

WCO Knowledge Academy

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IRACM and International counterfeiting of medicines

Bernard LEROY

IRACM

Fake Medicines and Trans Organized Crime's Strategy

Money, Money...

Fake medicines today

Overview of the phenomenon

- An unprecedented scale
- 700,000 deaths due to fake medicines for malaria and tuberculosis
- Between 30 and 70% of medicines sold in Africa
- 30% in Latin America
- 1% in developed countries
- A turnover of US\$85 billion
- 50% of medicines sold on internet are fake
- 95% of specialized sites sell fake medicines

An attractive type of crime: Profitable and risk-free

- High return on investment: 10 - 20 times more profitable than drug dealing
- States do very little to fight it
- National legislations impose very weak penalties
- Judges do not investigate or punish
- “Lacoste syndrome”

Illegal, falsified and counterfeit medicines
Transnational organized crime is quick to react

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- Takes advantage of globalization: Organized crime “thinks” global
Takes advantage of its flexibility and the lack of controls
- Quick to take up new opportunities:
For example: Ebola, avian flu, hepatitis C
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- Development and use of corruption:
“Buying the route”
Election campaign financing

Fake Medicines and Trans Organized Crime's Strategy

Risks for human and animal
health and safety

Serious consequences

- Death
- Drug-resistant strains
- More serious illnesses

Disturbing global perspectives

- A growing threat to the pharmaceutical industry
- A threat to Public Health on a large scale
- A threat to the rule of law

Fake Medicines and Trans Organized Crime's Strategy

IRACM

Our Organization

IRACM :

A tool to unify the action
of all the Stakeholders

IRACM : A tool to promote priority actions in each country

- Awareness of the need for real mobilization
- Adoption of national policies
- Modernize institutions and legislation
- Train the players on the ground
- Develop a real prevention system
- Establish effective communication on the subject

Fake Medicines and Trans Organized Crime's Strategy

IRACM
Our Focus
areas

Illegal, falsified and counterfeit medicines

Considerable difficulty controlling the traffic of fake medicines

- Problems of political commitment
- Problems of means
- Problems of method
- Occasional interferences in government priorities

In North and South alike States do little or nothing

- No strategy and no political commitment
- Misguided focus on intellectual property alone
- Frequent deadlock on public health issues
- Obsolete legislations that are not even enforced
- Very weak penalties Not very dissuasive Not often enforced
- Decisive role of corruption

Illegal, falsified and counterfeit medicines

National judicial institutions unable of taking into account the international aspects

- Trace the origins in other countries
- Locate and freeze the traffickers' assets
- Chase up all the criminals including the “bigwigs” hidden in foreign countries

Fake Medicines and Trans Organized Crime's Strategy

IRACM

How we operate

Fake Medicines and Trans Organized Crime's Strategy

- helping States to improve their national strategy;
- helping States to improve their national legislation and international judicial cooperation;
- supporting operational actions in real time;
- developing, intensifying and extending the training courses;
- mobilising the targets identified and spreading the communication;
- setting up prevention campaigns aimed at patients.