

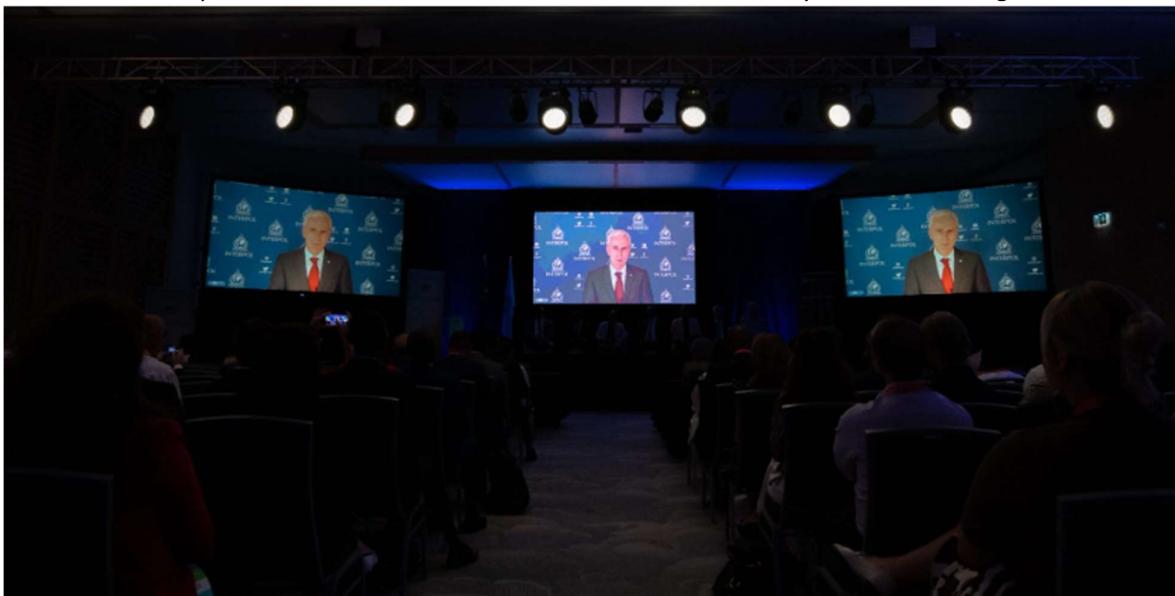
Fighting Intellectual Property Crime is a Global Responsibility



WILLEMSTAD, 24 September, 2024 – Currently, experts from around the world are gathering in Curaçao to tackle the challenges surrounding intellectual property crime. Around 375 specialists from over 65 countries are participating in the 17th International Law Enforcement Intellectual Property Crime Conference. For the first time, they are meeting in the Caribbean to strengthen global partnerships and coordinate actions against this type of crime. The official opening ceremony of this event took place today. This event also marks the creation of the first National Task Force for IP Crime, which will provide expert assistance in anti-counterfeiting activities.

Growing global problem

Intellectual property crime is a growing global problem. Organized crime groups engage in cross-border trade of counterfeit and illegally copied goods. There is often a link between this trade and other forms of crime, such as human trafficking, corruption, and money laundering. The trade in counterfeit and illegally copied goods affects every industry and continent, from technology and healthcare to fashion and entertainment. The effects are felt from urban centers to rural areas. *"With every region of the world and all sectors affected by intellectual property crime, a global and coordinated response is essential,"* said INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock.



Unite to fight crime

The experts attending this conference include law enforcement officers, security professionals, and industry experts. The goal is to develop effective enforcement strategies together. Mr. Shalten Hato (Minister of Justice of Curaçao) spoke on behalf of the Council of Ministers and said: *"We must unite to fight crime. For Curaçao, the benefit of establishing a special task force goes beyond merely identifying criminals who travel internationally and tackling cross-border crime; the exchange of information is essential to staying one step ahead of criminal activities."*



Reducing the Harm

This year's theme is "Reducing the Harm." Special attention is given to the role of free trade zones and supply chain security. The following three key areas are addressed:

- Coordinating responses
- Aligning resources
- Leveraging opportunities



George Borlase (Interim Executive Director of UL Standards & Engagement) represented by Timothy Rivelli, (Senior Vice-President) said: *"We are proud to partner and co-host with INTERPOL, the Government of Curaçao, and the Curinde Free Trade Zone to bring together key stakeholders and support the exchange of information that will lead to solutions that better protect us from the harms of counterfeiting."*

New momentum to tackle this threat

The first conference took place in 2007. Since then, the conference has grown into the '17th International Law Enforcement Intellectual Property Crime Conference,' which is happening from Monday, September 23 to Wednesday, September 25. Speaking about this leading event for professionals from law enforcement and the private sector, INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock said today: *"This conference will give new momentum to our united efforts to tackle this threat, which not only harms public health but also damages economies and undermines communities."*



Task Force:

- Mr. Michaël Römer, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, Curaçao
- Mr. Marlon Wernet, Acting Head of INTERPOL National Central Bureau (NCB) Willemstad, Curaçao
- Mr. Raymond Ellis, Commissioner of Police, Curaçao
- Mrs. Soraya Pols-Strick LL.M, Acting Head of Customs, Curaçao
- Prof. Dr. Mr. Sirving Keli PhD, MD, Inspector General of Health, Curaçao
- Mrs. Mariëlla Olaria-Maduro MSc, Director, Business Services Division at Ministry of Economic Development
- Mrs. Jacqueline Jansen, Chief Executive Officer, Curinde, Curaçao

Opening Ceremony Speakers:



- Mr. Gilmar Pisas, Prime Minister of Curaçao
- Mr. Shalten Hato LL.M, Minister of Justice of Curaçao
- Mr. Javier Silvania, LL.M, Msc., Minister of Finance, and Health, Environment and Nature of Curaçao
- Mr. Charles Cooper MSc., Minister of Economic Development, and Traffic, Transport and Urban Planning of Curaçao
- Mr. Jorge Fainstein Day Gastrell, Director (Pro-Tempore) Capacity Building & Training Directorate, and Head of INTERPOL Global Academy
- Mr. Timothy Rivelli, Senior Vice-President and Chief Legal Officer, UL Research Institutes (ULRI) and UL Standards & Engagement (ULSE)
- Mr. Eivind Borge, Capacity Building and Training Officer, International IP Crime Investigators College (IIPCIC), INTERPOL Global Academy, Seconded by Norwegian Police Service.