



The fight against smuggling, counterfeit and Intellectual property crime

Press release dated 19th September: Dialogue on Intellectual Property (IP) Rights in the Tri-border region

Private and public sectors in the tri-border region should increase their dialogue to step up Intellectual Property enforcement co-operation and capability. This is what the Trans Atlantic Business Dialogue, TABD, today called for at a conference on IP rights enforcement being held in Puerto Iguazu, Argentina.

Private industry representatives from Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil the United States and Europe are meeting in Puerto Iguazu, Argentina, with local and international law enforcement agencies and representatives of tri-border governments. They are using an innovative private public sector dialogue format to plan future steps to counter the continuing menace of IP crime, counterfeiting and smuggling.

“IP crime robs innovators of the fruits of their creativity, encourages criminality and weakens the formal tax paying economy, said Jeffries Briginshaw, Director at the TABD EU Secretariat of TABD based in Brussels, Belgium: “IP Crime is a lose-lose problem!”

“Consumers are misled and often endangered, legitimate companies undermined and national development held back”, added Giulia Di Tommaso, Unilever, Co- Chair of the TABD IPR Working Group.

The aim of the dialogue is to look at what more can be done in four areas:

- (1) best possible legal and judicial systems in place and in application;
- (2) international best practice with investigation and forensics;
- (3) financial measures like asset tracing available and deployed effectively in the tri-border area so as to track, trace and interdict illegal proceeds from counterfeiting, contraband and piracy; and
- (4) enhanced capacity developed across law, enforcement and education, joining up all available resources, with a long term focus

TABD is encouraging permanent tri-border government to government dialogue on IP enforcement issues accompanied by a supporting business government dialogue. This can create a leadership model to address priorities in a systematic and regular way, with attention focused on milestones and actionable tangible steps.

Notes to editors: The TransAtlantic Business Dialogue (TABD) is a group of Chairmen and Chief Executives from American and European companies operating in the United States, Europe and globally. See www.tabd.com. Originally convened by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the European Commission in Seville in 1995 the TABD is a unique and effective mechanism for enhanced co-operation between the transatlantic business community and the governments of the U.S. and EU. Jürgen Thumann (Chairman, Heitkamp & Thumann) and James Quigley (CEO, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu), are co-Chairmen of the TABD. The TABD IP working group focuses on themes such as counterfeiting and smuggling, erosion of intellectual property rights, patent rule convergence, and capacity development.

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