

TRACIT Supports Transatlantic Police Crackdown on Illicit Pharmaceuticals Latin America and Europe come together to tackle illicit trade in pharmaceutical and medical products during COVID-19 times

TELECONFERENCE, 27 May 2020 – The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) addressed Latin American and European Law Enforcement agencies as part of the EL PACCTO program to improve the capacities of police, judicial and prosecutor bodies of partner countries against organized crime. The Teleconference featured 500 participants and focused on COVID-19 related illicit trade in pharmaceutical and medical products in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama, Peru and the Dominican Republic.

One of the main objectives of the program is to increase AMERIPOL's capacity to improve police cooperation and joint investigations and operations. To do so, the event featured presentations from law enforcement experts from the European Antifraud Office (OLAF), EUROPOL, the Spanish Judicial Police, US Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and the Colombian Customs and Tax Police (POLFA). TRACIT was invited to contribute intelligence from the perspective of the private sector.

Mr Jorge DE LA CABALLERIA, European Commission Director-General for International Cooperation and Development in Latin America stated, "The project EL PACCTO gives us a great opportunity to jointly tackle current challenges both for Latin America and Europe, such as illicit trade in pharmaceuticals during this difficult period."

"COVID-19 has created new opportunities for criminals to commercialize fake, falsified and substandard medical and healthcare products and medicines, including a surge in the availability of fakes and fraudulent products on the Internet," said TRACIT Senior Policy Advisor Esteban Giudici. **"Combining the capabilities of Ameripol law enforcement agencies with the expertise and advise of Europe's leading anti-criminal agents is a strategic move to help prevent counterfeiting and falsification of medical products and medicines, exacerbated by the crisis."**

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

About Ameripol: Ameripol (www.ameripol.org) is the Police Community of the Americas, a hemispheric mechanism of cooperation to promote and enhance police cooperation. EL PACCTO (<https://www.elpaccto.eu/en/>) is the Europe Latin America Technical Assistance Programme against Transnational Organized Crime, an international cooperation programme funded by European Union.

CONTACT:

Esteban Jorge GIUDICI

Senior Policy Advisor TRACIT

Tel: +33632828993 / esteban.giudici@TRACIT.org / Twitter: [@TRACIT_org](https://twitter.com/TRACIT_org)