



ANTI-COUNTERFEITING TRADE AGREEMENT (ACTA)

KEY MESSAGES

- 1** 178 million counterfeit and pirated goods were seized at EU borders in 2008, 20 million of those potentially dangerous to health and safety of EU citizens.
- 2** BUSINESSEUROPE supports all actions to fight the growing scourge of counterfeiting and piracy.
- 3** Counterfeiting and piracy discourage investment, job creation and innovation and create tremendous health and safety risk to consumers.
- 4** BUSINESSEUROPE supports negotiations for a new international agreement, the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA), to better protect and enforce intellectual property rights.

BACKGROUND

OECD estimates that infringements of intellectual property traded internationally (excluding domestic production and consumption) account for more than € 150 billion per year (higher than the GDP of more than 150 countries).

In 2007, upon an initiative by US and Japan, a number of countries started discussions on a new international agreement against counterfeiting and piracy, the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA). The current negotiating countries are: Australia, Canada, the European Union, represented by the European Commission, the EU Presidency and EU Member States, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland and the United States of America. These negotiations take place outside the context of existing international organisations (World Trade Organisation, World Intellectual Property Organisation).

Main aim of ACTA is to improve global standards for the enforcement of intellectual property, in order to more effectively combat trade in counterfeit and pirated goods. Eight negotiating rounds have taken place so far and negotiations should conclude in 2010.

WHAT DOES BUSINESSEUROPE AIM FOR?

- BUSINESSEUROPE believes that ACTA must cover both civil and criminal enforcement as well as border enforcement measures and initiatives to strengthen international cooperation. We also recommend that the growing use of the online environment to conduct illicit activities is addressed in a practical way with the cooperation of all relevant actors.
- BUSINESSEUROPE considers it essential that more countries apart from the ones currently negotiating sign up to the agreement, in order to have a fully operational and effective framework.

BUSINESSEUROPE



MEMBERS ARE 40 LEADING
NATIONAL BUSINESS FEDERATIONS
IN 34 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

 Austria	 Belgium	 Bulgaria	 Croatia	 Cyprus	 Czech Republic
 Denmark	 Denmark	 Estonia	 Finland	 France	 Germany
 Germany	 Greece	 Hungary	 Iceland	 Iceland	 Ireland
 Italy	 Latvia	 Lithuania	 Luxembourg	 Malta	 Montenegro
 Norway	 Poland	 Portugal	 Portugal	 Rep. of San Marino	 Romania
 Slovak Republic	 Slovenia	 Spain	 Sweden	 Switzerland	 Switzerland
 The Netherlands	 Turkey	 Turkey	 United Kingdom		

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