

EU-China customs co-operation meetings on Intellectual Property Rights

EU-China Seminar on Exchange of practices and information in the field of IPR - 27-28 February 2012, Cologne

In the context of the '[EU-China Action Plan on IPR](#) customs enforcement' a seminar took place on 27-28 February 2012 in Cologne (Germany). The subject was the exchange of practices on means of providing seizure information to assist other administrations in stopping production and winding up distribution networks.

The seminar brought together about 60 European and Chinese experts in the fight against IPR infringements from customs and other law enforcement agencies. China was represented by the General Administration of Customs, the Ministry of Public Security, local Public Security Bureau, the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme People's Procuratorate. From the EU side there were representatives of the customs administrations of the EU Member States, EUROPOL, the Intellectual Property Office (UK) and the European Commission (DG Taxation & Customs Union and the Anti-Fraud Office OLAF).

In the first part of the seminar participants considered how cooperation between customs and other law enforcement agencies can be improved within one jurisdiction. Customs authorities detain thousands of consignments of IPR infringing goods every year both in the EU and in China. However, stopping and seizing illegal goods at the borders is not enough in itself and does not provide a sufficient deterrent. The information relating to IPR infringements gathered by customs should be used to tackle the manufacture and distribution of illegal products. Representatives discussed ways of doing that.

During the second part of the seminar representatives considered how evidence and information gathered in one jurisdiction by customs authorities in relation to IPR enforcement can be used to track and bring action against offenders in another jurisdiction. All participants welcomed the unique opportunity offered by this seminar to exchange views, best practices and ideas in a holistic and general manner. They agreed to consider follow-up activities possibly focussing on a limited number of specific and concrete cooperation issues.

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Meeting of the Joint Customs-Industry Working Group on Joint development of partnerships in the EU and China - 2 March 2012, Rotterdam

Further to the conference in Cologne the first meeting of the Joint Customs-Industry Working Group took place on 2 March in Rotterdam (The Netherlands).

The aim of the meeting was to strengthen the cooperation between customs and right holders both in the EU and in China on IPR customs enforcement. Representatives of European and Chinese private sector together with officials of the General Administration of Customs of China, EU Member States' customs administrations and the European Commission (DG Taxation & Customs Union) participated in this event. They discussed, among others, new developments on counterfeit and piracy, the implementation of best practices and improving communication between customs and right-holders. The event was very well received by the private sector as a good opportunity to have direct contact and interactive discussions with European and Chinese customs authorities.