

## *Preface*

Many countries have set up free trade zones (FTZs) to boost business activity and reap the benefits from free trade. These zones have been instrumental in the evolution of trade routes for the integrated supply chains of the global economy. However, FTZs may also facilitate illegal and criminal activities such as trade in counterfeit and pirated products, by providing a relatively safe environment, good infrastructure and light oversight.

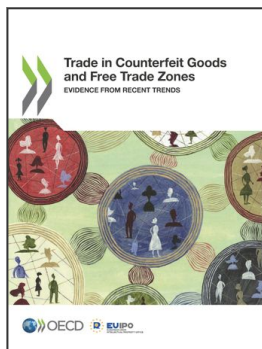
To fully grasp the challenge of counterfeit and pirated trade and identify the best ways to address them, policy makers need evidence to document the links between FTZs and illicit trade, including trade in counterfeit and pirated goods. This is precisely the purpose of this study undertaken jointly by the OECD and the EUIPO, which sheds new light on the misuse of free trade zones for trade in counterfeit and pirated goods. We are also grateful to the World Customs Organization, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Taxation and Customs Union, and the United States Department of Homeland Security for providing the data, without which such a study could not have been conducted.

We are very pleased that our two institutions were able to co-operate to develop this solid and unique evidence based research. We are confident that the results of this work will facilitate the development of innovative policy options to respond to the challenges of trade in fake goods and other illicit commerce.

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