



SYMPOSIUM ON “REMOVING COUNTERFEITS FROM E-COMMERCE” (PRECEDED BY THE OPERATION STOP III REPORT LAUNCH)

Background

For some years now, counterfeiting and piracy have been growing in sophistication. Similarly, e-commerce represents an increasingly serious challenge for Customs administrations because of the proliferation of small consignments. Although e-commerce has had a revolutionary impact on trade and trade practices, it also presents a significant number of issues at the border.

With a single click, consumers can place orders online and have them delivered within fairly short deadlines. This makes the work of Customs administrations even more difficult, since they do not possess enough data before the arrival of these goods, in contrast to the data available for containers.

The role of Customs risk management, which is intended to facilitate the movement of legitimate goods while preventing the flow of illicit commodities, is now more relevant than ever for ensuring the proper development of e-commerce transactions across borders.

Objective

In cooperation with right holders, the objective of this Symposium is to raise awareness among Customs officers and the general public about the threat of counterfeiting via e-commerce.

The Symposium will present and describe the landscape of illicit goods based on WCO data analysis resulting mainly from Operation STOP III and from seizures by other WCO Members and other stakeholders.

Additionally, the Symposium will provide an opportunity for discussions on the challenges faced by Customs and the private sector with respect to intellectual property right (IPR) enforcement, particularly in the e-commerce domain.

Target audience

- WCO Member administrations and the Global Regional Intelligence Liaison Office (RILO) Network
- International organizations
- Right holders and industry
- Private sector representatives (e-commerce platforms, Customs brokers, express carriers, postal operators)
- Academia

Format: The Symposium will be held in a hybrid format.

Registration: When registering, participants may choose to attend the Symposium either **in person** at WCO Headquarters in Brussels or **online**.

Languages: English and French.

Time: 11 June 2024, from 13:00 to 15:00 (Brussels time).

Draft Agenda

Time	Session
13:00-13:25	<p>Session 1: Opening ceremony and introductory remarks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pranab Kumar Das, Director, Compliance and Facilitation Directorate, World Customs Organization (WCO). • Sahoko Shiga, Counselor, International Cooperation Division, Customs and Tariff Bureau, Ministry of Finance.
13:25-13:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video break
13:30-13:55	<p>Session 2: Counterfeiting and e-commerce, a constant and growing threat: main findings of Operation STOP III</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation STOP III data visualization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ WCO Secretariat: Rumi Hashimoto, Technical Attaché IPR, Health and Safety programme/ Ousmane Coundoul, Technical Officer, CEN Programme manager. ✓ Marco Favarin: RILO Western Europe. • Insights from a right holder: Harriet Smith, Apple, Senior Investigator Intellectual Property Enforcement.
13:55-14:55	<p>Session 3: Paradigm shift to bring about better results in the fight against counterfeiting in e-commerce.</p> <p>Moderator: Rebecca Jonassen, Counsellor (Customs), New Zealand Embassy in Brussels.</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rizvi Mohammad Salahuddin, First Secretary (Customs) at the National Board of Revenue (NBR) in Bangladesh. • Vincent Stauffer, Legal Department, Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry FH. • Guadalupe García Crespo, Brand Protection Manager Legal & Government Relationships, Mercado Libre. • Perry Ng, Criminal Intelligence Officer, INTERPOL.
14:55-15:00	<p>Session 4: Closing remarks and main outcomes of the Symposium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James McColm, Acting Deputy Director, Compliance and Enforcement Sub-Directorate, WCO.