

Fraud, economic and financial crimes is one of the EU's priorities in the fight against serious and organised crime as part of [EMPACT 2022 - 2025](#).

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.

## COUNTERFEIT GOODS

The aim is:

- To disrupt the organised criminal groups (OCGs) involved in the production and distribution of counterfeit and substandard goods.

This crime represents as much as 2.5 % of world trade, or USD 461 billion. Thus, rights holders, governments and the formal economy as a whole are suffering huge losses each year, while the criminal networks that are behind the trade profit enormously.

The situation in the EU is even worse: counterfeited and pirated products account for about 5 % of imports to the EU. Thus the relative impact of counterfeiting is twice as high for the developed economies of the EU as it is for the world as a whole.

But the damage goes beyond the immediate impact of one and another loss. Counterfeiting and piracy are a threat to sustainable business models based on intellectual property and patenting, because they also discourage innovation and work against the economic growth that is based in it.

### 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.

NUMBER OF ITEMS FOUND: 146

SEARCH



TYPE

Article/Story, Event, How-To Guide, Landing Page, Multimedia, News/Press Release, Operation, Page, Publication/Document



TARGET GROUP



Q SEARCH

02  
Dec  
2019

## 30 506 INTERNET DOMAIN NAMES SHUT DOWN FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INFRINGEMENT

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

21  
Nov  
2019

## CAPACITY BUILDING TO TACKLE AUDIOVISUAL PIRACY

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

30  
Oct  
2019

## 60 E-COMMERCE FRAUDSTERS BUSTED DURING INTERNATIONAL OPERATION

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

11  
Oct  
2019

## BOAT RAIDED FROM BRAZIL TO EUROPE HIDING OVER HALF A TONNE OF COCAINE AND NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

10  
Oct  
2019

## EUROPOL HELPS PARTNERS SEIZE MILLIONS OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS IN OLAF - COORDINATED OPERATION

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

09  
Oct  
2019

OCTA

INTERNET

## CYBERCRIME IS BECOMING BOLDER WITH DATA AT THE CENTRE OF THE CRIME SCENE

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

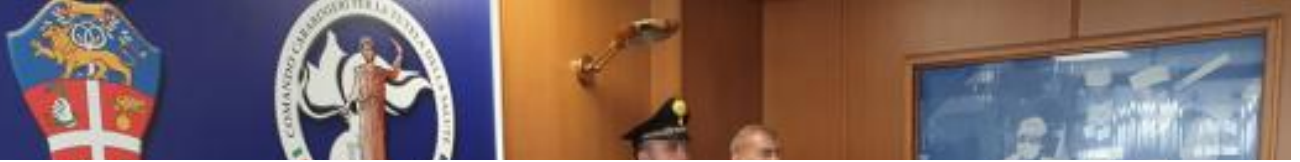
19  
Sep  
2019



## FS-ISAC AND EUROPOL PARTNER TO COMBAT CROSS-BORDER CYBERCRIME

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

08  
Jul  
2019



## KEEPING SPORT SAFE AND FAIR: 3.8 MILLION DOPING SUBSTANCES AND FAKE MEDICINES SEIZED WORLDWIDE

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

05  
Jul  
2019



## SETTING THE SCENE FOR CYBERCRIME: TRENDS AND NEW CHALLENGES

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

13  
Jun  
2019



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

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

12  
Jun  
2019



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

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

06  
Jun  
2019



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

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

◀ FIRST

◀ PREVIOUS

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2

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4

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6

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8

9

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NEXT ▶

LAST ▶

