

Illicit Trade, Defense & Cyber Security

Thessaloniki International Fair 2019

Thessaloniki, Greece, 11 September 2019 – Today, the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) addressed the [Thessaloniki International Fair 2019](#) on a panel dedicated to Illicit Trade, Defense and Cyber Security. The session was organized under the auspices of the [Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce](#) and the [US Embassy in Greece](#).

"Illicit trade is growing rapidly and includes an expanding list of products and sectors. This spectrum of illicit trade also comprises illicit digital trade, including cybercrime – such as hacking, copyright piracy and child pornography– and money-laundering in the financial system," said TRACIT Senior Policy Advisor Esteban Giudici. "Findings from TRACIT's recent report on the impact of illicit trade on achieving the sustainable development goals show that much more attention must be given to advance a comprehensive and effective multilateral, cross-sector response to illicit trade, including in the fields of defense and cyber security."

Mr. Giudici alerted the audience to several of TRACIT's significant reports. TRACIT's recent publication, Mapping the Impact of Illicit Trade on Sustainable Development Goals, demonstrates that illicit trade, from smuggling, counterfeiting and tax evasion, to the illegal sale or possession of goods, services, humans and wildlife, is compromising the attainment of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in significant ways, crowding out legitimate economic activity, depriving governments of revenues for investment in vital public services, dislocating millions of legitimate jobs and causing irreversible damage to ecosystems and human lives.

TRACIT's Global Illicit Trade Environment Index evaluates 84 countries on their structural capability to effectively protect against illicit trade, highlighting specific strengths and weaknesses across 25 policy, legal, regulatory, economic, trade, institutional and cultural indicators.

The [Thessaloniki International Fair 2019](#) takes place from 7 to 15 September 2019. With 83 years of history, the Fair has been one of the most important events in Greece throughout history, and one of the most important forums in Southeastern Europe, with international appeal. It has always been the "testing ground" for new ideas, trends and products. It is the only fair in Greece with a guaranteed high number of visitors (260,000 at last year's event).

More information on Mapping the Impact of Illicit Trade on Sustainable Development, the Global Illicit Trade Environment Index and TRACIT policy recommendations are available at: www.tracit.org/publications_gitei.html.

About TRACIT

The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade ([TRACIT](#)) 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.

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