

CORONA CRIMES: SUSPECT BEHIND €6 MILLION FACE MASKS AND HAND SANITISERS SCAM ARRESTED THANKS TO INTERNATIONAL POLICE COOPERATION

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[Press Release](#)

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This person was usurping the identity of a legitimate company and advertised the fast delivery of FFP2 surgical masks and hand sanitisers

The French police was fast to prioritise the case and to report to Europol that a French pharmaceutical company had been defrauded of €6.64 million by this individual. Once the

pharmaceutical company transferred the funds to a bank in Singapore, the items were never delivered and the supplier became uncontactable.

Using all available channels for urgent international police cooperation, EU authorities informed their Singaporean counterparts and asked them to act swiftly. Having previously received a Suspicious Transaction Report (STR) from the recipient bank, Singaporean authorities were quick to act and were able to block part of the payment and to identify the man who had received the funds and subsequently arrested him on 25 March.

As reported in a [recent Europol report](#), criminals have been quick to seize opportunities to exploit the crisis by adapting their *modi operandi* or engaging in new criminal activities. Law enforcement is taking a very serious view on all those who are trying to profit from the anxieties and fears of victims throughout the crisis. Europol is working 24/7 to support police officers as they face these unprecedented challenges.

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