

The Directorate-General for Trade of the European Commission (DG Trade), with the aid of the EU Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights, has carried out a new survey of the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPR) outside the EU in 2016.

The main objective of this survey is to identify third countries in which the state of IPR protection and enforcement gives rise to the greatest level of concern and thereby to establish an updated list of so called "priority countries". These are: China, Argentina, India, Indonesia, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine, Brazil, Ecuador, Malaysia, Mexico, Philippines, Thailand and the United States.

The Commission also identified a separate category of countries, where IP enforcement gives rise to concern and where developments need to be closely monitored. This category of countries includes Israel, Kuwait, Paraguay, South Africa, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay.

The results of this survey will also enable right holders, in particular small and medium-size enterprises, to gain awareness of potential risks to their IP when engaging in business activities in or with certain third countries.

This report puts special emphasis on online counterfeiting and piracy.