



## MEDIA RELEASE

### **TRACIT supports US Congressional Efforts to Crack Down on Counterfeits**

#### ***House committees press for legislation following US DHS memo for tighter controls on eCommerce platforms***

**Washington, 6 March 2020** – The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade (TRACIT) has expressed its support for efforts by the leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives to strengthen controls on counterfeiting in online marketplaces. On March 2, the House Judiciary Committee introduced H.R. 6058, the Shop Safe Act, to safeguard consumers from exposure to goods that implicate health and safety. On March 4, the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce held a hearing entitled, "Buyer Beware: Fake and Unsafe Products on Online Marketplaces."

"These measures indicate a growing awareness of the widespread problem of fraud and risks to consumers shopping online," said Jeff Hardy, TRACIT Director-General. "eCommerce platforms have become vulnerable to misuse and consumers are unwittingly buying fake, substandard, unregulated, and potentially dangerous products including medicines, alcoholic beverages, cosmetics, auto parts, printers and accessories, luxury handbags and jewelry, toys and name brand clothing and accessories."

In its letter to Chairman Nadler and the co-sponsors of the Shop Safe Act, TRACIT endorsed their efforts to tighten controls over third-party sellers who exploit eCommerce platforms to sell counterfeits.

"Online sellers must comply with—or be held liable for a lack of compliance—the same, long-established regulatory controls for health, safety and security that govern all commercial transactions, said Mr Hardy. "Profitability and responsibility must go hand in hand."

The TRACIT statements call for legislators to consider the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Report of January 24, 2020, "Combating Trafficking in Counterfeit and Pirated Goods," which delineates recommendations for eCommerce platforms to tighten controls on third-party marketplaces, including: enforcing "Terms of Service" agreements; significantly enhanced vetting of Third-Party Sellers; indemnity requirements for foreign sellers and clearly identifiable country of origin disclosures.

**About TRACIT** – The Transnational Alliance to Combat Illicit Trade ([TRACIT](http://www.tracit.org)) is an independent, private sector initiative 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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