

OECD Workshop

"Assessing the harms posed by illicit trade and the illegal economy for global supply chain integrity, economic growth and market security"

Paris -- 26 October 2012

Governments, private sector, academics, and international organisations came together today in Paris to explore the dimensions of and possible responses to illicit trade around the world, including via effective public-private partnerships..

Illicit trade hurts economic growth and development, costs governments and taxpayers billions in lost revenues, fuels insecurity and destabilization, feeds corruption, strengthens organised crime and terrorism, reduces the competitiveness of legitimate markets and undermines the rule of law.

Illicit trade concerns us all as it has enormous costs in all areas of human life, including:

- social (trafficking of illegal drugs, persons and arms);
- commercial (stifling innovation and legitimate entrepreneurship)
- economic (distorting markets, diverting revenues and legitimate employment to illicit ends);
- environmental (trade in endangered and protected wildlife, timber, and toxic waste); and
- health (counterfeit pharmaceuticals, drug dependency, pollution).

To fight this powerful and shadowy problem, international partnerships and networks are needed to help government officials and businesses create the right governance conditions across sectors for new markets and investment frontiers to thrive globally by shutting down illicit markets and putting criminal entrepreneurs out of business.

The workshop proposes to launch a Task Force of the OECD High Level Risk Forum to work in new ways, cutting across sectors, approaches and national boundaries in order to mobilise political will, promote cooperation, map the illegal economy and increase societal resilience to it.

Over the next two years, the Task Force will meet to quantify the harms and impacts of illicit trade and the illegal economy on strategic markets, to benchmark what works for both the public and private sectors, to identify and close market vulnerabilities exploited by illicit networks, and to produce performance indicators on how open governance, risk management and illicit threats mitigation can be used to fight illicit trade.

This work will be undertaken in partnership with key leaders across all affected sectors, including governments, companies, non-governmental organizations and International Organisations.