

- Chair's update: Task Force on Charting Illicit Trade -

Dear colleagues,

The OECD Task Force on Charting Illicit Trade supports international efforts and helps to coordinate forces to quantify and map the illegal economy, with the aim of exposing trends in the harms, consequences and costs to strategic markets. The goal is to increase societal and economic resilience to this threat through collective action and partnerships across the public and private sectors. Concerted private-public partnership and action is needed to fight this scourge, including sharing of information across regions and economic sectors, with concrete actions and effective policies. The unique value of this Task Force is to foster collaboration between experts, from government, academia, the private sector and NGOs, and unlock innovative approaches to combat the criminal networks that enable illicit trade to produce and transport its wares, and to launder its proceeds. The network structure of the Task Force reflects the complexity of the issues a hand.

We wish to thank you for the efforts that our experts have deployed to contribute, and in particular our leaders in specific areas: Mr. Pierre Delval (counterfeit medicines), Ms. Jeannie Cameron and Gretchen Peters (Environmentally Sensitive Goods), Mr. Pedro Pereira and Mr. Norberto Santiago (counter-narcotics); Ms. Vanessa Neumann (Tobacco); Professor Louise Shelley (Trafficking in Persons), Ms. Sarah Runge and Mr. Tom Cardamone (Illicit Financial Flows). Mr. Ernesto Savona briefed progress at the Global Agenda Council on Illicit Trade and Organized Crime Summit earlier this week in Abu Dhabi.

PROGRESS SINCE THE 1ST MEETING OF THE TASK FORCE

Since the first meeting of the OECD Task Force on Charting Illicit Trade, the scope of activities and number of participants has continued to grow steadily. The Task Force began with 4 sub-groups to analyse illicit trade (tobacco, narcotics, trafficking in persons and counterfeits) and has since expanded to cover illicit trade in alcohol and spirits, 'environmentally sensitive goods', as well as the cross-sectoral themes of illicit financial flows and corruption, which are key drivers that enable illicit trade. Each subgroup is tasked to articulate a clear methodology for measuring illicit trade by sector, and to coordinate data collection that could be applied to the methodology that has been selected or developed. Mr. Justin Picard helped to develop a guidance document for the sub-groups.

INTERNATIONAL VISIBILITY OF THE TF-CIT

The sub-group leaders have helped to promote the work of the Task Force in various international fora:

- **Mr. Pierre Delval**, TF-CIT (counterfeit medicines), presented at the **Conference on Trade in Counterfeit, Pirated and Smuggled Goods-A Threat to National Security and Economy**, organized by FICCI and BASCAP on **19-20 September 2013, in New Delhi, India**, see <http://www.ficci.com/past-events-page.asp?evid=21582>.
- **Ms. Jeannie Cameron**, (Environmentally Sensitive Goods) Kristiina Kangaspunta (Trafficking in Persons) and **Janos Bertok (OECD)** presented at the **APEC Pathfinder Dialogue in Bangkok**, on 23-25 September 2013. See <http://www.pathfinderconference.com/>
- **Ms. Gretchen Peters**, (Environmentally Sensitive Goods) attended the 'High-Level Discussion on **Poaching and Illicit Wildlife Trafficking – A Multidimensional Crime and a Growing Challenge to the International Community**, on 26 September 2013 at the United Nations, New York. See http://www.new-york-un.diplo.de/Vertretung/newyorkvn/en/_pr/speeches-statements/2013/20130926-westerwelle-on-poaching-and-wildlife-trafficking.html?archive=3759636; http://www.cites.org/eng/news/sg/2013/20130926_unga_side-event.php

TF-CIT WELCOMES COLLABORATION ON WISRD VISUALISATION TOOL

Following a presentation at the first Task Force meeting, the free of charge Whole-of-Society Information Sharing Regional Display (WISRD) was selected as the TF-CIT visualization platform. WISRD is a data visualization and analytical tool developed by US Southern Command to better map the illicit trade dynamics worldwide, see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULCo-iCxp5c> . It can combine graphic representations of trends and flows with exploratory hypotheses and contextual knowledge and expertise. Through open source data collection, integration and analysing tools, WISRD could enable enhanced comprehension of illicit trade patterns. This technological tool can help untangle the complexities of networks by identifying relationships between otherwise seemingly unrelated actors and transactions.

TF-CIT CONSULTATION WITH PRIVATE SECTOR

Building partnerships with the private sector is an important factor of success in combatting illicit trade: a meeting of the Steering Committee of 'Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy', was held at OECD premises. BASCAP is an industry advocacy group dedicated to reinforcing anti-counterfeiting policy. Private sector can bring operational and legal expertise to this effort. Industry members are already active in the various areas: tobacco, pharmaceuticals and chemicals/ pesticides.

For further Information:

<http://us4.campaignarchive2.com/?u=db3ad9507576a217fb6efd5d0&id=b0741254d2&e=ea6580c97e>

TF-CIT CONSULTATIONS WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

The Task Force is pursuing synergies with different Intergovernmental Organisations. For example, Interpol is developing an interesting law enforcement toolkit to assist member countries in formulating and implementing effective legal responses to illicit trade. OECD will circulate a draft to Task Force members who are interested to comment: <http://www.interpol.int/Crime-areas/Trafficking-in-illicit-goods-and-counterfeiting/Trafficking-in-illicit-goods-and-counterfeiting> As highlighted above, the work of the Task Force on the nexus between corruption and trafficking in persons was presented at the APEC Pathfinder event in Bangkok, Thailand in September (<http://www.pathfinderconference.com>).

OECD has met with EUROPOL and the World Economic Forum to discuss coordination of efforts to address the lack of reliable data and information on the impacts of organized crime and illicit trade. In particular, OECD attended the EUROPOL/WEF OC-IMPACT Project Meeting, 25 July 2013 in the Hague. The Task Force is well placed to integrate the results of their research into its own deliverables for a broader government audience. For more information: <http://www.weforum.org/content/global-agenda-council-illicit-trade-2012-2014>

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2014

The second meeting of the Task Force is scheduled to take place at **OECD on 5-7 March, 2014**. Discussion will focus on progress of the subgroups' work, including the measurement tools that were developed to quantify illicit trade. This will help to discuss an overview of economic impacts. The second meeting will also review progress of the WISRD and scope opportunities to establish proactive dialogues in key regions. With regard to further events, interested key stakeholders from the anti-illicit trade community are invited to propose hosting such initiatives with the TF-CIT, which can help to mobilize policy-makers and the private sector to design tangible solutions.