



European Communities Trade Mark Association

Brussels, 3 March 2014

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S VOTE ON COUNTERFEIT GOODS "IN TRANSIT"

ECTA, the European Communities Trade Mark Association with recognized expertise on all issues related to the protection and use of trade marks and designs, welcomes the positive outcome of the European Parliament's vote on counterfeit goods "in transit", issued on 25 February 2014.

It is a matter of global concern both for the circulation of fake goods and for potentially dangerous products in countries outside the European Union.

For this reason, ECTA acknowledges the relevance of an effective EU legislative system aimed at preventing the transit of counterfeit goods within the European Union.

Under the current practice, counterfeit goods would only be refrained to continue their transit if there would be a risk of these goods to access the single market. However, the new provisions approved at the European Parliament last 25 February 2014, will allow customs to stop counterfeit goods even if not destined to a European Union country, resulting in the strengthening of the trade mark protection and without any detriment to WTO rules and to the transit of generic medicines as reflected in the "Declaration on the TRIPS agreement and public health".

ECTA congratulates this vote as well as MEP Marielle Gallo's and Bernhard Rapkay's efforts.



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