

**CONCOURS EXTERNE DES 20 et 21 FÉVRIER 2017
POUR LE RECRUTEMENT DE CONTRÔLEURS DES DOUANES ET DROITS
INDIRECTS**

Branche du contrôle des opérations commerciales et d'administration générale

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**Interrogation de langue étrangère consistant dans la traduction orale en français d'un texte écrit
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(Durée 15 minutes – Coefficient 2)

The great wine fraud

The world's biggest wine forger started small. It was the early 2000s, and a young man who went by the name of Rudy Kurniawan began to make a name for himself on the Los Angeles scene. He had swept-back hair and a hearty laugh. More importantly, he had pockets of seemingly infinite depth, so his new friends overlooked his mysterious origins. It was said he came from a wealthy Sino-Indonesian family, but nobody pressed too hard as long as the dinners – and booze – kept flowing.

Kurniawan also had a palate of rare finesse, better than most at identifying the characteristics of different vintages. Or at least, that's what the people he fooled said. At first he was interested in Californian wines, in particular pinot noir, but soon developed a taste for Burgundy, made mainly from the same grape but far more glamorous. In Burgundy's Byzantine system of appellations, Kurniawan sensed hard profits. He became a major player at auctions, buying – and selling – some of the 20th century's greatest wines. He bought so much Domaine de la Romanée-Conti he became known as "Dr Conti". In one auction at Acker Merrall & Condit in 2006, Kurniawan sold \$24.7m of wine, beating the previous record by \$10m. These were the days of the first dotcom boom, when Silicon Valley had more money than sense, a combination which has always been drawn to fine wines.

In time, however, discrepancies appeared in the market. Bottles of Clos St Denis from Domaine Ponsot, of vintages between 1945 and 1971, started to turn up. Laurent Ponsot, the head of the house, found this surprising as his family only started making the wine in 1982. He set out to investigate. Around the same time an American billionaire who found fake bottles in his collection, hired private detectives and filed a lawsuit. Authentication experts saw more and more dodgy consignments emerging from these record-breaking auctions. At last the FBI got involved. In March 2012 they raided Kurniawan's house in Arcadia, California. They found a fully equipped counterfeiting workshop, complete with corking tools, labels, empty bottles and extensive tasting notes. Kurniawan had been taking cheaper wines – though still better than you will find in your average off-licence – and putting them in more expensive bottles, or altering bottles to appear more valuable.

The feeling of being scammed will be familiar to almost anyone who has ordered wine in a restaurant. Kurniawan simply scaled it up. In 2014 he was sentenced to 10 years in a California prison, the first person to be convicted of wine fraud. Kurniawan's was the first case of wine fraud to be successfully prosecuted in the US. But the government did not chase the paper trail back to Indonesia. There are signs he was not acting alone. Ponsot believes it would have been impossible for one man to produce so many counterfeit bottles, and also that wine fraud is a much bigger problem than has been acknowledged. In a recent interview he said he suspected 80% of the Burgundy allegedly from before 1980 is counterfeit.

Ed Cumming, The Guardian, 09/11/16

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(Durée 15 minutes – Coefficient 2)

EU satellite states could be part of Brexit deal

Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway could be part of the EU's deal with the UK after the latter leaves the bloc in April 2019.

"Solutions to soften the landing should be available to us," Liechtenstein's foreign minister Aurelia Frick said on Tuesday (16 May), ahead of a meeting with the EU's Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, and Maltese deputy prime minister Louis Grech, whose country holds the EU presidency. "When the EU is negotiating the divorce from the UK, it automatically means a divorce from the EEA-Efta countries as well," she said, referring to the European Economic Area (EEA), to which Liechtenstein, Norway and Iceland belong, along with all EU member states.

Under a nightmare scenario, the EU would find a good deal for itself but forget about the EEA countries. (...) Together with Switzerland, the EEA trio forms the European free trade association (Efta), but Swiss people rejected being part of the EEA and have bilateral relations with the EU instead.

EEA countries implement EU law, but have no say over its making. Instead, the EEA council meets with the EU twice a year and provides political impetus to the relationship.

Frick said that the three countries were "not first thing on the EU's mind when dealing with Brexit", but she insisted that they were "in the same boat" as the EU on border protection, police cooperation and asylum policy. "We are not ordinary third countries, but the EU's closest partners and friends," she said. She added it was necessary to clarify how the rights of persons and companies acquired through the EEA treaty could be maintained after Brexit.(...)

The UK has not yet triggered a clause in the EEA treaty, notifying the EU that it intends to leave the EEA. If it neglects this formal obligation, the clause will likely be triggered by the EU, said Dag Werno Hotler, deputy secretary general of Efta. (...)

Frick and Bakke Jensen said they were "open-minded" about the UK re-joining Efta, an organisation it helped to found in the 1960s. "But the initiative would have to come from the UK. For the moment, the question is not on the table," the ministers said. Bakke-Jensen said that the EEA cooperation worked well. (...) Frick also said the institutions worked smoothly, and the problem was that few people knew about it. "As a minister, I try to raise awareness about the EEA and the fact that it's actually functioning very well. In a time of populism and globalisation critics, we should be very happy that we have unexciting integration politics", she said.

www.euobserver.com, 17 May 2017

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Why exporting isn't just about shipping

The future of international trade has leapt up the agenda. The British vote to leave the European Union is one central reason. There is also the election of Donald Trump after a campaign in which he was highly critical of some US trade agreements. Much of the debate has focused on trade in goods. Will there be tariffs on British exports to the EU and vice versa? President Trump has threatened car-makers with a "border tax" if they expand operations in Mexico.

But what about services? After all, the service sector dominates most economies. It accounts for 78% or more of national economic activity in the UK, France and the US. Those are well known as service-driven economies. But in Germany, that great manufacturing powerhouse, it's getting on for 70% and even in China it is close to half.

When we look at cross-border trade, however, it is a rather different story. The value of global trade in goods still exceeds services by a factor of more than three. But services trade is growing and it is important for many economies.

Barriers to services trade have proved to be harder to deal with. They come in the form of regulation – not the tariffs or taxes that impinge on commerce in goods. Countries sometimes impose limits on the percentage share of ownership that foreign companies can have in a business that provides services. In China, for example, the limit is 50% for insurance and some telecommunications services. There can also be nationality requirements. In China again, the chief partner in auditing and accounting firms must be a Chinese national. (...)

It is also the case that the nature of many services does make trade intrinsically rather more challenging. You can't put a service on a container ship and send it around the world the way you can with goods. But it is possible to trade services internationally. A stockbroker in London can buy and sell shares for German investors. People can travel abroad for health treatment. Firms can establish a commercial presence in other countries. And individual practitioners can go abroad and work as an independent supplier – perhaps as a plumber – or as an employee of, for example, an insurance company.

So liberalising services trade is more complicated than it is for goods. But there have been efforts. The World Trade Organization's rulebook includes something called the General Agreement on Trade in Services, or GATS.(...)

www.bbc.com, 19 April 2017

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Boat skipper convicted over £80 million cocaine cargo

The skipper of a fishing boat has today (Thursday 16 March) been convicted of trying to smuggle more than a tonne of cocaine into the UK. Michael McDermott, 68, from Waterford in Ireland, was found guilty by a jury at Bristol Crown Court following a 1 week trial.

The National Crime Agency (NCA) and Border Force officers arrested McDermott on 18 August 2016 alongside shipmates David Pleasants, 57, and Gerald Van de Kooij, 27. Two Border Force boats had tracked his vessel the MV Bianca via radar for over 24 hours, acting on intelligence from the NCA that it was carrying drugs. The Bianca was intercepted as it entered UK territorial waters off the coast of Cornwall, and a joint team of NCA and Border Force officers boarded the vessel, detaining the crew. The boats then escorted the vessel into Falmouth where a full search could take place. Specialist Border Force teams located bales of cocaine hidden under bags of sand and gravel in the boat's fish hold. There were 38 bales in total each weighing between 25 and 30 kilos. It took around two days to remove the drugs from the vessel. In total the haul weighed 939 kilos. NCA forensic experts found that the cocaine was between 60 and 70 per cent pure. They estimate that if cut to street purity and sold in the UK it would have had a potential value of nearly £84 million.

It was the biggest single seizure of cocaine in the UK in 2016. Both Pleasants and Gerald Van de Kooij admitted drug importation offences, but McDermott denied the charge, claiming he knew there were drugs on board but had been forced into shipping them. He initially claimed not to know the two men he was arrested with. McDermott had a previous conviction for drug trafficking, where he had admitted being paid to sail a boat from Spain containing cannabis. (...)

Navigation records show the boat sailed through the English Channel and out into the Atlantic, before turning round and heading back towards Cornwall. NCA investigators believe it was at this turnaround point, south of Ireland, that the Bianca took the cocaine on board from another vessel. Following McDermott's conviction all three men will be sentenced on Thursday 6 April.

Mark Harding, senior investigating officer from the NCA's border investigation team, said: This was a huge quantity of cocaine, the biggest single seizure made in the UK in 2016. Michael McDermott used his specialist skills as a sailor to attempt to evade border controls. We provided solid evidence that led to his conviction and have taken out another means of transport used by organised criminals to bring drugs to Britain. His was a crucial link in a chain that leads from cocaine manufacturers in South America to drug dealers in the UK. In stopping this consignment we have prevented further criminality by the gangs who bring violence and exploitation to our streets.

Border Force, <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/border-force>, 17 March 2017

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Roger Moore: a modest, self-deprecating James Bond who brought some serious aplomb

Action heroes aren't prized for suavity much these days, or for knowing how to carry off a double-breasted pinstripe Savile Row suit, or how to raise a single eyebrow, or how to pose with a Walther PPK – under the chin in repose, or drawn dramatically, as if about to shoot the photographer, with a facial expression of satirically calm disapproval. Even the Action Movie 101 skill of finishing a deafeningly loud and chaotic scene with a single droll wisecrack is not executed with much of the élan of old. But Roger Moore's James Bond was a master of all this; over seven Bond movies from 1973 to 1985, he brought some serious aplomb. No-one delivered the aplomb like Roger Moore. He was the secret agent with the twinkle of humour in his eye, and who put wit into his elegant, educated tones, which deepened and decelerated into a sensual purr as his tenure went on.

For his final Bond, *A View to a Kill* in 1985, he was 58, and was humorously aware that he was a mature 007. So the emphasis had to be a little more on comedy and absurdity, and he was doing the job when 007 was a little out of style and it was considered appropriate to send him up a tiny bit.

Roger Moore got huge laughs on chat shows for decades after he stepped down, with his wry bemusement at all the silly things he was asked to do. In the Bangkok boat chase scene in *The Man With the Golden Gun* (1974), he heartlessly pushes a child trinket-seller off his boat – a child who had just helped him get away from the bad guys. As Moore loved to say: as the Unicef goodwill ambassador, and an activist for stopping children getting exploited in developing countries – a job to which he was genuinely committed, and was much respected – this was hardly an appropriate thing for him to be seen doing. (...)

As for Roger Moore's acting skills, he was never more charming than when he modestly said that these were nothing to write home about. And his milieu was not the National Theatre or the Old Vic: more Langan's restaurant in London's West End, dining with pals like Sean Connery and Michael Caine, wreathed in politically incorrect cigar smoke. But his performance in what I think is his best film, Basil Dearden's terrific 1970 doppelganger thriller *The Man Who Haunted Himself*, showed the world that he was actually a skilful and effective actor with an instinctive feel for how to play to the camera and how to undersell a line. (...)

Moore was always being rumoured for the role of Bond, but he appeared to have lost the moment when he was cast in the 70s buddy action-comedy TV series *The Persuaders* with Tony Curtis. It was at this moment that nation fell in love with Roger Moore because of the outrageous, yet brilliant split-screen opening title sequence that always began the show, with John Barry's great music, showing the parallel lives of Moore's character Lord Brett Sinclair (the placing of the title presumably making him specifically the son of an earl or duke) going through Harrow, Oxford and the Guards, while Tony Curtis's Danny Wilde came up the hard way in the mean streets of New York, making his cash in oil. The sequence ended by demonstrating their outrageous sexism, ogling a young woman in a bikini who walked between them – tacky and obnoxious behaviour, of course, yet hardly to be taken seriously. So by the time Moore took on the mantle of Bond his persona already appeared to have been pre-satirised with two quasi-Bond characters. Furthermore, he had the awful job of following Connery in the role, and knew that the only way to play it was to go the other way, to bring out the humour, not to try to be the straight-faced tough guy, and certainly not the borderline psychopath that Ian Fleming's books seemed occasionally to be hinting at. (...)

The guardian online 24/05/2017

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How to measure the black market for cigarettes

Last month Britain joined a growing number of countries in which cigarettes can only be sold in plain packs. Tobacco companies claim that the move will boost the sales of contraband cigarettes by making them trickier to spot. There is one way to tell whether this actually happens: track how black-market sales change. But how can such sales be measured?

There are about a dozen ways to do it, of which three are the most commonly used, says Hana Ross of the University of Cape Town. The first is a comparison of the number of cigarettes sold legally (from records on cigarette taxes paid) with the number of cigarettes consumed (which is calculated from surveys asking people how much they smoke). The gap between the two figures is the estimated share of the black market. The second commonly used method is to ask smokers where they have bought cigarettes and how much they have paid; smokers might also be asked to show the most recent pack they have bought. A price lower than that of legally sold brands suggests a contraband sale; some smokers openly admit that they have bought contraband cigarettes, or show a telltale pack.

The third method is to look at discarded cigarette packs and count up each that looks like a black-market purchase, for instance by missing its tax sticker or displaying a brand that is not officially registered. Discarded packs can be collected from vendors who sell cigarettes by the stick, from litter in the streets, or by rummaging through rubbish bins or the hauls of refuse-collection trucks. ("We dress them as if they are going into space", says Ms Ross about the recruits who rummage through the heaps.)

Each of these methods has its weakness. Smokers may, for example, be reluctant to mention purchases of cigarettes they know to be contraband. They may also claim to smoke less than they actually do (especially if researchers come round soon after a major anti-smoking campaign). Ideally, multiple methods should be applied to get a better estimate of the total black-market sales. And trends over time are best measured by applying the same method. Such studies are conducted in a growing number of countries. Just because a sale occurs in the shadows does not mean it is impossible to cast a smouldering light on it.

The Economist, Jun 7th 2017 by S.C.

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A vacation with a purpose: fighting trafficking in Thailand

We sat around a long wooden table that took up most of a thatched-roof bungalow nestled in the hills of Chiang Rai province in Thailand. Barefoot, a dog curled at my feet, I stared at a large computer screen, engrossed in P'moo's video presentation. She spoke passionately, gesticulating with her hands, then waited as our guide translated her words into English. While she talked, I recognized one she used repeatedly: trafficking. "The situation has changed," she said. "Now, many go knowingly."

Parisutha Suthimongkol, who goes by P'moo, was talking about human trafficking, a lucrative business that takes advantage of illiterate people in desperate circumstances; solicits girls with promises of a better life; and persuades parents to sell their children. Ms. Suthimongkol is a founder of the Mirror Foundation, a grass-roots group in Chiang Rai.

This was not a work-related meeting. I was on vacation, visiting Thailand on what was billed as an advocacy journey, one that, along with sightseeing, provided opportunities to learn about the sexual exploitation of children in a country known for sex tourism. "The intention is that everybody will walk away with a deeper understanding of the issues and the work done on the ground as well as what's special and unique about Thailand," said Malia Everette, the founder of Altruvistas, a tour operator that had organized the trip in partnership with Ecpat-USA, an advocacy group whose name stands for End Child Prostitution and Trafficking. Sarah Porter, a former director of development and partnerships at Ecpat-USA and a leader of our trip, said that the group wanted to show people "that how they travel and where they choose to stay really does make a difference."

Our other leader was a local tour guide from Altruvistas, Adisak Kaewrakmuk. He took us sightseeing in Bangkok — the Grand Palace, the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, the Temple of the Reclining Buddha — and to night markets in the northern provinces, but also doubled as a translator during our meetings with government representatives and aid groups.

We were a diverse group of nine women: I was joined by a nurse from Nevada who had not traveled outside of the United States ("not counting Cabo" in Mexico, she said), a retired prosecutor from Long Island and her daughter, two members of the travel industry from St. Louis and three advocates working on the issue, including the chairwoman of Ecpat-USA, Jackie Shapiro.

I had booked my trip on the Altruvistas website. Of the \$3,500 fee, \$500 was a tax-deductible donation to Ecpat-USA. An additional 10 % of the tour fee was distributed to the groups we visited. (...) An advocacy trip meant that instead of spending our days lounging by the pool between visits to tourist sights and attractions — although we did find time for some of that — we attended meetings with government representatives and local organizations involved in the fight against trafficking. (...)

Thailand has long been a popular tourist destination. International arrivals have more than doubled since 2000, and Bangkok is consistently ranked as one of the most visited cities in the world. But as travel increases, so does the risk to children of sexual exploitation by sex offenders. "This massive increase in travel and tourism, along with the rise of the internet and mobile technology, offers new pathways — and a new level of anonymity — for offenders," said Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, chairwoman of a task force on sexual exploitation of children set up by Ecpat International. (...)

Daniela PETROVA, May 11, 2017, the New York Times

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Is huge hole in Mars proof of alien activity? Nasa baffled by discovery

NASA astronomers have been left scratching their heads after discovering a huge hole in the floor of Mars, which has led conspiracy theorists to conclude that aliens may be responsible.

Nasa's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO), which has been studying the surface of one of Earth's closest galactic neighbours, discovered the glaring hole which experts are struggling to explain.

The space agency explained that the pit, which is near to the Martian south pole, is hundreds of metres across and surrounded by frozen carbon dioxide. NASA said in a statement: "This pattern is created when there is relatively high, smooth material that is broken up into these circular-shaped depressions forming the 'Swiss cheese' terrain. "The depressions are thought to be caused by sublimation, which is when a material goes directly from a solid to a gas phase. Repeated images are taken of areas like this so the changes in depression size and where they form can be monitored through the seasons."

The image was taken by the MRO's High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment, or HiRISE camera, which allows experts to see objects that are over a metre across from up to 400 kilometres into the Martian sky. That means that, as a pixel represents 50 centimetres in the image, the pit is hundreds of metres wide.

It is unclear what caused the crater, but NASA suspects meteorite impacts, collapsing lava tubes or ancient floods could be responsible.

However, conspiracy YouTube Channel *SecureTeam 10* says that alien activity may be at play, by saying that pit shows some "artificial characteristics". The narrator goes on to say: "This is a depression, almost as if something has been hollowed out here." It adds there are "alternative theories where many believe that some of these holes are in fact entrances to an underground civilisation".

By Sean Martin, June, 2017 – Daily Express

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Solar plane makes history after completing round-the-world trip

Solar Impulse 2 has completed the first round-the-world flight by a solar-powered aeroplane, after touching down in Abu Dhabi early on Tuesday. The final leg of the feat, aimed at showcasing the potential of renewable energy, was a bumpy one, with turbulence driven by hot desert air leaving the solo pilot, Bertrand Piccard, fighting with the controls.

The plane, which has a wingspan wider than a Boeing 747 and carries more than 17,000 solar cells on its wings, began the circumnavigation in March 2015 in Abu Dhabi. It has since crossed both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans using no fossil fuel and has spent more than 23 days in the air.

Speaking to the Guardian from the cockpit shortly before landing, Piccard said he was feeling emotional as he neared the end of the journey: "It is a very, very special moment – it has been 15 years that I am working on this goal. "I hope people will understand that it is not just a first in the history of aviation, but also a first in the history of energy," he said. "All the clean technologies we use, they can be used everywhere. So we have flown 40,000km, but now it is up to other people to take it further. It is up to every person in a house to take it further, every head of state, every mayor in a city, every entrepreneur or CEO of a company. These technologies now can make the world much better and we have to use them, not only for the environment, but also because they are profitable and create jobs."(...)

Bertrand alternated with André Borschberg to fly the 16 legs of the journey. (...) Borschberg flew the longest leg, 4,000 miles over the Pacific from Japan to Hawaii, smashing the record for the longest uninterrupted journey in aviation history. (...)

The aim of the Solar Impulse adventure was not to develop solar-powered planes for widespread use, but to show the capabilities of renewable energy. "I worked for 15 years to have [this] demonstration of the improvements of these technologies, so now I really want to leverage this demonstration and create a world council for clean technologies," Piccard said. "That will allow all these experts and specialists to advise the governments and big corporations on which types of technology to use to profitably fight climate change and profitably protect the environment."

Ban Ki-moon, the UN secretary-general, said: "Solar Impulse has flown more than 40,000 kilometers without fuel, but with an inexhaustible supply of energy and inspiration. This is a historic day for Captain Piccard and the Solar Impulse team, but it is also a historic day for humanity. You may be ending your around the world flight today, but the journey to a more sustainable world is just beginning. The Solar Impulse team is helping to pilot us to that future." (...)

Damian Carrington, The Guardian, 26 July 2016

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Fear of Brexit brain drain as EU nationals leave British universities

More than 1,300 academics from the European Union have left British universities in the past year, prompting concerns of a Brexit brain drain.

There has been a 30% rise in departures of EU staff in just two years, according to data released by dozens of universities under the Freedom of Information Act. Among those universities most affected were Cambridge, which lost 184 staff in the past year, up 35% on 2014-15, and Edinburgh, which lost 96 EU staff, up from 62 in 2014-15. However, the figures do not take into account new staff arriving from the EU.

The 64 universities that offered a figure for the past year said that 1,393 EU staff were leaving. While many will leave as part of natural turnover, it has prompted concerns that the government's refusal to guarantee the rights of EU nationals is having an adverse effect on their ability to retain staff. A recent analysis by the Russell Group, which represents 24 of the UK's leading universities, found that there are 24,860 members of staff from other EU countries at UK universities, making up 23% of all academics.

Sally Hunt, the general secretary of the University and College Union, said: "These findings are worrying and highlight how damaging the government's refusal to guarantee the rights of EU staff can be. Theresa May may wish to style herself as the strong and stable candidate, but she is creating dangerous insecurity in our universities. By its very nature, higher education is international, and the exchange of knowledge across borders is critical to its success. If we are to preserve our global reputation for excellence, our universities must be unencumbered when it comes to attracting and retaining overseas staff and students." [...] Julian Huppert, an academic and Liberal Democrat candidate for Cambridge who compiled the data on the departure of EU academics, said Brexit risked leading to a "sharp rise" in people from Europe leaving. "Theresa May bears some responsibility, for pursuing an extreme version of Brexit that will rupture our ties with Europe and failing to guarantee the rights of EU nationals," he said. "But Labour's refusal to back free movement, instead giving their backing to May over article 50, means that there is no comfort there. [...]"

Universities minister Jo Johnson said that throughout the Brexit process, the Tories would "ensure the UK remains the go-to place for scientists and innovators, securing the status of EU nationals in Britain and British nationals in the EU and increasing spending on R&D". "Theresa May has a plan to make a success of leaving the EU so our world-leading universities continue to thrive," he said. "All the Lib Dems offer is Jeremy Corbyn as prime minister, in a coalition of chaos that would disrupt the Brexit negotiations and put our future at risk."

Michael SAVAGE, policy editor, Saturday June, 3, the Guardian

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**Interrogation de langue étrangère consistant dans la traduction orale en français d'un texte écrit
dans la langue étrangère choisie, suivie d'une conversation dans la même langue**

(Durée 15 minutes – Coefficient 2)

How a dashing bodyguard is stealing the new South Korean president's limelight

Newly elected South Korean president Moon Jae-in has lived up to his promise to shake up the country's politics, but perhaps not in the way that he expected. In his first few days in office, Mr Moon's dashing close protection officer, Choi Young-jae, appears to have stolen the limelight, sending social media into a frenzy with the best smouldering bodyguard poses since Kevin Costner swept Whitney Houston off her feet in the 1990s Hollywood classic.

Photos of the 36-year-old square-jawed bodyguard, dressed in a sharp suit and staring into the crowd with a stern but sultry menace, have gone viral.

Popular blog, *allkpop.com*, stoked further excitement by publishing a series of photographs of Mr Choi keeping a close watch for potential threats.

"He even has good skin," "Is this a scene from a movie?" gushed enthused netizens.

After a year-long political corruption saga that scandalised the country and saw the impeachment of former president Park Geun-hye, South Koreans have seized on the sizzling sightings of Mr Choi as welcome light relief.

The South Korean media lauded him as a leading member of what they coined the "handsome brigade" of officials who have been selected as the attractive face of the new administration.

President Moon himself set hearts racing in his younger days, reported the Korea Times, adding that Im Jong-seok, his new chief of staff, was a pin-up for female students who stole his campaign posters when he once ran for school president.

Civil affairs secretary, Cho Kuk, also a member of the good-looking new crew, confessed that "dairy drinks" were constantly placed on his library seat at university by female admirers.

President Moon's office have, however, torched any hopes of female fans wishing to become the heroine in a South Korean remake of Costner's *The Bodyguard*, confirming that Mr Choi is "unfortunately married."

Nicola Smith, The Telegraph, 15 May 2017

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dans la langue étrangère choisie, suivie d'une conversation dans la même langue**

(Durée 15 minutes – Coefficient 2)

Paris installs zip-line 115m up the Eiffel Tower

It may be one the world's most famous landmarks but the Eiffel Tower in Paris has this week been playing host to more daredevils than sightseers, thanks to a scarily high zipline installed on its second floor.

The zipline starts mid-way up the 324m tall building and offers riders a bird's-eye view of the city, before whizzing them over the geometric formal gardens at Champs de Mars at speeds of up to 90km/hr (56mph). They are then safely deposited on a purpose-built platform in the park, 800 metres and around a minute later.

The ride, which gives visitors a completely new way of viewing a popular part of the city, is only open for a limited time to coincide with the French Open tennis tournament, currently taking place in the city.

It will appeal more to adrenaline junkies than to casual thrill-seekers – riders are required to wear helmets and the second-level starting point is a not to be sniffed at at 114m high – more or less the height of the Centre Point building above Tottenham Court Road tube station in London.

The ride will be open until Sunday. It is intended, by sponsors Perrier, to give people the taste of the speed a tennis ball flies at during a smash.

Not everyone will be able to have a go though – the lucky few were selected in a ballot online last week.

The zipline is one of many exciting events planned for Paris this summer. Highlights include the Paris Jazz Festival, David Hockney at the Pompidou, Paris Plages (urban beaches), outdoor film screenings, an open house weekend and the opening of the much-anticipated YSL museum.

Natalie Paris, June 2017 – The Telegraph

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(Durée 15 minutes – Coefficient 2)

Beauty sleep is real – too little sleep leaves you less attractive, study finds

There really is such a thing as beauty sleep – and people who don't get enough of it do appear less attractive to others. That's the verdict of a new study by researchers at Stockholm University, published in the Royal Society Open Science journal.

The research involved 25 volunteers who agreed to be photographed after having had two consecutive nights of good sleep, and then again after having had only four hours sleep for two nights in a row.

122 members of the public were then asked to look at the photos, giving each person pictured a rating for attractiveness, health, sleepiness and trustworthiness – and a response to the question: "How much would you like to socialise with this person in the picture?"

When sleep-restricted, the volunteers were perceived to be less attractive, less healthy and more sleepy – and the raters were less inclined to socialise with people who hadn't had enough sleep. There was no difference in perceived trustworthiness.

"These findings suggest that naturalistic sleep loss can be detected in a face and that people are less inclined to interact with a sleep-deprived individual," researchers said.

Dr Gayle Brewer, a psychology expert at the University of Liverpool, told the BBC: "Judgement of attractiveness is often unconscious, but we all do it, and we are able to pick up on even small cues like whether someone looks tired or unhealthy. "We want our partners to be attractive and energetic. This study is a good reminder of how important sleep is to us."

Lead researcher Dr Tina Sundelin said: "People who look more attractive are also presumed to have better social qualities (according to a lot of previous research), so it's perhaps not surprising that others also want to socialise with these people.

"When it comes to tiredness though, there might be other factors coming into play. Perhaps those who look tired are expected to be poor company (less attentive, less sociable) or perhaps they may even constitute risk – since lack of sleep has been associated with making more mistakes. Perhaps it's a combination of these factors."

Adam Boulton – THE TELEGRAPH – 17 May 2017

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(Durée 15 minutes – Coefficient 2)

'Narco-deforestation': cocaine trade destroying swaths of Central America

Cocaine traffickers attempting to launder their profits are responsible for the disappearance of millions of acres of tropical forest across large swaths of Central America, according to a report.

The study, published in the journal *Environmental Research Letters*, found that drug trafficking was responsible for up to 30% of annual deforestation in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala, turning biodiverse forest into agricultural land.

The study's lead author, Dr Steven Sesnie from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, said: "Most of the 'narco-driven' deforestation we identified happened in biodiverse moist forest areas, and around 30-60% of the annual loss happened within established protected areas, threatening conservation efforts to maintain forest carbon sinks, ecological services, and rural and indigenous livelihoods."

The research, which used annual deforestation estimates from 2001 to 2014, focuses on six Central American countries – Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama. It estimates the role of drug trafficking, as opposed to drug cultivation, in deforestation for the first time.

"As the drugs move north their value increases and the traffickers and cartels are looking for ways to move this money into the legal economy. Purchasing forest and turning it into agricultural land is one of the main ways they do that," said Sesnie. [...]

"Now roughly 86% of the cocaine trafficked globally moves through Central America on its way to North American consumers, leaving an estimated \$6bn US dollars in illegal profits in the region annually."

This had led to the loss of millions of acres of tropical forest over a decade as drugs cartels laundered their profits, Sesnie said.

"Our results highlight the key threats to remaining moist tropical forest and protected areas in Central America," he said, adding that remote forest areas with "low socioeconomic development" were particularly at risk.

Matthew Taylor – THE GUARDIAN - May 2017

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(Durée 15 minutes – Coefficient 2)

Trump on Paris accord: 'We're getting out'

President Donald Trump proclaimed Thursday he was withdrawing the US from the Paris climate accord, a sweeping step that fulfills a campaign promise while acutely dampening global efforts to curb global warming.

Speaking from the White House, Trump said he was open to renegotiating aspects of the agreement, which was inked under his predecessor and which all nations except two have signed onto. But he was withering in his criticism of the pact, which he cast as a humiliating defeat for American workers that unfairly advantaged foreign countries. "At what point does America get demeaned? At what point do they start laughing at us as a country?" Trump inquired during an afternoon event held in a sun-drenched Rose Garden. "We want fair treatment," Trump said. "We don't want other countries and other leaders to laugh at us anymore."

The decision amounts to a rebuttal of the worldwide effort to pressure Trump to remain a part of the agreement, which 195 nations signed onto. Foreign leaders, business executives and Trump's own daughter, Ivanka, lobbied heavily for him to remain a part of the deal, but ultimately lost out to conservatives who claim the plan is bad for the United States. (...)

Lengthy process

In triggering the official withdrawal procedures, Trump has sparked a lengthy process that won't conclude until November 2020 – the same month he's up for reelection, ensuring the issue becomes a major topic of debate in the next presidential contest.

In his remarks, Trump said he was open to re-brokering US carbon reduction commitments, but didn't express any urgency in bringing the US back into the deal, which he claimed placed "draconian" financial burdens on the American people. "We're getting out," he said. "And we will start to renegotiate and we'll see if there's a better deal. If we can, great. If we can't, that's fine." (...)

Trump said his announcement would end the implementation of carbon reduction targets set under Obama, which aimed to reduce emissions by 26-28% in a decade. Trump also declared the US would stall all contributions to the United Nations' Green Climate Fund, which Trump said was "costing the United States a fortune." "As someone who cares deeply about our environment, I cannot in good conscience support a deal which punishes the United States," he said. "The Paris accord is very unfair at the highest level to the United States." (...)

Opponents of the move say it threatens to isolate the United States in a global effort to curb the warming of the planet, and leaves an opening for countries like China to fill the leadership void.

By Kevin Liptak and Jim Acosta, CNN, June 2, 2017