

Preface

Globalisation, trade facilitation, and the rising economic importance of intellectual property are drivers of economic growth. However, they have also created new opportunities for criminal networks to expand the scope and scale of their operations, free-riding on intellectual property and polluting trade routes with counterfeit goods. The consequences for the economy are serious. Trade in counterfeit goods not only damages economic growth but also undermines good governance, the rule of law and citizens' trust in government, and can ultimately threaten political stability. In some cases, the fakes can also have serious health, safety and environmental implications.

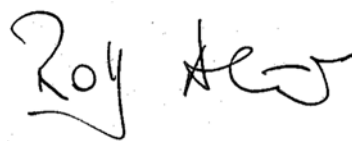
Precise information about the routes of trade in counterfeit goods is essential for tailoring effective governance responses to this scourge. The complexity of the routes of trade in fakes can be a formidable obstacle for enforcement authorities.

We are very pleased that our two institutions were able to work together to analyse a unique set of global customs seizure data to chart the routes of trade in fake 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 excellent data on customs seizures of IP-infringing products.

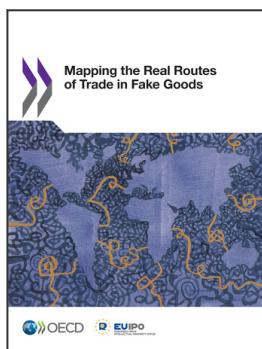
We are confident that this research will make a major contribution to the understanding of trade in counterfeit and pirated goods. We trust that it will help governments develop targeted policy responses and strengthen governance frameworks to tackle this phenomenon.



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