

TRACIT addresses illicit trade in ASEAN

Singapore – 26 November 2020: The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) has joined with the EU-ASEAN Business Council (EU-ABC) to issue a report that sheds light on the growing problem of illicit trade in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). The report, titled, “Tackling Illicit Trade in ASEAN”, comes at a time when illicit trade is gaining momentum in ASEAN and as officials prepare for the upcoming 14th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC). The paper investigates various forms of illicit trade in the region, the affected industry sectors and provides critical insight on how government and industry leaders can work together to introduce regulatory changes to confront this pressing issue.

“The pervasive impact of illicit trade on government resources, society and business cannot be ignored,” said TRACIT Director General Jeffrey Hardy. **“This paper provides an urgent and compelling argument for ASEAN governments to further step up efforts to adopt a strong regional framework to effectively combat illicit trade. While these governments are on the right path, more attention must be given to enforcement, resource allocation and improved regional cooperation.”**

Reiterating EU-ABC’s commitment to tackling this issue, Chris Humphrey, Executive Director of the EU-ABC said, “There is no doubt, that if left unchecked, this illegal industry will grow, especially at a time when we are faced with an unprecedented health and economic crisis. Counterfeiters and smugglers are known to exploit systemic weaknesses and ASEAN leaders need to see the urgency to coordinate and collaborate to combat this transboundary issue.”

Additionally, the paper provides detailed policy, regulatory and legislative recommendations for e-commerce intermediaries, brand owners, national governments, Customs and the ASEAN Secretariat. Effective implementation of these recommendations will go a long way in securing supply chains from illicit traders. TRACIT and EU-ABC present full support to the ASEAN Secretariat and national governments to plug in governance gaps and strengthen institutional frameworks against illicit trade.

The paper can be accessed here: <https://www.tracit.org/publications>

#

About TRACIT

The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade ([TRACIT](https://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 EU-ABC

The EU-ASEAN Business Council ([EU-ABC](#)) is the primary and sole voice for European business covering in the ASEAN region. It is recognised by the European Commission and the ASEAN Secretariat and is an accredited entity under Annex 2 of the ASEAN Charter. The Council promotes the interests of European businesses operating within ASEAN and advocates for changes in policies and regulations to promote trade and investment between Europe and the ASEAN region.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

Cindy Braddon

Head of Communications and Public Policy, TRACIT

Tel: +1 571-365-6885 / cindy.braddon@TRACIT.org / Twitter: [@TRACIT_org](#)