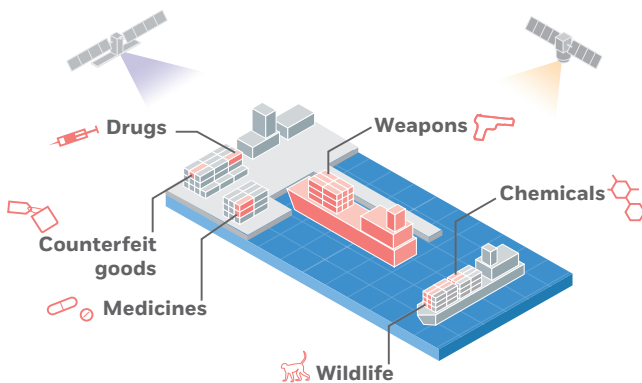




The Copernicus Maritime Surveillance (CMS) service provides customs authorities with monitoring of ports and beaches for the departure of specific ships of interest, and for the detection of abnormal behaviour that may be related to transshipment of goods from larger vessel to smaller ones.

CMS SUPPORTS CUSTOMS THROUGH:

- detection of potentially suspicious vessels involved in trafficking or smuggling of goods
- monitoring of ship-to-ship transfers
- early warning and identification of criminal trafficking and smuggling.



Customs authorities aim to ensure that legitimate trade can flow freely, whilst preventing trafficking and smuggling, and import of illegal or dangerous goods. Customs authorities are interested in monitoring key links in the goods supply chain, such as the transport and entry of such goods into the EU. The quantity of goods entering the EU is immense – EU customs services handle nearly 16% of total world trade, handling imports and exports worth over €3,400 billion every year, most of which has been transported by sea. Customs authorities check almost 1,800 million tonnes of ship cargo per year, compared with 20 million tonnes of air cargo¹.

Satellite image and related value-added products reinforce custom authorities' capacity to maintain oversight of goods transported at sea, and particularly to detect and intervene when criminal activity is suspected. It is difficult to estimate how many millions of euros are lost each year in unpaid duties from illegal imports.² Even more worrying is the transport of dangerous cargo into the EU, including firearms and ammunition, explosives, drugs, counterfeit goods, unsafe products, cash and even protected wildlife species. With so many of these items passing through criminal maritime networks, authorities are keen to use the most advanced technologies available to monitor what happens at sea.

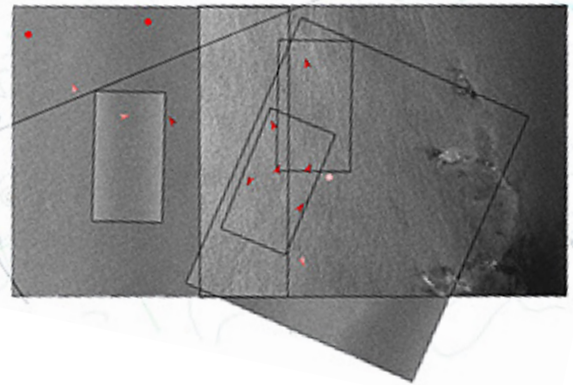


USE CASE: APPREHENDING THE ALI PRIMERA³

Shipments of drugs from South America may transit either directly across the Atlantic, or arrive first in West Africa and be trafficked onwards to Europe. Either way, the sea approaches to Spain and Portugal are key entry points for drug smuggling to Europe. Customs and other anti-drug-trafficking authorities frequently carry out operations along known transit routes to detect and intercept suspicious vessels. The Spanish Directorate of Customs Surveillance (Departamento de Aduanas e II.EE.) makes routine service requests to CMS for regular monitoring, but also activates short notice requests based on intelligence information.

In May 2017, the Spanish authorities, in cooperation with the Portuguese authorities, the US Drug Enforcement Agency and the UK's National Crime Agency, were monitoring the activities of a South American organisation based in Spain and known to be smuggling large quantities of cocaine. Based on combined intelligence information from several organisations in the joint operation, authorities were searching for a specific vessel type in transit between South America and Europe. They requested CMS services combining SAR satellite products and vessel detection to support their monitoring activities. As a result of the joint operation, a Venezuelan flagged fishing vessel, the *Ali Primera*, was intercepted by Spanish authorities (the Policía Nacional de España and Agencia Estatal de Administración Tributaria) south west of the Canary Islands. The vessel and crew were taken to Las Palmas for investigation, where a search uncovered around 2.4 tonnes of cocaine - worth an estimated €100 million wholesale - on board. Seven crew members were arrested.⁴

Copernicus, the European Union's Earth Observation Programme, delivers operational data and information services to support a broad range of environmental and security applications. The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) is responsible for implementing the Copernicus Maritime Surveillance Service.



emsa.europa.eu/copernicus.html

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¹'The European Union Explained: Customs' - https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/50-years-eu-customs-union_en

² In 2016, €537 million in unpaid duties were detected. https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/50-years-eu-customs-union_en

³ https://www.policia.es/prensa/20170515_1.html, <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/index.php/news-media/nca-news/1121-ten-tonnes-in-under-ten-months>

⁴ <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/index.php/news-media/nca-news/1121-ten-tonnes-in-under-ten-months>

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