers out a Brexit deal in the week beginning March 25. The bloc also offered a new brake against a no-deal Brexit, giving London until April 12 to decide on its course of action if its lawmakers again fail to reach an accord.

* The U.K.'s two main financial regulators signed a memorandum of understanding with the European Union 's banking watchdog for supervisory cooperation and information sharing in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

* Britain also reached an agreement with Norway and Iceland to maintain streamlined trade relations in the event the U.K. crashes out of the EU without the withdrawal agreement.

* U.S.-based derivatives marketplace CME Group Inc . moved its euro-denominated government bond, repurchase agreement and foreign exchange trading to Amsterdam, the Netherlands, from London, according to Reuters.

Industry news

* The world's largest banks will need to plug a larger total capital shortfall to meet final regulatory requirements fully taking effect starting 2027, according to the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision .

* The European Banking Authority said Europe's banks will need €39.0 billion of additional total capital, of which €24.2 billion will be Tier 1 capital, to comply with the Basel committee's final regulatory requirements.

* Italy plans to renew its state guarantee scheme for up to three years, in a bid to help local banks reduce their nonperforming loans, Reuters reported, citing a draft law decree.

* Deutsche Bank , Commerzbank confirm merger talks

* Deutsche Bank AG and Commerzbank AG mandated U.S. banks to advise them on their potential merger, after Germany's two highest profile lenders confirmed last weekend that they are holding discussions on the matter. A possible tie-up between the two giants could create an entity with an equity market value of more than €25.6 billion.

* Meanwhile, Deutsche Bank said it expects 2019 revenues to be "slightly higher" compared to a year ago, adding that it aims to boost revenue through investments in several growth areas.

Regulatory boulevard

* Italy's central bank instructed the local branch of Dutch lender ING Groep NV to refrain from conducting any business with new clients, citing shortcomings in its anti-money laundering processes. Italian prosecutors also launched a formal probe into ING's operations in the country, insiders told Reuters.

* The U.K. Financial Conduct Authority imposed a £27.6 million fine on UBS Group AG unit UBS AG for misreporting millions of transactions for nearly a decade.

* Senior figures at the FCA are reportedly seeking to block Metro Bank PLC 's appointment of Ben Gunn as its new deputy chairman and are pushing for a wider overhaul of the lender's board.

* The U.K. Treasury Select Committee urged the FCA to look into complaints by London Capital & Finance PLC investors who face losing most of the £236 million they invested into the firm. The U.K. Serious Fraud Office also launched a probe into individuals linked to London Capital & Finance, which previously entered into administration after its practice of marketing mini-bonds as fixed-rate individual savings accounts was revealed

* France said its banks will have to hold a countercyclical capital buffer of 0.5% of their risk-weighted assets, up from 0.25% in June 2018.

Money laundering clouds still hovering over Nordic banks

* Swedbank AB (publ) CEO Birgitte Bonnesen unveiled plans to form a new specialized financial crime intelligence unit in a bid to improve the Swedish lender's anti-money laundering control system. The bank also released a preliminary update on a third-party review it commissioned into its alleged involvement in the dirty money transactions in the Baltic region.

* Two U.S. law firms filed a case against Danske Bank A/S before the Copenhagen City Court on behalf of international investors over the Danish lender's alleged ties to a massive Russian money-laundering scheme.

* Danske Bank 's shareholders rejected a proposal to split up the troubled Danish lender amid an ongoing multibillion-euro money-laundering scandal. Meanwhile, Chairman Karsten Dybvad said the bank is still seeking a permanent successor for former CEO Thomas Borgen .

In other news

* An arbitration tribunal ruled that Lloyds Banking Group PLC and unit Scottish Widows Group Ltd . were not entitled to give notice in February 2018 to terminate their asset management arrangements with Standard Life Aberdeen PLC .

* UBS CEO Sergio Ermotti warned that the Swiss lender expects first-quarter revenues from its investment banking division to drop by about a third amid "one of the worst first-quarter environments in recent history."

* Wirecard AG 's executives were aware of and oversaw transactions that are at the center of a fraud probe at the German payment company, according to the Financial Times.

* Spain's High Court ruled Banco Santander SA can be held liable in a criminal investigation into the fall of Banco Popular Español SA , even though the latter no longer exists following its acquisition by Santander in 2017.

* The General Court of the EU annulled the European Commission 's decision that support measures granted to Italy's Banca Tercas SpA in 2014 by the country's deposit guarantee fund constituted incompatible state aid.

* Italian payments services company Nexi SpA filed an application with the Italian stock exchange to list its ordinary shares on the bourse in April.

Featured during the week on S&P Global Market Intelligence

Ireland moves ahead as top post-Brexit destination for global financial firms: Some 24 global financial firms, including Bank of America , Axa and Mizuho, have selected or are thinking of selecting Ireland as a base from which to conduct their EU operations after Britain leaves the bloc.

JPMorgan tops 2018 global i-bank ranking; Deutsche stable; Credit Suisse down: The return of market volatility in 2018 played out well for JPMorgan which remained the leader in global investment banking, according to a Coalition league table. Deutsche Bank also kept its sixth place while Credit Suisse dropped a spot to eighth.

Banks' fossil fuel funding rises, environmental groups warn: The Banking on Climate Change 2019 report says 33 global banks financed fossil fuel companies to the tune of $1.912 trillion between 2016 and 2018.

Publication Date: 2019-03-22

3.18 European Banks Face a Triple Whammy; Negative rates, a slowing economy and money laundering scandals are weighing on one of the world's most unloved sectors for investors: European banks

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-26	0.01		Not available in current version	• money laundering • everywhere • beleaguered • situation • trap • maybe • stock price • returned • german • not going • except • entered • fines • hiding • investment banks • high profile • suspected • scandal • somebody	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/WSJO000020190326ef3q0028l&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-75566c04-73e8-494e-b86f-093523682781.html

European Banks Face a Triple Whammy; Negative rates, a slowing economy and money laundering scandals are weighing on one of the world's most unloved sectors for investors: European banks

Plunging bond yields have made life difficult for bank investors everywhere. For Europe's beleaguered lenders, it is heaping pain on an already tough situation.

A triple-whammy of factors has weighed on European lenders: negative rates, a slowing economy and money laundering scandals higher.

The Euro Stoxx banks index has lagged behind the market, up less than 5% this year, compared with a nearly 11% rally for the broader Eurostoxx 600 benchmark index. And in a sign of investors' dreary outlook, European banks on the index trade for 70% of their book value, down from above 100% in early 2018 and .

Some investors are wary of dipping in. "The sector is a value trap now," said Fabio di Giansante, head of large-cap European equity at Amundi. Even though valuations are at "almost unprecedented levels" compared with other European stocks, he is betting economic troubles and low rates will send bank shares down even further.

The sector is being dragged down by individual names such as France's Société Générale , which has dropped 8% in 2019 and Dutch bank ABN Amro , down 6% this year. Swiss UBS Group is down 3% this year after warning earlier this month about tough conditions in its investment bank.

"The stock market is pricing either a big recession coming up or the fact that maybe the marks on some of the assets in some of those European banks are incorrect," said Filippo Alloatti, a senior credit analyst at Hermes Investment Management which has a long position on European lenders' debt. He figures that while the banks will have trouble growing profits, which hurts their stock price, they are well capitalized.

Falling interest rates tend to help companies by lowering their interest costs and thus boosting profit margins, so long as the economy is growing. But for banks it's a different story. Low and negative rates constrain banks' profits by squeezing net interest margins, the difference between what banks pay for funding and make from loans.

Long-term bond yields have returned to ultralow or even negative levels, in the case of 10-year German government bonds.

"Equities are rising partly because the cost of credit is not going to increase as quickly as people expected and that's good for everyone except for banks," Jason Napier, head of European banks research at UBS , said.

Analysts at Moody's paint a particularly gloomy situation for German banks, given net interest income makes up almost 70% of their revenues and most of their interest-earning assets are long-term, meaning the lenders would feel the benefits of any future rate rises with a lag.

The bleak outlook is partly the reason Deutsche Bank and Commerzbank , two leading German lenders, have entered into .

A series of money-laundering scandals is another factor driving up compliance costs and possible fines while driving stock prices lower. Scandinavia, whose lenders have generally been seen as lower risk bets, has been particularly hard hit.

"If you were hiding in some of these banks you think, "I'm in the high-quality end of the spectrum," and you have a lower tolerance for risk than if you own some of the racier investment banks," said Ronit Ghose, an analyst at Citi.

The latest high profile example is Sweden's largest bank, Swedbank, whose shares have dropped 14% this year following reports of suspected money-laundering. That follows the scandal last year involving Denmark's Danske Bank A/S after it was discovered that flowed through its business in Estonia. Danske Bank shares fell 47% last year and a further 6% this year.

One bright spot ironically has been Brexit. Domestically-focused British lenders Lloyds Banking Group and the Royal Bank of Scotland have gained 19% and 14% respectively this year as fears of a disruptive, no-deal Brexit ebbed. Though a no-deal Brexit is still possible, the U.K. and EU have pushed back Brexit several weeks in order to hash out a plan.

Europe's lenders have also struggled as digital upstarts drive down margins in everything from business loans to foreign exchange transactions, says Chris Garsten, a European equities fund manager at Waverton Investment Management, a long-only investor which has restricted exposure to European banks to Sweden's Handelsbanken.

"Whenever somebody wants a banking service they now do a Google search and by the time your product has come down to a Google search you have completely lost control of the pricing," he added.

Write to Avantika Chilkoti at

Publication Date: 2019-03-26

3.19 Nordic Morning Briefing: Germany IFO Numbers in Focus

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-25	0.01		Not available in current version	• speaks • looms • emerged • mueller • letter • attorney general • congress • committed • exonerated • wrote • actions • offered • allowed • count • declined • prime minister • questions • movement	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/DJDN000020190325ef3p000nk&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-ee7d6078-e163-4218-876d-c9d606c619c8.html

Nordic Morning Briefing: Germany IFO Numbers in Focus

TODAY'S CALENDAR - All times GMT Nordic Macro Other Macro 0900 Germany March IFO 1000 U.S. Fed's Harker Speaks GLOBAL NEWS:

Deutsche Bank 's Investment-Banking Arm Looms Large Over Commerzbank Merger Talks

The fate of Deutsche Bank 's global investment bank, including its embattled U.S. operations, has emerged as a focus of debate following the first week of formal merger talks with Commerzbank , according to people familiar with the matter.

The tone of talks in Frankfurt has been constructive, people close to the banks say, but executives and advisers have only started to tackle thorny issues.

Commerzbank executives, to proceed, want a clear picture of Deutsche Bank 's willingness to restructure its investment bank, some of the people say. The anticipation of some 30,000 merger-related job cuts -- many of them in German retail-banking branches and back-office positions -- has contributed to the focus on Deutsche Bank 's trading and advisory businesses.

Mueller Doesn't Find Trump Campaign Conspired With Russia

Special counsel Robert Mueller concluded that President Trump and his campaign didn't conspire or coordinate with Russia to interfere in the 2016 election, according to a letter Attorney General William Barr sent to Congress on Sunday that summarized the final report on Mr. Mueller's investigation.

But Mr. Mueller didn't draw a conclusion on whether Mr. Trump obstructed justice, according to Mr. Barr's letter, noting the report neither finds that the president committed a crime nor exonerated him. In the absence of a determination from Mr. Mueller, Mr. Barr wrote, he and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein concluded that Mr. Trump's actions didn't reach the bar of a crime.

PBOC Governor Vows to Further Open up Financial Sector

China central bank Governor Yi Gang said Beijing would further open up its financial sector to welcome more foreign investors and offered them the same treatment as their domestic counterparts.

Mr. Yi said in a forum Sunday that his main task this year is to provide enough tools for investors to hedge against financial risks as more and more foreign investors are allowed to come into Chinese financial markets.

GLOBAL MARKETS: EuroSTOXX50 32292.97 -12.00 -0.36% DAX 30 11302.70 -56.80 -0.50% FTSE 100 7175.60 -31.00 -0.43% Dow 25449.00 -121.00 -0.47% S&P 500 2797.00 -13.75 -0.49% Nasdaq 100 7313.50 -55.25 -0.75% Futures at 0441 GMT

Stocks in Europe face further losses, as investors in Asia sold off shares Monday and fled to the safety of bonds and the Japanese yen on worrisome signs of a slowdown in global growth and a sharp drop in U.S. Treasury yields.

And Wall Street, which posted losses of around 2% Friday, looked set to continue its retreat, with futures sinking.

"Economic slowdown is now clearly recognized as a fact," said Takashi Hiratsuka, trading group leader at Resona Bank 's asset-management division.

IN FOCUS:

German IFO figures for March are released Monday morning, kicking off an otherwise quiet day for economic indicators.

Danske Bank said investors have become slightly less pessimistic on the outlook for the euro area since last week's ZEW Institute numbers showed an uptick in economic expectations, beating analyst forecasts.

"It will be interesting to see if this is also reflected in the Ifo reading, which usually is a better predictor of the real economic momentum than ZEW," the bank said.

FOREX: EUR/NOK 0450 GMT 9.6758-808 Previous 9.6694-744 %Chg +0.07 EUR/SEK 0450 GMT 10.4751-851 Previous 10.4792-892 %Chg -0.04 USD/NOK 0450 GMT 8.5630-90 Previous 8.5552-612 %Chg +0.09 USD/SEK 0450 GMT 9.2712-802 Previous 9.2743-833 %Chg -0.03 STOCK INDEXES: OMXN40 1545.11 -35.55 -2.25% OMXS30 1576.87 -28.16 -1.75% OBX 806.13 -14.42 -1.76% OMXC20 1004.96 -16.53 -1.62% OMXH25 4125.03 -97.48 -2.31% Brent crude: $66.47 -0.84% NORDIC MARKETS:

Nordic stock markets had a negative session Friday, dragged down by weak manufacturing data from across the eurozone.

Purchasing manager indexes from France and Germany came in below expectations, deepening investors' anxiety about the health of the global economy and weighing on bourses across Europe and the U.S.

Benchmark indexes in Sweden, Norway and Denmark were all trading more than 1% lower in the afternoon session as the soft data triggered concerns of a potentially more persistent downturn.

ENERGY:

Oil futures were lower to start the week in Asia, following Friday's slide as risk assets skidded on worries about the European economy.

There's been some concern for months about how crude demand would fare this year as the global economy slowed into the end of 2018.

One potential optimistic sign for the oil market: Baker Hughes released on Friday its weekly rig-count report, which showed drilling activity in the American oil patch fell for a fifth straight week.

The number of active, oil-targeted rigs declined to the lowest total in 11 months. That suggests booming growth in U.S. oil production, which stands at a record 12.1 million barrels a day, could begin to slow later this year.

NEWS ROUNDUP:

Chicago Fed President Doesn't See Rate Rise Until Second Half of 2020

Chicago Fed President Charles Evans said he doesn't expect an interest-rate increase in the U.S. until next year, probably in the second half.

Theresa May Faces Growing Dissatisfaction Over Brexit

Prime Minister Theresa May is facing fresh questions about whether she can stay in office long enough to see Brexit through as lawmakers enter another critical week of decisions over the U.K.'s departure from the European Union .

Italy Signs Up to Chinese Global Plan Despite U.S. Ire

The governments of Italy and China signed an agreement to cooperate on Beijing's global infrastructure plan, the Belt and Road Initiative , sealing an accord that has alarmed Italy's U.S. and European allies.

Peugeot Discussed Merger With Fiat Chrysler

Peugeot maker PSA Group approached Fiat Chrysler earlier this year about combining the two car makers, an overture that was rebuffed.

Macron, Cast as Smug, Tries to Show He Can Listen

The French president is conducting a nationwide listening tour to respond to protests by the yellow-vest movement. But the move is a risk for the young leader, who has suffered public-relations setbacks and must show he has an effective response to the criticisms of his countrymen.

Write to Nathan Allen at nathan.allen@dowjones.com

(END) Dow Jones Newswires

March 25, 2019 01:02 ET (05:02 GMT)

Publication Date: 2019-03-25

3.20 Nordic Morning Briefing: Uncertainty Remains With Brexit in Focus Again

Date	Score	Suspicious Countries	Suspicious PEPs	Key Phrases from article	Links
2019-03-26	0.00		Not available in current version	• prime minister • leave • negotiated • hold • ministers • resigned • halt • tried • kind • deals • shell • putting • contracts • declined • indicated • ongoing • seat	• Original: https://api.beta.dowjones.com/api/public/2.0/Content/article/articleRef/Xml?articleRef=article:archive/DJDN000020190326ef3q0008f&encryptedtoken=S00YtJl3sRt1GFm0XmnOHmnNTUpN9AoOTUs5DByWXRK1DNpUdQnRqZjMFFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUFBQUEA • S3 link: https://wfinst-307-92-ct1-s3.workfusion.com:443/doc-upload/negativenews/html/content-12bd6305-cc37-4f28-9e83-bef28420dee6.html

Nordic Morning Briefing: Uncertainty Remains With Brexit in Focus Again

TODAY'S CALENDAR - All times GMT Nordic Macro 0700 Denmark February Retail Sales 0830 Sweden February PPI Other Macro 0700 Germany April Consumer Confidence 0745 France 4Q GDP 1230 U.S. February Housing Starts 1400 U.S. March Consumer Confidence Nordic Equities 1200 SEB Bank AGM 1400 Jyske Bank AGM GLOBAL NEWS:

U.K. Parliament Votes to Take Control of Brexit From May

Britain's Parliament moved to pry control of the Brexit process away from Prime Minister Theresa May , forcing votes on alternatives to her unpopular plan to extract the U.K. from the European Union .

Nearly three years after the U.K. voted to leave the EU , Parliament is gridlocked, with lawmakers twice rejecting a Brexit deal Mrs. May negotiated.

To break the impasse, lawmakers on Monday voted to hold "indicative" votes on various options to see if there is a parliamentary majority for a different Brexit deal.

The defeat of the government by a 329-302 vote underlines Mrs. May's decreasing ability to guide Brexit outcomes. In a sign of growing dissatisfaction with Mrs. May, three of her ministers voted to hand power to Parliament and resigned.

Some pro-EU lawmakers hope the indicative votes, scheduled to take place on Wednesday, will force the government to renegotiate a deal that keeps the U.K. more closely bound to its biggest trading partner or even halt Brexit altogether.

But the government criticized the vote. A statement from the Department for Exiting the European Union said the vote "upends the balance between our democratic institutions and sets a dangerous unpredictable precedent for the future."

Mrs. May had said she was skeptical that the indicative-vote process would work, and that the government wouldn't commit to backing any consensus that emerges. She said she couldn't agree in advance to a "blank check."

"When we have tried this kind of thing in the past, it has produced contradictory outcomes or no outcome at all," she said Monday, adding that the government aims to put her deal to a third vote in Parliament this week.

In Delicate Courtship, France and China Make Deals

Presidents Emmanuel Macron of France and Xi Jinping of China signed a series of business and bilateral agreements on Monday, seeking to bolster their trade relationship as Paris presses Beijing to open the Chinese economy to more trade and investment.

The leaders signed a dozen deals in shipping, energy and aviation during Mr. Xi's state visit to Paris, including the sale by aerospace giant Airbus SE of 300 aircraft to China Aviation Supplies Holding Co. The deal includes 290 A320 planes and ten A350s, the French presidency said.

Shell Boosts Bet on North American LNG Exports

Royal Dutch Shell and Energy Transfer said they are pursuing plans to convert a liquefied-natural-gas import facility in Louisiana into an export terminal, a bet that the future of U.S. shale gas lies in selling it for higher prices in overseas markets.

The energy giant and U.S. pipeline operator said they are putting contracts out for bid to engineers and construction companies to reconfigure Energy Transfer 's existing import facility in Lake Charles, La. The proposed facility would have the capacity to ship 16.5 million tons of U.S. natural gas a year, the companies said Monday.

GLOBAL MARKETS: EuroSTOXX50 3312.03 13.00 0.39% DAX 30 11402.90 52.70 0.46% FTSE 100 7203.90 20.00 0.28% Dow 25664.00 87.00 0.34% S&P 500 2815.50 8.50 0.30% Nasdaq 100 7377.00 21.75 0.30% Futures at 0433 GMT

European stock markets should open in positive territory Tuesday, stemming recent losses, although the outlook remains uncertain with worries over the global economy and Brexit continuing to grip sentiment.

Investors have been struggling to discern whether a recent streak of disappointing economic data signal the start of a deeper downturn, or a temporary cooling of momentum.

They may get more clarity on the health of the global economy in the next few days, with fourth-quarter gross domestic product readings from the U.S., U.K., France and Canada scheduled for release.

"There's a pretty obvious weakness in growth, and markets need to come to terms with that," said James Athey , senior investment manager at Aberdeen Standard Investments.

Asian markets rose in early Tuesday trading, but with the exception of Japan's Nikkei, which rebounded strongly from Monday's 3% fall, gains were modest.

Among individual stocks, Samsung declined slightly in Korea after warning it would miss quarterly earnings expectations due partially to weaker chip sales.

IN FOCUS:

Danish retail figures and Swedish PPI for February are due Tuesday.

In Sweden a weaker exchange rate and higher commodity prices are likely to drive up the February PPI index, according to SEB bank. The upward pressure from the weakening currency is set to be even more pronounced in March, SEB said.

Danish retail sales, a useful indicator for private consumption are due at 0700. The numbers have disappointed in recent months, likely because of lackluster January sales with smaller discounts than usual on clothing prices, Danske Bank said.

FOREX: EUR/NOK 0450 GMT 9.6455-505 Previous 9.6526-76 %Chg -0.07 EUR/SEK 0450 GMT 10.4420-520 Previous 10.4486-586 %Chg -0.06 USD/NOK 0450 GMT 8.5258-318 Previous 8.5309-69 %Chg -0.06 USD/SEK 0450 GMT 9.2307-97 Previous 9.2356-446 %Chg -0.05 STOCK INDEXES: OMXN40 1543.18 -1.93 -0.12% OMXS30 1573.66 -3.21 -0.20% OBX 798.63 -7.50 -0.93% OMXC20 1002.42 -2.55 -0.25% OMXH25 4096.31 -28.72 -0.70% Brent crude: $67.32 0.16% NORDIC MARKETS:

Nordic stock markets had a negative session Monday, following the rest of Europe into the red after a selloff in Asia.

Weak manufacturing data in the U.S. and Europe have added to investor concerns about a global-growth slowdown and fueled worries that it could unravel this year's stock market upswing.

Overhanging uncertainty on Brexit and trade tensions between the U.S. and China have also dented investors' appetite for riskier assets like stocks and commodities. Gold, which is often viewed as a safe-haven investment in times of heightened risk, rose 0.7% to $1,321 an ounce.

Norway's OSE benchmark was down 0.9% in the afternoon session, weighed down by energy service companies and industrial stocks, while Denmark's OMX Copenhagen 20 and Sweden's OMX Stockholm 30 were down 0.4% and 0.2% respectively.

ENERGY:

Brent futures continued the rebound seen during the U.S. session, as stock markets stabilized somewhat Monday.

Brent inched up 0.3%, rising for the fourth day in six. However, U.S. crude prices fell for the second consecutive session--closing down 0.4%--as fears about a global economic slowdown gripped markets and stoked jitters about lower fuel consumption.

Prices have rebounded about 30% so far this year following a fourth-quarter selloff, though they remain roughly 23% below their October multiyear highs.

NEWS ROUNDUP:

Canada Links Trade-Deal Approval to Steel Tariffs

Canada's foreign minister indicated the government might delay ratification of the revised North American free-trade deal until the Trump administration lifts its steel and aluminum tariffs against Canadian metals.

Fed's Rosengren: Fed Balance Sheet Cuts Didn't Cause Late 2018 Market Woes

Boston Fed President Eric Rosengren said Monday the central bank's ongoing balance sheet drawdown wasn't the cause of financial market volatility into the closing months of last year.

Moore Says Fed's Pivot Validates Criticism of Rate Increases

Former Trump campaign adviser Stephen Moore, the president's latest pick for a Fed board seat, said the central bank's recent policy pivot shows that he was right to criticize its December interest-rate increase.

What's Behind Collapsing Bond Yields

Lower rate expectations from the Federal Reserve are playing a role in sliding yields, but so are investors' fears of getting hit by the unexpected.

Write to Nathan Allen at nathan.allen@dowjones.com

(END) Dow Jones Newswires

March 26, 2019 00:59 ET (04:59 GMT)

Publication Date: 2019-03-26