



MEDIA RELEASE

Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade addressed WTO Public Forum

Geneva, 26 September 2017 – Today in Geneva, the Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) participated in a special session on illicit trade hosted by the WTO Public Forum.

“The WTO Public Forum is a critical platform for addressing the most pressing issues on the global trade agenda,” said TRACIT Director-General Jeffrey Hardy. “Illicit trade crowds out the economic benefits we’re all working to achieve through greater trade liberalization. We hope today’s discussions help reshape WTO rules to more effectively regulate against illicit trade, and encourage Member States to adopt more effective measures to fight against illicit trade.”

The 2017 WTO Public Forum “Trade: Behind the Headlines,” is taking place at WTO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland and features a robust agenda addressing hundreds of topics over three days.

Mr. Hardy participated in the panel, Licit and Fair International Trade: an opportunity for SMEs, which was organized to address the obstacles to SMEs, including the threat posed by illicit trade. Other panelists included: Arancha González, Executive Director, International Trade Centre; Alan Yanovich, Senior Counsel, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP; and Petros C. Mavroidis, Edwin B. Parker Professor of law, Columbia Law School, New York, and Professor of Law, University of Neuchatel.

“It’s already a challenge for smaller companies to compete on the global stage, especially in highly regulated markets. And this is precisely where illicit traders concentrate their unfair trade practices,” said Mr. Hardy. “Strengthening controls to eliminate unfair, illicit exploitation of markets and supply chains creates a level playing field where SMEs can more effectively compete.”

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