

RESOLUTION

Subject: INTERPOL Programme to Combat Trafficking in Illicit Goods

The ICPO-INTERPOL General Assembly, meeting in Rome, Italy, from 5 to 8 November 2012 at its 81st session:

NOTING that member countries have traditionally sought to restrict or regulate the use of and trade in dangerous, precious, counterfeit or excisable goods at national level in order to protect the health and safety of their citizens and to ensure the proper functioning of their domestic markets,

RECOGNIZING that such restrictions or regulations have always given rise to illicit trafficking aimed at providing unrestricted access to such goods and/or avoiding excisable duty,

NOTING that, concomitantly with the growth of international trade, trafficking in illicit goods has increased massively in all member countries, both in volume and in the range of goods that are now affected,

AWARE of the first international instruments addressing certain types of trafficking in illicit goods, such as the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 or the Basel Convention of 1989 on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal,

AWARE that the limited number of legal instruments governing the matter entails a relatively low risk of detection and prosecution compared with the potentially high financial gains,

CONSCIOUS that the development of trafficking in illicit goods undermines legitimate trade and sustainable economic development, can constitute a serious threat to public health, and provides a source of revenue for organized crime,

CONSCIOUS that the involvement of transnational organized crime is indeed a common denominator to all these criminal activities which requires a holistic approach and a collective effort by all member countries,

RECOGNIZING the urgent need to tackle trafficking in illicit goods by taking decisive preventive and repressive measures aimed at protecting both the citizens and the economies of member countries,

RECALLING the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime of 2000 and WELCOMING the development in recent years of specific conventions, such as the Convention on the counterfeiting of medical products and similar crimes involving threats to public health of 28 October 2011 (Medicrime), the Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition of 2001, the Rotterdam Convention of 1998 on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Draft Protocol on Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC), which all constitute significant efforts on the part of the international community to design adequate legal tools to effectively combat this growing threat,

NOTING that INTERPOL has consistently striven to find adequate answers to the serious problems posed by trafficking in illicit goods, in particular through the INTERPOL IP Rights Programme,

RECALLING Resolution AGN/69/RES/6, adopted by the General Assembly at its 69th session held in Rhodes from 30 October to 4 November 2000, by which the General Assembly mandated the General Secretariat to combat international violations of intellectual property rights,

STRESSING the need to continue to work closely with other international organizations, such as the World Customs Organization, the World Intellectual Property Organization, Europol, the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and other regional and global stakeholders, in order to raise awareness and improve international cooperation,

NOTING that several joint programmes have been initiated in recent years between member countries, international organizations and private entities directly affected by such illicit trafficking, such as the agreements between the European Union (EU) and multinational tobacco companies and the Customs-Business Partnerships initiated by the World Customs Organization (WCO),

RECOGNIZING that these programmes have facilitated the exchange of information between the public and the private sectors and have significantly improved law enforcement capacities in the fight against trafficking in illicit goods,

RECOGNIZING that the fight against trafficking in illicit goods requires further efforts by both the INTERPOL General Secretariat and law enforcement services in INTERPOL member countries, notably:

- enhancing and improving the flow of criminal intelligence information to and from the General Secretariat,
- reinforcing the relationship between police, customs and other national entities, who play a key role in combating all types of illicit trade,
- boosting international police cooperation to combat these illicit activities, and
- enabling chief police officers and operational police commanders to gain greater insight into the national, regional and global implications of these crimes,

URGES member countries to work closely with INTERPOL in these areas, to share information at international level on trafficking in illicit goods, and on the links between trafficking in illicit goods and transnational organized crime;

COMMENDS the General Secretariat's efforts to take part in recent international efforts to tackle trafficking in illicit goods, and SUPPORTS the establishment of the INTERPOL Trafficking in Illicit Goods Programme and the need to expand the resources of the departments in charge;

REQUESTS that the General Secretariat, subject to appropriate funding, design technical assistance projects for the effective implementation of international standards;

TASKS the General Secretariat to identify funding mechanisms other than increases in statutory financial contributions to complement INTERPOL's efforts in this area.

Approved