

**Second Global Congress on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy to be held on 14-15 November 2005**

**Opening Remarks**

**Ronald K. Noble  
Secretary General  
International Criminal Police Organization - Interpol**

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my very great pleasure to welcome you all to Lyon to contribute to the Second Global Congress on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy co-hosted by Interpol and the World Customs Organization. Representatives from 66 countries have registered for this significant event which is evidence of the growing importance of the Global Congress on the intellectual property rights calendar.

Last year it was WCO who was the lead partner with Interpol and it is now our privilege to reciprocate. Welcome Michel, it is a real pleasure to have a close personal working relationship with you and WCO on this and many other important issues. I am also delighted you are here today with a substantial contingent of colleagues from customs agencies from around the world.

The World Intellectual Property Organization is a strong supporter of the Global Congress process and I am pleased to welcome Mrs. Rita Hayes, the Deputy Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization to Lyon for her second Global Congress. The collective leadership shown by the three public sector organizations represented here sends out a strong message that the protection of intellectual property rights is an issue which must and should be given a higher priority by policy makers in government, international organizations and law enforcement agencies.

However, the real strength of the Global Congress Steering Group is the collective stance taken on the issue by both the public sector and the private sector standing and working

together to make a difference. Welcome Neil, Anne and Guy. The contribution made by your organizations – the Global Business Leaders Alliance against Counterfeiting (GBLAAC), the International Trademark Association (INTA), the International Chamber of Commerce and, of course, the other Steering Group organization, the International Security Management Association (ISMA) – is evidence of our shared desire to make a lasting impact on counterfeiting and piracy.

Having said that all of us will be measured on not just our desire to work together and pool our respective expertise and resources. We must show you and policy makers at a senior level in your countries that we are making an impact on counterfeiting. My colleagues will all talk about what they have achieved since the First Global Congress. Interpol has made real progress since May 2004 implementing those parts of the Outcomes Statement which applied to us, especially on an operational level.

At Interpol we use the phrase ‘IP crime’ as a generic term to describe all types of counterfeiting and piracy. The defining characteristic of IP crime for us is the involvement of transnational organized criminals in the manufacture and distribution of counterfeit and pirated goods on an industrialized scale.

We were charged with raising awareness about the extent of the link between IP crime and transnational organized criminals as part of the threat assessment process. Interpol’s leadership role within the Global Congress Steering Group is evidence of our commitment to the cause. We have contributed to, and invested resources in, all three regional forums held in Rome, Shanghai and especially Rio de Janeiro where we worked closely with the Government of Brazil to deliver a high-level South America-wide regional event. We also used the Rio conference to announce the results of the Interpol-led ‘Operation Jupiter- South America’ a subject I will return to in a moment.

A personal responsibility I take very seriously in my role as Secretary General of Interpol is to champion the cause of IP crime at a national, regional and global level. It is essential that national police forces engage in combating IP crime because it provides

them with opportunities to disrupt the activities of transnational organized criminals who not only manipulate counterfeit and pirate goods to maximize illicit profits, but also many other dangerous illicit commodities. For example, during Operation Jupiter in the Tri-border Area of South America many of the seizures of large consignments of IP crime related products also contained illegal firearms and illicit drugs.

At a time when chief police officers are focused on terrorism and other grave crimes it is important that they do not underestimate the damage IP crime does to our economies and the potential threat to public safety. An encouraging development has been the number of chief police officers within Interpol member countries who have acknowledged the importance of IP crime and the growing number of dedicated IP crime units. Examples include Brazil, Latvia and Romania to name, but a few.

However, it is on an operational level that I am particularly proud of Interpol and the work of the Interpol IP Crime Unit. The Outcomes Statement encouraged us to fully implement the Interpol IP Crime Programme and this we have done. The core objective of the programme was to develop a systematic capability to 'facilitate and coordinate' enforcement action against transnational organized criminals involved in IP crime. In 2004 we were providing support for Interpol member countries on a case by case basis as they individually and collectively focused on transnational organized IP crime. We were responding to their requests for assistance and then facilitating joint law enforcement/industry enforcement actions.

Interpol is now much more proactive and provides member countries with IP crime leadership and expertise. Operation Jupiter – South America was launched in November 2004 with the support and participation of the national police forces of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. Brazil customs also joined us together with representatives from pharmaceutical, recording, motion picture and tobacco cross-industry representative bodies. At the planning meeting held in Buenos Aires collectively we prioritized 12 IP crime targets. They were all significant counterfeiting plants or distribution centers. Operations commenced in November 2004 and continued until April 2005.

The Tri-border area of South America is, to say the least, a challenging area for law enforcement to operate. If Operation Jupiter could be made to work there it could work anywhere. The results were impressive. It was the first time four different industry sectors joined together with representatives of federal police and customs agencies from the three countries to combat IP crime. There were immediate benefit for participating industry sectors. These included identification of common efficiencies; crime prevention measures; investigation methodologies; and, good practice.

Between November 2004 and April 2005 the International Federation for the Recording Industries (IFPI) worked with the federal authorities in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay in conjunction with Operation Jupiter's goals, objectives and timetable. As the result IFPI were able to file a total of 14 complaints with supporting evidence and five individuals were arrested. Two of the arrests were of Taiwanese nationals with suspected organized crime links.

In Brazil the customs authorities made 36 seizures and detained 79 prisoners for smuggling and counterfeiting offences. The estimated value of the seized contraband/counterfeit goods was approximately 6.2 Million Reais (USD 3.5 Million). Of the 36 seizures, three were specific anti-counterfeiting operations which resulted in 29 prisoners and seizures estimated at 747,000 Reais

Specifically on the border with Paraguay, Brazil customs seized 2.24 Million blank CDs, an increase of 80 per cent over previous levels. The Federal Highway Police also routinely seized bus and truck loads of blank CDs and DVDs in the border area destined to be used for the piracy of optical disks.

In Paraguay there were seizures of some 8,700 cartons containing over 87 million counterfeit cigarettes. In the Port of Asunción, as a result of information from one of the pharmaceutical companies participating in Operation Jupiter, over 5 million counterfeit toothbrushes originating from China were seized.

Operation Jupiter – South America proved that Interpol can act as a catalyst for action and secure the support of national police and, in partnership with WCO, customs agencies for combined enforcement action. These operations were dependent upon a willingness by representatives of participating industries to engage in a frank exchange of information with their counterparts in other industry sectors for the common good. The four industry sectors involved in the operation immediately recognized the benefits of doing so and enthusiastically pooled their expertise.

Interpol is an international organization and cannot itself make these interventions. Our role is to act as a catalyst by ‘facilitating and coordinating’ them. It was the national law enforcement agencies who actually did the hard work, invested resources and put their people in harm’s way to deliver these results. I would like to take this opportunity to publically thank the national police forces and customs authorities of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay for their outstanding contribution to the success of Operation Jupiter – South America.

Insofar as the future is concerned a second Operation Jupiter, led, facilitated and coordinated by the Interpol Sub-regional Bureau in Buenos Aires, is planned to commence in early 2006. We are currently engaged developing and deploying other confidential IP crime operations in other parts of the world and the challenge for Interpol is to make an even greater operational impact, especially in regions such as Africa.

All IP crime is damaging, but some have the potential to cause serious harm and even death. We are fortunate to have a wealth of noteworthy and respected speakers participating in the Second Global Congress. Each will give you their perspective on the problem and identify potential solutions for both the developed and developing world. For example, you will hear how counterfeit pharmaceuticals in Africa and other parts of the world wreak havoc on the health and wellbeing of many thousands of unfortunate people suffering from a range of life threatening diseases.

The challenge for Interpol now and in coming months is to develop Operation Jupiter to the stage where we act as a catalyst for significant interventions in the production and distribution of destructive commodities such as counterfeit antimalarial drugs. This will not be easy because often the source or sources of these counterfeits is in another country or even continent.

Few, if any, other organizations have the ability to do this. Interpol has proven itself able to deliver significant results in South America. I am looking forward to coming to the Third Global Congress to report further progress Interpol and its member countries will have made taking the fight to transnational organized criminals involved in a wide variety of IP crime.

It just remains for me to hope you enjoy your stay in Lyon. Most importantly enjoy the Second Global Congress on Combating Counterfeiting and Piracy. I encourage you to make your own contribution to our collective efforts to identify and develop concrete, tangible recommendations that will be useful to national governments and the business sector.

Thank you

(1745 words)