

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: 140

SEARCH



TYPE

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



TARGET GROUP



SEARCH

CLEAR ALL

30
Mar
2017



NETWORK OF HASHISH AND COUNTERFEIT TOBACCO SMUGGLERS DISMANTLED

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

09
Dec
2016



MAIN EUROPEAN UNION HUB FOR DISTRIBUTION OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS DISMANTLED

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

28
Nov
2016

OPERATION IN OUR SITES VII



CITY OF LONDON



economie



OVER 4500 ILLICIT DOMAIN NAMES SEIZED FOR SELLING COUNTERFEIT PRODUCTS

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE



BE AWARE OF FAKE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS AND FAKE MOBILE APPS

HOW-TO GUIDE



HOW TO DETECT FRAUDULENT SITES SELLING FAKES

HOW-TO GUIDE



I JUST THOUGHT IT WAS A BARGAIN, I WAS NOT AWARE OF THE RISKS...

HOW-TO GUIDE



AWARENESS CAMPAIGN ON ONLINE COUNTERFEITING

HOW-TO GUIDE

04
Nov
2016

OPERATION OPSON V - REPORT

PUBLICATION/DOCUMENT



EUROPOL IN BRIEF (ANNUAL REVIEW)

27
Oct
2016

FOOD FRAUD: JOINT EUROPOL-INTERPOL OPERATION OPSON V RESULTS REPORT

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE

31
Aug
2016



EUROPOL AND BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA AGREE TO SHARE INFORMATION ON CROSS-BORDER CRIME

NEWS/PRESS RELEASE



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CRIME COORDINATED COALITION - IPC3

« FIRST

« PREVIOUS

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NEXT »

LAST »