



MEDIA RELEASE

Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade Addresses Illicit Trade in Small Parcels at the Universal Postal Union

Bern, 19 June 2019 – The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) participated in the Postal Security Group meeting at the Universal Postal Union, a specialized UN agency dedicated to building cooperation between postal sector players from 192 member countries.

The UPU's Postal Security Group (PSG) is comprised of security officers from national Posts charged with global and regional security strategies including development and implementation of standards to assist the world's Posts in their security missions.

The meeting of the PSG addressed the subject of illicit trade in small parcels and the vulnerabilities in postal networks. **TRACIT Director General Jeffrey Hardy announced, "This meeting is an excellent opportunity to understand the steps that Posts have taken so far and to begin to explore solutions and establish methods of cooperation that are necessary to address this growing problem."**

According to the recent OECD report, there is a significant surge in the use of postal and express streams as delivery channels to smuggle small packages containing prohibited or restricted goods. These include narcotics, illegal wildlife products, illicit tobacco and precursor chemicals, counterfeits.

Mr. Hardy noted, "National Posts along with the express carriers confront a growing challenge to guard the parcel delivery infrastructure from criminal exploitation and illicit trade. The work of the UPU is becoming increasingly important to address gaps and review capabilities of postal operators."

About TRACIT – The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade ([TRACIT](http://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.

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