


# The results of Operation OPSON


---

## High Level Conference “Food Authenticity and Integrity”

Brussels, Belgium  
24 June 2016



**INTERPOL**  
TRAFFICKING IN ILLICIT GOODS  
AND COUNTERFEITING SUB-DIRECTORATE



**EUROPOL**  
FOCAL POINT COPY

**OPERATION OPSON V  
2015**

**TARGETING COUNTERFEIT AND  
SUBSTANDARD FOODSTUFF AND  
BEVERAGES**

**TURN  
BACK  
CRIME**

[WWW.INTERPOL.INT](http://WWW.INTERPOL.INT) #TURNBACKCRIME  
[WWW.EUROPOL.EUROPA.EU](http://WWW.EUROPOL.EUROPA.EU)



# Food Crime, the beginning...

- ✓ **Italian initiative:** April 2010, 1<sup>st</sup> International Meeting on Counterfeit and Protected Food Products, jointly organised by the Corpo Forestale dello Stato and the Interpol National Central Bureau Rome
- ✓ **Global problem:** in 2010, 3 millions items seized at the EU borders (24 cases)
- ✓ **Joint concern EUROPOL & INTERPOL:** invitations launched in March 2011

## Main Objectives of the joint efforts

- ✓ Dismantle Organised Crime Groups involved in this area
- ✓ Raise awareness on the phenomenon - consumers/LEAs
- ✓ Enhance cooperation between involved stakeholders (LEAs, Food Agencies, PS)

10 countries: 263 tons, 35,700 litres



# Food Crime



Global Phenomenon

Health and Safety

Organized Crime

# Scope of Food Crime

## TYPES OF INFRINGEMENT ON FOOD CRIME



### Counterfeiting

e.g. Counterfeit branded spirits



### Substitution

e.g. Horsemeat scandal

### Substitution/Adulteration

e.g. Olive oil substituted or diluted with lower-cost oil (nut, sunflower, palm ...)



# Scope of Food Crime (ctd.)

## TYPES OF INFRINGEMENT ON FOOD CRIME (ctd.)



### Substitution/Mislabelling

e.g. Substitution of expensive fish with cheaper Species. Labelled as wild fish but are farmed fish

### Modification of seafood product

e.g. Increasing weight (over icing) or use of unapproved additives

Expired products



# THE OPSON MODEL

**Fight against  
counterfeit/substandard  
food and beverages**



# OPSON - Objectives

**Fight against  
OCG involved  
in food crime**

**Protect public  
health**

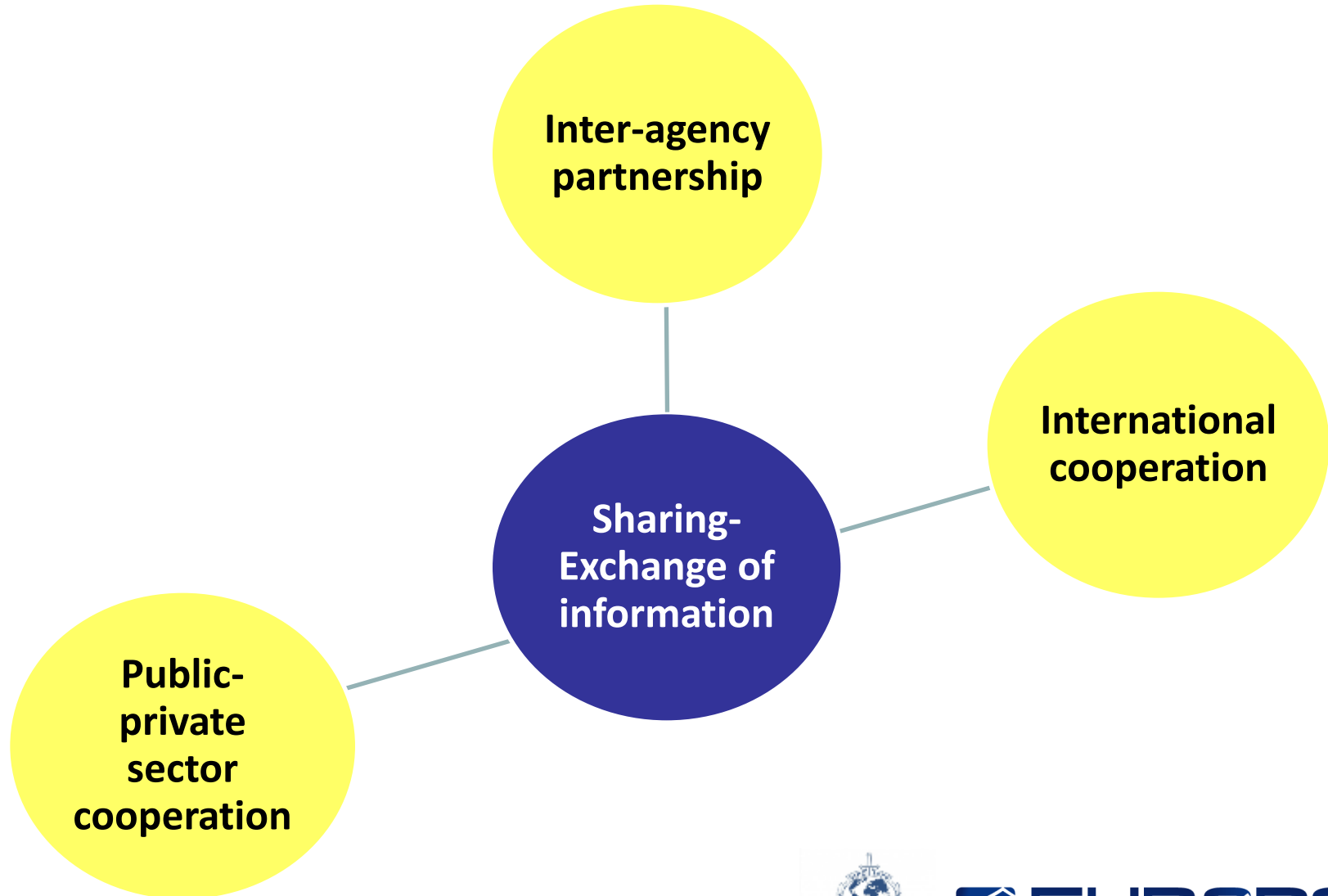
**Enhance  
inter-agency  
cooperation**

**Enhance  
international  
cooperation**

**Improve  
public/private  
cooperation**



# How to achieve collective success?



# EU Policy Cycle – 2014/2017



<https://www.europol.europa.eu/content/eu-policy-cycle-empact>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l5en24omjqM>

# EMPACT – “Counterfeit Goods”



*“Promoting the multidisciplinary approach by linking EU LEAs with DG SANTE training courses”*

# OPSON V – Participating countries (57)

## EU Countries

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom

## Non EU Countries

### Africa

Burundi, Comores, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia

### America

Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Uruguay, USA

### Europe

Albania, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Turkey, Norway, Russia

### Asia

Australia, Fiji, Indonesia, Korea, Thailand, Vietnam

### Middle East

Jordan



INTERPOL

# OPSON V – Private Sector Partners



CIVC



Colgate  
Palmolive



Consorzio di  
Tutela  
Gorgonzola



Consorzio di  
Tutela  
Prosecco



Unaprol  
Consorzio  
Olivicolo



Ferrero Spa



IFSP



Moët  
Hennessy



Nestlé



REACT



Danone



Consejo  
Regulador de  
Tequila



Scotch  
Whisky  
Association



The Coca  
Cola  
company



GSK



Unilever



Red Bull



Mars



Mondelēz

# Figures\* OPSON: V (IV) Global, V [EU]

Tons

11,100

(11,600)

[10,200]

Liters

1,500,000

(814,000)

[601,000]

Pieces

5,500,000

(1,234,000)

[920,000]

Final report will be presented at debriefing meeting in Spain in October 2016

\*Ongoing review



# Italy

Opson  
Cases



Olives colored with copper sulphate

# Greece, Italy, UK

Opson  
Cases



Illicit production sites of spirits  
Counterfeit or adulterated spirits



# Belgium, France

**Opson  
Cases**



Illicit products with international travellers

# Italy, Hungary, Lithuania, Romania

Opson  
Cases



Food intended for children



# Belgium

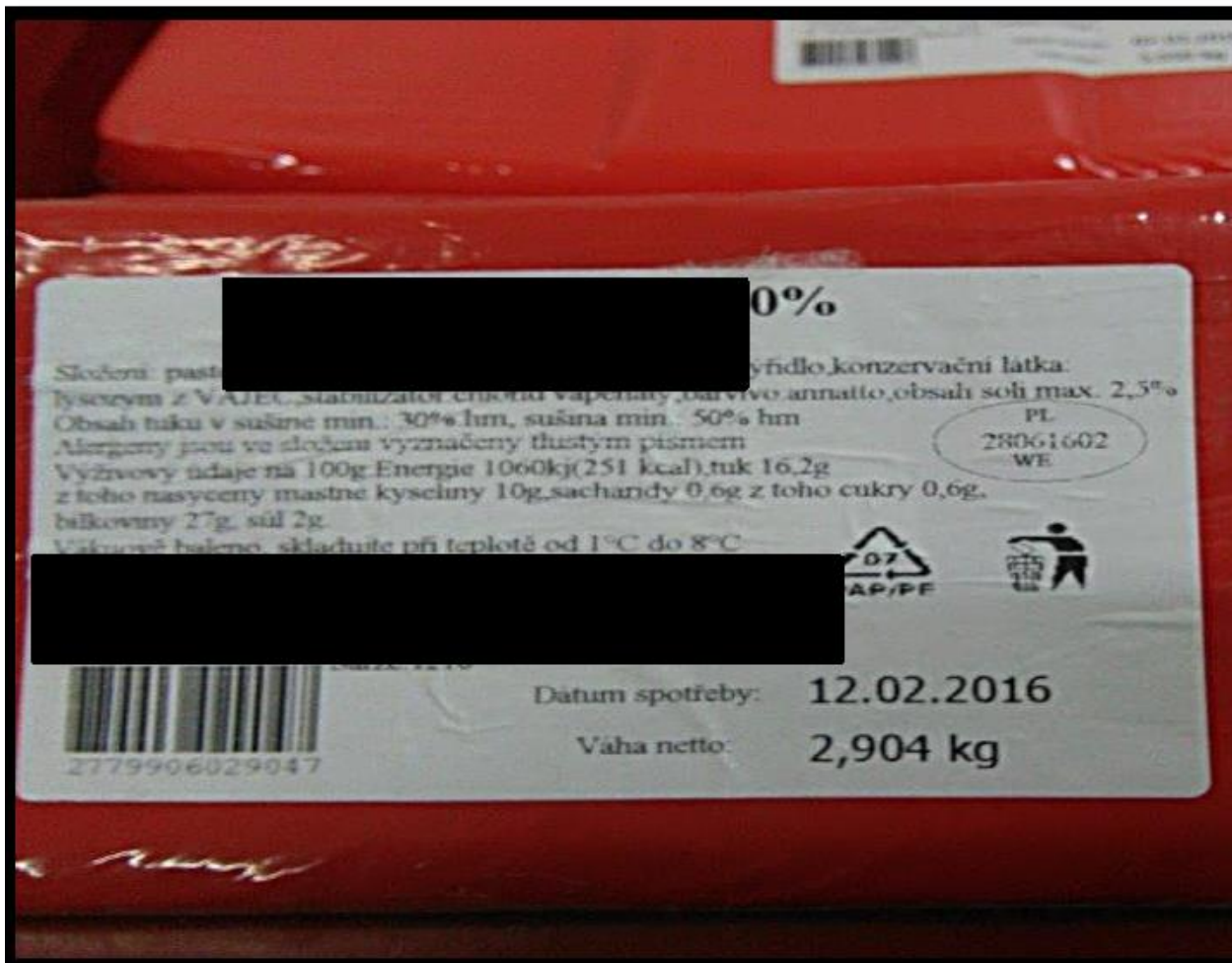
Opson  
Cases



Dietary products

# Czech Republic

Opson  
Cases



Counterfeit cheese

# Italy

Opson  
Cases



Olive oil

Thank you



Brussels, 27 November 2014  
(OR. en)

15623/14

ENFOPOL 369  
AGRI 709  
DENLEG 173

"A" ITEM NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Council
No. prev. doc.:	15908/14
Subject:	Draft Council Conclusions on the role of law enforcement cooperation in combating food crime

1. The Law Enforcement Working Party at its meetings on 16 July, 12 September and 6 November 2014 discussed the Presidency's proposal relating to the role of law enforcement in combating food crime, aimed at enhancing international law enforcement cooperation in this area.
2. The draft Council Conclusions on this issue were also presented to the Working Party on Foodstuffs on 19 September 2014.
3. Taking into account the outcome of these discussions and written contributions of the Member States, the LEWP agreed to the text of the draft Council Conclusions on the role of law enforcement cooperation in combating food crime as set out in the Annex through a subsequent written procedure, with a UK scrutiny reservation.
4. At the Permanent Representatives Committee meeting on 26 November 2014, the UK delegation lifted its scrutiny reservation, and the Committee agreed to submit the draft Conclusions to the Council for approval.
5. The Council is therefore invited to approve the draft Conclusions as set out in the Annex.

15623/14

DGD 1C

RR/dk

1  
EN

# ***Subproject on food crime within FP COPY at Europol (Intellectual Property Crime Coordinated Coalition - IPC<sup>3</sup>)***