

TRACIT and ANA strengthen cooperation to stop illicit trade through Panama

Panama City, 22 April 202 – The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) and the Panama Customs Authority (La Autoridad Nacional de Aduanas, ANA) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to deepen collaboration between the two organizations on fighting illicit trade. The MOU, which was signed at ANA's Panama City headquarters by ANA Director Tayra Barsallo and TRACIT Director-General Jeffrey Hardy, sets the foundation for cooperation between the two organizations to mitigate illicit trade through Panama.

The agreement highlights the pervasive nature of illicit trade as a problem throughout the region. It is based on a deeper exchange of information and expertise so as to more effectively address counterfeiting, corruption and money laundering. It also seeks to build working relationships with other customs agencies in the region to enable better government-to-government cooperation across borders. The Parties also envisage to hold capacity building activities aimed at providing ANA with greater risk profiling resources and intelligence on IP protections.

“Given its strategic geographical position, Panama faces challenges in terms of illicit trade. This agreement strengthens ties with the private sector and guarantees the fight against illicit trade and counterfeiting,” said ANA Director Tayra Barsallo.

“This collaboration with ANA has real potential to protect Panama from illicit traders who are exploiting the country as a transit hub for contraband, to flood in Ecuador, Colombia, Dominican Republic and Costa Rica with illicit consumer goods,” said Mr Jeffrey Hardy, TRACIT Director-General. *“As we learn more about illicit trade in the region, together we can build capacities in Panama and with neighboring governments to crack down on illicit trade, close enforcement gaps and strengthen security.”*

For further information

- https://www.ana.gob.pa/w_ana/index.php/23-news/autoridad-de-aduanas-firma-convenio-de-cooperacion-para-combatir-el-comercio-irregular
- <https://twitter.com/aduanaspanama/status/1517599057136726016>

About TRACIT

The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade ([TRACIT](http://www.tracit.org)) is an independent, private sector initiative to mitigate the economic and social damages of illicit trade by strengthening government enforcement mechanisms and mobilizing businesses across sectors most impacted by illicit trade.

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