

## **Combatting illicit trade: Asian countries ranked**

SINGAPORE— The Illicit Trade Environment Index was commissioned by the European Chamber of Commerce, Singapore (EuroCham) and produced by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). It ranks 17 Asian economies on the extent to which they enable illicit trade. The findings suggest that combatting illicit trade requires closer tripartite collaboration between the brand owners, intermediaries as well as the relevant regulatory and enforcement authorities.

“Fake goods don’t just take revenue away from companies or governments. They threaten the security of nations by supporting transnational criminal syndicates and terrorist groups,” said Simon Jim, Chairman, Intellectual Property Rights Committee, EuroCham. “Given the constant evolving nature of illicit trade, authorities need to constantly enhance their regulatory controls and enforcement efforts – especially in Free Trade Zones.”

A Recommendation Paper to Combat Illicit Trade was also commissioned by EuroCham and produced by KPMG to make recommendations in three policy categories:

### **Enhancing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Protection**

A balanced and efficient enforcement environment to protect IPR is essential to combat illicit trade and to facilitate the interests of enforcement bodies, brand owners and intermediaries.

### **Public-Private Partnerships**

Collaboration between stakeholders (e.g. governments, brand owners and intermediaries) to bring about effective and efficient changes in order to combat illicit trade. Such public-private partnerships also enhances a jurisdiction’s international reputation as a secure port of call for legitimate trade.

### **Free Trade Zone Governance**

Free Trade Zones (FTZ) have been established to facilitate trade and are a source of significant revenue for legitimate traders. They could also be abused by illicit traders. Activities within FTZs can be enhanced to achieve an optimal balance of having a secure and efficient supply chain for legitimate trade while preventing illicit trade.

“We hope these practical and actionable recommendations will facilitate constructive policy discussions,” said Lina Baechtiger, Executive Director, EuroCham. “EuroCham and its members are keen to work with government authorities and other stakeholders in an effort to combat illicit trade.”

### **About the European Chamber of Commerce, Singapore**

*The European Chamber of Commerce in Singapore, known as EuroCham, has the mission to represent the common interests of the European business community in promoting bilateral trade, services and investments between Europe and Singapore and Asia-Pacific.*

*EuroCham is a non-profit membership fee based organization with a membership composed of the European National Business Groups in Singapore as well direct corporate members.*

*EuroCham provides its members with an information and exchange forum and a lobbying channel to Singaporean and European political & economic circles. EuroCham is the sole European representative at the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) Council.*

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