



INTERPOL

OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS



TACKLING ILLICIT TRADE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CRIME

Legal Assistance and Services

The issue

Illicit trade and intellectual property (IP) crime are among the greatest challenges facing law enforcement. These crimes involve a broad range of goods and can generate serious economic, social, public health and environmental harm.

The globalization of trade and communication offers unprecedented opportunities for organized criminal networks to engage in illicit trade and counterfeiting as a means to increase their economic influence and fund other serious criminal activities. The methods and tools used by offenders are becoming increasingly sophisticated and varied.

At the same time, the combination of weak penalties in many jurisdictions; the lack of specialization of law enforcement officials, prosecutors and judges; and a general tendency to invest few government resources in this area all contribute to the expansion of the phenomenon.

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INTERPOL's response

INTERPOL's Trafficking in Illicit Goods and Counterfeiting programme is a multi-dimensional initiative to combat all forms of illicit trade. A key aspect of the programme involves offering comprehensive legal assistance to member countries, to ensure they have strong domestic legal frameworks and the knowledge to apply them effectively. Countering illicit trade and IP crime calls for dynamic and creative legal solutions to support law enforcement action. Judicial authorities must remain up-to-date on the latest

criminal methods and activities. To keep them abreast of the highest international legal standards and requirements, INTERPOL provides legal assistance and services including the organization of events gathering international specialists from all relevant sectors. These services are tailored to the needs and requests of individual countries and are carried out with the support of national law enforcement agencies; Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Justice or Security; international organizations and private sector partners.

Available services

- **Assisting in the reform of domestic laws**

The establishment of robust legal frameworks is crucial in the fight against illicit trade and IP crime. Member countries are assisted in formulating and drafting new criminal legislation as well as in the ratification and implementation of relevant international treaties.

- **Capacity building and training**

In the face of new criminal trends, law enforcement and judicial authorities must strengthen their knowledge and skills. Capacity building seminars are delivered at the national and regional level, involving national and international experts from both the public and private sector. They offer an opportunity for the exchange of best practices, the discussion of case studies, and the analysis of international standards and requirements.

- **Providing legal advice**

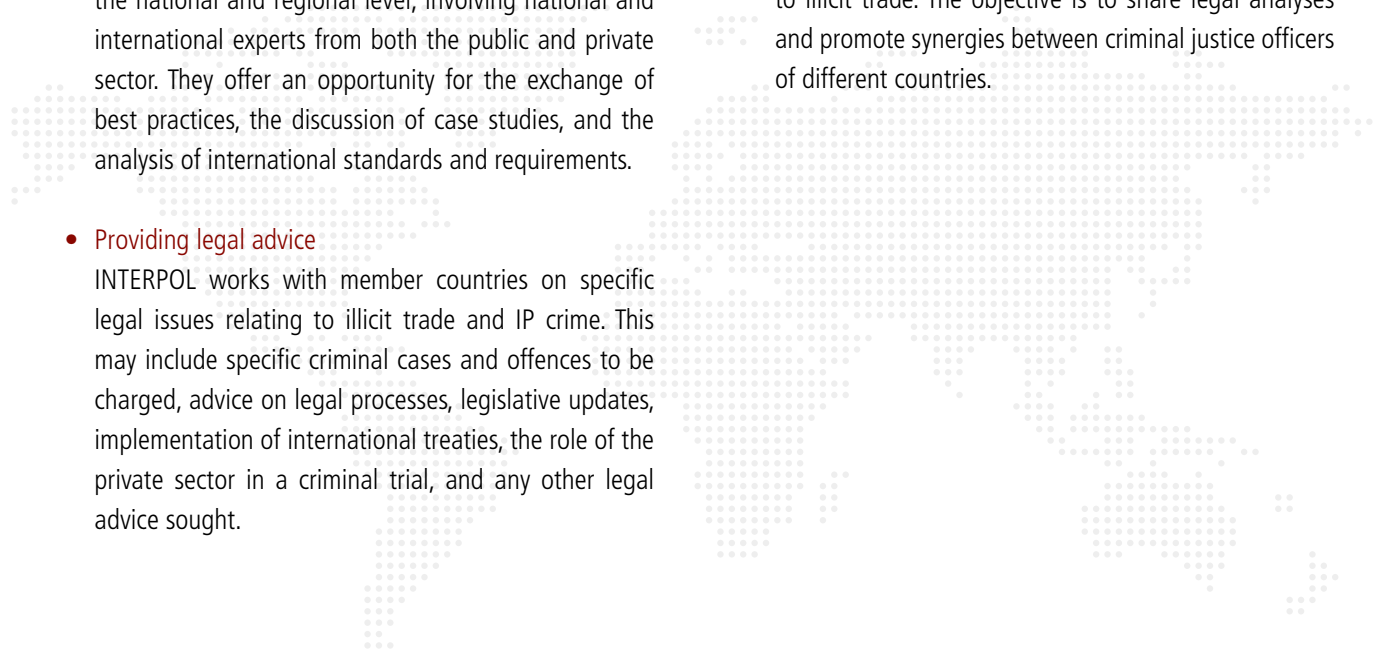
INTERPOL works with member countries on specific legal issues relating to illicit trade and IP crime. This may include specific criminal cases and offences to be charged, advice on legal processes, legislative updates, implementation of international treaties, the role of the private sector in a criminal trial, and any other legal advice sought.

- **Expert colloquia**

INTERPOL identifies specific legal problems and challenges affecting the response to illicit trade and invites high profile experts to discuss them. The ultimate aim is to develop new legal approaches and to elaborate guidelines and models for the benefit of policymakers and the law enforcement community at large.

- **Online expert forum**

This online forum, currently under construction, will allow legal experts to gather and discuss issues relating to illicit trade. The objective is to share legal analyses and promote synergies between criminal justice officers of different countries.



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Legal publications

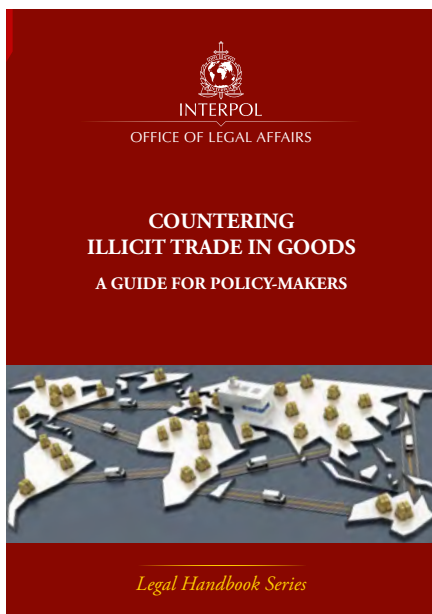
Our legal services are supported by a number of practical tools, available to policy-makers and the law enforcement community worldwide.

- **Country and regional dialogues**

The objective of these practical manuals, which summarize the main discussions and conclusions reached during legal events, is to encourage sustained dialogue around the topics addressed during INTERPOL seminars and to provide stimulus for policy change and the application of best practices.

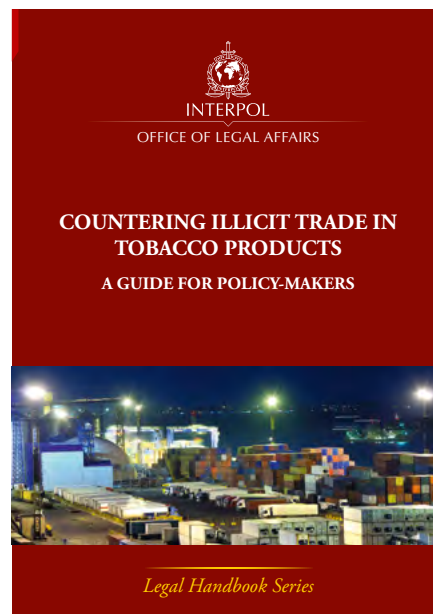
- **Legal handbook series**

These handbooks aim to improve the understanding of key concepts, inform about current trends and offer advice in line with international legal standards and requirements.



Countering Illicit Trade in Goods: A Guide for Policy-makers

This handbook offers a legal approach to countering illicit trade based on the application of two sets of international treaties: sector-specific treaties and cross-sectoral criminal justice treaties. It highlights a number of areas essential in the design of effective national strategies against illicit trade, provides a comparative legal analysis of applicable treaties and makes policy recommendations.



Countering Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products: A Guide for Policy-makers

This handbook offers the first comprehensive analysis of the international legal framework against the illicit trade in tobacco products. It provides guidance to policymakers and law enforcement authorities on the implementation of key international instruments in the field, with an emphasis on the new Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products.



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