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PRESS RELEASE

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Customs Union: EU customs detected more cases of fake goods at EU borders in 2018 than before

Today, the Commission services publish their report of intellectual property rights enforcement at the EU borders in 2018. The report shows that in 2018 customs detected more cases of potentially fake goods than the year before.

New figures released by the European Commission today show that the number of overall cases increased from 57,433 in 2017 to 69.354 in 2018. The increase of detentions is due to the large amount of small parcels in express and postal traffic, most probably as a result of internet sales. At the same time the report shows that the total amount of articles detained decreased compared to the previous years, with almost 27 million articles detained in 2018. The value of detained articles measured as the equivalent genuine products is estimated at nearly 740 million euros.

Pierre **Moscovici**, Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation and Customs said: *"Our priority is to ensure effective enforcement of intellectual property rights and to tackle trade of goods infringing intellectual property rights throughout the international supply chain. In November 2017, the Commission adopted a comprehensive package of measures to further improve the application and enforcement of intellectual property rights and step up the efforts against counterfeiting and piracy. This was followed, in 2018, by a new EU Customs Action Plan to combat intellectual property right infringements covering the years 2018-2022, which was adopted by the Council. Our report shows that we take this matter seriously and I welcome the efforts made by customs officers across the European Union to fight against fake and often dangerous goods."*

The top categories of detained articles were cigarettes, which accounted for 15% of the overall amount of detained articles followed by toys (14%), packaging material (9%), labels, tags and stickers (9%) and clothing (8%). The total share of products for daily use such as body care articles, medicines, toys, electrical household goods accounted for nearly 37% of the total number of detained articles.

China continued to be the main source country from where goods infringing intellectual property rights were shipped to the EU. However, for certain product sectors other countries were the main provenance, including North Macedonia for alcoholic beverages; Turkey for other beverages, perfumes and cosmetics, Hong Kong, China for watches, mobile phones and accessories, ink cartridges and toners, CDs/DVDs and labels, tags and

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stickers. Further, the main source for computer equipment was India, Cambodia for cigarettes and Bosnia and Herzegovina for packaging material.

Background

The Commission's report on customs actions to enforce IPR has been issued annually since 2000 and is based on data transmitted by Member States' customs administrations to the Commission.

The data provide valuable information, which supports the analysis of intellectual property rights infringements and helps other institutions such as the European Union Intellectual Property Office and the OECD to map economic data and the most common routes for counterfeiters.

Additionally, a further complementary report is being published by EUIPO's Observatory today: the "Report on EU enforcement of IPRs: results at EU borders and in MSs covering the period 2013-2017". This report, also based on DG TAXUD data, complements the trends report on border detentions over the past years with data on detentions by national enforcement authorities in the internal market.

For more information

The full report is available [here](#).

The factsheet is available [here](#).

The EUIPO Report on EU enforcement of IPRs: results at EU borders and in MSs covering the period 2013-2017 Is available [here](#).