The trade in counterfeit and pirated goods is a major challenge in an innovation-driven global economy. Organised crime groups play an increasingly important role in these activities and benefit significantly from counterfeiting and piracy. The trade in fake goods is booming, and is hitting the sales and profits of the firms affected by it. It impacts governments, business in general, and consumers. It cuts revenues and reduces economic well-being, health, safety and security.

### Scope of the problem

Counterfeit products range from high-end consumer luxury goods such as watches, perfumes or leather goods, to business-to-business products such as machines, chemicals or spare parts, to common consumer products such as toys, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and foodstuffs. In fact, any IP-protected product can be counterfeited.

Some counterfeit products, such as pharmaceuticals, spare parts and toys, are of low quality, and thus create significant health and safety threats.

### A range of responses

Europol works with national law-enforcement agencies, and with partner organisations such as the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EU IPO) to counter this crime.

### OPERATIONS

Europol regularly supports operations to thwart counterfeiting, seize fake goods, shut down websites selling them, and arrest members of the criminal networks involved. Three examples will serve to illustrate the range and scope of these operations:

- The **In Our Sites** operation has shut down almost a thousand websites selling merchandise online to consumers. The operation involved law enforcement agencies from within and outside the EU, and from North and South America, and East and Southeast Asia.
- Europol has supported the Interpol-led **Pangea IX**—an international operation targeting the illicit online sale of medicines and medical devices which involved some 193 police, customs and health regulatory authorities from 103 countries.
- Operation **OPSON** has brought together a number of public- and private-sector agencies to address the threat from food and beverage counterfeiting and fraud. The operation, led by Europol and Interpol, has had a number of successes, including the seizure of more than 10 000 tonnes and a million litres of hazardous fake food and drink in operations that spanned 57 countries.
KEEPING SPORT SAFE AND FAIR: 3.8 MILLION DOPING SUBSTANCES AND FAKE MEDICINES SEIZED WORLDWIDE

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

SETTING THE SCENE FOR CYBERCRIME: TRENDS AND NEW CHALLENGES

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

COUNTERFEIT CRACKDOWN HITS TWO ORGANISED CRIMINAL GROUPS WITH MORE THAN 30 SUSPECTS ARRESTED

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

NEW THREAT ASSESSMENT CONFIRMS LINKS BETWEEN COUNTERFEITING AND ORGANISED CRIME IN THE EU

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

18 ARRESTED IN THE UK AND ROMANIA FOR €20 MILLION FAKE TRAIN TICKET SCAM

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

SPORTS REGULATORS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES TEAM UP FOR CLEAN SPORT

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE
POLICE UNCOVER UNUSUAL VEHICLE TAX AVOIDANCE SCHEME

EUROPOL SUPPORTS OLAF AND BELGIUM CUSTOMS IN AN INTERNATIONAL CYBER PATROL OPERATION TO STOP ONLINE TRAFFICKERS

150 000 LITRES OF FAKE EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL SEIZED FROM ‘WELL-OILED’ GANG

EUROPOL IPC CONFERENCE - MALAGA 2019

FRAUD BY THE GLASS: CRIMINAL NETWORK RESPONSIBLE FOR FAKE WINE DISRUPTED ON VALENTINE’S DAY

OPERATION TAKES DOWN OVER 33 600 INTERNET DOMAINS SELLING COUNTERFEITS GOODS