

Beat: News

## **Fake Clothes and Luxury items worth € 16.5 Million in Spain**

### **Criminals distributed counterfeit goods**

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#### **USPA NEWS - FAKE CLOTHES AND LUXURY ITEMS WORTH € 16.5 MILLION SEIZED IN SPAIN**

The criminal network distributed counterfeit goods in many shops close to the French-Spanish border

The Spanish Civil Guard (Guardia Civil) and the Portuguese National Guard (Guarda Nacional Republicana) and the Authority for Food and Economic Security (ASAE, Autoridade de Segurança Alimentar e Económica), supported by Europol, dismantled an organised crime group involved in the production and trafficking of counterfeit clothing, accessories and luxury goods.

The action day on 21 July 2021 led to:

13 location searches

8 suspects arrested

33 suspects reported to the judicial authority

Seizures including more than 60 000 counterfeit items worth about € 16.5 million (clothing, leather accessories, shoes), 212 kg of metal labels of different brands, about € 24 000 in cash, printing plates, electronic equipment and documents

The investigation was triggered in 2019 by a statement from an association of brand representatives. They reported the sale of counterfeit goods in the Spanish towns of La Jonquera and Els Limits, close to the French-Spanish border. The Guardia Civil uncovered an organised crime group behind that activity. The suspects were importing ready-to-sell counterfeit items from Portugal, which were manufactured there. They were also buying non-branded products to which they were adding different counterfeit labels imported from China. For example, they were embossing metal labels on non-branded belts and bags. All these items were then sold as genuine in different shops in the area. During the whole investigation, more than 20 shops selling the counterfeit items were searched. Overall, the clothes, leather accessories and shoes seized during the action day are estimated to be worth € 16.5 million.

Europol supported the investigation with operational analysis and operational coordination and facilitated the information exchange.

Europol's Intellectual Property Crime Coordinated Coalition (IPC3) is co-funded by EUIPO (European Union Intellectual Property Office)

#### **Article online:**

<https://www.uspa24.com/bericht-19068/fake-clothes-and-luxury-items-worth-165-million-in-spain.html>

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