



**Inter-Agency permanent observatory  
on counterfeiting:  
an action oriented response to the organized crime's major challenge  
to the world economy**

Counterfeiting is a complex phenomenon involving different sectors of all civil societies as well as different law enforcement agencies. This illicit activity creates: a) economic prejudices to producers, b) job losses, c) decreasing taxes and revenues collected by States, and d) serious hazards for the consumers' health and safety. On the other hand counterfeiting is today an immense source of income for organized criminals, who can reinvest these huge profits to fund other illicit activities or utilize counterfeiting as a mean to launder illicit proceeds deriving from different crimes. The actions taken by the competent authorities (i.e. prosecutors, police and customs officers) and the relevant international organizations (i.e. the World Intellectual property Organization, the World Customs Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Labour Organization, Interpol, Europol, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Organization for Standardization) were less coordinated, with the risk to waste efforts and resources. Moreover the private sector, whose contribution is fundamental for the realization of a more incisive action against counterfeiting, was rarely involved.

The major aim of the Inter-Agency Permanent Observatory on counterfeiting is to solve this problem and enhance cooperation at all levels. Operating as a forum for discussion and evaluation on the different aspects of the phenomenon, the Inter-

Agency Permanent Observatory will allow the sharing of experience, of specific good practices and information, and discussing possible common strategies among experts, law enforcement agencies, international organizations and representatives from the private sector.

This more comprehensive approach, that takes into account the different sectors affected by counterfeiting, will support the monitoring of the phenomenon as well as the identification, suggestion and implementation of appropriate international and national responses, avoiding duplications and enhancing cooperation.

The Inter-Agency Permanent Observatory will periodically evaluate the results of the suggested responses after their implementation, allowing for the progressive identification of their strengths and weaknesses. It will also support the development and implementation of specific strategies for a given sector or/and political/social/economic context. In these regards, three major areas of intervention have been identified: a) consulting and strategy planning; b) technology transfer and customs cooperation; and c) development of international standards to strengthen the commodities supply chain. In the future, these will constitute specific sectors of a larger and more comprehensive set of services that will be offered.

The Turin Campus – that hosts UNICRI, the International Training Centre of the ILO and the UN Staff College – is already an international training and learning hub. Thanks to its accumulated experience, UNICRI would act as the Leading Coordinator Agency, while the Turin Campus will constitute the perfect environment for the location of the Inter-Agency Permanent Observatory.

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